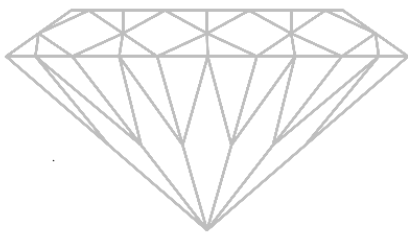


The Midwest Faceter



The Official Newsletter of the Midwest
Faceter's Guild
February 2021

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Officers and Contacts



President: Scott Kelley
Vice President: Marie Bellard
Secretary: Linda Cunningham
Treasurer: Max Lautzenheiser

e-mail: mrscottwkelley@gmail.com
e-mail: amaterra.llc@gmail.com
e-mail: ldacunngm@gmail.com
e-mail: max.lautzenheiser@gmail.com

About the Guild

The Guild began in 1979 and its mission includes:

- ❖ To promote education and recreation
- ❖ To develop the art of faceting
- ❖ To exchange information related to faceting
- ❖ To provide meetings for those of like interests
- ❖ To promote the achievement of individuals

Errata

In the last issue of the *Midwest Faceter* the contact information for Marie Bellard was incorrectly listed. Please note:

Website: <http://www.amaterragems.com>

e-mail: amaterra.llc@gmail.com

Facebook: @amaterragems

Instagram: @amaterragems

From the President



Welcome new members and all you old one's too!!

Happy New Year! Well, that is how I am looking at it. I know it is tough too, but after all, life is still wonderful. As we all know, this pandemic does not appear to be slowing down or reached its pinnacle, and I am taking a strong hunch that the curve downward will not look like the curve upward. So, I am not trying to be a Debbie Downer, but the reality is what it is and where we are at.

On to faceting our wonderful world of glitter and gold. What a delight to see someone's eyes light up as you give them a gift of such endearment. The hug, the smile, the kiss of joy is hard to beat. On this day I am going to be giving another ring to a loved one for her birthday. It brings me much joy to give such gifts that can be worn and treasured for a lifetime and longer. The things we make and do will live on forever as long as time will allow, I guess, but longer than me. I think that is one of those payday things that are to move forward forever. So do not take what we do lightly by no means, to share is a wonderful gift, and that is what our Guild is about, at least that is what I believe.

We are on another learning adventure; going into new areas and designs we have never seen before. It seems I never leave school, always learning, adapting, perfecting and doing. My dreams are to teach my grandchildren this art of faceting and gemology, at least one out of the five I am sure will want to. They all show good math skills and problem-solving skills.

Our Guild is moving along, and I have to say without the members, it would not be possible. Past, now, and the future is all about the members. Great efforts have been put to practice year after year, for the last 40 years. I had the opportunity to read the first Newsletter of the Guild. The theme and tone are, and still are the same, "Without Members Like You This Would Not Be Possible."

We need more members, period. We will be taking on a new challenge this year and we are going to need all members to help participate; please help when asked. We are in a position of using technology to accomplish many obstacles and hurdles, but I see a way. These are some great learning times and I encourage all to join the ventures online when we have meetings, seminars, workshops, frats and even Christmas parties. Thank you for all those who attended. If you do not have Zoom on your devices, please do. And please give an indication with a reply when we send out an email. We want your membership to count, we want you to get the most out of our craft. We have so many hidden talents among us, not only in faceting, but other areas of interest possibly, too. So, with that I leave you for now, please stay in touch via email and our Zoom.

Enjoy and thank you for being a Member,
Scott

The Editor's Gem



As I mentioned before, I am a life-long learner and a student of human behavior. I have always been intrigued by what makes people tick; I also devoted my career in doing research, therefore, I am very much data driven. So be it for the MWFG to understand the membership.

When I did the telephone interviews of the membership over a year ago and prepared the report, I heard clearly that people wanted more learning opportunities about faceting but would not drive more than one hour to attend a meeting. The pandemic certainly took away meeting in person, so there has been a number of informational, business, and party meetings using Zoom (videoconferencing). Uniformly, members indicated that they would attend videoconferencing meetings to avoid a drive. Yet, the attendance at these meetings has been low. In addition, the elections of the four officers for the Guild in October with a number of reminders to vote elicited 56% voting, but 44% not casting a ballot. It was an e-mail ballot that would have taken less than a minute to cast a vote.

What explains this phenomenon? I wish I had the answer. Possibly there are explanations, so let me float a few ideas, but there may be other explanations.

Does money for dues play a role? There is a financial factor that contributes to people belonging to an organization. It has been posited that people value an organization more if they pay higher yearly dues—pay more, value more. Membership for the Guild is \$20 per year. Would members value the Guild more if these were much higher? Being in professional organizations, I have paid much higher dues with less benefits. Before you want to draw and quarter me, please know I am not calling for an increase in dues. I am just raising the question. Obviously, the membership would have to vote for any dues increase. Just please consider this explanation.

Are there too few young people in the Guild? Again, when I did the membership interviews, I noted that members who were also in Rock Clubs seemed to value that membership. I almost got the sense that they valued the Rock Club more than the Guild, but that was a subjective sense. Kreigh Tomaszewski wrote a thought-provoking article for this issue about his experience in being a rockhound. His bottom-line message was that Rock Clubs were involving young people in their club. Likewise, the interview in this issue with Everett Brake reinforces the same need for recruiting younger people into faceting. Therefore, the Guild needs to consider ways that we can encourage and involve young people in learning to facet. In other words, we grow the next generation. I have a number of ideas as to how to involve young people, but it will take a more active role of the current membership. A further factor is that the current membership is older, noteworthy by the number of members who are retired. We definitely need to involve younger members or otherwise we will become a dying art.

Are some members unfamiliar how to use Zoom and afraid to ask? Zoom is easy to use, but you may need just a bit of help as to how to download it on your cellphone or computer and how to log in. I had proposed that a member in your area could be designated to help others learn how to use Zoom. Just let the leaders of the Guild know the need for help and I am confident that you will get assistance.

Are some members not doing much faceting or have lost some of their interest? If this factor is true, what can be done to resurrect your interest or help you reengage? If you have stopped faceting and still own your machine, would you consider teaching a young person how to facet

on your machine? Keep in mind, you can list your machine and supplies in the Buy, Sell, and Trade section of the *Midwest Faceter*, but think how you can carry the legacy of faceting to another person.

Will we become a Guild no more? I did an Internet search of guilds across the country since many guilds are willing to share articles. I have included an article from another guild in each of our Newsletters. One very large guild in Texas ceased in existence. It appeared that they could not get membership involvement and the number of people running for office stopped because lack of interest. Guilds do not run themselves. In any volunteer organization it takes people willing to become an officer. If members become so disengaged eventually others decide it is not worth running for an office. Could we face that same fate?

The opinions expressed here are just mine. If you have additional thoughts and/or opposing views, please send me your thoughts and I will publish them in the next Newsletter. It will take all our creative thinking to make this a Guild that others would want to emulate. Thanks for reading this piece and your thoughtful considerations. Now let me step off my soapbox.

We all have what most would say is an expensive hobby. When you look at the cost of faceting machines, laps, those expensive pieces of rough gemstones, etc., etc., it gets pricy. Yet, I hope the last *Midwest Faceter* reinforced it is worth the value of our dues to belong to the MWFG. Getting some discounts helps to defray some of our costs. Some of the discounts continue in this issue.

I am pleased that members are stepping up to write articles and submitting beautifully cut gemstones that shows a small portion of the skills that people hold in the Guild. It makes us all proud. So, keep your articles coming in, your ideas flowing, and answers to questions, and just being a proud member of a community that shares in a passion. As the Editor, if you have ideas for improvement in the *Midwest Faceter*, please let me know.

Lastly, I am pleased that Caroline Peterson has become the proof-reader for the *Midwest Faceter*. She picked up and corrected errors that I do not see even if they bite me! So, thank you Caroline for a great job!

May all your facets sparkle, Dr. Reg

Minutes from the Last Meeting



The next membership meeting for the Guild is scheduled for Saturday, February 20 at 1:00 p.m. Look forward for an e-mail and agenda from the Guild. Meeting minutes for the Annual meeting on October 24, 2020 will be in the next *Midwest Faceter* issue.

Membership



Welcome to new Guild members:

Tom Ross
Derrick Sobodash

Meeting Updates



Please Note

The next membership meeting for the Guild is scheduled for Saturday, February 20 at 1:00 p.m. Look forward for an e-mail and agenda from the Guild.

Informational Zoom Meeting

By Linda Cunningham, Secretary

An informational Zoom program, called for by past President Blake Glupker was held for members Thursday evening November 12, 2020. Approximately seven members were in attendance along with others.

Boyd Fox, a professional gem cutter, presented a very interesting program about how he repairs and polishes damaged gems. Boyd started cutting gems as a hobbyist when he was about 14. In 2008 he decided to become a professional. He was mentored by Ron Pingenot (master cutter). Boyd has completed the courses at GIA and is now a Graduate Gemologist and continues his education currently studying crystallogology.

The program began with Boyd's explanation of how we look at stones reminding us that consumers look at stones differently than cutters. A gem is an optical device no matter if it is an expensive gem to a polished cabochon. There are different types of light from natural to incandescent and all light matters when looking at a gem. Faceters usually cut under incandescent lighting but that isn't necessarily how the consumer sees it. Seeing a stone involves the stone, the lighting and the human eye...and the human eye is most important.

Cutters can manipulate what the consumer sees so there are 6 main reasons for recutting when a stone isn't performing as it should:

1. Damage
2. Misshaped
3. Windowing
4. Light extinction (dark places in the stone)
5. Poor color performance
6. Calibration cutting

Boyd does mostly damage repair, but he did state that color performance is the most important aspect of a gem which he also has the knowledge to repair. Boyd does not use a diagram to repair stones or for cutting, he demonstrated his work with photographs of stones he has repaired and how he corrects a damaged stone going facet by facet documenting each cut as to the angle, index, and height of the facet touching it very lightly at first and then proceeding. He also showed photographs of very beautiful stones that he had completed. The program was then opened for questions and answers.

More information about Boyd Fox and his fascinating profession can be found on the internet by searching Boyd Fox Red Carpet Gem Market. There you will find several videos of his work. His website is: <https://www.foxhopjewelry.com>
You can also contact him at boyd@foxhopjewelry.com

MWFG First Annual Zoom Christmas Party – December 2020

by Linda Cunningham

One good thing to come out of 2020 is that we've all become familiar and even comfortable with ZOOM meetings. Our members are spread far and wide, so regardless of the pandemic, MWFG is using this format to make it convenient for us to get together, become friends and share our interest in faceting. That's where we found ourselves the afternoon of December 13th joining in our first annual MWFG ZOOM Christmas Party. Some came with snacks and drinks, some wore Christmas sweaters and all enjoyed laughter and sharing from the comfort of our own homes.



We started the party by talking about and showing examples of our favorite designs. Some pictures of these designs were put on MWFG Facebook page so all could see our favorites.

Everyone participated in the games, Sheila Beutler won this topnotch gem case for completing the scavenger hunt.



Our second game was 10 Trivia Questions about the gem world. There was much enthusiasm for this, and answers were given before we could write them down. Everyone ended up with all right answers, so names were placed in a basket and the winners were drawn out. Eric Peterson won this beautifully faceted bottle stopper.

Dr. Reg won this awesome lighted loop for a door prize.



Scott Kelley and Linda Cunningham completed the Friends Christmas design included on the party invitation. These pictures were published on Facebook also.

While we were visiting, Roger Dery told us that his daughter was going to be married the next Friday in Indiana. It was his good luck, that while choosing the prizes, Max Lautzenheiser discovered this awesome party pack. We all agreed it would be the perfect gift for Roger and his family to add to their wedding celebrations.

When the games were over, we visited until after dark...Marie Bellard and Scott Kelley explained and demonstrated how Gem Cut Studio works. It was an enjoyable party to end this challenging year.

If you haven't attended any of our ZOOM meetings, I say make that your New Year's Resolution! You won't regret it.



A Cut Above

Here are some beautiful gemstones that our members have cut:

Vice President Marie Bellard

This is a bicolor 2.56 carat tourmaline of a soft peach color on one side and a teal pastel on the other.

Dimensions: 9.35 x 7.35 x 5.14 mm

Mined in Congo

Clarity: loupe clean and no treatments

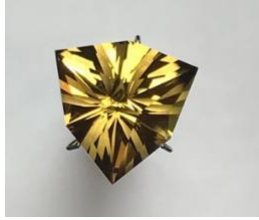
This is a mixed cut in a rectangle-shaped cushion. Brilliant on the crown and step cut on the pavilion.

I've also added a photo of the rough, I think it's always more interesting and eye-catching when you see a before and after.



Secretary Linda Cunningham

Linda cut this citrine stone using the design by Phan Tranh Trung called Lucifer's Flower. The cut stone is 14 mm and 7.8 carats. You can see lightning bolts in the stone, and it is absolutely gorgeous. See what little devils can do!



President Scott Kelley

This is a clear quartz using the diagram that was included in the Christmas Party invitation that Linda Cunningham had selected. The gem is 5.7 carats and 12.3 mm. The cutting diagram can be found in Faceting Diagrams # PC 45117.asc called Friends Christmas 2005.



And try these beauties by Scott. The ring is a .87 carat garnet, and the earrings are yellow CZ 7 mm. Scott says, "They are Christmas presents for my farmer who raised our pig, and it is some good bacon." Ah gee, Scott had Porky Pig for breakfast!



Shondy Schondelmayer

This is a slightly modified Portuguese design that Shondy cut using a flesh tone CZ from the rough he purchased at Shelby Gem Factory before they closed. He said this was the 8th gem he cut, and it took approximately 20 hours. As you can see it is a beautiful stone and is 11.66 mm and 11.88 carats.



App Arbor/Vesicle

Marie Bellard, Da

2011/12

Eric Peterson says

Discussion

Linda Cunningham

[illegible]

distance to teach classes on GemCad at the Guild's annual seminars. He taught himself how to facet on a Graves Mark IV, and 5 or 6 years ago, he bought a Facette machine. He still has his Graves machine because he can use the pre-former. Everett is a life-time member of the US Faceting Guild. He graciously agreed to be interviewed to capture some of his history. This interview took place on January 12, 2021.

Tell us about yourself.

Well, I was born in Gahanna, Ohio, which is in the central portion of Ohio. My Dad did not have a permanent job of any kind. We drifted from here to there, in and out of farming, mechanical work, maintenance work, and stuff like that. We were in Wooster, Ohio for about 4 years during World War II where I was in grade school. After the war, he was in farming, so we moved back to Croton, Ohio when I was in about the 7th grade. After graduating from high school, I moved to Phoenix, Arizona. I had a sister that lived out there. I intended to go to college in an aviation program because I wanted to learn to fly. After getting out there I found out I would need to take extra courses because I had not gotten them in high school. My high school was quite small and did not offer college credit courses. It sort of did away with my idea to become a pilot. While in Phoenix I took a job in a steel fabricating plant in the layout department for about 8 months. I got in a tiff with my brother-in-law with how much I was paying for room and board, so I decided to go back home, and I was a bit homesick anyway. In the process of working here and working there in different types of jobs, I decided to get my military service over with, I volunteered for the draft in late 1954. So, in January 1955, I went into the service and I was in for 2 years. I was in the Military Police. It is something I am very glad I did. I enjoyed my time. There was a lot of good times that overshadowed the bad times. I ended up in a military placement in Pennsylvania for the final year and a half. The job I had before I entered the service, I was a group leader for special tool and die department. When I came back, I thought I would get my old job back, but they said the qualification for that job changed. So, they put me out on the floor to build switches and things for air conditioners and furnaces. I was getting ready to quit and I then got laid off. So, I started looking for a job and got into engineering. They needed an inspector. So, I went over and talked with the engineer and he asked me what I knew about sewers. I told him all I knew about sewers is that water runs downhill. He said that was good enough. That was the start of a career that I am still doing. That was in June/July 1957, and I am still working full-time. I was interested in engineering and I started taking night courses, but there was no engineering program in central Ohio. In the meantime, I met my wife at a roller-skating rink. Met her in June 1957, an engagement ring in September 1957 and we were married in December 1957; so, 63 years ago. We have two children: boy and a girl. My son is in engineering-type work here in Columbus, and my daughter ended up getting her nursing degree and works in a hospital ICU in Atlanta, GA.

How did you get interested in faceting?

When I was a kid I was always interested in rocks and minerals and that kind of stuff. I would throw them around, find rocks that looked pretty, and put them in a box. Then back in the 60's,

my wife and I were in Sears and Roebucks just before Christmas and they had a little tumbling outfit, so jokingly I told my wife that is something you can get me for Christmas. Well, she did. My uncle was into polishing rocks, so I learned from him. But I found I really was not into tumbling and wanted to do some cutting. So, the following Christmas she bought me a cabbing machine for making cabochons.

I soon found that I really did not want to do cabochons, so I bought several books on faceting. In 1972-73 somewhere around there, I bought a Graves Mark IV faceting machine and taught myself how to facet. It had two speeds: slow and fast, so you had to learn to facet with those speeds. You learned to deal with what you had; all of its intricacies and you made corrections for them. From that point on, my faceting grew bigger and bigger and I submitted in local competitions and that got me really invested in faceting. In the mid-70s, I became a part owner of a rock shop in Columbus, Ohio. One evening a jeweler came into the shop and I was introduced to him as a faceter. He asked if I could repair stones. I said, "Well, I never have, but I don't know why that I couldn't." So, I started doing repair cutting for this jeweler. He had a brother who was in the business and I did repair work for him. At one time in the 90s, I was doing repair work for seven jewelry stores. Four were in Columbus, one in California, one in Texas, and one in Nashville, Tennessee. I did not make a lot of money because I didn't charge as much as I should have.

I became the president of North American, which turned into Rockwell Gem and Mineral Club. The members had to be associated with Rockwell. We had a lot of old members and retired members. They started dropping out and we got down to a small bunch of people. It was one of those situations that I couldn't get anybody to do anything. I was president for a number of years until Rockwell closed the plant in 1989 and the club broke up.

You are a Graduate Gemologist from GIA. Tell us about that.

Sitting around was what got me interested in the GIA gemology course. My wife and I discussed it and eventually decided we could afford the program. I finished it fairly quickly. That took me into the 90s, and with the gem identification course, I had to take some time off to save up enough money to buy the equipment I needed for gem identification. I took the monitored tests needed in order to get my G.G. and passed them with flying colors. The instructor said I had scored higher than some of the people in the jewelry field. He said that was common with people that had a technical background. So being in hydraulics and that kind of stuff gave me that technical background. So, in August 1997, I got my GIA Graduate Gemologist diploma with the intention that I would use it as a semi-retirement income, but that did not work out.

Tell us about the early days of the Midwest Faceters Guild.

When the Midwest Faceters Guild was formed in what I believe was the late 70s, one of my faceting friends went to meetings to get the Guild started. I had given him the dues, \$5.00 per year, which would have made me a charter member. I don't know what happened, if he didn't

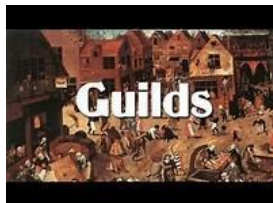
attend the meeting or what to pay the \$5.00, but I did not get involved until 2 or 3 years later. I did not take part of any of the seminars they were having until one year they were offering a class on GemCad in Heartland, Michigan. I had already purchased the program and so I went to that meeting, which got me started to be more mutual, so to speak. The next year I took a class on metal casting, and the next year took a class on chain-making. I always wanted to get into beading, but they called upon me to be an instructor in GemCad, which I have done for quite a few years. I really like GemCad since I like to take existing cuts and try to improve on them. There was a lot of attendance, and one year we had about 150-60 students in Heartland. They had excellent instructors in all the classes. They were excellent faceters in their own right, winning national awards. One year we were asked to have a seminar in Elmhurst, Illinois and we did that for two years. I think it was the start of the downfall of the club because we lost a lot of good instructors because they just did not want to travel that far. So, we came back to Michigan and had seminars in several different places and then it moved to the Grand Rapids area where it has been in the last number of years. I live so far away that it makes it hard to be a proactive member.

Twelve years ago, I had by-pass surgery on my heart, which has slowed me down a bit. I quit doing repair work and now I am down to one jeweler where I do repair work occasional, but not as often I use to.

Where do you see the Guild move in the future?

It is hard to anticipate now days. The last 10 to 15 years, the lapidary hobby has dwindled. It is hard to get younger people interested in it. They have too much time to play with their Nintendos, all that kind of stuff rather than taking up a hobby like this. I think we need to get the younger people interested so that the Guild will grow. The older people pass on and there is no one to replace them. With the seminar and COVID it is hard to know what to expect. Yet, the need to build on younger people getting involved in the Guild is critical.

News from Another Guild



Reprinted by permission from *Gemology Today*, December 2019.

In the Eye of the Beholder



In this issue, NINA ZOLOTUKHINA looks at one of the most important tools a gemmologist uses and asks the question 'Are all Eye Loupes Created Equal?'. While perhaps a little less scientific than the ASSURE testing, it again shows the importance of knowing that the instruments you are using are up for the job.

Through the Looking Glass - The Giant Loupe Test

A magnifier is of paramount importance to gemologists. This is the first thing they will pick up when observing a new stone. Using a magnifying glass, they can make a description of the stone, tell its shape and type of cut, determine its color, quality of the cut and draw conclusions about its natural or synthetic origin, based on the inclusions and the color features of the stone.

Due to its importance, the choice you make must be one that is taken very carefully. After all, if you buy a low-quality magnifier, you may not see an important feature of the stone, and indeed if used for a considerable amount of time could result in problems with your eyesight.

Magnifiers can be very diverse: of different magnifications (5x, 10x, 15x, 20x, 30x, 40x, 50x), sizes, with or without an auxiliary light source, different styles (forehead, tabletop, manual) and purposes: standard for the inspection of stones, dark-colored for examining the internal features of a stone, measuring with a built-in gauge and proportional (hearts and arrows) to check the quality of the cut.

The purpose of this article is to review nine different loupes and to see how they compare to each other.

The following loupes were included in the test:

1. Gemoro Light Loupe 10x (USA)
2. Gemoro Eclipse 10x (USA)
3. Klio 10x (Russia)
4. Belomo 10x (Belarus)
5. Schneider LS 10x (Germany)
6. Belomo 20x (Belarus)
7. No name 30x (China)
8. No name 40x (China)
9. No name 60x (China)

Testing

To ensure that each loupe was tested under the same conditions, testing was carried out from the same distance, under daylight with a temperature of 6500K. The subject of

the survey were Citrine crystals measuring 8mm and 10 mm in height and a Goethite inclusion measuring 1 mm high.

Results of Giant Loupe Test

So, how did they rate?

Due to the fact that it is impossible to take the highest quality pictures, I will also write my comments on the test results.

GemOro Loupes

The GemOro loupes were surprising. While there was a slight difference in price, the differences in the images were significant. The 'Light' loupe model has an extremely shallow depth of field, which makes it quite inconvenient to use. Within this depth, the image is quite sharp, and it also gives the lightest image of them all. Its sister, 'Eclipse' showed a good result, when viewing the inclusion, it had a sufficient depth of field so that the crystal could also be seen simultaneously with the inclusion. The wisely-made additional illumination and the UV flashlight make it an indispensable assistant in the traveling version!

Schneider Loupe

While proven when viewing diamonds, it also gave a good result with the colored stones and was once again noted for its 'clarity of the image', but it was not so far from its competitors, namely: Gemoro Eclipse (\$ 65) and Klio (\$ 11), with the latter clearly attractive at that price!

Chinese Loupes

None of the magnifications (30x, 40x and 60x) were true. The 30x and 40x were no more than 10x while the 60x was in the 15x region but there was some good news. Despite the discrepancy between the magnification indicated on the case and a rather small viewing circle, the 60x magnifier gave a surprisingly sharp picture at a magnification of about 15x and a price of \$ 5!. It also has a backlight and can be perfectly used for a more detailed inspection, for example, mineral samples that can scratch expensive lenses.

Belomo Loupe

The Belomo loupe showed an average result in the ratio of price - quality. You could note quite rich colors in the 10x magnifier, good visibility, but a very small depth of field in the 20x magnifier. On the downside, there was noticeable blurring along the edges and a weakening fixing screw on the 10x meaning you have to additionally support the open magnifier with your fingers.

Conclusions

Firstly, the same manufacturer is not always a guarantor of the same quality. Secondly, the most expensive models are not always the best. If you look, you can find good options for a very good price without compromising the overall

quality of the image. Thirdly, be aware of the descriptions and assertions made by the cheaper Chinese loupes and microscopes. What you see is not always what you get.

Based on this test, I would rate these eye loupes in the following order:

1. Schneider 10x
2. Gemoro Eclipse 10x
3. Klio 10x
4. Belomo 10x
5. Belomo 20x
6. Gemoro Light Loupe 10x
7. No name 60x
8. No name 30x
9. No name 40x



From Our Gemologist



Garnet Species

By Marie Bellard, FGA

Garnet species gather various varieties with the same crystal structure (cubic) but their chemical composition is slightly different. This is what we call isomorphism.

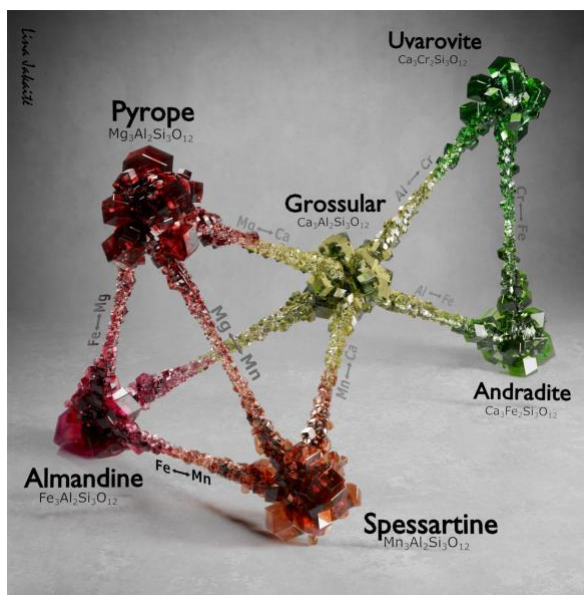
Garnet contains two major series: The Pyrospites - and the Ugrandite with the chemical composition $X_3Y_2(SiO_4)_3$ depending on which series you are looking at; one will vary while the other stays constant.

So for instance in the Pyrospite series $X_3Al_2(SiO_4)_3$:

- Pyrope (X = Mg)
- Almandine (X = Fe)
- Spessartine (X = Mn)

Ugrandite series $Ca_3Y_2(SiO_4)_3$:

- Uvarovite (Y = Cr)
- Grossular (Y = Al):
 - Tsavorite
 - Hydrogrossular
 - Hessonite
- Andradite (Y = Fe):
 - Demantoid



3D Creation by Lina Jakaitė

As you can see on this beautiful illustration, we have names for the end members, but it is nearly impossible to have a pure garnet. There always is more or less mixture of different chemical compositions from other members. So, for example Pyrope will always have more or less almandine molecule, and vice versa.

It would take many newsletters to explain garnets further, so I would like to open the subject to discussion and let me know for the next newsletter if you have any questions regarding garnets that we can cover for this January birthstone.

Stoned Learning



The Marriage of Gem Designs

by Linda Cunningham

What are you doing today, artistically speaking? Specifically, are you cutting exciting new designs? Are you creating on GemCad or Gem Cut Studio? I don't have either program but that has not stopped me from cutting new pieces that I like to call “married” designs. You can do this too. It is easy, and when you do, I think you will discover that it's fun, often stunning, and quite satisfying.

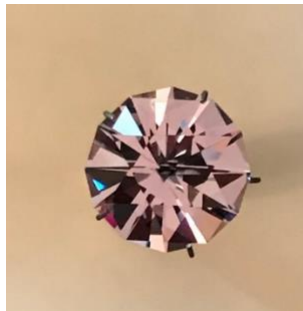
The first thing I do is cut each gem design. Here are some examples:

11mm Amethyst



Friends 2005
by Jim Perkins

12mm Laser Alexandrine



Dutch Rose
by Bob Keller

12mm Smokey Quartz



Friendship Rose
(Marriage)

I study the design patterns to make sure the facet cuts match up. (see graphic at the end of this article). These do, and since the Friends pavilion is more interesting than the Dutch Rose pavilion; and I like the Dutch Rose crown better. I've determined these two might be good companions. They are, and now if I need a gift for my friend, I can give her a rose of friendship.

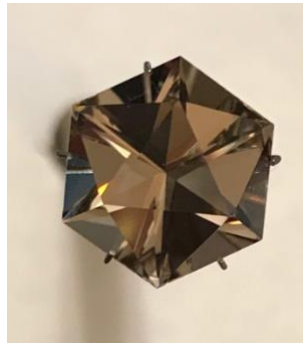
Another Example of a Good Marriage

10x10mm Citrine



Spellbound
by Jeff Rhonemus

13mm Smokey Qtz



Confusion Icosahedron
by Arya Akhavan

15mm Smokey Qtz



Sacred Magic
(Marriage)

In the case of "Sacred Magic", I followed Jeff's pavilion with the frosted facets. This gave me a round cut. Then I took Akavan's design and cut P2 to shape the Hexagon. Then I simply cut Akavan's crown. Stunning, don't you agree?

So, if you get bored someday while you are "sheltering in place" before a vaccine is available to you...Try this...it's fun.

Graphic of Married Friendship Designs

MANY FACETS THIS MONTH'S GUEST FACETER: JIM PERKINS

PAVILION

P1 43.00 04-12-20-28-36-44-52-60-68-76-84-92 Create a center point.
P2 90.00 04-12-20-28-36-44-52-60-68-76-84-92 Cut to size and polish.
P3 44.00 02-14-18-30-34-46-50-62-66-78-82-94 PCR, GMP.

CROWN

C1 45.00 04-12-20-28-36-44-52-60-68-76-84-92 Set girdle height, level girdle.
C3 37.00 96-16-32-48-64-80 GMP
C2 33.11 08-24-40-56-72-88 GMP
C4 22.00 96-16-32-48-64-80 MP @ C1.
C5 18.00 96-16-32-48-64-80 MP @ C2.
C6 0.00 Table Cut to size and polish.

My wife always gives a few gifts to her special friends and relatives at Christmas-time, and we try to give something we made. This past Christmas, I offered her this design, which looks much more complicated than it really is. I cut five stones in a relatively short amount of time from some green obsidian I purchased a few years ago.

I cut 12 millimeter stones and set them in standard necklace mountings from Tripp's with three accent stones. Everyone who received one was happy with it, and I enjoyed making them. I believe one of the best things about the lapidary arts is the ability to make a gift I could not afford to purchase. I think the fact that I create my own designs, as well as cut and set them, also adds a lot of special meaning to the gift. The gifts are given in the true spirit of the season from our heads, our hearts and our hands. It truly makes us feel like Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus.

The design will work in nearly any material, including quartz, beryl, topaz, and cubic zirconium. I hope you will enjoy cutting this design for yourself or for a gift for one of your special friends.

FRIENDS 2005
Designed by Jim Perkins, jimperkins@zoominternet.net
Copyright November 2005
Angles for R.I. = 1.550
61 + 12 girdles = 73 facets
6-fold, mirror-image symmetry
96 index
L/W = 1.000 T/W = 0.384 U/W = 0.333
P/W = 0.431 C/W = 0.161
Vol./W³ = 0.205

Dutch Rose Round 1.54 & up

Dutch Rose Round

GemCad Ray Traces for RI = 1.54

GemCad Ray Traces for RI = 1.72

Random Model Cosine Model ISO Model Random Model Cosine Model ISO Model

Dutch Rose Round
Designed by Bob Keller - 11.22.01 Bob Keller

For RI 1.54 and up - likes garnet and corundum!

Angles for R.I. = 1.54 and up 48 facets + 12 facets on girdle = 60

6-fold, mirror-image symmetry 96 index

L/W = 1.000 P/W = 0.420 C/W = 0.212 H/W = (P+C)/W + 0.02 = 0.652 P/H = 0.644 C/H = 0.326

Vol./W³ = 0.194

Brightness at 0 degrees tilt for RI = 1.54 COS = 81.9
ISO = 88.1
Brightness at 0 degrees tilt for RI = 1.72 COS = 81.7
ISO = 91.8

Pavilion

l 41.00 04-12-20-28-36-44-52-60-68-76-84-92 Meet at centerpoint, make culet
g1 90.00 04-12-20-28-36-44-52-60-68-76-84-92 Match l, make level girdle

Crown

a 45.00 04-12-20-28-36-44-52-60-68-76-84-92 Match g1, establish upper girdle line
b 34.00 06-10-22-26-38-42-54-58-70-74-86-90 Meet a.g1.g1
c 25.30 96-16-32-48-64-80 Meet b.a.a.b
d 12.00 96-16-32-48-64-80 Meet c.b.b.c, at apex

A Dutch Rose Round Design File is available for GemCad users.

As you can see, the P1 cut on the Friends 2005 pavilion matches up with the A cut on the Dutch Rose Crown; that's how I determine that they might be a match. Easy-Peezy!

Some Different Facets of My Addiction with Rocks and Minerals

by Kreigh Tomaszewski

I have always liked rocks and minerals. By the time I was eight, I had joined the Grand Rapids Rock and Mineral Club, which sadly no longer exists. I took Saturday classes at the Museum in Earth Science and Geology. Three years later, I was an assistant instructor in lapidary in the Club's Shop behind the Museum. My first merit badge in Boy Scouts was Geology. And then, like most Junior Rockhounds, I kind of stepped away from the hobby as I dealt with advanced schooling, starting a career, finding a wife (I did cab an opal for her engagement ring), and

starting a family. And with kids of my own, I wanted to complete the rockhound cycle by bringing my kids into the hobby and becoming club leadership.

When I tried to return to the hobby actively, my club was gone, but I found an online community. Welcome to Rockhounds@drizzle! We are an unmoderated email list for amateur rockhounds, fossil collectors, lapidary enthusiasts, and weekend prospectors. Topics on this list range from mineralogy and crystallography to favorite collecting sites and opinions on field gear (GPS, digital cameras, crowbars, etc.).

The email list introduced me to a global community of rockhounds and lapidaries and let me reconnect to my hobby world. Over time, I became one of the list administrators. One of the members on the email list lived in Ohio, and he had a friend in Wyoming, MI, that was an officer in the Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club and told the club they needed to find me. The Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club's objective is to develop and encourage interest in, and to further the study of minerals, gems, fossils, rock, lapidary arts, and earth science.

I found an aging, dying, club that had no youth program, and had not taken a field trip in five years. I served as VP in charge of programs for a year before deciding I could do more to help the club in the role of Field Trip Chair. With field trips happening, the club became a draw for parents with children, and before long people stepped up and we had an active Junior's program. I stepped up and took over as club president. Our Junior's program has grown, and now at least 1/3 of meeting attendees are Juniors.

One of the fieldtrips our club took was to the Museum's Community Archives and Research Center building to see the Public Museum's rock collection. They had a need for a volunteer to help identify the specimens in their collection that had been boxed up since they moved into their new home more than 20 years ago. For the past couple of years, I have been spending Tuesday mornings helping them curate their collection. Their new Science Curator and I started the same week.

I have also been leading a monthly Mineral Study Group, for more than ten years, that is sponsored by the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies, that sponsors our rock club.

My personal collecting hobby has narrowed over the years and I am now what is known as a systematic collector or species collector, with a goal of collecting a specimen of all 5,638 known minerals, preferably from the Type Locality. That means a lot of my specimens are small, because that is the only size most rare minerals come in. I joined The Micromounters of New England to get their monthly newsletter. The Micromounters of New England was organized for the purpose of promoting the study of minerals that require a microscope.

COVID forced the club online via ZOOM, and after several years I have finally become an active member of the club and have even participated in online auctions. It has been nice to "meet" people who were only pictures or bylines in a newsletter.

The Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club has an annual Rock and Mineral Show every April (but it caught COVID this year) where we bring in a dozen rock, mineral, and jewelry dealers, and promote the club to the public. The last couple shows we were able to hold, brought in between 10,000 and 20,000 people across three days. I have typically done lapidary demonstrations in our club booth.

Several years ago, someone from the Midwest Faceters Guild asked if they could come demonstrate faceting in our club booth. The Midwest Faceters Guild's mission is to promote education and recreation, to develop the art of faceting, to exchange information related to faceting, to provide meetings for those of like interests, and to promote the achievement of individuals. I said, "yes". They challenged me to take my lapidary skills to the next level, so I took the August seminar and cut my first stone. I found an aging club that was at least aware they had a problem.

Then I bought a used faceting machine and brought it to the next August seminar to learn how to use it. I will admit that it does not get used as much as it probably should, but I do have some other priorities (including my weather club, radio club, and leadership at my Church). We watch our almost two-year-old granddaughter several mornings every week, and she is starting to show an interest in my mineral display cabinet. I'm trying to start another generation of rockhounds.

My youngest daughter talked to her friends about how many quarries and mines she had been dragged to while she was growing up. When she went to college, she had to take a Geology 101 course. One day early in the course, the professor lined up 25 mineral specimens on a table and gave a pop quiz -- and my daughter was able to name them all just by looking at them. She called me up to say that all that childhood exposure had rubbed off on her.

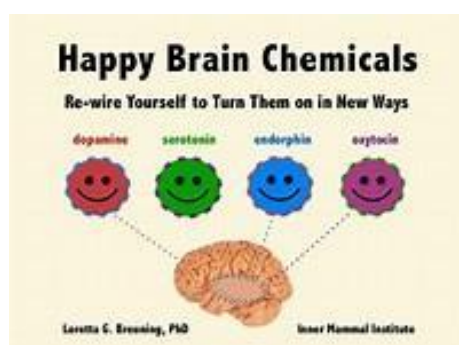
When I was about 3 1/2 years old, I was living in Arizona where my Dad was getting his master's degree and I found a pretty stone in the driveway and gave it to my Mom. It was a piece of Turquoise. My Mom put it in her jewelry box, and when I was 35 and still rockhounding, she gave it back to me for Christmas. I still have my first collected specimen. I also have thanks for my Dad who supported my rockhound interests by taking me to club meetings (or arranging transportation when he had a conflict).

Everything we use is either mined or grown, and I got bit early by the bug that makes me interested in the things that come out of the ground and what we do with them. In this lies the clue to keeping clubs thriving across generations. The rockhound cycle. Infect the kids early with the wonders of the hobby and feed their natural curiosity. Give them time to grow, and they will come back to the hobby with their own kids to repeat the cycle (the harder part is getting the adults to step up to leadership positions in the club).

Brain Chemistry: What Is That Got to Do with Faceting?

By Dr. Reg Williams

You know the feeling—you just faceted a beautiful gemstone that is so polished it sparkles to beat the band and all your meet points are spot on! Wow, that feeling of pride and happiness is boundless. When you give that gemstone to a special someone, the feeling is grander. In contrast, you have cut a terrific gemstone and misread the cutting diagram, made a mistake you cannot correct, and the words that come out of your mouth are *?!%#-- you simply feel awful! Well, there are things going on in your brain that trigger those feelings. I am not a neuroscientist, but the research and work I have done in depression helps me to understand these mechanisms. Therefore, to help you better understand, I will cover these, hopefully, without sounding too esoteric. First, the good feelings . . . !



Dopamine

Dopamine is a chemical or neurotransmitter that the nerves use to send messages. Dopamine causes us to feel bliss, pleasure, euphoria and motivation. It is often referred to as the “chemical of reward.” In addition, you get a dose of dopamine when you do acts of kindness for others, such as volunteerism. It is easy to see that this neurotransmitter increases when you cut that gorgeous gemstone.

Endorphins

Endorphins are produced by the central nervous system and help us deal with pain. They are often released by exercise and feeling more energized and with a better mood. Laughter even induces endorphin release. Subsequently, having a sense of humor helps with this chemical. Of course, I see faceting as a form of exercise—hey, it works for me; moving that quill across the lap, getting up to change laps, etc., is a form of exercise. It is all how you frame it.

Serotonin

Many antidepressant medications address this neurotransmitter in the brain to help treat depression. It has a strong effect on our mood. A dysregulation of serotonin in the brain makes a person feel lonely, depressed mood, lack of interest in usual activities, sleep problems,

thoughts of death, the list goes on. Barring clinical depression, serotonin levels in the brain can be altered by increasing vitamin D from the sun and engaging in acts of kindness.

Oxytocin

This is called the love or cuddle hormone. Oxytocin creates intimacy, trust, and is what builds a strong, healthy relationship making us more intuitive to others' needs. Along with dopamine and serotonin, oxytocin helps to reduce anxiety. Again, giving that gemstone to someone special increases oxytocin.

There are other structural features in the brain that have effects on feeling good, which involve the limbic system and prefrontal cortex, but are beyond this article, possibly for another time. Now to the not so-good feelings . . . !



Cortisol

This is called the long-term stress hormone and cortisol is produced by our adrenal glands that sit atop our kidneys. It naturally occurs the first thing in the morning when we get up to boost our blood pressure and get going for the day. Where it becomes serious is with long-term stress. High cortisol symptoms are the classic symptoms of stress, such as: unable to relax, anxiety, trouble sleeping, no appetite to over-eating, weight-gain, indigestion, and high blood pressure to name some of the typical symptoms. I doubt that making errors in cutting a gemstone is going to cause you to have chronic high levels of cortisol, but you can see how cortisol level is affected when you are upset with the gemstone you cut and cannot correct the errors.

What Can You Do About These Chemicals?

Do those things that make you feel good instead of things that make you feel bad--simpler said than done. Here are a couple of things to do, when it comes to faceting, which can make you feel good:

1. Cut gemstones for people you care about, those important people in your life.
2. Even if you cut for a living, the pride you take in making a gemstone that someone will treasure increases those good chemicals in your brain.
3. While cutting have a way of staying on the area of the cutting diagram so you do not incorrectly set your angle or index gear segments. I have a card that covers the other angles and index settings, so I do not get on the wrong part of the diagram.
4. Correct minor errors in your meet points before moving on. They just keep compounding as you cut other angles in the gemstone.

5. Take frequent breaks and go exercise; remember those endorphins!
6. Stop when you are tired. Most of my errors have been when I was tired and said to myself, “I will just cut this row of facets”—big mistake.

I hope this article provides you a basic understanding of the chemicals in your brain that affect you feeling good or bad. If all else fails, have a drink! Actually not, it can make you feel better temporarily, but in the long run is not an effective solution.

May all your facets sparkle!

Ask the Expert



As an incentive in the last issue, we called on new faceters to send in a question. Their names would be put into a drawing and they can win pieces of gem rough for the next gem they cut. When starting out people always need more rough gemstones!

Shondy Schondelmayer, a beginner faceter, who has cut 11 gemstones submitted a question for an expert.

Question: “Is setting a gemstone in an earring different than in a ring?”

Answer: A simple answer to the question is no, however, the question has more complexities in setting a stone in either earrings or a ring. There is some needed equipment that makes the job easier to setting a gemstone.

1. Setting pliers (pictured below)
2. Digital calipers
3. Magnification such as visors or magnifying light
4. Small needle nose pliers to adjust prongs if necessary
5. Patience!



First, you want to measure the stone in mm, so you can purchase the correct size for your cut stone. If the stone is, say 8.5 mm, you are best to order a setting at 9 mm. Trying to fit a stone in a setting that is too small will usually mean disastrous results! Purchased settings usually come with the prongs already notched. You might need to use the small needle nose pliers to slightly widen the opening. Make sure the stone sets flat. Take the setting pliers and adjust it with the thumb screw to touch the top of one prong and the bottom of the setting at a slight

angle. Apply gentle pressure to bend the prong over the girdle and crown of the gemstone. Keeping your finger on the stone, go to the opposite prong and gently bend that prong. Another way to say it, is start at 12 o'clock, then 6 o'clock, 3 o'clock, and 9 o'clock until you have all the prongs gently bent. Then go back and tighten the prongs onto the stone as you did before. If you clamp too hard using the setting pliers you can chip the stone, especially if the stone is lower on the Mohs' scale. Likewise, too much pressure and you can damage the prong so that it does not properly hold the gemstone.

A few complexities can become real challenges. Trying to bend a prong over a corner of two facets can be extremely difficult. As you apply pressure to the prong, the stone wants to twist in the setting. It is best to buy a setting that will have prongs that are set on the flat part between two facets. A polished girdle can also contribute to the stone moving during setting because of the slickness of the girdle. This is why many jewelers prefer girdles not polished; the setting stays put. Another complexity is that the girdle is too thick or too thin. If the stone's girdle is too thick, you may find you cannot bend the prong enough to hold the stone. If too thin, you increase the risk of the stone chipping or it does not set flat in the setting.

Our gemologist and Vice President Marie Bellard added this:

I know that in Europe they prefer smooth girdle over faceted ones as they can create their settings (considering they usually create their own prong) and place their claws wherever they want them. With a faceted girdle, you must carefully place your claws so they would not end up at the junction between two facets. There are many people who argue with this point, but either way, the stone can be set.

It is one thing to see a well-cut loose stone, but another to see it set in a beautiful earring, a pendant or ring. It is what makes all your work worth it!

A Joke for a Faceter



Entrance Exam at the Pearly Gates

The first applicant of the day, Harold, explained that his last day was not a good one. Harold was a fastidious faceter and never let anyone touch his machine. He would kill if someone touched the machine. Harold said to Saint Peter, "I came home and immediately could tell someone had touched my faceting machine. I began to look for the person who messed with my machine."

"I went onto the balcony of my 9th floor apartment and found a guy clinging to the rail by his fingertips. I was so angry that I began bashing his fingers with a flowerpot. He let go and fell, but his fall was broken by some awnings and bushes. On seeing he was still alive, I found superhuman strength to drag the antique cedar chest to the balcony and throw it over. It hit

the man and killed him. At this point the stress got to me and I suffered a massive heart attack and died.”

Saint Peter thanked him for his story and sent him on to the waiting room.

The second applicant said that his last day was his worst. “I was on the roof of an apartment building working on the AC equipment and I stumbled over my tools and toppled off the building. I managed to grab onto the balcony rail of a 9th floor apartment, but some idiot came rushing out on the balcony and bashed my hands with a flowerpot. I fell but hit some awnings and bushes and survived, but as I looked up, I saw a huge chest falling toward me. I tried to crawl out of the way but failed and was hit and killed by the chest.”

Saint Peter could not help but chuckle as he directs the man to the waiting room. Saint Peter is still chuckling when his third customer of the day enters. He apologizes and says, “I doubt that your last day was as interesting as the two fellows that arrived here just before you.”

“I don’t know,” replies the man. “Picture this, I’m hiding in this cedar chest”

A Rock Riddle

It's in the rock but not the stone; it's in the marrow but not the bone; it's in the bolster but not the bed; it's not in the living nor yet in the dead.

Riddle sent by Linda Cunningham

The answer is at the end of the *Midwest Faceter*!

Guild Talk



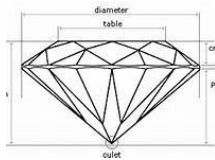
Gem Photography

The U.S. Faceting Guild offered a webinar on gem photography November 21, 2020. The presenters were Dan Lynch, Kell Hymer, and our own Roger Dery. Both Dan and Kell demonstrated their gem photos using Gem Zoom U 10X macro lens, which attaches to a cell phone. Roger uses a digital camera to take his gem pictures and showed his setup along with manual camera settings. If you do not have a digital camera with a macro lens, then your cellphone could be the trick with the right lens. The Gem Zoom U sells for \$89.99 to \$99.95 on Amazon.



Doing a bit of research, the Editor found another Pro Lens Kit rated better than the Gem Zoom U. In the next issue of *Midwest Faceter*, the lens will be discussed and some description as how to use it. The cellphones of today now take some incredible pictures that can challenge many digital cameras. More about that in the next issue.

Faceting Diagrams



In the past, the Midwest Faceter included faceting diagrams. Rather than selecting diagrams that may or may not be appealing to the membership, you can select the faceting diagram of your choosing from two sites that have a multitude of designs. [A note to gem designers]. If you use Gem Cut Studio or GemCad and do your own designs and would like to share with Guild members, just send a PDF of your design to the Editor and it can be featured in the next *Midwest Faceter*. As a member who then cuts the design, and you would like to send in a picture of your gem, look what we could start!

Facet Diagrams Website

www.facetdiagrams.org

The United States Faceters Guild Website

<https://usfacetersguild.org>

Tom Herbst's Design Pages

www.boghome.com/TomsPages/MyDesigns/index.html

Magus Design

One of our members, Dave Vought, owner of Tree Town Treasures in Ann Arbor, using Gem Cut Studio, has designed a cutting diagram he named Magus. He states that the design works well even in quartz, but better the higher the refractive index. He is talented in creating designs that fit the shape of a rough gemstone. You will not find this design on any of the websites above since it is his own creation, and he is sharing it with the Guild.

Magus

Dave Vought - May 2019

Facet Data

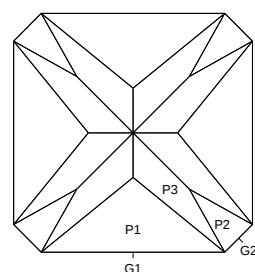
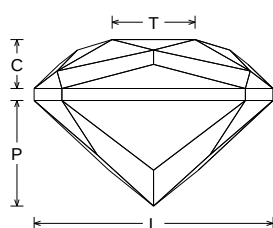
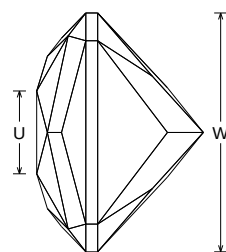
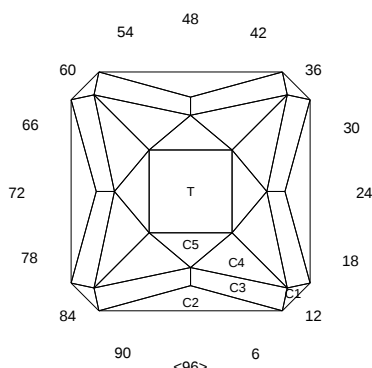
Pavilion facets	16	Pavilion tiers	3
Girdle facets	8	Girdle tiers	2
Crown facets	28+1	Crown tiers	5+1
Total facets	53	Total tiers	11

Size Data

L/W	1.000	P/W	0.442
T/W	0.347	C/W	0.205
U/W	0.347	H/W	0.697
V/W^3	0.313	P/C	2.153

Design Data

Angles for R.I.	1.76
Symmetry	4-fold, mirror
Index gear	96



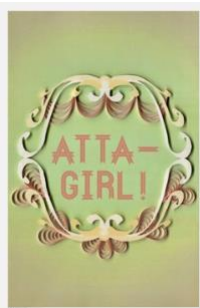
Pavilion

G1	90.00	96-24-48-72
G2	90.00	12-36-60-84
P1	43.00	96-24-48-72
P2	38.00	12-36-60-84
P3	39.00	02-22-26-46-50-70-74-94

Crown

C1	54.00	12-36-60-84
C2	44.00	96-24-48-72
C3	38.00	01-23-25-47-49-71-73-95
C4	25.00	04-20-28-44-52-68-76-92
C5	17.00	96-24-48-72
T	0.00	Table

Kudos



President Scott nominated Linda Cunningham for the Atta-Girl Award! Linda pulled together a fun filled and informative Christmas party for the Guild. She was creative in the invitation, and the activities during the party, while a number stayed on the Zoom meeting talking about all things faceting. Linda has also contributed several articles to this edition. Atta-Girl Linda, and congratulations!

Marketplace Finds



Several dealers continue to provide lapidary supplies with a discount for MWFG members. They all are reputable companies. If you are in need cut gemstones, lapidary equipment or supplies, give them a try. In addition, if you have a company that can provide a discount to Guild members, please contact the Editor.



Amaterra.Gems: Our own Marie Bellard is offering a 15% discount to Guild members for beautifully cut gemstones on her website (<http://www.amaterragems.com>). If you find a gemstone you must have, just contact her by calling, e-mail, Facebook, or Instagram and she can apply the discount to your purchase. Goes without saying, but please support your Guild members.



Green Forest Lapidary: This company operates on eBay and has a 100% rating. The owner and his wife sell faceting laps. I have purchased several of his metal toppers (256, 500, and 800 grits); they are useful for preforming a stone or initial cutting. The laps are very reasonably priced, and hold up far better than a Crystalite lap, as an example. To find his listings, just search for "faceting laps" or search for Green Forest Lapidary. The owner is offering 25% off (unlimited) on the first order, and 10% off every order following, for Guild

members. Shipping is free. The owner is offering 20% off on a \$25 order or more for Guild members. Shipping is free. To receive the discount, use the following code through eBay:
<http://ebay.us/KcTPJP>



Lapcraft Lapidary Supplies, Inc.: Lapcraft Lapidary Supplies is offering a 15% discount to MWFG members for lapidary supplies. Their faceting laps do hold up well and holds the diamond mesh better than many other laps. You can give them a try.

<https://www.lapcraft.com>

e-mail: lapcraft@aol.com

Phone: 614-764-8993

Buy, Sell, and Trade



This section of the *Midwest Faceter* is dedicated for members to list any items to buy, sell or trade. The section can serve as the Guild's "Craigslist!" If you have something, do send an e-mail to the Editor and your item(s) can be listed in the next issue.

Dick Fairless Lapidary Equipment



In the last *Midwest Faceter* Dick Fairless's equipment was listed. Julie, his daughter, said that Jeff Thessfeld has walked them through what they have, so if you are interested you can contact Julie at jbilbert25@comcast.net

Answer to the Riddle: The letter R



MIDWEST
FACETERS
GUILD

Find Us!

MidwestFaceters.org

[Facebook.com/midwestfacetersguild](https://www.facebook.com/midwestfacetersguild)

midwestfaceters@gmail.com

The Midwest Faceter's Guild was established in 1979 for the purpose of developing the art of faceting, to promote education and recreation through the exchange of information, to provide meetings for those with like interests and to encourage the achievements of individuals.

The Midwest Faceter's Guild is also a member of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies as well as the American Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies.