

THERE ARE BETTER NAMES FOR “CHEATERS”

-- Part Two of Two Articles (Revised June 28, 2004)



by Glenn Klein

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This is a summary of what faceters have suggested regarding my article, "GET RID OF CHEATER!" The article first appeared in the March 2001 issue of the U.S.F.G. Newsletter. It appeared later in Paul Ahlstedt's Daily Digest, as well as in Bob Keller's Faceters List. I have picked up remarks from the Lists as well as from Emails that were sent directly to me. Only two faceters suggested that we continue to use the words Cheater and Cheating. Most faceters suggested or were of the opinion that better names are available and are more suitable. First we will see the faceters suggestions and then I will give a summary of what I suggest we do from here on.

Names for the faceting machine device

1. Accurizer
2. Adjunct Finessing Device
3. Adjuster
4. AIGIMIR, analogue index gear interpolator and machine inaccuracy remedy.
5. Cheater
6. Compensater
7. Compound Adjustment
8. Compound Cheater
9. Compound Device
10. Compounder
11. Index Adjuster
12. Index Compensator
13. Index Divider
14. Index Fine Tuner
15. Index Fine Tuning Adjustment
16. Index Offset Adjustment Knob
17. Index Rotation Adjuster

Names for USING the device

- Accurizing
- Adjusting
- Cheating
- Compensating
- Compound Adjusting
- Compound Cheating
- Compounding
- Index Adjusting
- Index Compensating
- Index Dividing
- Index Fine Tuning
- Index Fine Tune Adjusting
- Index Rotation Adjusting



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Names for the faceting machine device

18. Index Splitter
19. Index Tuner
20. Index Tweaker
21. Index Vernier
22. KNOB, short for kinetic nullifying over-adjustment button
23. Micro Adjuster
24. Radial Adjuster
25. Radial Adjustment
26. Radial Bias Control
27. Radial Cheater
28. Radial Index Splitter
29. Radial Splitter
30. Radial Vernier
31. Rotational Adjuster
32. Rotational Splitter
33. Rotational Tuner
34. Splitter
35. Theta Vernier
36. Tweaker
37. Whatever

Names for USING the device

- Index Splitting, or Splitting
- Index Tweaking
- Micro Adjusting
- Radial Adjusting
- Radial Adjusting
- Radial Cheating
- Radial Index Splitting
- Radial Splitting
- Rotational Adjusting
- Rotational Splitting
- Rotational Tuning
- Splitting
- Tweaking
- Twiddling

Some faceters gave opinions which differ quite a bit as compared to my own: such as, "There is no need for the controls or the use of them if the faceting machine is well manufactured," or "Is it some how not honest to be using the control even if it is there?" Such remarks I dismiss entirely. If a cutter is cutting for fast production or for a client who does not know the difference, the fine-tuning of facets is not needed. But if we are to succeed in accomplishing a good end result with our stones, we are smart to use all of the tools that are available.

Good tools help us to do a better job. All of the faceting machines of today are pretty well constructed. Some are better than others. It sometimes depends more on how much money you are willing to pay for good equipment. A faceter does not have to try all of the machines to see which is best. The faceter only needs to learn how to best use the machine he has access to. When I find a tool that works well for me, I do not look further. I stick with that tool, so that the uses of its features become second nature to me. Besides, what one faceter thinks is the best machine will not be the choice of another faceter. That is the story all through the faceting process. It is best to find what works for you, and then keep using that material or that method.



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The faceting machine control we are considering here (old name, "cheater") is a very necessary control device, and is needed on all machines. This control allows the facator to make those many fine adjustments that are necessary to correct for the multitude of things that affect well-cut facets.

The need for fine adjustments may be caused by a stone moving in the dopping wax, or an out of line crown girdle facet—as it relates to the faceted girdle and the pavilion girdle facet just below. Other needs may be when there is the necessity to align the tabling adapter, or to adjust for a thinner or thicker lap. All laps are not entirely flat over their entire surface area. Even if there were such a thing as a completely flat lap it would not remain that way very long, after the facator uses certain areas of the lap more than others over a period of time. This uneven characteristic of laps is my reason for never sweeping a competition stone back and forth across the entire lap. The gem is traveling up the hills and down into the valleys that way (microscopically speaking). So choose a sweep area of an inch wide at most, for that final polish.

Also, the faceting machine may be very slightly out of alignment after months of use. A stone being faceted high on the Mast would show the errors even more. Removing a completed pavilion and dop, then transferring to a crown dop, and then using the tabling adapter—all allow for the possibility of the need for slight corrections to be made on a facet—up or down, left or right. Everything has to do with tolerances. When several seemingly small problems arise at the same time, the facator finds that now there is a big problem. Doing repair work on a old stone, or replacing a stone that has popped off the dop are obvious cases where there will be the need to adjust left, right, up, and down. I have listed only some of the many causes that call for the need to adjust facets on the polishing, lap.

The repeatability of faceting machines available today is outstanding. But, we really are not finishing up with the settings that were used before on a facet. Those previous settings are just our starting point for a finer lap. As we go to finer laps and to polishing those same facets, we have to fine-tune the left and right sides of each facet—just as we have to adjust the angle of that facet up or down.

If you are a facator who wants a stone to be as perfect as you are able to make it, notice those exact settings of your mains around the completed stone. By the time you are finished polishing, you will find that some of those mains are slightly over or under your chosen angle. The closeness to your desired angle will be almost there, but the actual changes you made will be every bit as much as the fine adjustments you made left and right. These up and down, left and right corrections are NECESSARY and NORMAL if one wants to do the very best on a stone. It does depend on you and the degree of accuracy you wish to accomplish with your gem.

I have never liked the idea that these necessary and normal corrections on a facet were cheating, at least in the true meaning of the word—to deceive, defraud, to bring about by dishonesty or trickery. I really do not know how or where the terms Cheater and Cheating came about in regards to faceting stones, but the terms are highly incorrect in my view.



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Tom Nuchols offered a possible source of the BAD terms. I quote from his email to one of the Lists as of March 18, 2001. Tom wrote, "Early on, the companies that built faceting machines did not put compound devices on their machines claiming that the problem was the faceter and not their machine". It was said that, "Mr. Henry Graves' not adding one to his machine until he was forced to was because Mr. Graves felt that there was no need to have one available since he built an accurate machine and gears. Mr. Graves was apparently adamant about the accuracy of his machine and he felt that using the compound device was "cheating." And finally Tom wrote, "The perception that all machines should be very accurate led to the word "cheating."

I have received emails which say things like, "I use the cheater, I know it is wrong," "How much longer can we go on harboring this feeling of guilt," and "Is it all right to cheat?" I have heard from the lips of individual facetors that most of the faceting machines available are accurate and are precision pieces of equipment. The machines are capable of turning out very precise gems when operated by a critical faceter who has good eyesight. Some facetors say a certain machine is terrible, and their favorite one is the only one to use. Another faceter will contradict, and have the same machines mentioned in a different order of preference. The point is that most if not all machines have a control for angle adjustment (up and down) and a control for left and right corrections of the index gear settings. Both controls are necessary and are of equal value. One of these controls has just gotten an undeserved bad name. It is time to correct that name.

I hope most facetors agree that both up and down as well as left and right adjustments HAVE to be done to achieve a competition quality stone! And there is nothing at all wrong with that procedure. Would you really like to polish the large table of a stone without being able to adjust the stone? If anyone says that they can cut and polish a Masters or World Class level stone without any use of the "cheater," I would say that I do not believe that!

Now back to that earlier list of 37 suggested new names for the control once called the "Cheater," and the procedure of using that control once called "Cheating." Most of you if not all agree that, the early names were not appropriate or descriptive for what most of us use and control each time we attempt to produce an accurate gem. Most of those who mentioned preferences included the word Index. The one name that received the most mention was Index Splitter, for the name of the control. After all, we are talking about the index gears on our machines and the need to break down the 96 gear (as an example) into more divisions...as if the gear was now a 120 index. It would be nice to have a 360 index—but there would no longer be any metal left for teeth to engage!



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In my original paper about re-naming "cheater," I stated that I was in favor of the control being called the INDEX SPLITTER and the process of using the control being called INDEX SPLITTING or simply SPLITTING. I am now more in favor of these terms than ever before. They accurately describe what we are doing, and would be understood by most faceters of today as well as those who become faceters in the future. No upstanding person wants to..."cheat."

Old terms will be hard to forget. But hey, we have to start sometime. Well, maybe we do not have to start now but shouldn't we? I would like to encourage everyone to use the new terms Index Splitter and Index Splitting from now on. Time will tell if most of you agree with me.

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