



OWNERS NEWSLETTER

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Summer 1983

Dear Ultra Tec Owner,

This is our second letter of 1983. As long time owners know these Newsletters can be called the "Some Times", coming out as they do on an unscheduled basis, but usually two or three times a year. Our getting out a Newsletter is something like the old non-scheduled airplanes (remember?) that took off when the plane was full--we write a letter when our file of things to write about is full.

I had expected my lead off paragraph for this letter would be about the Midwest Faceters Guild Show. Unfortunately, as those who live in that area know, I had to cancel my plans at the last minute and was not able to attend. It is something I hope to make up for next year. At any rate, we have received information that the show was very nice indeed and well attended. We were fortunate in getting Bill Mlejnek and John Nolan to fill in for me--they are both excellent Ultra Tec faceters who live in the area. I have received messages from people who spoke to them and who were warm in their praise, so I again extend my thanks to the two gentlemen.

Something of significance to us at Ultra Tec is a company reorganization, and it may be of interest to those of you who have had a chance to meet company personnel. Warren Haines opted for a bit of a change in life style and left Ultra Tec and Southern California in favor of cooler and greener Northern California. All the rest of us sunworshippers will remain at our accustomed tasks, working away at Ultra Tec products. This organizational change will have no affect on our faceting equipment and we continue in our pledge to deliver the best.

A subject which has been featured in the last several Newsletters is the Dial Indicator Attachment. Most of you know we give the Dial Indicator Attachment a warm endorsement because of all the good things it does. Its initial purpose was to be a "pressure gage" to help avoid overcutting. It turned out that it did many other tasks as well, speeding the process and functioning as "eyes on the lap", while the cutting takes place. We have had almost unanimous raves about its value as a faceting aid. So, perhaps it's "gilding the lily", but in the limited space that the housing offered we have devised an even more stable and repeatable system. It involves the addition of a second bearing and a new pre-loading mechanism which results in minimization of any backlash. The design modification requires more machining as well as additional parts, and there is the inescapable price increase. The old unit was \$125. and the new one is currently priced at \$159.

For those who have the original Dial Indicator Attachment and might like it revised, we will do it for the difference in price plus \$5. for handling--that is, a total of \$39. for the modification. (Since machining

is involved, it must be done at the factory). While we were at it incidentally, we designed a new spring (with the suggestions and help of W. H. Augspurger of Monroe, LA). The spring can easily be installed in older units. If you are interested in the modification, see the instruction sheet enclosed.

In our last Newsletter we had a special price offer on Splashpans, sharing the savings of a large production run. If you ordered one and had to wait, we apologize. The idea was that we would order after we knew how many extras to get, and this involved a delay. Perhaps we should have explained it better when we made the offer. We did run a pretty good quantity over so we can renew the special offer on the Splashpans until October 15th, but that's really it, so if you need a replacement get it now. You will be saving almost 40% a, a pass-along saving from our large production run and something that we don't expect to ever repeat.

Also, here is a similar offer on Dust Covers, which will not involve a delay. The cost on these is much lower, so we have gone ahead and ordered a the large quantity without waiting to see how many orders we receive.

If you are using an old laundry bag as a Dust Cover, here's a chance to dress up a little. Normally \$8. each, because of the special run we offer them at \$5. They are on-the-shelf now.

While you are at it--you might consider our new 8mm dops. At the prompting of several owners (including me), we decided that an intermediate size, between the 6.4mm and the 9.6mm was needed. In my own recent cutting I found that I wished I had dops at around 8mm. So, we now have them-- and the old D27A (one dop of each size and configuration) is now the D30A. In a similar way, some of the old Dop Sets have grown to accomodate the 8mm; see the price list for those changes.

You will also notice the price list shows a new book: Diagrams for Faceting, Volume II. The original Diagrams For Faceting has been designated Volume I and so Volume II is all new. The new book is up to Glenn Vargas' standard, which is to say very high indeed.

While you are looking at the price list, you won't fail to notice there is a price increase in the works. The increase is generally a bit less than the much improved (thank goodness) inflation and we have held our old prices quite a while, longer than normal. You have about a month (until October 15th) to buy anything at the old price; that's how long your dealer has, too. But, don't delay too long in deciding--a month goes fast.



CUT OUT
A PIECE
LIKE THIS
→



HANG IT
ON THE
SPINDLE
LIKE
THIS
→

Whenever a faceting machine is used to cut the girdle a certain amount of splashing out of the Splashpan is unavoidable. We all have ways of dealing with that, ranging from rather elaborate constructions to the strategic placement of some paper towels. We recently got a very interesting idea, however, that is worth passing along. It comes from Jim Purviance, of Oroville, CA. If you look at the sketch, you will catch the idea immediately. This little add-on splash guard is



Larry Bourdeau at the Ultra Tec display case . . .

Well, we've run out of space before we ran out of things to talk about, so I'll save some for the next letter.

This letter's gem diagram was contributed by Russell Roepke of Temple, TX. Mr. Roepke is a teacher of faceting. Unlike the old saying "those who can, do; those who can't, teach," Russ does very well at both as his reputation attests. Thanks for the design, Russ.

Those of you with ideas, or designs, send them along with a picture of yourself. This is really your newsletter and we want to keep it going.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the Faceters Fair of the Faceters' Guild of Southern California to be held in Long Beach on September 24 and 25th.

Stay healthy.

Sincerely,

hung onto the spindle. The hole is large enough to allow the spindle to rotate without the Splashpan trying to go around with it. It does a fairly effective job of keeping the splash off of the faceting head. The material can be plastic, similar to the cover of a coffee can.

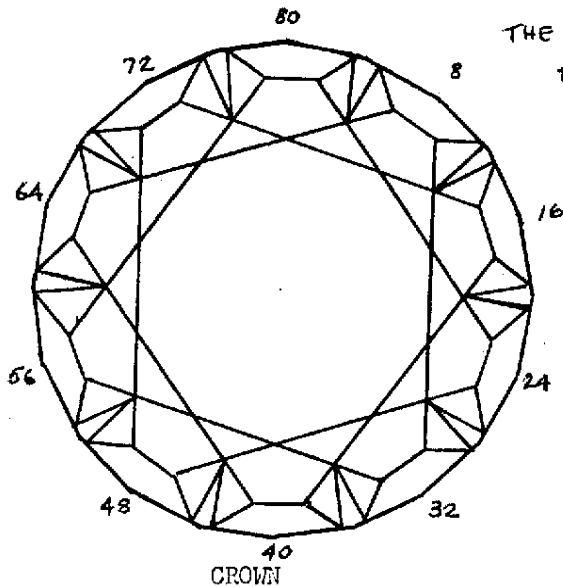
We heard from one of our owners that he had considerable trouble with the scratching of polishes until he stopped using tap water. Instead, he now uses distilled water in a squeeze bottle (or you can use the squirt-type dispenser that some soaps come in), and he found the scratching problems went away. I am sure (at least I hope) his is not a universal problem, but you may find it is one that affects your area.

Speaking of water, Bob Steele (of White Oak Lapidary, South Bend, IN), who is a chemist, has told me that the problem with the old splashpans becoming sticky is indeed water. Despite the assurances of the material manufacture, it just could not happen, in more than a few cases we had what seems to be a "reversion" of the material to a sticky state. Although Bob said that any water over enough time will do it, the geographic pattern in which the sticky pans were reported indicates the water in some locales (or the moisture and chemicals in the air) attacks more effectively than in others. We are now using a neoprene material which does not have that problem.

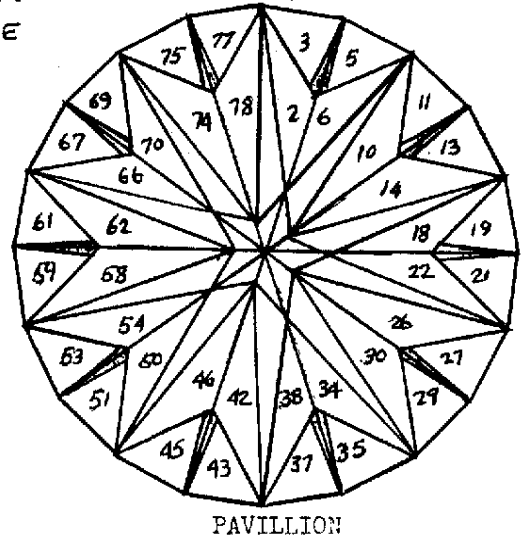
It is almost ten years ago that someone suggested to me that the faceting of the table could be done without using the tabling adapter, by pointing the spindle straight down at the lap. I went back to the idea recently, and I did my last several stones in that manner. I find that I like the technique. Those of you who want to try it, be careful to advance very slowly toward the lap since you are working without the free up and down motion that the adapter provides. Also, it is necessary to raise the stone before lifting the spindle to inspect the stone or you run the chance of rounding a corner. The technique takes very little practice, but it can save a lot of time. I used this technique on about 10mm stones and I suspect there may be some practical size limit.

Recently, I tried another technique which worked very well--that is placing an Ultra Lap right on top of the lap I used for pre-polish. I've been using a 3000 pre-polish lap and found that the Ultra Lap worked on it without difficulty. Before putting on an Ultra Lap be sure to flood the surface of the support lap with water. A good film of water prevents wrinkling Lap. The Mylar lap continues to do a good job, incidentally, even after it is pretty well gouged (in the way that a scored tin lap does) and much more use can be gotten from each lap than most people realize.

For those of you who live near San Francisco, or who may be visiting there, I'd like to bring your attention to an interesting show at the Coyote Point Museum in San Mateo. It is called "Geological Splendors of California". There is more information enclosed. The show includes an Ultra Tec (now, you've all seen one of those, so that's not the reason for going) and features the gemstones and minerals of California. When you are there, say hello to Larry Bourdeau, who is Program Director at the museum, and an avid Ultra Tec faceter. (see photo on next page).



THE MOR-BRIL-STAR
BY RUSS ROEPKE



MOR-BRIL-STAR

PAVILLION

This is a moderate to difficult but interesting cut. It is recommended that the pavillion be cut first. The stone would be fairly light in color and at least 9 to 10 mm in diameter.

Angles are for TOPAZ with 80 Index.

PREFORM: at 90° index; 2-6-10-14-18-22-26-30-34-38-42-46-50-54-58-62-66-70-74-78.

PAVILLION:

MAINS: 10 facets @42° index; 0-8-16-24-32-40-48-56-64-72.

CULET STAR: 10 facets @36° index; 3-5; 19-21; 35-37; 51-53; 67-69.
(on a 10mm stone, star is 2 1/2mm from culet to point)

BREAK FACETS (SHORT): 10 facets @43 1/4° index; 2-6; 18-22; 34-38; 50-54; 66-70. *
*adjust angle so point meet.

BREAK FACETS (LONG): 10 facets @42 1/2° index; 10-14; 26-30; 42-46; 58-62; 74-78.*

BREAK FACETS (GIRDLE): 20 facets @46 1/2° index; 3-5; 11-13-19-21; 27-29; 35-37; 43-45; 51-53; 59-61; 67-69; 75-77.

NEEDLE POINTS: 10 facets @48° index 4-12-20-28-36-44-52-60-68-76.
(these can be polished in).

POLISH IN REVERSE ORDER:

CROWN: MAINS: 10 facets @41° index 0-8-16-24-32-40-48-56-64-72.
(this will establish girdle thickness).

TABLE: Cut and polish to 60% of girdle diameter.

STAR FACETS: 10 facets @26° index 4-12-20-28-36-44-52-60-68-76. GIRDLE

BREAK FACETS: 20 facets @44 1/2-45 1/2°* index 2-6-10-14-22-26-30-34-38-42-46-50-54-58-62-66-70-74-78.
*Do not be concerned if these do not meet at girdle. Do not overcut.

NEEDLE POINTS: 10 facets @46° index 4-12-20-28-36-44-52-60-68-76.

GIRDLE BREAK FACETS: 10 facets @49° index 0-8-16-24-32-40-48-56-64-72*
*these should point out at base of needle points to form pentagon on mains.
Polish in reverse order.