



# OWNERS' NEWSLETTER

FALL 1985

**ULTRA TEC**

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Dear Friend,

This is another copy of our Ultra Tec "Sometimes Newsletter". Those of you who have received it before, know about it--and those of you who are receiving it for the first time, be advised that we send newsletters periodically, but don't plan to set your watch or calendar by it.

I attended the Midwest Faceters Guild Fair in Maumee, Ohio back in May. The show was very enjoyable. The faceting was very good, and if there were such a thing as regional competitions, I would hate to have to make a bet.

Now, proving that this really is like a letter from a member of the family, I'll explain what went wrong with my photo-taking. My camera stopped working just before the trip and I borrowed one from my son. It was calibrated for focus in meters and not in feet. To make a long story short, almost all of the photos were out of focus. Sound familiar? Some were passably ok, however, and here are a few of them.



Clockwise from upper left: .Bill and Alice Gardner, Ultra Tec Dealers .August Luchini, Ultra Tec faceter and winner of the National Award-Best Case, several years back. Bill Horton-The "President" and winner of many awards. Glenn Vargas lectures to a group of faceters. Cathleen Myers, Exhibit Chairman, at the microphone during the awards ceremony.

The best thing about show is the chance to meet people. Until I got to Ohio many of those people were voices on the phone with no faces connected to them. Many people came to the booth and rather than introduce themselves, just started talking--which led me to interrupt the conversation half way through to say, "Oh! You're \_\_\_\_\_!" That moment would provide a surprise for me--the person standing there rarely matched the image I had conjured. I am sure you have shared this sort of experience.

The competitions did not involve major trophies, but rather offered many categories and classifications. The major winner was Bill Horton, who is President of the Midwest Guild this year (and not an Ultra Tec faceter--but, who was paying attention to that, anyhow?). Bill scored a perfect 100 in a single stone category. Other names worthy of recognition in the competition were: Dick Fairless, Bill Bowles, Bill McVety, Hazel Morgan, Ken Mack, Elery Hold, Henry Larson, Birdie Nichols, and Russ Colley... if I overlooked anyone, please forgive me.

The show circuit is quiet during the summer, although there are stirrings here and there. The California Federation Show is in Ventura at the end of July (surely past by the time you get this letter). The Faceters' Guild of Southern California Show is around the corner in September. Other shows coming up of special interest are the Big Sky Faceters Show and the Austin Gem and Mineral Society Show.

On the chance that you get this on time, the Faceters' Guild of Southern California Show will be September 7 & 8 in Anaheim at the Brookhurst Community Center (that's a new location).

1985 marks the 8th annual Big Sky Show. I've always thought I'd like to attend that show and perhaps this year I will. I've heard good things about it. There are single stone and five stone competitions, which are open to mail-in entries--to get more information write to: Walt Schneider, P.O. Box 2743, Great Falls, MT 59403-2743. The show will be held October 12th and 13th at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls.

The Austin Show to be held November 15 through 17 at Palmer Auditorium, carries special interest for facetors with its single-stone faceting competitions at both amateur and advanced levels. The amateur level requires the cutting of the 73 facet Zircon Cut and the advanced level requires the 105 facet Hexagonal Mains Brilliant Cut (both from Vargas, Vol. I, pg. 18 and 21). They are set up for mail-in competitions. For the application and copy of the diagram, write to Johnny Coultrup, 12719 Highway 71 West, Austin, TX 78734.

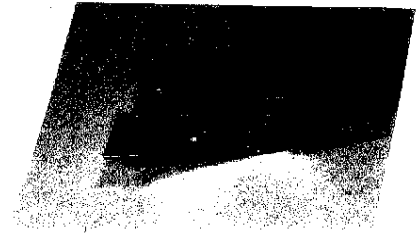
Before we rush into the future, we need to glance backwards at the last show in Great Falls where we received a late report that Ultra Tec facetors Ruth Aiken and Lee Fent received blue ribbons in the single stone advanced competition. We are pleased that they participated in the Montana show from as far as Ohio and Kansas.

Ruth Aiken was the designer of the Ultra Tec stone in a special competition we had about ten years ago. That design is used in the Ultra Tec award plaque which is given at the International Faceter's Fair--the recipient of the award cutting the stone for the following year's trophy. It has worked out nicely over the years giving each award winner a special possession from the one who came before. So here's a wave and smile to Ruth Aiken in appreciation of her contribution.



**NEW STUFF** There aren't any new accessories to announce this time. We've done some upgrading of standard Ultra Tec parts, however, and you might be interested in the new "Rocker". The people at the Midwest Show were the first to get a look at it and they seemed to really like it.

The Rocker is the part that holds the Index Vernier and functions as a "trigger" for the Index Gear detent. (see the photo) The tooling for that part, which is a casting, had gotten tired and needed redoing, so we took a look at improving it. There are several significant changes:

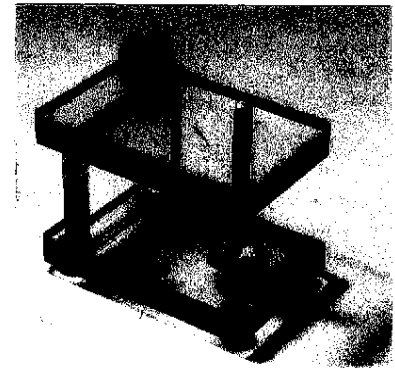


- (1) The trigger, the part you lift up and down when changing the Index Gear position, was changed in shape. I learned when I did a lot of faceting I could end up with a sore thumb so we flattened the trigger and gave it a slight upward curve. That makes it comfortable (and does away with your spouse's ability to say--you were so faceting all night long, I can tell by your red thumb)!
- (2) We changed it so that a spacer is no longer needed behind the detent (the gear segment). No more dropped spacers. trigger.
- (3) We changed the shape so we could get two pressure screws to bear on the cheater screw rather than the single one we had previously. This does a better job at distributing pressure and improves stability.

The new Rocker is available at a price of \$39. and we send an instruction for assembly. We tested the instruction on several people and they said it worked just fine. If you are uncomfortable doing that sort of assembly, you might wait until you have an occasion to return the head for calibration and then have the part installed. We now charge \$35. for a standard calibration and if we install the Rocker at the time of calibration, there would be no additional charge for the labor.

**NOT-SO-OLD STUFF** We continue to get very good reports from users of the Down Indicator Light. Many people use the Down Indicator Light along with the Dial Indicator Attachment, finding them to be invaluable faceting aids. The Down Indicator Light gives you that last little touch of accuracy.

We heard from several people who made their own Gullakdoppers and a number of people purchased them from us. This tool has shown itself to be a very helpful device. Tom Ricks, who writes on faceting, was skeptical about "another gadget", but he tried the Gullakdopper and gave us a most favorable report: "...As I set up the Gullakdopper and dopped four pieces of rough in record time, memories began to return of how I used to do the first dop and the

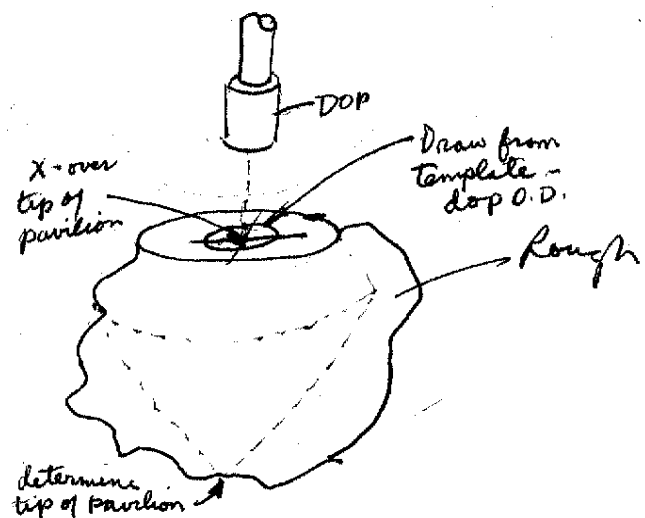


troubles I had. I was accustomed to holding the stone in my left hand and the dop with glue on it in my right. Then I would hold the two together until the glue had set up being extra careful to keep the dop where I wanted it. At least I held them until I thought the glue had set up only sometimes there was a trifle too much glue and when I released the pressure, the dop and stone would come apart. I had completely forgotten the frustration and extra effort that caused. The Gullakdopper has completely solved that problem. The Gullakdopper is: fast--no more wasted motion, accurate--you can position the dop exactly where you want it on the stone and it stays there, clean--no more sticky fingers, particularly good on small stones, and convenient--you can do other things while the glue sets up." So, Tom loves it, and if you would like to love it, get one.

Another report on the Gullakdopper was from John Stacy, who stopped by to see us on his way through southern California. He told us a special way that he uses it. The information is in the "Some Ideas" part of this letter.

**OLD STUFF** The Offset Attachment was at one time our most popular accessory. We made the first ones in response to many requests and it was really a popular item. Many people like preforming the basic shape of marquis, ovals, and hearts which is what the Offset Attachment does, even if the subsequent faceting sequence forms the stone. But the demand for the Offset Attachment declined, and we made a decision to halt manufacture. When the word leaked out, however, we received quite a few orders, quickly. Now, ain't that always the way. We have made a production quantity and they are currently available--which is the first time they have been available in months. The price of the Offset Attachment will increase about 15% on the eighteenth of October, but we will hold the price for now since there were quite a few people who inquired about purchasing while there were none on hand.

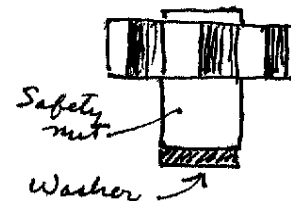
**SOME IDEAS** I mentioned above that John Stacy provided us with a technique for using the Gullakdopper--it adds a bit more precision than you can accomplish by just "eyeballing". The sketches tell the story without the need for many words. John suggests that after putting a rough table on the stone, you give consideration to exactly where the tip of the culet would be. Above that spot, on the table, make a point. If



you draw a line through the point, you can use a commercial hole template and draw a circle that has the point at center. The circle would correspond to the outside diameter of the dop that you plan to use, providing very good alignment between the dop and the stone. An aluminum pencil, which is a rod of aluminum sharpened to a point--and which has reappeared on our price list, is a good tool to use for marking. We thank John Stacy for that recommendation. John, incidently, is an excellent faceter from the bay area in California. He won the O'Brien Award in last years California Federation Show.

Still another tip from Willard Augspurger of Monroe, Louisiana. He does a pre-polish using an 8000 mesh diamond on a 6" Ceramic lap. He reports that the surface of the stone then has the appearance of a 3000 mesh, but when he goes to polish--for which he uses an Ultra Lap--the polish happens "right now". And, what's good about that, in addition to the polishing speed, is that the edges between the facets have the rounding absolutely minimized. Thank you, Colonel.

A long time ago in a previous Newsletter we mentioned the use of a hose washer under the safety nut to hold down the lap. The washer provides a very firm tightening without having to crank down on the nut. A washer like that is available at your hardware store for a dime. It is a little idea, but a good one--except that I always lost the washer. Now, Mr. Fred Pheil of San Antonio, Texas has suggested cementing the washer to the base of the nut. That's for the "why didn't I think of that" department. Thank you.



MISCELLANEOUS As we write this Bryan is in Germany--mixing some business with his pleasure. He will spend several day in Idar-Oberstein.. ..In a hopeful development, the International Colored Gemstone Association voted to actively promote consumer education and the sale of colored stones. At a meeting in Idar-Oberstein last May, \$100,000 was allotted for public relations to get the ball rolling. That's not a fortune, but it is ample proof of the serious intent of the group. This sort of effort will surely increase demand and the value of colored stones...We are planning another Newsletter before the end of the year. This would mean actually getting out seasonal issues for an entire year. They will strip me of my title of Chief Procrastinator for the Western United States.... We really appreciate the response we have had to these letters. Let us hear from you--suggestions, tips, gripes, etc. And, if you have an original faceting design that we can use in the Newsletter, don't be shy about that. It is all very much appreciated.

Best wishes  
Joe Rubin