Ultra Tec OWNERS NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1983

1025 E. Chestnut / Santa Ana, California 92701-6491 / (714) 542-0608

Dear Ultra Tec Owner,

At the Faceters Fair someone suggested that we call this newsletter the "Random Times". Well folks, that is the way it is. For those of you receiving a newsletter for the first time be advised that they come out when there is news to report, or new accessories or techniques to tell about--or when the spirit moves us. We do try for two or three issues a year. If you have some ideasabout faceting techniques or some tidbit you would like to share, send it along.

The Granddaddy of Faceters Fairs, the International Faceters Fair in San Jose, was held on the weekend of January 22. As always, it was a chance to visit with old friends and exchange some ideas about faceting. This year was the 10th annual Fair and it is hard to realize that so many years have gone by. We offer congratulations to Millie and George Staples and Lois and Milt Houston for the fine organization of the Fair. Everything went smoothly as usual and we look forward to a second decade.

Of course, we were most interested in the award of the Ultra Tec trophy, which is given to the Best Case of Stones at the Fair. This year's winner was Mark Shefflin. Mark was the "most decorated" ribbon holder at the Fair in previous years. Now he can add to that string of awards the Ultra Tec Trophy itself. Mark is an Ultra Tec facetor and a member of the Santa Barbara Facetors Guild. A popular winner, Mark beamed as he was congratulated by Bud Rogers, the 1982 winner. Bud had cut the gemstone--the Ultra Tec Trophy Stone--that is part of the award and Mark, in accordance with the custom, agreed to cut the stone for next year's trophy.

Reaching the 10-year mark causes us to think back over those years. It seems like yesterday that Bart Arbing was the first winner of the Ultra Tec Award. The winners who followed him were: Maurita and Phil Clark, Gil Decker, Don Milliken, Glenn Klein, Vern Johnson, Doc Peters, Nile Porter, Bud Rogers and Mark Shefflin. Of those ten Ultra Tec Award Winners, seven are Ultra Tec facetors. No comment needed.

HOLDING HIS AWARD PLAQUE, MARK SHEFFLIN IS CONGRATULATED BY JOE RUBIN.

FACETING PRIZE-WINNERS AT THE FAIR.

Seven out of ten is batting .700 and that's good in any league, but here is a story about someone who's batting 1.000.

Anthony Agnello of Harper Woods, Michigan is a self taught Ultra Tec facetor who has been faceting for about two years. Anxious to get an idea of how his efforts measured up, his wife urged him to enter competitions to get some feedback from the judges. He got the feedback and then some--winning five consecutive first level blue ribbons at the Ca. Federation Show, Houston Gem & Mineral Novice Class, Advance Class and Master's Class, and at the Austin Texas Show's Single Stone. Mr. Agnello is sure to be around in the world of faceting competition and now that he has the "feedback" from the judges, he may become even more formidable.

ANTHONY AGNELLO - A SELF-TAUGHT FACETING COMPETITOR

And, the moral of the story is that you will never know if you can do it until you try. Not everyone will get blue ribbons on the first attempt, but everyone does gain from the experience. You may still have time to get an entry ready for the Midwest Faceters Guild Fair. There is information about the Fair and the competitions included with this letter.

While we are still on the subject of competitions, I wanted to mention a judging innovation that was used at the San Jose Fair. Gil Decker, who had been in competition, but has been judging in more recent years, came up wit' this idea. The individual competitors are called in and the judging of eac. one's entry is reviewed by the judges with the facetor. That way there is no mystery about what the judges saw, or how they went about their task. The technique proved to be very instructive for the competitors and certainly kept the judges on their toes.

Almost two years ago we came out with a device called the "Dobo Aligner". It is used for aligning the Tabling Adapter in preparation for working on the table. Its purpose was to eliminate any residual error in squareness resulting from the dop, the chuck, and the tapered bore in the Adapter. Well, I confess that I was satisfied lining up on the bottom of the Adapter and I did not use a Dobo Aligner until just recently (I had not become involved with the earlier testing of the device). When I finally did use one, just recently, I found that it is an excellent device, not just for "perfectionists", but for everyone. In addition to its accuracy it makes aligning the Tabling Adapter very fast and simple. It's wide base made the task very easy indeed--completed in a minute and with a very high degree of confidence. Anyhow, I have added the Dobo Aligner to my faceting "bag of tricks". Where we had previously been sort of casual about this accessory, I now give it a warm endorsement.

In the latter part of last year I spoke at the Faceters' Guild of Southern California about Ultra Tec Accessory items. One of the points that I talke about was the frequent "serendipity" that seems to be associated with acces-

sory items--similar to the side effects mentioned above in regard to the Dobo Aligner. Serendipity, for those of you who may not be familiar with the word, means some happy side effect, not part of the original design intent. It seems to pop up on Ultra Tec accessories with considerable regularity. For example, the Dial Indicator Attachment which was intended as a "pressure gage" for avoidance of overcutting turned out to be primarily a device which greatly speeds the placing of facets. In a similar "serendi- pitous" way the Facet Saw Kit which was thought of as a time-saving and lap-saving device turned out to be mostly important from the standpoint of saving valuable gem rough. I imagine that Warren would say "what do you mean, serendipity?' All of those things were part of my original design intent." But, some of us suspect that "serendipity" is alive and well at Ultra Tec.

Here's a variation of an old song--this time it is "Promises, Promises, They Sometimes Come True." We have completed an evaluation of new cyanoacrylate adhesives for dopping. Our early experiences were only sometimes good. We were motivated to go into it further, however, because we felt that this material would be a boon to faceting, if it would only perform consistently. Rather than continue to fool around with whatever happened to be on sale at the local supermarket, we contacted the several companies that manufacture these adhesives. We made a specification and waited to see what they would come up with. The specification was a single adhesive for both the pavilion and the crown, that is, something thin enough to provide good adhesion on a flat to flat surface situation (the table) and also have filling properties where the flat surface relationship could not be obtained (the pavilion). It had to set up quickly, but still allow sufficient time for positioning and repositioning the stone; it had to have a relatively simple removal process. We tested about ten variations and we finally picked one that we liked the best.

It is manufactured by 3M and is designated as their CA-9, and another satisfactory adhesive is Loctite 416. You can buy it at an industrial supply house--you can find one in the Yellow Pages under "Adhesives". The price should be about $15. for a 1 oz. bottle that will provide about 500 doppings.

If you do not want to use a solvent to remove the stone, it can be done by boiling water. That is a real advantage--the temperature is not too high, and good ol' tap water does the trick.

One of the best things about the adhesive is that it is transparent, a contrast to the opaque wax that we are used to. The transparent quality allowed the detection of an error in alignment which was caused by a bit of adhesive which had not been removed in cleaning the previously used dop, and on another occasion the detection of a similar problem was caused by a nick on the dop. The latter circumstance probably occured when scraping wax from the dop. Now, one of the advantages I have is the ability to just go and get some new dops when my old ones get ratty--and that's what I did. For those of you who want to try the new adhesive and would like new dops, you can buy dops for the next month at a 25% discount. This offer does not extend to dop kits which are already discounted, but rather applies to individual dops. So, here's a chance to "clean up your act".

It is worth noting that between the new adhesive, the new dops and the new spindle, I had absolutely zero problems in regard to the parallelism of the girdle.

Speaking of dops, I would like to mention a technique you may find helpful. It is sometimes the case that the end of the dop is not shaped conveniently to provide good support for the stone. For example, in doing a Kite cut, the size of dop which would give adequate support to the stone also had too large of a diameter, one which protruded beyond the girdle of the stone. What I did--and what is perfectly good for you to do--was to shape the dop by grinding it right on the machine, using a 260 lap and obtaining a shape which would not protrude. Grinding the dop on the lap does no harm to the lap. If the lap should tend to load up with metal, it can be cleaned out by dragging a hard stone across the lap while flushing it well.

In cutting the Kite cut, incidently, I used a method which was described in "Transfer Techniques". To transfer to my "Special" dop for the stone and then proceeded to cement the stone to the wax nest with the cyanoacrylated adhesive. That technique worked very nicely.

Several years ago we made a change in the material used for our Splashpans (and we made a new mold). The new material is not subject to breaking down as was the older material, and this was the prime reason for the change. The new Splashpans are expensive, however, $48.00 which is a good enough reason to get along with the old one, if possible. Much of the cost has to do with the relatively small quantity of parts that we run.

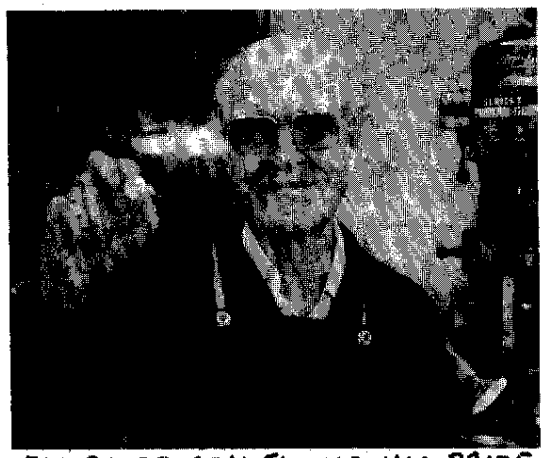
We propose to help those people with old "sticky" Splashpans by having a larger run, which will bring the unit cost down and pass the saving along on replacement units. So--for the next month you can get a replacement Splashpan for $32. That is a limited offer since it ties to the quantity of parts we are running now--if you need one, now's the time.

We originally made the Offset Attachment many years ago in response to owner's requests. Those were in response to a questionnaire sent out in 1975. Preforming marquise and oval shapes is not a necessity (as the "meet point" systems point out), any more than preforming a basic round shape is a necessity. If you are one who does preform rounds (and octagonals, hexagonals, etc.) you probably like the feel of control you get from working with the preformed shape--and you would like the preformed marquise and oval shape too. If you have been thinking about it, we are offering a Springtime Special on the Offset Attachment. The regular price is $120. and the special price is $90. That's a nice one for Mothers Day or Fathers Day.

At the Ultra Tec Christmas party, which is an annual event, we had an "Inside Ultra Tec faceting competition." The way it developed was like this--. Several weeks before Al Huebler visited us and showed some of his prize winning stones with a little talk about them during our morning break period. The result was that the faceting employees were inspired and proceeded to organize their own competition. They hastily put together rules requiring it to be a single stone of the entrants choice, done in Smokey Quartz material that the company provided. The award was made by a popular vote of people who attended the party-- families and friends of the workers. Of course, it was a secret ballot. If it was not the latest word in scientific faceting competition, it was lots of

fun and a popular event at the party. It will probably become an annual event. The winner was the senior member of our manufactoring staff, Pat Patterson. The runners up were Rudy Cassillas and Bryan Rozewski. Awards of gem rough were given.

About half of our people are involved in faceting. We encourage that, and we send employees to school who wish to go, because we think it is valuable to understand our needs for quality and precision. We never hear those employees complaining about tight tolerances.



PAT PATTERSON SHOWS HIS PRIZE-WINNING STONE.

MISCELLANEOUS-We will have been at the Tucson Show by the time you read this, and I'm sure we will have seen many of you there...also, unless plans go awry, I will be at the Midwest Faceters Guild Show in May in the Demonstration area. If you are there, stop by and say hello... We have heard from several people that August Luchini's idea for making a plastic polishing lap with Cerium Oxide melted into the surface (see earlier newsletter) works fine. It's worth trying... People have asked about adjustment and recalibration of the mast at the factory. We do that and barring parts problems (about which we'd phone you before proceeding) we charge $25. for the labor. We can reship within a week. If you want to do that you can ship by U.S. Mail or UPS...don't forget--if you have an original design you are willing to publish in this newsletter, send it along.. and, if you are in Southern California on a visit, stop by. We are about five miles south of Disneyland. And bring some of your stones (we won't be too harsh in our judgments)...

Best wishes from all of us.

Joe Rubin

Warren Harris

Dee Morrison