



ULTRA TEC

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ULTRA TEC NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 1988

Dear Ultra Tec Owner,

A few weeks ago, Ultra Tec "cousin" Fred Billcock, from British Columbia, dropped in for a visit and to ask if his name had gotten lost on our computer--it was so long since he'd gotten a Newsletter. OK! He made me realize that I ought to hop to it--here it is (and you can blame Fred). This gets more like a family all the time.....Fred did have a nice story to tell. Earlier this year, with the Northwest Faceters Conference in Victoria BC, near his home, he decided to enter his first competition. Mostly, he wanted feedback from the judges, and, (you guessed it)--he won. Now, he's got the bug--and he's getting ready for next year's Intermediate competition. He did confirm how useful it is to have the judges' observations. Congratulations, Fred.

Incidentally, the winner of the Masters Award at that Northwest Conference was Charles Hettich, and the runner up was Ultra Tec faceter Glenn Klein.

There were other shows, and additional congratulations in order:



At the International Faceters Fair in San Jose, California, the Gran'daddy of such events, the major competition has become the single stone Masters Competition. The winner this year was the aforementioned Ultra Tec faceter Glenn Klein, a familiar name to those of you who have followed who's-won-what over the last several years. The intensity of this competition is seen on the faces of the entrants as they await the results (it's tempting to take photos at that pre-smile phase). When it's over, it's all smiles--although some are already scheming for next

year. This competition permits attempts at repeating, and sooner or later, someone will (and possibly in consecutive years...Glenn?)

Again, there was no Best Case winner. I think that times have changed, and it would be timely to revamp the Ultra Tec case competition. I discussed this with award-winner and now judge Gil Decker and he had some good ideas. The most obvious change would be fewer stones. If you have some ideas, let us know.

After that--our next congratulations are to TWO case winners. At the Faceters Guild of Southern California show the Ultra Tec Best Case award was won by John Stacy, and the Guild's award went to Bob Frahm, both Ultra Tec cutters. The photo shows them sharing congratulations (that's John with the pipe), and we hereby join in. Ultra Tec faceters' sweep of the awards was completed when Glenn Klein won both the Single Stone and the Three Stone competition.



WHAT'S NEW for faceting...well, mostly little things--but sometimes, little things mean a lot.

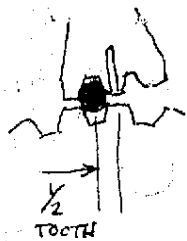
While he wasn't the only one to make this request, it was Dave Regli who managed to get it into my head that special dops for thin tourmalines would be very useful. And, we now have THIN EMERALD DOPS on the Price List to go with the standard emerald dops--there are seven lengths of flats and V's. Emerald dops are expensive individually, but do get less expensive by the set--(it is strictly a matter of volume--if anyone wants to place an order for several hundred, we sure can reconsider the price).

Here's a nifty little new thing...A DRAIN FUNNEL. It's something you will love! It is now standard on Ultra Tec machines, and has been since February of 1988. The Drain Funnel fits into the existing hole in the baseplate--the Drain Hose is then connected to the bottom of the Funnel while the drain hole in the Splashpan is positioned into the Funnel (there is a short rubber extention molded into the Splashguard that fits nicely--the aluminum tube is removed). With the Drain Funnel in place, cleaning of the Splashguard becomes VERY easy --it just lifts off and the need to disconnect or reconnect the hose is eliminated. Nice. If you are like me, you'll actually begin to clean the splashguard with some reasonable frequency.

Another item, now standard, is a RETRACTABLE CRANK on the Vertical Knob. This was prompted by a number of people who complained of interference between that knob and the spindle, when the spindle was pointed up, and the knob happened to be pointing forward. -- The new crank easily slides back out of the way, and naturally slides out again when being used. While we were at it, we made the knob larger and changed the material to Delrin--both of which make the knob feel better to the user. It's very easy to remove the old crank and install the new one.

This comes with a story--about six months ago the Goodman's asked me to make a VIDEO showing meetpoint faceting, on a marquise cut. (yes, fans, that tape is available--I think it is much better than the earlier video tape). To get ready, I did a rehearsal at home. When it came time to transfer, I realized that transfer of a marquise shape is a nuisance since there is no cavity dop that is convenient, and you just have to struggle through it. Well, I didn't want to do that struggle on "live TV"--I needed something that would go easily. So, I devised the "Pot Dop". Pot dops are filled with wax and a "nest" is made for the stone to be transferred--it amounts to a custom dop for the particular stone (it is like what a dentist does when making an impression of a tooth). Then I realized it would be convenient be if I could heat the Pot Dop, melt in the wax, and keep that wax from setting up too quickly--and I dusted off one of the "Limited Edition" Transfer Fixtures that we made several years ago. That Transfer Fixture had one side that was thermally isolated and could be easily heated with a soldering iron. To make an already long story a bit shorter, it all worked very easily--as the tape shows--and Pot Dops were born. And the Transfer Fixture was reborn with a few niceties added. So, we now make Pot Dops for marquise shapes--and we again make a transfer block which includes the thermal isolation feature--more information is attached.

>>>Along the same line, someone wrote that you can set a half-way position between two teeth on an index gear by inserting an Allen wrench. He's right. In affect, he's making the Allen wrench (or a dowel pin would work too) replace the detent tooth. You can either think about it--or try it and you will see that it works.



SUMMER SALE...(It's not unusual for our "Summer Sale" to almost miss the Summer. Last year we had to call it a "Fall Sale".) It's an "asterisk" sale--similar to previous ones. Any item on the price list identified with an asterisk (*) can be purchased at a 10% discount, and if you purchase two * items, any two, take a 20% discount on both. Here is a list of the items on the Summer Sale list--

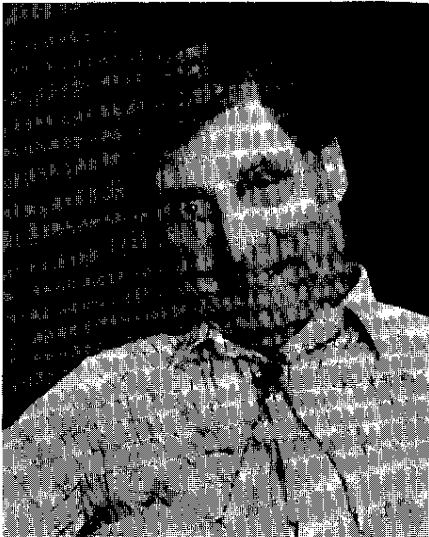
item	reg. price	buy one * item	buy two *'s
32 INDEX GEAR	31.	27.90	24.80
64 INDEX GEAR	31.	27.90	24.80
DIAL INDICATOR ATT.	176.	158.40	140.80
DOWN INDICATOR LIGHT	46.	41.40	36.80
LAP SCORING TOOL	35.	31.50	28.00
ROTATOR	154.	138.60	123.20
STEADY REST	78.	70.20	62.40
DOPS (any group with a list price of at least--)	35.	31.5	28.00

We are saddened to report the death of Dr. Henry Owens of Arlington, Texas. Dr. Owens was devoted to faceting, and took great joy in it. He designed the "O'Henry Cut", which appeared in this Newsletter, and he developed the Polyflow product, making use of his chemistry expertize. Dr. Owens had become a "telephone pal" of mine--and I'll miss him, as will the many other friends he had in the faceting world.

Miscellaneous:...I'm looking forward to a trip to Europe, to visit my son and new daughter-in-law in Zurich--maybe we'll have a chance for a side trip to Idar.....Delores, whom you usually speak-to if you call, is expecting a blessed event--in October. Being nice guys, we'll give her a couple of days off....The Southern California Faceters Guild show is scheduled for October, as is the Big Sky Show in Montana (which we're going to make one of these years). Watch for them in your magazine Show Calendar.....

and.. Regards from all of us here at Ultra Tec,


Joe Rubin



AL HUEBLER is the contributor of this design. Al, a former resident of the California Bay Area, is now "retired". The word "retired" is in quotes because since Al's move to Rio Rancho, New Mexico, (near Albuquerque), he's busier than ever. He now does gem cutting professionally, and is active in the New Mexico Faceting Guild. And, he's the Ultra Tec Dealer in his area. When you speak to Al, you can hear in his voice that he's very happy with his "retirement".

Al produces designs that are attractive to the viewer, without considering complexity for the gem cutter a particular virtue. As a result, any cutter can handle these designs, gaining satisfaction and a pleasing stone (thanks, Al--most of us need that kind).

THE GARNET CROWN --a simple, easily cut crown design for obtaining considerably more brilliance from round red garnets (Pyrope, Malaya, Almandine, and Pyralspite). This design also gave good results with 5mm Golden Sapphire.

CROWN TOP VIEW

This pattern has eight-fold symmetry and can be produced with either a 64 or 96 Index Gear.

Orient the Crown to align with the Pavilion.

≈ means: approximately equal.

CUTTING SEQUENCE

1. Cut and polish Standard Round Brilliant Pavilion and 16-facet polished girdle.
2. Transfer stone.
3. Set up in machine for crown cutting--align to pavilion.
4. A) Cut crown girdle facets (step 1) at 41 deg.
B) Cut crown main facets (step 2) at 34.5 deg.
C) Cut vertical bar facets (step 3) at 40.5 deg.
D) Polish crown facets in reverse order of cutting.
5. Cut and polish table at 0 deg. (step 4).

