

ULTRA TEC OWNERS NEWSLETTER...the SOME TIMES

Summer, 1991

Dear Ultra Tec Owner--

Yes, it is a long time since the last letter...and many of you have been gently hinting (like--"Where's my newsletter!!!"). ...As I sit to write this, it is the day after July 4th, and with the shop closed for three days more, on the long weekend, there's enough time to at least get started. But admit it, I'm not the only slow writer--when's the last time you wrote to your sister in Milwaukee?

All of this means that many of you are receiving a newsletter for the first time--and by now you realize it's not the World's most regular newsletter. That's why it's called the Some Times.

- NEWS...not brand new, but it is news if you haven't heard it before:

About the competitions--long time Ultra Tec cousins know that I've reduced an earlier emphasis on competition, realizing that most people facet for reasons that have nothing to do with competition (and many precisely to escape from competition). I can't resist, however, reporting a notable run of successes--and even if you're one of the "escape-competition" people, I'm sure you will join me in congratulating these Ultra Tec cutters:

- The Pinnacle Award is given by American Gemcutters Society. This year's awards ceremony was in Tucson, during the February show. The amateur faceting submittals resulted in five scores of 100! (it sometimes happens that one person scores 100, but five is unusual). By increasingly more precise judging techniques an award winner was chosen: Anthony Agnello, an Ultra Tec cutter of Ohio. Of the other four, three were also Ultra Tec cutters: Don Reigleman (a new name on the competition scene) of Arizona, Bill Horton of Michigan, and Joseph Smith of North Carolina. Our good friend John Alden, of California, had the other perfect score, on a homemade machine (showing that he's a good toolmaker and faceter). ....Now, how'd you like to be a runner-up with a score of only 99.9?--that was Don Dunn, Ultra tec cutter of Ohio.

Now, if this were a speech, I'd say "please hold your applause for the end--we've quite a few more to go"...

*Jean only  
looked  
surprised*



- At the Sacramento Faceters Fair-- the award winner for Best Case of Faceted Stones was Jean Maudsley, an Ultra Tec cutter. Jean was also the designer of the Award Medals that were given at this show (a change from the traditional loving cups and plaques). The most intense competition at Sacramento is the "Masters Award", a single stone "shootout" that attracts the toughguys.

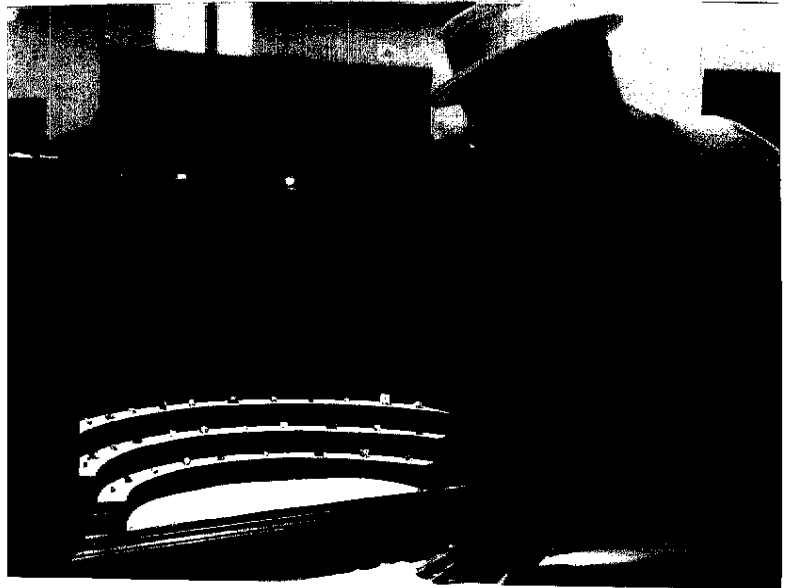
The winner was Don Dunn (the same Don Dunn mentioned a few paragraphs ago) with a score of 99.5. The runner-up score of 99 belonged to Ultra Tec cutter Dave Regli (trying to repeat an earlier-year Masters Award --as were others in the field).

• The Big Sky Show in Montana is now a bi-annual event (with the next one planned for 1992. At last winter's show, in Great Falls, the faceting award winner was Patrick Kelleher, of Indiana--and an Ultra Tec cutter.

• And last, but certainly not least--and deserving of recognition for crowning an exceptional career of success in faceting competition--Glenn Klein, of Southern California was winner of the National Award for Best Case of Faceted Stones at the American Federation show. Before winning the National Award it is necessary to win the regional federation award--and Glenn, of course, did that. The list of awards that Glenn hasn't won is a lot shorter than the list of those he did--as a matter of fact, don't ask me for that "hasn't won" list--I'm not sure there's anything on it. (Do we have to say he's an Ultra Tec cutter too?--we've said that often enough before, in earlier newsletters).

So, Ultra Tec is more than holding its own in the competition circuit--and then some. OK...shouts of CONGRATULATIONS, and applause are in order for those winners! (How's that for not emphasizing competitions.)

• While we're talking about such things, here's news about a very special case--well done--and surely unusual. It's called "Through the City Dump with an Ultra Tec". I hope the photo reproduces well enough so that you can see that the presentation is every bit at the "Best Case" level. If I list some of the stones included, you'll get the idea: Ash Tray, Bromo Sapphire, Coca Cola Emerald, Second Molar Tooth,...there are 33 in all.



The man in the photo is the faceter--Earl Bartlett, of Indiana. Earl is in his 90's, and going strong. We've been blessed with having Earl as an Ultra Tec dealer for almost 20 years now. We've become accustomed to customers reporting to us about what a nice person Earl is--but we knew that all along.

>>> NEW STUFF...you didn't think that while we were not writing, we were just twiddling our thumbs....

• New Colors for the Ultra Tec--Black and White--This is mostly a cosmetic change--the Base that supports the baseplate is now white formica, and the Mast is black anodized.

There was a functional logic behind it:

We were prompted into this change after someone at the Tucson show (it was my wife--don't tell her I told) pointed out to me that some other machines were very colorful, and perhaps Ultra Tec should join them--in glorious technicolor. I thought about it, and came to an opposite conclusion (that's not supposed to happen--I told you not to tell Maxine). I think that a machine's colors should not compete in the user's eye with the stone being

cut--and that the machine should be as color-neutral as possible. The choice of black, grey, and white was the closest we could come to that--so we tried it.

Not only do I think that the color "logic" was correct, but the result is a more modern, high-tech look. I like it (yes, Maxine likes it)--and almost all of the comments we've received have been favorable.

- The Faucet--some of you probably noticed that a "faucet" quietly appeared on the pricelist some years ago, and then quietly went away--and now it's back again. Originally, the faucet was meant for a permanent water hookup--it wasn't popular--and we let it vanish. There was a cry of anguish at the vanishing faucet, however, from Stephan Kotlowski, an Ultra Tec dealer in New York (and a respected professional faceter--so we should have listened). Stephan explained that his faucet hookup was not to the city water line but rather to a large jug. It gave him a plentiful water supply which could be positioned away from the machine--while at the machine there was a convenient, easy-to-position, easy-to-control, faucet.



Here's a picture of the faucet setup. We've been using this arrangement at Ultra Tec--(we have a machine set up, with a Rotator, to preform the stones we use for testing new machines--if we preform those stones, it speeds up the final faceting test). After we tried Stephan's faucet setup, we fell in love with it. I found that making the same setup at home was easy.

The Faucet is supplied with a hose, and it fits into the same hole in the Baseplate as the post of the driptank. You use your own jug--we thought of supplying that too, but we'd get it the same place as you, at the local supermarket (and it would complicate our shipping, as you might imagine). You can rig it with a side tap, but we recommend drawing the water through the top, since that would avoid accidental draining of water onto your nice floor.

- A new Spindle System. In a prior newsletter we talked about a "commercial" spindle--one that we typically supplied to factory operations. Some of you have seen it--we have shown it in Tucson (where we make most of our factory contacts). For those of you who are saying "what's he talking about",--take a look at the insert page. A number of people asked for it, plus, we lent out a few to "fussy" faceters who we could count on for a report--and, of course, I tried it. The reports have been favorable (including my own)--and we've decided to make this the standard V2 Spindle System (we call it a "system" since it involves the tabling adapter, the transfer fixture--the whole works, not just the Spindle).

The features of the system are:

- firmer holding of the dop in position, even with very large stones.
  - the dop is keyed--for removal and replacement, and for transferring. I haven't been a believer in keyed dops (that started with my training by Howard Stanley), but the keyed-dop feature works very repeatably (as confirmed by our tests and by Ted Peukert who is a barion-cutter par excellence).
  - the keying feature is simple--the design is such that the angle of the keying feature is not at all critical, which avoids any significant cost adder to the dops (and such that the faceter can add the angle feature easily).
- >>> • Improved tabling--last, but not least, the Tabling Adapter provides a compactness which probably can't get any more compact, allowing super-firm holding. This feature is a significant advantage--it represents the "breakthrough" that triggered the decision on the spindle change. Gus Munoz, whom many of you know, came up with this idea for a 45° Adapter that really is super. It shortens the distance from the end of the spindle to the table of the stone to an absolute minimum, providing super support to the stone. It is good evidence for the saying "simplicity is the ultimate sophistication".

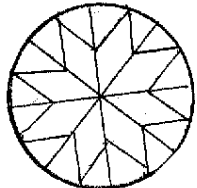
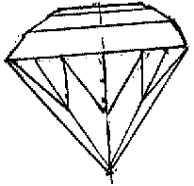
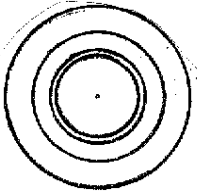
This is an "evolutionary change" of the sort to which we're pledged. The first spindles of this design happened about 12 years ago (they went to Sri Lanka, where they are still in use), and now, several refinements and fine-tunings later, it becomes the standard design. Per our non-obsolescence pledge, it can be assembled to any earlier Ultra Tec--read the insert page for the deal.

>> SPLASHPAN SPECIAL OFFER. Some folks with old machines know this story. Depending on local water conditions, old Splashpans, from the 70's, turned sticky and "weepy" after enough time (and if yours isn't, don't bother reading this. We retooled them, and the newer neoprene Splashpans are almost indestructible). The regular price of a new Splashpan is \$55. (ouch!), but on this offer it's \$38. (ouch--without the !). It's time for us to order Splashpans. We can increase the size of our order to cover this special offer, and get a volume benefit out of it, which we can pass along. For those with old weepy Splashpans, be aware--this will be the last time we make this offer, for obvious reasons--the response shrinks with each repeat (and so does our "volume advantage").

>>> IDEAS--HINTS--TIPS.

• Thank you, thank you Bob Hall!! Bob, of Pinellas Park, Florida, is certainly one of the most prolific of gem designers. He's has come through again--and with this newsletter are more designs for the 77 Index Gear. See the attachment. And, he's sent several more for next time, too.

- From Jim Feldman, of Bartlesville, Oklahoma--we'll just quote:



"I got to fooling around with a piece of amethyst and decided to make a "circular step cut" crown and it turned out quite well. Here's how: 1. Pavilion--preform for round brilliant. Cut the pavilion with a cut of your choice. This first used a simple brilliant pavilion as described in Soukup's little book. I'm sure others might give even better results... 2. For the crown--with the Ultra Tec in the free-wheeling mode, rotate the stone as in preforming. Cut three or more "rounds" at angles used for emerald crown facets. Be sure not to let the rotation dwell in one spot ( an Ultra Tec Rotator will facilitate cutting these). Polish in the same free-wheeling mode...Use the "PALLAL" principal--"polish a little--look a lot" to be sure the whole circles are polished. 3. Using the 45° Adapter, cut and polish the table. Since this was a quartz stone, I polished with Spectra Ultra Laps..."

Jim also passed along a "Law" of beginner faceting, dealing with cleavage planes: "If there is a cleavage plane in your stone, it will split as you mount the stone; if you have a cement floor, you will drop your first stone on it; if you're a slow learner, you'll also drop your second stone." [does that sound like the voice of experience?--ed.]

- Joe Kobota, of Seattle, is an Ultra Tec cutter since 1978-- (and he's one of those "how-come-no-newsletter" guys whom you can thank (?)). He writes about a weight attachment to the Ultra Tec: "...I'm the kind that hates to see the machine idle when I'm unable to find the time to operate it...Currently for weight, I use a six-inch length of ½ inch steel pipe which I slip over the handle when I'm preforming a stone at 90°...the machine running with no attendance while I am doing something else...To keep the arm steady, I use several rubber bands from the lift arm to the side of the splashpan, held in place by a large clothes pin ...Granted, the cutting is slow, but at least the machine is doing something instead of just sitting there idle...Have to check the drip tank and the drain bucket periodically, [and if the] grinding is finished...I move the index to the next setting. The process works quite well...and have not had the pipe fall off." [a little tape, Joe?]

AND--Thank you, Joe for the Maxicut design that we've included with this letter (and, we've got the Maxicut #2 in "reserve").

>>> MISCELLANY..... As usual, this letter's been severely edited to fit a workable length, but I don't want to close without a few brief recognitions of several Ultra Tec cutters (and please, you "missing folks", don't feel slighted): In Tucson, Hugh Rackets showed a super display of famous-diamond copies, cut in CZ.....Bill Horton again won the AGS award for best cabochon (doing it on his Ultra Tec, of course)....Leon Agee was at the Sacramento show with the machine he uses to cut super-big stones (thousands-of-carats kind). He otherwise uses an Ultra Tec...Ed Rigor won best Jewelry Award at Sacramento...

And, before I run out of space, and need to go back and edit some more...all of us at Ultra Tec send our best wishes to you.