

ULTRA TEC OWNERS NEWSLETTER for Early Winter 1990.

Dear Friend,

Someone asked me--"how come you put the season on the newsletter--like, 'Spring-'89'. It gives the impression that there's a Summer, Fall, and Winter-'89..." Well, sir, there was a Summer, Fall, and Winter-'89,...it's just that no Newsletter happened in those particular seasons....People like that confuse new Ultra Tec owners who may be receiving this for the first time--leading them to believe there's never more than one newsletter a year. That's not so. And, before any other wiseguy speaks up, here's this Newsletter...for "Early Winter-1990":

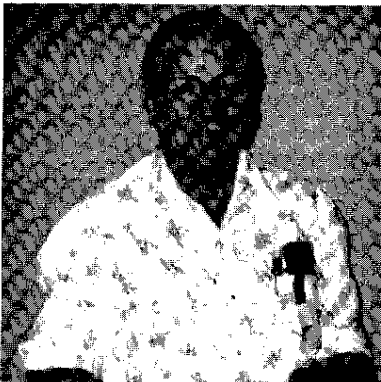
Let me start out by wishing you all a HAPPY NEW YEAR. I did try to get out an earlier Winter "Season's Greetings" Newsletter, but this is not the first time that the busy end-year got in the way.

>>>NEWS --Shows and other events (all news guaranteed to be less than 3 months old, or more)--

>>The factory was visited by GIA students, as part of their faceting course. We're pleased that faceting at the GIA is taught exclusively on Ultra Tec's. Pleasing, too, is the fine quality of work done by the students--if you visit the GIA, in Santa Monica, the students' faceting is displayed in a lobby showcase.



GIA Students at the Ultra Tec facility. That's Skip Franklin, the instructor, on the left, and Joe Rubin on the right.



Award winner, Don Merkley.

>>Late arriving news, from the 1988 Big Sky Faceters Guild Show, in Montana: Winning the Ultra Tec Award at that show was **Donald Merkley** of Calgary, Canada. It is nice that the Northern tier of States have participation from our good neighbors to the North. The Big Sky Show is now planned as an every-two-year event, the next being in 1990. **Walter Schneider**, the show chairman deserves a vote of thanks for his efforts.

>>The Faceters Guild of Southern California had their annual show in September, for its second year at the Orange County Fair Grounds. Unfortunately, I was called out of town by a family emergency, and so I could not personally attend the Southern California Show, but we did have our booth there--manned by some of the factory people. It was a chance for them to get "out there" and speak to you folks, and a chance for you to speak to the people who really get the things done around here.

>>The Midwest Faceters Guild Show was held in Dearborn, in October, a time of very pleasant Fall weather--and I did get to that one. I attended a Midwest show several years ago, and I had looked forward to a return. As I learned that first time, this is a lively active group, and there certainly are quite a few excellent faceters in that part of the country. Space doesn't permit listing everyone I'd like to thank for the good time--so let me just say--Thank you, to all of you (You're nice folks--even if you do root for the Pistons instead of the best team, the Lakers).

The Midwest Show has faceting competitions in many categories, without an emphasis on one or two "super" categories that tends to characterize other shows. I don't know if their approach had that purpose--but it seems to reduce the "nervousness of the competition scene", and make participation less intense--and encourages more people to take part. It certainly doesn't reduce the quality of the work....[It's worth thinking about--it has become hard to encourage people to enter competition, knowing the intensity of it (and how many people take up faceting to get intense?). Don Patton, President of the Columbia Willamette Guild, recently expressed concern about this question in an editorial in the Dec. "Facets" which was titled "Is Faceting Competition Caught in an 'Arms Race?']....Anyhow, the Midwest Show was very nice, the Midwest faceters are bubbling with ideas, and it was most helpful to talk to them. --My wife, Maxine, accompanied me on this trip, incidentally, and she really enjoyed the show.



Some of the Midwest folks: Judges Bill McVey and Bill Horton at award time, Helen George shows a youngster how it's done, and "Arizona" Rice--with whom I swapped some short and tall tales.



>>Before the Midwest Show, we spent a day with **Bill and Alice Gardiner**, Ultra Tec Dealers in Williamston, Michigan. Their new shop, **A & B Jewels and Tools**, is certainly one of the nicest of the Lapidary shops we've seen--well supplied, neat and clean, and with Bill and Alice providing knowledgeable help. And, they have a very nice classroom setup--with none other than **Bill Horton** offering instruction in faceting (I'd like that for myself). During the day there we had a "clinic" for Ultra Tec owners in the area--and I think they found it helpful (I hope so).

At the shop: Maxine Rubin and Alice and Bill Gardiner.

>>After the show, Maxine and I took a few days off and travelled over to see Niagara Falls (since we are married only 36 years, a honeymoon trip was appropriate. --She seems to have given up on an engagement ring, however, refusing my generous offer of CZ).

Future Faceting Shows...Ultra Tec will be at the Faceters Fair in Sacramento on January 27-28, and we will be in Tucson, at the Community Center, February 14 to 19. I look forward to seeing many of you at one or the other of those shows. Also....Feb. 16-18, there's the Texas Clear Lake Show....and May 25-27, its the Northwest Faceter's Conference, in McCall, Idaho (right now, that show's on my "wish list").

>>NEW STUFF... There's nothing new and revolutionary, I'm sorry to say--well, I'm not so sorry--after a string of years with a "new thing" each year, it's good to just look things over and assess what we have--and do some "fine tuning".

>>> A bit of fine-tuning: The ROTATOR, used for performing round stones, has been upgraded--it is now supplied with a pully arrangement and an O-ring drive belt (replacing the prior flat-belt driving the Index Gear hub). Also, the Rotator now mounts on the front side of the yoke, allowing a Dial Indicator Attachment to remain in place while the Rotator is used (thanks to Hugh Rackets, formerly of Houston, and now the biggest Ultra Tec Dealer in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, for prompting us into that very sensible upgrade). The Rotator, incidentally, is not something that I urge on facetors--it's not a "necessity"--but I do use one: When I get home from work, and I would like to do some faceting that evening, I can set up the Rotator--and I have a preformed girdle on the stone by the time dinner is over and I'm ready to begin.

>>> Along the same line, we've upgraded the linkage of the OSCILLATOR. The connection from the rotor to the bracket on the yoke, has been changed from a bent round rod (which had a possibility of popping out) to a rectangular rod that fits over pins--and stays very nicely in place. To make this change it is not necessary to modify either the rotor or the bracket--the new linkage just slips into place. (the conversion is listed in the price list, under Modifications, at a price of \$10.) --Again, similar to the Rotator, the Oscillator is not a necessity--it was developed for polishing large tables, where running out of patience can be a problem--your patience, that is--the Oscillator doesn't run out of patience, and that's the point of it.

Well, those things might be something of interest to some of you. New things in the future? --I don't know--but there always seems to be something that comes along.

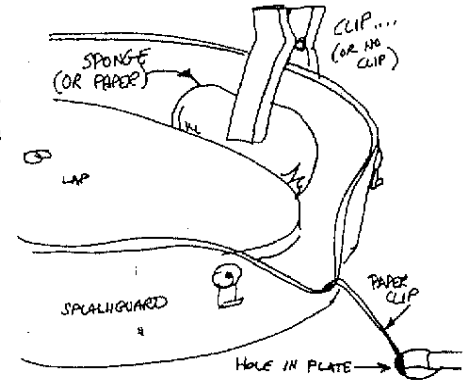
>>> IDEAS--HINTS--TIPS--Your ideas are certainly welcome, and although my notes are not always the best, I try to give credit where due. I'm pleased that the newsletters of the various guilds do such a good job of offering ideas--but there's still some pickin's for us:

---At the Midwest show, "Ott's" Otlewski suggested the use of old-fashioned carbon paper to determine if a facet being prepared for recutting is flat on the lap (the kind of carbon that would be used in a receipt book). A rub against the carbon would tell you if full contact is being made--sure better than taking a swipe on the stone.

---The cyanoacrylate adhesive that we now recommend is Loctite 404 (and thanks to Jack McClland for researching this). You can get 404 at an industrial supply house (or from us--for several dollars more--if you don't live in an industrial area). Loctite 404 behaves like CA-9 and Loctite 416 used to, before they were "improved".

--In the last Newsletter we wrote about a new 77 INDEX GEAR. Attached to this Newsletter are a couple of designs for that Index Gear (and we have several more in the cooker). So, those of you who got that gear but are still sitting there scratching your heads--get to work. --A special nod and a thank-you to Ed Beksa of McComb, Mississippi, for work that he did on a conversion chart between the 77 and all of the other Index Gears--we'll try to work that into a future Newsletter.

--This is something I've seen at several shows, most recently used by Justina Wright. It is a device--or perhaps better called, a technique, for preventing water splashing from the lap onto your lap, when working on the girdle. It consists of a sponge, clipped onto the splashguard right before the pulled-down section (at about "2 o'clock"), filling the space between the splashguard and the lap. The sponge absorbs the the water spun out to the edge of the lap (which was just waiting to get to you). It is about 90% effective--very nice! The sort of clip you might use is the steel-spring paper clip--a "clothespin" type (or a clothespin, for that matter). Until you find a clip, and before you get a sponge, you can use the poorboy approach and just wedge a wad of paper towel between the lap and the splashguard--something like when the dentist shoves in those awful cotton wads.



On the same subject (repeating a hint of a number of years ago), the use of a paper clip (yes, the large kind--don't be stingy), bent as shown in the sketch, will hold down a suitable portion of the splashguard to work on the girdle. The paper clip can be used in combination with one of the hold-down clips, if necessary. Obviously, with less exposed area, less water will make its way out. (The first time we printed this information, I offered to sell paper clips, with bending instructions, and we didn't get even one taker--OK, struggle on your own--that offer is hereby withdrawn.)

>>**CRASH!** That's the word used by computer folks when a whole program is destroyed--and that's what happened to our owners mail list (even while this newsletter was being written). Don't any of you computer people write and tell us about "backup discs"--we know all about that, we just don't do that. You can bet we will now. Anyhow, we've reconstituted our list, the best we could, but there's still some small percentage lost. If you receive this letter, mention it to any Ultra Tec owners you may know--and tell them to write us if they don't get their copy--they are probably casualties of our "crash".

>>**A worse crash!** On the first weekend of the new year we were robbed (and that caused delay for this letter). The thieves broke a hole through the wall (!) (that's what we get for putting bars on the windows). Fortunately, they didn't do any extra malicious damage--but they took all of our hand tools, tool boxes with special cutting tools, office equipment, etc.--I won't bore you with the details. Ah well, that's life these days.

Well, we're going to sign off now, before writing this drags on into the baseball season....if you like to receive this newsletter, don't be shy about sending in ideas, designs, etc.We are happy to report that everyone is well here, and after a week's rest from Christmas to New Years Day, we are raring to go for 1990 (except some of that "raring" got used up by the robbery).... We hope that the weather has warmed up for all of you who do not live in our area here--it seems that we were the only ones to miss the super-frigid weather.....
take care.

From me---and your friends at Ultra Tec,



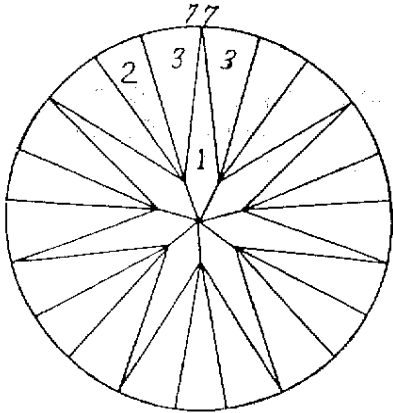
Bob Hall

TWO DESIGNS FOR THE 77 INDEX GEAR We've had a number of 77 Index Gear designs submitted--and these two, one a seven and the other an eleven, from Bob Hall, of Pinellas Park, Florida, were the first to arrive. Bob, you may recall, designed the beautiful "Rheims Window" cut that we published about a year ago. Bob wrote "I am having fun with the new index"--and, from those of us who are beneficiaries of that fun: Thank you, Bob!

THE O'HENRY II

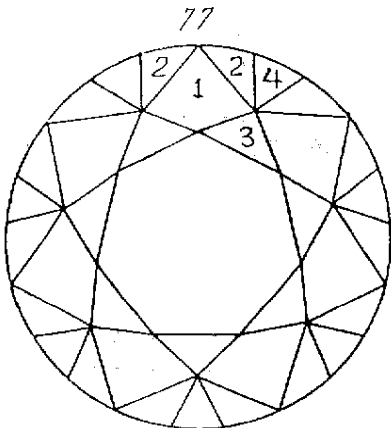
Yes, that name is familiar to you--we printed the original O'Henry Cut 8 years ago (!). It was a design by Dr. Henry Owens, a good friend who has since passed away. Dr. Owens was an enthusiastic faceter and an originator of designs and ideas about faceting--and we know he would be very pleased with the O'Henry II, a seven-main version for the 77 Index Gear. The original O'Henry was characterized by its extraordinary scintillation--and this odd-sided version raises that to another level! Enjoy the O'Henry II:

The angles are for quartz--and where .5 index steps are indicated, use the pin between the segment and the gear.



PAVILION

1. 43° 77, 11, 22, 33, 44, 55, 66
2. 44° 5.5, 16.5, 27.5, 38.5, 49.5, 60.5, 71.5
3. $43.7^\circ \pm$ 76-01, 10-12, 21-23, 32-34, 43-45, 54-56, 65-67



CROWN

1. 38° 77, 11, 22, 33, 44, 55, 66
2. 44° 72-02, 09-13, 20-24, 31-35, 42-46, 53-57, 64-68
3. 23° 5.5, 16.5, 27.5, 38.5, 49.5, 60.5, 71.5
4. $48^\circ \pm$ Same as 3.--adjust angle for proper meets