



ULTRA TEC

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SUMMER 1985
NEWSLETTER

Dear Ultra Tec Owner,

One of the hardest things about these newsletters--these issues of the Ultra Tec "Some Times"--is to come up with a new opening paragraph. With each letter we need to explain to new owners or to those who just got onto our mailing list, that these letters come out every once in awhile, unscheduled, but about twice a year. There, I just did it.

We used to try to key the letters to the seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter, but if my recollection serves me right, we never did accomplish more than three any year. If anything it's keyed to when the "Owner's Newsletter" folder gets pretty fat. So, this is a good time to remind you to send in news, ideas, designs, etc.--so we can refatten the folder and get out another issue.

AT THE SHOWS I had looked forward to seeing many of you in Tucson, but the flu-bug struck and we had to cancel out at the last minute. We did attend the Faceters Fair in San Jose a number of weeks earlier, however, and really enjoyed the show. The Staples, the Houstons, and the Rosins really did a super job of organization (as usual) and the fair had a very upbeat feeling.



LEFT TO RIGHT....
SPECIAL THANKS: DAVE & EVA ROSIN, MILT HOUSTON, MILLIE STAPLES, LOIS H.,
& GEORGE S.

Among the competitions at the Faceters Fair, the one that drew the most viewer interest, because of the quantity and quality of the competitors, was the Master's Trophy. There were 14 competitors, all of them known names and most of them recent award winners. It was a single stone competition, a topaz this year, and eight of them scored 95 or better. That should give you an idea of how tight the competition was. Justifiably proud at winning the award, with an almost perfect 99.75 score, was Ultra Tec faceter, Bud Rogers. Bud, who won the Ultra Tec trophy two years earlier, was attending the show, and was demonstrating on his faceting machine at the time of the awards announcement. We joined everyone in offering congratulations. This single stone competition has sparked much interest among the master faceters, and next years competition will undoubtedly prove to be equally tough. Next years required stone, incidently, is any synthetic--and after speaking to this year's participants, I'd guess that almost all will be back and determined.



"BADGER BUD" TOPPED THE FIELD.

Among the other competitions--first level ribbons were obtained by Zell Allman and Jim Oliver in the Faceters Fair Trophy and Ultra Tec Trophy, respectively. The Pro-Am Trophy was won by Vern Johnson with Mark Shefflin and Glenn Klein close behind.

By the time you receive this newsletter I will have seen many of you at the Midwest Faceters Fair in Maumee. This is being written before that show, however, so don't feel I'm ignoring you folks.

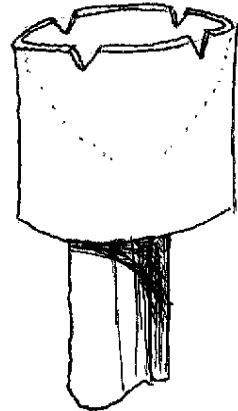
NEW THING I was almost sure that there would be no new item to offer with this newsletter, but along came John Gullak at the San Jose Faceters Fair. He provided us with a very good idea. Really, it was more than a good idea--it was an idea and three-fourths--he actually gave us a prototype of the device. Wondering what to call it, and in John's honor, we have dubbed it the "Gullakdopper".

As are many super ideas, the Gullakdopper is another "why didn't I think of that?" It would take a lot of words to describe it, while a picture tells the story quickly--so I refer you to the enclosed page of description. The Gullakdopper allows for very easy initial alignment of the stone for dopping, when a cold-dopping technique is used. Centralizing the stone in relation to the dop in order to get a maximum yield is easily performed. The nature of the design is such that it doesn't require any special precision, and this is a good one for those of you who would like to build it yourself. For those of you who would prefer to buy it you can do that too.

NOT SO OLD THINGS We continue to get good reports on our Down Indicator Light, including from, of all people, me. When we announced its availability our report was based on test results. Since then, it was just before the San Jose show, I actually managed to get in a little faceting of my own. How the guys in the shop let me get out with a Down Indicator Light, I don't know, but I got one, mounted it onto my faceting head and went to work. The cut stones were better than I had ever done before. I thought perhaps I had gotten lucky, or suddenly very skilled. Conversations with a couple of good facetors convinced me that the Down Indicator Light was indeed responsible. Now, that short story may not excite you, but it did me.

At the risk of belaboring a point, I'd like to again mention the 96 Quad gear as being such a "logical" indexing gear. The design that accompanies this letter, the "Diamond Shaped Barion" is prepared for a standard 96 Index Gear, and the instruction requires four times as many numbers to describe the indexing positions as would the 96 Quad. As an example, pavilion step four calls out settings of 10-38-58-86, which on the 96 Quad gear would only be "10" in each quadrant--hard to make a mistake, and, only 1/4 of the times that you need to look back at the instruction. Nice! Even when an instruction is provided for the standard 96, if the stone is symmetrical (as most are) it is just a matter of using the same positions in each quadrant as was used in the first quadrant. It's not as if there is any complicated transposing to do. It's a very useful gear for free-form stones, too, in that it is easier for the designer to conceive of the departure from symmetry, including the extent of the departure, when the index gear is set up in quadrants.

TECHNIQUES AND MATERIALS Hugh Rackets of Houston, Texas wrote to us describing his cold-dopping techniques. It was interesting to see that he modifies his cavity dop by filing a V shape, or a series of V shapes, onto the end of the dop. That allows a path for excess cement or epoxy. If you do something like that, be careful not to leave a burr on the top surface of the dop. --At a previous time we had passed along the idea of drilling a small hole into the cavity, from the side, for the same purpose. Drilling avoids the possible burr problem, but you do need a drill press to do that properly, and cleaning the dop for another usage is a little trickier.



W. H. Augspurger of Monroe, Louisiana passed along a technique for Ceramic Laps, which he uses for polishing Cubic Zirconia. He washes the lap with Lava soap, applies a spray diamond, and scrapes off the excess with a razor blade while running the lap very slowly. He said that if the lap starts to scratch after a while, it can be corrected by using the blade again. And, another tip from Mr. Augspurger, who is, incidentally, a very accomplished custom cutter--one who is always seeking a better way. When polishing Blue Topaz, he uses a 50000 mesh diamond spray on a pure tin scored lap, and he uses water, "a few dops now and then".

Most of you probably remember the idea of using a paper clip to hold down the splashpan edge while girdling--that allowed pretty good protection from splashing. Bob Gwynne from Victoria, Australia, writes that he leaves the splashpan in its normal position and just overcomes its resistance with the spindle. He feels that the added pressure is not significant and the protection of the splashpan is good. He writes "... when the cut is close to the Angle Stop, hold the guard down away from the quill with the other hand. This enables the operator to "feel" the final part of the cut without the added resistance of the guard...." There are several generations of splashpans out in the world, incidentally, and some will perform this more easily than others.

The design that we have included with this letter is another Barion variant. This one is from Harry Yanaga of Indio, California. Barion cuts are not easy, but the brilliance with which they reward you makes it well worth the effort. And getting it right entitles you to pat yourself on the back. It's interesting, if you cut a few one after the other, of the same design, despite the struggle you have with the first, the second isn't so hard and after that they get easy. It shows how quickly the mind learns even difficult tasks--and it shows (of interest to us old-timers) how faceting keeps the mind limber.

MISCELLANEOUS Bryan Rozewski won the "Inside Ultra Tec Trophy" which is awarded by popular vote at an Ultra Tec get-together. He was happy about it, after two prior second-places. He thinks this should go up front in the newsletter. I don't think so--after all, I didn't win... We have installed a computer, at long last, and it is starting to help us in production planning. That will mean improved times of new shipments and repairs. I admit to having been very skeptical, but it seems to be working. Keep in touch! News, suggestions, complaints, questions, faceting hints, whatever. We don't always respond as quickly as we'd like, but we do pay attention...take care of yourself.



BRYAN... THINKING
IT OVER.

Sincerely,

Joe Lubin

P.S. On the "Limited Edition" Transfer Fixtures--those of you who have not yet received yours, thank you for your patience. As we explained in our previous letter, we limited the order time, but not everyone paid attention, so orders continued--and we extended the time for over a month. Then--I guess it happens with any new item--there was a suggestion for an improvement (thanks or blame Bryan) and I decided it was worth the additional delay. So--the chips are flying now, and we will be shipping soon. Again--we appreciate your patience.

JL

P.P.S. If any of you know Mr. A. P. Ju Toit of South Africa, please send us his new address. The Computer ate the change of address he sent to us.

JL