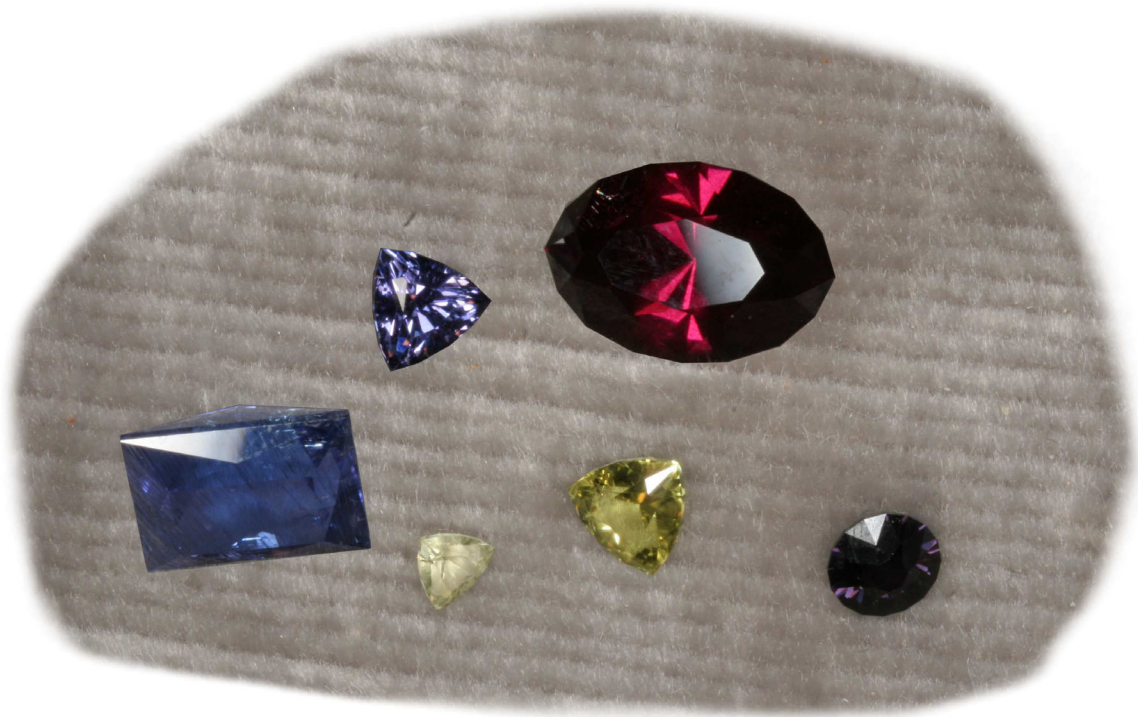


*the
New Mexico*

faceter

November/December 2005



The Official Newsletter of the New Mexico Faceters Guild

NMFG

Show and Tell



A gorgeous amethyst
by Ernie Hawes.



Two lovely stones by Nancy Attaway
and a gold atomic orbital by Steve
Attaway (with diamonds as electrons).
The fantastic rose quartz pendant and
sapphire ring are also by Steve Attaway.



The New Mexico Faceters Guild

Guild Officers 2004-2005

President: Dylan Houtman
Vice President/Programs: Ernie Hawes
Secretary/Treasurer: Bill and Ina Swantner
Guild Gemologist: Edna Anthony
Guild Mineralogist: Paul Hlava
Workshop Chairman: Ernie Hawes

Newsletter Editors:

Carsten Brandt

Newsletter Production:

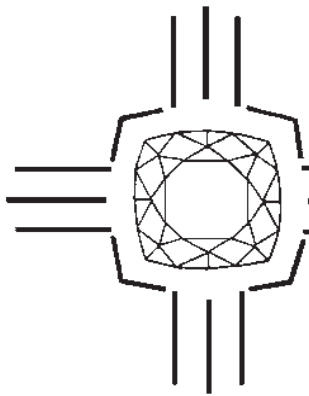
Ernie Hawes

Purpose of the Guild: The purpose of the New Mexico Faceters Guild is to bring together persons who are interested in faceting or faceted stones. We promote the art and science of faceting and provide a means of education and improvement in faceting skills. Finally, we provide a means of communication between those persons involved in or interested in faceting as a hobby.

Guild Membership: Dues are \$20.00 per calendar year (January through December) for newsletter issues sent by e-mail. Hard copies of newsletter issues sent by US mail are \$30. Please see the membership application/renewal form on the last page of the newsletter.

Meetings: The Guild meets now on the second Monday of odd numbered months at 7:00 p.m. at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History, 1801 Mountain Road N.W., Albuquerque, NM. Workshops are generally held in even-numbered months. Date, time, and place are given in newsletter. Also, any change in guild meeting times or dates will be listed in the newsletter.

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The New Mexico Facetor

Volume 25, No. 6, November/December, 2005



NMFG President Dylan Houtman

The Prez Sez:

by Dylan Houtman

Hello everyone:

In the last year I have had a couple opportunities to cut rough that belongs to someone else. A vast majority of the time I have cut stones purely for my own pleasure. I don't worry about matching size or color, if there is a flaw (cracks or less than desirable inclusions) or if I over-cut a facet, I'm not too concerned. When someone hands you a piece of rough and asks you to cut a stone, suddenly it becomes the most valuable piece of rough in the world. Colors never match, there is always a giant crack that won't cut out, or a large chunk falls off the end of the stone when one is polishing the crown. Last summer I cut two nice pieces of Tanzanite, I had the rough for over a year trying to get an OK on the cutting designs. There were some odd lumps on the rough which I trimmed off and cut into small stones. The larger of the stones cut into a beautiful elongated rectangle in a modified radiant style. The owner demanded that I remove close to two carats more than I wanted to make the stone symmetrical. I would have put a slight taper on the stone and left one end of the stone deeper than the other. In my opinion, mounted in a pendant, asymmetry over the length of the stone wouldn't be detrimental. The other piece was going to be large marquise. I must have given some thermal shock to the stone when I did the transfer, as a crack became apparent as I cut the crown. During polishing the end of the stone just fell off. I removed the remaining stone from the dop, and took the stone to its owner and suggested it be cut into an elongated pear shape; he insisted I maintain the marquises shape. I was able to redop very accurately, and align the stone well by using my aluminum master lap and adjust until each side was fairly close. The resulting stone was probably close to two carats smaller than it could otherwise have been. This was my first try at recutting and repairing a stone, the results were much better than I could have hoped for. All in all, I have been very lucky in cutting for others as they have been very understanding of the faceting problems I encountered. If anyone is interested in cutting someone else's rough, it would be a good idea to impress upon them that unforeseen problems can occur. Good Luck, and enjoy faceting,
Dylan.

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New Mexico Faceters Guild Official Website

We invite everyone to visit our website at:

www.attawaygems.com/NMFG
for interesting and informative articles on gemstones and faceting techniques.



Minutes of the NMFG Meeting

Nov 14, 2005

by Nancy L. Attaway

President **Dylan Houtman** called the meeting to order at 7:15pm and welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting. There were no guests present at the November Guild meeting.

Newsletter Editor **Carsten Brandt** gave the Editor's report. He announced that he was soon to release an issue of the New Mexico Facetor and was also finishing the latest issue. He asked for more input, photos, and articles.

Old Business:

President **Dylan Houtman** reported that the Guild Workshop held on October 22 at his new home in south Albuquerque was a huge success. The workshop had been filled with folks working on their stones, and several lively discussions on faceting were heard.

The Election of Guild Officers was next on tonight's agenda. Ina Swantner declared that she was not running for Guild Treasurer. **Ernie Hawes** announced that **Betty Annis** would volunteer for Guild Treasurer, but that she might only be able to serve for one year. **Nancy Attaway** asked for a round of applause for **Ina Swantner** for her many years of service to the Guild as Treasurer. Nancy Attaway then asked for nominations to close and for the membership to vote on the proposed slate of officers. This motion was seconded by **Linda Vanya**. A unanimous vote was then cast by the membership for the proposed slate of officers:

Slate of Guild Officers for 2006 and 2007:

President: Dylan Houtman

Vice-President/Programs and Workshop
Chairman: Ernie Hawes (to be assisted by Nancy Attaway)

Treasurer: Betty Annis

Editor: Carsten Brandt

Congratulations to you all. Thank you for serving as our officers.

New Business:

Dylan Houtman said that the Guild Treasurer recently paid \$60 for the six meeting dates for 2006 to the Museum of Natural History. He remarked that the museum fees may increase for 2007.

Paul Hlava reminded everyone that the 12th annual AGATE Gem and Jewelry Show was scheduled for this coming weekend. Several Guild members were participating as dealers. Show dates are November 19 and 20, and the times are 10:00am to 6:00pm on Saturday and 11:00am to 5:00pm on Sunday. The show is at a new location in the Wyndham Albuquerque Hotel on 2910 Yale Blvd. SE near the airport. Paul handed out postcard invitations.

Paul also mentioned that the Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Club had scheduled its annual club show, TOTE '06, for March 17, 18, and 19 at the School Art and Flower Building on the New Mexico State Fair Grounds. Paul handed out invitations to the show. The theme for the 2006 show was minerals and gems that are green, in celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

Paul mentioned that he had recently visited Jerry Murphy, widow of Merrill O. Murphy. She, along with her son, had decided to host a sale of Merrill's lapidary items, including some gem rough, assorted faceted stones, books, and some equipment, for

November 26, the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Anyone who could not make that date was asked to schedule an appointment with the Murphy family.

Nancy Attaway mentioned that the Los Alamos Geological Society was hosting its annual club show on December 3 and 4 in Los Alamos.

Nancy Attaway said that **Ernie Hawes'** original faceting design, "Mixed Spiral 88" cut, appeared in the December 2005 issue of Lapidary Journal. Congratulations, Ernie!

Nancy Attaway reported that a jeweler who carried many high-end pieces of jewelry set with large diamonds and big colored gems was robbed after the closing of the Weems Show in Albuquerque. The Weems Show is held annually during the first weekend of November. Robbers broke a window of his vehicle and fled with the merchandise. Most unfortunately, Weems had decided not to arrange for any outside security and hired only inside security during their show. Nancy cautioned show organizers and dealers to be more aware and very careful, as dealers are at risk both during their set up and when breaking down a show. Nancy declared that security should be placed both inside and outside a show to protect the dealers, as well as the customers. The Albuquerque Journal carried the article in the Saturday, November 12, paper and had a small article about it in the Sunday, November 13, morning paper.

Nancy Attaway mentioned that the shows at Tucson 2006 will start earlier than they usually do. The various mineral and fossil shows and the GLDA Show will begin the end of January. Other shows, including the GJX and AGTA Shows, will begin February 1. The shows at the Holidome will begin February 2. Colored Stone Magazine published a Tucson Show Schedule Guide in the November/December 2005 issue. Nancy advised folk to plan ahead and pre-register for as many shows as possible. Check the various magazines and Tucson Shows online for their schedules and try to pre-register online.

Nancy Attaway remarked that Steve and she attended the annual mineral symposium in Socorro at New Mexico Tech on November 12. One of the talks presented during the symposium described a new gem mineral locality in New Mexico for quartz. The two men who comprise Thief Mountain Mining and Prospectors gave this particular talk. They are also the ones who found the gemmy amethyst at Ladron Peak. They showed slides and presented for sale samples of their prospecting endeavors at the Jornada del Muerto area, east of Elephant Butte Lake State Park. The Herkimer style quartz is found in shallow trenches along the fault lines. The quartz is clear but can have a few very interesting anhydral inclusions. Inside these inclusions, spheres of black androaxalite can be seen. According to Paul Hlava, the androaxalite is like a water magnet that compels the fluid to gather all in one site, rather than in various locations in the quartz crystal. This makes the quartz crystals gemmy. Another fascinating aspect of this quartz was that it fluoresced a light blue hue under ultraviolet light. Rather than using nice crystal specimens for cutting, Nancy ordered some of the clear but broken crystals so she could facet some of this quartz.

Refreshments:

Linda Vanya, Jennifer Baker, and Nancy Attaway brought home-baked goodies for the November meeting. Gourmet coffee was also served. Thank you all very much. **Jennifer Baker** and the **Owen Family** volunteered to bring refreshments to the meeting in January, 2006.

The Guild Christmas Party

Ina and Bill Swantner opened their lovely home to the New Mexico Faceters Guild on December 11 to host the 2005 Guild Christmas Party. Ina had beautifully decorated her home with all the Christmas trimmings and also prepared two dinner tables for the feast. Bill grilled delicious salmon, and Steve Attaway cooked two pork roasts

in his oval Dutch oven, placed in coals in the Swantners' back yard. **Nancy Attaway** prepared her green chile scalloped potatoes with garlic and onions in her round Dutch oven, also placed in the coals. **Betty Annis** made her chicken casserole, and **Ina** made her vegetable casserole and served whipped yams. **Margaret Brandt** prepared rolls with orange glaze. **Steve and Linda Vayna** brought a veggie tray with dip. **Paul and Marge Hlava** brought pate and crackers. Among the yummy desserts were pumpkin pies made by **Becky Hawes**, **Carsten's** perfected toffee/coffee pie, **Jennifer Baker's** specialty cookies, and **Deb Owens'** intense chocolate cake. **Nancy Attaway** also brought several bottles of wine, and **Ina** made gourmet coffee and iced herbal tea. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the wonderful food! Interesting conversations buzzed at the tables.

Ernie Hawes, our resident Santa Claus look-alike, assisted by Steve Attaway, presided over the rousing gift exchange. A nice variety of presents were distributed to many happy folks. Afterwards, more desserts and beverages were consumed amid more conversations.

Thank you ever so much, Bill and Ina, for hosting this event. You are truly the hosts with the most!

NMFG Meeting Dates for 2006:

The 2006 meeting dates for the New Mexico Faceters Guild are: January 9, March 13, May 8, July 10, September 11, and November 13. Please mark those dates on your calendars.

Future Workshop:

A Guild Workshop has been scheduled for January 7, 2006 at the home of Dylan Houtman.

Future Programs:

The program for the Guild meeting on January 7, 2006 will feature Steve Attaway giving his updated version of his talk on the "Mystery of Polish". Steve's article on polish appeared in the November 2005 issue of Lapidary Journal. Steve presented his updated version of the polish talk during the Texas Faceters Symposium on October 8, along with the talk about the Hope Diamond Project with the Smithsonian that was presented October 7. Steve has added more information and slides to his presentation, so do not miss this informative presentation.

The program for the Guild meeting on March 13 will feature Paul Hlava giving his talk on the "Color Found in Gemstones", Part #1. Paul has updated this talk, and he will explain what all is responsible for the various colors found in colored gemstones and colored diamonds and why it happens. Many slides of gems and diamonds will accompany Paul's excellent talk. Do not miss this informative presentation.

The program for the Guild meeting on May 8 will feature Part #2 of Paul Hlava's talk on the "Color Found in Gemstones". Paul will begin with a brief review of Part #1 and will continue his discourse. Do not miss it.

Show and Tell:

Moderator **Steve Attaway** remarked that the Show and Tell Case tonight was filled with lovely gemstones and jewelry.

The talented **Owens Family** recently opened for business a cutting and casting operation they have named Talisman Heirlooms, where they cut cabochons of turquoise and facet Arizona peridot. John Owens displayed his first piece of fabricated jewelry, a pendant that held a turquoise cabochon set in a sterling silver bezel soldered onto a squared sheet of sterling silver, a good first effort.

Carsten Brandt displayed a small triangular lab-grown alexandrite. This sparkling gem exhibited a color change that went from a bright purple/red hue to an intense blue-green hue.

Elaine Weisman displayed three items of jewelry that she had hand-fabricated. The first one was a sterling silver ring with a concave rounded shell that held a labradorite cabochon set in a sterling silver bezel. The second piece was a sterling silver pin that held in a bezel a large slice of blue drusy quartz, accented by a small triangular cabochon of blue chalcedony that was bezel-set on top and three small moonstone cabochons that were bezel-set at the bottom. The third item was a pin of sterling silver with pieces of gold foil soldered at certain places for a 3-D effect to have the metal arrangement depict a mountain range scene. A rainbow moonstone with a carved face was bezel-set at the upper left of the mountains, and three moonstone cabochons were bezel-set at the lower right. The piece was called "The Man in the Moon over Mountains".

Ernie Hawes displayed a lovely, large lab-grown ruby cut in his "Merrill's Inspiration" cushion square cut. He also displayed a large Brazilian amethyst and a nice labradorite from Pueblo Park, New Mexico that he faceted in the same design. Ernie passed around the group two quartz stones set in wire display dops. He said that he was working with the cutting angles on the square cushion design to improve the sparkle for shallow cut gems. He asked us to see if we could discern which quartz stone was the one with the better sparkle, as one had an 89% improved sparkle and the other a 95%. Ernie also mentioned that he had faceted an 8-carat aquamarine that was in the possession of Bill Wood.

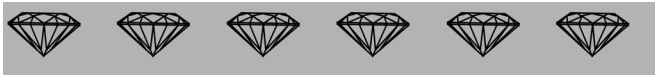
Dylan Houtman displayed a large, lovely emerald cut tanzanite that he had heat-treated himself. Dylan heated the cut gem at 900 degrees F and allowed a slow cool down of the oven. A gradual slowing down of the heated oven is key in heat-treating tanzanite, as tanzanite does not tolerate thermal shock. Dylan plans to write an article on his heat-treatment procedure. (Steve Attaway

recommended packing the gems in Linde A). Dylan showed a small, bright triangular tanzanite cut in his original Montringle design and a small unheated yellow sapphire Montringle cut triangle. He showed a green Mali garnet Montringle cut triangle, a dark purple spinel standard round brilliant, and a large oval Tanzanian rhodolite garnet.

Steve Attaway displayed a hand-fabricated 14Kt yellow gold ring set with a small emerald cut unheated blue sapphire, accented by small diamonds flush set on the shank and on the setting. He also hand-wrought a millgrain design on the ring. Steve showed a pair of earrings cast in 14Kt yellow gold that held five channel set dark pink rhodolite garnets in each earring. The rhodolite garnets measured 3x3mm and were princess cut stones faceted by robots. Steve showed a carved, intense pink, rose quartz drop that was set with Epoxy 330 into a 14Kt. yellow gold bezel accented with three small diamonds flush set into the bezel beneath the bail. He also showed his new orbital design, a pair of 14Kt. yellow gold earrings that were cast using two kinds of wax, a hard wax and a water-soluble wax sold by Rio Grande. The hard wax was milled by Steve's computer-driven three-axis milling machine, and the water-soluble wax provided the sphere that served as the round anchor base or support for the orbitals. Steve had accented the design with small diamonds that he remarked were more difficult to set than he had originally envisioned. These gold orbitals could also be beads on a round neckwire.

Nancy Attaway displayed a 17mm Flasher Cut (twelve-sided) round mint green beryl that weighed 16.92 carats. Nancy remarked that the other mint green beryl, a large, long emerald cut that she was cutting, blew apart during the transfer, as it contained a two-phase inclusion. She said that, in hindsight, she should have cold-dopped the gem instead. Nancy displayed four impressively large and clean morganites. These included: a 21x19mm shield cut peach morganite that weighed 22.51 carats; an 18x13mm oval peach morganite that weighed 9.89 carats; a 20.5x15.5mm pearshape pink morganite that weighed 16.82 carats; and a 17mm Flasher Cut

(twelve-sided) round pink morganite that weighed 16.52 carats. Nancy remarked that she cut nine Montana sapphires in September for the man who owned the mine that Steve and she visited a few years ago. The gems included several faceted and carved tablets, four Flasher Cut rounds, and a 10x10mm square barion. The colors ranged from peach, blue, lavender, and white with orange color zones. She will send the photos of the gems to Editor Carsten Brandt for the newsletter.



Program Speaker

by Nancy Attaway

Ernie Hawes showed the third video of the series "Gemstones of the World". This third segment focused upon the gemstones of Madagascar, predominantly tourmaline. Madagascar is an island that lies off the southeastern coast of Africa. Palm trees line Madagascar's sandy beaches, while deserts, mountain ranges, and tropical rainforests comprise the interior. Madagascar is a former French colony where many of the inhabitants still speak French, along with several local dialects. Madagascar's population includes settlers from Malay, Africa, Polynesia, and Hindus from India.

According to GIA, Madagascar has 51 gem-producing locations, more than Cambodia, Burma, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam combined. This makes Madagascar a land very rich in gem deposits. However, Madagascar's severe poverty makes it much too poor to work those deposits with modern equipment, much less have the transportation and roads required for trade between its isolated and remote mining areas. Prospectors locate gem deposits on the surface, and the mine sites are usually found in the clays of weathered granite pegmatites. Miners then follow the gems' trail by digging holes in the clay that eventually become a labyrinth of tunnels. The miners carry candles to light their way into the tunnels in their search for tourmaline, while using picks and shovels to extract the gems from walls and

ceilings. Much of the village populations in Madagascar live in abject poverty and often have no running water. Profits obtained from mining and selling gem crystals not only help villages subsist; the funds even help establish schools for the younger children.

A scene, filmed near the town of Ilakaka, depicted miners bartering their sapphire and tourmaline crystals to sellers in stalls ready for business at a dusty gemstone bazaar. In Madagascar's far north, near the old port of Diego Suarez, scores of prospectors have laid claims on sapphire-bearing deposits, found in layers of metamorphic rock. Mines yielding fine quality morganite and aquamarines lie in the central highlands, giving Madagascar the nickname "the island of beryls". In the southern regions, miners search the land for opal, garnet chrysoberyl, quartz, tourmaline, spinel, and zircon. In August 1998, the discovery of sapphires from an alluvial deposit found near Ilakaka brought Madagascar world-wide attention. Since then, the government of Madagascar has attempted to establish mining rules and claim regulations, including the creation of zones of special economic activities that relate to mining areas. However, the combination of gemstone hysteria and the arrival of foreign miners fueled by that excitement, aggravated by crime, corruption, and the lack of means to enforce any rules and regulations, have created a chaotic situation for Madagascar. In addition, an announcement in 2001 of a new ruby deposit in metamorphic rock, found in eastern Madagascar's tropical rainforest near Vatomandry and Andilamena, has sparked yet another gem rush.

Several scenes from the video depicted how the gem crystals travel from the miners' hands to a local middleman, eventually reaching the various lapidary artisans and the second tier of middlemen, those with overseas connections. Germany was the country identified that purchased many of the "poly-chrome" tourmaline, sliced sections of tourmaline that exhibit the multiple color banding and its distinguishing triangular-shaped core. Diverse cultures from all over

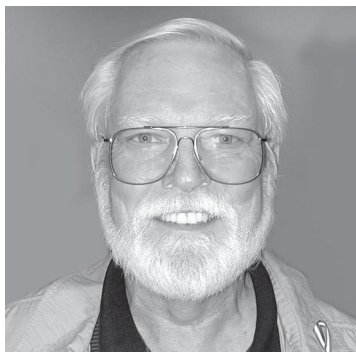
the world meet in Madagascar to unearth, sell, buy, and sell again, the plethora of gem crystals found in Madagascar's untamed landscape, under conditions that resemble America's Old West. In February, we can meet some of these intrepid folks at the gem shows in Tucson, where we will view their goods and listen to their stories.



Facet Designer's Workshop

More designs from Dylan Houtman

By *Ernie Hawes*



In the March/April 2005 issue of our newsletter I included one of Dylan Houtman's more unusual designs, *Toppler*. At the time I wrote, "This is a long modified rectangular pattern that Dylan used originally to cut a piece of scapolite. However, I think it will work for any relatively low index material. The crown would suggest that this was an opposed bar design, but that is not the case. The bar pattern on the crown makes for some interesting reflections and adds to the design's scintillation. It isn't the brightest design you'll ever cut, but because of the scintillation pattern, I believe it will cut an attractive stone in light to medium colored material. This is not a meetpoint pattern, but if care is used in cutting the girdle outline first, it should present few cutting problems. This design should be ideal for a long piece of tourmaline, so long as the crystal has an open C axis. Otherwise, you might want to experiment in raising the angles at the ends of the pavilion by several degrees."

This design has continued to intrigue me. With Dylan's permission, I modified the angles a little to give better meets and adjusted the angles to tenths of a degree. This time, since many of us are unlikely

to be cutting scapolite, I specified the RI to be for quartz. Even with these changes, this is a somewhat challenging design. Experienced cutters should be rewarded, however, with a very interesting and attractive stone. Although I did the modifications, it's still Dylan's design, and named appropriately, *Toppler II*.

Dylan's second design for this issue uses the 120 index, which seems to be favored by Dylan for many of his designs. At first glance, one might think this pattern would be a little dull. After all, the brightness is in the low seventies. However, two things work in favor of this design to make it a very desirable one for cutting in aquamarine. First of all, brighter designs tend to wash out a stone's color, especially one so frequently light hued as aquamarine is. The second thing going for this design is its scintillation. While I favor fewer facets most of the time, when the material being cut is of a lighter hue and relatively low RI, then adding facets to increase scintillation is not necessarily a bad thing. I believe it works quite well in this design. Although it will take more time to cut than the average brilliant design, the faceter will be well rewarded for his or her efforts.



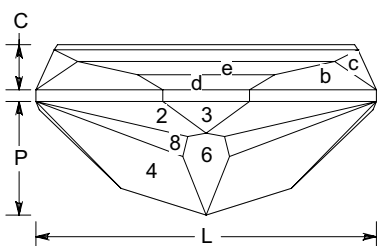
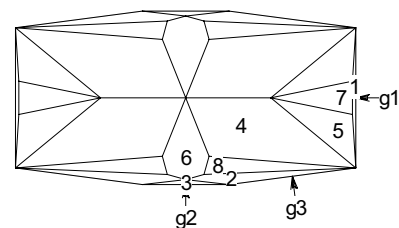
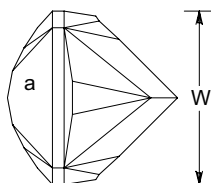
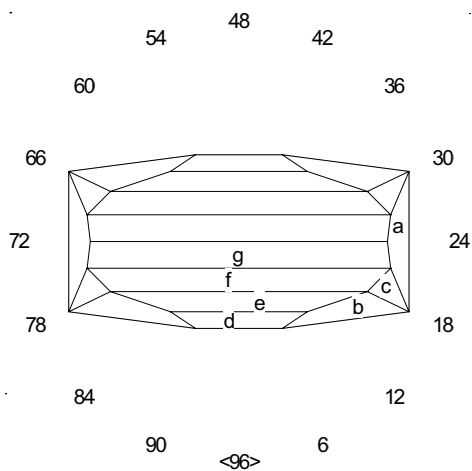
Short Course in Silversmithing

offered by Elaine Weisman, MFA
292-2046

If you have ever wanted to try classic silverworking before going to the expense of investing in new materials and supplies, try this short course of one-on-one instruction, and find out, if smithing is for you.

Five two-hour sessions: Hands-on experience in construction techniques: Sawing, filing, forming, soldering, finishing and stone setting.

Complete a Pin, a pair of Earrings and a Ring or Pendant.



Toppler II

By Dylan Houtman

Modification of original design to give better meets and angles

Angles for R.I. = 1.540

42 + 8 girdles = 50 facets

2-fold, mirror-image symmetry

96 index

$L/W = 1.955$

$P/W = 0.650$ $C/W = 0.258$

$Vol./W^3 = 0.902$

Average Brightness: COS = 37.9 % ISO = 63.2 %

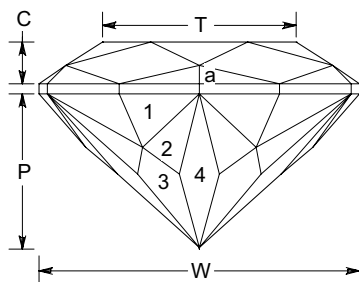
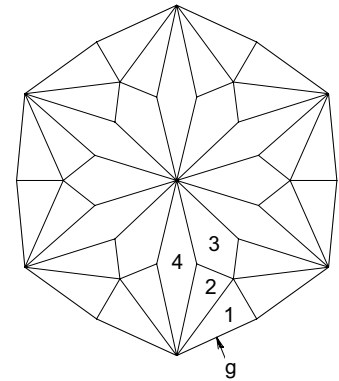
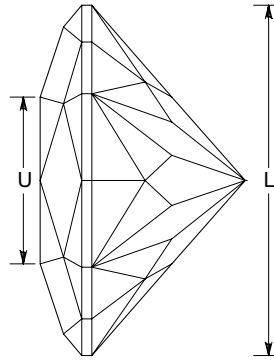
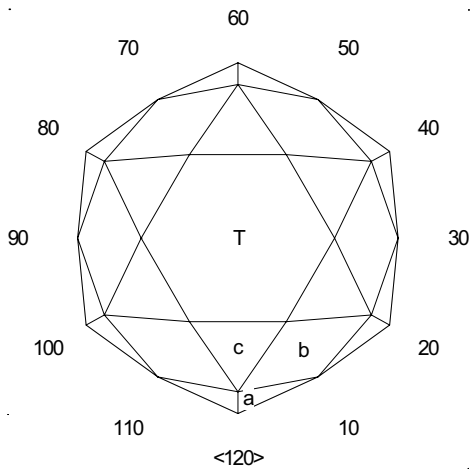


PAVILION

g1	90.00°	24-72
g2	90.00°	96-48
g3	90.00°	02-46-50-94
1	70.00°	24-72
2	70.00°	02-46-50-94
3	79.30°	96-48
4	43.00°	05-43-53-91
5	43.00°	22-26-70-74
6	45.00°	96-48
7	43.50°	24-72
8	47.70°	04-44-52-92

CROWN

a	63.70°	24-72
b	48.20°	02-46-50-94
c	39.30°	06-42-54-90
d	42.00°	96-48
e	34.00°	96-48
f	24.00°	96-48
g	12.00°	96-48



AquaHex

By Dylan Houtman

Angles for R.I. = 1.580

61 + 12 girdles = 73 facets

6-fold, mirror-image symmetry

120 index

$L/W = 1.089$ $T/W = 0.604$ $U/W = 0.523$

$P/W = 0.482$ $C/W = 0.133$

$Vol./W^3 = 0.238$

Average Brightness: COS = 65.7 % ISO = 72.4 %

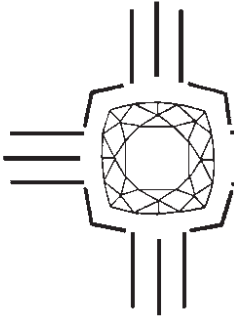


PAVILION

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2	46.00°	007-013-027-033- 047-053-067-073- 087-093-107-113
3	41.90°	010-030-050-070- 090-110
4	41.50°	120-020-040-060- 080-100

CROWN

a	43.80°	008-012-028-032- 048-052-068-072- 088-092-108-112
b	34.00°	010-030-050-070- 090-110
c	19.20°	120-020-040-060- 080-100
T	00.00°	Table



The New Mexico Faceters Guild

Membership application or renewal form

Dues:

- 1 year membership, includes electronic copy of NMFG newsletter:.....\$20.00
- 1 year membership and mailed paper copy of newsletter.....\$30.00

Please print this page and send it along with a check (made out to NMFG or New Mexico Faceters Guild) for dues to:

NMFG
Betty Annis
11112 Orr Ave. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
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