

Faceting Academy 2010 Equipment and Supplies Listing

REQUIRED

Faceting Machine (bring your own)

I recommend the Facetron as my #1 choice for “bang-for-the-buck”, though Ultratec and Facette are also very good machines. I do not recommend any of the lower-end machines with a template-style protractor, and I do not recommend any of the digital read-out machines. I have not seen any of these that worked well enough to do fun complex designs easily. I do not recommend used equipment for beginner cutters, as machine problems may not be apparent to the new user.

Required Laps:

- 260 metal-bond lap for rough shaping - I like the Crystalite brand, although Crystalite seconds and Chinese knock-offs are fine for this roughing-out coarse lap.
[FacetShoppe Generic Laps](#) (\$43)
- 600 metal-bond lap for cutting - Again, I like the Crystalite make, and I RECOMMEND AGAINST knock-offs, seconds, and cheap-o laps for the primary cutting tool.
[FacetShoppe Crystalite Standard Laps](#) (\$118)
- Corian or Wizard laps (at least two) for pre-polish and polishing
[Sierra Gems Corian Laps](#) (\$30)
[FacetShoppe Wizard Lap](#) (\$25)

Polish:

I will supply standard-sized containers of Voodoo Magic Pre-polish and Polish (2k OR 3k and 14k OR 50k). Alternately, I will supply a XXX Professional Polish kit.

Miscellaneous Necessary Supplies:

Loupe 10x
Alcohol lamp ([this type](#))
Dops (down to 2 or 3 millimeter)
Dop Block & Transfer Jig
Dop Wax
Superglue
Alcohol (99% isopropyl)
Roll of toilet tissue
Goose-neck lamp
Any other essentials - tweezers, scales, etc.
Spill-free swarf-collector is REQUIRED.

OPTIONAL

Optional Laps:

- 360 resin bond (by Raytech) for cutting
[FacetShoppe Nubond Laps](#) (\$135)
- 600 resin bond (by Raytech) for prepolish
[FacetShoppe Nubond Laps](#) (\$135)
- Tin, BATT, or other polish laps you like

Optional Polish:

Bring oxides or diamond polishes if you like.

Miscellaneous Optional Supplies:

Optivisor
Loupe 20x
Polariscope
Dichroscope
Refractometer
Immersion liquid
Rough that you may want to evaluate or cut

Recommended Publications & Memberships:

Memberships / Guilds:

There are a number of Guilds for Faceters. I happen to belong to the Columbia Wilamette Faceter's Guild (CWFG) and the United Kingdom Facet Cutters' Guild (UKFCG). I strongly recommend membership to both these organizations, not least for their fine publications.

CWFG publishes "Facets" – a monthly newsletter that includes some new designs every month, along with informative articles on machines, techniques, history, and rock-hounding of specific interest to faceters. Individual membership is only \$25, and includes a subscription to the newsletter.

You can contact CWFG by e-mailing Jerry Bartlemay at jerrbarlemay@cs.com or by writing to the Guild at: Columbia- Wilamette Faceters Guild, P.O. Box 2136, Portland, OR 97208-2136.

UKFCG publishes "Stone Chat" – a bi-monthly full-color newsletter that is delivered to the U.S. electronically (pdf format). It contains new designs every month, as well as articles on machines, techniques, history, and international news relevant to faceters. Individual membership is only £22, and includes a subscription to the newsletter. For an extra £10 they'll include all back-issues on a CD-ROM.

I also highly recommend their "Training Cuts Novice to Advanced Cutter" booklet, which includes a number of designs with detailed instructions and comments designed to help the starting cutter to advance rapidly. This publication is available to Guild members for the price of only £2.50 from Mike Richardson.

You may reach the UKFCG Membership Secretary Jim Finlayson at jcf12@breathe.com; Keith Tucker, editor of the UKFCG newsletter, may be reached at ukfcgeditor@talktalk.net. Mike Richardson may be reached at JRich633@aol.com.