

**GemstoneArtist.com**  
**Rough Evaluation Policies**

1. I now charge a flat fee of \$45 to handle and return packages of rough sent for evaluation, and to evaluate small quantities of gem rough. I may charge additional fees for evaluating larger quantities of rough or for stones that require special research. Evaluation fees will be credited against subsequent cutting fees and return shipping for those specific stones. To learn about gems and how to do your own preliminary evaluation, go to this URL: <http://www.gemstoneartist.com/RoughFAQ.asp>
2. I REQUIRE RETURN POSTAGE and evaluation fees to be enclosed in any package I receive. Sufficient fees to cover evaluation; return shipping; and any insurance must be included at the time you send the rough for evaluation.

DO NOT SEND boxes, envelopes, packing, or loose stamps. Send only FUNDS for return postage. Rough that arrives without full contact information and sufficient funds included will NOT be evaluated, and will be immediately returned with a \$50 handling fee, COD.

3. "Evaluation" means determining the potential suitability of a stone for the speculative prospect of custom-cutting. It is NOT:
  - a. A (free) identification of a gem rough. (I'm not a gemological laboratory.)
  - b. An appraisal of the value of a gem rough (I'm not an appraiser.)
  - c. Any guarantee that the stone will have a specific size, weight, or value after being cut.
  - d. A guarantee that the stone will successfully weather the rigors of cutting.
4. I use a mathematical formula for determining whether to recommend custom cutting; to recommend commercial cutting; or whether recommend cutting at all. That formula is based on my best estimation of the potential net value of the finished stone. I use the same formula whether the stone is yours or mine. There is an interactive calculator that, given proper input, will approximate my process:  
<http://www.gemstoneartist.com/Cutting.asp#Calculator>

Net value means my best guess at potential wholesale value of the cut piece, minus my best guess at the cost of producing the cut piece. Generally, custom cutting will yield more weight and higher quality, producing higher gross value, while commercial cutting is much cheaper.

Gem-Cutting is speculative: My best guess is never a guarantee of yield or value. (I'm not an appraiser.) If you want a guaranteed investment then I recommend purchasing a gem that has already been cut and have it laboratory certified. There are many quality stones on my site, or I can search the rough and cut a stone specifically for you.