

# Letter to the Editor:

A big thank you to Keith Ardron for the following:

I'm a self taught faceter as I assume are the majority of the UKFCG guild members, however, during the past 4 years I've tried to hone my techniques with very rewarding results - yes I've had problems and made mistakes, some trivial others major, still do have these occasionally.

Answers to questions that inevitably occurred from time to time have been resolved with a friendly chat over the telephone to a fellow member of the guild, as not everything is written down and where else does one find a solution? Interesting articles, and of course projects in Faceters' Stonechat which I must say can be very helpful indeed, but at the end of the day it's up to oneself inevitably!

Of course I try to participate in the yearly competition which results in a written plus diagrammatic report on my work of art, a masterpiece in my eyes! I've done my very best with my newly acquired talent (I am now the holder of an advanced certificate for my efforts -- which I proudly display on my wall) as for my faceted stones, they seem to end up in a drawer as out of sight achievements.

Although I have never personally met any guild members, (which is entirely my own fault of course), to see how my opposition operates, I've developed a few ideas of my own which could be of use by others in this field. I mention them here and hope that someone will find them interesting and useful.

1. I make use of a small (100 mm bow type) draughtspersons compass, removing the graphite part and replacing it with a cut down sewing needle thus acquiring a pair of dividers which I use for various facet measurements.

2. I use another tool similar to the above and by applying a little heat to the ends of the needles thereby removing the temper, it allows me to bend both ends by about 2mm at right angles, and inwards, thus allowing me to take a measurement of the girdle facets in conjunction with an engineers' feeler gauge, which I find easier to use than a vernier caliper.

3. The above tools have been coated with red nail varnish on the right hand threaded side for quick reference.

4. In order to add extra high power magnification, I have also modified my "Optivisor" slightly by removing one of the side plastic rivets which holds the lens in its housing and with a simple adaptation of a small D.C. socket obtainable from any electronic component outlet, I cut and filed off the rear soldering tabs discarding the original centre pin, but retaining the rest of the assembly, enabling a modified headless screw about 25mm. long with the upper portion threads filed away by approximately 8 mm, to act as the new male pin (before cutting off the screw head, with the aid of a suitable screwdriver, I used it to force a thread into the "paxolin" base of the assembly) this could then be fitted to the "Optivisor" with a backnut.

5. With the same size female DC component I soldered a piece of 2 mm. x approx. 60 mm. Brass tube with an 8 mm. set to the wiring connections. The outer protective cover was removed from an old plastic 10 x loupe (this being much lighter in weight than a metal one) and a suitable plastic wall plug with a bore to accept the brass tube was pushed into this new swivel joint. The "Optivisor" was shimmed up slightly on its hinges to accept the extra weight.

This adaption I've found to be very useful for the measurements of facets while holding up the quill with my left hand and taking a measurement with the other, plus moving ones head to suit the view.

"Paxolin" is the fibre board used in the making of printed circuit boards in electronic units .i.e. Radios, T.V.s and computers etc.

"Phenolic" is used as the polishing lap.

Both of the above could very well be trade names .

The products that I mention are from Maplin Electronics in the U.K. and are:-

2.1 mm DC chassis Socket Code :-FT96E

2.1 mm / 5.5 mm DC Plug Code :- HH60Q

Regards.

Keith Ardron.

