

THE UNITED STATES FACETERS GUILD

THIS ARTICLE SERVES AS AN INVITATION FOR INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES FACETERS GUILD TO ENTER THE 2009 USFG SINGLE-STONE COMPETITION

The Single-Stone Competition program, with Novice, Pre-Masters, Masters and Grand Master Classes, will be conducted as a typical single-stone competition in which winners of the classes will be recognized and presented awards.

Novice Class

To certify as an USFG Novice, an inexperienced faceter must achieve a score of 85% or higher on the Novice design. A score of 90% or higher will qualify the faceter to enter the Pre-Masters class competition.

Pre-Masters Class

To certify as a USFG Pre-Master, the faceter must make a minimum score of 90% on cutting the Pre-Master design. A score of 93% or higher will qualify the faceter to enter the Masters Class competition. Cutters who score 90% or higher & win the Novice must move up to Pre-Master Class.

Masters Class - Masters Division

To certify as an USFG Master the faceter must make a minimum score of 93%. Any faceter who has not won a previous Masters competition may enter the USFG Masters Class – Masters Division. Cutters who score 93% or higher & win in Pre-Master must move up to Master Class.

Masters Class - Grand Masters Division

Any faceter who has won a previous Masters competition must enter in the Grand Masters Division. This includes any faceters who have participated in the Australian International Faceting Challenge, by which entry -- with no exceptions -- they are automatically classified as Master faceters. Any cutter who has scored 95% or higher in USFG Masters Class may cut for the Grand Master. Any cutter who has scored 95% & won a USFG Masters Class must cut for the Grand Master. Note the Grand Master Division will cut the same stone as the Master Class

Awards

In general, awards will be given to cutters scoring 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in the Novice, Pre-Master, Masters, Grand Master class. Types of awards and certificates will be determined and published with each competition announcement, with the approval of the USFG BOD. In the unlikelihood of exact ties and spirit of fair competition all scores resulting ties will receive like awards.

Eligibility for Awards - To be considered for awards in a particular class, cutters must meet the following minimum criteria.

Novice - Score 90% or higher in a USFG Novice competition.

Pre-Master - Score 93% or higher in a USFG Pre-Master competition.

Master – Score 95% or higher in USFG Master competition.

Grand Master – Score 98% or higher in USFG Grand Master competition.

Eligibility for Certification - To be considered for certification in a particular class, cutters must meet the following minimum criteria.

Novice – Score 85% or higher in USFG Novice competition.

Pre-Master – Score 90% or higher in USFG Novice competition.

Master – Score 93% or higher in USFG Novice competition.

Certificate of Participation – All cutters not eligible for awards or certification will receive certificates of participation.

Additional Competition Notes:

1. All competitors will receive a certificate (suitable for framing) of achievement from the USFG Competition committee. The wording on each certificate will reflect the competitor's accomplishment.
2. Once a Cutter has been certified in any USFG competition, that certification will remain permanent, even if the faceter, when re-cutting in his or her certified class/division, scores below the minimum certification score.
3. This competition is **ONLY** open to members of the United States Faceters Guild.
4. **Anonymous Entry** - If a cutter enters a single stone competition, under the 'Anonymous Entry' provision, the fee shall be the same as a normal entry. The cutter will be treated as any other entrant and only the score shall be considered for publication. The only person that will be held in confidence will be the one stone handler assigned by the competition committee that disperses the stones to the judges. This is a controversial concept as some competitions are held anonymous with only the winner published and some demand all entrants be published; at another time this rule could change, but for now it will be open to either entrant. To enter as "Anonymous" cutters shall submit a written request (or signed entry form indicating this desire) accompanied with the stone and full

- Single Stone Competition fees. All other conditions for entry shall apply, i.e., return postage, entry deadlines, etc
5. **Publication of scores** - At the discretion of the competition committee scores may be published in the USFG newsletter, USFG web site, and/or public venues supported/sponsored by the USFG; including reciprocal agreements with other guilds.
 6. For reasons of sensitivity the competition committee may choose to exclude the publication of low scores from publication.
 7. Anyone who wished to remain anonymous shall remain so. However the competition committee may report the anonymous cutters score only as “Anonymous Entry”.
 8. **Privacy** - The USFG will only publish data pertaining to a cutters; name, score, city, and/or state (or country). No other data including mailing addresses, telephone numbers, or e-mail address shall be made to the general USFG membership or greater public.
 9. The names of cutters (and scores of stones) that are disqualified or determined to be ineligible, for whatever reason, will be reported to the USFG-BOD, but not to the general USFG membership or public.

2009 USFG Single Stone Competition - Shipping and Handling Instructions

1. Place the stone in a 1-1/8" diameter round plastic gemstone display cup with the foam insert and cap. Please do not mark or identify the gem or container in any way! If gem containers are marked or identified the competition coordinator may choose to repackage the stone in a generic container.
2. Place the following in a bubble protected envelope;
 - a. The display cup containing the stone.
 - b. An additional bubble protected self addressed and stamped envelope for return. The use of a 6" x 9" bubble envelope (or larger envelope/box) is suggested to help accommodate the return of scoring materials.
 - c. Entry Fee: **Novice class only – ENTRY IS FREE!!**
 - d. Entry Fee: PreMaster, Master, & Grand Master - \$25.00 check or money order, US funds only.
 - e. Please make checks payable to: **United States Faceters Guild**
 - f. Completed and signed entry form. Feel free to photo copy forms as needed.
3. Mail the package to:
Mr. Jeff Ford
2410 North 2nd Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
4. At the participant's discretion, packages may be sent by certified mail and/or insured. It is suggested that non-US entries use insured mail if possible.
5. Stones will be returned to the cutter in the manner of the return postage. If no specific instructions or if required postage is not received with the entry; USPS first class mail will be used for returning cutters stones and judging materials.
6. **THE POSTMARK DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING THE STONES IS ** JUNE 20, 2009** Stones received with later post marks may be subject to exclusion from the competition.**
7. The stone handler will code the stone(s) for anonymity, repack and send the stone to a selected judge. The judged stone and comprehensive "mark-up-sheet" will be returned to stone handler who will decode and repackage the stone with the score sheet and return to the individual contestant. The expected date of return is generally late July.
8. **Note: The United States faceters Guild or stone handler shall not be held liable for stones lost or damaged in the course of shipment. In general the stone handler and judges will use USPS Priority Post with nominal insurance for the shipment of stones between the stone handler and judges.**

General Judging Rules for the USFG 2009 Single Stone Competition.
Categories are the same numerical order as score sheet:

1. Scratches. Each facet shall be absent of scratches including the finest of cat hairs. Inclusions or fractures that surface and look like scratches will be judged under this feature.
2. Pitting: Each facet shall be absent of pits including the tiniest inclusions and fractures that surface and look like pits will be judged under this feature. Foreign matter on the surface that will not wipe off will be judged as an error. Flaws, fractures, cleavages, partings, and inclusions will be judged under category 1 or 2 on the score sheet if they surface.
3. Grooved facets: Facets that show grooving in the polish when held just between shadow and shine. Herringbone effect in Quartz can sometimes show up in the polish in the same manner. Both features will be judged in this category.
4. Flat facet and sharp edges: Facet surface true - This refers to the flatness of facets or unevenness of curved facets. Unintentional facets and ghost facets will be penalized under this feature. Facet edges sharp – The junction between facets should be knife-edge. Both of these features will be judged under category 4 on the score sheet. Chipped edges will be judged under the category for chips, not under this feature.
5. Facet uniform: Refers to consistency in shape and size of facets in the same series. Facets must also have consistency with the pattern & plan views.
6. Meet points: A point where 4 or more facets culminate in a perfect point with no facet over cut and/or no facet under cut. Note every meet, regardless on the number of facets carries the same scoring weight.
7. Chips: Areas where pieces of material have been chipped off unintentionally. They usually occur along facet edges, at corners, and/or culets.
8. Girdle uniform: Facets in the same series around a faceted girdle shall be the same shape and dimensions. Girdle facets shall be an exact replica of the girdle on the pattern. Cutters may loose points if the overall girdle is uneven, tilted, or skewed, but within the stated tolerances of the girdle thickness.
9. L/W ratio: The length to width ratio will be on the design and score sheets a variance of 0.1 mm +/- will be allowed with out deduction. If out, a 3 point 100% error will result. The actual Length dimension used for calculation will be based upon the cut Width of the stone.
10. Stone width: The competition committee will set the stone width. Without question this will be clearly indicated on the pattern used for competition. Unless noted, there will be an allowable margin of 0.1 mm more or less than the stone width set by the committee. The Competition Committee will designate stone widths between 6 mm and 15 mm. If out, a 3 point 100% error will result.
11. Girdle thickness: Girdle thickness shall be 0.3 mm +/- 0.1 mm. If the pattern has a scalloped girdle, the thin part of the scallop should not be less than 0.2 mm or greater than 0.4 mm. If out, a 3 point 100% error will result.

Additional Judging Notes:

1. Categories 1,2,3,4, and 7 represent polish.
2. The girdle shall be polished and judged under the same categories on the score sheet, "1 through 7" as with all other facets. Two other categories are specifically designated for the girdle alone. They are 8 - "Girdle Uniform" and 11-Girdle Thickness.
3. Scoring in categories 1 through 8 - Errors will be assigned a weighted value of 25%, 50%, or 100% point deduction depending upon the magnitude of the error. A general definition of the weighted value scoring is as follows: 25% off if the error is barely visible with a 10X loupe, 50% off if the error is easily seen with a 10X loupe, or 100% when a most serious error is seen with the 10X loupe and/or if the error can be seen with the naked eye.
4. Scoring in categories 9 through 11 - Errors will be automatically assigned a 3 point 100% deduction.
5. **THE PLAN VIEW:** It is an important serious parameter of evaluation in a faceting competition. The definition: "A plan view is that arrangement of meets and lines one sees when looking directly down or up the vertical axis portrayed on a cutting pattern/diagram." The following are examples of how a cutter may create a change in "plan view" when cutting a competition stone: The most frequent is, deliberately creating a change in the "plan view" when cutting a competition stone- in jeopardy by employing a severe change of angle or angles that will create a non-design facet(s)-- this comes under the judges prerogative for making the decision, and/or without question, a mishap of inadvertently leaving out a tier of facets. Both crown and pavilion are subject to penalty if the plan view of either one is in error. If the plan view as defined is not followed in the opinion of the judge, then in all cases the stone will be **ineligible** and the judge will give written reasons on the judging sheet.
6. Angles are not normally judged in USFG competition; cutters should feel free to Tangent-Ratio angles (within reason) as needed or desired. This may be done for personal preferences relating to optical performance, adjustments needed for the conservation of material, etc.
7. Pre-judging of stones is strictly forbidden. Any indication of pre-judging will automatically - **without exception** - disqualify the participant from the competition. Pre-judging is loosely defined as having a stone evaluated for errors (by another cutter/mentor) in a manner that allows the cutter to go back and make corrections.
8. The minimum final score a judge will award is 50 out of 100 possible points.

Any questions about the competition should be directed to:

Mr. Jeff Ford

2410 North 2nd Street

Kalamazoo, MI 49009

E-mail jeffinkzoo@sbcglobal.net