



Kristen's Apex

by John Franke

USFG Masters Competition 2003

I cut this stone 11 mm and some what out of order of the published diagram and will explain why. Most Master cutters have there own way of doing things and I am no exception, so have at it your own way, this is how I did it.

I cut P1 to center point the best I could and then G1 & G2, you have to split the corners by eye and I would do this move a little differently, I then polished the girdle. Now I cut P2 and P5 at the same time meaning I cut 94-02 08-16 -22-26 and so on all the way around. The girdle line matched perfectly but my center point was way off. 12-36-60-84 are the key facets and where 12 was right on 36 came out a quarter inch high and the other two in between. So I re cut 12-36-60-84 and then all others to meet point. That squared the stone up nicely. Now I cut P3 and then P4 last to fit. I used 50,000 diamond on a tin lead lap and used CZ as a material, you must use Beryl for the competition stone. I knew I wasn't perfect on the first couple steps and would probably pay for it on the crown.

I turned the stone over and with a 600 lap checked out my girdle line by cutting it all the way around, this was easy as C1 and C2 are both 46.94 degrees with a slight micro adjustment between the two. Every thing went together pretty well I left out P8 and will cut that in last with the polishing lap, I then repeated the above with a 1200 lap and sizing the girdle, I decided to square up my Apex facets and over cut them a little and polish them now. I used a ceramic with two hundred thousand on the apex and at five degrees still had some difficulty keeping the lines straight. I started back with C1 and C2 to polish up to the Apex. The only place I had any problems were cutting in two P8 facets but I know that resulted from my not taking more time in the beginning. I spent thirteen hours on this stone test cutting it, I would estimate a week to ten days to do a creditable job on this. With 738 pattern points that puts the degree of difficulty up there.

Co-Chair USFG Competition Committee

Art Kavan