

2017 Pre-Master

Hexa Brilliant #5

Cutting remarks by Jim Clark



When a Charles Covil design was suggested for the 2011 USFG Single Stone Competition I was delighted. After the Hexa Brilliant #5 was chosen as the Pre-Master stone I immediately started searching through my rough for the perfect piece to cut. After many measurements, calculations, re-measurements, etc. I came up with a piece of blue spinel that I had purchased some time ago. I was sure I'd be able to get a 12mm stone out of it. NOT.

The pavilion proved to be pretty straightforward. I don't always use the exact cutting order as published, and in this case I did not. This is based strictly on personal preference. My main goal when cutting the pavilion is to set the size of the stone and to attain a level girdle. I got a level girdle – one outta two ain't bad. Because of the shape of the rough, getting 12mm proved unattainable. Had to settle for 11.5mm. Pre-polish and polish went well. My choice of weapons were 600 plated lap, 3000 on a BATT for pre-polish, and 200k on ceramic for the final polish. The crown, again, was straightforward. I accomplished my first goal on the crown (level girdle line) by chain cutting C1. If you have enough material to cut C2 to a point (apex) you're home free. If not, and I didn't, you'll become VERY familiar with your depth of cut indicator. I did, and as a result had minimal touch up required on some table meet-points.

This was an enjoyable pattern to cut and I would encourage everyone to give it a go. I think you'll be very happy with the results.