

2020 Grand Masters Stone Write-Up
Barion Heart - Transplant
Test cut and write up by Dan Lynch

Excellent choice for the grand master stone. This heart will require a soft touch and some patient work to bring all the meets in perfectly and hit the correct width. Note that like this year's masters stone the width is measured from the meet point of three facets, rather than a flat. Those meets are where C4, C5 and C12 come together.

In cutting a new and somewhat complicated stone like this I generally do a quick run through, not worrying about meets, just seeing how the stone comes together. If I'm cutting for myself, I then go back on that same gem and dial things in. If cutting for a competition I likely haven't worried about width or much else so it's probably time to start fresh.

After my first pass through this stones pavillion I quickly changed the cutting order moving P2s to my first cut followed by the P1s. I found this much easier to follow. Then in cutting P3-P14 I swapped a few positions to keep facets in order around the gem. Again a much easier path to follow. The girdle facets follow and you may need to rework a number of these to hit the width perfectly. Lastly the G10s require a very light touch – you can easily cut these during the pre-polish stage.

After transfer use the larger facet at 48 to align your stone and you should be set to cut the crown.

For the most part the crown should cut in nicely. Again the cutting order on the pattern was a bit odd for me, so I reworked some of it, but all of the facets make sense. Be sure and note that the crown is rather high so be sure and leave yourself plenty of material. On the sample I cut it very close. Your biggest issue will likely be getting the table to meet perfectly and floating in the table facets. You'll note the pattern suggests cutting the table after C14. Not the way I did it, but certainly possible. If I was cutting this for competition rather than a sample I would have cut it through, cut the table "last" but then gone back and reworked the table facets and a few others to perfect meets.

Overall this stone should prove challenging and a fun one to cut. Good luck – would love to see someone cut a perfect heart in 2020!