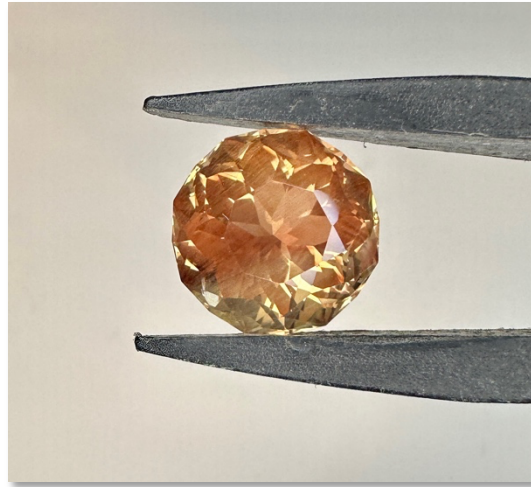


Cutting the 2023 Grand Master Stone - PC 21.208 Polaris
Test cut by Dan Lynch



Test cutting of the grand master pattern for 2023 was an enjoyable and at times frustrating experience. Because the test is only on the pattern and not on the material required, I cut the stone in a nice Oregon Sunstone I had from a trip in June, mainly because it had been sitting on my desk for several months waiting it's turn on the dop!

For those that use Gem Cut Studio – I would suggest first cutting this stone digitally and then moving into the actual cut. I cut the pavillion first roughing in some facets, then paused and digitally cut the pavilion in GCS then finished it off on the machine. I found cutting it digitally helped me to see where some of the facets meet better than just looking at the pattern. I don't use patterns often so that may have just been a me thing. I followed the same process for the crown, first cutting it digitally then moving on to the real thing.

There are 161 facets on this gem including the girdle and table. The trickiest part is the small facets which you will experience two tiers of on both the pavilion and the crown. These are super easy to over cut and yes, there are some over cut on my test stone, but it's still really pretty and not being entered into any competition.

You will also need to be careful to measure your stone for width and girdle thickness staying within the required margins listed on the pattern.

You'll find that the Pavilion and Crown are basically the exact same sets of facets, just with different angles and a table.

Overall, an enjoyable stone to test. Patience and a light hand will be required to qualify, but that's the challenge. Good luck to all to enter!