



Snoopy Gems

Volume 48 Number 4 April 2022
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &
Mineral Society Inc.



Email: mgcgms@bellsouth.net

MGCGMS Established in 1974

President's Message

Dear Members,

The Mary C. will be having an Easter egg hunt this Saturday starting at 10am. I believe the lot will be filled up by 9:30. Please arrive early so you can find a parking spot.

This month we will have two secessions. In the morning lapidary equipment usage will be taught by the workshop committee, and Gem ID will be taught by John Guglik. The machines will be available for morning and afternoon.

In the afternoon Barbi Beatty will be teaching a wire wrapped beaded bracelet.

I to encourage everyone to participate in the Jewelry and Art Fair on 30 April. You can either demonstrate or display or sell or all three. This is a chance for us to show the skills we are learning in our club and see our friends. If you need help with your display and sales we can help with your setup and pricing. We have extra display boxes and pricing tickets if needed. Just ask at our meeting on Saturday so we have some time to work on things. This is also an opportunity for us to increase membership.

See you early this Saturday !

Liz Platt
MGCGMS President

March Workshop:

In the morning we will be teaching members how to use our lapidary equipment. There will be cabbing, cutting, and faceting. There will be stones available to choose from. John Guglik will be sharing how to identify gemstones during the AM session of the workshop. Please bring any gemstones you would like to try to identify.

In the afternoon Barbi Beatty will be teaching wire-wrapped beaded bracelets. This project will be done after the meeting. Kits will be available for \$5 each.

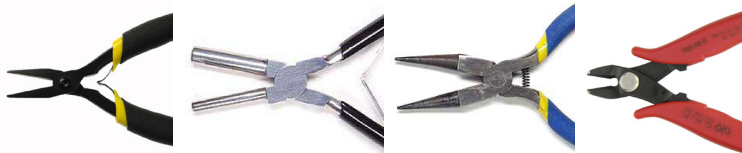
Material list:

19-6mm or 16-8mm round beads
16-20" of 21 Gauge round wire



Tools:

Flat pliers, Bail pliers, Round nose pliers, Flush Cutters, & Ruler



Machines: Members of our tool committee will be available to help with cutting and cabbing gemstones. As always, we will have the club machines available for metal & gemstone testing, gemstone cutting, and cabbing.

<http://www.mgcgms.org>

PO Box 857 Ocean Spring, MS 39566



Meeting Minutes

GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

March 2022



No Report given at this time.

BENCH TIPS

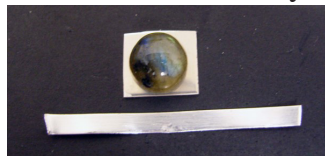
How to Bezel Set a Cabochon

Preparing your bezel strip ready for soldering

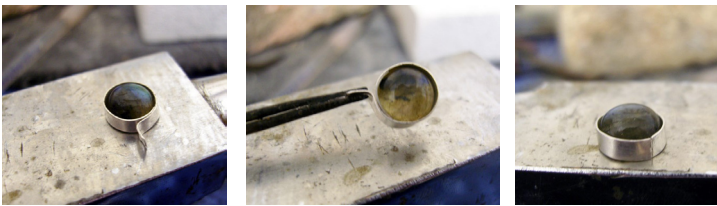
Step 1

Calculate how long a piece of bezel strip you need for your stone (Circumference = π multiplied by the diameter of the stone), add a little extra so that you can overlap!

Anneal your bezel strip.



Wrap the bezel strip around your stone to leave a small overlap.



Ideally, the bezel should grip the stone tightly enough that you can pick it up, and it holds the stone in place.

Step 2

Mark the point where the edges of the bezel overlap, and cut.

Check that the bezel fits snugly around the stone.

Using a flat (or pillar) needle file, file the edges of the bezel so they fit perfectly.



No light should be visible through the join if you hold the bezel up.

Soldering the round bezel setting for a perfect fit

Step 3

Flux the joint of the bezel setting thoroughly, and place a pallion of solder across it.

Remember to use a harder solder than you'll be using to solder the bezel onto the base.



Begin with a gentle heat, to avoid the solder jumping. Gently heat the whole bezel, moving in a circular motion following its shape. As the solder reaches melting point, rock the heat across the joint until the solder flows across the joint. Use caution as bezel strip can melt very easily.

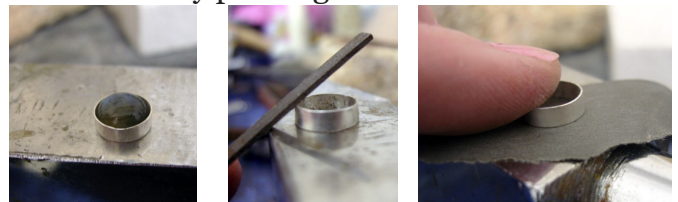
Quench, pickle and rinse.

Clean up the joint, and smooth it using a needle file and emery paper (wrap the latter around dowelling for a handy tool for smoothing inside rings).

You should now have a smooth, clean bezel.

Step 4

Check the fit by pushing the bezel over the stone.



Using a flat needle file at a 45 degree angle, file a beveled edge around the bezel's base. This will help the solder flow neatly.

Rub the bezel on a fine grade emery paper on both sides in a circular motion to smooth.

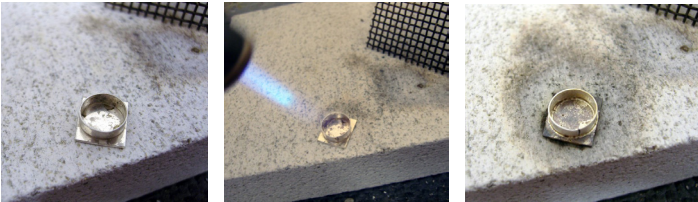
How to make a bezel setting

Step 5

Flux the underside of the bezel, and the piece of 0.5mm sheet.

Place the bezel centrally, and place pallions of solder inside, at regular intervals.

Heat the whole piece gently at first to “set” the flux. Then move the flame around the outside and the inside of the sheet silver around the bezel. Avoid heating the bezel itself until the base is almost at the requisite heat.



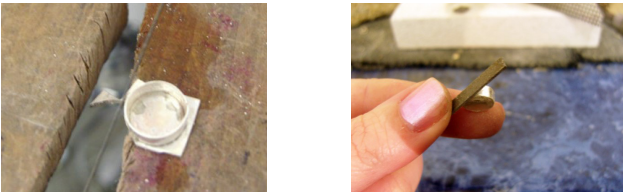
As you see the solder is about to melt, move the flame in a circular motion to match the bezel shape, to encourage the flow of solder.

Quench, pickle and rinse.

Forming your bezel ring setting

Step 6

Using a piercing saw, cut the excess border from the bezel. Take care not to catch the bezel sides.



Use a needle file and emery paper to smooth any rough edges, and lightly bevel the base of the bezel cup.



You should now have a smooth, neat bezel cup ready to solder onto your chosen piece of jewelry.

Use a lower temperature solder to avoid any of the previous joints opening up when heating.

How to set a cabochon in a bezel

Step 7

Place the stone into the bezel cup. Ensure it goes in level, and sits flush on the bottom.

Using a burnisher (or bezel roller) ease the bezel over the stone.

For a circular stone, first do this at the cardinal points- this helps ensure a neat setting, with no “wrinkling” of the bezel.

Using your burnisher (an agate burnisher won't damage the stone), continue smoothing the bezel over the stone.



Once the stone is firmly set, and the bezel is smooth, give the piece a last polish. I use a rotary tool and felt points, one to polish with Tripoli, and a final polish using a separate point and rouge.

You should now have a piece of jewelry with a smooth and clean bezel set cabochon.



Information provided by: **The Bench**
From Cooksongold



Happy

April

Birthday

Jane Cook Bryan Nichols Tom Simmons

Diamond



Diamond in the rough

DIAMONDS

April's Birthstone

By

John Wright, RPG

Birthstone: April

Family: Native Carbon, "C"

Crystal System: Isometric (octahedral or cubic form)

Birefringence: 0.044 (Highest for colorless minerals)



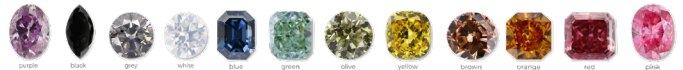
Refractive Indices: $n_{2.417} - n_{2.42}$

Density: 3.62 g/cm³

Hardness: 10

Cleavage: Easy – parallel to octahedral faces.

Color: Usually pale yellow or colorless, but can be brown, blue, green, orange, red, and black



April's birthstone is the diamond and its name comes from the Greek "adamas" meaning "invincible" alluding to its exceptional hardness and resistance to abrasion. Diamond is the "King of Gems" and sets the standard by which all gemstones are rated. It symbolizes purity, strength, and longevity, is the token of everlasting love, the undisputed worldwide gemstone preference for engagements, and the symbol of the 75th wedding anniversary.

Diamond, composed of carbon, is the hardest natural substance in the world. It is the only “10” on the MOHs’ scale (Mineral Order of Hardness scale) and depending on the methods of measurement used, is anywhere from 10 to 150 times harder than corundum which is the only mineral with a hardness of rating of 9 on the MOHs’ scale.



Scientists believe that diamonds may be up to 3 billion years old having formed more than 300 miles (200 km) below the surface in the bowls of the earth under extreme (probably more appropriately - unimaginable) heat and pressure. Here the diamond crystals remain until some unique geologic event or set of circumstances occur, which allows the special host-matrix, usually kimberlite and less often lamproite, containing these very desirable little gemstones, find passageways to the surface normally in the form of volcanic pipes. This is where (with a lot of luck) we get our greedy little hands on diamonds and the work/fun begins.



Another unique property of diamonds is its extremely high thermal conductivity, higher than any other known mineral. It is four times greater than copper, its closest competitor. I understand they have survived intact with absolutely no damage being heated to over two thousand degrees and then very quickly submerged in liquid nitrogen. It could very well be true, but I just don’t believe that I want to try that method of testing one and I certainly don’t encourage anyone else to try it.



Diamonds are also highly resistant to the corrosiveness of acids and alkalines. This coupled with their hardness and thermal

conductivity give them the chemical and physical properties required for superior cutting ability that is required by our modern day industry.

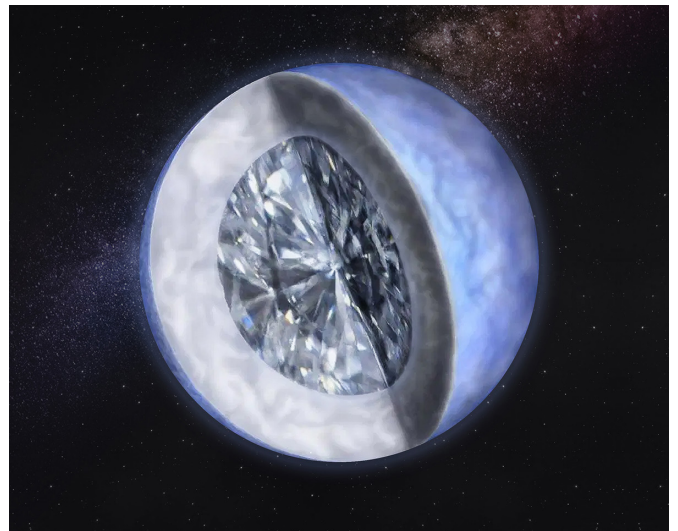
Diamond Color Scale



It may surprise you to learn that the majority of the world’s production of natural diamonds, about 75 – 80 % are used for industrial purposes. Only about 15% end up being used for jewelry. The other 5 – 10 % are used in research, for displays, the medical profession for precision surgical blades and drill bits (dental mostly), and by craftsmen for cutting diamonds and other gemstones. I guess that waste would also fall in this category.



Diamonds were first mined in India. Today they are mined on every continent except Europe. They have been found in all but six of the states in the U.S. Mississippi is one of the six. Maybe we should start panning the Mississippi river since it drains such a large area of the country. Currently, the most productive mines are found in Australia, Canada, Russia, Angola, South Africa, and Brazil




A diamond weighing 10 billion trillion trillion carats is at the heart of a dead white dwarf star nicknamed Lucy in this conception by an artist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics

We always welcome new members!



Date _____ Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society

http://www.mgcgms.org		Application for Membership	
Individual: \$16.00		Individual +1 relative Same Address: \$20.00	
		Junior Under 18: \$6.00	
Name: _____		Cell: _____	
Name: _____		Cell: _____	
Address: _____		Home Phone: _____	
City: _____			
State: _____		Email 1: _____	
Zip: _____		Email 2: _____	
Members Birthdays			
Adult: _____		Birthday M/D: _____	
Adult: _____		Birthday M/D: _____	
Junior: _____		Birthday M/D/Y: _____	
Junior: _____		Birthday M/D/Y: _____	
Please Check All Applicable Interests			
<input type="radio"/> Beading	<input type="radio"/> Cabbing	<input type="radio"/> Jewelry Making	
<input type="radio"/> Chain Mail	<input type="radio"/> PMC	<input type="radio"/> Lapidary	
<input type="radio"/> Field Trips	<input type="radio"/> Faceting	<input type="radio"/> Minerals	
<input type="radio"/> Fossils	<input type="radio"/> Wire Wrapping	<input type="radio"/> Silver Smithing	
<input type="radio"/> Others: _____			
How did you hear of us? _____			
Please check the following:			
<input type="radio"/> I understand that my picture or likeness may be used in Society promotions.			
<input type="radio"/> I authorize MGCGMS to include my contact information be included in Society listings for members to contact each other only.			
Signature: _____			
Signature: _____			

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mgcgms@bellsouth.net

Snoopy Gems
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 The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society,
 Inc.

AFFILIATIONS
 The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies,
 Inc.
 The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies,
 Inc.
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 Bulletin Editors)

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Annual dues are:
 \$16 Individual
 \$20 (2) Members in same house hold
 \$6 Junior

**2022 Workshop/Meeting
 Dates**

January 8 Mary C. 9:00-4:00
 February 13 Mary C. 9:00-4:00
 March 12 Mary C. 9:00-4:00
April 9 Mary C. 9:00-4:00
 May 14 Mary C. 9:00-4:00
 June 11 Mary C. 9:00-4:00
 July 9 Mary C. 9:00-4:00
 August 13 Mary C. 9:00-4:00
 September 10 Mary C. 9:00-4:00
 October 8 Mary C. 9:00-4:00
 November 10 After Vendor Dinner 5ish
 December 10 Christmas Party Mary C.
 11:00am-3:30pm

Dates subject to change.
Be sure to check each month!
 The November meeting is the Thursday eve-
 ning of the gem show after the dinner for the
 dealers at the Jackson County
 Fairgrounds Civic Center Building.
 December will be our
 Christmas Party and Installation of
 Officers

April 2022

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society is a Non-profit Organization Dedicated to Education, Science, and the Lapidary Arts and Crafts

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