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Gem Cutting: a Lapidary's Manual

John Sinkankas

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Gem Cutting is for the both beginner and experts alike. Completely revised, rewritten and in a larger more useful format, this unique guide includes information on the tremendous advances made in lapidary . It is completely up-to-date, and includes advice on the latest tools and equipment designed specifically to make gem cutting and general lapidary work within reach of all. No previous experience is needed with this book-it covers everything in clear simple language. Once a completely unskilled beginner himself, Captain Sinkankas has never forgotten his struggles in teaching himself how to cut and polish gemstones without benefit of an instructor. With his own experience in mind, he has written Gem Cutting to make it possible for others to teach themselves how to do every type of lapidary work without having to attend classes. Every step is described in detail and illustrated with drawings and photographs. Pitfalls are pointed out, and wherever possible, alternate ways of doing the job are shown, should the hobbyist find he

can save money or use materials he already owns by choosing another method. For the craftsman, the book is full of hints on how to make homemade equipment and how to take money-saving shortcuts. It deals simply with the fundamentals and leads logically into techniques and projects which will challenge the most advanced cutter... how to make or choose equipment for sawing, grinding, sanding, and other basic operations and how to operate equipment for greatest efficiency. Special chapters describe how to cut and polish cabochons, faceted gems, spheres and beads, how to tumble gems, and how to make carvings, engravings, inlays and mosaics. Advice is given on selecting and buying rough gem-stones, and how to examine them to get the best results. A very important section on the description and treatment of gem-stones has been enlarged to include more species and to accommodate the most recent information on each.