

2009 SSC Pre-Master  
Joker 2

Cutting remarks by Jim Clark

Since the primary purpose of a test cut is testing the pattern to see if it is cuttable, and not the particular material required for the competition, and since I had a piece of Citrine begging to be cut I decided to use Citrine for the Pre-Master Joker 2 test cut.

When cutting a competition stone I always study the pattern and the cutting sequence provided to try to determine how to proceed. (With their cutting sequence or one of my own.) I believe that two of the most important steps in cutting a competition stone are: 1) Center the stone, and 2) Develop a level girdle. To do this on the Joker 2 I decided to use a pre-form. I cut index 96, 48, 24, and 72 to a center point, and then brought 12, 36, 60 and 84 to meet that center point. Then, using 90 degrees on all the above indices, I established my size. I then pre-polished my girdle (which was rather thick at this point) to within a tenth of my desired finished width. I know that some of you are going to balk at polishing such large facets, but this is what works well for me.

At this point I went back and cut the pattern starting at P-1 through P-5, chaining P-1 and P-2 to establish a level girdle line. I did not attempt P-6 at this time. I pre-polished and polished the above facets, including cutting in P-6 at the pre-polish stage. When I was satisfied with the layout of the stone I polished everything, making sure the girdle was level and all meetpoints were precise.

After transfer I used the crown cutting sequence as listed. I chain cut C-1 and C-2 to establish a level girdle. The remainder of the crown was pretty much straight forward through cutting, pre-polish and polish.

I found this design very cuttable. The eight facet meet-point on the pavilion does present a challenge, and seems to get a little crowded, but should provide a good test of cutting ability at this level.

