



CGMG News

Publication of **Cowtown Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club**
Member of Corporate Employee Recreation Association
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Commissioner's Report

Hello

It's spring...time to get out on fieldtrips and work on new and exciting projects!

Please remember to renew your CERA activity card as soon as possible as we are down to less than half our pre-Covid membership.

We are looking forward to restarting all of our activities. We have new members and old who are anxious to get started in our rockhound, silver smithing, glass fusing and stained glass activities

Steve

Commissioner

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FUSED GLASS



SILVERSMITH

The Purpose of the

Cowtown Gem Mineral & Glass Activity

is to promote a spirit of fellowship among members and to promote popular interest and education in certain arts and the various earth sciences, in particular, those facets dealing with the arts of lapidaries, metals, glass, and jewelry and the sciences of minerals, paleontology, geology, and archeology.

BENCH TIPS

Bezel Problems

When bezel setting a cab that has rather sharp corners, have you ever had problems pushing the metal down at the corners?



It's a common problem often causing a wrinkle in your bezel and a grimace on your face.

In order for a bezel to capture the stone, the top edge of the bezel must be compressed and become shorter to lay down onto the stone. With a round or oval stone this naturally happens as you push and burnish the bezel. But when setting a stone with corners, the tendency is to push the long sides of the bezel down first. No compression occurs along the sides, and all excess metal is left at the corners. Compressing everything there is difficult. Often the only way to remove the extra metal at the corner is to make a saw cut and fold the two sides in to touch.

If you want a smooth bezel all around the corners, the simple solution is to set the corners of the bezel first. Then push in and burnish the sides. In this way the necessary compression is distributed along the length of all sides and not forced to occur at the corners. With the corners set first, the top edge of the bezel can easily be compressed along the sides.

Cheaper and Better Pickle

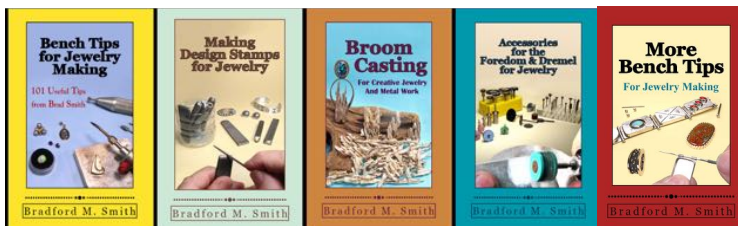
Most jewelers use a granular pickle mixed with water. The active ingredient is sodium bisulfate. This can be purchased online (<http://amzn.to/@HkNTro>) or from local stores as a common pool chemical used for adjusting the acidity of the water. It's sold under various names, so be sure to check the list of active ingredients for a brand that is 95% or more sodium bisulfate.

An added benefit is that the pool chemical is more pure in form than what is sold for jewelry use and does not cause the brown grime often found floating on the top of the pot.

Happy hammering, Brad Smith

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“Spring is the time of plans and projects.”

Leo Tolstoy

Dallas Gem & Mineral Society ROCK SWAP Saturday April 24th

Come out and set up a table to buy, sell or trade anything rock related in our DGMS parking lot at 10205 Plano Rd Dallas TX. We start around 8am and usually end around 1 or 2pm. This is a fun and free event. Bring plenty of cash (usually the only form of payment) for all the treasures to be found. Looking forward to seeing everyone at our first rock swap of the year !

Classes

will begin as soon as we start holding meetings

Brad

Glass Activity

In my continuing adventure to use more recycled glass, I have learned a lot of things; mostly things that will *not* work. I have been working a lot with Topo Chico mineral water bottles, because I have a lot of them. They are also nice because they are smaller, have thinner glass and tend to be easier to cut. They do shatter much easier as well, so don't forget to wear safety glasses.

I tested the compatibility of clear and green Topo Chico bottles. They were actually really close in COE, but there was still some stress when I looked at them under polarizing film. I did make a mistake when I tested them. You are always supposed to fire a control piece when testing compatibility because the stress you observe can be a result of COE or bad annealing.



I don't think they are compatible, but I am going to test it again. The coating or residue on the inside of glass bottles has been extremely problematic for me. It seems to cause devitrification and it makes it so the glass does not interact with any of the oxides I have tested.

I did find that sanding down the glass slightly fixed some of these issues. The problem with this is that this is time consuming and messy. I believe using glass etching cream will remove the coating without having to sand it down by hand.

I am hoping to have time to explore mold making this month, I think that would make a nice complement to using recycled glass and would be an interesting class when we can have those again.

Felice

Making a Gravity Soldering Clamp from Nails

Hans Meevis

Sometimes you need something just to hold a component in place while you solder it in.

In this case, binding wire is not really suitable, because the component is only 0.7 mm thick.

Using a set of spring tweezers holds it down to hard and causes dents in the surface of the component.

I just place the nail so that it touches the two bottom ones. That way I don't have to solder too much and the bottom two are held tightly.

I use an industrial flux I buy at the hardware store and silver solder.

Check the complete article at:

<https://www.jewelry-tutorials.com/gravity-soldering-clamp.html>





Web and Email Addresses

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home/newsletter](http://cera-fw.org/gem-mineral-glass/home/newsletter)

Please check the CERA website cera-fw.com for the status of your club membership. Keeping up our membership numbers will ensure that CERA continues operation and we continue to have a well equipped shop. Thanks!

GEM & MINERAL AND BEAD SHOWS

May 2021

22-23—TYLER, TEXAS: Show and sale; Keith Harmon ; East Texas Fair Grounds, Building E, 2112 West Front Street; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$5, children \$1, free admission for scouts in uniform; Email: keithharmon19@yahoo.com

29-30—FORT WORTH, TEXAS: Annual show; Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club; Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3401 W. Lancaster; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$6, seniors, students and military \$5, free admission for children 16 and under; 70th annual gem, mineral, fossil, bead & jewelry show & sale ; contact Janice Craddock, PO Box 123975, Fort Worth, TX 73121; Email: fwgmc.info@gmail.com; Website: www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org

July 2021

16-18—FRISCO , TEXAS: Annual show; Texas Mineral and Fossil Dallas/Frisco Show; Embassy Suites by Hilton Dallas Frisco Hotel Convention Center & Spa, 7600 John Q Hammons Dr,; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Free admission ; Email: info@rockygems.com; Website: www.rmgmpromotions.com

AREA CLUBS

Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club, 3545 Bryan Ave, Fort Worth, TX; forth Tuesday of the month at 7:30.

Arlington Gem & Mineral Club, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX; first Tuesday of the month at 7:30.

Dallas Gem & Mineral Society,

American Legion Hall, Suite 105, 10205 Plano Road, Dallas, TX; third Tuesday of month at 7:00.

Dallas Paleontological Society, Brook-haven Geotechnology Institute, 3939 Valley View Lane; second Wednesday of the month at 7:30.

Oak Cliff Gem & Mineral Society, South Hampton Community Hospital,

2929 Hampton Rd, Dallas, TX; forth Tuesday of month . at 7:00.

Dallas Bead Society, The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lather Dr., Dallas, TX; first Saturday of month at 10:00.

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club, Garland Women's Activities Bldg, 713 Austin, Garland, TX; first Tuesday of month at 7:30.