

Many of us use the club's equipment or have our own Genie to make our projects. We are quite happy with the end product and feel a great accomplishment when done. What can we do to make our stone better? Some think about purchasing an additional spindle for their Genie (about \$100) and three more wheels (8000, 14,000, and 30,000 grits @ \$80.00 each). This will allow us to get a finer polish for the project. But is it worth the cost? While taking an Opals class at William Holland School of Lapidary Arts, I learned of a much less costly method.

First as you shape your project, learn the different marks each grit wheel leaves as you progress to finer grits. This will help you to ensure that you use the correct grit wheel to remove any unwanted marks you find later. You want to remove 220 grit marks with the 280 grit wheel, not the 600 grit wheel (which is much harder - if even possible). Remember to change water frequently to eliminate cross contamination as you move to finer grit wheels. Once you have the desired surface using the wheels, consider using liquid grits to get a finer polished surface.

I made kits using a Diamond Pacific canvas pad (part # 100 Pad 4CU @ \$8.50 – page 18 in the catalog), mole skin patch (Target store @ \$3.00), a large coffee filter (free @ 7 Eleven), and a Diamond Pacific liquid diamond spray bottle (\$15.00 / grit – page 19 in the catalog). Begin assembling a kit by cutting a 4" circle of mole skin and attaching it to the canvas surface (it is self adhesive). Then mark the grit number on the plastic back of the canvas pad, the foam packing pad, coffee filter, and storage bag. I have assembled four kits for 3,000, 14,000, 50,000, and 100,000 grits. Notice that each piece in the kit is marked with a grit number and is bagged separately. I use one grit kit at a time to prevent accidental cross contamination. See the picture of a kit.

Gather the pieces you want to continue polishing and do the following:

- Remove the cover from the right side of the Genie.
- Select the lowest number grit package.
- Screw the pad onto the spindle.
- Shake the grit bottle and give the pad one or two squirts - pad should be slightly moist, not soaked.
- Turn on the machine and move your stone over the pad. Take your time and look for any stray marks. (Do this for each stone you want to polish.)
- Wipe each stone with the coffee filter to dry and remove excess grit.
- When all the desired stones have been polished with that specific grit, remove the pad from the spindle.
- Repack the materials for that grit.
- Repeat these steps for the next higher grit. Continue till you have gone through all grits available.

