
Merle Reinikka Founder's Award 2024

by Terry Olson

The CWFG design group came up with the Merle Reinikka Founder's Award in 2018 and has provided a challenging stone every year since then. The idea behind this challenge is to encourage faceters to take the next step, to go beyond cutting SRBs, to have to change mast heights to get around the girdle, and to try something new. We think of it as an intermediate level stone that anyone is welcome to cut.

This year's stone is the Double Frame Square Emerald design by Fred Van Sant that uses a pavilion by Glenn Ruminson. Cutters must use this version of the design to enter. Glenn Ruminson points out that the stone has good optical properties, even in quartz. If you like it, try it in a higher RI material for your collection, but not for this challenge.

The 2024 challenge calls for quartz, natural or synthetic, any color. The stone needs to be 10-12mm in width, with a girdle size of 0.3mm, +/- 0.1mm. This is the first time we have specified a girdle thickness, so pay attention to that.

The stone will be judged on accuracy, meetpoints, polish, material, and meeting the size parameters. Do pay attention to the size parameters. It must be between 10-12mm width. Don't pick a piece of quartz with a bunch of inclusions!

Glenn Ruminson says that this crown design looks tricky. It aligns accurately using these instructions for cutting Facet E. Cut E1 to the two TMPs (temporary meetpoints) formed by Facets D, A, and D (D-A-D) at Index 24 and 72. Cut E2 to TMP D-A-D, at Index 48. Cut E3 to TMP D-A-D at Index 72. Cut E4 to TCMP formed by Facets E1, E2, and E3. Now cut F and T. Glenn notes that this design performs well through RI 2.16. The reflection pattern rolls back and forth with tilt.

The original Van Sant design was put into the public domain in honor of long-time faceter Charles Moon, who was a member of CWFG. Since founding member Merle Reinikka passed away this year, it is an especially good year to join in this challenge. Merle strongly valued the benefits faceters gain from having their work looked at by an independent judge.

Hope to see your stone!

Terry Olson