Fac-Ette MANUFACTURING, INC.

Thick /Thin Girdles

If you are having the problem with your girdle facets being thick on one side and thin on the other (180 deg. Opposite) side. The following procedure can be used **only** if you have side to side movement in the thimble at the top of the mast. Other outside factors can contribute to the thick/thin girdle condition which should also be taken into consideration when checking for this condition.

Step 1. Grasp the thimble as shown in Figure 1. Rock the thimble from side to side, as shown in Figure 2. If movement occurs, then proceed to Step 2. If no side to side movement occurs then this procedure will not correct your problem.

Figure 1.

Figure 2.

Step 2. Grasp the thimble and rotate it in a counter-clockwise position as you would when you lower the mast, until the thimble disengages from the mast. The top of the mast will then look like Figure 3.

Figure 3.

Step 3. Wipe off the top of the mast with a clean paper towel. You will now need two 1/8 inch diameter pins about ¾ inch long (if you have a universal transfer jig the pins from it will work just fine) and a screwdriver shown in Figure 4. Insert the pins as shown in Figure 5. Place the screwdriver between the pins as shown in Figure 6. Using the screwdriver turn the silver colored disk clockwise about the diameter of the pin at the point of the screwdriver. In other words, you will be turning the silver colored disc NO MORE than 1/8 inch.

IMPORTANT: DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN!

This piece **CAN NOT** be turned in the counterclockwise direction without damaging the threads in the silver colored insert at the top of the mast barrel. Once the piece has been tightened **NO MORE THAN** the diameter of the pin, remove the pins and reinstall the thimble into the top of the mast as in Figure 7. As the thimble travels down the scale it will show resistance until the thimble gets near the 20 marking. At this point recheck the thimble for side to side movement. If the thimble still has side to side movement then repeat the procedure. This may take 3 to 5 attempts or more, until no more side to side movement is present. Resist the urge to tighten more than the diameter of the pin because backing up **will** destroy the threads.
After cutting your next stone if the thick/thin girdle condition remains you will have to check the other possibilities. Which are but not limited to: poor transfer technique, method of holding stone (wax, epoxy, etc.), failure to perform collet maintenance (resulting in dirt build up), bent dop or dops, inaccurately cut girdle radii, etc.

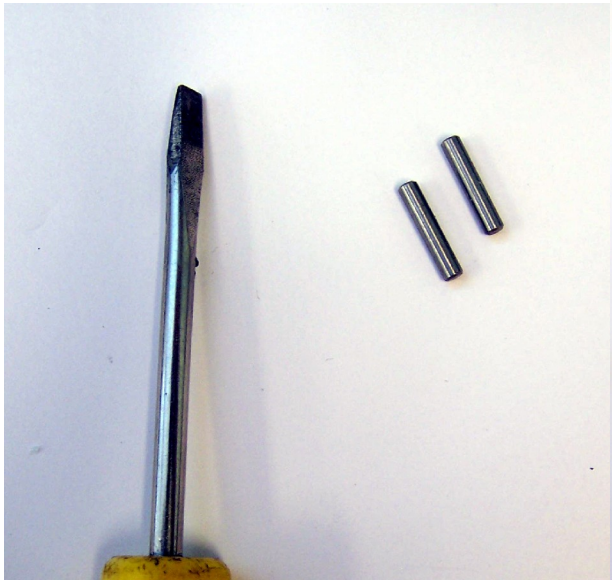

Figure 4.

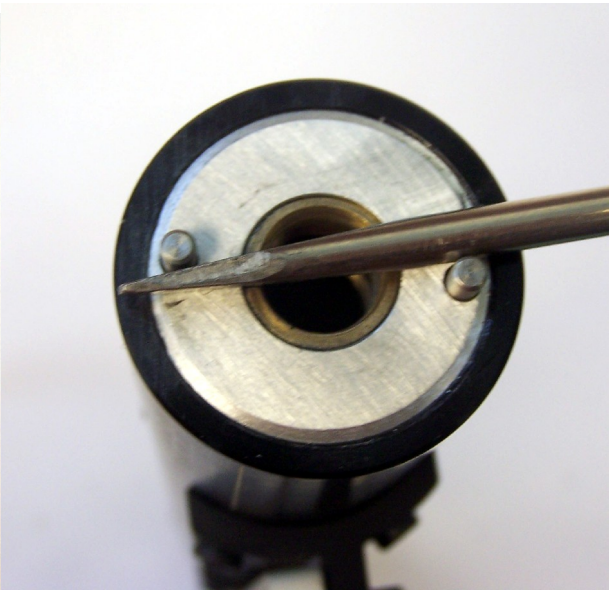

Figure 5.

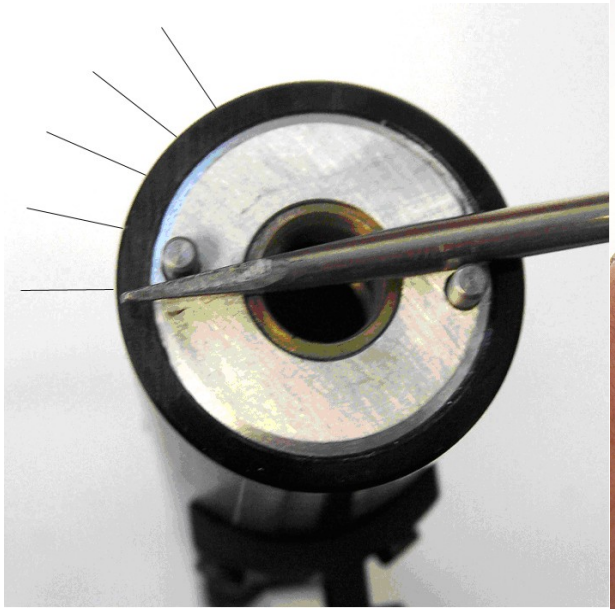

Figure 6.

Figure 7.