

## Faceting Academy BASIC Skills checklist:

*The majority of graduates from the Basic Academy will answer YES to almost all of these questions.*

- YES / NO I understand faceting machines, including care and maintenance.
- YES / NO I can unpack my machine and set it up without damaging it.
- YES / NO I can pack my machine to prevent damage during transport.
- YES / NO I have good machine maintenance practices.
- YES / NO I know how to blueprint, so all of my laps run true.
- YES / NO I have comfortable, efficient, and precise machine-handling ergonomics.
- YES / NO I use consistent cutting procedures to prevent errors and insure accuracy.
- YES / NO I know when and how to use the "cheater".
- YES / NO I know when and why to use a hard stop or a soft stop.
- YES / NO I understand common gemstone terminology and use it correctly.
- YES / NO I know the importance of preforming and how to do it precisely.
- YES / NO I can dop with precision (cut a 4+ mm stone from a 5mm rough).
- YES / NO I can dop with high precision to control color, inclusions, and yield.
- YES / NO I can dop reliably and efficiently with Superglue or Wax.
- YES / NO I can transfer reliably and efficiently with Superglue or Wax.
- YES / NO I can precisely dop gems that aren't round.
- YES / NO I know how to recover when a stone comes off the dop.
- YES / NO I know the yield I can produce, so make good rough-buying decisions.
- YES / NO I can orient gems and choose designs to manage color zoning.
- YES / NO I can place inclusions to minimize their appearance in a finished gem.
- YES / NO I can orient gems and choose designs for good yield.
- YES / NO I understand and use RML (rough markup language).
- YES / NO I can precisely place color zoning to increase or decrease saturation.
- YES / NO I can manage color zoning, inclusions, and yield issues together in one stone.
- YES / NO I can find the C axis of a uniaxial crystal or rough.
- YES / NO I can orient gems to manage uniaxial pleochroism.
- YES / NO I can use design principles to manage uniaxial pleochroism.
- YES / NO I fully understand basic faceting diagrams.
- YES / NO I understand basic meet-point faceting and am confident cutting basic designs.
- YES / NO I understand CAM designs, and can cut them efficiently.
- YES / NO I understand OMNI architecture and cutting strategy.
- YES / NO I know how to modify basic designs on-the-fly to capture weight and color.
- YES / NO I understand symmetry in gems, and apply it to cut efficiently.
- YES / NO I cut some common designs from memory or with one reference to instructions.
- YES / NO I can cut a row of facets in just a few moments.
- YES / NO I use efficient sequencing to speed my cutting and polishing.
- YES / NO I understand how to cut a table and can do it properly.
- YES / NO I know how to manage table meets and cut them precisely.
- YES / NO I know which laps and polishes to use on common materials.
- YES / NO I understand how to cut and pre-polish hard materials.
- YES / NO I understand the causes and remedies of "orange peel".
- YES / NO I can consistently produce a good polish on a variety of gem materials.
- YES / NO I understand and manage the issues of polishing hard materials.
- YES / NO I can get a good polish using diamond or oxide compound.
- YES / NO I know how to use my eyes and lighting to evaluate meets and polish.
- YES / NO I know how to troubleshoot meets and polish.
- YES / NO I can plan a gemstone project to maximize beauty and value.
- YES / NO I can plan a project to fit a selected rough.
- YES / NO I can select a rough to fit a project concept.
- YES / NO I can follow a project plan precisely to completion.
- YES / NO I can adapt a project plan according to problems or opportunities.

**IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO ALL** of the above questions then you may be ready for some Intermediate Academy courses.  
**If you answered NO to any significant number** of the questions, you probably want to attend a BASIC TRAINING event before attempting Intermediate training.