

Faceting Academy BASIC Skills checklist:

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

- I understand faceting machines, including care and maintenance.
- I can unpack my machine and set it up without damaging it.
- I can pack my machine to prevent damage during transport.
- I have good machine maintenance practices.
- I know how to blueprint, so all of my laps run true.
- I have comfortable, efficient, and precise machine-handling ergonomics.
- I use consistent cutting procedures to prevent errors and insure accuracy.
- I know when and how to use the "cheater".
- I know when and why to use a hard stop or a soft stop.
- I understand common gemstone terminology and use it correctly.
- I know the importance of preforming and how to do it precisely.
- I can dop with precision (cut a 4+ mm stone from a 5mm rough).
- I can dop with high precision to control color, inclusions, and yield.
- I can dop reliably and efficiently with Superglue or Wax.
- I can transfer reliably and efficiently with Superglue or Wax.
- I can precisely dop gems that aren't round.
- I can recover with minimum loss after a stone comes off the dop.
- I know the yield I can produce, so make good rough-buying decisions.
- I can orient gems and choose designs to manage color zoning.
- I can place inclusions to minimize their appearance in a finished gem.
- I can orient gems and choose designs for both value and yield.
- I understand and use RML (rough markup language).
- I can precisely place color zoning to increase or decrease saturation.
- I can manage color zoning, inclusions, and yield issues together in one stone.
- I fully understand basic faceting diagrams.
- I understand basic meet-point faceting and I'm confident cutting basic designs.
- I understand CAM designs, and can cut them efficiently.
- I understand OMNI architecture and cutting strategy.
- I can modify designs on-the-fly to capture color and weight.
- I understand symmetry in gems, and apply it to cut efficiently.
- I cut some common designs from memory or with one reference to instructions.
- I can cut a row of facets in just a few moments.
- I use efficient sequencing to speed my cutting and polishing.
- I understand how to cut a table and can do it properly.
- I know how to manage table meets and cut them precisely.
- I know which laps and polishes to use on common materials.
- I understand how to cut and pre-polish hard materials.
- I understand the causes and remedies of "orange peel".
- I can consistently produce a good polish on a variety of gem materials.
- I understand and manage the issues of polishing hard materials.
- I can get a good polish using diamond or oxide compound.
- I know how to use my eyes and lighting to evaluate meets and polish.
- I know how to troubleshoot meets and polish.
- I can plan a gemstone project to maximize beauty and value.
- I can plan a project to fit a selected rough.
- I can select a rough to fit a project concept.
- I can follow a project plan precisely to completion.
- 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.