



IS THIS ROCK ANY
GOOD?

Some things to consider for cabachoning



GOOD FOR WHAT?

- ❖ Hardness (Why 7 is the magic number)
- ❖ Structural Integrity
- ❖ Color
- ❖ Pattern
- ❖ Value
- ❖ Setting
- ❖ Customer issues

HARDNESS

- ❖ A quick review of the Moh's hardness scale.
- ❖ Measure of relative hardness (which rocks scratch other rocks)
- ❖ Common minerals given whole number hardness numbers
- ❖ 1-Talc, 2-Gypsum, 3-Calcite, 4-Flourite, 5-Apatite, 6-Orthoclase, 7-Quartz, 8-Topaz, 9-Corundum, 10-diamond.
- ❖ Why is 7 the magic number in the jewelry industry?

HARDNESS OF OTHER COMMON MATERIALS

❖ Ice, lead – 1.5

❖ Sulfur – 2



❖ Gold, silver, aluminum, copper, fingernails – 2.5 to 3

❖ Tooth enamel, obsidian, glass – 5 to 5.5

❖ Opal, peridot, tanzanite 6 to 7

❖ Emerald, steel, spinel 7.5 to 8



❖ Silicon carbide (carborundum) 9 to 9.5



HARDNESS

- ❖ 7 is the hardness of quartz (silica) which is the major component of dust.
- ❖ Stones with a hardness of less than 7 over time will develop scratches from rubbing against dust.



STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY (HOLDING IT ALL TOGETHER)

- ❖ Cracks
- ❖ Inclusions
- ❖ Soft spots
- ❖ Two minerals coming together
- ❖ Cleavage planes
- ❖ Outside weathered or oxidized layer
- ❖ Color changes in the rock

COLOR

- ❖ Is it a pretty color (e.g. spinel)?
- ❖ Is it rich? Is it “pastel” or just washed out?
- ❖ Is it consistent throughout the piece you want to use?

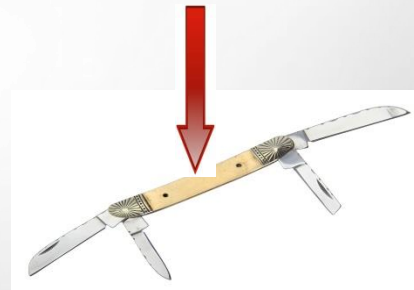


PATTERN

- ❖ Is it recognizable (waves, lines, dots, dendrites)?
- ❖ Does the stone you want to craft capture the pattern?
- ❖ Bad pairing of stone and setting



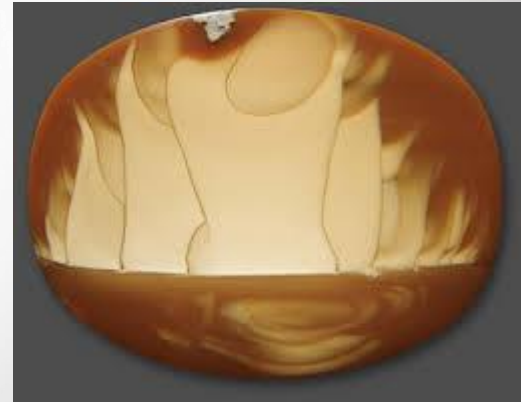
Big pattern



Itty bitty space

PATTERN

❖ Good examples



SETTING

- ❖ How big of a hole are you trying to fill?
- ❖ Setting size may limit your options on which stones you can find or afford to put in there.
- ❖ Kind of related to pattern.
- ❖ Does the setting protect or expose the stone? Softer stones need protection.





VALUE

- ❖ Do the individual components of the project have intrinsic (recognizable) value?
- ❖ Precious metals and “name brand” stones usually let you charge more.
- ❖ There are many beautiful stones and minerals that no one has ever heard of.
- ❖ It is very hard to charge top dollar for a piece if you don't know the name of the stone.

CUSTOMER ISSUES

- ❖ What does the customer want to do with the stone?
- ❖ Every day use versus special occasion

