

## LAPIDARIST

A lapidarist is a person who cuts, polishes, and engraves precious stones usually from the rough gem. However, with the advent of creating a betterment to a gem's value, lapidarists include in their repertoire, re-cutting, re-polishing, and re-engraving.

Many times we are asked to look at gemstones that appear to be "scratched" on the surface. Some are even "chipped". What most people are not aware of is that the gem, if of significant value or sentimental can be, in many instances, re-cut or re-polished to restore the beauty of the gem. Unlike diamonds, which are less likely (but not impossible) to be scratched, abraded, or chipped, gemstones of color are much more vulnerable to everyday wear and with time can lose their luster. Chemicals can cause some gems to lose their sparkle as they become "acid etched". An experienced lapidarist is trained to remove the stains by re-polishing.

We are fortunate at Eichhorn Jewelry to have access to several lapidarists that have both cut rough gems for us as well as re-cut and re-polished gems. Unlike diamond cutters, these artists use techniques that have not changed much in centuries. The cost to either cut or re-cut a gem can vary due to the time, the gem material and ability of the cutter.

Several years ago, a customer had a very scratched red gem presented to us for identification. It was so abraded that it appeared translucent. After running a series of gemological tests the conclusion was natural red spinel. The cost to re-cut and re-polish was very reasonable for such a valuable gem that became transparent in the transformation! An unknowing person may have discarded but finding beauty inside the gem is one of the most enjoyable challenges we encounter.

For lapidary questions contact [www.eichhornjewelry.com](http://www.eichhornjewelry.com) or visit Eichhorn Jewelry, Inc.