

The Opal Express

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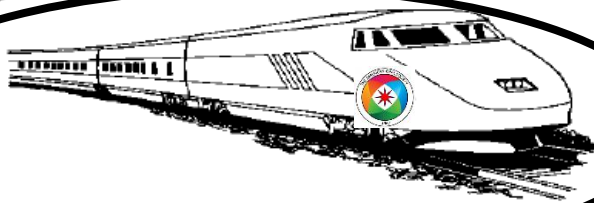


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President's Message

Hi Opalholics!

This is a reminder that the AOS club will have a booth at the OC Fair Imaginology April 12 and 13.

Did you know that Australia produces other gemstones besides Opal? Check out the article of "10 Most Famous Australian Gemstones" on pages 3 and 4.

Our next club meeting is April 17. Hope to see all of you there.

Stan McCall
AOS President
Custom Creative Gem Cutting

HAPPY EASTER!

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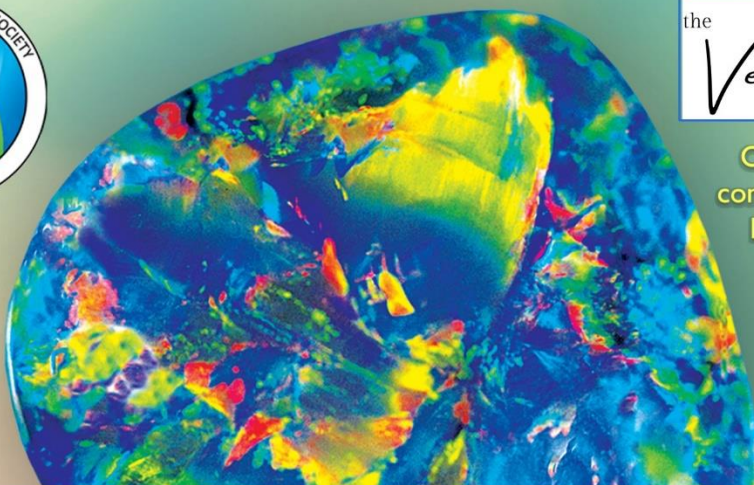


Fun Facts in April

1. In the Northern Hemisphere, April is a time for planting gardens and crops.
2. April 1 is the only day where it's socially acceptable to make a fool of someone.
3. April 26 is celebrated as National Pretzel Day in the United States.
4. The cherry blossom trees in Washington D.C. typically reach their peak bloom in early April.
5. April is National Grilled Cheese Month in the United States.
6. The Romans named the month of April 'Aprillis'.
7. April brings opportunities to witness meteor showers.
8. The diamond is the birthstone for those born in April.



Opal photo
compliments of
Len Cram



55th Annual Opal Show
October 18-19, 2025
Velvet Rose Event Center



American Opal Society proudly presents
55th Annual OPAL, GEM & JEWELRY SHOW

October 18th & 19th, 2025

Saturday 10AM - 6PM

Sunday 10AM - 5PM

!Fabulous Location!

Velvet Rose Event Center

300 S. Flower St., Orange, CA 2868

Opal and Gem Dealers from around the USA and beyond
Rough and Cut Opals, other gemstones, jewelry & supplies
Huge Drawing Grand Prize custom design by Stan McCall
Many other prizes: gemstones, jewelry, books, tools, surprises

Free Demonstrations gemstone cutting, jewelry making,
gemstone identification, faceting, gold panning and more!

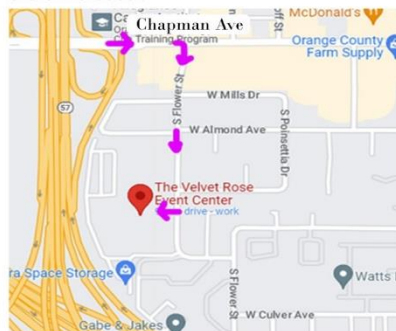
ADMISSION \$5.00 ADULTS

STUDENTS WITH ID & CHILDREN UNDER 15 FREE

FREE PARKING

American Opal Society, Inc.
PO Box 4875
Garden Grove, CA 92842-4875
Contact: Veronica Purpura (714) 501-9959
info@opalsociety.org <http://opalsociety.org>
(dealer inquiries welcome)

DIRECTIONS: Exit Chapman from the 57 towards Orange. Turn onto Flower Street and go straight. Make a right into the venue just after passing Larkspur Drive. Parking lot is in the back. There is a church next door.



GEMSTONES UNIVERSE

10 Most Famous Australian Gemstones

What are Australian gemstones?

Many types of opals, sapphires, and diamonds can be found in Australia. Opals come from two major sources: Lightning Ridge for black and semi-black opal, and Coober Pedy for white and light opal. Other precious gems such as sapphire, tourmaline, topaz, amethyst, garnet, chrysoberyl cat's eye, spinel, peridot and zircon are also found in Australia. Diamonds are abundant too with many being mined from the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

The Argyle mine produces the majority of diamonds in Australia, with many being pink or champagne colored. Such gems are highly sought after and valuable.

10 Top Most Famous Australian Gemstones

1. Sapphires: Blue sapphires from Australia are known for their intense, vibrant colour and clarity, making them one of the most sought after gemstones in the world. They are mined primarily in Queensland and New South Wales.
2. Opals: Australia is renowned for its unique type of opal called "black opal" that displays a deep black base with multicoloured flashes of light. It is found mainly in Lightning Ridge, New South Wales and Mintabie, South Australia.
3. Diamonds: While diamonds can be found all over the world, some of the finest quality diamonds come from Western Australia's Argyle diamond mine. These rare pink and red diamonds have become extremely popular in the last few decades.
4. Topaz: The vivid blue topaz found in Australia is often cut into delicate and elegant shapes, perfect for jewellery. It can be mined from central Queensland and New South Wales.
5. Peridot: This lime-green gemstone is often sought after due to its rarity. It can be found around Perth and Broome in Western Australia, as well as throughout Northern Territory and parts of Victoria.
6. Zircon: Popular in Victorian era jewellery, zircon has a range of vibrant colours ranging from pure white to yellow to intense reds and oranges, depending on where it is sourced from in Australia. It can mainly be mined from Victoria and Tasmania.
7. Agate: This type of gemstone is found on the beaches of Western Australia, around Geraldton and Shark Bay.
8. Amethyst: The rich purple colour of amethyst makes it a popular choice amongst collectors and jewellery designers alike. It can be mined from several locations throughout New South Wales, near Dubbo and Coonabarabran.
9. Turquoise: Associated with both beauty and protection, turquoise can often be found in the Northern Territory due to its dry climate that helps preserve this delicate stone over time.
10. Coral: This gemstone is found in the shallow waters of Cairns and Great Barrier Reef, as well as near Western Australia's Shark Bay. It can come in many different colours, from deep reds to bright oranges and pinks.

Where do Australian gemstones come from?

Australian gemstones come from several different locations across the country, ranging from small deposits in Western Australia to large-scale mines in the Northern Territory. The most significant sources of Australian gemstones are located in Western Australia, Queensland, and New South Wales. Some of the gems found in these areas include opal, sapphire, diamond, topaz, garnet, and zircon.

In addition to being mined commercially, many Australian gemstones have been discovered in sedimentary rocks across various parts of the continent. These deposits often contain a variety of rarer cuts and colors which can offer unique features for jewelry makers.

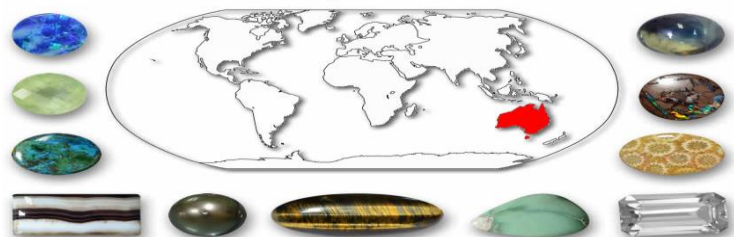
How are Australian gemstones mined?

Australia is known for its unique and exquisite gemstones, which are mined from several locations across the continent. The process of mining Australian gemstones involves technically sophisticated and advanced machinery, including drills, excavators, and explosives.

Miners work tirelessly to extract these precious stones from deep within the earth's crust. Gemstone mining in Australia has significant benefits for the country, including the creation of jobs, boosting the economy, and providing gems for the jewelry industry. Additionally, the mining of gemstones can also help to support local communities, as it encourages growth and development.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the incredible beauty and value of Australian gemstones makes them an ideal choice for those looking for a luxurious experience. With so many amazing types of stones to choose from, such as sapphires, boulder opals, chrysoprase, pink spinel and more, it's easy to find the perfect gemstone to enhance or complement any style. Each type of stone has its own unique color and texture, making them a great way to add some personal style or flair to any outfit or jewelry collection. Plus, purchasing a piece of Australian gemstone jewelry helps support local artisans who continue to maintain Australia's rich mining heritage. Investing in Australian gems for your home or wardrobe supports regional industries & businesses every day, making it a worthwhile expense.



Picture by [gemselect.com](https://www.gemselect.com)

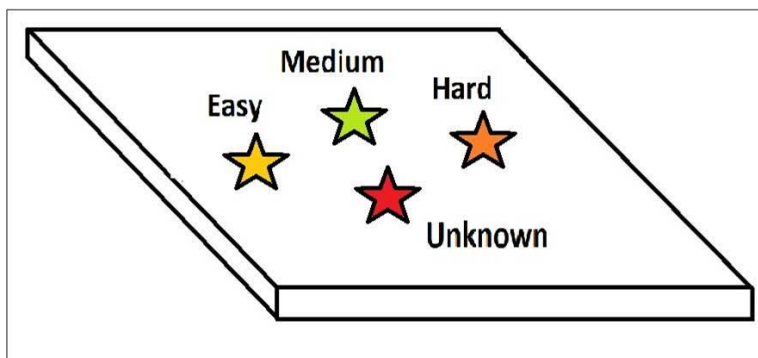
~Bench Tips ~

This page will be dedicated to bench tips and techniques from our readers. If you have bench tips you'd like to share, let us know! Bench tips can be anything - metal work, lapidary, wirework - anything creative that you would like to share. Send your tips to:

aos.newsletter.03@gmail.com

IDENTIFYING UNMARKED SOLDERS

by Brad Smith

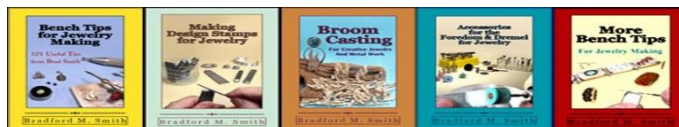


There are plenty of ways to mark your sheet or wire solders, but suppose you forgot to mark them and have a couple that you can't identify. The answer is to compare the melting temperature of the unknowns with that of a known solder.

What I do is take a thick scrap of copper or nickel and arrange several solders on it. Ideally, I would have a sample of easy, medium and hard known solders surrounding the unknown piece. Then I heat the plate from the bottom and watch the order in which the solders melt.

See More of my Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making Series

<http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>



UPCOMING EVENTS

Reader: If your organization has an opal or rockhound-related event, please email particulars to info@opalsociety.org.
Upcoming Event listings will be included at the discretion of The Opal Express editor as space and scheduling permit.

Shows for 2025

Joshua Tree Gem & Mineral Show - 04/02/2025

Start Date: 04/02/2025
End Date: 04/06/2025
Hours: Wed-Sat 9:00-5:00 Sun 9:00-4:00
Venue: Joshua Tree Lake RV & Campground
Address:
2601 Sunfair Rd
Joshua Tree , CA 92252
Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1620716395007100>
Types: Rock & Mineral Shows

Annual Pearblossom Gem & Mineral Show - 04/11/2025

Start Date: 04/11/2025
End Date: 04/13/2025
Hours: 9am - 5pm
Venue: The Outpost
Address: 34141 116th Street East
The Outpost
Pearblossom, CA 93553
Website: <http://facebook.com/138outpost>
Types: Rock & Mineral Shows

Conejo Gem & Mineral Club Show - 04/12/2025

Start Date: 04/12/2025
End Date: 04/13/2025
Hours: Sat 10:00-5:00 Sun 10:00-4:00
Venue: Borchard Community Park
Address:
190 N Reino Rd at Borchard Rd
Thousand Oaks , CA
Website: <http://www.cgamc.org/>
Types: Rock & Mineral Shows

El Dorado County Rock & Gem Show - 04/12/2025

Start Date: 04/12/2025
End Date: 04/13/2025
Hours: 10:00 - 5:00
Venue: El Dorado County Fairgrounds
Address:
100 Placerville Dr
Placerville , CA
Website: <https://edcmgs.org/>

Mariposa Gem & Mineral Show - 04/12/2025

Start Date: 04/12/2025
End Date: 04/13/2025
Hours: Sat 10:00-5:00 Sun 10:00-4:00
Venue: Mariposa County Fairgrounds
Address:
5007 Fairgrounds Road
Mariposa , CA 95338
Website: <http://mariposagemclub.org/>
Types: Rock & Mineral Shows

Searchers Gem & Mineral Show - 04/26/2025

Start Date: 04/26/2025
End Date: 04/27/2025
Hours: Sat 10:00 - 5:00 Sun 10:00 - 4:30
Venue: Brookhurst Community Center
Address:
2271 W Crescent Ave
Anaheim , CA 92801
Website: <http://www.searchersrocks.org/>
Types: Rock & Mineral Shows

Contra Costa Crystal Fair - 04/26/2025

Start Date: 04/26/2025
End Date: 04/27/2025
Venue: Civic Park Community Center
Address:
1371 Civic Dr
Walnut Creek , CA 94596
Website: <http://www.crystalfair.com/>
Types: Rock & Mineral Shows

Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society Show - 05/02/2025

Start Date: 05/02/2025
End Date: 05/03/2025
Hours: Fri 5:00PM-10:00PM Sat Noon-9:00PM
Venue: Music & Arts Festival
Address:
Yucaipa Blvd & Adams St
Yucaipa , CA 92399
Website: <http://www.yvgms.org/>

American Opal Society Membership Application

FILL IN APPLICABLE INFORMATION

RENEWING MEMBERS

NEW MEMBERS

INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP FEE (All addresses outside of USA)

PRINTED NEWSLETTER FEE (Paper copy postal mailed instead of PDF file by e-mail)

ADDITIONAL BADGES (Your First Badge is free when joining)

TOTAL PAID DUES plus International, Print or Badge Fees if Applicable:

Please make check or money order payable to "American Opal Society". Mail payment and application to:

American Opal Society; PO BOX 4875; Garden Grove, CA 92842-4875

To pay via PayPal, please visit the [PayPal](https://www.paypal.com/US/membership@opalsociety.org) page. The AOS PayPal account is membership@opalsociety.org

You may pay with a Credit Card or via PayPal account. The transaction is completely secure and the AOS never sees your credit card number. If paying by PayPal, please download, complete and send this application form by mail to the address above or email to AOS Treasurer aos.treasurer.02@opalsociety.org

NAME

BUSINESS NAME

ADDRESS

APT # or PO BOX

CITY

STATE

ZIP or POSTAL CODE

COUNTRY (IF OUTSIDE USA)

PHONE - Home

()

PHONE - Business

()

FAX

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E-MAIL

WEBSITE

OCCUPATION

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

NAME BADGE ORDER FORM:

PLEASE PRINT
NAME AS YOU
WISH IT TO
APPEAR ON YOUR
BADGE using up to
two (2) lines of text
for your name,
nickname, or name
of your opal related
business.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER: The AOS publishes a membership directory once per year in its Newsletter, the Opal Express. Your name will be included. Please check what additional personal information that you want listed for other members. If it is different from the information above, please note that on the application.

☐ Address

☐ Phone

☐ E-mail

☐ Website

Please sign here: _____ Date _____

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Please address all inquires and exchange newsletters to:
Editor

American Opal Society, Inc.

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Garden Grove, Ca. 92842-4875

E-mail: aos.newsletter.03@gmail.com

Are Your Dues Due Now?

PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL or NEWSLETTER E-MAIL.
There should be a date that shows the current month/year of your membership. If the date is older than the current date, your dues are overdue. A warning will be stated if you are overdue.

A Renewal Grace Period of two months will be provided. Please note, however, that as the system is now set up, if your renewal is not received you will be **AUTOMATICALLY** dropped from membership thereafter. It is your responsibility to assure your dues are current.

Thank you,
The Editor

(revised 06/23/24)

The Opal Express

American Opal Society
P.O. Box 4875
Garden Grove, CA 92842-4875

Volume 58, Issue 4

— GENERAL MEETINGS —

3rd Thursday of the Month

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Anaheim Community Center

250 E. Center Street

Anaheim, CA 92805



TO:

Meeting – Thursday, April 17, 2025

at the Anaheim Community Center

Social Time: 6:30 p.m.

General Meeting - Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.



General Meeting Location at:

Anaheim Downtown Community Center

250 E. Center Street

Anaheim, CA 92805

**Next meeting will be Thursday, April 17, 2025 at the
Anaheim Downtown Community Center**

→ Social Time: 6:30 p.m. ←
General Meeting - Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.

American Opal Society

Website: <http://OpalSociety.org>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/opalsociety>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanOpalSociety>
Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/opalsociety>
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCegTIH1IEyO7y8wdqvRfyUA?view_as=subscriber

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Yvette LaFrinere	Editor	(909) 538-9850
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Veronica Purpura	Show Chairman	(714) 501-9959
Jamie Cassidy-Curtis	Secretary	

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