

Sphere Making Supply & Tool List

In this workshop you will learn to make spheres out of lapidary material, with finished diameters up to about 2 inches, "by hand". We will use equipment that we have specially adapted to grinding spheres. "By hand" means that you will always have your hands on the material while it is being ground and polished in contrast to using automated sphere machines that can do much sphere-making work unattended.

The sphere-making workshop consists of two one-day (8 hour) sessions several weeks apart, plus one initial evening session (about 2 hours) several weeks prior to the first day session.

In the initial two-hour evening meeting the entire process is introduced and the requirements for preforms will be explained. There then needs to be a gap of several weeks, or so, during which you will prepare preforms, either with your own equipment, or under supervision by a sphere-making instructor during open slab saw times. The actual sphere-making takes place in the two full-day weekend sessions several weeks apart. We will also have some ready-made preform available for purchase.

Students should have an apron. A water-proof one is best as the process can be a bit sloppy. One will also want to have several pairs of flexible, waterproof, tight-fitting gloves, that are strong enough to hold up under some mild abrasion. Some household clean-up gloves work well. Bring lapidary material out of which you might like to make a sphere to the initial meeting where suitability of the material will be discussed. All other supplies and tools are provided.