



Safety

Attire

- Eye protection
- Hair tied back
- No loose clothing
- No jewelry
- Plastic or vinyl apron to keep clothing clean and dry
- Closed toed shoes

Equipment Safety

- Make sure all equipment is grounded.
- Do not use any of the saws, grinding wheels, or sanding belts dry.
- When cutting, do not place fingers in the path of the saw.
- Do not try to push your stone into the saw or cut a curve, as it may damage the blade.
- Avoid wearing gloves, as they could become caught in the machine.
- Make sure that sanding belts do not have tears.
- When finished, let grinding wheel spin out excess water. If the ceramic soaks in too much water it can become unbalanced and either break the grinding wheel or break the machine.

Choosing Stones

Some stones can be toxic after too much handling. Malachite, gaspate, and other stones with metallic ores. Stones made from organic materials can also be hazardous, such as dino bone, amber, petrified wood, etc. Research your stones before you begin cutting them.

Process

- *Draw an outline onto your stone using a template.
- *Use diamond saw to notch stone and then begin cutting out straight lines around the outline. Do not attempt cutting a curved line as it may break your saw blade.
- *Use grinding wheel to smooth out the edges of the stone.
- *Mark the girdle of the stone using a sharpie or a piece of metal.
- *Dop the stone onto a stick for better handling.
- *Begin grinding the dome in tapered steps.
- *Use the expansion wheel with sanding belts to smooth out the stone. Check frequently for flat spots on the stone. Begin with 220 grit and move to finer grits.
- *Final polish.
- *Remove stone from dop stick.