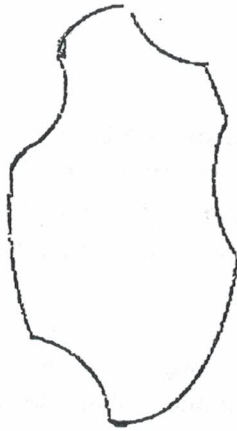


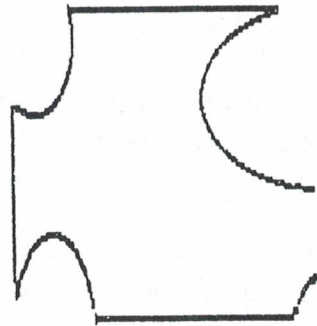
FANCY CABOCHONS AND FREEFORMS.

A fancy cabochon can be any shape you like, but must have a domed top. In competitions, extra points are awarded for up to three inside curves. A teardrop is a fancy cab, and attracts one bonus point.



This example would gain five points. One inside curve gains three points, and two inside curves gains four points. A heart shape gains five points. Rectangles, squares, triangles and other geometric shapes are also fancy cabs, and may have straight or convex sides. These gain two points. Fancy cabs must have the back finished, and must have a back bevel.

Curves are cut vertically on the wheel and care must be taken to have a curve that fits the natural curve of the wheel. Damage will occur to the wheel if too deep curves are attempted. The stone above would cut nicely on the wheel, the one below would damage the wheel and be almost impossible to cut.



The finished result must be a smooth dome, with no ridges or concave areas. The back bevel must be between 35 and 55 degrees to the horizontal, and should not be more than 20% of the height of the stone. The narrowest width permitted is that which can be assessed with a ten times glass.

Agate is the stone of choice for fancy cabs, with the pattern in the stone often dictating the shape. Care should be taken to read the schedule carefully in case some other stone is mandatory.

A free form can be any shape at all, but **MUST NOT HAVE A DOMED TOP OR A BACK BEVEL**. A flat top is best finished on glass.