

## gilson created opals

An opal is an incredible feat of nature, a multitude of closely bonded, tiny spheres that miraculously break light into a full-colour spectrum. No other gem is so rich in glowing colours. In ancient times precious opal was included among the noble gems and was ranked second only to the emerald by the Romans. They were the favourite adornment of Queen Victoria and today they rank near the top of every popularity poll. Of all the gems formed under near surface conditions, opals are the most valued. Currently 95 % of the world's supply of these remarkable gems are mined in Australia. While there are many grades of opal, Gilson Created Opals can be compared to natural opals of the finest quality. However, they cost but a fraction of the price one would pay for a natural opal of comparable size and beauty.



### PHYSICAL AND OPTICAL CHARACTERISTICS

	Gilson Created Opal	Natural Opal
Chemical composition ..	SiO <sub>2</sub> n H <sub>2</sub> O	SiO <sub>2</sub> n H <sub>2</sub> O
Foreign bodies .....	None	Frequent (sandstone)
Shape .....	Amorphous	Amorphous
Hardness .....	6.15 mohs	5.50 to 6.50 mohs
Cohesion .....	Avoid sharp blows	Avoid sharp blows
Cleavage .....	None	None
Fracture .....	Conchoidal	Conchoidal
Density .....	2.12 to 2.13	2.07 to 2.23 (normal 2.15)
Refractive index .....	1.45	1.42 to 1.47
Optical characteristic....	Singly refractive	Singly refractive