



KULSEN & HENNIG

Nature's Brilliant Colours

Newsletter No. 12

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KULSEN & HENNIG News

Susanne Noell – Four Weeks of Diamond Class

Diamond Knowledge I-IV

Convinced of the quality of the "Diamond Knowledge I-IV" courses that I recently took at the German Gemmological Society in Idar-Oberstein, I would like to share my experience with our readers.

Each day of class began with a theoretical part during which the basics of diamond grading were explained according to IDC (International Diamond Council) standards. In the afternoon, we had ample opportunity to put the theory into practice.



Mr. Schmiden

Mr Schmiden, our professor, led us gradually and systematically towards working with diamonds. He never tired of answering our questions and providing assistance. We had extensive opportunities to observe diamonds and learned to use scales, leveridge gauges, master stones, fluorescent lamps, and proportion scopes.

For the practical exercises, a selection of diamonds of different purity levels and grinding quality was available, providing a realistic idea of the variety of internal and external features. We were also able to compare our results with the model answers provided by the school.

Jeweller's Loupe, measure and calculate

Handling a 10x jeweller's loupe was unusual for me at first. I found it difficult to hold a diamond under the light of a standard lamp without being confused by its reflections.

For me, the visual assessment was the most difficult part of the exercise. It takes a lot of experience to identify and evaluate the internal and external features of a diamond – and especially to find them in the first place!

But the four weeks of training paid off. My view became more precise and I learned to focus my eye on certain areas to observe, for example, the position of the facets more closely or to determine the type of a given internal feature.



The proportion scope provides percentages based on the proportions and the symmetry of certain characteristics of round brilliant cut and modified brilliant cut diamonds.



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When I was not sure about something or when I was not able to see anything in a stone, there was always someone to help, whether Mr. Schmiden or a classmate. In my opinion, the helpful attitude and common interest of the group contributed to the quality of the course.

In addition to visual inspection, the course also included, of course, a section on calculations and measurements and the documentation of the results. The structured and clearly designed teaching materials helped us to keep everything straight. One message in particular was clearly conveyed to us: working with diamonds requires a systematic and circumspect approach.

The course ended with both a practical and a theoretical exam; we all passed, by the way!

I would also add that during these four weeks I met many open-minded and interesting people from all sectors of the jewellery industry. The stimulating and informative discussions we had have broadened my view of the world of diamonds.

It was certainly worth it and I fully recommend this course.



The Classroom