YOUR TURN

reader comments & sketches

NEXT TIME:

› DESIGN CHALLENGES

YOUR COVER RIFFS:
Your riffs on one aspect of Rachel Arday’s ‘Niu:Gold’ oxidized copper and sterling silver necklace, cover, November, 2012.

Maggie Morewitz
San Antonio, Texas

YOUR SETTINGS:

Jewelry Artist
Lapidary Journal

Letters

Re: “Secret Sapphire and Sterling Ring,”
January/February, 2013
I was reading the “Secret Sapphire & Sterling Ring” article in the January/February issue of Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist and noticed an amazing circular gauge in photo #6. I could really use one of these but, after searching the net for both “center finding gauge” and “printed gauge” mentioned in the article, I came up with nothing. Can you help me source one of these gauges? I would really appreciate the help.

Rain Kazymerchyk
SOUTH MOUNTAIN, ONTARIO

In the September/October issue of Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist, you had an article about cool carved gems. I especially liked the two carvings by Steve Walters on page 18. This is our busiest time of the year and I didn’t have time to meet the deadline for the Design Challenge, but I was so fascinated with these two stones that I tried to carve some myself. Here are the two that I came up with. One is orange calcite, and the other is blue agate drusy and white CZ. Afterwards, I wrapped them as pendants. I thought you might be interested in seeing them even though the deadline is past. Please tell Steve that I admire his work tremendously.

Nina Johnson
San Antonio, Texas

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Sandra Greenman
CANTON, GEORGIA

Re: “Your Turn,” November, 2012
I am writing in regard to the letter in your November, 2012, issue by Shirley Furby. Whether your work looks amateur or not has nothing to do with the wealth of the maker [and the tools he or she can afford]. Tools don’t make a piece look better; tools just make the work easier. As for whatever pleasure one gets from their work, I think it is a naive view of creating a piece. I am not by any means a professional. I make jewelry and knives because I like to make them, and that gives me much pleasure and a sense of accomplishment. I do a lot of commissions where I only charge for the material. It is not the money that counts; it is the pleasure of knowing that someone holds your work in such a high degree of admiration that they are willing to pay.

Jose Santiago-Cummings
TACOMA, WASHINGTON

Editor’s Note:
We appreciate the discussion of the role of tools in jewelry making. Partly in response to Shirley Furby’s letter in the November issue, we are introducing our new 5 Tool Challenge.

Check out Cool Tools & Hip Tips, page 14, for details, and let us see what you can do with just the basics in jewelry tools and equipment.

Martha A. Chacon
Assistant Editor