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Funkz's Word and Google. Kinsey Promes, zindin zidan, working on the transformation of a rough rock into beautiful fallen stones, gives most people a great sense of accomplishment. No matter how old you are or how many batches of rock you have fallen in the past - the reward is there every time! Using a rock glass to convert rough rock into sparkling stones has fallen easily if you follow a simple procedure and abide by a few rules. We write this to share the procedure and rules that we have used over the years with a number of different rotary glasses. This procedure works well with the most commonly dropped materials. These include agate, jasper, fossilized wood, quartz and other materials with Mohs hardness about 7. It also works well with materials such as natural and man-made glasses that have a hardness of 5 to 6. Examples are obsidian, Apache tears, and landscape glass. With these materials, rough, medium and shallow sand steps can usually be reduced to five days, but the polishing step should remain for seven days. There are three important rules that we follow in all aspects of rock tumbling. This: 1) Garbage in garbage products out; 2) Avoid pollution; and, 3) Excellent results take time. Acrobatics will allow you to turn the rough rock on the left side of this photo into sparkling stones dropped on the right side of the photo. The results are amazing! If you start with garbage (low quality rough), you should expect poor quality dropped stones. So, feel free to give up a breed that is porous, broken, or that won't produce an attractive fallen stone. You will spend a lot of time and valuable materials tumbling party stones. Using quality roughly saves time, gives you better value for money, and produces fallen stones that are of much higher quality. You will use a different size glass of sand for each step tumbling process. If rough sand hits your medium sand pitch, it will scratch the rocks and you will need to make a medium sand step again. Avoid this kind of pollution is easy: just thoroughly clean the rocks, glass barrel, and your tools when you change from one size of sand to another. Another way that pollution occurs is when you use rocks that have a granular texture or are brittle. These stones can break or shed grains or fragments in a glass. These grains and broken pieces can scratch every stone in a barrel. This type of pollution is also easy to avoid: just examine your stones before you fall, and don't fall off the suspect rocks in the same barrel with the best rough. Treat new types of rude or suspicious materials with caution. ADVERTISEMENT Don't rush. Spend do a great job. If you drop a batch of rocks through a rough grind and they still have a few rough edges or aren't nicely rounded, feel free to run them through that step again. Also, spend the time it takes to thoroughly clean the work area, glass barrel, stones and tools between steps to avoid contamination. Debris in the trash out. The rocks in this photo do not have the potential to become good fallen stones. Stone with voids should be thrown out - voids will trap the sand and contaminate your pre-polishing and polishing steps. The protrusions can be trimmed with a stone saw - and that can give two beautifully rounded rocks. If you don't have small pieces of rock to fall, you can add small ceramic barrel glass carriers. Ceramic media are used as a small filler in acrobatics. These tiny cylinders will also act like roller bearings in a barrel and make your load fall with smooth action - that smooth action will improve grinding in the barrel and keep your stones from bruising. Watch our video about choosing the right media acrobatics. Remember to rule the trash in the trash out. Practice that starting with quality rough, and you will be able to produce high quality dropped stones. We prepare for the fall by studying our rough breeds. If we find porous pieces that won't make good dropped stones and will carry sand from one step to the next, we discard them. Rocks that are broken will break while tumbling and scratch other stones in the party. When we see a rock fracture in our rough we discard it or break it along that fracture before it is placed in a barrel. ADVERTISEMENT For best results, your barrel glass should be loaded with mixed-sized particles (from about 1/4 inch to about 1 1/2 inches in diameter for a 2-pound or 3-pound barrel power). If you only have a small stuff that is fine ... just follow the instructions below. However, if you only have large stones, then you should add some smaller materials (small rocks are needed to transport sand to all surfaces of large rocks). You can also add some small ceramic media acrobatics to get the small particles into the load. For best results, any load that you fall on should have at least 25% of the fine particles. Finally, tumbling works best when all the stones in the barrel are about the same hardness. If soft stones are dropped from tighter rocks, soft rocks will wear off quickly. ADVERTISEMENT When loading a glass barrel, you should have the pieces rough with a range of particle sizes. We like to mix above sizes together in a barrel. If you load a barrel with just a few large there will be very few points of contact between the stones in the load. These are common ground where sand is trapped between the rocks and where the grinding is going. If you have a lot of small pieces rough between big big there will be many points of contact between the load rocks, and the process of acrobatics will be faster and more efficient. Before loading the glass barrel, make sure it is perfectly clean. There should be no sand or rock fragments left in the barrel from the previous fall. To prevent leakage, the edge of the trunk and lid must be completely free of sand or rock particles. If you have a clean barrel, add enough rock to fill the barrel about 2/3 to 3/4 full. If you don't have enough rough enough to fill a barrel at least 2/3 full, stones can be thrown around in a glass and bruised. (Obsidian and crystalline varieties of quartz bruising are very easy). If you don't have enough stones, you can add ceramic media to bring the barrel to the proper level of work. Now you're ready to start what most people call the Four Step Acrobatics Process. This is described below for a rotary glass with a three-pound barrel power, such as the Thumler A-R1 model, the Thumler A-R2 model, the Lortone Model 3A, or the Lortone Model 33B. If you're tumbling with a Thumler Model MP-1 glass (which has two pounds of barrel capacity), you can follow the instructions below, but use about two levels of tablespoons of sand or polish in each of the tumbling steps (Step 1 via Step 4). When acrobatics you place enough rocks in a barrel to make it about 2/3 to 3/4 full. Then add about two tablespoons of sand level for each pound of rock. Finally, add enough water to almost cover the rock. Now seal the barrel and place it on the glass. The first step of the four-step acrobatics process is to launch the stones into a glass with rough sand. You start with a barrel that is about 2/3 to 3/4 full of rough tumbling, then add two tablespoons of coarse sand level (we use 60/90 silicon carbide sand) for each pound of rock. Then add water until the water line is just below the top of the rocks. Print a barrel and run for about seven days. At the end of seven days, open the barrel. You will find a barrel of stones in very muddy water! Dump the contents into a screen or colander over a plastic bucket and wash off every speck of sand and dirt. Wear goggles to protect your eyes from a splash of dirt. DO NOT ALLOW GRIT OR MUD GO DOWN DRAIN - it will clog pipes. To avoid getting sand and dirt into the drain, we wash the stones in a colander over a plastic bucket. Now that you've washed the stones, it's time to inspect them. You want to determine whether they are ready to move to STEP 2, or whether another week in STEP 1 will improve their appearance. That's what most people do. However, other people want to have more control over the acrobatic process and only recognize the excellent breed in STEP 2. These people sort their stones into four categories: A) those that are ready for STEP 2 those that can be improved for another week in STEP 1 C) those that should be trimmed and returned to STEP 1 D) the ones that need to be discarded They then repeat step 1 until they have enough beautifully shaped rocks that are ready for STEP 2. The people who follow this process produce really nice dropped stones; however, this process takes a very long time. Here's some rock straight from STEP 1. Notice how it is covered with gray mud. This mud is wasted by sand and tiny rock particles that are worn from rocks during acrobatics. Wash the rocks thoroughly so that none of this sand goes into STEP 2. We wash our stones in a colander over a plastic bucket so that none of the dirt goes down the drain. The second step of the four-step acrobatics process is to launch the rocks into a glass of medium sand. Before starting it is extremely important to clean all rough sand and stone dirt from the rocks, from the barrel glass and from the lid of the trunk. It is very important to avoid a few grains of large grit in a medium pitch grind. Again, fill a barrel about 2/3 to 3/4 full rough (if you don't have rough enough, use ceramic media or some rocks that need a little more tumbling to make up the volume). Then add two tablespoons of medium sand (we use 110/220 sand or 150/220 silicon carbide sand) for each pound of rock. Then add water until the water line is just below the top of the rocks. Now fall for seven days. At the end of seven days, open the barrel and clean all the sand from the stones, barrels and lids (don't let the sand go down the drain). At this point in the process of acrobatics, the dry stone should have a smooth matte surface. Examine the rocks, looking for any that are cracked or broken. If found, they are discarded or saved the next time step 1 is launched. Rock mud should never be washed away by household runoff. It can clog up your plumbing system. We wash the plastic bucket to keep the dirt out of the drain. The third step of the four-step tumbling process is a week in fine sand such as 600 sand or 500 silicon carbide sand. Start with a barrel that is perfectly clean. Add the rough to fill it about 2/3 to 3/4 full, add two tablespoons of level thin sand on a pound of rock. Then add the water until it fills the barrel up just below the top of the rock. Run this for seven days and then do a thorough cleaning of the rocks, barrel, and cover. Remove any stones that have broken or have signs of rupture. At this point in the process, the rocks should be very smooth and some of them may start to have a slight shine. Be very clean! Before you replace the lid on the barrel, make sure that both the lid and the rim are perfectly clean. This will allow the lid to fit tightly and prevent leaks. Now you're up to the last step - one that puts a bright shine on your fallen stones. Make sure the stones and equipment are perfect (Some people have an extra barrel that they only use for step.) A few spots of sand can ruin a large polish. Place the stones in the barrel, add two tablespoons of rock (we use aluminum oxide powder or TXP) for a pound of rock, add water just below the level of rocks. Then close the barrel and run for about seven days. When you finish this step, your stones should be bright and shiny. If so, congratulations! Admire them for a while and share them with your friends. If the stones have an extremely smooth surface but do not shine, they may need to be cleaned with the burning step described below. If they have scratches on them, then you will need to go back to STEP 2 and repeat the medium grind, fine grind, and polishing the steps. To burn we chop a bar of ivory soap and add 1/2

tablespoon of soap slices for each pound of rock. Watch our video about burning polished stones. Sometimes our stones are a little hazy when they come out of the polish, or small polish particles are found in micro-sized crevices. We beam and remove them, somersaulting for hours in soapy water. It's called burn. To burn we put the stones in our Polish barrel with a normal amount of water and then we add about 1/2 tablespoon sliced ivory bar soap for each pound of rock (we use ORIGINAL ivory soap - don't use soap with aloe or abrasive or any other additives). Burnishing usually makes the dropped stones a little brighter and sometimes it really picks up the shine. Print a copy of our free tumbling magazine and use it to save your records. Here are some of our favorite dropped stones! It's easy to forget what day you started the glass or what type of sand was used - especially if you're running a few glasses. Keeping records will keep you on track and provide a story that will help you learn. We record the material dropped, the start date, the abrasive used, the media used, the end date and duration, as well as any comments or comments about the results. To help you with your record keeping, we have prepared a print magazine tumbling. We keep records of the rock we fall off. Even if your memory is better than ours, it's a good idea. When you learn something that works or something that doesn't, you'll have it recorded. This information can help you repeat excellent results and avoid bad results. In addition, we cannot remember on what day the trunk of the rocks was started. Using a log takes away the chance to forget. Hobart M. King has years of experience in rock acrobatics and writes most articles on RockTumbler.com. He holds a doctorate in geology and is a graduate of GIA Gemologist. He also writes articles about rocks, minerals and gemstones Geology.com. Geology.com. national geographic rock tumbler instruction manual pdf

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