



"The information needed
for investing and purchasing gems
of all types. **Highly recommended.**"

—*Library Journal*



COLORED GEMSTONES

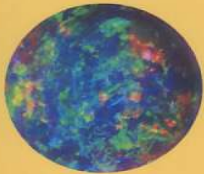
New! Updated, Expanded 3rd Edition



The Antoinette Matlins Buying Guide



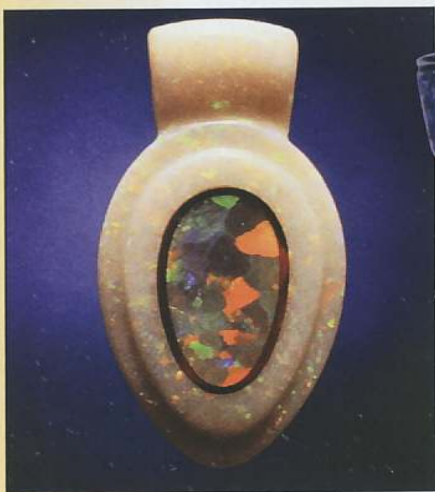
How to Select, Buy,
Care for & Enjoy
Sapphires, Emeralds,
Rubies and Other
Colored Gems with
Confidence and Knowledge



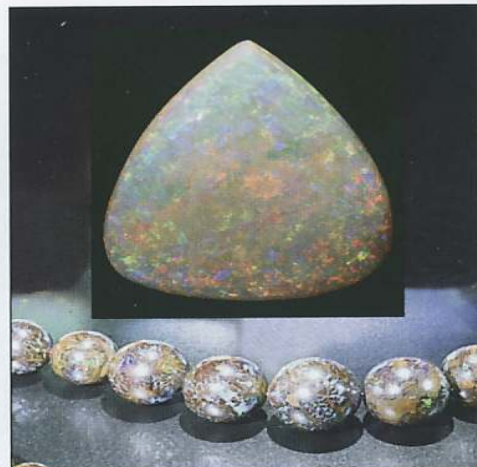
ANTOINETTE MATLINS, P.G.
Author of Jewelry & Gems: The Buying Guide

Opals—A Fiery World of Color

In addition to the widely available white opal, very affordable “fire” opals and rare, costly black opals create excitement.



Above: Gaia Pelikan’s boulder opal in 18-karat red gold and forged stainless steel. *Left:* Magnificent pendant by Kreg Scully, sculpted from white opal with semi-black opal inlay.



Australian Andamooka crystal opal and Andamooka matrix opal beads.



Mexican “fire” opals.



Below left: Fine black opal
Below right: Boulder opal

Color-Change Gems—Keep the Mystery Alive

Color-change gems have captivated collectors for generations, beginning with the nineteenth-century Russian discovery of rare and costly alexandrite. Today, other exotic color-change gems are being unearthed and adding distinctive choices. Note: in all color-change gems shown here, the left image is color seen in daylight, and right image is seen in incandescent light.



Zultanite (color-change diaspore).



Color-change garnet (*left*), color-change spinel (*below*).



Color-change alexandrite.



PHOTOS: WIMON MANOROTKUL, PALA INTERNATIONAL

PHOTO: TINO HAMMID, COURTESY OF ABC GEMS, INC.

...And New Classics by Modern Designers

Simon G's green tourmaline and diamond ring is a lovely, modern interpretation of a classic heirloom design, while his tanzanite and rubellite ring shows bold, innovative design.



Meticulous detail captures an heirloom feeling in this modern diamond and sapphire ring by Brian Sholdt.



Richard Krementz's innovative use of color creates stunning results.

Classic Colored Stone Bands...



...Infinite Possibilities



Color Story® artfully combines ancient motifs with a contemporary diamond surround, a distinctive setting for the equally distinctive cutting of the peridot it highlights.



In this contemporary ring, designer Steve Dangler uses exotic color-change Zultanite to add irresistible allure.



...To Suit Every Style



Designer David Hrubec surrounds exceptional color-change Zultanites in rose gold and diamonds to create a stunning statement.

Right: Scott Keating's colorful use of turret, or bar, cuts.



James Breski offers a range of classic styles, such as these mystery-set pendant and earrings—a technique requiring intensive labor and skill.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STULLER, INC.

Stuller's selection of finished jewelry provides a bold designer look, as in this lovely peridot ring, at more affordable prices.



Texture, color, and movement combine to create this unique brooch by Richard Kimball.



Checkerboard cut in convertible pendant/ring design creates a distinctive award-winner by Virginia Andersen.



Innovative combination of cabochons with faceted stones. Ring by William Richey (right) uses faceted citrine with cabochon amethyst for striking contrast. Peggy Stephaich Guinness (left) creates more subtle contrast, and a very different mood, using cabochon turquoise with faceted blue topaz.



Zultanite (Color-Change Diaspore)

Color-change gemstones have long fascinated collectors and connoisseurs, but it is only in recent years that we have started to see interest in the larger consumer marketplace. As more and more people seek unique or unusual gemstones, color-change gems—those that are one color in certain lighting environments but which turn a completely different color in a different type of light—are moving to center stage. We have already discussed the rare, highly sought gem called alexandrite, and mentioned color-change garnets, sapphires, and even diamonds. In recent years another exciting color-change gem was unearthed in Turkey: Zultanite, a color-change variety of a little-known material called diaspore.

While diaspore has been known for many years to gemologists and mineralogists, most of it was too heavily included to be considered a “gem.” In

the 1970s, some very clean specimens began to surface, and then a substantial deposit of beautiful color-change material was discovered in Turkey. *Zultanite* was introduced into the market, the name meant to conjure up images of the ancient *sultans* who ruled Turkey and the Ottoman Empire. (They had wanted to name it “*Sultanite*,” but that name was unavailable!)

Zultanite occurs in lovely, soft pastel colors, changing from a lovely pastel green in daylight to pink, brownish pink or pinkish beige in warm, indoor light. The green color is a beautiful shade but the pastel pink tones may be more difficult to see, depending upon the type of light in which they are viewed. As in alexandrite, there is often a brownish undertone to both the green and pink colors. Nonetheless, the color is very pleasing, and very wearable, even if less vivid than some other color-change gems. Some women prefer the colors of Zultanite because there is a more subtle contrast and the colors are an especially nice complement to earth tones (green, brown, gold). For some, the colors are more wearable than stones with stronger color and more extreme color change.

Zultanite is a gemstone worth seeking out. Its colors are very pleasing, it is a lively stone, and it is relatively hard. It is also available in a wide range of sizes, including 10+ carats, which is an advantage over other color-change stones that rarely exceed 2–3 carats.

All in all, Zultanite is a good choice for jewelry and remains more affordable than most other color-change gemstones. At the moment, prices for fine-quality stones (eye-clean and slightly included) range from about \$300–\$400 per carat in 2–3 carat sizes, \$600–\$700 per carat in 5–7 carat sizes, to around \$800–\$1,000 per carat in 7–10 carat sizes. Larger stones or stones of exceptional color and overall quality can cost more, sometimes much more. Keep in mind that pricing is a reflection of supply and demand; supply is still somewhat limited. If demand increases, prices could increase in the foreseeable future.

USEFUL FACTS

Color-Change Diaspore Composition: aluminum oxide hydroxide

Weight: moderately heavy (specific gravity ± 3.39)

Brilliance: moderately high

Hardness: 6.5–7.0

Wearability: fair to good