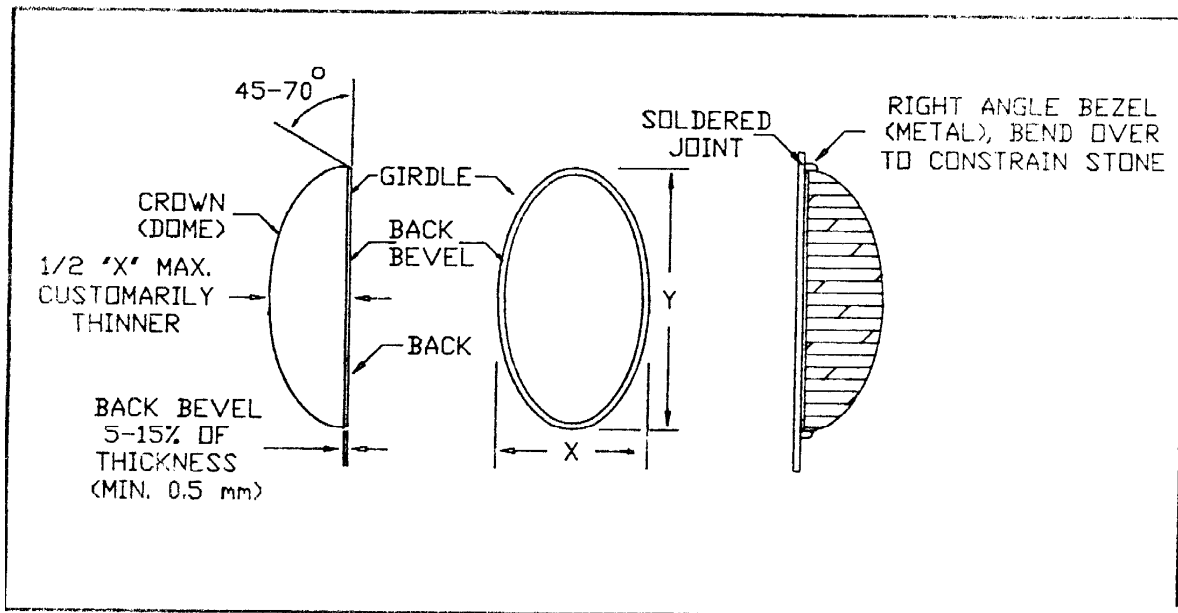


## Cabochon Making and Its Nomenclature

1. A **Traditional Cabochon** is a stone of oval shape having a symmetrically curved, domed top and a flat back. It must have a **back bevel** and a **girdle** line. Maximum height must not exceed 50% of the shortest axis of the outline shape.
2. The **back** is the flat underside of the stone. It must be polished.
3. The **back bevel** is that portion of the stone adjacent to and immediately below the **girdle line**. Edges must be clearly defined. It must be of an even width all around the stone—approximately 5 – 15 % of the maximum thickness of the stone, but not less than 0.5 mm. The angle should be between 45 and 70 degrees from the back of the stone.

Why a back bevel? To relieve possible interference if the stone is mounted on a traditional flat back with a metal bezel. Residual solder or imperfections in the corner could cause the stone not to seat securely or could subject it to strain and possible fracture when forcing it down into the bezeled setting.



4. The **girdle line** is the largest outline shape when viewed directly from above or below the stone. It circumscribes the stone and is identifiable as the division between the top and bottom of the stone.

5. A **bezel** is a sloping edge—the oblique side (or face) of a stone between the girdle and the crown (dome). A bezel is not required but may be included with no loss of points. It has been suggested the bezel angle for gold be about 5 degrees and for silver about 10 degrees.

Why have a **bezel**? One advantage for using a bezel (A) is to make it easier to maintain a perfectly calibrated cabochon ellipse and an equal-width back bevel. Of course, a continuously rounded profile surface (B) above the girdle will accomplish the same result if a flat sloping metal bezel edge is not desired. Also, the sharp angle (C) formed by a low flat cab and the 45-degree back bevel is subject to chipping both during and after the grinding and polishing.

