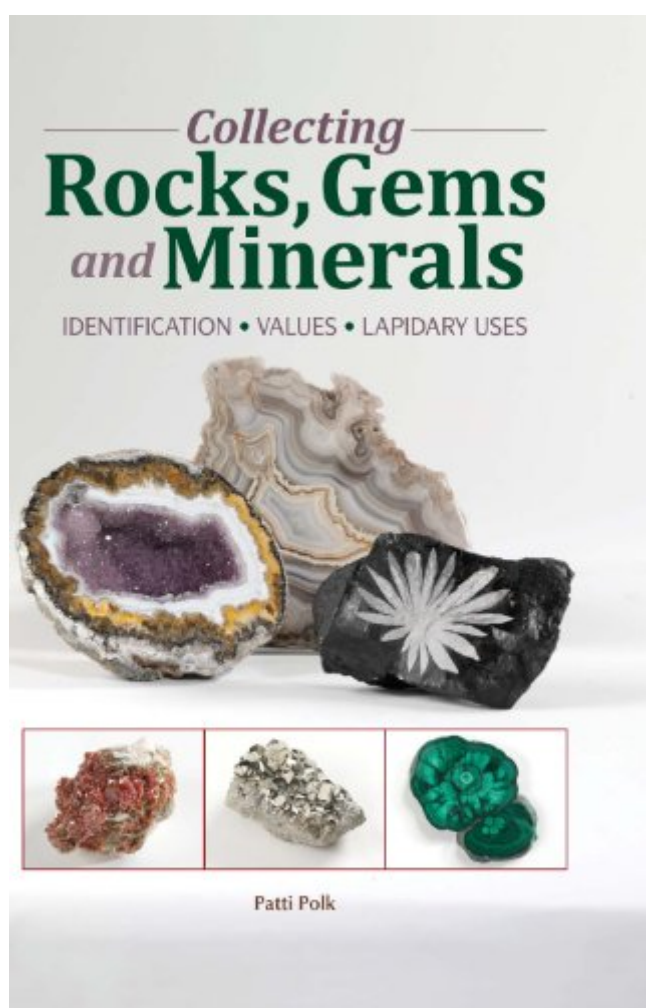


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# Collecting Rocks, Gems & Minerals: Easy Identification - Values - Lapidary Uses (Warman's Field Guide)



## Synopsis

Three Guides in One! Identification, Values, Lapidary Uses  
Designed with beginners in mind, yet filled with valuable technical information for advanced collectors, *Collecting Rocks, Gems and Minerals* takes you from being just someone who appreciates rocks to a true "collector." Easy-to-use, quick reference format arranged by category and color of stone  
Covers both lapidary and mineral display materials  
Provides values and tips for locating, buying and collecting  
Includes organics such as amber, bone, coral, pearl and shell  
Lists chemical group, system, hardness, opacity, fracture, specific gravity and more  
Contains more than 650 full-color photos  
Foreword by Johann Zenz, world renowned agate expert, author and lecturer

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a gem of a book, if you will pardon the pun, and a welcome addition to my collection. I already have seven books on identifying gems and minerals and another twenty or so on where to find them, so what is special about this book? First of all I noticed the pictures, beautiful pictures, but more importantly pictures which I could relate to. In my other books I get an erudite description, but usually the pictures do not look much like the rocks I find or see at shows. Patti has chosen the

rocks to photograph so well that they all look like the rocks and minerals I have, or have seen. I found the introductory thirty pages on equipment and practical collecting very clear. If I had never been on a field trip I would now know what to expect: the picture of a flat tire in a remote area is a timely warning that there are risks in our hobby. But it was the 230 pages of examples of uncut materials, polished items and completed jewelry which really caught the eye. The classification and illustration of the various categories of agate is splendidly done as are the other groups and minerals. Bravely Patti has added the 'value' of each item, listed by pound, ounce or gram. This is a very valuable resource, although it may go out of date very quickly depending on the value of the dollar and popularity and availability of each item. It has led me to rethink what rocks and minerals I have now, and to look again at the items which I have partially discarded as my 'yard' rocks. Patti Polk's enthusiasm for our hobby flows through this book and we must be thankful that she has filled a gap in the literature available to rockhounds.

I bought this for my rock hounding kids and I as we learn about the various rocks we hound. Though we already have all of the common rock & mineral books, this one is clearly the best of the best! The photos are extraordinary and unmatched by any other book on the market. The information is clear, concise and very useful. It includes sections on the basics for rock hounding with is excellent for beginners and useful for the experienced. This is clearly a must have book for anyone interested in rocks and minerals. If you had any doubt before reading this review, trust me, you have to buy this one over all others.

In "Collecting Rocks, Gems & Minerals: Easy Identification - Values - Lapidary Uses", author Patti Polk draws upon her more than twenty years as a skilled lapidary artist and gem cutting expertise and experience to compile a profusely and beautifully illustrated, 272-page compendium of superbly organized and presented minerals for amateur 'rockhounds' and professional collectors alike. Each entry is enhanced with detailed information about that particular gem or mineral's characteristics. "Collecting Rocks, Gems & Minerals: Easy Identification - Values - Lapidary Uses" is more than a simple encyclopedic presentation of assorted gems and minerals as Patti Polk also provides informed and informative information on what these gems and minerals are, as well as their uses for lapidary and display. Of special note is the entry on 'Buying and Selling Rocks, Minerals, and Gemstones'. Providing an illustrated wealth of information and examples, "Collecting Rocks, Gems & Minerals: Easy Identification - Values - Lapidary Uses" will proved an enduringly popular and valued addition to personal, professional, academic, and community library reference collections.

All my life I've picked up rocks and brought them home, but I didn't know a thing about what I had in hand. As a matter of fact, my home and yard are filled with rocks I've picked up along the way -- and the ones I couldn't pick up I had trucked in. I finally decided enough was enough: I needed to know what I was doing. Thanks to this book I now do. The photographs (650 color images) are beautiful and the format handy. Really happy with this book, but my wife now thinks I have rocks in my head. She might be right.

I purchased this book because I am currently taking a geology course in college and plan to actually go out and do some serious rock hunting. This book is not for the individual who wants to learn the types of rocks and what they look like straight from the earth. Many of the rocks, instead of being shown as nature intended were shown as jewelry and the selection of rocks was extremely limited by the author. This is a book for kids or for people interested in seeing some rocks turned into jewelry but not for serious rock hunters. If you are serious about collecting rocks and learning about them, skip this book and try something else.

This book is absolutely beautiful. The color reference photos are amazing in accuracy and detail - the best I've ever seen. I originally purchased this book for my teenage niece, who is interested in minerals and agates. However, because it is so informative and easy to use, I'm keeping this for myself! Clear and concise, every page is laid out in an easy to read format. Handy page tabs take you directly to the item you are looking for. There is also a "how to" section that prepares novice rock hounds for the dig with helpful advice on tools and safety. I love the photos of the pretty jewelry made from the stones.

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