

ZULTANITE®

By Andrew Kohler

Looking for something new to show and sell? Inspire your customers with the beauty and mystery of color change gems. Color change is a phenomenon that causes the gem to appear as distinctly different colors depending on the light/color temperature it is viewed in i.e., incandescent, fluorescent, or daylight.

The most familiar of the color change gems is alexandrite, a variety of chrysoberyl. There are also color change garnets and sapphires.

Relatively new to the color change scene is color change Diaspore with color ranges from green to brownish pink to raspberry. Originally discovered in a bauxite mine in the Ural Mountains in 1801, the only known deposit of clean crystals is found near Izma, Turkey. Although mined since 1949 the first gem quality crystals showed up at the Gem Testing Laboratory in London in 1977.

Zultanite is an extremely rare gemstone that despite its beauty and suitability for jewelry was previously plagued by scant availability. It remained a collector's item until Zultanite Gems LLC obtained the mine in 2005. There is only one mine producing genuine Zultanite, unlike other rare gems that are currently mined by many companies or in many countries. Zultanite is only mined at a remote location in the Anatolia mountains of Turkey directly from the host rock at an altitude exceeding 1000 meters (4,000 feet). The Turkish deposit remains the world's only source of Zultanite (color-change, gem quality Diaspore). Zultanite® is a registered trademark of material from that mine.

Genuine Zultanite is recovered using only environmentally safe mining techniques. The miners that work there are all housed and fed by the company. They have had a very positive economic impact on the lives of the miners and the surrounding community.

Unlike most other new, exciting gemstones, Zultanite is 100% natural with no heat, radiation, fillers or other enhancements. Many of the durability concerns with other gems are due to the treatments received after mining and cutting. Zultanite is very durable for its hardness (6.5-7.0 Mohs scale).

For clientele looking for the beauty and intrigue of color change gems, Zultanite should be part of the offering. For additional information about faceted Zultanite® gems contact Zultanite Gems LLC at 888-808-7074.



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Zultanite is also available in cabochon shapes that are doubly phenomenal, displaying color change and a perfect cat's eye effect.

The colors of Zultanite: Although smaller gems seem to be less saturated with color, all Zultanite is pleochroic, meaning different colors are visible by viewing the gemstone under different light sources. These colors can vary from olive green to kiwi green to champagne to brown to pink.