

With the shell in place, scribe a line along the inside wall that follows the irregular contour of the piece. Remove the shell and cut away metal down to this line, using burs, shears and files. Make an inside bezel and slide it into the larger bezel, using the previously trimmed piece as a guide for filing the inner rim.

Make an oval of wire, solder it closed, and planish it out to make a flat rim. In the end, this is the element that will hold the stone from the front. Bend this as necessary to fit closely onto the top lip of the outer (larger) bezel. The detail at figure 12.10b might make the location of this piece more evident.

When all soldering and finishing is complete, the cameo is slid into the setting from the back and the internal bezel used to lock it into place. This tight fitting ring should make a friction fit all around the inside of the primary bezel. It is further held by rivets, engraved stitches, adhesive or tin solder.

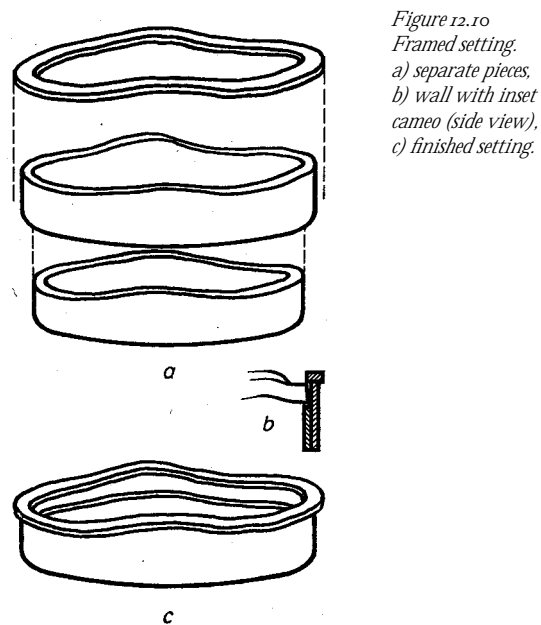


Figure 12.10
Framed setting.
a) separate pieces,
b) wall with inset
cameo (side view),
c) finished setting.

12.1.8 PRONG SETTINGS

We might think of a prong setting as an open-backed bezel from which segments have been removed at equal spacing around the rim. The advantage of prongs is that they allow more of the stone to show; in this way a prong setting resemble the way you might hold a coin by its edges to show it to a friend. The disadvantage, not surprisingly, is that the fingers of metal are prone to snag on fabric, and can be bent back more easily than can a bezel.

Variations on prong constructions are as numerous as the shapes in which stones are cut. A few examples are shown in figure 12.11, but these should be taken as only a glimpse of the many varieties that can be made. And keep in mind that each of these styles could be altered in proportion or metal to create several settings!

As mentioned above for frames, the bearing for a prong setting can either be added on or cut from the material itself. In those cases where an interior bezel is to be added, the upper edge must often be filed at an angle to properly fit the pavilion (underside) of a faceted stone. This situation is illustrated in the upper right corner of figure 12.11.

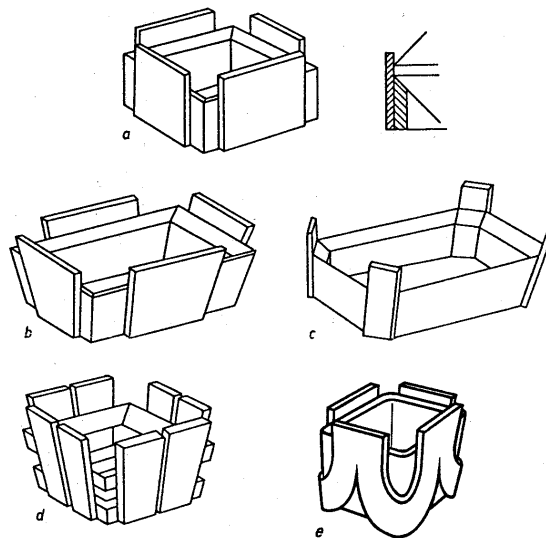


Figure 12.11
Square prong setting.
a) vertical walled prong setting, b) and c) conical prong setting,
d) conical prong setting with split frame, e) special form of a square
prong setting.