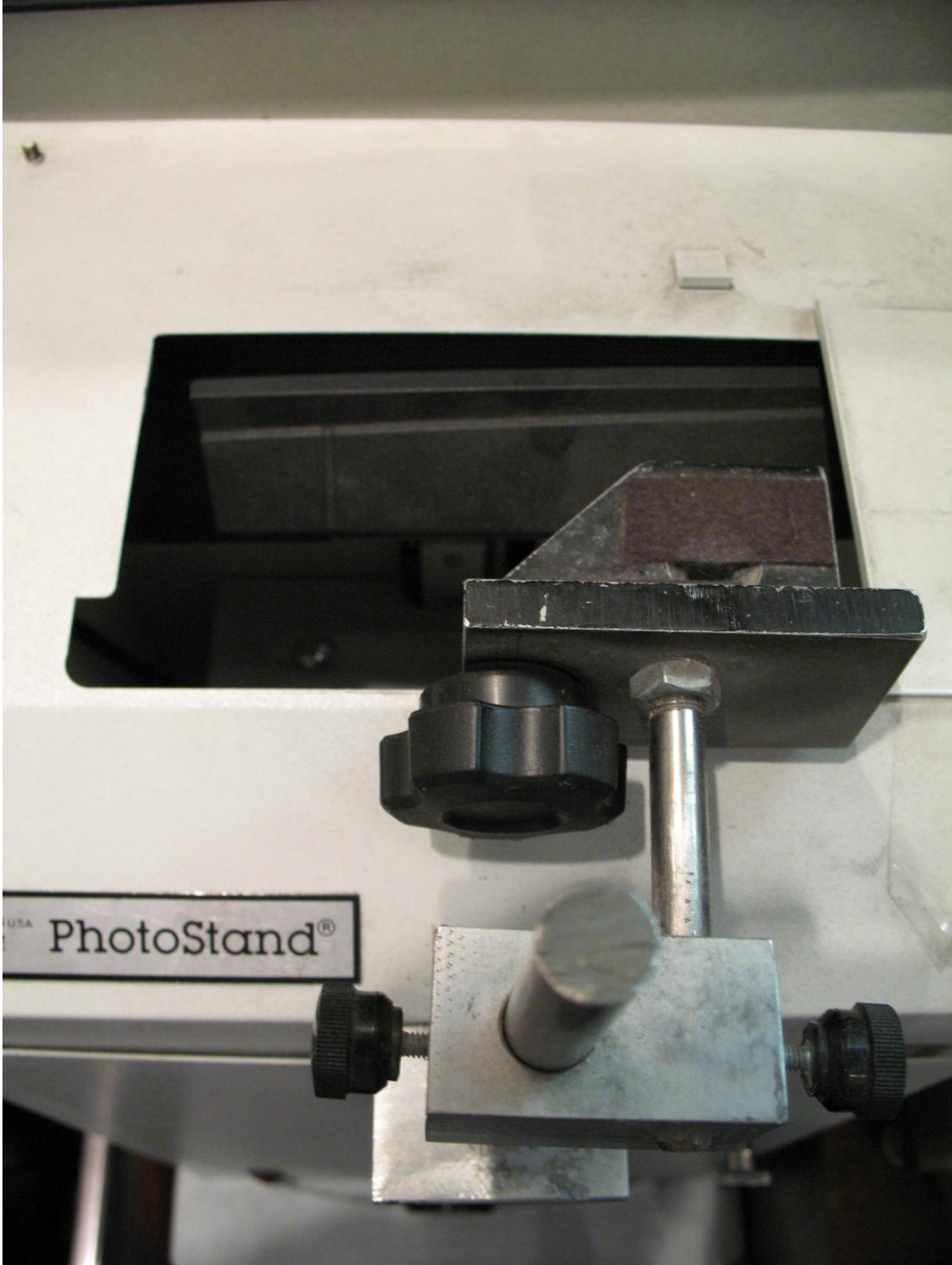


Re-Conditioned GIA PhotoStand







A fully adjustable camera bracket – This bracket is made to hold my Pentax Optio 33WR which is the main camera I use for all of my special photography work as I have custom-built a holder so I can do photomicrographs, and attach other instruments to the camera.

This was a fun and fast re-build project.

The lightbox is an older GIA PhotoStand that was originally designed for a Polaroid Land Camera back in the late 70's Early 80's.

I purchase this from GIA in 1980 and use to take Polaroid Pictures for my appraisals way back then.

However over the years I stopped using the Polaroid Camera and use to hand hold my 35mm Film Camera through the top where the Polaroid camera sat.

Then Digital Cameras came about and so then switched over to digital media once I got a decent computer and a decent digital camera.

After years of holding things by hand and using the old lighting system I decided to up-date and up-grade the lighting system using Compact Fluorescent Lights.

I like the GIA PhotoStand Cabinet because it has the ability to raise and lower the worktable platform so I can have a larger field of view for shooting necklaces and other larger objects in a controlled light environment.

I also added an adjustable Camera mounting system so I can attach just about any kind of camera to this lightbox for Vertical shots.

I personally don't believe in shooting oblique angle shots because there is no reference point and reference scales become useless.



I had a friend who has a small Machine Shop in his basement and we build Telescopes as a hobby so doing a retro-fit is pretty simple and straight forward.

Total time spent was about 2 hours and about \$50.00 in parts to breathe new life in an older piece of useful equipment.



I had to drill a hole and make a bracket to hold the new fluorescent light head in place and it allows me to turn or tilt the light to my needs.

I also had to build an adjustable bracket for holding and mounting my camera in place.

La Shawn Bauer, GG & High Sierra Gem Lab
© November 2011

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My Pentax Optio 33WR locked into place and ready to go.

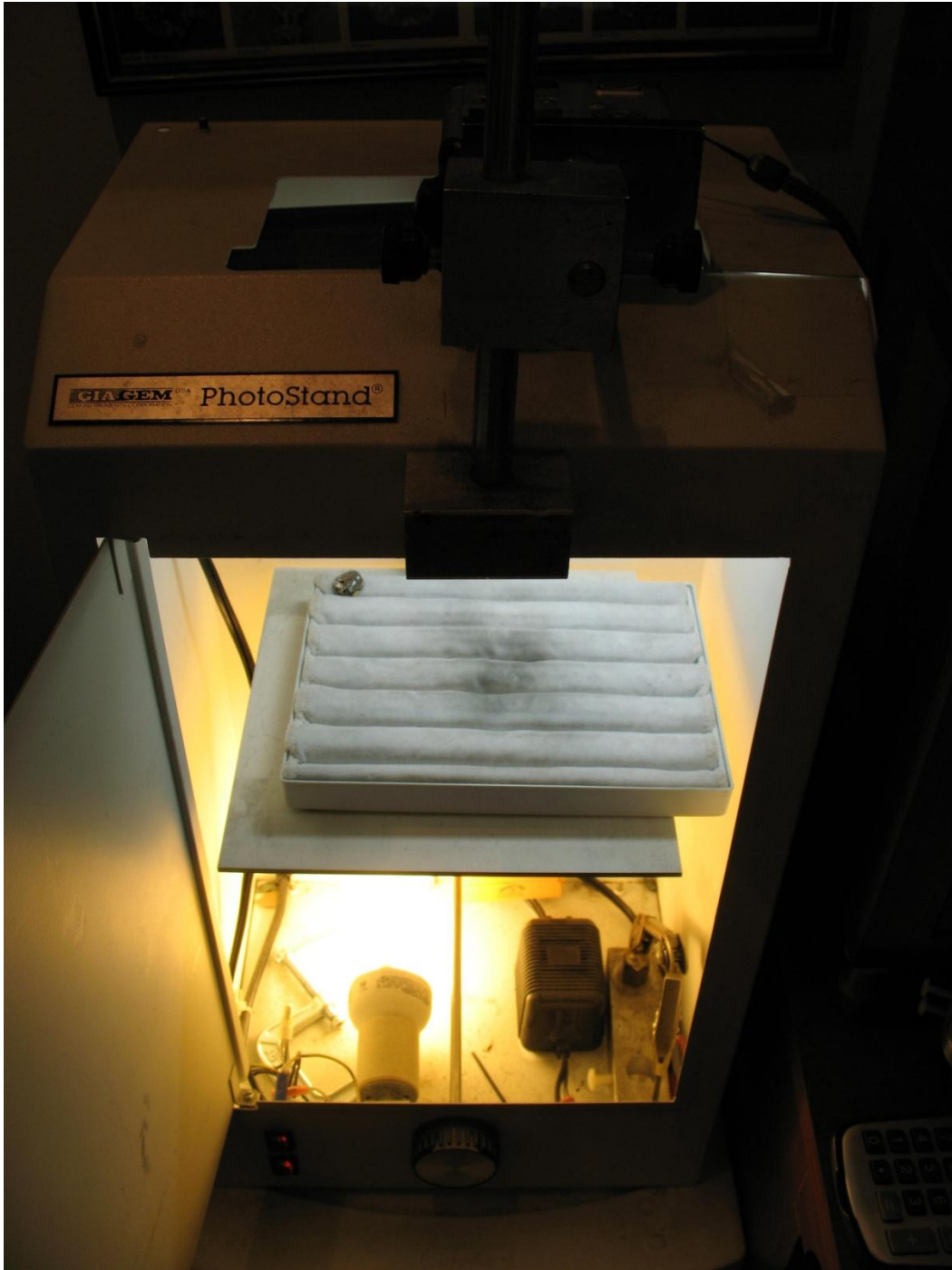


I switched out all the lights with compact Fluorescent lights. A new transformer is in the bottom for the top light and I used the old switches.
The bottom area I also use for store for special attachments when not being used.

You can see the camera at the top of the picture and also see a small U-Shaped Fluorescent light head that I retro fitted to the inside of the camera light box



I really like this light box as it has a quick and easy adjustable worktable platform that can be moved up and down for greater shooting possibilities.



Both lights are on and I use a cooler light that gives a warmer more yellow tone from the bottom as a fill light. The top light is a 6400K Light.



A view from the top with the lights on and camera in place.

All in all this was a quick cheap and fun project and I have used it daily for 7 years straight since the re-build.

It has more than paid for itself.

You are only limited by your own imagination.

If I can dream it up I can build it or at least I know the people who can help me build it.
La Shawn

Disclose, DISCLOSE, DISCLOSE!!!

Remember if you are only taking photos for an appraisal you also need to disclose within your report about your photographs and what they are really used for.

Photographs ARE NOT to scale and are enlarged to show artistic detail and various identification, manufacturing and quality attributes.

Color Reproduction IS NOT TRUE LIFE COLOR and SHOULD NOT be used to color grade metals, materials and gemstones.

Another important thing to remember is listing how you graded Special Gemstones and their Special Characteristics such as;

Color Change:

The Visible Colors Observed and Strength under each type of light

Record all of this information and also list the various lights used to observe the Color Change

Gemstone Phenomena:

Type of Phenomena Observed, Strength, Quality and Grade of Phenomena

Record all of this information and also list the various lights used to observe the Phenomena

You should also list and mention;

Type of lights used:

Incandescent, Fluorescent, LED and such
Also Spot, Flood, or Defused

Lighting technique Used:

Direct Over-Head, Dark Field, Spot Oblique Angle

Color Temperature of the lights used:

Distance of Light Source to Subject Observed: