

Vostra fine writing instruments



From left to right:

- *Light Arizona turquoise*
- *Persian turquoise*
- *Turquoise w / web*
- *White turquoise*

- *Chrysocolla*
- *Leopard skin jasper*
- *Bloody basin jasper*
- *Azurite / malachite*
- *Lapis*

The chemical name for **Turquoise** is Aluma Phosphate which, in its pure chemical state, is white. Turquoise takes on color via an intrusion of either copper or iron. In the case of Dry Creek ore, the slight coloration, when present, is the result of copper. The more intrusion, the darker the color. Blue turquoise forms where there is copper present, which is the case with most Arizona turquoises. Green turquoise forms where iron is present, the case with most Nevada turquoises. The deeper blue is found in the Middle East. Spider webbing in Turquoise is rare and commands very high prices.

When discovered in the Dry Creek Mine, north of Austin, Nevada, in 1993, they were not sure what it was. Because of its hardness, it was decided to send it in to be assayed and their suspicions proved correct; it was in fact **White Turquoise**. It was not until 1996, however, that it was finally made into jewelry. White Turquoise forms where there are no heavy metals present, which turns out to be a very rare occurrence. *To date, no other vein of gem quality white turquoise has been discovered anywhere else in the world.* When this current vein runs out, that will be the last of it. Because White Turquoise is as rare as a white buffalo, the Indians call it "White Buffalo" Turquoise.

Chrysocolla is a blue green semi precious gemstone generally found with quartz intermixed with it. It gets its green coloration from copper ore.

Jasper is one of the oldest known gemstones, formed of the mineral Chalcedony. The light tan and medium brown tones of the leopard skin jasper are prized in the gemstone business. The bloody basin jasper features a deep crimson red with black veining.

Azurite and **malachite** are often found together. The brilliant green of malachite and the deep blue of azurite make a stunning combination.

Lapis is a prized gemstone for its deep blue color. It is one of the oldest traded gemstones. It was used by the ancient Egyptians in a powdered form for eye makeup. Lapis may have Iron Pyrite specks in it. Iron pyrite is sometimes called "Fools Gold" as it looks like gold. You will see specks of the gold pyrite in our writing instrument.