

# Spessartine Garnet



**Garnet:** One type of garnet, Spessartine Garnet, is shown here. It is a crystalline manganese aluminum silicate mineral  $[\text{Mn}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_4)_3]$  with 12 rhombic or 24 trapezoidal faces; it also occurs in granular and massive forms. The crystals are translucent to transparent and hard (Mohs scale=7) with a vitreous or dull luster and a white streak. Garnets comprise a group of silicate minerals with different chemical compositions and colors; people often think garnets are only red, but they are also green, tan, brown, pink, purple or yellow. This specimen is from Pakistan, but high quality red stones are also found in Sri Lanka, Madagascar, and Brazil. Used for jewelry, there are no commercial applications for this garnet type, but other class members are used in abrasives and sandpaper.

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