



The Four C's of Diamonds

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CARATS

The “Carat” with a C refers to the size of your diamond and is the measure of its weight.

Karate refers to gold purity, where Carat refers to the size & weight.

Just as a dollar is divided into 100 pennies, a carat is divided into 100 points. For example, a 50-point diamond weighs 0.50 carats. But two diamonds of equal weight can have very different values depending on the other members of the Four C's: clarity, color, and cut.

The Carat Scale for measuring the weight of diamonds and gemstones:

| | | | | | | | |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|
| CARAT | 1/5 | 1/4 | 1/3 | 1/2 | 3/4 | 1 ct | 2cts |
| POINTS | 20 | 25 | 33 | 50 | 75 | 100 | 200 |

COLOR

Diamond color is all about what you can't see. Diamonds are valued by how closely they approach colorlessness – the less color, the higher their value because of rarity. (The exception to this is fancy-color diamonds, such as pinks and blues, which lie outside this color range.)

GIA's color-grading scale for diamonds is the industry standard. The scale begins with the letter D, representing colorless, and continues with increasing presence of color to the letter Z, or near-colorless. Each letter grade has a clearly defined range of color appearance. Diamonds are color-graded by comparing them to stones of known color under controlled lighting and precise viewing conditions.

Why does the GIA color grading system start at D?

Before GIA developed the D-Z Color Grading Scale, a variety of other systems were loosely applied. These included letters of the alphabet (A, B and C, with multiple A's for the best stones), Arabic (0, 1, 2, 3) and Roman (I, II, III) numerals, and descriptions such as “gem blue” or “blue white.” The result of all these grading systems was inconsistency and inaccuracy. Because the creators of the GIA Color Scale wanted to start fresh, without any association with earlier systems, they chose to start with the letter D—a letter grade normally not associated with top quality.

GIA (Gemological Institute of America) Scale for coloring grading:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|---|---|----------------|---|---|--------------|---|---|-------------------|---|---|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GIA | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X |
| Color Grades | Colorless | | | Near Colorless | | | Faint Yellow | | | Very Light Yellow | | | Light Yellow | | | | | | | | |

AGS (American Gem Society) Scale for coloring grading:

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|--------------|------------|-------|------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|------------|------|---|----|
| AGS Color Grades | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Trade Terms | Finest White | Fine White | White | Commercial White | Top Silver Cape | Silver Cape | Light Cape | Light Cape | Cape | | |

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CLARITY

Because diamonds formed deep within the earth, under extreme heat and pressure, they often contain unique birthmarks, either internal (inclusions) or external (blemishes).

Diamond clarity refers to the absence of these inclusions and blemishes. Diamonds without these birthmarks are rare, and rarity affects a diamond's value. By using the GIA Grading System, diamonds are assigned a clarity grade that ranges from flawless (FL) to diamonds with obvious inclusions (I3).

Every diamond is unique. None is absolutely perfect under 10x magnification, though some come close. Known as Flawless diamonds, these are exceptionally rare.

The GIA Clarity Scale contains 11 grades, with most diamonds falling into the VS (very slightly included) or SI (slightly included) categories. In determining a clarity grade, the GIA system considers the size, nature, position, color, or relief, and quantity of clarity characteristics visible under 10 x magnification.

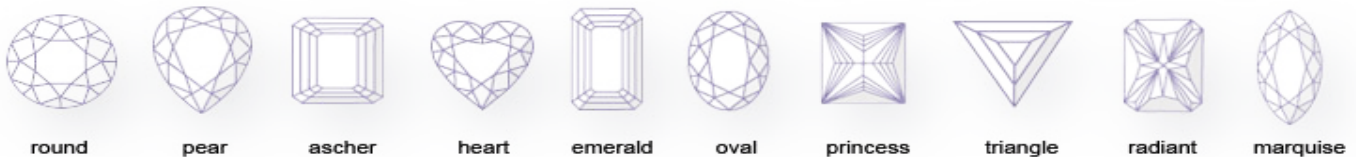
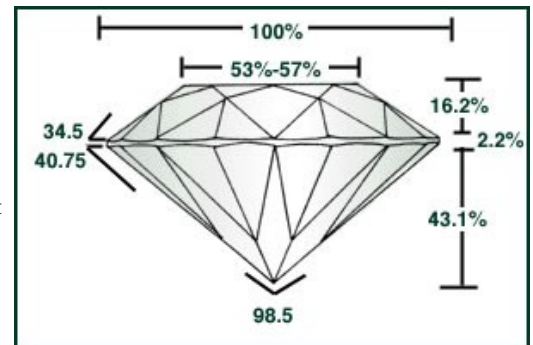
| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|
| GIA Clarity Grades | F1-VVS1 | VVS2 | VS1 | VS2 | SI1 | SI2 | I1 | I2 | I3 | |
| AGS Clarity Grades | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

CUT

Cut is the factor that fuels a diamond's fire, sparkle and brilliance.

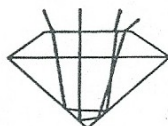
The traditional 58 facets in a round brilliant diamond, each precisely cut and defined, are as small as two millimeters in diameter. But without this precision, a diamond wouldn't be nearly as beautiful. The allure of a particular diamond depends more on cut than anything else.

Diamond Shapes:



Ideal Cut - *Tolkowsky*

If a diamond is cut to ideal portions, not only does the top table reflect light but the inner crystal of the diamond is able to capture the light entering and reflect it internally back up through the top portion of the diamond, which creates maximum brilliance, scintillation and fire.



Diamond crystals that are not cut to ideal proportions allow for light leakage which takes away from the brilliance, scintillation and fire. These types of diamonds are more common and less expensive due to their lack of ideal proportions.

Shallow or thick diamonds allow for heavier weights per carat but allow light leakage and windowing.

