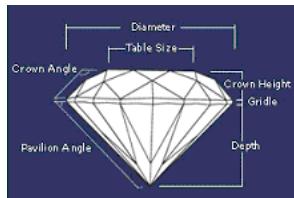


WHAT IS A DIAMOND?



Diamond, the hardest known material is pure carbon, crystallised under a very high pressure and temperature. In nature, such an environment exists only at depths of 150 to 200 km below the surface of the earth. Volcanic eruptions drive the diamond bearing rocks called "Kimberlite" and "Lamproite" to the surface of the earth where the diamonds can be extracted.

WHERE ARE THE MAIN DIAMOND SOURCES?

Throughout history, people have always been fascinated by the beauty and mystery of diamonds. Until the 18th century, India was the only source of diamonds in the world. In the second half of the 19th century, the first diamonds were discovered in Africa and soon after a "diamond rush" started. The first diamond diggers worked individually by hand, but when the pits became deeper, large mining companies were established, exploiting the diamond mines with mechanical equipment. Today, the most important diamond supplying countries are Australia and Congo for industrial diamonds and Southern Africa, Australia, Congo, Russia, Namibia and Botswana for gem quality stones.

HOW ARE DIAMONDS MINED?

The mining methods are very diverse, depending on how diamonds present themselves at the earth's surface. Mining of Kimberlite pipes involves "open-pit" or "underground mining". When freed by erosion from the Kimberlite matrix, diamond crystals are carried along by rivers. Riverbeds are dug away and the river silt is sieved. This technique is called "alluvial mining". "Marine mining" is the exploitation of sandy coastal strata by dredging. Finding diamonds can thus be the result of large industrial operations, but also of small-scale methods, or even manual labour. Diamonds are rare. It is usual that 250 tons of rock, sand and gravel must be processed to yield one carat of diamond. The annual world production amounts to approximately 100 million cts of which only 20% are of gem quality.

HOW ARE DIAMONDS TRANSFORMED FROM ROUGH TO POLISHED?

A rough diamond obtains its final shape and brilliance by a succession of manufacturing processes: cleaving, sawing, bruting and polishing.

WHY IS CRAFTSMANSHIP IN DIAMOND PROCESSING SO IMPORTANT?

A diamond can be loupe clean and have the best white colour, but if the facets of the stone have not been placed in perfect harmony, then there is no shine, no fire in the stone.

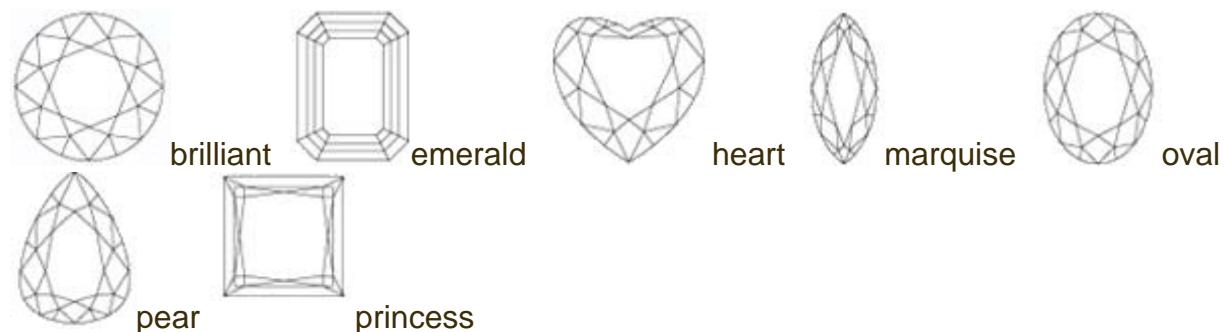
HOW IS THE QUALITY OF A DIAMOND DEFINED?

The universal characteristics by which a diamond is graded and priced: **Cut, Colour, Clarity and Carat (weight)**

CUT

The cut of the diamond refers to the shape (brilliant, pear, heart, marquise, emerald etc.) and the make, geometric proportions to which it is cut. The make (handicraft) is the most important factor in determining how much the diamond will sparkle.

So if you ask the question what is the difference between a diamond and a brilliant then you know that both cannot be compared as such. A brilliant is only a 'cut', which means that any rough material, be it glass or diamond, can be cut into the shape of a brilliant (57 facets).



COLOUR

A diamond must be as colourless as possible. The colour grade describes the colour tones in a stone. D is perfectly colourless, which is rare and expensive. The colour scale goes from D to Z and indicates yellow and brown tones. It takes a trained eye to distinguish between shades that are close together, but an untrained eye can see the difference between shades that are several tones apart with a little practice. Pink, blue, red, and green diamonds are also found, but they are very rare and expensive. These fancy coloured diamonds don't follow the normal colour/price scale and are priced separately.

| Colour | | scale |
|-----------------|---------------|--------|
| D= | exceptionally | white |
| E= | exceptionally | white |
| F= | rare | white |
| G= | rare | white |
| H= | | white |
| I-J= | slightly | tinted |
| K= | tinted | white |
| M, N-O, P, S-Z= | tinted colour | white |

CLARITY

A diamond is given a grade to describe the level of inclusions or imperfections. The less imperfections, the better the clarity.

A diamond is "loupe clean or internally flawless" if, after examination by an experienced grader with a loupe 10 x under normal light conditions, it has been found free of internal characteristics. The other clarity grades are determined by the size, position, brightness, and number of internal characteristics. External characteristics and structure phenomena can be mentioned under "identification marks" or "comments".

FL= Flawless.(LC/IF) There are no internal or external inclusions visible under a x10 magnifying glass to the trained eye. This is the best and most expensive clarity grade.

I-3= (P3) Included 3. Many flaws, clearly visible to the naked eye. The brilliance is decreased and the structure of the diamond is compromised: it can break or chip easily. That is the lowest clarity grade on the scale (indicated by p for piqué or I) refer to inclusions that can be seen by an experienced grader with the naked eye.

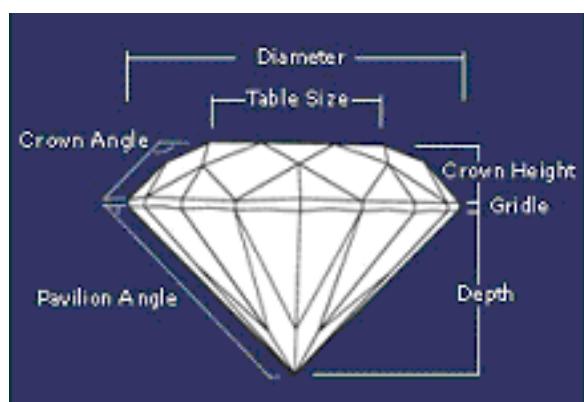
| | | | | | |
|-------|------|------|-----|-----|--|
| LC/IF | VVS1 | VVS2 | VS1 | VS2 | |
| | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----|----|----|----|--|
| SI1 | SI2 | P1 | P2 | P3 | |
| | | | | | |

CARAT

A diamond's weight is expressed in carat, one carat being an equivalent of 200mg. Evidently, the heavier the diamond, the more expensive. The word 'carat' is derived from 'carob'. In ancient India gems were weighed with carob beans that all weighed exactly the same.

DIAMOND ANATOMY



Diameter

The width of the diamond as measured through the girdle.

Table

This is the large, flat top facet of a diamond.

Crown

The upper portion of a cut diamond, above the girdle.

Girdle

The narrow rim of a diamond that separates the crown from the pavilion. It is the largest diameter to any part of the stone.

Pavilion

The lower portion of the diamond, below the girdle. It is sometimes referred to as the base.

Culet

The tiny facet on the pointed bottom of the pavilion, which is the portion of a cut diamond below the girdle.

Depth

The height of a diamond, from the culet to the table.

SOME MORE CHARACTERISTICS WHICH INFLUENCE THE VALUE OF A DIAMOND**Fluorescence:**

Certain diamonds disperse a bluish glow when exposed to ultraviolet light. A diamond should not have strong fluorescence, but faint or moderate fluorescence does not affect the diamond's look. Some customers prefer a faint fluorescence, because it balances the yellow colour of some of the less expensive stones.

Inclusion:

Inclusions are internal imperfections in a diamond, such as a spot or irregularity. Irregularities can include a fracture, a smaller diamond inside the bigger one, included liquid etc. In SI-3 clarity diamonds (or lower quality) the inclusions can be seen with the naked eye. In higher quality stones the inclusions are only visible under magnification. The fewer the inclusions, the better the clarity grade, the rarer the stone and the higher the price.

Make:

A diamond's make is the quality of its finish and proportions. A good make will enhance a stone's brilliance and fire. A poor make will decrease the stone's sparkle and fire.

Polish:

A diamond is given a grade for its finish, from poor to excellent. The polish is very important, because a good polish can enhance the stone's fire and brilliance. It takes a trained eye to differentiate between the different grades.

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATIONS

- international certificate of the Diamond High Council (HRD)
- the international Gemmological Institute (IGI).
- The GIA certificates which are mainly used in the USA, are less common in Europe

THE DIAMOND GRADING REPORT GENERAL INFORMATION

A Diamond Grading Report is issued for diamonds of all shapes and sizes that fall within the D-to-Z color grading scale, and provides the most comprehensive analysis of a diamond's quality. A Diamond Grading Report includes the authoritative assessment of a diamond's 4Cs – color, clarity, cut, and carat weight – along with a diagram of your diamond's clarity characteristics.

THE DIAMOND DOSSIER

The Diamond Dossier is a grading report issued for diamonds within D-to-Z color grading scale that weigh less than 1.00 carat, but more than 0.18 carat. The Dossier includes authoritative analysis of a diamond's 4Cs – color, clarity, cut, and carat weight. As an added security benefit, the Dossier service includes a microscopic laser inscription of the Dossier's identification number on the girdle of the diamond, connecting the diamond and the report together.

PRICELISTS FOR DIAMONDS:

[Rapaport](#) and [Adtec](#)

DISCOUNT:

The average discount for rough diamonds is in between 25% and 35%

WHAT IS A KIMBERLEY CERTIFICATION?

The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, popularly known as KPCS, is a process designed to certify the origin of rough diamonds from sources which are free of conflicts.

The requirements of the KPCS are as follows:

Each shipment of rough diamonds crossing an international border must be:

- Transported in a tamper-resistant container;
- Accompanied by a government-validated Kimberley Process Certificate;
- Each certificate must be resistant to forgery, uniquely numbered and describe the shipment's contents;

- The shipment can only be exported to another KPCS participant country;
- It is illegal for uncertified shipments of rough diamonds to either be imported or exported by a KPCS participant country;
- Failure to comply with these procedures can lead to confiscation or rejection of parcels and/or criminal sanctions; and
- If any concerns arise regarding a co to the KPCS, they must be investigated and dealt with at an intergovernmental level.

WHAT ARE BLOOD DIAMONDS?

Those are rough diamonds which rebels want to sell to finance their war against legitimate governments, e.g. diamonds from Cote d'Ivoire, Venezuela, and Congo. Countries like Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Taiwan, Mali, Mexico, and Tunisia are not even members of KPCS. Only KPCS participants are authorized to deal with rough diamonds.

ROUGH DIAMOND OFFERS:

A diamond offer is called a Manifest, which has always to be signed and dated by the seller or his legal mandate. It includes the description of the offered diamonds (the famous 3 C's, one C the Cut is missing as we are talking now about rough diamonds) the price and the discount. ([Rapaport](#) minus XY % discount or [Adtec](#) minus XY discount)

HOW TO SEND AN OFFER TO US:

We always need

1. Manifest signed and sealed
2. sanitized SKR (Safe Keeping Receipt)
3. KPC
4. FCO with the purchase procedure

Commissions will not exceed 2% of the purchase value.

No TTMs without prove of product (sanitized SKR).