

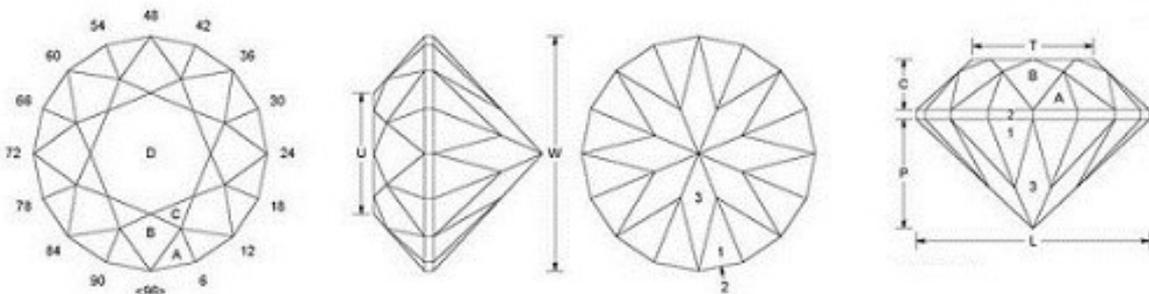
How to buy a diamond.

GAYUBO

The home of classic of jewelry

When buying a diamond the most important features to consider are: colour, quality of cutting, purity, weight and fluorescence. Each of these features is very important. When it comes to purchasing a jewel you need to bear in mind each of these gemology factors in relation to the world's most valuable gem, these factors show the "diamond quality".

LEARN HOW TO BUY A DIAMOND



Characteristics of diamonds:

From a gemologist's point of view diamonds are characterised by 4 C's. These are Carat (weight), Colour, Clarity and Cut. However there are other features that are vitally important when it comes to choosing a diamond and defining the quality. Among these is the existence or not of fluorescence and the quality of the cut in its three most important aspects: symmetry, polish and proportion. A diamond can never be valued by just one characteristic, the value of the gem is the combination of all of them. The following contains further information about each of these aspects mentioned previously.

1. Weight and size

As we mentioned previously, the weight of a diamond is measured in Carats (cts). A Carat is 0.20 grammes. The smallest unit used to measure the weight of a diamond is a hundredth, a hundred hundredths equals a carat, in other words a hundredth of a carat is 0.01cts. The weight of a diamond must correspond to this measurement. If it meets the weight to size relation it's an indication that the quality of the cut is correct. The quality of the cut is becoming more and more important in relation to the quality of a diamond. We can't say that a diamond is good just because its colour and purity are extraordinary, if the cut is bad its value is lower, the market is demanding that diamonds minimum cuts in their three aspects of Very Good (symmetry, polish and proportions). In the same way the price will be lower 9f it has a lot of fluorescence. In the next diagram we can see the relation between weight and size for brilliant cut diamonds. These characteristics of diamonds are vitally important to know if the cut of a diamond adds value to it allowing it to shine brightly.

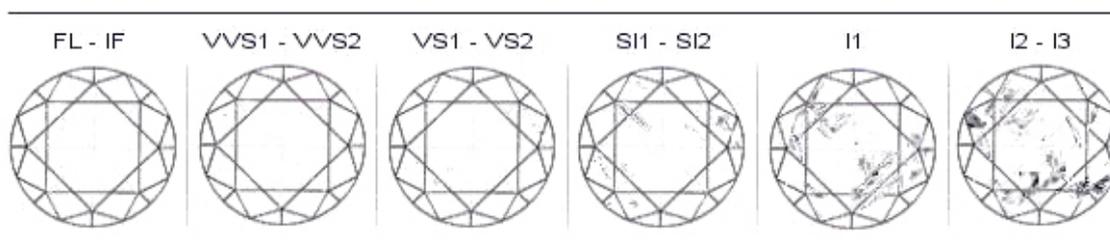
WEIGH / DIAMOND MESURE

Weight	0.25 carat	0.50 carat	1.00 carat	1.25 carat	1.50 carat	1.75 carat	2.00 carat	2.50 carat	3.00 carat
Size	4.1 mm	5.2 mm	6.5 mm	7.0 mm	7.4 mm	7.8 mm	8.2 mm	9.0 mm	9.3 mm
Image									

2. Purity.

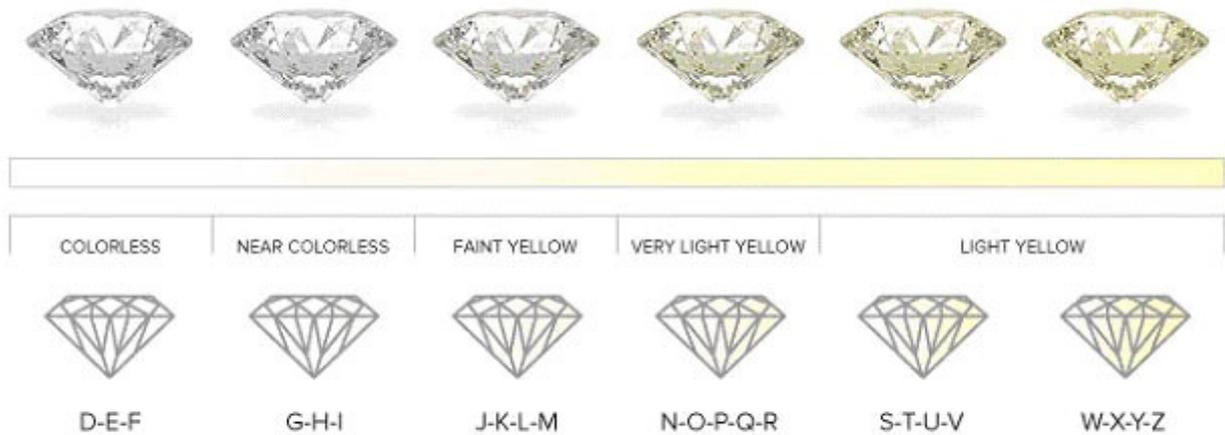
The clarity or purity of diamonds is another important factor. The fewer inclusions (impurities) a diamond has the higher its value (always remembering the other characteristics too). From a gemologist's point of view concerning the purity of a diamond, it is measured with 10X magnifiers (and other gemological instruments), this being the instrument used officially to determine the purity. If magnifiers of higher a magnification are used and we see inclusions they are not considered if they cannot be seen by a 10X magnifier. The inspection should be carried out under good lighting conditions. A diamond is considered pure when under these conditions there are no inclusions. The grading of purity is therefore determined by the conclusions and their position. From left to right in the diagram we can see the different purities of diamonds. FL (Flawless) is the purest under a 10X magnification, followed by I1-2-3 (PIQUE) classified by having a high number of inclusions. Raport (the reference list for the diamond professional sector also includes the I3 grade under the SI denominations)

PURITY OF DIAMONDS



- FL-IF : Flawless or Internally Flawless. No internal inclusions.
- VVS1-VVS2 : Very Very Small inclusions. Very difficult to detect under 10x magnification.
- VS1-VS2 : Very Small inclusions. Can be seen under 10x magnification and in some cases to the naked eye.
- SI1-SI2 : Small inclusions. Can be seen under 10x magnification and may be visible to the naked eye.
- I1-I2-I3 : Imperfect. Inclusions are visible under 10x magnification and in most cases to the naked eye.

3. Colour.



In this section we will talk about the more extended and recognised worldwide scale, established by the Gemological Institute of America, the GIA in the 1970's. The colour of a diamond is established by comparing it with this standard scale. In general gemologists have a diamond scale with all the colours according to the GIA to determine one of the most important characteristics relating to diamond quality. These colours go from the palest to the yellowest. The diamond that is being analysed is compared with a master and are classified by colour. The GIA has established an ABC scale, D being the palest and Z the yellowest. The paler the diamond is, the higher its market value compared to other diamonds. Diamonds that go from D to F are considered colourless, those that go from G to J almost colourless, those that go from K to M have a tinge of yellow and from there on tones of canary yellow are accentuated and prices lower considerably.



In the previous table we see the most common diamonds which are found in diamond mines, these are the most used in jewelry. Diamonds from colour D to H are recognised as being of great quality by the jewelry sector, although colours I and J are used as being almost White. In any case, we cannot confuse diamonds on the GIA scale of yellow tones with those called Fancy Colour. These latter ones are very scarce and difficult to find. The colours of these diamonds is based on some kind of very rare inclusion which gives them tones of blue, red, yellow, orange etc. These diamonds due to their rarity are really expensive and very few jewellers work with them and very few clients ask for them due to their very high cost. In the next table we can see the colours used in mid-range and premium jewelry:



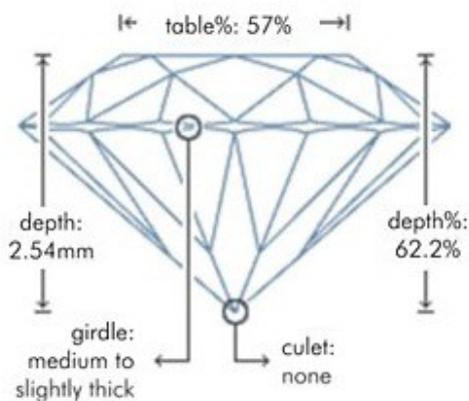
4. Cut.

This section can be divided into two basic aspects. On one hand we have the quality of cut and on the other the shape of the diamond, the former influences the quality of the diamond and the latter refers to the physical shape of the diamond. It's good to make this clear because not everyone knows the difference and you shouldn't confuse the two. So we'll talk about them separately.

4.1. Cut quality of the diamond:

Currently the diamond market is valuing the cut quality more and more; don't forget that related to this is the shine, it will shine more or less according to the quality of the cut, something that consumers value highly. To cut a diamond aspects such as its original shape and what weight can be obtained once it has been cut. In general a polished diamond has a weight of between 25% and 35% of what it originally was. Therefore the cutter, together with the owner have to study the rough diamond and work out what is best.

Dimensions of brilliant cut diamonds:



The heavier the diamond the higher its value, that is why some people prefer to sacrifice the cut quality to gain more weight. However this practice is being used less and less and as we said, a well cut diamond has a higher price than one with an inferior cut, so the difference lost by a lower weight when it is cut well compensates for the loss of weight. From a gemologist's point of view a diamond has three fundamental characteristics regarding its cut: symmetry, polish and proportion. Together these give more or less shine.

4.2. The shape of the diamond:

Previously we spoke about diamonds in the rough. The natural shapes of diamonds in nature are very different. We can have diamonds in octahedron, dodecahedron, triangular, round as well as many other diverse shapes for those that are found in fluvial areas as a result of erosion. When it comes to cutting, this has to be considered as it will be given one shape or another. An octahedron allows us to polish a diamond of brilliant size without reducing its shine drastically for its weight. A triangular diamond allows us to cut it in a triangle or knob shape. In other words, the shape of the rough diamond defines its final shape after polishing.

To sum up, when purchasing a unique gem remember the 4 C's and the three sections about quality of cut and the presence or not of fluorescence.



**All of the characteristics indicated are clearly defined and established in the gem industry, so, when purchasing a diamond (loose or set in jewelry) it should be accompanied by a gemological certificate issued and signed by a qualified gemologist. No gem can be certified once it has been mounted, it should be certified previously. Otherwise its characteristics and quality cannot be accurately determined. A lot of the aspects seen in this section would be impossible to verify reliably if the gem is already mounted. As an example, the colour of the gem can only be identified before the diamond is mounted. Similarly, the purity could be concealed if no inclusions can be seen when it's mounted, due to being hidden by gold.*