

## Carat Weight

A carat is a unit of metric measurement used for gems. One carat (ct.) equals 100 points, 200 milligrams, or 1/5 of a gram.

## Clarity Grade

**The FL Grade** (Flawless) describes diamonds in which a skilled observer does not see any inclusions or surface blemishes, after thorough examination at 10-power magnification under standardized lighting conditions.

**The IF Grade** (Internally Flawless) describes diamonds that have no internal characteristics observable under the conditions described above, but that may have minor blemishes confined to the surface.

**The VVS Grades** (Very Very Slightly Included) describe diamonds with very, very small inclusions that are difficult for a skilled observer to see, under the conditions described above.

**The VS Grades** (Very Slightly Included) describe diamonds with very small inclusions ranging from difficult to somewhat easy to observe, under the conditions described above.

**The SI Grades** (Slightly Included) describe diamonds with small inclusions that are easy or very easy to see, under the conditions described above. Occasionally, inclusions in the SI category are visible to the unaided eye.

**The I Grades** (Included) describe diamonds with medium or large inclusions that are usually obvious to the unaided eye, under standardized lighting conditions.

## Color Grade

Color is graded on a scale from “D” (colorless) to “Z” (possessing a strong tonal modifier). Most diamonds have a yellow or brown tonal modifier. The example below depicts yellow.



## Cut (Shape and Style)

Cut describes the silhouette or form created by a diamond’s contours and facets. Shapes vary from round to fancy cuts, such as cushion, emerald, heart, marquise, oval, pear, and princess. And style includes variations of brilliant, stepped, and mixed cuts. Beautiful diamonds can be found in virtually any shape or style.

## Cut Grade

A diamond’s cut grade is based on the combined analysis of its proportions, polish, and symmetry — factors that determine the way light interacts with the stone. The most preferred stones are graded on a scale from very good to ideal plus, as noted below.

		Ideal Plus	Ideal	Very Good
Round	Table %	53–59	53–60	53–65
	Depth %	58.5–62.5	57–63.5	56–64.4
	Pavilion %	42–44	41.5–44.5	41–45.5
	Crown ∠	33–36	32–36.5	31–36.8
	Crown Ht %	12–15.5	11.5–17.4	11.2–18.2
	Culet	None–Medium		
	Girdle	Thin–Slightly Thick	Very Thin–Thick	
Princess	Finish	Excellent–Very Good		
	Table %	62–73	59–76	58–79
	Depth %	63–75	60–77	59–80
	Crown Ht %	9–14.5	8–15	7–16
	Culet	None		
	Girdle	Thin–Thick	Very Thin–Thick	Very Thin–Very Thick
	Finish	Excellent–Very Good		
L/W Ratio	1:1–1.07			

## Finish

Finish refers to the analysis of a diamond’s polish and symmetry. Polish relates directly to the smoothness and overall surface condition of the diamond. Symmetry relates to facet shape and arrangement, and the overall exactness of the stone’s contour and outline. Both are rated on a scale ranging from poor to excellent.

## Fluorescence

Fluorescence refers to a diamond’s capacity to emit a visible light when its atoms react to long- and short-wave ultraviolet rays. Fluorescence is measured for identification purposes and described on a scale from inert (none) to very strong.

## Plotting

A plotting diagram approximates a diamond’s style and shape, and notes its characteristics with these symbols.

### External Characteristics

- Abrasion
- Pit
- Extra Facet
- Polish Lines
- Natural
- Scratch
- Nick
- Surface Graining

### Internal Characteristics

- Bruise
- Internal Graining
- Cavity
- Internal Laser Drill
- Chip
- Knot
- Cloud
- Laser Drill Hole
- Crystal
- Needle
- Feather
- Pinpoint
- Indented Natural
- Twinning Wisp

## Proportions

Diamond proportions refer to the stone’s dimensions and facet angles, as well as the relationship between them. Measurements for round diamonds are indicated by maximum–minimum diameter x depth, in millimeters. Fancy shapes are indicated by length x width x depth.

