



THE  
DIAMOND  
BUYERS'  
GUIDE



**EGL USA**<sup>®</sup>  
GEMOLOGICAL LABORATORY

# The magic of nature. The beauty of art. The precision of science.

Diamonds are born deep within the earth, where tremendous heat, pressure, and time set the stage for a dazzling display. Once the rough stones emerge, they are literally transformed

by imagination and artistry.



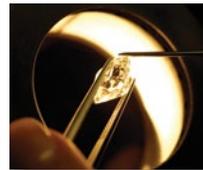
The result is both rare and remarkable: exceptional beauty that captures the eye and the heart.

Each diamond is completely unique. And its individual characteristics — even those that are subtle — can impact its visual appeal and value. A reliable gemological report can provide a clear basis for comparison.



# The assurance of authenticity.

EGL USA's diamond evaluation process is recognized throughout the industry and the world for its superior science and service.



Every EGL USA-certified diamond is examined by no fewer than four different gemologists, using the most advanced technology available.

This expert analysis is presented in a wide variety of comprehensive gem identification and evaluation

reports. They are simply indispensable resources for diamond buyers everywhere: all the facts about the facets.



# FACTS ABOUT FACETS

## 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.

Carat	0.10	0.25	0.50	1.00	1.25	1.50	1.75	2.00	2.50	3.00
Diameter	3.0	4.1	5.2	6.5	6.9	7.4	7.8	8.2	8.8	9.4
Height	1.8	2.5	3.1	3.9	4.3	4.5	4.7	4.9	5.3	5.6

## Clarity Grade

Clarity refers to the internal and external characteristics, or inclusions, in a diamond.

<p><b>FL</b></p> <p><b>Flawless</b> No visible inclusions or surface blemishes at 10x magnification.</p>	<p><b>IF</b></p> <p><b>Internally Flawless</b> No visible internal characteristics at 10x magnification, but may have minor surface blemishes.</p>	<p><b>VVS1 VVS2</b></p> <p><b>Very Very Slightly Included</b> With very, very small inclusions that are difficult to see at 10x magnification.</p>
<p><b>VS1 VS2</b></p> <p><b>Very Slightly Included</b> With very small inclusions that are difficult to somewhat easy to see at 10x magnification.</p>	<p><b>S11 S12 S13</b></p> <p><b>Slightly Included</b> With small inclusions that are easy or very easy to see at 10x magnification. Occasionally, visible to the unaided eye.</p>	<p><b>I1 I2 I3</b></p> <p><b>Included</b> With medium or large inclusions that are obvious to the unaided eye.</p>

## Color Grade

<b>DEF</b>	<b>GHIJ</b>	<b>KLMN</b>	<b>O-P Q-R</b>	<b>S-T U-V</b>	<b>W-X Y-Z</b>
<b>Colorless</b>	<b>Near Colorless</b>	<b>Faint Yellow</b>	<b>Very Light Yellow</b>	<b>Light Yellow</b>	

For colorless to light diamonds, 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.

**Colored diamonds** are distinguished by a combination of hue (the characteristic color), tone (lightness), and saturation (strength). Fancy colored diamonds are graded on a scale from fancy light to fancy vivid. While remarkable diamonds can be found in many colors, fancy vivids are typically the most rare and valuable.

<b>Fancy Light</b>	<b>Fancy</b>	<b>Fancy Intense</b>	<b>Fancy Vivid</b>

## Color Origin

Color origin identifies the basis of a diamond’s color. This can include sources described as natural, treated, enhanced, etc.

## 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 emerald, pear, and princess. Style includes variations of brilliant, stepped, and mixed cuts. Beautiful diamonds can be found in virtually any shape or style.

<b>Cushion</b>	<b>Emerald</b>	<b>Marquise</b>	<b>Oval</b>
<b>Pear</b>	<b>Princess</b>	<b>Radiant</b>	<b>Round</b>

## 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.

POOR	FAIR	GOOD	VERY GOOD	IDEAL	IDEAL PLUS
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Some preferred stones achieve a particularly precise and romantic “hearts & arrows” pattern that reveals a circle of hearts through the pavilion and arrows through the crown.

**Hearts & Arrows Round**

**Pavilion View** **Crown View**

## Enhancement

A diamond’s appeal can be enhanced by a variety of treatments. Clarity, for example, can appear to be improved by laser drilling or internal laser drilling (KM), which address inclusions, or feather/fracture filling, which introduces glass-like material to a diamond’s natural feathers or fractures. Color can appear to be improved by the effects of treatments such as High Pressure High Temperature (HPHT) or irradiation.

## Finish

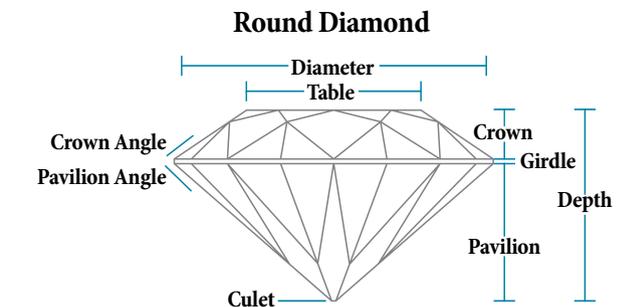
Finish refers to the analysis of a diamond’s polish and symmetry. Polish relates directly to the smoothness and overall surface condition of the diamond. Symmetry relates to facet shape and arrangement, and the overall exactness of the stone’s contour and outline. Both are rated on a scale ranging from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

## 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.



# EGL USA

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in gemological  
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