

Diamond Grading Terminology

A diamond's cost is based on the characteristics known as the "4 C's". Clarity, Colour and Cut (proportion) are the quality elements which together with the Carat Weight determine the value of the stone.

Carat is the unit of weight for all gemstones. One carat is subdivided into 100 "points". Therefore, a diamond weighing 75 points is 3/4 carat in weight, or 0.75ct. There are five carats in one gram.

Clarity

A diamond's clarity is determined by the number, nature, position, size and colour of internal characteristics called "inclusions" and surface features called "blemishes". Clarity is measured on a scale ranging from pure (flawless) to heavily included (I-3).

GIA Clarity Grading Scale

Flawless	Internally Flawless	VVS-1	VVS-2	VS-1	VS-2	SI-1	SI-2	I-1	I-2	I-3
Pure		Very Very Small Inclusions		Very Small Inclusions		Small Inclusions		Included		

Colour

Ideally, a diamond should have no colour at all, like a drop of spring water. Increasing amounts of body colour are measured on a scale ranging from no colour (D) to deeply coloured (Z). Beyond "Z" is the range where the diamond's colour is vivid and rich, called "fancy" colours.

GIA Colour Grading Scale

D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Colourless			Near Colourless			Slightly Tinted			Very Light Yellow		Light Yellow		Yellow							Light Fancy		

Cut

Cut, sometimes the forgotten "C", ensures that a given diamond has maximum brilliance and sparkle which would not be the case were the stone cut for weight alone.

Cut Grading Scale

0 - 1	2 - 3	4 - 5	6 - 7	8 - 10
Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor

Cut Grading Explained

Ideal/Excellent Cut (Grade 0 to 1)

Diamonds cut to "ideal" proportions, as shown in the diagram. This cutting yields a diamond of maximum brilliance and beauty.

Very Good Cut (Grade 2 to 3)

Diamonds cut just outside the tolerances of the ideal cut.

Good Cut (Grade 4 to 5)

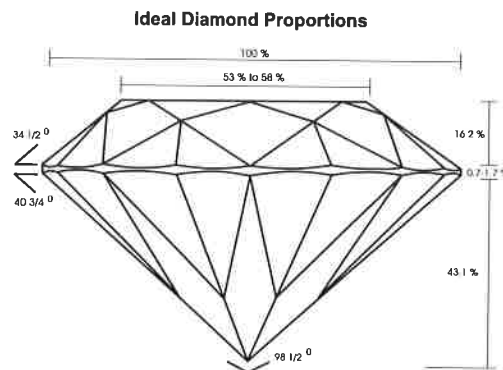
Diamonds cut to average proportions, with somewhat reduced brilliance and beauty to the trained observer.

Fair/Commercial Cut (Grade 6 to 7)

Diamonds cut with reduced brilliance to the untrained eye, or significant retention of weight from the rough.

Poor Cut (Grade 8 to 10)

Diamonds cut with distinctly reduced brilliance to the untrained eye, or considerable retention of weight from the rough. The appraisal is based on a hypothetical recutting to more regular proportions.



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