

# Crescent Jewelers Diamond Guide

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## Diamond Jewelry

Use	Carat Weight	Clarity	Color	Cut
Engagement Rings	0.40-1.50ct (or as much as budget allows)	SI2-VS2	F-H	Very Good-Ideal (GIA grade 2 or better)
Fashion Rings	As much as budget allows	I1-SI1	G-J	Good (GIA grade 3)
Stud Earrings	0.33cttw + (or as much as budget allows)	I1-SI1	F-H	Good - Very Good (GIA grade 2 or 3)
Multi-Diamond Earrings	As much as budget allows	I1-SI1	G-J	Good (GIA grade 3)
Tennis Bracelets	1.50cttw + (or as much as budget allows)	SI2-VS1	G-J	Good - Very Good (GIA grade 2 or 3)

**Note:** Combinations chosen above are for best value and to get the most sparkle/shine for your money. Those with higher budgets can choose better clarity and color ranges.

Some notes:

1. When getting rings or items that people will look at up close at, you want to have a minimum clarity of SI2 so that no inclusions are visible to the naked eye. For engagement rings, carat weight is not everything. Pick a diamond with a higher color and cut.
2. With jewelry that contains many smaller diamonds such as tennis bracelets, fashion rings, etc, try to get larger stones. Clarity will not make much of a difference if all the stones are 1 or 2 pointers (0.01-0.02ct) each. For example, try to get a tennis bracelets with 4 or 5 pointers. You will appreciate the diamonds much more being larger than you would if they were clearer or whiter. Also for smaller diamonds (under 0.10ct), there is no such thing as "ideal cut," anyone that tells you otherwise is not really being honest. There is good and premium (very good) but it is a great deal of work to make ideal cut diamonds in such a small size and is almost never done.
3. For items you will not look closely at, such as diamond stud earrings, don't worry too much about clarity or color. Be concerned more with carat size and cut, because they will make the diamonds appear larger and shine more. No one will pull out a 10x loupe up to your ear to see the inclusions! I1 clarity stones are actually not that bad for this type of application if it lets you get bigger stones. For those that must have better quality diamonds, be prepared to spend more.

## Diamond Clarity

**Diamond Clarity** is a measure of a diamond's internal flaws and impurities. A diamond that is virtually free of interior or exterior inclusions (commonly referred to as flaws) is of the highest quality, for nothing interferes with the passage of light through the diamond. *To determine a diamond's clarity, it is viewed under 10x magnification by a trained gemologist.* Small inclusions neither mar its beauty nor endanger its durability.

GIA	FL - IF	VVS1	VVS2	VS1	VS2	SI1	SI2	I1	I2	I3
clarity grading scale	Internally Flawless	Very Very Slight inclusions		Very Slight inclusions		Slight inclusions		Imperfect		
										

**Flawless** - No internal or external flaws.

**Internally Flawless** - No internal flaws. Very rare and beautiful diamonds which are quite expensive.

**VVS1, VVS2** - Very, Very Slightly Included: Very difficult to see inclusions under 10x magnification. An excellent quality diamond.

**VS1, VS2** - Very Slightly Included: Inclusions are not visible to the unaided eye. Less expensive than the VVS1 or VVS2 grades.

**SI1, SI2** - Slightly Included: Inclusions are visible under 10x magnification, SI clarity diamonds are usually of the best value since inclusions are not visible to the naked eye and prices are reasonable when compared to prices of the VS2 clarity and up grades.

**SI3** - Slightly Included-EGL: SI3 is an EGL grade and is not recognized by GIA or other gemological institutions. It may be graded by GIA as either SI2 or I1. SI3 diamonds never have any black inclusions or cracks visible to the naked eye, but may have some very minor white inclusions which can be seen with the naked eye.

**I1** - Included: an I1 clarity diamond will have a visible flaw which can be seen with the naked eye, but there should only be one major flaw which is not too obvious. If your budget only allows for an SI3 or I1 clarity diamond, be sure to examine it thoroughly before purchasing and make sure you can not see any inclusions.

**I2, I3** - Included: These diamonds will have inclusions visible to the naked eye, and will have many black spots from the black inclusions and appear cloudy from the white inclusions, feathers and cracks.

## Diamond Color

The **diamond color grading scale** varies from totally colorless to light yellow. *The differences between one diamond color grade and another are very subtle and difficult to distinguish.*

GIA	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
colour grading scale	colourless			near colourless				faint yellow			very light yellow					light yellow							
																							

**D-F** : Colorless: perfect or almost perfect color.

**G-J** : Near colorless: good to very good color, and this diamond may "face up" colorless when mounted, especially in white gold or platinum.

**K-M** : Light but noticeable yellow or brown tint. Not recommended for larger diamond stone purchases, especially in engagement rings.

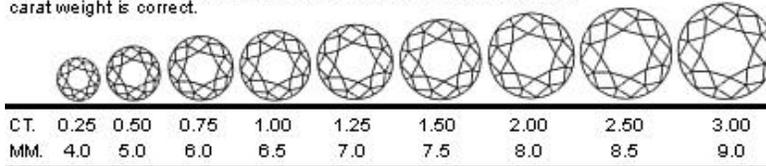
Out of the 4 C's, color and cut are the two most important characteristics of a diamond. Do not compromise on color. An "H" color or better is usually best.

### Diamond Carat Weight

**Carat weight** is the weight of the diamond measured in carats. One carat is divided into 100 "points," so that a diamond of 75 points weighs 0.75 carats. *Carat weight is the most obvious factor in determining the value of a diamond.* But two diamonds of equal carat weights can have very different prices, depending on their quality. Diamonds of high quality can be found in all size ranges.

### Diamond Relative Carat / Size Comparison

Note: Carat is a measurement of WEIGHT, not SIZE and so the overall diameter (mm) could differ slighter larger or smaller even though the carat weight is correct.



Note: Images not to scale. Diamond pictures are shown for comparison purposes only. Actual size can vary depending on your screen resolution, monitor size, etc.

Since diamonds are measured by carat weight, and not size, two diamonds of the same weight could have different sizes. Why? If a diamond is cut too shallow (or flat) it will have a larger diameter, but shallow depth and appear larger. Likewise, if a diamond is cut too deep (or pointed) it will have a smaller diameter and deep depth and appear smaller. This is why cut is so important. You want to make sure the diamond is cut to proper proportions. Not only does it make a large difference in the diamond's ability to reflect light, but a poorly cut diamond will not be proportionate in size to a diamond cut to proper specifications. For example, let's say you're interested in a 1.00ct diamond solitaire with a table of only 49%, the diamond will be cut way too steep and will look like a 0.80ct diamond instead.

## Diamond Shapes



**Round Brilliant** - Do not confuse with round. The round brilliant is the modern version of the round which has been refined for maximum shine. The round brilliant is by far the most popular and has the best angles for which to shine maximum brilliance.



**Oval** - Not as popular for solitaires, but very popular for three stone anniversary rings, with two matching diamonds on the sides.



**Princess** - A square cut diamond that has refractive properties almost near round brilliant. The princess is the preferred square cut shape over radiant.



**Emerald** - A more traditional shape, the emerald is not as popular as it used to be, but has an old world elegance to it.



**Radiant** - Popular before the princess shape was around, the radiant has more facets than a princess, but has the corners trimmed like the emerald shape. This shape is not widely popular.



**Heart** - Hard to find due to low demand, but some people prefer a heart shape diamond for sentimental purposes.



**Marquise** - Like the emerald, the marquise is a traditional shape. This is probably the fourth most popular shape behind the round, princess and oval.



**Pear** - Mostly used in pendants, the pear shape diamond is shaped in a tear drop shape and has fairly good proportions to refract light well.

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