

Color

GIA COLOR SCALE	
COLORLESS	D
	E
	F
NEAR COLORLESS	G
	H
	I
	J
	K
FAINT	L
	M
	N
	O
VERY LIGHT	P
	Q
	R
	S
	T
	U
	V
	W
	X
	Y
LIGHT	Z

The GIA Color Scale extends from D (colorless) to Z (light yellow or brown).

Although many people think of gem quality diamonds as colorless, truly colorless diamonds are actually very rare. Most diamonds used in jewelry are nearly colorless with tints of yellow or brown.



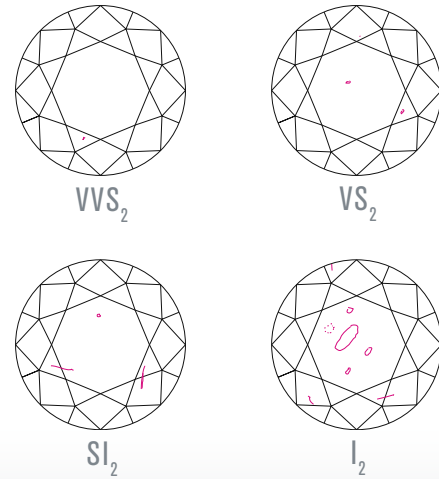
Color grades are determined by comparing each diamond to a master set. Each letter grade represents a range of color and is a measure of how noticeable a color is.

Fluorescence Some diamonds can emit a visible light when exposed to ultraviolet radiation, but fluorescence is not a factor in determining color or clarity grades. However, a description of its strength and color is provided on GIA Reports as an additional identifying characteristic.

Clarity

GIA CLARITY SCALE	
FLAWLESS	FLAWLESS
	INTERNALLY FLAWLESS
VERY VERY SLIGHTLY INCLUDED	VVS ₁
	VVS ₂
VERY SLIGHTLY INCLUDED	VS ₁
	VS ₂
SLIGHTLY INCLUDED	SI ₁
	SI ₂
INCLUDED	I ₁
	I ₂
	I ₃

The GIA Clarity Scale includes eleven clarity grades ranging from Flawless to I₃. Because diamonds form under tremendous heat and pressure, it is extremely rare to find a diamond that lacks any internal and external characteristics. These characteristics are a by-product of its formation and help gemologists separate natural diamonds from synthetics and simulants, and identify individual stones.



Sample Clarity Diagrams

Cut

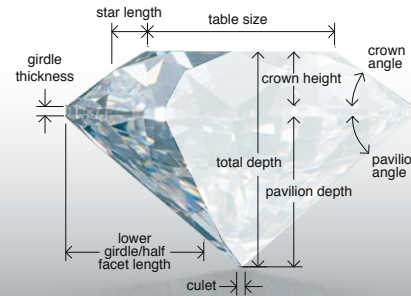
GIA CUT SCALE	
EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT
	VERY GOOD
	GOOD
FAIR	FAIR
	POOR

The GIA Cut Scale ranges from Excellent to Poor. GIA provides a cut quality grade for standard round brilliant diamonds that fall in the GIA D-to-Z color range.

A polished diamond's beauty lies in its complex relationship with light: how light strikes the surface, how much enters the diamond, and how, and in what form light returns to your eye.

The result is a magnificent display of three attributes. **Brightness** is the combination of all white light reflecting from the surface and interior of a diamond. **Fire** describes the "flares" of color emitted from a diamond. **Scintillation** describes the flashes of light you see when the diamond, the light, or the observer moves.

A polished diamond's proportions affect its light performance, which in turn affects its beauty and overall appeal. Diamonds with fine proportions, symmetry, and polish optimize their interaction with light, and have increased brightness, fire, and scintillation.



Anatomy of a Diamond

Carat Weight

One carat equals 200 milligrams in weight. For diamonds under one carat, each carat is divided into 100 points – similar to pennies in a dollar. 0.75 ct. = 75 points, 1/2 ct. = 50 points.



Beauty and Its Beholder The 4Cs provide a way to objectively compare and evaluate diamonds, but numbers alone can't describe a diamond's mysterious and captivating beauty – for that, you'll have to visit your local jeweler to see one for yourself.

