

Ruby

The quality and value of a ruby is dependant on a combination of the following criteria:

A ruby's weight is measured in carats. 5 carats = 1 gram.
All other criteria being equal, the greater the carat weight, the rarer the ruby and therefore greater its value.
Illustrated below is the approximate appearance of a well cut oval shaped ruby for a given carat weight.

CARAT



SHAPE AND CUT

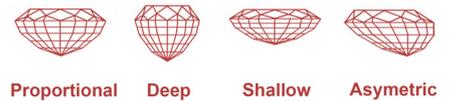
To optimize the natural rough, rubies are cut into a wide variety of shapes such as those illustrated below.

CUT



PROFILE

Cut refers to the accuracy of the angles, proportions, symmetry and polish of the ruby. It greatly affects how light travels within the ruby, and how it exits in the form of brilliance.



COLOUR

Colour is a matter of personal preference. Rubies vary in colour depending mainly upon their chromium and iron content. Therefore rubies from different countries* and mines have different predominant colours. Primarily red, rubies range from brownish and purplish shades to orangish and pinkish ones. But, a natural colour will always have a greater value than an equivalent colour obtained by heating or other processes.



* Main countries where rubies are mined: Afghanistan, Cambodia, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Myanmar (Burma), Pakistan, Sri Lanka (Ceylon), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand (Siam), Vietnam
Inks and paper are subject to aging and differences in printing techniques. Therefore these colours shall not be used for colour references.

CLARITY

INCLUSIONS

The clarity of a ruby is determined by the number, size and location of inclusions which are natural materials present in the stone. They reflect its fascinating geological aspects. Internally and externally too, there may be the presence of fissures, fractures and cavities which affect clarity.



TRANSPARENCY

Transparency refers to the ability of a ruby to transmit light. It is affected by the quantity or absence of opacity and brilliance present in the stone.



Gemstone Modification

Besides cutting and polishing, rubies are commonly modified to improve their colour and clarity.

It is required that customers be informed about such modifications.

Ask for a written confirmation.

The correct nomenclature of modified gemstones can be found in the CIBJO Gemstone Book.

Value of a gemstone

In addition to the information on the front, the value of a gemstone is also defined by the combination of relative beauty, rarity and durability.

Synthetic and imitation stones can be produced in industrial plants in any quantity and are therefore not rare and not considered precious. As a result, they cost much less than their natural counterparts of equal characteristics.

For additional information and knowledge, please refer to the CIBJO Gemstone Book available at:

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