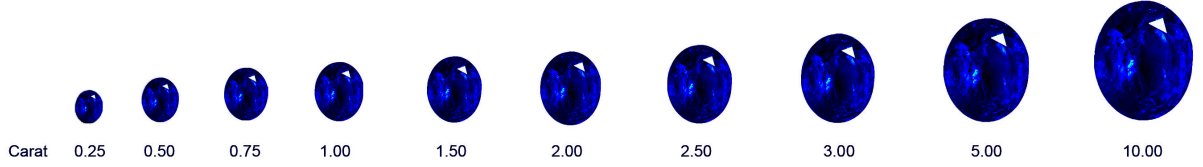


# Sapphire

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

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

## CARAT



## SHAPE AND CUT

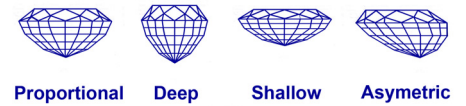
To optimize the natural rough, sapphires are cut into a wide variety of shapes such as those illustrated below.

## CUT



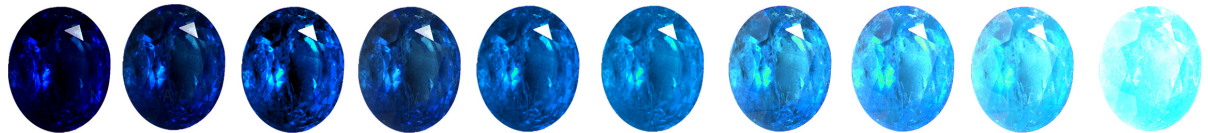
## PROFILE

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



Colour is a matter of personal preference. Sapphires vary in colour depending mainly upon their titanium and iron content. Therefore sapphires from different countries\* and mines have different predominant colours. Primarily blue, sapphires range from dark and purplish shades to greenish and yellowish ones. But, a natural colour will always have a greater value than an equivalent colour obtained by heating or other processes.

## COLOUR



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

## INCLUSIONS

The clarity of a sapphire 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.

## CLARITY



## TRANSPARENCY

Transparency refers to the ability of a sapphire 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, sapphires 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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