

This month's birthstone is perhaps nature's most fascinating and desirable of all gems. Diamonds, as we all know, have an association with glamour; after all they are of course a girl's best friend. They adorn style icons from Elizabeth Taylor and Marilyn Munroe, to Victoria Beckham and Anne Hathaway

## Romancing the stone - Diamond

by Sally Thornton

### Things to know about Diamonds

- ◆ Diamonds are a crystalline form of carbon with great hardness. Created millions of years ago they are believed to have been forced towards the surface of the earth by volcanic eruptions.



Second hand 18ct diamond 5 stone half eternity ring £950



Second hand diamond half eternity ring stamped 750 £595



Second hand 18ct diamond single stone ring £795



18ct Rose gold channel set diamond full eternity ring £1,120.

- ◆ It is the great hardness of a diamond, approximately 140 times harder than a sapphire and 300 times than a cubic zirconia, that makes them valuable for industrial use, with only around 10-20% being of gem quality.

- ◆ These gem stones are graded based on four criteria; clarity, cut, carat and colour, which are referred to as the four 'C's'
  1. **CLARITY** - Most diamonds will have tiny natural marks called inclusions and the number, size and location all affect the diamond's clarity grade.
  2. **CUT** - An ideal cut diamond makes full use of the light entering it, maximising its brilliance and fire.
  3. **CARAT** - weight - Diamond weight is measured in carats. Every carat is divided into 100 points, so for example a 25 point diamond is a ¼ carat.
  4. **COLOUR** - Finally, remember in general the best colour for a diamond is no colour at all. Colour grading will scale from colourless to light yellow.

- ◆ The rose cut was used from the early 1600's and its flat base allowed the ring to sit low on the finger. Foil was used behind the stone to increase their brilliance and reflect light.



18ct Claw set diamond stud earrings from £300

- ◆ If a diamond is not a brilliant cut, it is called a fancy cut. These fancy cuts; baguette, pear, heart and marquise shapes are not produced in large quantities and are often a higher carat price because they entail waste of the rough material.

- ◆ Every girl should have a classic pair of diamond stud earrings. They can be worn every-day or are perfect to wear "just because!"

- ◆ We love designing and working with customers stones. The 'Boodles' style works brilliantly if you have a some loose stones taken from perhaps other rings and makes a fabulous dress ring.

- ◆ In November 2015 a 1,111 carat diamond was recovered in Botswana making it the largest discovered for more than a century. The diamond is almost as big as a tennis ball.

Diamond jewellery, like all jewellery, will with use collect dirt and so lose its sparkle. A regular cleaning routine at home using a soft toothbrush with hot water and soap or alcohol will stop your diamond becoming dirty and dull. If you want to know more about diamonds, including advice on cleaning and care, don't hesitate to call in and talk to us.

- ◆ The modern brilliant cut which was introduced in 1919 remains the most popular cut of stone because of its pure simplicity.



Platinum princess cut diamond ring from £780

- ◆ A very white diamond will look best in a white setting. A yellow gold setting will reflect a yellow tone into the diamond and make it appear slightly tinted.



18ct White gold 3 row diamond boodles style ring versions from £1,395



18ct White gold vintage style diamond cluster rings from £2,875

- ◆ Diamonds are very hard but they do have perfect cleavage, which means that it can be damaged and possibly fracture if the side of a diamond is hit against a hard surface.



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