

Ruby Guide

12th April, 2008

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

CARAT

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.



Shape

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

CUT



Oval Cushion Octagon Pear Heart Square Round Marquise Trilliant Cabochon

Profile.

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



Proportional Deep Shallow Asymmetric

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

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.



Eye Clean -----Slightly Included-----Included

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.



Opaque -----Translucent-----Transparent

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING RUBY MODIFICATIONS, SYNTHETICS AND IMITATIONS REFER TO THE BACK.

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

The value of a gemstone is defined by the combination of the three gemstone characteristics: relative beauty, rarity and durability.

Synthetic and imitation stones can be produced in industrial plants in any quantity and are therefore not rare or 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:

CIBJO, The World Jewellery Confederation
Piazzale Carlo Magno, 1
20149 Milano, Italy

Phone: +39 02 4997 7098 / 7097

Fax: +39 02 4997 7059

E-Mail: cibjo@cibjo.org

Website: www.cibjo.org



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