

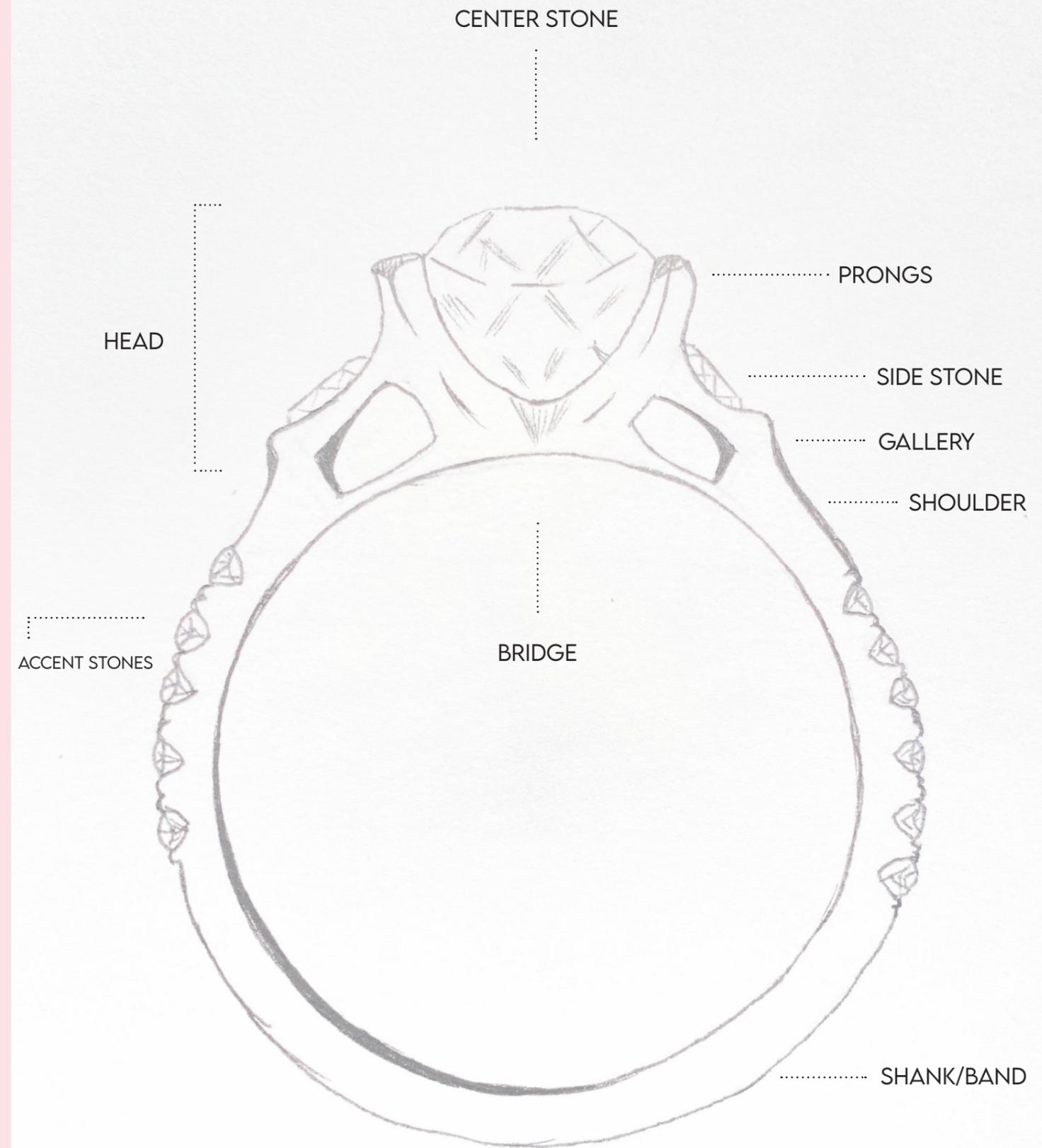
THE ANATOMY  
OF AN  
ENGAGEMENT RING

A HANDBOOK



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# THE ANATOMY OF AN ENGAGEMENT RING



# THE ANATOMY OF AN ENGAGEMENT RING

*AND OTHER PRECIOUS GEMSTONE RINGS.*

Engagement rings, and any other precious gemstone ring for that matter, are incredibly beautiful and prized items that many look forward to attaining in their life. But perhaps picking out one of these rings for yourself or a loved one can actually be quite overwhelming.

What was simply once a sparkly and ornate piece of jewellery has now become an intricate and highly detail oriented decision.

Though it may look straightforward, an engagement ring is actually composed of many different parts. Each area has its own technical term and serves its own unique purpose, whether that be for ring form and stone protection or for the sake of the design.

From the center stone shape and setting, to the amount of prongs and gallery style, choosing the perfect ring can be complicated.

To make things slightly easier and more navigable, here are some of the key terms and things to look for when choosing or designing a ring.



# THE GEMSTONES

## CENTER STONE: THE STAR OF THE SHOW

Unless you are going with a traditional and simple gold band, most engagement rings hold what is called a **center stone**. This is the standout stone, such as a sapphire, diamond or other gemstone, which is set on your ring band. Center stones come in an array of different cuts and shapes, with round shape being one of the most common. From cushion, pear and emerald to oval, princess and marquise, each stone has their own pros and cons. Center stones are measured in carats, with around 1 carat being a common size.

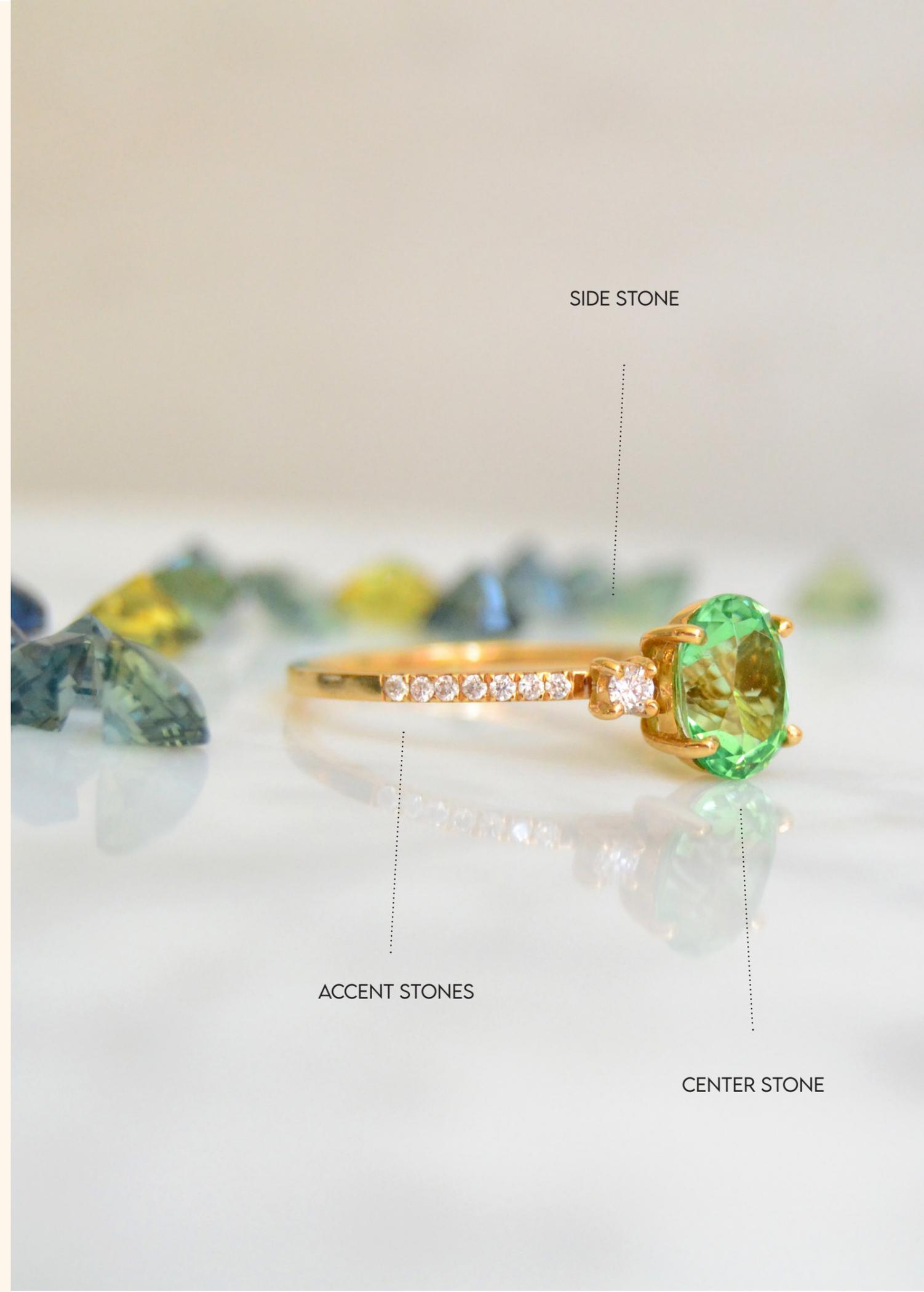
When choosing your ring, the center stone will probably be one of the most important aspects for your final decision. Make sure you try on different shapes and cuts of center stones so you can understand what style you really love. You never know what might catch your eye!

## SIDE STONES

Side stones are exactly as they sound - stones that sit on either side of the center stone. An optional choice, side stones are generally used in a three stone design, and are not to be confused with accent stones. This design adds value to your ring as there is added sparkle and an increased total carat weight. These gems come in an array of shapes and sizes. For the most cohesive result, make sure that your side stones compliment your center stone and that their color and clarity match.

## ACCENT STONES

These are the small gemstones that adorn the shank, or more commonly known as the ring band. They give that special added sparkle as well as add to the carat weight of the gemstones. Accent stones can truly change the overall feeling of a ring. If you are looking for something bright and bold, then accent stones are for you!



SIDE STONE

ACCENT STONES

CENTER STONE

# THE BODY

## THE CROWN OR HEAD

Rings are composed of two main parts: The head and the shank. The head, otherwise known as the crown, is the part of the setting that holds the center stone. It is made up of a certain number of prongs or perhaps a halo which then connects to the shank. Depending on the design, a basket may be present, which usually has a special design or stones on it. This gives added protection and security to the center stone.

**Prongs:** Prongs essentially wrap around the edges of the center stone. This primary function is to add a layer of protection around the stone, however an added bonus is that it makes the stone look larger than it is. They come in numerous shapes and sizes.

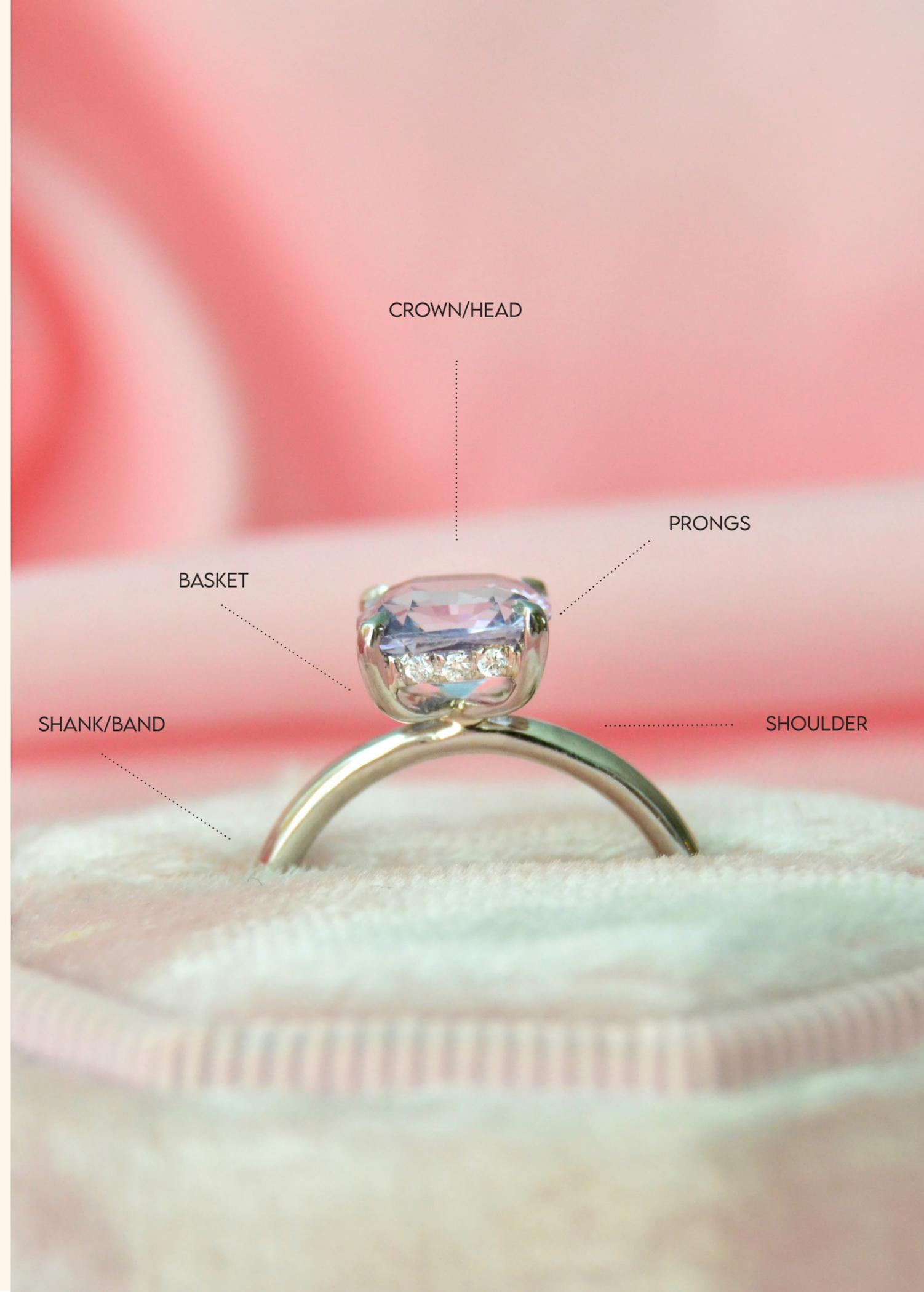
**Halo:** A halo is a part of the head of the ring, however it certainly deserves its own mention. A halo is a row of small gemstones that border and surround the center stone. The benefits to a halo ring is that there is added sparkle and the center stone appears larger than it really is.

## THE SHANK

The shank, otherwise known as the band, is the part of the ring that wraps all the way down under the finger. The bottom underside is the part where jewelers cut when sizing a ring. The inside of the shank is a perfect place to place a meaningful engraving. Overall, the shank has the job of making sure the ring fits properly and doesn't spin around or fall off the finger.

## THE SHOULDER

The shoulder consists of the top two sides of the ring. It is where the shank meets the head. There are a number of different designs that the shoulder can take on, from twisted, tapered, straight and more. This is also where side and accent stones are placed, if any.



## THE BODY

### THE GALLERY

The gallery is the area of the ring that can be seen from the side profile. There are many design options for your ring's gallery, ranging from fancy and intricate to minimalistic, and everything in between. For more classic designs the gallery is left open, which allows viewers to see more of the center stone. Adding filigree (ornamental work) and other smaller gemstones will reflect more light to your design, which means more sparkle!



HALO SETTING



GALLERY

# THE BODY

## THE BRIDGE

The bridge refers to the part underneath the gallery of a ring, resting on top of your finger. It normally rises off the finger and helps create the design of the setting or mounting of the ring. The bridge helps show off the center stone and also helps to protect it. The bridge can also have small stones set in it to add that extra sparkle. Not all rings have a defined and ornamental bridge.





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