

GEMSTONE CUTS AND SHAPES

A HANDBOOK



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JEWELLERY

GEMSTONE SHAPES & CUTS

Some of the most important things when it comes to choosing a piece of fine jewellery is deciding on the specific cut and shape of the gemstone you want. This can be both exciting and overwhelming, as there are many different variations to choose from.

Gemstones aren't found as the polished, sparkly things you see when you buy jewellery. In fact, they start off as rough and unpolished, and only after the cutting, shaping and polishing process, do they turn into how we normally see them.

Cutting is the human contribution to the appearance of a gemstone. It gives the stones a specific shape and allows the real color and brilliance to emerge, while polishing adds all the sparkles, rays and dimensions to the gem.

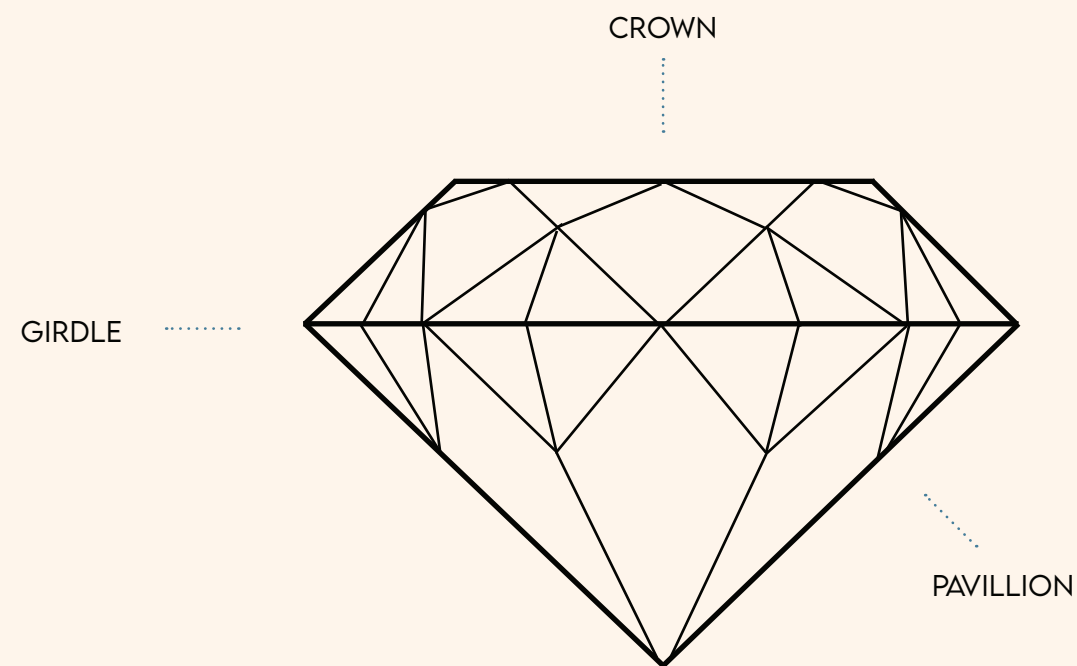
When professionals in the trade discuss **the cut** of a polished stone, they are really referring to one of two things - its **shape** and **style**, or its **proportions** and **finish**.



CUT & SHAPE

Cutting gemstones is the process by which a rough stone is turned into the polished and brilliant gem we see mounted in jewellery. Cutting also designates a specific shape, the face-up outline, to a gem, as well. Both the cut and the shape work together to enhance the color, clarity and sparkle of the stone.

Cut and shape are some of the most important aspects to the appearance of a stone. A gem cutter, otherwise known as a lapidary, gives much thought to how they cut and shape the stones. By doing so, they are working to enhance the best qualities of the stone, such as the color and brilliance. A quality cut helps the stone to reach its highest potential for attractiveness.



A QUALITY CUT

A well cut gem must have good proportions, meaning it must have a balanced relationship between the angles of facets and other parts of the stone. It must also have a meticulous finish, as in a high quality polish and precision of the gem's cut.

On occasion, a lapidary may prioritize other aspects of the stone other than proportional beauty. For example, instead of focusing on having a precisely balanced and proportional gem, perhaps they needed to "retain weight," meaning removing less to have a gem with a higher carat weight, or instead cut it in a way to deepen or lighten the color. Whatever the case, the finished gem will always reflect the cutter's decision.

HOW CUT EFFECTS A STONE:

- The cut maximizes the light return in a gem which accentuates its natural color.
- Lapidaries can strategically cut and position a stone so that its inclusions are hidden or eliminated which helps the clarity.
- The carat weight: gem cutters can choose to retain weight or sacrifice it depending on the stone.

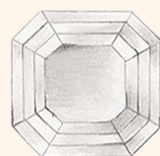
POPULAR GEMSTONE CUTS & SHAPES



Cushion Cut



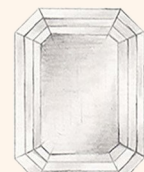
*Round Brilliant
Cut*



Asscher Cut



Marquise Cut



Emerald Cut



SHAPE & STYLE

After color, shape and style are probably the next two things you'll notice about a gem. The shape is the gemstone's face-up outline. Round is one of the most popular and common shapes. Any other shape is technically referred to as a fancy shape. Some fancy shapes include: Pear, marquise, cushion, oval, heart and emerald.

The style refers to the arrangement of a stone's facets. The three basic styles include brilliant cut, step cut and mixed cut.

BRILLIANT CUT

The term brilliant cut refers to the optimal light return this cutting design produces. The facets in this cut are a triangular or kite shape and radiate from the center out to the outer edges.. These facets bring out a stunning brilliance from the stone meaning lots of sparkle! Some popular brilliant cuts include round brilliant cut, oval and pear shape, among others.

STEP CUT

A step cut normally features a square or rectangular shape, where the facets are parallel to one another. The name is derived from the way that the facets are arranged, similarly to physical steps. Some popular step cuts include emerald cut, baguette cut and asscher cut, among others.

MIXED CUT

Mixed cuts combine brilliant and step cut facets in the same stone. Countless variations of cuts can be made by designers by adding, subtracting and rearranging facets.

BRILLIANT CUT



STEP CUT

ROUND CUT

The Round cut, otherwise known as the Round Brilliant cut, is the most popular cut in the diamond and gemstone industry. The stone is round in shape, and the facets are cut in a way to optimize the dispersion of light throughout the stone.



EMERALD CUT

The Emerald cut was originally designed solely for emerald gem stones, however, now it is used for diamonds, sapphires and more. This cut flaunts an elongated, rectangular shape, trimmed corners and straight linear facets, although can be found in a square shape as well. The Emerald cut intends to emphasize clarity and color, and can actually make the stone appear bigger than it really is.



ASSCHER CUT

The Asscher cut, otherwise known as the Square Emerald cut, is a combination of a princess and emerald cut. A recognizable "X" is formed in the gemstone's table and features cropped corners along its sides as well as layered facets. This cut allows the true clarity of the stone to come out.

OVAL CUT

The Oval cut was created in the 1950's, and is similar to a round cut, as both emphasize the fire (color) and brilliance, however the Oval cut has a different, longer shape. The elongated shape creates an illusion of a larger stone and makes the wearer's fingers look long and delicate.





BAGUTTE CUT

This cut was created in the 1920's, during the Art Deco period. The baguette cut is long and rectangular in shape, featuring clean lines to create a geometric and modern look. Stones in this cut are regularly used as accent stones in jewellery and are cut to maximize clarity.

CUSHION CUT

This style is also referred to as Pillow cut, for the softness the cut invokes. The cushion cut has gently rounded corners and holds around 64 facets. Most gemstones have a standardized cut, whereas the cushion cut can have more variety. There are two main categories this cut can fall into: standard cushion cut and modified cushion cut.

A standard cut has the classic, fiery look. The modified cut focuses on adding extra facets, which creates what's known as the "crushed ice" look, which brings out the brilliance of the stone.



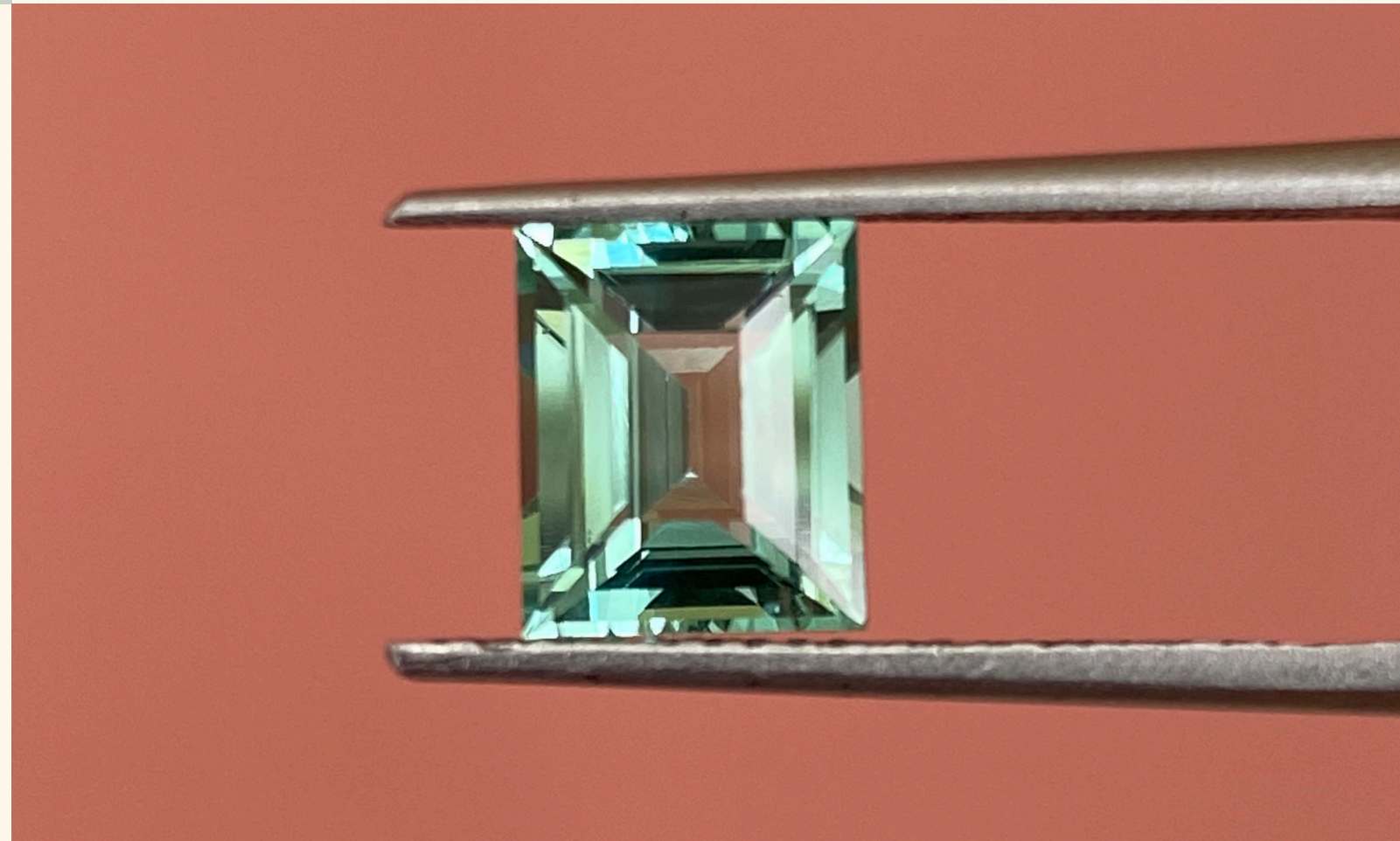


PEAR CUT

The Pear cut first dates back to 1458 and has a shape of a gleaming tear drop. This cut reflects light beautifully, and allows the stone's color to showcase dramatically. This stone shape has a similar faceting structure to round brilliant cuts which brings the ultimate sparkle to the stone.

PRINCESS CUT

The Princess cut is the second most popular cut in the diamond and gemstone market, behind the Round Brilliant cut. They are square in shape and have between 58-76 facets, making it incredibly sparkly.



RADIANT CUT

Radiant cuts are a mesh of the Princess and Cushion cut, and was created in the 1970s. A modern and square shape is created after cropping the edges, instead of rounding the edges, like a Cushion cut.

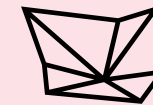


TRILLION CUT

Trillion cuts come in a triangular shape, with rounded edges. It is a type of round brilliant cut, where brilliance and color are maximized. Symmetry and angles are very important for this cut, as light needs to be nicely dispersed with such a unique shape. The stone set in the center of this custom Varnaya ring is a trillion cut.

ROSE CUT

Rose cut dates all the way back to the 16th century. It is unique in that it has a flat base and faceted top. As you can see in the photo, the flat base allows the gem to stay placed on a surface easily. Due to its flat base, more light is able to flow through the stone which results in a more transparent glow and subtle shine.



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