



Diamond selection

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fire is added to this stone by the cutting technique in which more facets are cut on deeper angles. The corners of the Starburst are also cut. Usually the Starburst is mounted with two triangularly shaped stones on either side to highlight it.

The Quadrillion is also square in shape, with 49 facets cut in a way that creates a star pattern and maximizes

color refraction. Generally, Quadrillions are not used as solitaires, but instead are channel set in a continuous grouping which creates a diamond ring with no gaps.

There have always been three-sided diamonds called trillians, but the Trillion, with 50 facets, is much more brilliant. More and more often the Trillion is used as a center stone, but it also works well in pairs as side stones to highlight almost any other diamond

shape, from square to rectangular to round. Two Trillions on either side of a diamond solitaire create a completely new, extraordinarily fiery engagement ring.

The Prestige Collection, another diamond jewelry manufacturer, has created a new mounting which better illuminates the center stone. This new setting is called the "Prestige Pedestal." A vertical column of baguettes — very slender, rectangularly-shaped diamonds — meet at a gold collar which encircles the center stone. The center diamond is thereby given even more brilliance by the translucent baguettes beneath it.

NEW TECHNIQUES in laser cutting have enabled the very precise science of diamond faceting and polishing to progress dramatically, thus making these new rings possible.

One of the most important things to

know about diamonds in general is the 4C's. The 4C's are Cut, which is the shape the diamond takes when faceted and polished; Color — no color at all is best for diamonds; Clarity, which is the degree to which the stone is free of natural flaws called inclusions; and Carat Weight, which is the size of the stone, measured in carats.

Color is rated on an alphabetical scale, the whitest stones being graded "D." The yellower the stone, the lower its grade. As for clarity, almost all diamonds contain minute traces of non-crystallized carbon, most of which are not visible to the naked eye. Many of these inclusions are visible upon magnification, however. The fewer inclusions there are, the rarer the stone.

To learn more about diamonds and to receive a helpful spending guide, write to the Diamond Information Center, 1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10105.

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