

DIAMONDS

The 4 C's

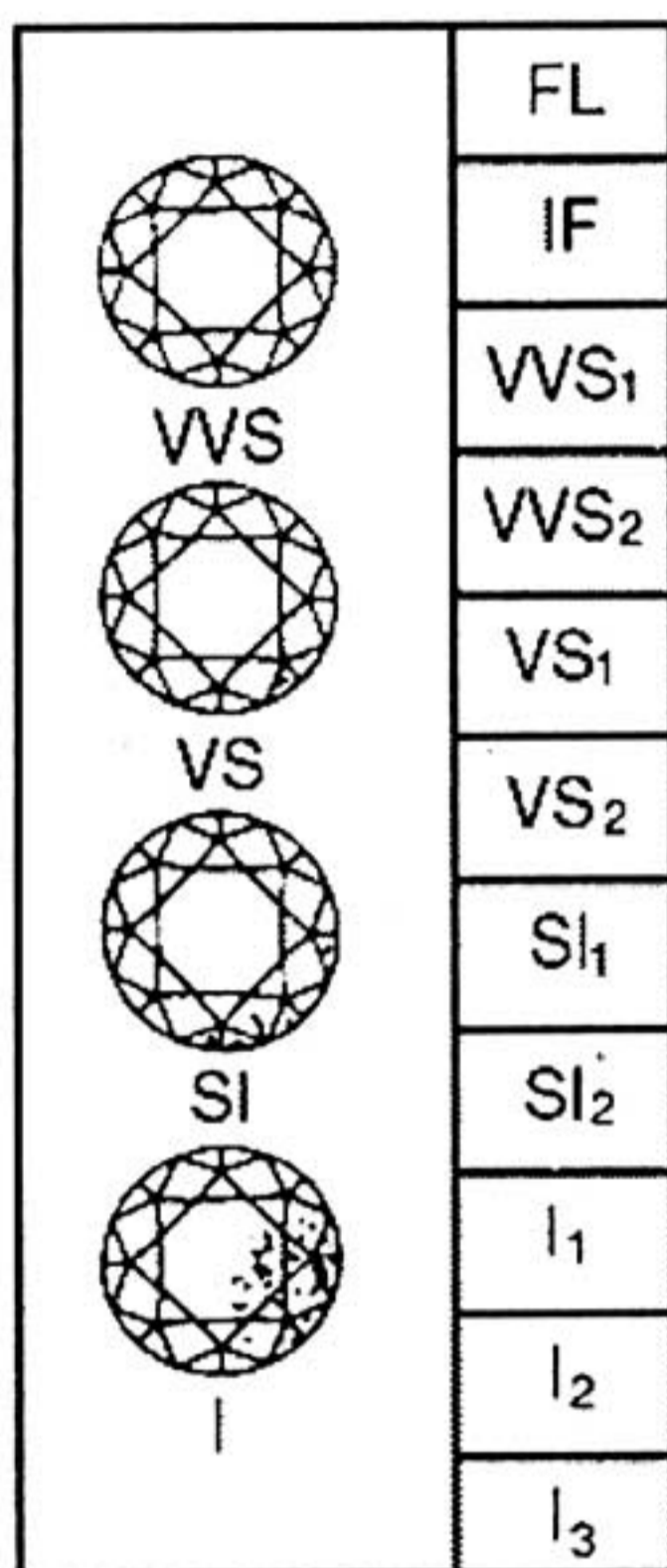
To understand diamonds is to understand the 4 C's. The 4 C's refer to a diamond's clarity, colour, cut and carat-weight. The different combinations of the 4 characteristics determine the quality and value of a diamond.

Following is a guide to the 4 C's.

All gemological terms are based upon the internationally recognized standards and terminology of the GIA (Gemological Institute of America).

Clarity

Clarity is the degree to which a diamond is free from external marks and internal inclusions. Together they represent the CLARITY GRADE. Most diamonds contain tiny natural inclusions. However, the fewer and smaller the marks and inclusions, the more rare and valuable the diamond becomes. Flawless diamonds are extremely rare and valuable.



THE F.L. GRADE (Flawless)

The term F.L. or flawless is used for diamonds in which a qualified observer, under favourable lighting conditions, cannot find internal characteristics and/or faults by thorough examination with a 10X corrected loupe.

THE I.F. GRADE (Internally flawless)

A diamond which has no internal characteristics but which, due to minor finish faults is not flawless and therefore cannot be designated F.L. or flawless, may be called I.F. or internally flawless provided the finish faults are so minute that they can be removed by a gentle polishing with only an insignificant loss of weight.

THE V.V.S. GRADE (Very, very small inclusions)

The term V.V.S. is used for diamonds with internal characteristics very, very difficult for a qualified observer to find under observation conditions as described. Further, there may only occur insignificant finish faults.

THE V.S. GRADES (Very small inclusions)

The term V.S. is used for diamonds in which it is difficult for a qualified observer, under observation conditions as described, to find either a few somewhat larger internal characteristics or several very small ones.

THE S.I. GRADES (Small inclusions)

The term S.I. is used for diamonds in which a qualified observer may, without difficulty, under observation conditions as described, but, still only by a 10X magnification – find internal characteristics. Further, there may only occur single finish faults of an insignificant kind.

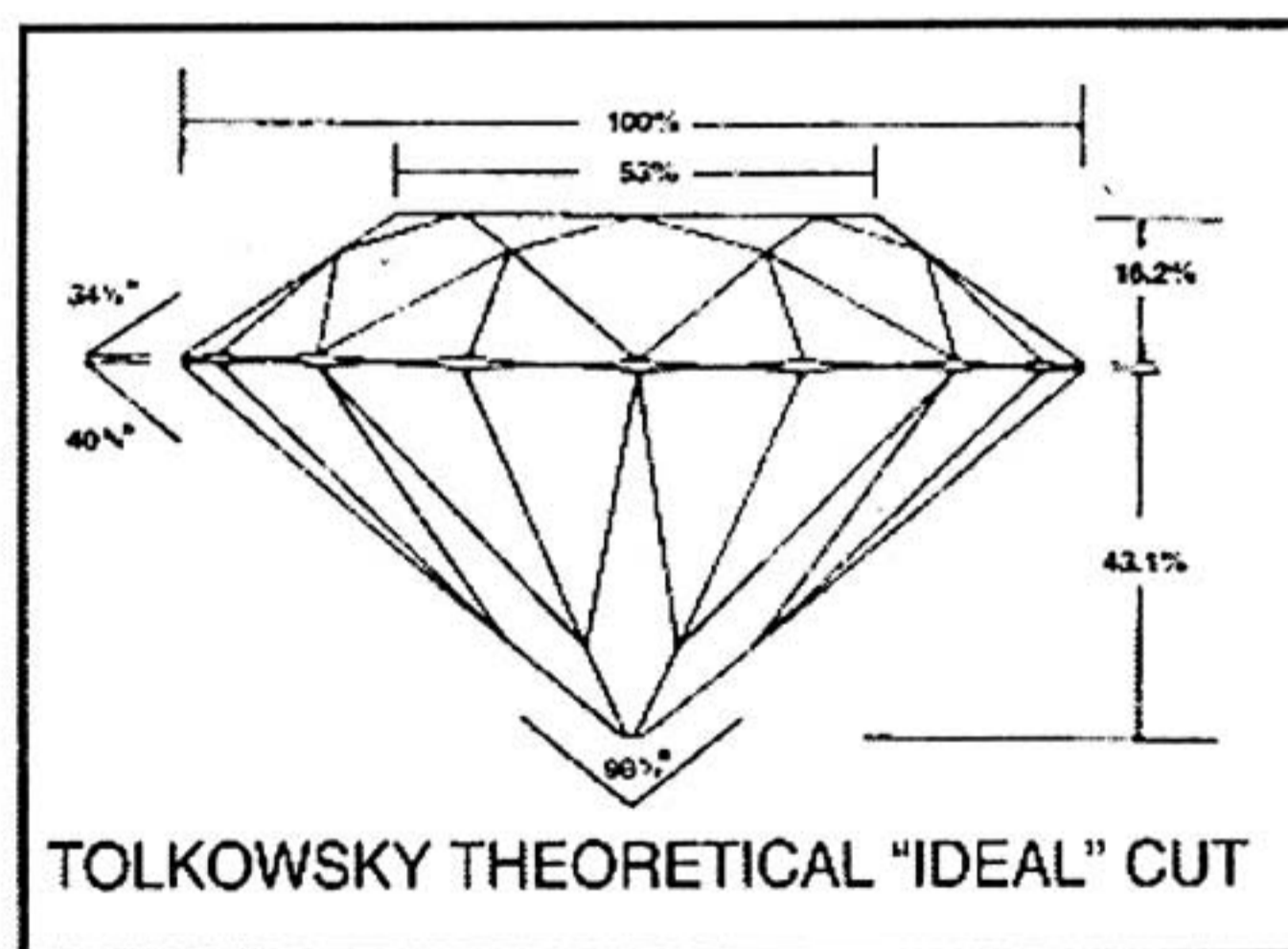
THE I. GRADES (Pique)

The term I or Pique is used for diamonds in which a qualified observer with the naked eye can see internal characteristics and/or in which such major faults occur, which substantially reduce the value of the stone.

Cut

Diamonds are cut into a number of different shapes based on the nature of the rough stone.

Cut refers to how well proportioned the diamond is to reflect the maximum amount of light. A well cut diamond will have more sparkle and value than one that is not.



Colour

Diamonds come in a wide range of colours but most appear basically colourless. The closer to colourless a diamond is, the rarer and more valuable it is.

Colour Grading

GIA	
Colourless	D
	E
	F
Near Colourless	G
	H
	I
Slightly Tinted	J
	K
	L
Very Light Yellow	M
	N
	O
Light Yellow	P
	Q
	R
Yellow	S
	T
	U
	V
	W
	X
FANCY	Y
	Z

Carat-Weight

The weight of a diamond is measured in carats. One carat equals one fifth (1/5) of a gram. Each carat is divided into 100 points. For example, a one half carat diamond weight 50 points.

