**JEWELRY**

**GLOSSARY OF BASIC JEWELRY TERMS**

**ALLOY** A mixture of two metals.

**BAGUETTE SETTING** A rectangular-cut stone, often a diamond, with rows of step-like facets.

**BAIL** The connector at the top of a pendant, enabling the pendant to hang from a chain or jump ring.

**BANGLE BRACELET** A rigid bracelet that can slip over one’s hand (closed) or open by means of a hinge clasp.

**BASE METALS** Non-precious metals such as copper, zinc, tin, nickel, lead and iron.

**BEZEL** A narrow band of metal surrounding the girdle (outer perimeter) of a stone.

**BEZEL SETTING** A bezel setting is where a rim (the bezel) holds a stone, completely surrounding the gem (as opposed to prongs securing the stone).

**BRASS** A yellowish alloy made up of approximately 67% copper and 33% zinc. Very close in color to karat gold.

**BRILLIANCE** Liveliness, or sparkle in a stone when light is reflected from the surface and from the total internal reflection of light.

**BRILLIANT-CUT** Brilliant cuts are scientifically found to reflect the most light from within the stone. A round brilliant-cut stone has 58 facets: 1 table, 8 bezel facets and 16 upper-girdle facets, and usually a culet on the pavilion, or base. Other brilliant cuts include the heart, oval, marquise and pear shaped.

**Briolette** A faceted pear-shaped stone.

**BROOCH** A pin worn as an ornament, or to secure articles of clothing. It is most often attached to a garment by a hinged pin and catch.

**BRUSHED FINISH** Also known as “satin” finish, it is a technique to create texture using a wire brush or polishing tool to create a series of parallel lines scratched into the surface of metal piece.

**CABOCHON** A facet-less style of cutting that produces a smooth surface. They can be in many shapes including round with high domes to squares. Commonly used with opaque stones (opals, moonstones).

**CAMEO** A piece type in which the surrounding surface of an image is carved away so that the design left is in relief. The side profile of a woman’s head and bust is the best known cameo motif, but there are many others including birds, butterflies and flowers.

**CARAT** A measure of weight used with diamonds and gemstones. One carat is equivalent to 1/5 of a gram, or 200 milligrams. One carat can also be divided into 100 points.

**CHANNEL SETTING** A channel setting has uniformed-size stones placed in a row set in a grooved channel, edge to edge, with no metal separating them, forming a continuous strip.

**CHOKER** A short, close fitting necklace that hugs the throat, generally less than 14” long.

**CLUSTER SETTING** Several smaller stones surround a larger center stone in this style setting. It is designed to create a larger more impactful ring from many smaller stones.

**COLLAR NECKLACE** A short band or other style of necklace worn over the collarbone, often non-flexible.
**CROWN**  This is the upper portion or the top of a diamond or gemstone.

**CRYSTAL**  There are 2 types of “crystal” – one is natural, one man-made. Rock crystal commonly refers to quartz, which is a silicate mineral semi-precious natural stone. Man-made crystal is produced by mixing quartz, soda, potash and lead oxide.

**CUFF BRACELET**  Narrow to wide C-shaped band that fits over the wrist or arm.

**CURB CHAIN**  A chain with flattened oval links.

**CUSHION CUT**  A mixed-cut square or rectangular stone shaped like a square pillow, or square with rounded corners. Also known as “antique cut”.

**CUT**  Cut refers to the angles and proportions a skilled craftsman creates in transforming a rough diamond or gemstone into a polished stone.

**DIAMOND**  A mineral compound formed of crystallized carbon. It is the hardest substance found in nature and highly refractive. Diamonds are valued based on the 4 “C’s” : color, cut clarity and carat size.

**EMERALD SHAPE**  A rectangular or square-shaped cut-cornered stone. The step cut enhances the color in stones rather than the brilliance, or in the case of diamonds, emphasizes the colorlessness.

**ENHANCER**  A bail-like finding that may be opened to fit over a strand of pearls or beads and then locked closed. Also known as a pearl enhancer.

**FACET**  A flat surface or plane on a diamond or gemstone.

**FIGARO CHAIN**  Made with elongated links, each separated by a group of 3 shorter links, in a repeating pattern.

**FILIGREE**  Intricate patterns on metal, often used on beads and clasps.

**FINDINGS**  Small components used to make jewelry, such as clasps, pins, hooks, etc.

**FINISH**  Is used to describe the texture of the metal. Common finishes are high polish, matte and brushed.

**FLEUR-DE-LYS**  A stylized three-petal iris flower commonly found in jewelry designs.

**FLUSH SETTING**  Gems set directly into the jewelry piece, without prongs or beads. The top of the gem (or “table”) is even with the top of the metal.

**ILLUSION SETTING**  Used for smaller diamonds or stones, this intricate setting supports one or more stones in prongs within a larger mirror-like surface, which is in turn supported in a larger setting, thus giving the “illusion” of a larger, more brilliant stone.

**INCLUSION**  Internal characteristics of a stone in the form of bubbles, crystals, carbon spots, feathers, clouds, pinpoints, and other impurities, or even cracks and abrasions.

**INLAY**  A decorative technique in which part of the surface of a piece of jewelry is cut out, and a stone, shell or other substance is imbedded into the hollowed-out area, so that it is flush with the surface.

**KARAT**  A karat, when used with gold, is a unit of purity -- 24-karat gold is pure gold, but usually you mix gold with a metal like copper or silver to make jewelry (because pure gold is too soft). Each karat indicates 1/24th of the whole. So metal that is 18 parts gold and 6 parts copper, that is 18-kt gold.
LOBSTER CLASP  A fastener that is held closed by a spring. Lobster clasps are named as such because of their “pinching” mechanism, and they are often shaped like a lobster’s claw.

LOCKET  A small, hollow, hinged pendant. The wearer can keep photos, locks of hair, or other mementos inside.

MARQUIS CUT  A thin oval or boat-shaped stone with long gently curved sides pointed at both ends.

MILS OR MILLIONS OR MICRO INCHES  A measure commonly used in jewelry for measuring plating thickness. 1 mil is one millionth of an inch – basically a flash of plating.

MICRONS  A metric unit of measurement. 40 mils = 1 micron.

MOTHER-OF-PEARL  The pearly material on the inside of freshwater mollusk shells.

MOONSTONE  A transparent, slightly milky iridescent variety of feldspar, often with white or light blue opalescent spots.

OPEN-WORK (or pierced cut)  A piece that consists of open, see-through areas, similar to filigree.

PATINA  A change in the pieces’ surface resulting from aging, oxidation, or the intentional application of acid or other chemicals.

PAVÉ SETTING  A setting with many small stones set tightly together.

PEARL  A natural gemstone formed when an oyster or other mollusk is irritated by a substance that has made its way into its shell. It secretes luminous “nacre” which forms around the irritant.

PEAR SHAPE  A diamond or gemstone cut in the shape of a pear or teardrop, rounded at one tip and pointed at the other.

PENDANT NECKLACE  An ornament suspended from a chain or strand.

PLATING  Electrically or mechanically applied layer of metal done to protect, enhance or change the color of another metal.

- **Types of plating finishes:**
  - **SHINY:** Bright, smooth, level plating with good reflectivity. The brightest plating is called mirror bright. This plating is very shiny.
  - **MATTE:** Tumbled finish or a finish simulating a tumbled finish with matte lacquer.
  - **BURNISHED:** A tumbled finish which also has black oxidation or black plating which is partly or mostly removed by the tumbling.
  - **ANTIQUE:** Bright plating which has a black coating which is partly or mostly removed. Often used to fill in recessed letters so they can be seen more easily.

- **Types of plating looks:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Look</th>
<th>Type of Plating</th>
<th>Finish Options</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>Burnished, antique, shiny, matte</td>
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<td>Palladium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhodium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anodized Aluminum</td>
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<td>Gold and Brass</td>
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<td>Worn gold</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anodized Aluminum</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
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</table>
**PRINCESS CUT** A highly faceted square shaped modified brilliant cut.

**PRONG OR CLAW SETTING** A setting with narrow metal prongs (support tips) holding them in the mounting. Prong setting is the most common and is usually made with either 4 or 6 prongs.

**ROPE CHAIN** Made of oval links. Two or more links are attached to each adjacent link. Small flat surfaces are sometimes incorporated to add sparkle.

**SCARAB** Sacred beetle in ancient Egypt. Much jewelry is fashioned / carved in the shape of scarabs.

**SHANK** The round body of a ring that encircles the finger (excludes the setting).

**SLIDE PENDANT** A necklace whose ornament is not attached with, but rather fits directly onto the bail and chain.

**SNAKE CHAIN** Chain made of round wavy metal rings joined side by side forming a flexible tube with smooth, scaly texture.

**SOLITAIRE** A piece of jewelry with one main gem, typically a diamond.

**SPRING RING** A common clasp used to join to ends of a necklace, made of a hollow tube in a circle shape.

**STATION** A set position for a design element in a necklace, usually set apart from other stations at intervals.

**STERLING SILVER** A silver alloy most often made of 92.5% pure silver.

**STUD EARRING** An earring with a small button-like mounted gem or pearls on a metal post for pierced ears.

**TOGGLE CLASP** A closure for chains consisting of a ring on one end and a short bar on the other. The bar slides through the ring and sits across it so it does not slide or pull.

**TORSADE** A necklace formed of many strands of beads, sometimes of varying sizes.

**VERMEIL** Pieces made of a 92.5 percent sterling base plated or coated with at least 10K / 2.5 microns thick (100/1,000,000 inch) fine gold.

(see page 5 for a Glossary of Basic Watch Terms)
**BALE**  An attachment on top of a pendant or pocket watch case, enabling the case to hang from a chain or chord.

**BRACELET**  Link metal band. Bracelets can be made of alloy, brass, steel (folded, solid or semi-solid).

**Buckle**  The buckle is the fastening used to secure a strap to one’s wrist. Usually matching the case, it attaches the two parts of the leather or man-made material strap around the wrist.

**Case**  The case of a watch is the body that houses the watch movement. Cases come in a variety of shapes and sizes. A strap, bangle arm, bracelet or chain (on pendant or pocket watches) is usually attached to the case. Parts of a case include:

- **Bezel**  The bezel is the component on the case encircling the dial and crystal.
- **Lugs**  Lugs are the projections / extensions on either side of the case to which the strap or bracelet is attached by pins / spring bars to the case.
- **Caseback**  The plate on the back of a watch by which you can access the battery.

**Clasp**  The closure on a bracelet watch is called a clasp. This attachment is used to connect the two ends of the watch bracelet or strap around the wrist.

**Crown**  (on quartz analog and mechanical watches) The knurled knob located on the outside of a watch case is used for setting the hands to the right time and for correcting the calendar indications. On mechanical watches it is also used for winding the mainspring.

**Crystal**  The crystal or lens is the transparent glass or plastic cover protecting the dial or “face” of the watch, hands, and/or digital display.

**Dial**  The dial is the face of the watch on which the time or other functions are displayed. The hour markers can be numerals, indices, or other symbols / divisions of various types.

**Display**  The watch display shows time either digitally or with an analog display. Types include:

- **Liquid crystal display (LCD)**  A display on a digital watch display that shows the time electronically.
- **Liquid Emitting Diode (LED)**  A digital watch display showing time at the push of a button, usually in red light.
- **Analog display (QA)**  A watch display that indicates time by traditional hands over dial.
- **Analog-digital (Ana-digi)**  A watch that shows time by means of hour & minute hands (analog display) as well as by numbers (digital display).

**Finishing**  Finishing is the texture used to finish the metal and thus affects the outlook of the plating or surface. The most common finishes on watches are polished, brushed and sandblast / matte.

**Hands**  Refers to an indicator anchored at the center, usually made of a thin, light piece of metal which moves over a graduated dial or scale. Watches usually have three hands showing the hours, minutes and seconds.

**Keeper**  The small loop on the strap near the buckle.

**Movement**  The movement is the inner mechanism of the watch that keeps time and moves the watch hands, calendar, moonphase, etc. Movements are either mechanical / automatic, quartz, solar or kinetic (battery-less quartz).

**Plating**  Plating is the coating on the base metal case.

**Strap**  A watchband made of leather, plastic, PU or other non-metal material.

**Water Resistancy**  A water resistant watch is one constructed to withstand water to various degrees / depths. A water-resist watch case is one whose joints are made to prevent moisture from entering.