NINA NOVA



THE COMPLETE VISUAL GUIDE

The Lab-Grown Diamond Engagement Ring Guide

Choose a beautiful stone with confidence

NinaVova ring shown with a laboratory-grown diamond

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A visual guide from NinaVova.

START WITH HER

Choose the ring for the person.

The best choice combines her style, the stone and the setting.



1.66 CT ROUND D COLOR, VVS2 CLARITY, EXCELLENT CUT

Consider the shapes and jewelry she enjoys, how she uses her hands and the design details that feel personal. Then compare the actual lab-grown diamonds—not just their specifications.

Begin with what you know. You do not need a finished design.

Real catalog photograph; select the image to view its listing.

WHAT IS LAB GROWN?

A real diamond, grown by people.

The difference is how it formed.

A DIAMOND CRYSTAL

CONTROLLED GROWTH

DISCLOSED ORIGIN



1.63 CT ROUND D COLOR, VVS2 CLARITY, EXCELLENT CUT

Laboratory-grown diamond is diamond, with essentially the same crystal structure and optical and physical properties as natural diamond. It is made in a controlled technological process rather than formed by geology.

Ask for clear written identification and any treatment disclosure.

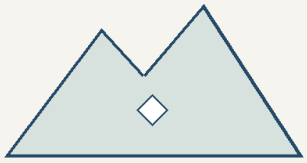
Conceptual illustration; a picture cannot establish origin.

KNOW THE MATERIAL

Diamond or diamond alternative?

Three things that can look similar have different identities.

NATURAL DIAMOND



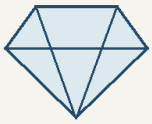
Grows through geological processes over time.

LAB-GROWN DIAMOND



Grows in controlled HPHT or CVD conditions.

DIAMOND SIMULANT



A different material such as moissanite or cubic zirconia.

NATURAL AND LAB-GROWN ARE BOTH DIAMOND · SIMULANTS ARE DIFFERENT MATERIALS

Concept diagrams are not photographs or identification tests. Ask for the material and origin in writing.

Natural and lab-grown diamonds are both diamonds. Moissanite and cubic zirconia are different materials. Similar sparkle or a simple consumer tester does not reliably prove which you are seeing.

A knowledgeable jeweler and an appropriate laboratory report help establish identity.

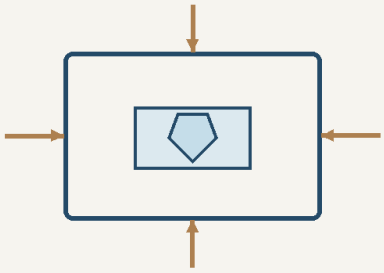
Illustration is conceptual.

GROWTH METHODS

Two ways to grow diamond.

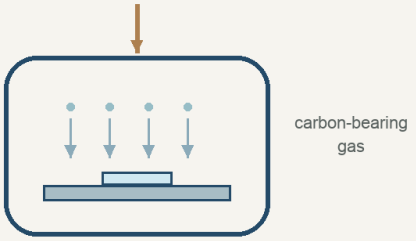
HPHT and CVD are methods, not appearance grades.

HPHT · PRESSURE AND HEAT



A diamond seed grows under high pressure and temperature.

CVD · DEPOSITION ON A SEED



Carbon-bearing gas supports growth on a diamond seed.

TWO GROWTH METHODS · BOTH PRODUCE DIAMOND

Conceptual cross-sections; equipment and conditions vary. Post-growth treatment is a separate question.

High-pressure, high-temperature growth uses a press to create conditions for diamond growth. Chemical vapor deposition grows diamond from a carbon-containing gas on a seed. Both can produce beautiful diamonds.

Choose by the particular diamond's appearance and documentation rather than the method name alone.

Conceptual illustration; equipment and procedures vary.

HPHT

How HPHT growth works.

Pressure and temperature create conditions for growth.



1.13 CT ROUND D COLOR, VS2 CLARITY, EXCELLENT CUT

In an HPHT system, a diamond seed can grow in a high-pressure, high-temperature environment. Growth conditions vary. Some diamonds also undergo separate post-growth treatment, which should be disclosed when applicable.

Do not assume that the growth method alone tells you color, clarity or performance.

The pictured catalog diamond is an example, not a photographed growth process.

CVD

How CVD growth works.

Diamond is deposited on a seed in a controlled chamber.



1.13 CT ROUND D COLOR, VS1 CLARITY, EXCELLENT CUT

CVD uses a carbon-bearing gas and a diamond seed. The growth process and any later treatment are separate facts. A finished CVD diamond can look very different from another CVD diamond.

Ask how growth method and any post-growth treatment are documented.

Real catalog photo, not a photograph of a growth chamber.

TREATMENT

Growth is not the same as treatment.

Ask about what happened after the crystal formed.



1.17 CT ROUND D COLOR, SI1 CLARITY, EXCELLENT CUT

Some laboratory-grown diamonds receive post-growth processing to alter color or other characteristics. Disclosure and report wording matter, and not every service records every growth or treatment detail.

Read the actual report and ask the seller to explain any treatment in writing.

The pictured stone is not presented as an example of a particular treatment.

WHAT MATTERS VISUALLY

Compare light, not a label.

Two diamonds with similar descriptions can look different.



1.24 CT ROUND D COLOR, VS2 CLARITY, EXCELLENT CUT

Evaluate brightness, fire and the changing light-and-dark pattern as the stone moves. Compare in diffuse daylight and ordinary indoor light; video exposure and camera processing can change the impression.

An excellent-sounding grade is a starting point, not a substitute for seeing the stone.

Real catalog photo; appearance depends on the conditions in which it was made.

THE 4CS

Color, clarity, cut and carat.

These describe different qualities of the finished diamond.

CUT: LIGHT & CRAFT

COLOR: BODY COLOR

CLARITY & CARAT



1.68 CT ROUND E COLOR, VS2 CLARITY, EXCELLENT CUT

Color describes absence of body color on the D–Z scale; clarity describes features under magnification; cut concerns light and craftsmanship; carat measures weight. Laboratories and report formats can use different terms.

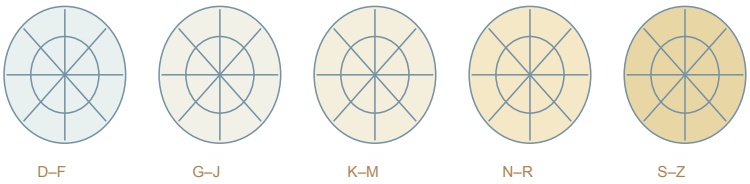
Read what the issuing laboratory actually reports for that stone.

Conceptual illustration.

COLOR

D to Z: color without guesswork.

Color grading uses standardized lighting and comparison.



Illustrative guide to relative color groups; not calibrated grading masterstones.



1.37 CT PEAR D COLOR, VVS2 CLARITY

When a laboratory uses the D–Z color nomenclature, the scale runs from colorless to light. A photo or a warm metal setting can change the way a diamond looks; grading conditions and a living-room view are different.

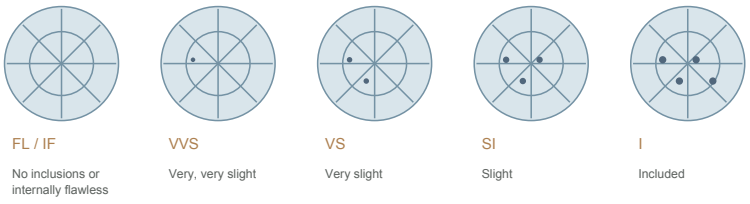
Compare stones under the same conditions and decide how much color matters to you.

Swatches are illustrative, not calibrated grading masterstones.

CLARITY

Understand the clarity scale.

Inclusions are evaluated with magnification.



FL / IF	VVS	VS	SI	I
No inclusions or internally flawless	Very, very slight	Very slight	Slight	Included

Schematic only; dots do not reproduce grading standards or guarantee visibility.



1.52 CT OVAL E COLOR, SI1 CLARITY, EXCELLENT CUT GIA

Where used, FL through I grades reflect the nature, size, number, position and visibility of features. A feature can be difficult to see in everyday wear but still be considered in grading.

Ask about appearance at normal viewing distance and any feature near an edge.

The diagram is schematic and does not reproduce a lab grade.

CLARITY IN PRACTICE

Look at the actual features.

An abbreviation cannot tell the whole story.



1.32 CT ROUND E COLOR, VS1 CLARITY, EXCELLENT CUT

Ask for a magnified view and a face-up video. Clouds, crystals or other features may affect different diamonds differently; a laboratory assesses identity and characteristics using appropriate instruments.

“Eye-clean” has no universal viewing distance—ask how the seller uses the term.

Catalog photo is an individual diamond, not a diagnosed inclusion example.

CUT

Shape and cut are different.

A round, oval or pear describes outline.



1.73 CT ROUND D COLOR, SI1 CLARITY, EXCELLENT CUT GI

Cut quality describes how proportions, facet arrangement and craftsmanship affect appearance. A round stone and an oval can both be beautiful, but their facets make different patterns.

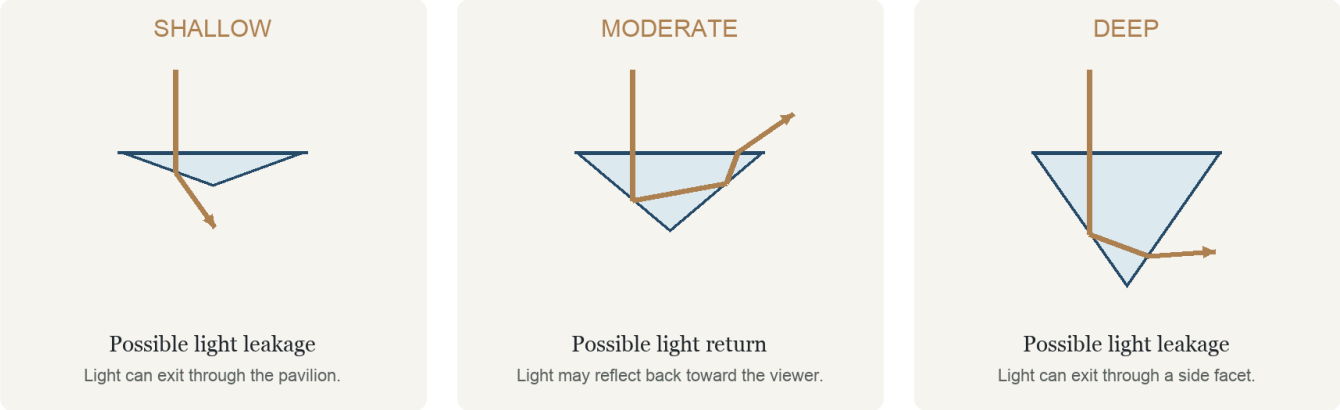
Watch the actual diamond as it moves, not only a static image.

Catalog photo; consult the actual issuing laboratory for grading scope.

PROPORTIONS

Look at the complete cut.

One percentage cannot guarantee optical performance.



ONE IDEALIZED RAY · n = 2.417 · FLAT TABLE AND SYMMETRIC PAVILION

A simplified 2D model—not a cut grade. Real facets, angles, viewing and lighting change the result.

The table, crown, pavilion, girdle, polish and symmetry work as a system. Too much or too little depth can affect face-up size and light performance, but no single profile predicts beauty for every shape.

Use measurements alongside a video and the laboratory report.

Cross-sections are conceptual, not measured ray tracing.

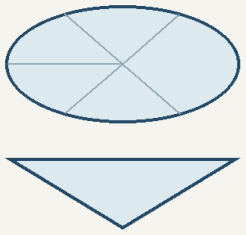
CARAT AND SIZE

Carat is weight, not size.

One carat equals 0.20 grams.

SAME WEIGHT · DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS

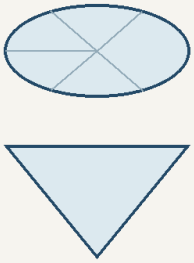
FACE-UP



WIDER / SHALLOWER

ONE CARAT = 0.20 GRAMS

FACE-UP



NARROWER / DEEPER

SAME MATERIAL AND ILLUSTRATIVE EQUAL VOLUME; FACET AND CROWN DETAILS ARE SIMPLIFIED.

Carat measures weight. Compare length × width × depth in millimeters and inspect actual stones.

Two diamonds with similar weights can have different dimensions because of their shape and depth. Compare length, width and depth in millimeters and consider how the setting changes the appearance.

Ask how the size will look on the wearer's hand.

Conceptual shapes are not shown at a common physical scale.

SHAPES

Find the outline she loves.

The real lab-grown catalog diamonds below are different stones.



2.20 CT OVAL E COLOR, VVS2 CLARITY



1.54 CT CUSHION BRILLIANT D COLOR, VS2 CLARITY



1.11 CT ROUND D COLOR, VS2 CLARITY, EXCELLENT CUT

Round, oval and cushion diamonds create different silhouettes and facet patterns. The most attractive choice is personal; each individual stone still needs to be viewed.

Select a photograph to explore the current listing.

Photos are made under independent lighting and are not controlled comparisons.

MORE SHAPES

More ways to wear a diamond.

Different outlines call for different setting details.



2.18 CT PEAR E COLOR, VVS2 CLARITY



2.83 CT MARQUISE E COLOR, VS1 CLARITY



1.50 CT HEART F COLOR, VVS2 CLARITY, EXCELLENT CUT G

A pear point or marquise tip deserves protection. The stone’s proportions, profile and setting determine comfort as well as appearance.

Ask how the ring protects vulnerable corners and accommodates a wedding band.

Catalog photos are independent; product availability may change.

GIA REPORTS

How current GIA lab reports work.

Report formats changed for eligible colorless to near-colorless stones.

ISSUER AND DATE

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY

VERIFY THE NUMBER



2.09 CT ROUND D COLOR, SI1 CLARITY, EXCELLENT CUT GI

Since October 1, 2025, GIA’s Laboratory-Grown Diamond Quality Assessment uses Premium or Standard for eligible stones based on combined criteria. Older GIA reports and other laboratories can use different systems.

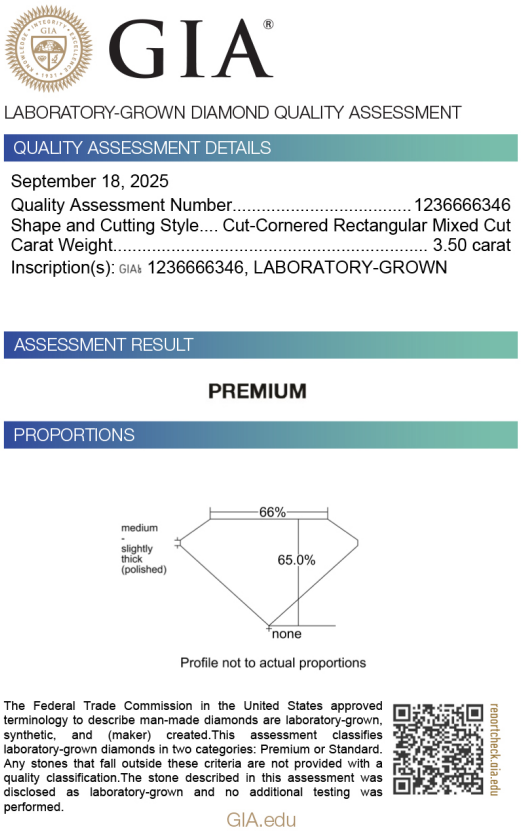
Identify the issuing lab, report date and service before comparing wording.

GIA’s categories do not describe all possible reports or all colored diamonds.

THE REPORT

Read a GIA sample assessment.

The format identifies this as a laboratory-grown diamond assessment.



GIA®

LABORATORY-GROWN DIAMOND QUALITY ASSESSMENT

QUALITY ASSESSMENT DETAILS

September 18, 2025
Quality Assessment Number..... 1236666346
Shape and Cutting Style.... Cut-Cornered Rectangular Mixed Cut
Carat Weight..... 3.50 carat
Inscription(s): GIA 1236666346, LABORATORY-GROWN

ASSESSMENT RESULT

PREMIUM

PROPORTIONS

Profile not to actual proportions

The Federal Trade Commission in the United States approved terminology to describe man-made diamonds are laboratory-grown, synthetic, and (maker) created.This assessment classifies laboratory-grown diamonds in two categories: Premium or Standard. Any stones that fall outside these criteria are not provided with a quality classification.The stone described in this assessment was disclosed as laboratory-grown and no additional testing was performed.

reportcheck.gia.edu

GIA.edu

GIA'S SAMPLE QUALITY ASSESSMENT

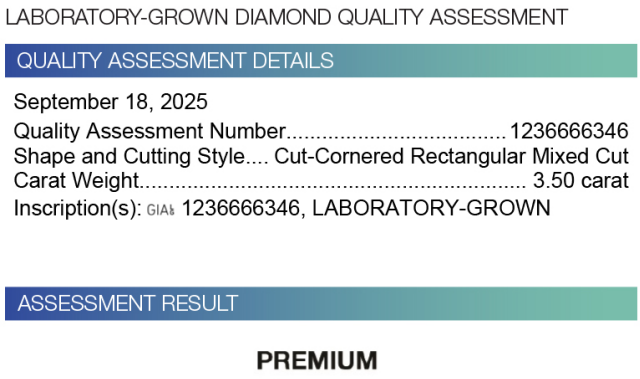
This official sample shows a 3.50 ct laboratory-grown diamond, a Premium assessment and a girdle inscription. The sample states the stone was disclosed as laboratory-grown and no additional testing was performed.

Verify the assessment number with the issuer. Ask what the specific report does and does not establish.

REPORT DETAILS

Read the actual fields.

A closer look at the official GIA sample shown on the previous page.



LABORATORY-GROWN DIAMOND QUALITY ASSESSMENT

QUALITY ASSESSMENT DETAILS

September 18, 2025
Quality Assessment Number..... 1236666346
Shape and Cutting Style.... Cut-Cornered Rectangular Mixed Cut
Carat Weight..... 3.50 carat
Inscription(s): GIA 1236666346, LABORATORY-GROWN

ASSESSMENT RESULT

PREMIUM

ASSESSMENT NUMBER

The example shows 1236666346; verify the number with the issuer.

WEIGHT & SHAPE

The sample describes a 3.50 ct cut-cornered rectangular mixed cut.

ASSESSMENT

Premium is an overall classification, not a separate D–Z color or clarity grade.

DISCLOSURE

The sample says disclosed laboratory-grown; no additional testing was performed.

The image is an official example, not a report for an offered stone. Check the full report and its terms.

OTHER LABORATORIES

Do not assume reports are identical.

The grading system belongs to the issuing laboratory.



1.87 CT ROUND D COLOR, SI2 CLARITY, EXCELLENT CUT GI

A report may list individual grades, measurements, finish, a growth statement or treatment notes depending on the issuer and service. Different labs can apply different standards and terminology.

Verify the number with the issuer and match any inscription to the diamond.

Catalog image; the independent report is the authority for that specific stone.

PRICES AND TRADEOFFS

Compare the total, not the headline.

A lab-grown diamond’s quote is more than a per-carat figure.



2.00 CT ROUND D COLOR, SI1 CLARITY, EXCELLENT CUT GI

Market prices and availability can change. Ask what the complete quote includes for the center, setting, taxes, shipping, insurance and service. A lower price does not establish how a stone looks.

Ask about return, exchange, resizing and aftercare terms in writing.

No future resale value or percentage saving is guaranteed.

RESPONSIBLE CLAIMS

Ask what can be substantiated.

Environmental claims vary by production and supplier.

SPECIFIC STONE

MEASURABLE CLAIM

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE



2.21 CT ROUND D COLOR, SI1 CLARITY, EXCELLENT CUT GI

A lab-grown origin does not, by itself, document energy source, emissions or the full supply chain. If those details matter to you, ask what evidence is available for the particular stone.

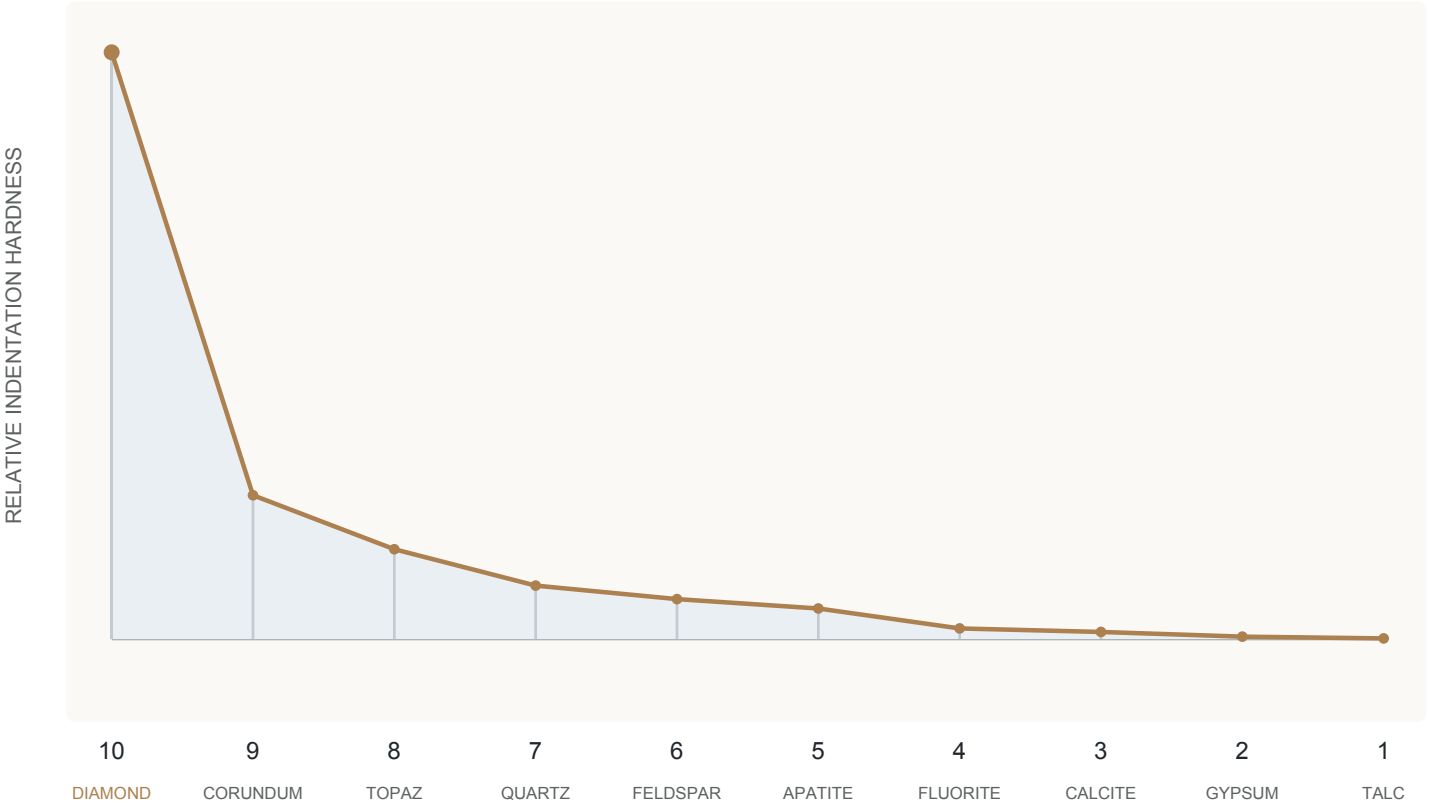
Choose the qualities and documentation that align with your priorities.

Conceptual illustration; do not infer a production footprint from origin alone.

DURABILITY AND CARE

The Mohs hardness scale.

Diamond ranks 10 for scratch resistance; hardness is not toughness.



MOHS RANK · 10 HARDEST TO 1 SOFTEST

WHY THE BIG DROP?

Mohs ranks are not equal intervals. Diamond is many times harder than corundum even though their ranks differ by only one.

Hardness describes resistance to scratching; it does not measure resistance to chipping. The curve is a schematic comparison, not a Mohs value axis.

Sources: GIA diamond care and Mineralogical Society of America hardness references.

CARE

Durable, with thoughtful care.

Lab-grown diamond has the same Mohs hardness as natural diamond.



2.00 CT ROUND D COLOR, SI1 CLARITY, EXCELLENT CUT GI

Diamond resists scratching well, but it can still chip. Clean the complete ring according to its stones, treatments and setting. Ask before ultrasonic or steam cleaning and have the setting inspected.

Remove the ring for activities that could subject it to a hard blow.

Discuss the care needs of side stones and the setting as well as the center.

WATCH WITH SERGEY

Watch before you choose.

Select a thumbnail or title to open the original video.



HPHT vs CVD Diamonds: Which Lab Diamond Should You Buy?

WATCH ON YOUTUBE >



Why I Reject Lab Diamonds With Excellent Grades

WATCH ON YOUTUBE >



Lab Diamonds: 10 Questions Every Smart Buyer Asks

WATCH ON YOUTUBE >



Moissanite vs Lab Diamond: Don’t Buy Before Watching This

WATCH ON YOUTUBE >

OUR PROCESS

From what you know about her to a finished ring.

A personal, five-step process with NinaVova.

STEP 1

Discovery & Design

The journey begins with understanding your vision and translating it into a unique ring design.

Personal Consultation: We initiate a detailed conversation to capture the essence of your desired design.

Design Inspiration: Presenting examples of previous works to showcase what's possible and inspire your selection.

Sketching Ideas: Our designers sketch several versions of your ring, refining the concept to match your vision.



CUSTOM PROCESS 2

From what you know about her to a finished ring.

A personal, five-step process with NinaVova.

STEP 2



Gemstone & Metal Selection

Choosing the perfect materials to bring your custom ring to life.

Choosing the Right Stone: We offer a serious selection process, explaining all gemstone options and providing educational materials.

Trusted Vendors: We provide multiple options from our reliable vendors with whom we have longstanding relationships.

Custom Cuts: If your vision includes a unique gemstone shape, we can custom-cut the stone for you.

MODEL AND CRAFT

From what you know about her to a finished ring.

A personal, five-step process with NinaVova.

STEP 3

3D Modeling & Approval

Visualizing your ring in precise detail before it comes to life.

3D Presentation: We create a 3D model of your ring, allowing you to visualize and turn it around, ensuring it matches your expectations.

Design Finalization: We proceed only when you are completely satisfied with every detail of the design and model.



3D MODEL EXAMPLE · VIEW ONLINE TO ROTATE

CUSTOM PROCESS 4

From what you know about her to a finished ring.

A personal, five-step process with NinaVova.

STEP 4



Craftsmanship & Creation

Bringing your ring to life with meticulous attention to detail and quality craftsmanship.

Wax Modeling: Creating a wax model to capture the intricate details of your design before casting in metal.

Expert Crafting: Our artisans craft your ring, focusing on alloy creation, meticulous polishing, and precise stone setting.

DELIVERY

From what you know about her to a finished ring.

A personal, five-step process with NinaVova.

STEP 5

Delivery

The final step where your custom engagement ring is ready to be delivered and cherished.

Complimentary Shipping: Your ring is shipped to you for free, anywhere in the world.

Lifetime Warranty: All our rings come with a lifetime warranty, ensuring your peace of mind (with the exception of accidental damage).



NINAVOVA BLOG

Keep exploring with NinaVova.

Read more from Sergey about diamonds and custom engagement rings.

HPHT VS CVD DIAMONDS

Compare the two growth methods.

READ ON NINAVOVA >

DIAMOND ALTERNATIVES

Explore diamond and gemstone alternatives.

READ ON NINAVOVA >

YOUR CUSTOM RING GUIDE

Explore materials, design and the custom process.

READ ON NINAVOVA >

SHOP LAB-GROWN DIAMONDS

Browse actual diamonds in our catalog.

READ ON NINAVOVA >

Continue learning at ninavova.com.