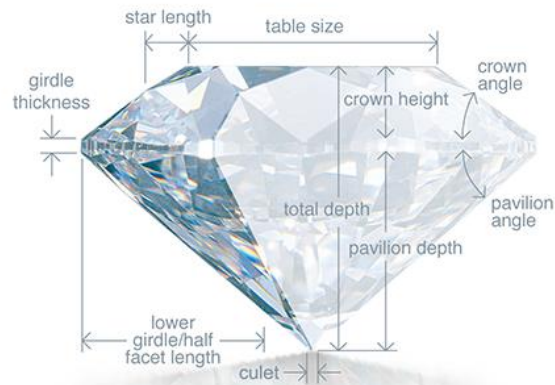


# CUT

The cut grade of a round brilliant cut diamond is the most important factor in its assessment. This grade is awarded based on how all sections of the diamond come together.



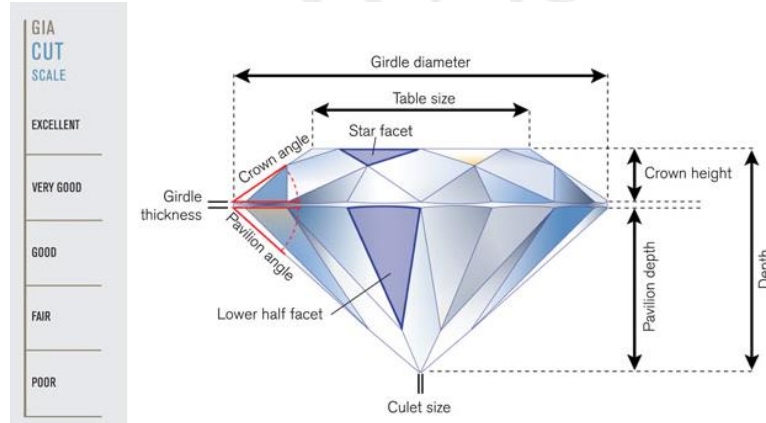
When browsing our diamond collection, you will notice that most of our round brilliant cut diamonds exhibit an Excellent cut grade, Excellent polish and Excellent symmetry. In the diamond world, this alignment of perfection is known as 'triple X' or 'XXX' cut grades.

Having an understanding of the awarded cut grades often brings a rarely known concept to the diamond buyer. Not all diamonds of XXX cut grades are the same. As confusing as this may be, a determined diamond buyer may find several triple X cut diamonds of the same colour, carat weight and clarity grades, but of varying prices.

These perfect models of round brilliant cut diamonds generally fetch a premium price. But how can you be sure you are getting exactly what you are expecting?

Our standard of accepted diamond cut grades, reflects those awarded by GIA:

A round brilliant cut diamond consists of many perfectly cut sections, each contributing to the brilliance of the stone. How well these sections designed will determine the Cut of the diamond.



Masterful diamond cutters have developed the perfect projection of a round brilliant cut diamond to ensure maximum brilliance. This map of perfection is referred to as the diamond Cut. It is not to be confused with the diamond cutting style or shape.

Of the five cut grades, Solid Gold Diamonds only accepts our colourless diamonds in Excellent or Very Good cut grades.

To understand the XXX awarded Cut grade, we also need to appreciate the grade issued for the Polish and Symmetry of a diamond. To achieve an Excellent Cut grade, a diamond must also exhibit Excellent or Very Good Polish and Symmetry.

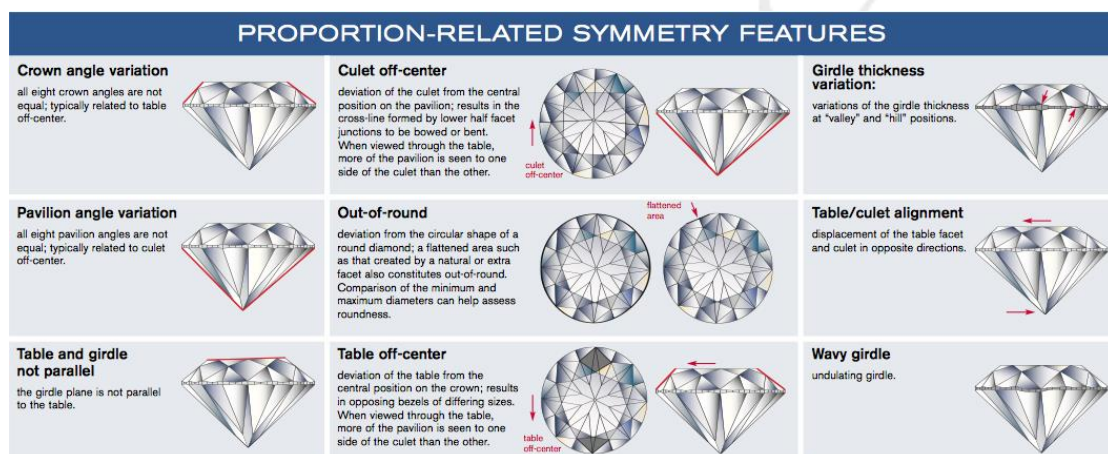
It may seem an unnecessary observation; however a round brilliant cut diamond must be symmetrical. This is not always the case.

Symmetry evaluates the alignment of the diamond cut. Imagine cutting a diamond in half through the table and then placing it back together. You would easily be able to see if one half of the diamond has more facets than the other. The placement and angles of the facets would become obvious, as would the girdle and the culet of the diamond.

Facets from the table of the diamond down to the pavilion must be balanced to provide the ultimate sparkle. Marrying these facets together creates the perfect base for an Excellent cut diamond

A master cutter who takes time and care in his craft can produce a perfectly symmetrical diamond. A diamond with excellent symmetry is able to reflect light in an even manner allowing for a more brilliant sparkle.

A detailed diagram of diamond symmetry illustrates the importance of Symmetry.



Once the facets are aligned, the cutter must then complete the polish of the diamond.

The "Polish" of a diamond refers to the surface finish of the stone and its external features.

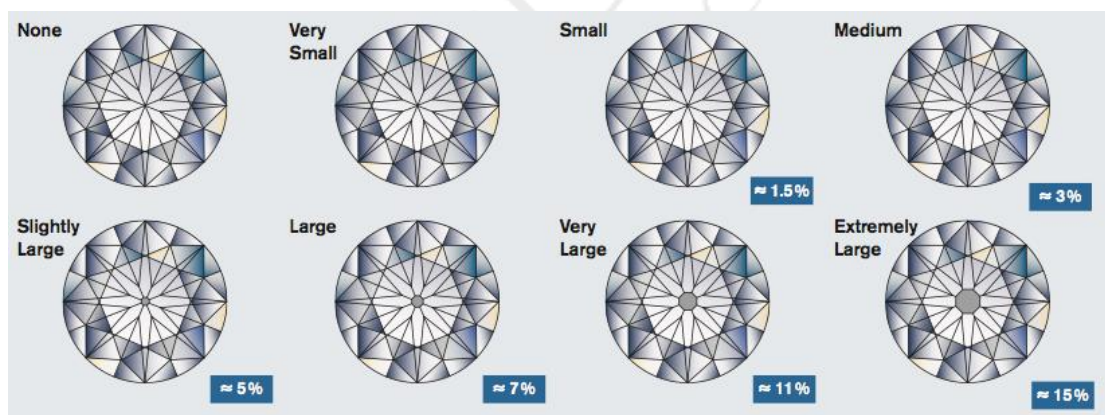
Cutting the perfect diamond means polishing facets, which act like mirrors to reflect the light through the diamond and back to the human eye. These facets need to be placed perfectly to ensure the light is correctly dispersed. Aligning all the facets is an art form. Every facet must be perfectly angled and polished so that it may contribute to the diamond's sparkle. Each facet must have a sharp, straight edge and the surface inside the facet must be highly polished.

Any blemishes created after the diamond has been cut also attribute to the polish grade of a diamond as will graining which is naturally occurring in some diamonds and may be impossible to polish out. GIA have developed a series of images shown below to illustrate the different Polishing scenarios.

CATEGORIES		FEATURES	
<b>Excellent:</b> ranges from no polish features to a few minute features that can be viewed face-up with difficulty at 10X magnification. Some typical features that would be allowed in the Excellent category include a few pits or nicks, a small area with faint transparent polish lines, or negligible scratches or abrasion. <i>*Although a diamond with a few minute polish features might qualify for the Excellent polish category, the same diamond could not qualify for a Flawless clarity grade. Only diamonds with no polish features visible at 10X magnification qualify for a Flawless clarity grade.</i>		<b>Abrasion:</b> area of minute scratches or pits along a facet edge producing a fuzzy white line instead of a sharp facet junction.	<b>Burn mark or burned facet:</b> whitish haze across a facet or a concentrated area caused by excessive heat during polishing or occasionally by a jeweler's torch.
<b>Very Good:</b> minor polish features are seen face-up at 10X magnification. Some typical features that would establish a Very Good category include several pits or nicks, a few small areas of abrasion, a limited extent of moderate transparent polish lines, a small area with faint white polish lines, several faint scratches or a few heavier white scratches, faint lizard skin, or a small area of very faint burn marking.		<b>Lizard skin:</b> transparent uneven texture confined to one facet; caused by polishing a facet off-grain, at the hardest direction near a cleavage plane.	<b>Nick:</b> small notch on a facet junction, usually along the girdle or culet; minute chip with no visible depth at 10X magnification.
<b>Good:</b> noticeable polish features are seen face-up at 10X magnification. The luster of the diamond may be affected when viewed with the unaided eye. Some typical features that would establish a Good category include moderate to heavy transparent polish lines, white polish lines, many heavy scratches, lizard skin or burn marks.		<b>Pit:</b> tiny opening appearing as a white dot.	<b>Polish lines:</b> parallel lines left by the polishing process; may appear white or transparent.
<b>Fair:</b> obvious heavy polish features are seen face-up at 10X magnification. The luster of the diamond is affected when viewed with the unaided eye. Some typical features that would establish a Fair category include heavy white polish lines or burned facets over most of the crown or pavilion.		<b>Rough girdle:</b> irregular pitted or granular surface of a beveled girdle due to pits and nicks.	<b>Scratch:</b> surface mark normally seen as a fine white line, curved or straight.
<b>Poor:</b> prominent heavy polish features are seen face-up at 10X magnification. The luster of the diamond is significantly affected when viewed with the unaided eye. Some typical features that would establish a Poor category include heavy white polish lines or burned facets over most of the crown and pavilion.			

A facet placed at the base of a diamond is known as the Culet. The culet is formed to prevent damage to the point of the diamond. The size of the culet is considered when awarding a Cut grade to a round brilliant cut diamond.

The below illustration by GIA shows the significance of the culet size to the overall appearance of the diamond once cut and polished:



A large culet acts like an extra 'window' in the diamond and this allows light to escape. Diamonds awarded an Excellent Cut grade have nil or very small culets.

The final stage of the diamond cutting process is polishing the girdle. Running around the circumference of a diamond, the girdle's thickness has an effect on the cut grade awarded. The girdle can be finished in many ways, including polished, faceted and bruted. The girdle is assessed based on its thickness. An extremely thin girdle can be at higher risk of chipping when being set and an extremely heavy girdle can make the diamond look smaller than another of similar size. Assessing the girdle forms part of the symmetry grading of a diamond.

Ideally, an excellent cut diamond would have a thin to medium girdle. Many diamond buyers fail to recognise the girdle thickness as an important factor in the Cut grading process. A thick to extremely thick girdle can reduce the price of a diamond significantly. Quite often retailers cleverly omit the girdle thickness from disclosure, passing the diamond off as a better deal than another of similar quality with a more desirable girdle thickness.



A diamond with an extremely thick girdle compared to one with a thin girdle of the same carat weight, can appear significantly smaller in diameter as much of the weight is held in the center of the diamond around the girdle.



Solid Gold Diamonds adds a laser inscription to most of our internationally certified diamonds along the girdle as an extra form of security and identification. Laser inscription is seen as a desirable addition.

Once the Polish and Symmetry has been awarded, the girdle and culet measured, GIA certified diamonds are then assessed for an overall cut grade. This grading takes into account the brilliance, fire and scintillation of the diamond. All of which are a result of the polish and symmetry. This assessment is conducted using a relationship of percentages.

There is a lot of information available on suggested percentage sizes for an excellent cut diamond. Much of this information relates to table size and crown angles. What is most important to remember is that these percentages can vary considerably and still result in an Excellent Cut diamond. The Excellent Cut grade is awarded based on the relationship between the different facets.

In partnership with some of the world's most prestigious diamond wholesalers, Solid Gold Diamonds selects our Excellent Cut diamonds within the below ranges:

Table %	55% - 61%
Depth %	59% - 63%
Crown Angle	31.5° - 36°
Pavilion Angle	40.5° - 41.9°
Girdle Thickness	Medium - Slightly Thick
Culet Size	None

As with all aspects of diamond grading, it is essential to remember certification is conducted in a controlled environment and each grading considered within certain parameters. This means that to be awarded an Excellent Cut, a diamond must fall within a certain 'band' of percentages. This is true for all 4c's of diamond grading.

The result is that some diamonds may have only just had the necessary parameters to be awarded an Excellent Cut grade and some may well exceed these parameters.

So how can diamonds, which just 'scrape by' be awarded the same Excellent cut grading as those that excel, and how can you know which diamonds are a 'high' Excellent Cut grade and which diamonds are a 'low' Excellent Cut grade?

Just ask. Our team at Solid Gold Diamonds consists of Internationally trained and qualified Diamond Graders and Gemmologists who have spent many years studying and perfecting the art of selecting Excellent Cut diamonds.

All of our Excellent Cut diamonds are within the top 10% of the cut grade.

You will notice we offer full disclosure of the GIA diamond report accompanying every one of our diamonds. This is to show that our diamonds are of the highest quality. No information is omitted from our certificates and as an added assurance of quality, we welcome you to compare our diamonds with GIA's report check located at the below link:

<http://www.gia.edu/report-check-landing>

For your convenience, information relating to diamond grading by The Gemological Institute of America is translated into

Chinese:

<http://www.4cs.gia.edu/ZH-CN/diamond-cut.htm>

Japanese:

<http://www.4cs.gia.edu/JA-JP/diamond-cut.htm>