

CUT GRADE - AGS PERFORMANCE -BASED

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Ideal	Excellent	Very Good	Good		Fair			Poor		
Superior craftsmanship in the diamond cutting process. All cut quality factors are at the highest possible levels, and they make the maximum contribution to the diamond's beauty and value.	Very slight variations in one or more of the diamond cut quality factors, but these can be detected only by computer analysis.	Slight variations in one or more diamond cut quality factors that can be detected by computer analysis.	Minor variations in one or more diamond cut quality factors can be detected by computer analysis. These variations may have a slight effect on the diamond's beauty, durability, or size appearance. Some differences in appearance may be noticed in careful side-by-side comparisons made with diamonds of higher cut grades.		Sizable variations in one or more diamond cut quality factors can be detected by computer analysis. These variations have little effect (in grade 5) to a noticeable effect (in grade 7) on the diamond's beauty, durability, or size appearance. Diamonds in these cut grades have diminished light performance when compared with diamonds in higher cut grades.			Major variations in one or more diamond cut quality factors have significant (8) to serious (10) negative effects on the diamond's beauty, durability, or size appearance. Noticeable poor light performance characterizes diamonds in these cut grades.		

PERFORMANCE-BASED CUT GRADE SYSTEM

The AGS Performance-Based Cut Grading System takes advantage of revolutionary hardware and software in considering a diamond's performance.

- The diamonds are first measured using a computerized measuring device, which also creates a three-dimensional model.
- The diamond grader imports the information into the AGS ray-tracing software and receives values for proportions and light performance.
- The diamond grader then analyzes the girdle, the culet, the symmetry, and the polish characteristics of the diamond.

From this the three elements of the final Cut Grade - **Light Performance**, **Proportion**, and **Finish** are assessed. The result is a more thoroughly analyzed diamond, which in turn helps to make a more informed buying decision.

As an indication of the level of thoroughness of the AGS Performance-Based Cut Grade, the following 11 factors are assessed.

LIGHT PERFORMANCE		PROPORTION		FINISH	
Brightness	The amount of white light returned to the observer.	Girdle Thickness	The thickness of the diamond girdle as a percentage.	Polish	The degree to which the facets of the diamond have been polished to remove surface imperfections.
Dispersion (Fire)	The separation of white light into spectral colors.	Culet Size	The presence & size of a culet facet. The facet that is sometimes present at the 'point' of the diamond.		
Leakage	Areas that do not return light.	Weight Ratio	The millimeter footprint of a diamond versus its weight.		
Contrast	The light and dark patterns seen when observing a diamond. It can produce a positive or negative optical effect. This usually is caused by, but not limited to, the observer's head.	Durability	The diamond's resistance to chipping or breaking.	Symmetry	The degree to which the diamond is cut with symmetry between corresponding parts of the diamond.
		Tilt	The point at which the girdle reflects under the table of the diamond and is defined by the minimum pavilion angle allowed for each table size.		

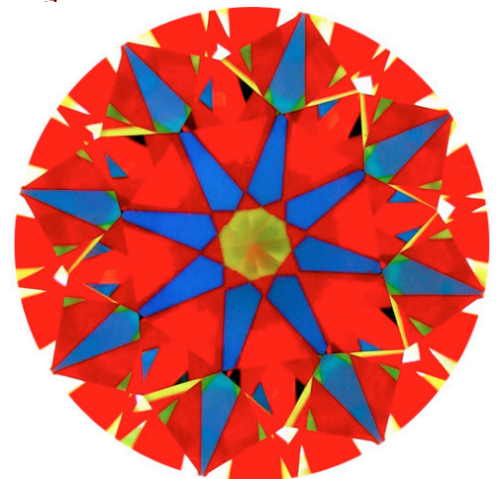
THE ANGULAR SPECTRUM EVALUATION TOOL — ASET

The ASET is our Angular Spectrum Evaluation Tool that color-codes the light seen entering the diamond.

- Light entering from directly above is coded blue
- Light entering from the mid angle (45–75 degrees) is coded red
- Light entering from a low angle (below 45 degrees) is coded green
- Light leakage is coded by white

A finely cut diamond gathers a majority of light from the mid angle, and will show a great deal of red color when viewed in the ASET. The low angle light performs poorly for returning light, and is minimized in the ideal cut diamond. Contrast in the diamond is seen in a pattern of darker areas produced by the person viewing the diamond. This is seen in the distinctive arrow pattern shown in blue.

The image to the right is but one example of the patterns that ideal cut diamonds produce. The one pattern from one ideal cut diamond to the next will vary.



CUT GRADE - PROPORTION BASED

AGS	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Ideal	Excellent	Very Good		Good		Fair		Poor		

The diamond cut grade is an assessment of key factors that affect the beauty and value of a diamond:

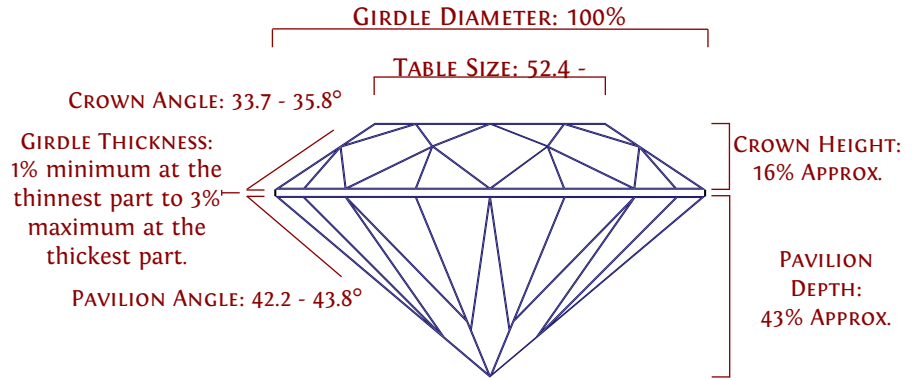
- Proportions
- Symmetry
- Polish

Instruments and/or visual techniques are used to evaluate these factors which include:

- table diameter
- culet size & centering
- girdle thickness
- roundness
- crown angle
- finish
- pavilion depth

The degree of departure from the ideal proportion cut standard results in a given cut grade.

THE AGS IDEAL CUT



COLOR GRADE

AGS	0	0.5	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.5	8.0	8.5	9.0	9.5	10	Fancy Yellow		
GIA	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	FY
	Colorless <small>Appear colorless with only slight differences that are difficult to distinguish.</small>			Near Colorless <small>Appear colorless to the untrained eye when viewed 'face-up', but very slight color is perceived by diamond graders under grading conditions.</small>				Faint Yellow <small>Appear to show a faint yellow color when viewed 'face-up'.</small>			Very Light Yellow <small>Appear to show pale yellow color.</small>			Light Yellow <small>Shows obvious light yellow color.</small>										

CLARITY GRADE

AGS	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
GIA	FL	VVS1	VVS2	VS1	VS2	S11	S12	I1	I2	I3	
	CLARITY GRADING GUIDELINES FOR TRAINED GRADERS (Under 10x Magnification)										
	NONE <small>No inclusions and only minor blemishes.</small>	MINUTE <small>Minute inclusions that are extremely difficult (AGS1/VVS1), very difficult (AGS2/VVS2) to see.</small>	MINOR <small>Minor inclusions that are somewhat difficult (AGS3/VS1), somewhat easy (AGS4/VS2) to see.</small>	NOTICEABLE <small>Noticeable inclusions that are easy (AGS5/S11), very easy (AGS6/S12) to see. Inclusions in this grade sometimes can be seen with the unaided eye.</small>	OBVIOUS <small>Obvious inclusions are apparent and often visible to the unaided eye.</small>	OBVIOUS <small>Obvious inclusions are easily visible to the unaided eye. May have an effect on durability.</small>	VERY OBVIOUS <small>Very Obvious inclusions to the unaided eye. May affect the diamond's durability.</small>	VERY OBVIOUS <small>Very Obvious inclusions to the unaided eye. Pose a definite threat to the diamond's durability.</small>			
	TYPICAL GRADE SETTING INCLUSIONS										
	None	Scattered pinpoint, faint clouds, reflective internal graining, slight bearding, tiny chips, and minor bruises.	Small included crystals or feathers, clouds, and groups of pinpoints.	Included crystals, feathers, clouds, or other characteristics that are centrally located and immediately noticed with magnification.	Included crystals, feathers, and knots.	Large included crystals, feathers, and knots.	Large included crystals	Large included crystals, feathers, and knots.			