HANDMADE
ENGAGEMENT RINGS

Precious metals explained simple

The most important criteria used to determine the quality of precious metals have been summarised here in a compact form.

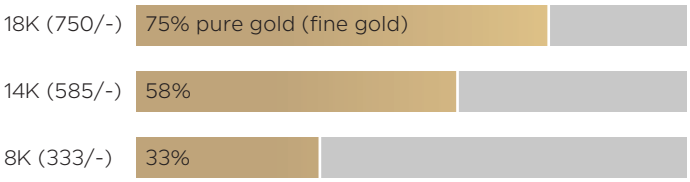
GOLD IN ALL COLOURS

YELLOW GOLD is a yellow alloy of gold, silver and copper, it's colour is similar to fine gold (99.9% pure gold) and it is suitable for the production of jewellery. The mixing ratio of the additional metals influences the colour. Yellow gold is the most popular gold colour worldwide.

WHITE GOLD is the name given to gold alloys which are given a white tinted colour by decolourising additional metals. Palladium, copper and silver are used as additional metals, in order to achieve a low fine gold content only silver is used. After processing, white gold jewellery is given a coating of rhodium, a platinum by-product. Rhodinizing improves the colour to silvery white and increases scratch resistance. Diamonds in a white gold setting have a particularly impressive sparkling effect. That is why white gold is particularly popular for engagement rings.

ROSÉ GOLD (also called: red gold) is a gold alloy of fine gold and copper. Small amounts of silver improve the mechanical workability. The relatively high copper content ensures the reddish colour and hardness of the material.

GOLD ALLOYS



Gold alloys make jewellery durable and resistant. Alloys consist of gold, silver and copper, whereby - depending on the mixing ratio - colours ranging from golden yellow to pink to silver white can be achieved. A rich gold tone can only be achieved with alloys that contain more than 70% pure gold (fine gold). Alloys with a fineness of around 14 carats (or around 58% pure gold) have the greatest possible strength and hardness.

STERLING SILVER (SILVER 925/-)

Silver 925/-, the so-called sterling silver, consists of 92.5% pure silver and 7.5% other metals, usually copper. The name refers to the British pound sterling, which was originally made of this silver alloy. Today sterling silver is used to make jewellery, coins, cups, cutlery and instruments. It is much harder and more scratch-resistant than pure silver, but silver jewellery also acquires a dark patina over time.

PLATINUM 950/-

Platinum is currently one of the most expensive precious metals ahead of gold and is particularly valuable due to its high net weight. Its extremely long durability, the tarnish resistance and the rare occurrence make platinum the ideal metalfor the production of high-quality jewellery. Pure platinum is hardly harder than gold. Platinum alloys are much harder and consist of around 95% platinum and 5% cobalt.