

Your diamond solitaire: The shape of things to come

For centuries man has attempted to access personality through tea leaves, astrological charts, and even bumps on the head. Now here's a new twist. In order to reveal whether a person is creative, aggressive, sensitive, earthbound or dreamy, look at his or her favorite diamond shape: round, oval, pear, marquise or emerald cut.

Over the years, veteran jewelry appraiser Saul Spero has developed a "personality profile" of individuals selecting diamond engagement rings by observing a direct correlation between the shape of the diamond desired and the person's character.

The credibility of Mr. Spero's observations is based on psychological precepts, confirms Dr. Frederick Koenig, professor of sociology at Tulane University. "There is a solid rationale behind Spero's observations. When a person selects a particular geo-

metric shape, that person gives expression to an inner impulse...it is a revelation of the inner self."

How does it work?

If you like the *round shape* best, husband, children and home life are terribly important to you. You're content, dependable, and relate easily to others. You eagerly anticipate all the comforts and joys of marriage and motherhood. Even if you work, a career is not your uppermost concern.

The security of home and family (suggested by the round portion) is also very meaningful to someone who selects the *pear shape*. But you're eager to meet new people and embark on new experiences (indicated by the tapered end).

Does the *oval shape* diamond appeal to you? Chances are you love to inno-

vate and are fully in your element when you're being creative. You're organized, but not inflexible, and have a unique sense of your own style. You dare to be different, but are not "far out." The oval personality is a blend of the round, square/emerald and marquise.

Someone who prefers the *marquise shape* is outgoing, impulsive, sometimes temperamental, sexy and known to be "a charmer" (depicted by two tapered ends). You thrive on new challenges and your partner must do the same to keep up with you. Your energies need the outlet of a career and you're compelled to achieve your potential. You savor excitement and don't like to be "cooped up" at home.

A bit conservative, disciplined and organized, describes someone who favors the orderly, angular *square or emerald shape*. Often your mind wins out over your heart. You think things over clearly before making decisions. You also have good executive and leadership capabilities.

Diamond shape, or "cut," is just one of the all-important "Four C's" that should be considered when buying a diamond, advises Jewelers of America (JA), the national organization dedicated to consumer information and education about fine jewelry. Diamond values are also based on *carat weight* (there are 142 carats to an ounce, and 100 points to a carat); *color* (the amount by which a diamond deviates from the whitest possible, or truly colorless); and *clarity* (determined by taking into account the number, size, placement, color and nature of any internal "inclusions" or external surface irregularities).

How much should you plan to spend? Jewelers of America recommends a two months' salary guideline that will not adversely affect your budget but reflects a reasonable allowance for a better quality diamond solitaire. After all, unlike cars, stereos, furs and VCRs, this is a one-time purchase that lasts a lifetime and becomes a family heirloom!

It is important, therefore, to make your diamond purchase based on cut,


clarity, carat weight and color. Because every diamond has its own characteristics, and no two stones are exactly alike, JA recommends that you consult with a local diamond expert,

your neighborhood jeweler whom you know and trust. He or she will be able to guide you, based on your likes and dislikes, to the best value for your money.



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