

Glossary of Gems, Minerals and Jewelry Terms

Advanced: Amateur exhibitor who has won first place as a Beginner.

Amateur: An exhibitor who does not engage in selling as a primary business but may sell items on occasion.

American System of Judging: A method where entries are ranked against each other, and awards are given based on comparative merit.

Assembled Gemstone: Constructed from two or more combined materials, e.g., doublets, triplets. Assembled gemstones made of all-natural materials are permitted in all classes that allow stones.

Beginner: Amateur exhibitor who has not won first place in a Beginner class.

Bola: A type of necktie consisting of a piece of cord or braided leather with decorative metal tips (called aiguillettes) and secured with an ornamental clasp or slide.

Cabochon (Cab): A polished stone often with a smooth, domed surface.

Cabochon (Cab), Fancy: Includes at least one of the following features: domed on both top and bottom, flat on both top and bottom, carving or faceting on top or bottom.

Cabochon (Cab), Standard: Smooth, domed gemstone, polished but not faceted or carved, with a polished back and a beveled or rounded edge. Cabs may be oval in outline, or one of many other shapes such as round, square, or freeform.

CAD: An acronym for "Computer-aided design". Software programs that jewelers use to create digital models, providing 2D or 3D visual representation of a jewelry piece.

Carat: A unit of weight for gemstones, equivalent to 200 milligrams.

Cast: Jewelry that is made using a technique in which molten metal is poured into a mold to form a specific design.

Chasing: A metalworking technique that involves hammering the front of a piece of metal to create a design. The metal is indented without cutting or engraving.

Cloisonné: A decorative art technique used to create intricate designs on metal jewelry. The designs are formed by partitioning the surface into compartments (called "cloisons") using thin metal wires or strips, which are then filled repeatedly with enamel and fired.

Constructed: Jewelry that is made using jewelers' tools, such as saws, files, torches, pliers, buffers, etc.

Enamel: A process where powdered glass (enamel) is fused onto a metal surface through a heating process.

Faceting: The art of cutting and polishing a gemstone into flat, polished surfaces (facets) to enhance its brilliance and optical properties.

Fluorescent Mineral, Long Wave: A mineral that exhibits fluorescence when exposed to long-wave ultraviolet (UV) light, typically in the wavelength range of 350 to 380 nanometers (nm).

Fluorescent Mineral, Short Wave: A mineral that exhibits fluorescence when exposed to short-wave ultraviolet (UV) light, typically in the wavelength range of 200 to 300 nanometers (nm).

Fossil: The remains or impression of a prehistoric organism preserved in petrified form or as a mold or cast in rock, at least 10,000 years old.

Inclusion: A material, often a small crystal or particle, that is enclosed within a larger mineral or rock during its formation.

Intarsia: A form of gemstone inlay where pieces are cut, fitted together, and polished to form a decorative pattern or image.

Lapidary: The art of cutting, shaping, and polishing stones and gemstones.

Master: An amateur exhibitor who has won First Place in the Advanced class.

Metal Clay: A crafting material composed of microscopic particles of metal (such as silver, gold, copper, or bronze) mixed with an organic binder and water.

Mineral Nodules: Compact, rounded or irregularly shaped solid concretions.

Mineral Specimen: A naturally occurring, inorganic element or compound with a specific chemical composition and a crystalline structure.

NFS: Not for sale.

Natural: Not synthetic.

Open: A class or division that is not restricted to certain groups of exhibitors based on experience, professional status, etc. Instead, anyone may enter these classes.

Professional: An exhibitor who engages in an activity as a livelihood rather than as a hobby.

Repoussé: A metalworking technique used to create decorative designs in relief by hammering or pressing the reverse side of a metal sheet. This process raises the design on the front surface of the metal, resulting in intricate, three-dimensional patterns and textures.

Rough Material: Uncut and unpolished stone, gemstone, or mineral in its natural state.

Synthetic: Laboratory-grown material that is identical to natural stones chemically and physically.

Thumbnail Minerals: Mineral specimens small enough to fit within a one-inch cube.