

## What does it take to become a **DIAMOND CUTTER?**

A Diamond Cutter is a trained and skilled artisan who takes a rough diamond and 'cuts' it into a faceted shape and polishes it into a beautifully, sparkly diamond. Their work seriously enhances the value of the stone. They consider the rough diamond's potential as a cut gem, check for any flaws, and decide which faceted shape would enhance the stone. They then accurately saw and cut the diamond into a specific shape, girdle and polishes it in line with the 4 Cs, namely colour, cut, clarity and carat size. Due to the fact that diamonds are extremely valuable, cutting and polishing need to be very precise. They must be able to get as large and as beautiful of a gem as possible without losing a large amount of material. A small mistake can actually ruin an expensive stone and faceting mishaps can cost thousands of dollars.

### Skills & Knowledge

High school courses in science and mathematics provide a strong foundation for a Diamond Cutter's career. You will need a calm demeanour, the ability to follow often complex technical instructions, determination, and good eyesight. A day in the life of a diamond cutter requires dedication, attention to detail, artistic vision and a complex set of instructions in order to polish a diamond to reach its full potential.



### Training

Diamond cutting is one of the most difficult processes in jewellery making and takes years of apprenticeship under a skilled diamond cutter before one in training is allowed to cut and polish a rough diamond. Most apprentices receive on-the-job training while being supervised by an experienced diamond cutter. Training normally covers aspects such as diamond grading, the 4 Cs (carat, color, cut and clarity), operation of cutting and faceting

equipment, appraisals and diamond industry terminology. Other aspects include techniques such as bruiting, blocking and brilliantteering, and how to regulate the speed of revolutions of drilling mechanisms and the replacement and sharpening of blades, drills, and plates.



### Working Conditions

This work requires high levels of concentration and can be very physically taxing, considering that diamond cutters spend most of their time sitting at well-lit workbenches in areas where security arrangements are extremely restrictive and limiting. Diamond cutters are sometimes exposed to contaminants, such as cleaning solutions and often need to wear protective attire, such as gloves, masks and earpieces.

### Job Prospects

More and more local diamond companies are being established as part of national value-addition efforts. Becoming a diamond cutter not only enables you to cut diamonds, but also to pursue a number of related career opportunities, including wholesale and retail sales, rough-diamond brokering, consulting, diamond-cutting production, self-employment as a diamond cutter, consultant or broker, as well as diamond and jewelry business ownership.

You too can live your passion and qualify as a Diamond Cutter. If you are good with your hands, detail orientated, extremely accurate and precise, and possess good eyesight, you are a good candidate.

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