



A FREE GUIDE FOR SERIOUS BUYERS · VOL 01

The Solitaire *Buying Checklist.*

Learn how to choose the perfect solitaire.



BY YASH

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Of every 1000 diamonds, only 4 make our cut.

Why this guide exists.

Most buyers pick their first solitaire blind. They trust a family jeweller, a cousin in the trade, or a glossy brand store. They spend anywhere from five lakhs to five crore. Then they hope they bought right.

You do not have to hope.

This is the exact checklist I walk every client through before they approve a stone. If you use even five of the nine checks inside, you will buy better than ninety percent of the market. That is not an opinion. That is math, and two decades of a family trade watching people overpay.

This guide will not teach you to haggle. It will teach you to recognise a real solitaire from a pretty story. That is the only skill that matters when you are writing a large cheque.

Read it. Save it. Share it with whoever is buying the ring.

Yash

THE SOLITAIRE GUY



One stone, one decision.

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Certification and cut.

01

Certification must be GIA

For any solitaire above half a carat, only GIA certification matters. IGI and HRD are acceptable for everyday jewellery, not for investment grade solitaires. If your jeweller pushes IGI on a one carat plus stone, ask why. The answer will tell you everything you need to know.

02

Cut grade, Excellent or Ideal

Cut is the single biggest driver of brilliance. A 1.5 carat Excellent cut will outshine a 2 carat Good cut every single time. Never compromise here. If the certificate does not say Excellent or Ideal, walk away without a second look.

03

Polish and symmetry, both Excellent

These two grades sit right below cut on every GIA certificate. Both must read Excellent. Anything less and light leaks out of the stone before it reaches your eye. It is the cheapest way for a jeweller to save money and most buyers never notice.

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Fluorescence, colour, clarity.

04 Fluorescence, None or Faint

Medium, Strong, or Very Strong fluorescence can make a diamond look milky in daylight and hurts resale value. Stay with None or Faint. This one line on the certificate has cost buyers lakhs in lost value on the secondary market.

05 Colour, stay at F and above

The GIA colour scale runs D at the top to Z at the bottom. D, E, F are colourless. G, H, I, J are near colourless. K onwards show visible tint and are not worth your time for a solitaire you will own forever. Stay at F and above. E and F are the ideal pick, visibly icy without the D premium that most eyes cannot detect once the stone is set.

D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M→Z
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D to Z scale · champagne = ideal (E, F) · gold outline = acceptable · grey = skip

06 Clarity, stay at VVS and above

The GIA clarity scale from cleanest to most included: FL (Flawless), IF (Internally Flawless), VVS1, VVS2, VS1, VS2, SI1, SI2, I1, I2, I3. For a solitaire you intend to pass down, stay at VVS and above. VVS1 and VVS2 are the ideal pick, showing no inclusions to the naked eye and only pinpoints under ten power magnification. FL and IF command a steep collector premium with almost no visual difference.

FL	IF	VVS1	VVS2	VS1	VS2	SI1	SI2	I1→I3
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FL to I3 scale · champagne = ideal (VVS1, VVS2) · gold outline = collector (FL, IF) · grey = skip

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Proportions and finish.



Proportions of a round brilliant. The ratios below live inside these lines.

07

Depth percentage, 59 to 62.5

Too shallow and the stone leaks light from the bottom. Too deep and it looks smaller than its actual carat weight. For round brilliants, keep depth between 59 and 62.5 percent. Non negotiable for a premium stone.

08

Table percentage, 54 to 60

For round brilliants, a table between 54 and 60 percent balances brilliance with fire. Anything outside this window usually signals a compromised cut designed to retain carat weight at the cost of beauty.

09

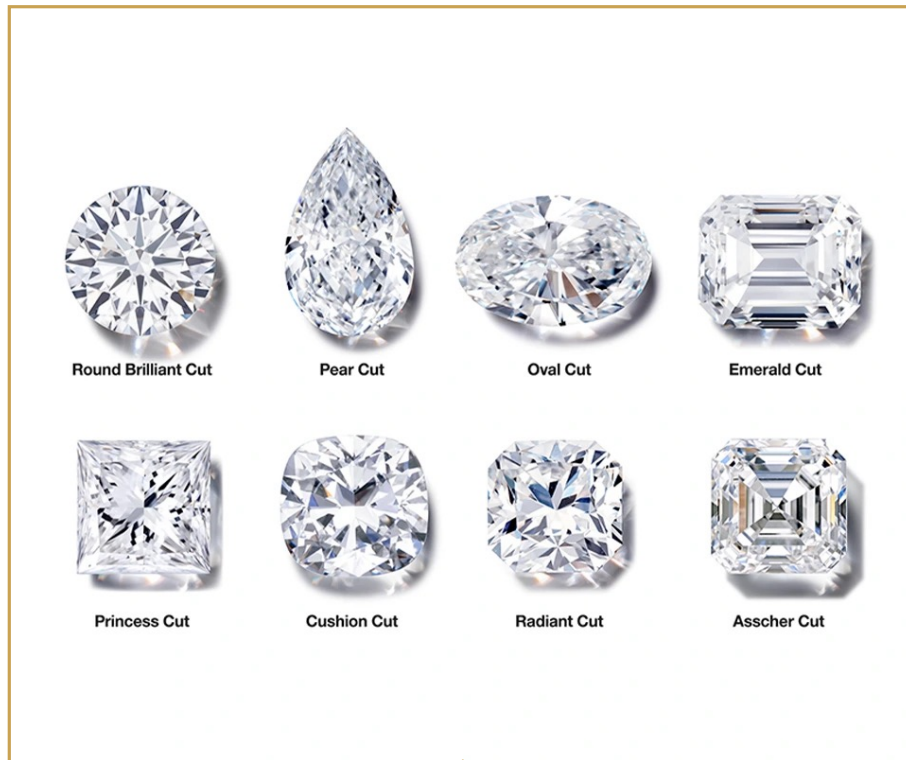
Hearts and Arrows, ask for it

Premium cut stones show a perfect hearts pattern under a viewer. Not mandatory, but a strong luxury signal worth asking for. If the jeweller cannot show you, the stone is probably not top tier cut, no matter what the certificate says.

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Nine shapes, three occasions.

Shape is personal, but context matters. The shape that stuns at a gala can snag in daily wear. Study the silhouettes, then match the shape to the moment.



ENGAGEMENT

Choose for timelessness.

Round brilliant

timeless, max light return

Oval

elongates, faces up larger

Emerald

deco, quiet and understated

Pear

statement, best above 1.5 ct

PARTY WEAR

Drama allowed, photograph well.

Marquise

maximum drama, hand elongating

Radiant

brilliance plus clean lines

Cushion

romantic glow under warm light

Princess

sharp, modern, strong presence

DAILY WEAR

Shape plus setting.

Round in bezel

protected, everyday safe

Princess low profile

clean, does not snag

Oval east west

flat, unique, practical

Emerald in bezel

minimalist, office ready

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What buyers say.

A small selection from clients across London, Dubai, Singapore, and Mumbai. Full names withheld for privacy, on request.



“ *A friend sent me Yash just before I wired money to a Bond Street jeweller. One call, and he caught three things on the certificate the seller had glossed over. I bought through him instead.*

A. K.
LONDON • 2.10 CT OVAL

“ *Transparent in a way this trade usually is not. He walked me through two certificates side by side and showed me exactly why one was worth the premium. No pressure, no sales talk.*

R. M.
DUBAI • 1.55 CT ROUND

“ *We were buying for our engagement and had no clue. Yash audited our shortlist on one call and saved us from a stone with medium fluorescence we would have regretted.*

S. P.
SINGAPORE • 3.02 CT EMERALD

“ *Our family has bought jewellery for generations and we still learned something new. The depth and table ranges alone changed how we look at every stone now.*

V. D.
MUMBAI • 1.20 CT CUSHION

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Five flags. Walk away.

- 01 Jeweller refuses to share the GIA number in advance of payment.
- 02 Certificate is more than two years old with no recent reverification.
- 03 Stone is only shown under strong showroom spotlights, never in daylight.
- 04 GIA number on girdle and certificate mismatch.
- 05 Price quoted without showing the per carat rate for that specific stone.

Five questions. Ask every time.

- 01 What is the GIA report number? Can we verify it on [gia.edu](https://www.gia.edu) together, right now?
- 02 Is this stone eye clean? Can you send me a 360 degree video within the hour?
- 03 What is your buyback and upgrade policy in writing, on the invoice?
- 04 What is the per carat rate for this exact stone, and how does it compare to rap?
- 05 May I see this stone in natural daylight before I pay anything?

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Buying across borders.

More than half my clients live outside India. If that is you, these five rules protect you completely. Follow them without exception, no matter how trusted the seller.

01 Verify before you wire.

Never transfer money until you have the GIA number in hand and have verified it live on [gia.edu](https://www.gia.edu) with the jeweller on a video call. Screenshot the verification.

02 Demand a 360 degree video.

Request a full rotation video of the actual stone under neutral daylight. Stock renders and generic product shots are a red flag.

03 Ship insured only.

Use FedEx Priority International or Brinks Global Services. Nothing else. Insurance must cover the full declared value, with signature on delivery.

04 Independent appraisal on arrival.

Have a local gemologist verify the stone matches the certificate before you release final payment or sign off on the transaction.

05 Keep every document.

Invoice, GIA certificate, insurance papers, courier receipt, and independent appraisal. Store digital copies and originals in separate locations.

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Work with me.

Three ways in, each built for a different kind of buyer.

THE SOLITAIRE AUDIT

15,000 INR · 200 USD

A thirty minute call where I review your shortlist, certificates, and pricing. You walk away with a written verdict on which stone to buy, which to skip, and why.

THE PRIVATE SOLITAIRE SERVICE

RETAINER · BY INVITATION

For buyers who want a curated shortlist of three to five hand picked stones within their budget and taste. I handle sourcing, verification, and delivery, end to end.

CUSTOM DESIGN

PROJECT · 4 TO 6 WEEKS

Complete service. Stone sourcing, CAD design, setting, finishing, delivery anywhere in the world. One ring, made once, for a lifetime.

READY TO BUY BETTER

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