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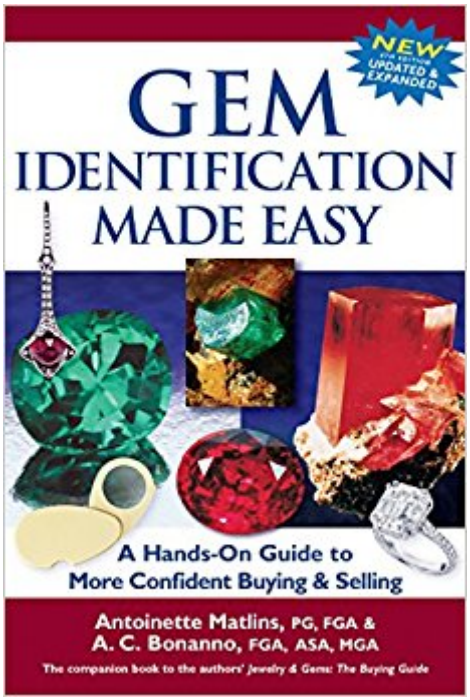
Gem Identification Made Easy: A Hands-On Guide To More Confident Buying & Selling (6th Edition)



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Synopsis

Gem Identification Made Easy is the first and only book that explains in non-technical terms how to identify diamonds and colored gems, and how to separate natural gems from imitations, treated stones, synthetics, and look-alikes. The book's approach is direct and practical, and its style easy to understand. In fact, with this highly accessible guide, anyone can begin to master gem identification. Includes over 150 photographs and illustrationsover 80 in full color!Using a simple, step-by-step system, the authors explain how to properly use essential but uncomplicated instruments to identify stones, what to look for gemstone by gemstone, and how to set up a basic lab at modest cost. Three of the instruments are inexpensive, portable, pocket instruments that, when used together, can identify almost 85% of all precious and popular stones.The key to avoiding costly mistakes and recognizing profitable opportunities is knowing both what to look for and what to look out for.Gem Identification Made Easy will help you:Open your eyes to the types of treatments, imitations, synthetics, look-alikes, and fakes in the gem market today.Learn how to tell the difference between them. Quickly spot:Synthetics, including synthetic emeralds and diamondsFilled diamondsDiffused "blue" sapphires and "red" rubiesHPHT-treated diamonds... and much more!Determine how to spot the newest "composite" imitations.Learn how to identify recently discovered gems such as â œMandarinâ • garnet, red â œemerald,â • and North Carolina's chromium-rich emeralds.Discover new treatments such as surface coatings to create â œfancy colorâ • diamonds and improve or change the color of many gemstones.Know when to seek help from a professional gemologist or lab.Become more professional in your business or hobby.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gem Identification Made Easy is the first and only book that explains in non-technical terms how to identify diamonds and colored gems, and how to separate natural gems from imitations, treated stones, synthetics, and look-alikes. The book's approach is direct and practical, and its style easy to understand. In fact, with this highly accessible guide, anyone can begin to master gem identification. Using a simple, step-by-step system, the authors explain how to properly use essential but uncomplicated instruments to identify stones, what to look for gemstone by gemstone, and how to set up a basic lab at modest cost. Three of the instruments are inexpensive, portable, pocket instruments that, when used together, can identify almost 85% of all precious and popular stones. The key to avoiding costly mistakes and recognizing profitable opportunities is knowing both what to look for and what to look out for. Gem Identification Made Easy will help you: Open your eyes to the types of treatments, imitations, synthetics, look-alikes, and fakes in the gem market today. Learn how to tell the difference between them. Quickly spot: Synthetics, including synthetic emeralds and diamonds Filled diamonds Diffused "blue" sapphires and "red" rubies HPHT-treated diamonds and much more! Determine how to spot the newest "composite" imitations. Learn how to identify recently discovered gems such as "Mandarin" garnet, red "emerald," and North Carolina's chromium-rich emeralds. Discover new treatments such as surface coatings to create "fancy color" diamonds and improve or change the color of many gemstones. Know when to seek help from a professional gemologist or lab. Become more professional in your business or hobby. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

Antoinette Matlins, PG, FGA, is an internationally respected gem and jewelry expert, author and lecturer. With over 1 million copies of her seven books in print in nine languages, she is the most widely read author in the world on the subject of jewelry and gems. Honored with the international Accredited Gemologists Association's highest award for excellence in gemology, Ms. Matlinsâ ™ books are widely used throughout the world by consumers and professionals in the gem and jewelry field. Her books include Jewelry & Gems: The Buying Guide (over 400,000 copies now in printâ •the only book of its kind ever offered by Consumer Reports); Colored Gemstones: The Antoinette Matlins Buying Guide; The Pearl Book: The Definitive Buying Guide; Gem Identification Made Easy; Engagement & Wedding Rings: The Definitive Buying Guide for People in Love; and Jewelry & Gems at Auction: The Definitive Guide to Buying & Selling at the Auction House & on Internet Auction Sites (all GemStone Press).Former gemology editor of National Jeweler magazine, her articles and comments on buying and selling gems and jewelry and on gem investment have

appeared in many national and international consumer and trade publications. She is also the author of the "Gemstones" chapter in the Encyclopedia of Investments, second edition.Ms. Matlins has gained wide recognition as a dedicated consumer advocate, and continues to spearhead the Accredited Gemologists Associationâ ™s nationwide campaign against gemstone investment telemarketing scams and other types of consumer misrepresentation. A popular media guest, she has been seen on ABC, CBS, NBC and CNN, educating consumers about gems and jewelry and exposing fraud.In addition to her educational work, Ms. Matlins is retained by clients worldwide to seek fine, rare or unusual gems and jewels for acquisition.Antonio C. Bonanno, FGA, ASA, MGA, was founder and president of the National Gem Appraising Laboratory and director of the Columbia School of Gemology near Washington, D.C. He held the coveted "Master Gemologist Appraiser" title (MGA), the highest distinction awarded to gem and jewelry appraisers from the American Society of Appraisers. He worked with gems and minerals for over sixty years, specializing in forensic gemology, and was frequently called as an expert witness in a wide range of court cases. A Fellow of the Gemmological Association of Great Britain With Distinction, he was highly esteemed in the field and holds a place in the prestigious Gemstone Hall of Fame. He founded the Accredited Gemologists Association, which created the Antonio C. Bonanno Award for Excellence in Gemology in his honor after his death in 1996.

Book is exactly as described, full of great information, and arrived in a timely manner. Haven’t been able to get through it all just yet, it may be made easy, but easier than what? :-) Wow, may take me some time to get through it all.I would suggest anyone wanting to take classes in gem identification read this book first to make sure this is what they want to do for a living. LOTS of info!

If you want to break into gem identification this book is the only place to start, and I mean that quite literally.I looked long and hard on the internet to see if I could avoid buying a book, and I couldn’t. Then I looked forthe best one to start with, and there really were no other contenders.With all that said, it goes farther into it than I wanted to go. If you want, you can follow this book right upto the doors of starting on your gemologist license study.However, even if you are only interested in buying jewerly, and not identifying gems, you really should readthis book, as it will really open your eyes. You will be able to skip the technical parts and read the reallyinteresting things like how long ago simulated gems started appearing, and what was considered gems early on. Itwas quite a surprise to me.All in all I found the book both interesting and useful.

This book, written by father daughter gemologist duo, is the best book that tells you in simple DIY style gem testing and identification. Very lucid language, accurate illustrations and just the right kind of technical jargon that make you gem-educated. This book is a huge contribution to the field and people who cannot afford 5000 dollars worth of Gem testing education, can get fantastic practical knowledge in checking the gems themselves. Helpful illustrations, addresses and great bibliography. Two thumbs up !!However, the book is written in the format of how to use various gem testing tools rather than how to identify various colored gems. In my view had this book been written in the style of how to identify the regular precious gems through a variety of gem testing tools, then the book would have been a real ready reckoner. One must remember that people test gems through tools. They use tools because they need to identify the gems. So, what are the ways in which gem can be identified would have been the best approach to write such a book. May be someone would do this in the future. Gem by gem and step by step identification with the tools that can do it.

I make jewelry, and sometimes buy in bulk to save money. I may decide to use a colored gemstone that I purchased a year ago. I may not remember exactly what type it is, but remember what types I have purchased in the past. This is nice to have as a reminder of what I have purchased.The only way to know for sure what stone you have purchased is to purchase a machine that can measure the weight and density, and they are very expensive. But in general this can be a good book, if only to learn a little about gemstones.

A good reference and learning tool. Not so easy, but it will help greatly with my lapidary work. Up to date and includes the latest gem altering techniques. A must if you are investing in quality gems

I am a beginning gemology student and have purchased quite a few books to help me with my studies. By far, this book is the most helpful. First, it has all the information I need in one place so I no longer have to look at 3 different books to get the info I need. Second, it is written with the beginner in mind. Ideas and equipment are explained in layman’s terms and then used in professional terms so you learn the "lingo" as you go. Many idea and explainations were easily understandable in this book after digging other places. The color photos are great too. This book is interesting for hobbyists and essential for jewelry sales staff, students, and anyone ready to make a smart, informed purchase of a gem. I agree with the reviewer that said this should be mandatory reading for sales people.

Very useful. As executor of a cousin's estate, it helped me sort through her jewelry to help her heirs.

The book certainly lives up to its title as I consider this book quite complete for a beginner in evaluating gemstones.I am a hobbyist with quite an extensive collection of semi-precious (and a few precious) stones, most all of which have papers and specs from the dealers I've bought them from.Quite frankly, the acquisition of the stones was what drove me at the beginning as I had always wanted my own 'treasure chest' but after you've bought pounds of the stuff you end up being curious as to how to differentiate one stone from the other (like nephrite from 'grass' jade, red tourmaline from ruby or garnet, Paraiba tourmaline from Paraiba citrine, blue topaz from aquamarine, etc., etc.)This book is great with this. It is quite comprehensive and not only lists the equipment you would need for 'on the go' evaluating (at auctions in Asia) or for the small workshop/hobby center you can set up for yourself in your home but also how to use said tools. It gives you instructions for basic examinations to different levels of more complete ones.I am not saying that you will become IGA or AGS proficient, but this is a great start for even that ambition.

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