

## Diamond Slices

### Served up on a variety of precious metal alloys

In fall of 2009 we traveled to Hong Kong in search of new varieties of gemstone beads. While there, we fell in love with the variety and prices of opaque diamond now being cut. We had seen opaque black diamonds before, but these stones were available in browns, grays, yellows and even some rusty reds and oranges. We purchased several and introduced them last Christmas in a collection of jewelry that was very well received.

Fast forward to fall of 2010 and we returned to replenish our supplies of opaque diamonds. This year we expanded our ornamental diamond collection to include diamond slices also known as polki cuts. These thin slices of diamond are polished flat on the bottom and have just a few very flat facets on top. The effect is reminiscent of a stained glass window or a Montana moss agate.

The variety of colors and textures in the ornamental diamond collection invited the use of a wide variety of metal alloys to complement them. It might be useful to go over some of the alloys we currently work in and what they are composed of. Gold in its pure state is always rich yellow in color and is designated by the term 24 karat abbreviated 24KT. Although pure gold is a beautiful color, it is so soft that it is not practical for most jewelry. If we are trying to keep the color as yellow as possible and the mounting can be fairly heavy, we will work in 22KT gold. This alloy is over 90 percent gold (22/24ths),

**Pictured top to bottom:**

**Champagne Diamonds in Rose Gold \$1595**

**Moss Diamonds in Platinum \$2495**

**Green Moss Diamond in Green Gold \$1295**

**Red Moss Diamonds in Rose Gold \$1495**

but the small amount of copper and silver added help to make it more durable. If we are looking for a different color of gold, we will work in 14KT or 18KT gold. These alloys are between 50% and 75% gold. The remaining metals determine the color and other proper-

ties of the alloy. White gold has either nickel or palladium to make the alloy white. Nickel makes the brightest white color, but is prone to stress cracking. Palladium white gold is less likely to have problems with stress fractures, but is less brilliantly white and more expensive. Rose gold has extra copper to give it the distinctive reddish tone and green gold has extra silver. Yellow gold has a mix including copper and silver which are balanced to keep the color as yellow as possible.

If we are looking for a bright white metal and can make the piece of jewelry lightweight, platinum is our first choice. Platinum is white in its natural state, so alloys of 90-95% pure platinum are very white. Platinum is also very durable so even thin pieces hold up well over time. We also use another platinum group metal known as palladium. Palladium is slightly grayer than platinum and has a much lower specific gravity so large pieces of jewelry can be made that do not feel too heavy.

When we are looking for a black metal to contrast with gold or other colors, we make the piece out of silver, then treat the silver with acid to turn the surface black. Depending on the type of acid used, the surface color can be either pure black, or a subtle gray with rainbow highlights.

Whenever we design a new piece of jewelry, we carefully consider the different metal alloys available to us, and choose based on design and functionality.

**Diamond Slice in Rotating Yellow Gold Bezel over loose Multicolor Sapphires \$1995**



**Garnet Ring**

Sterling Silver  
Regularly \$55

**\$25**



**Hoop Earrings  
with Pearls**

14KT Gold  
Regularly \$60

**\$29**



**Tanzanite Ring**

18KT Gold Bezel  
Sterling Silver  
Regularly \$500

**\$249**

**Diamond Pendant**

Approx 0.15 carat  
14KT Gold  
Regularly \$600

**\$295**



**Aquamarine  
Earrings**

Sterling Silver  
Regularly \$20

**\$4<sup>99</sup>**



*Merry  
Christmas*

Prices good through 12/24  
or while supplies last



**Tourmaline  
Briolette Earrings**

14KT gold  
Regularly \$150

**\$89**

**Jewelers Loupe**

10X Triplet  
Regularly \$11.70

**\$7<sup>95</sup>**



**Circle Earrings**

Sterling Silver  
Regularly \$40

**\$19**



**Power Punch**

Regularly \$35

**\$29**



**Wax Injector**

Regularly \$700

**\$499**



**Hammered Earrings**

Assorted Gemstones  
Sterling Silver  
Regularly \$120

**\$49**

**Jeweler's Torch**

Oxy-Acetylene  
Regularly \$497

**\$399**

