

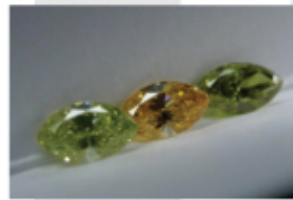
The Colorful Diamond Zone

In the previous issue we discussed what makes colored diamonds so rare and the color nomenclature for these diamonds. We shall further understand the importance a well equipped laboratory plays in the certification of these colored diamonds



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When grading colored diamonds, the systematic observation of color of a faceted, transparent stone presents challenges. When looking at a faceted gemstone one sees a mosaic of color, depending on the stone's orientation and the relative position of both the light source and the viewer's eye. In addition, the pattern and relative size of these sensations varies from one stone to



another. Diamond's high refractive index and precise cutting all affect the path of light absorption. Likewise, both factors influence the overall distribution of color

sensations seen by the eye.

For example in the yellow range, colors can vary from 'orangy yellow' to 'brownish yellow'. Pink also exists in 'purplish pink' or 'orangy pink' and blue can vary from 'grayish blue' or 'greenish blue'.

In some cases, the presence of a secondary color can increase the value. This is often the case with 'purplish pink' where purple significantly enhances pink. Interestingly, brown diamonds have a high number of varieties either related to tone or saturation, and, in combination with many modifiers; pinkish brown, yellowish brown, orangy brown and greenish brown. (Import and Export figures have recently indicated that the annual and global sales of fancy brown diamonds

reach approx. 5 billion USD.)

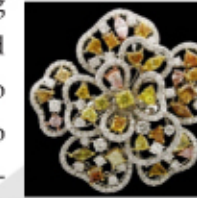
Sometimes one comes across fancy colored diamonds that possess the rare property of repeatable color change; hence it is termed as a "Chameleon diamond. Gentle heating to a temperature of maximum 300 degrees Celsius will enable the remarkable color change that only takes a few seconds after which it will revert back to its initial color. Overheating must be avoided as the color change may become permanent and irreversible above approximately 500 degrees Celsius. The most common Chameleon diamonds are 'greenish yellow', sometimes called 'Olive'. These diamonds are also valued among collectors.

Some connoisseurs like to call brown diamonds with names such as 'ebony brown', 'cognac brown' and 'autumn brown' as in the same way, 'vivid yellow' is often called 'canary yellow'. Other examples include 'peridot green' or 'steel blue'.



Many consumers and even some traders argue that if a non technical dialogue is established in a way that gets everyone involved from retailers to consumers, it would perhaps allow opening up the perception of color, relative to the natural and fashion world around us. The use of common color terms in nature and fashion is an analogy that allows the potential customer to experience the color on an emotional and personal level. These are terms where they can relate to. The problem with this nomenclature is that it does not create the concept of one color being superior or inferior to another. Could one describe sky blue as more or less desirable than ocean blue? Color names in nature and fashion are not absolute and are often interchangeable with other descriptive names.

When a diamond's color is noticeable but too light to be called fancy, it is termed as just 'light'. These stones have been and are often still undervalued. The majority of light yellows and light browns diamonds are also called 'Capes' in the trade. Although less desirable than fancy colors and much less expensive compared to whites, they often show off beauty and display unmatched sparkle and fire since these are almost always cut with highest possible precision; indeed, being cheaper initially, polishers don't mind a lesser weight yield from rough to polished and cut these stones into unparalleled performers of light-return. Consequently, as a consumer, if a natural fancy color diamond does not fit your budget, you may want to consider and opt for one of those more affordable striking alternatives.



Natural Diamond & Natural Origin of Color?

Virtually all fancy color diamonds are accompanied by a reputable and internationally recognized grading report. Accurate color description, origin-of-color authentication as well as other relevant details are described and documented.

From time to time diamonds with color alteration treatments and also synthetic diamonds are submitted to our laboratories; these must be identified and must be properly disclosed as such. Most of these stones are generally difficult to identify visually and can only be



done accurately by a lab which is equipped with the latest identification instruments and gemologists that know how to read the scientific results that are generated by these instruments.

IGI laboratories are equipped with such advanced scientific instruments and are operated by experienced gemologists. When looking over the content of a gemological report, "Natural diamond" under the Description-section and "Natural Fancy...color" in the Color-section of the report are essential results as the term "Natural" provide positive identification of these natural

and untreated diamond.

Yellow and Orange seem to be the most "en vogue" at this moment. In the Chinese culture, yellow represents elegance, wealth and is the symbol of the Emperor; though very rare, fancy yellow diamonds seem to be the most desirable color with decent availability. In Indian culture Black is used to ward off Evil and Red is used for prosperity and peace.

At the IGI laboratories we are seeing an increasing trend of fancy colors, this is because as these colored diamonds become rarer, their value and appreciation are increasing with time. IGI is dedicated towards increasing consumer awareness of these fancy diamonds and supporting the trade with detailed and accurate certification. IGI is also committed to educating the trade to enable them to have a better understanding of these high price premium diamonds.

About International Gemological Institute

The International Gemological Institute (IGI), was established in Antwerp in 1975 and is the largest independent gem certification and appraisal institute worldwide, with offices in Antwerp, New York, Hong Kong, India, Bangkok, Tokyo, Dubai, Tel Aviv, Cavelese, Toronto, Los Angeles and Shanghai. In India, IGI has 3 laboratories in Mumbai and one each in Kolkata, New Delhi, Thrissur, Surat, Chennai and Ahmedabad. IGI is ISO (International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001: 2000) certified in four countries. Around the world, IGI certificates bring confidence when buying or selling diamonds, gemstones and jewelry. Total commitment to understanding consumer concerns has motivated IGI to develop comprehensive analysis and clear documentation for consumers. A certificate from IGI represents the all-important 5th C that no one should be without: Confidence. As the world's largest independent gem certification and appraisal institute for diamonds, colored gemstones and jewelry, IGI is a standard of excellence for industry professionals and consumers around the globe.

