

# Congratulations, You're Getting Engaged!

Once you have made what is possibly THE biggest decision in your life and you are ready to pop the question, as your local Master IJO Jeweler, we're here to help you make an educated and confident decision on what will be one of THE most important purchases in your life.

## Let's start with the 4Cs basics.

- **Cut.** Describes proportions and angles, not shape. No matter what the shape, if the cut is too deep or too shallow it will leak light through the side or bottom, resulting in a lackluster appearance and diminished value.
- **Color.** The GIA color grading scale starts with D, a truly colorless and treasured diamond, and ends in Z, a light yellow to light brown color.
- **Clarity.** The greater the clarity, the more rare and valuable. Inclusions in the top or center could impact the dispersion of light, making it less brilliant and less desirable.
- **Carat weight.** A carat is a diamond's measure of weight, not size. One full carat is equal to 100 points. A  $\frac{1}{2}$  carat diamond is the same as 75 points.

The cut and the mounting can make a diamond appear larger than its actual weight.

We will help you find the right diamond and mounting to help optimize its beauty.

## The Proposal...

One thing is for sure, it is one of the MOST important events in a women's life and remembering these few helpful hints may make the difference between an "I do!" and an "I don't!"

**Make it a surprise!** Get her ring size by sneaking an existing ring from her jewelry box to have the size checked. While in the jewelry box, take notice of whether her preference is yellow or white gold.

**Be romantic!** The way you propose will be remembered and talked about long after you are married. Suggestion: Put together a photo album showing a timeline of memorable events while dating and end with an image of you on one knee with a sign "will you marry me?" Now, who wouldn't cry at that!

**Let her be the first to know.** Don't be over anxious in confiding in too many people before the proposal. She'll want to share in the joy of telling friends and family. That is, unless you ask her father for her hand in marriage, then ask him not to mention it to her mother ... this is definitely one of those things she will be dying to tell her mother!

**Be confident!** Whether you choose a ride in a hot air balloon or romantic dinner for two, it will be the night she's always dreamed of.

# Preparing for the Big Day...

Now that she said "yes" it's time to get down to specifics:

## **10-12 Months Before**

- Set a date.
- Schedule appointments with your bride-to-be to interview and book church/officiant, wedding venue/caterer, photographer, DJ and bakery.
- Determine who will be your best man (remember he'll be throwing the bachelor party!)
- Choose additional groomsmen.

## **6-9 Months Before**

- Book your honeymoon and make sure you have all travel documents necessary.

## **4-5 Months Before**

- Visit us to order your wedding rings.

## **2-3 Months Before**

- Select, get measured and order tuxedos.
- Purchase gifts for groomsmen. Hints: cufflinks, engraved money clips, flasks, etc.
- Shop for your bride-to-be's wedding gift.

## **1-2 Months Before**

- Research and obtain your marriage license.
- Attend and enjoy your bachelor party.

## **1-2 Weeks Before**

- Get final haircut.
- Finalize ceremony details and practice your vows.
- Survive your bachelor party.
- Bring us your bride-to-be's engagement ring for cleaning.

## **1-2 Days Before**

- Pick up tuxedo.
- Prepare a list of payment envelopes and tip money needed for vendors.

**The Wedding Day - Relax & Enjoy!**