



BILL HICKS
JEWELLERY DESIGN

The Ultimate Engagement Ring Guide

By Bill Hicks Jewellery Design

The Ultimate Engagement Ring Guide

Proposing to your partner is one of the most important and memorable milestones of a relationship. From choosing the perfect ring to finding a time and a place that feels right, your proposal is a story you'll tell to family and friends and a moment you'll always remember.

For many people, proposing can be an overwhelming time. With multiple moving parts, including planning trips, making purchases and potentially keeping your proposal a secret from your partner, you shouldn't have to worry about whether you've got the engagement ring right.

Use our ultimate engagement ring guide to decide if a surprise proposal is right for you, to set a budget, to design and craft your perfect engagement ring and to help you arrange appropriate insurance for your peace of mind, especially when travelling.



Set a Realistic Budget

Don't feel pressured to follow advice or outdated customs about how much you should spend on an engagement ring. Similar to your ring's design and style, what you spend depends on you, your financial situation, your partner's wishes and your relationship.

When setting your budget, consider your income, expenses and savings. You want your engagement ring to be a significant and special purchase, so spending more than you would on other jewellery is common. It's important to not put yourself under financial strain or debt to purchase an engagement ring that's out of budget. By spending some time considering your situation and your partner's expectations, you can set a budget that allows you to purchase or craft an engagement ring that meets your vision without breaking the bank.



Say 'I Do' (or Don't) to a Surprise Proposal

When it comes to the actual proposal, there's no perfect way to pop the question. Every relationship is unique, and what's right for you and your partner will be unlike anyone else. Consider your partner's wishes and go with what feels best for your relationship.

If you and your partner plan on getting engaged and your partner wants to be involved in the process, you can work on a design for an engagement ring together. By collaborating to create a design that the two of you like, you can be confident that the final product will be the perfect ring for your partner. Once your perfect ring is complete, you can either keep the actual proposal moment a surprise or plan something special with your partner.



Getting the Ring Right

If you're considering a surprise proposal without your partner's input on ring styles and designs, you may feel added pressure to get it right.

At Bill Hicks Jewellery Design, you're able to work with an experienced jewellery designer, who will ask all the right questions in order to create something that will suit your partner's tastes. And if we don't get it right, and changes are needed after you have proposed, we can work out a solution until it is perfect.

Another good option is proposing with a diamond presented in a simple setting. Once you've proposed, you're able to come back to the designer with your partner to have the final engagement ring designed together. This can be a great option if you want to surprise your partner but know that they also want to be involved in designing their ring.

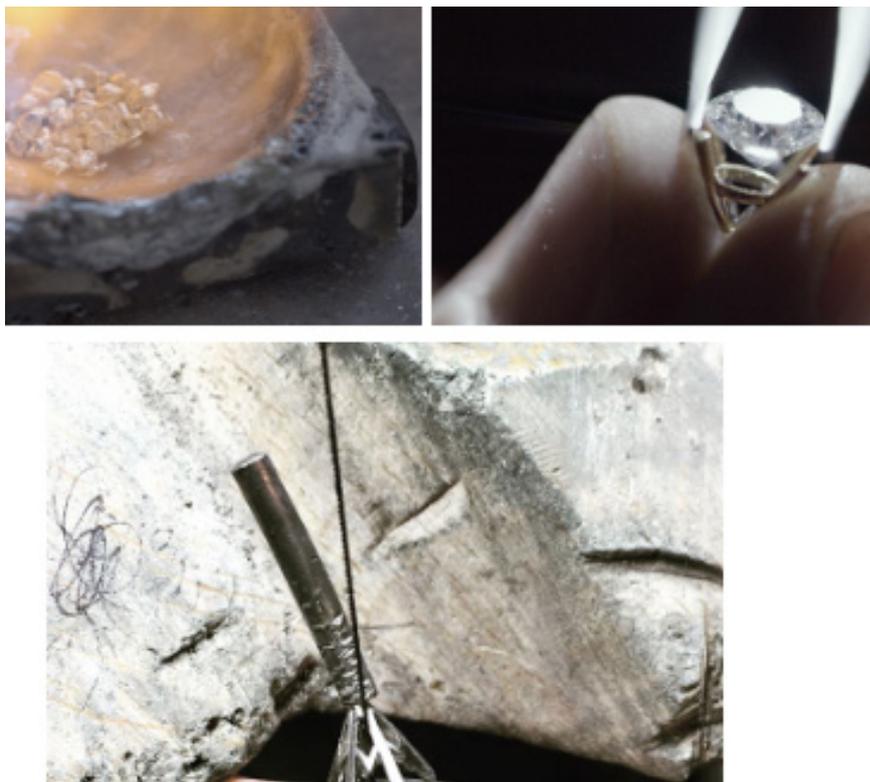


Crafting a Custom Designed Ring

Many people get the impression that a custom designed ring is more expensive than buying something off the shelf, however this is often not the case. By crafting a bespoke engagement ring, you're able to customise your ring completely and walk away with a piece that's perfectly suited to your partner's style and personality. Moreover, custom designed rings take into consideration your budget from the beginning, making sure that you're presented with a ring that ticks all the boxes.

The custom design process begins with a complimentary design appointment where you discuss ring styles and concepts and finalise your budget and any constraints. We may include a diamond or gemstone lesson, to teach you what to look for in a good quality gem, or if you have let us know exactly what you are after we will have

sourced some stones to select from. Your designer will then sketch a design to bring your vision to life. You're able to envision the size and finer details of your potential engagement ring. Once you approve the final sketch of your engagement ring, it will be crafted by an experienced jeweller using your chosen stones and precious metals.



Throughout the bespoke design and crafting process, you're able to ask questions and make changes to ensure that your engagement ring is perfect. Before attending your design appointment, consider the style of your partner and different types of stones and precious metals for your engagement ring. It's also beneficial to come in with images of rings with elements you like.



Style

When it comes to making design decisions, consider your partner's style. From modern or sleek through to traditional or extravagant, your partner likely has preferences that will impact your decision and the final design. Think about your partner's everyday style and take notice of any jewellery or accessories that they often wear. You want your partner to feel confident

about wearing their engagement ring daily, so consider matching your engagement ring design to suit their style and compliment their wardrobe, accessories and jewellery. Your partner's style will impact your choices in diamonds, gemstones, shapes and precious metals, making sure that the final design is a piece that reflects their personality and your love and commitment.

Choosing a Stone

Diamonds are revered for their alluring and breathtaking appearance, making them perfect for engagement rings and expressions of love. When it comes to selecting the perfect diamond, consider the four Cs - cut, colour, clarity and carat weight. A combination of these factors make up the value of the diamond and influence the price.

The cut refers to a diamond's cut quality, including its proportions, symmetry, polish and how it influences light. Clarity refers to a diamond's blemishes and inclusions, which are common and naturally-occurring.

A diamond relatively free of tiny inclusions and surface blemishes is particularly rare. The colour of a diamond can range from totally colourless to white and black. Diamonds are valued differently depending on their colour and their depth. The weight of a diamond is measured in carats. It's important to note that the carat isn't an indication of the quality of a ring, just the weight of the diamond.

By working with an experienced ring designer, you can optimise the beauty of your stones to find a stone and a design that work perfectly together.



Coloured Gemstones



Coloured gemstones are a popular inclusion on engagement rings. With different meanings and sentimental value, gemstones can be used on their own or alongside diamonds in an engagement ring design. Gemstones also use the four Cs of diamonds to determine quality and value. Popular gemstones include ruby, sapphire, emerald, tourmaline and aquamarine. Our experienced designers are all qualified gemmologists and will be able to advise on a wide range of gemstones and help you create a design that helps your chosen gemstone shine.

Lab Grown Diamonds

Lab grown diamonds are also known as man-made or cultured diamonds. Grown in a highly controlled laboratory using advanced technology, diamonds are formed in conditions which mimic their natural environment. This results in the creation of a diamond that is chemically, physically and optically identical to natural diamonds and is indistinguishable to the naked eye. Depending on conditions, lab grown diamonds are sometimes considered a more sustainable method of diamond production as opposed to mined diamonds. They are graded using the same four Cs as natural diamonds but sometimes sit at a more affordable price point thanks to their production method. Any quality jeweller will be able to advise you on the differences in natural and lab grown diamonds and provide you with advice on how to make the right choice for your engagement ring.



SYNTHETIC



NATURAL

Diamond Shapes

The shape of the diamond you choose will dramatically alter the look and feel of your final design. Working with a ring designer and jeweller, you'll be able to see examples of different diamond shapes and cuts to choose the right style for your engagement ring. The most popular shapes are:



Round Brilliant

57-58 facets



Maximum sparkle thanks to the perfect symmetry of this cut that reflects and refracts light better than any other shape.

A popular and classic choice that suits most settings.



Emerald

58 facets



Maximum sparkle thanks to the perfect symmetry of this cut that reflects and refracts light better than any other shape.

A popular and classic choice that suits most settings.



Royal Asscher

74 facets and traditional Asscher 58 facets



A very similar to the classic emerald cut, featuring cut corners to create a square/octagon shape.

The lesser known sister to the emerald cut with added brilliance.



Radiant

62-70 facets



Instant 'wow' factor. The brilliance of the round cut coupled with cut-corner shape of the emerald. This cut hides flaws in the stone.

This durable cut is perfect for those with an active lifestyle.



Princess

65-70 facets



A modern design for maximum sparkle. A square cut without trimmed corners. Featuring a side-on shape of an inverted pyramid.

Often seen in a solitaire four-prong claw setting.



Marquise

58 facets



A slim oval with pointed ends, this cut is a version of a round brilliant stone.

Commissioned by King Louis XV in the 1400's to be shaped like a women's lips.



Pear

58 facets



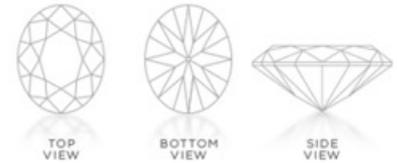
Teardrop shape, with a pointed end and a round end. A cross between round brilliant and marquise.

This shape compliments short fingers, giving the appearance of slender fingers.



Oval

57-58 facets



Elliptical shape, a modern twist on the round with similar fire and brilliance.

Rising in popularity, a shape that compliments small hands or fingers.



Cushion

58 facets



Rectangular or square shape with rounded corners. Featuring 'crushed ice' or 'chunky' faceting.

A traditional style often utilised in vintage rings.



Heart

57-58 facets



Brilliant cut with two top arches to make a heart shape. Unique and difficult to create.

A symbol of royalty and love. The most romantic cut.

For more information visit billhicksjewellery.com.au



Precious Metals



An engagement ring isn't just about the stone and setting. The precious metal you choose will contribute to the overall appearance of the ring and will harmoniously support your diamond or gemstone cut and design. White gold, yellow gold, rose gold and platinum are the most common precious metals used for engagement rings. Known for their sturdiness, these precious metals allow your partner to wear their ring on a daily basis without worrying about impact and damage to the band.

Like the design and cut of your stone, the precious metal you choose is entirely up to you and your partner's preference. Consider the types of precious metals your partner currently wears, or has in their collection, and opt for something that you know they will wear or something that fits with their existing jewellery.

Consider Insurance

An engagement ring is an important piece of jewellery with both high sentimental and physical value. Whether you're planning a surprise proposal overseas or want to protect the ring against damage, insurance for your engagement ring is a great way to reduce stress and ease your mind.

Bill Hicks offers quality jewellery insurance to cover your important pieces, including your engagement ring, if disaster strikes. Not just for damage and loss, jewellery insurance gives your partner the freedom to wear and enjoy their engagement ring as intended - instead of keeping it wrapped up or tucked away in a secure spot.

Jewellery insurance with Bill Hicks' Q Report offers a variety of benefits to ease the anticipation of your proposal and to keep your engagement ring protected. You'll have 12 months worldwide cover, annual revaluations at no charge, cover up to 125% of the agreed value and a policy backed by a world-leading insurer.



Pop the Question

By using our ultimate engagement rings guide, you can be confident that you've crafted an engagement ring your partner will fall in love with. Now, it's time to pop the question.



Whether you propose during a cosy night at home after dinner or sweep your partner away on an extravagant exotic vacation, there's no one-fits-all approach. Proposals are extremely personal and intimate to you and your partner, so you should feel confident and comfortable in the moment you choose. You know your partner better than anyone, and it's important to go with your instincts and what feels right for the two of you. Consider your values, personalities, preferences and desires to inform your decision.

Custom Engagement Ring in Sydney

At [Bill Hicks](#), we take great pride in crafting engagement rings. We treasure being a part of your love story and value your trust in us to bring your love, commitment and vision to life. Whether you find the perfect ring in an existing collection or choose to create something brand new, we're able to advise on precious metals, diamonds, gemstones, cuts, placements and designs to help you make the best choice.

If you're considering custom a bespoke engagement ring for your loved one, [contact our designers](#) to set up a complimentary design appointment. Our experienced jewellers design and craft engagement rings for couples based in Sydney and interstate.



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