

COLLECTION · COLLECTION · COLLECTION · COLLECTION · COLLECTION



Ultimate Guide to Buying Melee Diamonds



Melee diamonds add a world of versatility to jewelry design and merchandising.

**Quality &
Service**

How to Improve Your Small Diamond Supply



Why Small Diamonds Have a Big Impact on Your Jewelry Quality



A Closer Look at Melee



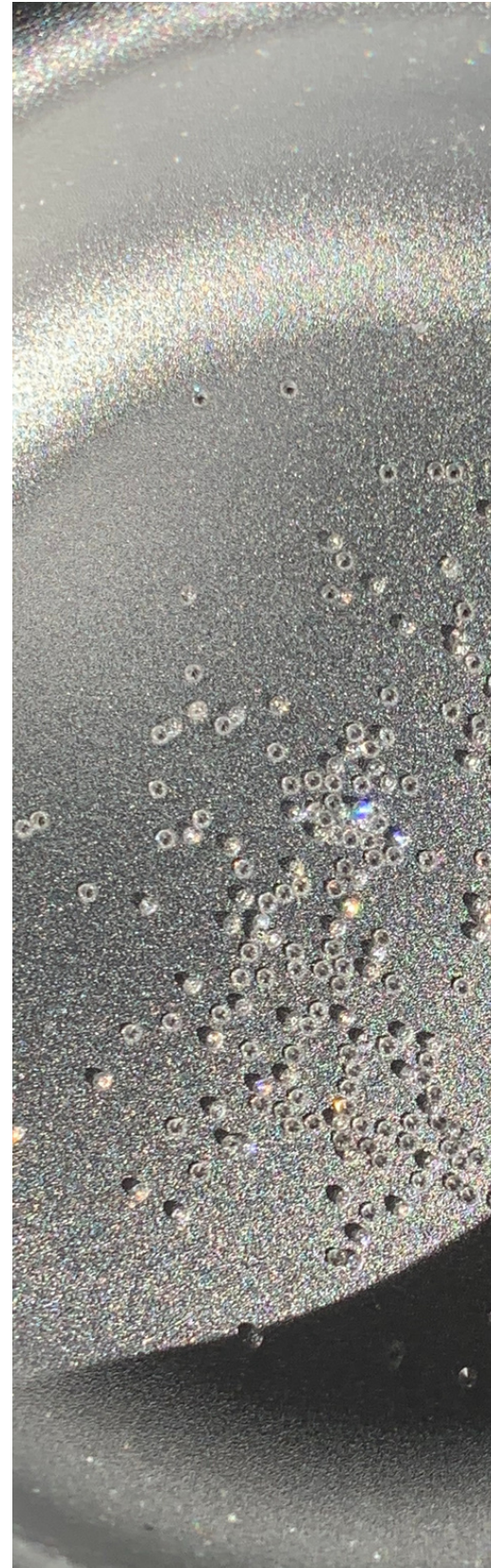
Sorting It Out

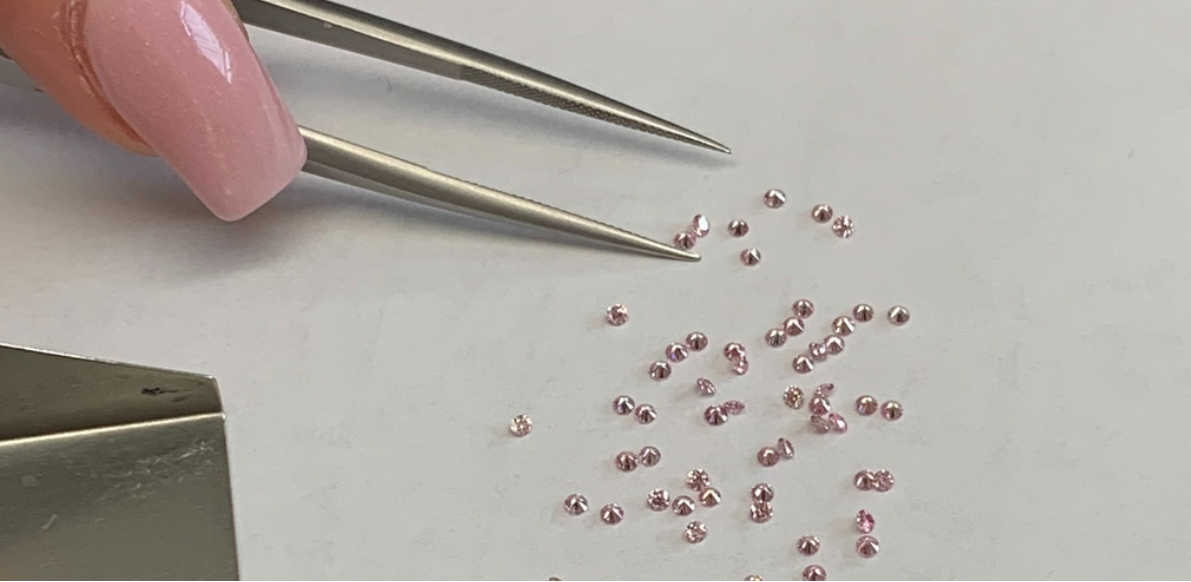


Sourcing Ethical Melee Diamonds



Good Service Saves You Time (and Money)





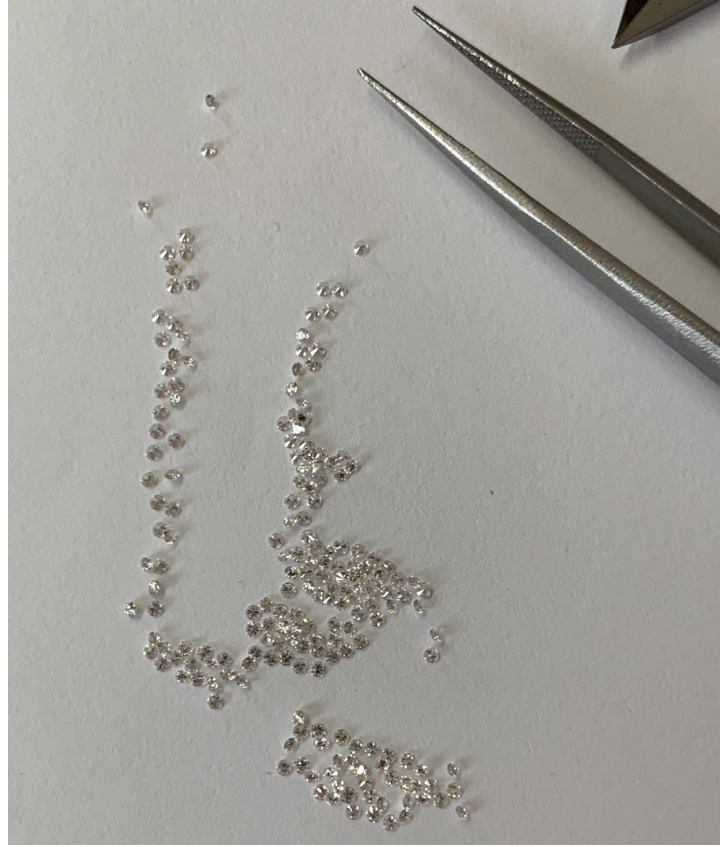
Why Small Diamonds Have a Big Impact on Your Jewelry Quality

Let's talk about something small that makes a big difference to the quality of your jewelry: the small diamonds that give it extra sparkle, what diamond dealers call "melee." Officially, the Gemological Institute of America defines melee diamonds as diamonds that are less than 0.20 Carats. But they are usually even smaller. In fact, they can be as small as 0.001 carats!

Melee diamonds add a world of versatility to jewelry design and merchandising. When you buy melee well, it can also give you flexibility in your profit margin. Melee is small, but mighty. Some customers call melee "diamond chips." But this isn't accurate (and won't help to romance these beautiful small diamonds either.)



Melee isn't a chip off a diamond block, the leftover bits that cutters have left over after they polish a large stone. As much care goes into crafting every small diamond as their larger counterparts. As the Gemological Institute of America says: "Tiny diamonds. Big impact."



Melee Buying Tip #1

When buying melee diamonds, make sure you are, in fact, getting melee diamonds, and not diamond chips. While customers may use the terms "chips" and "melee" interchangeably, the technical differences are significant.

In fact, diamond melee can elevate ordinary engagement rings into extraordinary beauties, revitalize tired pieces into stunning statements, amplify the effect of larger gemstones, or weave intricate patterns. Opportunities to use these small packages of sparkle are all but endless. But each one starts with sourcing the finest melee diamonds.

This guide will discuss best practices for buying melee diamonds.

A Closer Look at Melee

First, let's take a closer look at the options you have when you design a piece that features small diamonds. Here are some quick definitions for the terms used to describe small diamonds.

Diamond Chips

A diamond chip is an unfaceted diamond. It is not cut and polished, nor does it refract light the same way melee does. While chips are used as accents in some mass-market jewelry, they do not offer the same level of quality as melee diamonds.

Melee Diamonds

Melee diamonds are faceted diamonds produced using the most advanced cutting equipment and techniques. Cutting turns rough stones into faceted beauties. In terms of melee, you can find two varieties: Single Cut and Full Cut.

Single Cut Melee

Single cut melee are small round diamonds that have only 17 facets: 8 crown facets, 8 pavilion facets, and the table facet. Although in very small sizes single cut melee can be bright and beautiful if they are well-proportioned, single cut melee doesn't have the fire and sparkle that a full cut brilliant diamond has.

Full Cut Melee

Full cut melee are cut with the same number of facets as a standard round brilliant. That means they have the full complement of 57 facets (table, 32 crown facets, 24 pavilion facets) or 58 facets (with an additional culet facet). Most diamond melee cut and sold today is full cut.

Fancy Cut Melee

Not all small diamonds are round. Any style of diamond cutting other than the round brilliant or single cuts is called a fancy cut, or fancy shape; important fancy cuts include the marquise, emerald, oval, baguette, heart shape, pear shape, kite, triangle, and trilliant.





Sorting It Out

What happens after melee diamonds are cut? They are sorted by color and clarity, assembled into parcels, and sold to suppliers or directly to jewelry manufacturers. Since melee diamonds are sold in parcels of many carats, the sort is critical. You need to make sure that all the melee diamonds in your parcel are precisely the right size and meet your quality standards.

At K. Rosengart, all of our diamond melee is precision-cut and sorted under a microscope. We do this in-house to ensure the highest quality.

If all your diamonds are precisely sorted, they are ready to set into your jewelry designs. No matter which color and clarity range you choose, precisely sized full-cut melee with consistent quality are the best choice for complex settings, such as halo and pave.

Melee Buying Tip #2

Opt for diamond melee suppliers that build in a measure of quality assurance.

You can make sure that your melee is consistent and precise by choosing a supplier that cuts the stones in-house or works with trusted, reputable industry partners. Ask your melee supplier if they sort the stones themselves or buy them wholesale to pass on to you? In general, the more middlemen you can eliminate, the better. You want your source to be a diamond expert.

Sourcing Ethical Melee Diamonds

Sourcing ethical diamonds is important, that's why we follow the Kimberley Process, which focuses on sustainably sourced all-natural diamonds from communities that will see a direct benefit to them. Diamond mining develops these local communities by providing jobs, education, and healthcare to roughly ten million people.



Melee Buying Tip #3

When choosing a diamond melee supplier, ensure they purchase from sources that adhere to the Kimberley Process.

Diamonds don't just help the communities where they come from, but everywhere that has to do with the cutting, polishing, and shipping of diamonds. Nine out of every ten diamonds are cut and polished in India, employing over 1 million people alone in the region.

To fight the trade of conflict diamonds, the industry collaborates closely with the United Nations and NGOs. This partnership created the Kimberley Process Certification System to prevent conflict diamonds from entering the supply chain.

When diamonds are sourced ethically, the countries from which they are mined have an invaluable source of revenue with which to fund important services, such as hospitals. Thanks in part to the Kimberley Process, 99% of the world's diamonds come from conflict-free sources.

K. Rosengart only purchases from legitimate sources; if they cannot provide a statement of assurance that they comply with these requirements, we do not do business with them. Demand conflict-free diamonds – and the proof you need to purchase with confidence.





Good Service Saves You Time (and Money)

While the quality of the melee diamonds you buy is, of course, critical, don't sacrifice service. A supplier must be able to not only meet your needs but to do so consistently and with the utmost integrity. Look for the following attributes in your melee supplier:

Rigorous Grading

Whether they grade diamonds themselves or send them for GIA analysis, make sure that your melee supplier has a meticulous, exacting system for grading your stones so you can use them all and not waste time on quality control.

Organized Parcels

Stones should be sorted according to size. Further, they should be sorted by color and clarity to exactly match your unique specifications. Consistent quality of your melee translates into consistent quality of your jewelry.



Fair Prices

While prices for any commodity fluctuate, look for suppliers that can offer relatively consistent and fair prices. That will help you offer your customers consistent fair prices.

Consistent Quality

A great batch of melee one month and a poor one the next? It makes it difficult to create and maintain a sustainable inventory. Eliminate rejections and quality control hassles with a supplier you can rely on.

Knowledge & Advice

Does your supplier know diamonds? Again, GIA education is a great indicator of knowledge and experience. Your melee supplier can be a great resource to rely on to improve your diamond buying with expert advice and counsel.



Melee diamonds add great flexibility to jewelry design and add a lot of perceived value to your jewelry. When purchasing, be discerning. Expect the best quality and choose suppliers that deliver consistently. These stones are small, yes, but they can play a large role in your success.

Discover the Quality of Our Products and Service

With no minimum order, we deliver the same quality service on every order so you can assure your customers will get a piece of jewelry they'll cherish for a lifetime.

[**Request a Price Sheet Today**](#)
