

1304-3

Mark Nelson discusses the many tones and colors of gold.

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Please continue to page 2 for project instructions.

Guest:



Mark Nelson

Colors of Gold

Gold can come in a wide variety of colors and forms.

Alloyed Gold

24K (or fine gold) is 100% gold metal. Any other values less than 24 karat are an alloy of gold with other metals that may include silver, copper, zinc, nickel or palladium in order to create strength, workability or color. The amount of gold present and the relative amounts of various other metals will determine the color of alloyed gold. Higher gold content makes for a richer yellow color. A high amount of copper will create rose gold. White gold typically is made with a high percentage of nickel or palladium.

Plated Gold

Plated gold in many forms offers the rich look of gold at a fraction of the cost. Standard gold-plate refers to a fine gold coating, deposited by various means including electroplating, at a minimum of 20 millionths of an inch (20 mils) over a variety of base metals.

Heavy-Plated Sterling

This material offers a 40-mil layer of 24K yellow gold over sterling.

Vermeil

True vermeil is defined by law as no less than 100 millionths (100 mils) of an inch of karat gold (no less than 10K purity) layered over sterling silver. Typical vermeil would be either 24K or 14K yellow gold over sterling.

Gold-Filled

Gold-filled is made by heat- and pressure-bonding a thin layer of 12K or 14K gold to a brass core. The notation of $\frac{1}{20}$ refers to the ratio of karat gold to brass core by weight, which is 5%.

Gold-Bonded

Gold-bonded raw materials are made by heat- and pressure-bonding a generous layer of 22K yellow gold to an Argentium® Silver core. The value of gold-bonded is greater than either gold-plated or gold-filled because the karat weight of the gold makes up 1/6 of the total weight.

Allergies

White gold is often made with nickel, a metal which many people are allergic. Ask for a white gold alloy made with palladium; it is a metal in the platinum family that is hypoallergenic.

See our full selection of metals on-line at www.riogrande.com.



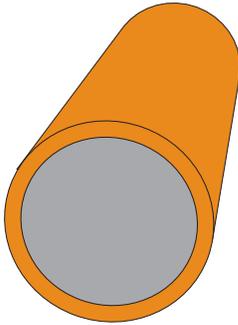
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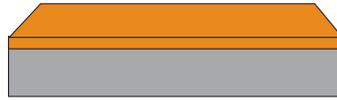
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Gold-Bonded Wire

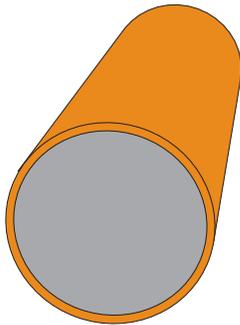


Gold-Bonded Sheet

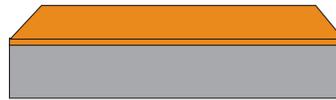


- 22-karat gold layer
- Argentium® Silver core

Gold-Filled Wire



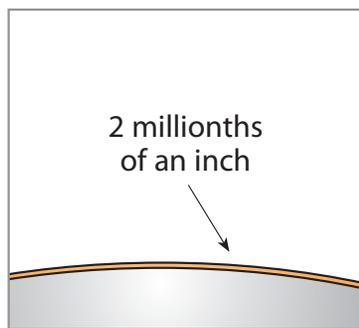
Single-Clad Gold-Filled Sheet



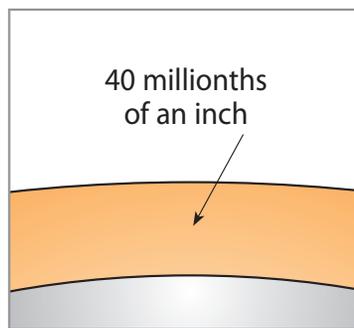
Double-Clad Gold-Filled Sheet



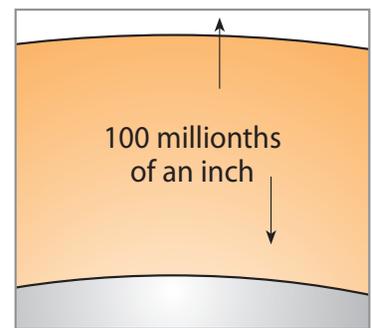
- Karat gold overlay
- Base-metal core



Gold-Plating



Heavy-Plated Sterling



Vermeil



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