



Editor's Picks: Diamonds & Engagement

Engagement Ring Trends 2007

An engagement ring is unlike other baubles, bangles and beads — this is no mere frill or trinket, but perhaps the most important jewelry she'll own. MSN Shopping's [Shannon McCarthy](#) drops a few hints for finding that one piece of ice that will melt a heart.

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Vintage

Yearning for some good old fashioned romance? Jewelry designers are crafting engagement rings that echo those your great-grandmother, even your *great-great* grandmother would've worn. And contemporary brides-to-be are happily going the retro route, embracing a ladylike look that's at once both delicate and incredibly detailed. Settings are covered with intricate handiwork like carved scrolling, delicate floral and filigree patterns and airy latticework. Stones also reflect an antique aesthetic — cushion, round, pillow and Asscher cuts are classic shapes and their larger facets radiate more fire under less light (this was especially important in the past when the main sources of illumination were candles). Another reason to consider these bygone beauties — the shanks shine with ornate diamond micro-pavé, milgrain beading and intricate engraving for extra overall bling that still radiates pure class.

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| photo | photo | photo | photo |
| Emerald Cut Diamond 1/2 ctw Engagement Ring in 18K White... | Platinum Setting: Platinum and Marquise Diamond Setting | Diamond Engagement Ring: 14k white Gold multi-stone 1 carat... | Diamond Ring: 14k White Gold (1 1/3 ctw) |
| At MyJewelryBox.com | At Blue Nile | At Ice.com | At Diamond.com |
| \$995.00 | \$1,500.00 | \$2,100.00 | \$4,200.00 |
| Similar items | Similar items | Sale \$1,295.00 | Sale \$2,995.00 |
| | | Similar items | Similar items |

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Pavé

The pavé technique involves setting smaller stones so close together that no metal can be seen between them, thus maximizing the wattage of the ring without pushing the cost into the stratosphere. For example — diminutive diamonds are nestled together to give the impression of one larger stone. But this cunning effect isn't the only, or even the primary, reason that pavé is seeing a resurgence among those betrothed. The intensive piece-work is also breathtakingly beautiful when used to accent a bigger center stone. You'll see a myriad of traditional rings with dazzling fully faceted, pavé-set diamonds encrusted on the band (sometimes on three sides) and winding their way up the basket to the solitaire. This ring style throws off sparkle from every visible surface, like a little galaxy of bright stars orbiting your finger.

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| <p>Princess Cut and Diamond 2/3 ctw Engagement Ring in 18K...</p> <p>At MyJewelryBox.com \$999.00 Similar items</p> | <p>Platinum Pave Diamond Setting</p> <p>At Blue Nile \$1,750.00 Similar items</p> | <p>18k Gold 1-1/10ct TW Diamond Engagement Ring</p> <p>At Overstock.com \$8,500.00 Sale \$3,769.99 Similar items</p> | <p>Bridal Engagement Ring: 14k white gold 1/2 carat</p> <p>At Ice.com \$1,200.00 Sale \$595.00 Similar items</p> |
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Platinum and White Gold

Yellow gold has a long history of adorning the bride-to-be's all-important finger, but there are some definite pluses if you choose a cooler hue. White metals will enhance the clarity and size of your diamond solitaire — especially if it's set in the gorgeous "halo" style — a main stone surrounded by a ring of smaller diamonds. Platinum isn't just pretty. It is rarer, stronger and more durable than gold and has been *the* metal for bridal jewelry for the past few years. It starts out highly polished and with time acquires a lovely satin patina. (I'd also recommend it for women who have any skin reactions to the alloys used in gold — it's 90 to 95% pure.) White gold, although not as premium as platinum, offers all the bright beauty at a more reasonable cost.

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| Larger photo photo | Larger photo photo | Larger photo photo | Larger photo photo |
| <p>Platinum Diamond Eternity Setting (1/2 ctw.)</p> <p>At Blue Nile \$1,650.00 Similar items</p> | <p>14k White Gold 1-3/8ct TW Diamond Engagement Ring</p> <p>At Overstock.com \$6,300.00 Sale \$3,499.99 Similar items</p> | <p>Princess Cut Diamond 1/3 ctw Engagement Ring in 14K White...</p> <p>At MyJewelryBox.com \$599.00 Similar items</p> | <p>1 Carat Emerald Cut Diamond Engagement Ring 14K White Gold</p> <p>At Diamond.com \$2,995.00 Sale \$1,495.00 Similar items</p> |
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Non-Traditional

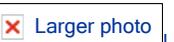
I know what women want. Well, at least when it comes to our engagement rings. We'd like them to reflect our individual sense of style and represent the love we share with our intended. Classic rings like the diamond solitaire are enduringly popular, but gaining ground are designs that are decidedly out of the ordinary. Colored stones have transcended trend and are now widely available and quite affordable (especially if we aren't talking colored *diamonds*). Sapphires, rubies and emeralds are all properly precious stones whose hardness is suitable for this most important piece of jewelry. Bands can express our unique personality as well. In fact, one of the chicest ways to wear an engagement ring is by forgoing the solitaire altogether and opting for an eternity band with stones that travel around the circumference, symbolizing a love without beginning or end.

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| Platinum Oval Sapphire & Half-Moon Diamond Ring | Diamond and Sapphire Ring: 14K White Gold 1 1/4 Carat | Sapphire and Diamond Ring: 14k White Gold | Diamond Ring: Platinum 3-Stone Yellow Princess-Cut (1 ctw.) |
| At Blue Nile \$5,800.00 Similar items | At Ice.com \$2,000.00 Sale \$995.00 Similar items | At Diamond.com \$1,600.00 Sale \$795.00 Similar items | At Blue Nile \$4,250.00 Similar items |

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Moissanite

This is no schlock rock. Moissanite has a history and radiance that other simulated diamonds don't. In fact, I wouldn't even categorize this icy gem as being a pretender to the throne. It's in a category all its own and no wonder — its origins can be traced to a meteorite that crashed to earth thousands of years ago. Chemists then perfected the art of recreating this marvel with a stone that is not only harder and more break-resistant than any other gem save the diamond, but also has more than twice the sparkle of that rock. And my favorite quality of a Moissanite? The price. You'll get the bedazzling beauty and true durability of the finest diamonds in bigger carat weights and bolder designs. For example, the increasingly popular "three-stone" engagement ring can be had for way less than that standard "two paycheck" guideline.

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| 14k White Gold 1.16-ct.T.W. Moissanite Square Brilliant Cut... | 14K White Gold Moissanite 3Stone Ring with ChannelSet Band | 14K White Gold 6 mm. Moissanite Ring with PaveSet Diamonds | 14K Yellow Gold 6.5 mm. Moissanite ChannelSet Ring |
| At Kohl's \$1,675.00 Similar items | At Target \$764.99 Similar items | At Target \$764.99 Similar items | At Target \$849.99 Similar items |

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