How to Identify Authentic Tiffany Lamps
By Jeff Metzger

Because of the popularity of authentic [Tiffany lamps](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiffany_lamp), which were made by Tiffany Studios between the 1890s and 1930s, many imitations are created and sold today. Confirming the authenticity of a Tiffany lamp can be tricky because many lamps were custom made, but several important characteristics can help you authenticate a real Tiffany lamp.

---Base: Nearly all Tiffany lamps were made with a bronze base. A few rare lamps were made with art pottery bases, but wood, brass, zinc, and plastic were never used.

---Glass: Confetti glass is common in Tiffany lamps. Also, when the lamp is lit, the color of the glass should change slightly.

---Stamps: Tiffany lamp bases were almost always stamped with a Tiffany Studios stamp, and often the shades were stamped, as well. Remember that Tiffany Studios was owned by Louis Comfort Tiffany and is not the same as Tiffany & Co.

---Signs of Age: There should be evidence of patina (fading or small discolorations) on the bronze.

---Light Switch: Most Tiffany lamps were made with a turn-paddle knob socket. A few styles were made with a pull chain, and even fewer styles were made with a turn switch on the base.

---Lead Filling: To save on costs, Tiffany made the bronze bases hollow and inserted a ring of lead inside to offset the weight of the glass shades.

About the Author: Jeffrey Metzger, an avid art enthusiast in Rochester, NY, collects American Art Nouveau, specifically authentic Tiffany lamps. Thanks to his degree in photography, Jeff Metzger has a great appreciation for a wide variety of art.