Material Alternatives

Due to the dramatic rise in the world precious metals market, we are pleased to offer additional material choices for your Calvert Hall ring. While there remains one traditional design, we felt these additional options would provide you with more alternatives in terms of look and budget.

Yellow or White?

The first question to ask is, do I want my ring to be made out of a yellow or white metal. Either choice has two options.

Yellow:

10 Karat Yellow Gold and ***Auralite*** both contain pure 24 Karat gold which produces a rich yellow hue.

White:

Both ***Sterling Silver*** and ***Duralite*** produce a bright white metal, very similar in appearance.

What are my specific choices?

The second question to ask is what are the specific properties of each of my choices.

10 Karat Yellow Gold: *pure* gold is 24 karat. 10 Karat gold means that the material is 10 parts (approximately 41.6%) pure gold and 14 parts alloy. Pure gold is extremely tarnish resistant and very valuable/costly. Pure gold is also a very soft metal, which along with the cost, makes it entirely unsuitable for class rings. However, when alloyed with metals chosen for their strength and durability, it produces a product which is both wearable and still valuable intrinsically. Unfortunately, the recent record setting rise in the world gold market has made this an increasingly costly alternative.

Auralite: the principles behind *Auralite* and *10 Karat Yellow Gold* are basically the same, the main difference being that *Auralite* contains less pure gold than *10 Karat Yellow Gold* (approximately 19% pure gold vs. 41.6% pure gold). While this produces a material less intrinsically valuable (and therefore less costly), the additional alloy, if anything, increases its durability. *Auralite* is a yellow metal like *10 Karat Yellow Gold*, however, side by side there is a slight difference in yellow hue. By law, any material containing less than 10 karats of pure gold cannot be portrayed as *gold*; hence the name *Auralite*.

Sterling Silver: Since pure silver is a relatively soft metal, it is not suitable for class ring manufacture. *Sterling Silver* is 92.5% pure silver, and 7.5% alloy. Depending on which metals you choose to use for the alloy, you can achieve different properties. We have specifically chosen an alloy which provides our *Sterling Silver* the hardness and resistance to tarnishing that make it an excellent class ring material.

Duralite: primarily a nickel and chrome alloy, *Duralite* has been used for many years as a jeweler's white metal alternative. *Duralite* contains no precious metal, but it is unmatched for durability and tarnish resistance. Brand new, there is very little visual difference between *Duralite* and *Sterling Silver*.

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