

Diamonds

Composed of a crystalline lattice of simple carbon formed under enormous heat and pressure, [diamonds](#) are an essential component of [mining machinery](#), allowing saws and drills to cut through even the toughest asteroid or planetary crust. When properly cut and polished, however, the distinctive pattern of light refraction exhibited by [diamonds](#) results in the characteristic glittering, which has made them a hallmark of the rich and powerful elite.