

Gold Weight

Troy verses Avoirdupois
How much does it weigh? And what is its value? Before these questions can be answered we must first go over a few facts. Unlike our common system of weights, the avoirdupois system of ounces and pounds, GOLD has its own system of weights. This system is called the Troy System, said to originate in the city of Troyes, France. GOLD is weighed by Troy oz. and lbs.

Troy System

24 grains = 1 dwt. (pennyweight)
20 dwt. = 1 ozt. (t or troy)
12 ozt. = 1 lb. (t or troy)
24 grains = 1 dwt. (pennyweight)
20 dwt. = 1 ozt. (t or troy)
12 ozt. = 1 lb. (t or troy)

conversion Troy to Avoirdupois

1 dwt. = 1.54 grams
1 ozt. = 1.095 oz (a)
1 lb. (t) = 0.82 la. (a)
1 dwt. = 1.54 grams
1 ozt. = 1.095 oz (a)
1 lb. (t) = 0.82 la. (a)

Avoirdupois System

28.4 grams = 1 oz (a)
16 oz. = 1 lb. (a)
2000 pounds (a) = 1 ton (a)

conversion Avoirdupois to Troy

1 gram = 15.43 grains
1 gram = 0.65 dwt.
1 oz (a) = 0.913 ozt. (t or troy)
1 lb. (a) = 1.22 lbt. (t)
1 gram = 15.43 grains
1 gram = 0.65 dwt.
1 oz (a) = 0.913 ozt. (t or troy)
1 lb. (a) = 1.22 lbt. (t)

Do note that ore is graded as ounces per ton. (OPT). The ounces are weighed in Troy and the tons are weighed in the more common Avoirdupois system. This information is provided to you by Ironstone Vineyards Heritage Museum & Jewelry Shoppe. We thank our source Steve@ goldnuggets.com.

Ironstone Heritage Museum

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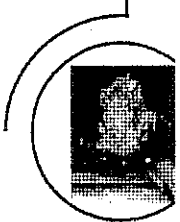
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Ironstone Vineyard's Heritage Museum

"The Crown Jewel"

Crystalline Gold Specimen



Ironstone Heritage Museum

The Kautz

Crystalline Gold Specimen

"The Crown Jewel"

On December 26, 1992, owners of the Sonora Mining Corporation mine near Jamestown, Tuolumne County, received an unexpected Christmas present. Excavations in the company's Crystalline mine uncovered a "pocket" of crystalline leaf gold.

Approximately 1,568 ounces of specimen gold were found. The largest piece, the Kautz specimen, weighs in at 44 7/8 pounds of gold. This is the largest specimen of crystalline gold in the world. The specimen consists of many layers of leaf gold separated by rock consisting mostly of clay, quartz, maraposite, decomposed shale and pyrite.

Historical Significance

The Kautz gold specimen is the largest single piece of gold mined in North America since the 1880's. Between 1849 and 1880 several large masses of gold were found in California. None of them exist today.

Just before World War II, several miners in the Mother Lode encountered large pockets of gold weighing several thousand ounces, but none as single masses or crystallized. The Kautz specimen is unique in that it is not only the largest mass of gold specimen found in California since the turn of the century, but it is also the largest specimen of crystallized gold in existence today. Of equal importance, it is gold in the rarest form- crystallized. It is priceless in value.

Gold Terms

Crystalline

Crystalline gold is the most rare form of Gold. Here, the gold form has maintained a crystalline type structure. These gold crystals are cubic, octahedral, and dodecahedral. When gold does occur in these crystal forms, they are most often distorted or almost microscopic, unlike the quartz crystals we are all familiar with. These microscopic crystalline structures are extremely rare and even a 1/2 crystal would be considered huge. Crystalline specimens are extremely rare and sell at a premium price as high as \$6000.00 per ounce.

Lode

Lode gold is what is generally found in underground mining operations. It is gold that is intermixed with other types of rock and was forced up through the earth's crust as a liquid during times of geological upheaval. Gold having a relatively low melting point solidified amongst the cracks and cavities of other rock that had already taken solid form. Lode gold is sharp and usually still bonded with its rock matrix..

Gold Terms

Matrix

Matrix is the term used in reference to the rock material the gold originally solidified in. As in Ironstone's "Crown Jewel" Crystalline Specimen, the matrix has been removed to expose the beauty of the crystalline formation. A small portion of the matrix has been retained to show the Mariposite Quartz the Crystalline was originally embedded in.

Placer

Placer gold originated as lode gold. This form of gold has been dislodged by erosion from its origin in the lode vein and came in contact with a flow of water. Placer gold is the gold you find when panning or dredging rivers, creeks, beaches or lakes. Placer gold can also be found in dry areas such as deserts and on mountain tops where there were previously water flows from glaciers or ancient rivers. Placer gold has the characteristics of being rounded and pounded from rolling along with water and other rocks. Much, if not all the rock matrix is usually broken away from most of these specimens.