



The MICHAEL B. LACE COLLECTION features copyrighted designs with interspaced clusters of exquisite full cut round diamonds of F-G color and VS 1 to VS 2 clarity.

The Lace Ring features flat sides and is ideal for center diamonds from 1.00 ct. to 3.00 ct. Princess cut diamonds are stunning in The Lace Ring. For center diamonds from 0.50 ct. to a recommended maximum of 1.50 ct., the Petite Lace Ring is an identical but slightly more delicate version of The Lace Ring.

For those who prefer the elegance of curved sides, the Crown Lace for larger centers and the Petite Crown Lace for small to medium size centers is ideal.

Both the Lace and Crown Lace styles feature matching wedding bands. In order to ensure a perfectly even match of the interspaced clusters of diamonds, MICHAEL B. recommends ordering both the engagement ring and matching wedding band at the same time. If this is not feasible, then the engagement ring should be sent to MICHAEL B. when the band is ordered in order to ensure a perfect match and to polish the ring to the same beautiful state in preparation for the perfect wedding.

For those who prefer a delicate eternity band, the CROWN LACE SIDEBAND measures approximately 1.6 to 1.8 mm in width (average 1.7 mm) and can accompany the Crown Lace Ring, the Petite Crown Lace Ring, either of the Crown Lace Bands, or any other MICHAEL B. or even non-MICHAEL B. engagement ring.

Women also love to stack the CROWN LACE SIDEBANDS which can be ordered, on request, in multiple colors, such as 18 karat yellow gold with fancy yellow diamonds, or in 18 karat rose gold with either pink diamonds or pink sapphires.

For the mounting, you can supply your own center diamond or purchase one through the authorized MICHAEL B. retailer where you order the ring.

Production time to custom make the ring to the requested finger size and diamond specifications is approximately four (4) weeks from the time we receive the center diamond from your MICHAEL B. authorized retailer. The following are prices and style numbers for LACE COLLECTION mountings for center diamonds under 3.00 carats and both mountings and wedding bands from size 3 to 7:

THE LACE RING	MB1-40-98-00	\$4,750
THE LACE BAND	MB1-40-98-01	\$3,950
PETITE LACE RING	MB1-40-140-00	\$4,675

PETITE LACE BAND	MB1-40-140-01	\$3,850
CROWN LACE RING	MB1-40-130-00	\$6,545
CROWN LACE BAND	MB1-40-130-01	\$5,775
PETITE CROWN LACE MTG.	MB1-40-160-00	\$4,750
PETITE CROWN LACE BAND	MB1-40-160-01	\$3,950
CROWN LACE SIDEBAND	MB1-40-104-01	\$2,250

DIAMOND PRONGS AND TIPS

All mountings from the MICHAEL B. Lace Collection are available with diamond prongs and/or tips to further encapsulate the center diamond in stunning Micro Pavé.

To order an engagement ring with diamond tips only, simply change the -00 at the end of the style number to DT and add \$330 to the price.

To order an engagement ring with diamonds on the prongs but not the tips, change the -00 to DP and add \$2,420 to the price.

To order an engagement ring with both diamond prongs and tips, change the -00 to DPT and add \$2,750 to the price.

All rings from the Lace Collection can be sized in the future up to a full size for a service charge. Sizing on Lace rings is performed at the bottom of the ring to ensure perfectly interspaced clusters of diamonds remain at the top. If you are having the engagement ring and wedding band sized at the same time, you can ask that the band and mounting be soldered together at the bottom so that the uneven spacing on the bottom of the band does not surface near the top.

MICHAEL B. was first to eliminate holes on the inside of the ring. When yellow gold was in fashion, holes were implemented to avoid yellowing the diamonds through reflection. Unfortunately, holes allow lotion and residue to build up, resulting in a darkening effect on the diamonds.

Because Platinum is a pure white metal, having platinum surround the bottom or pavilion portion of the diamond whitens the diamonds in the reflective process. Without holes, your diamonds stay cleaner and brighter. Some manufacturers who use a machine casting process build holes into the underside of the ring to save cost. This results not only in dirt build up but also in a loss in the structural integrity of the ring.

MICHAEL B. PLATINUM

There are a number of differences between Platinum and white gold which, once understood, explains why Platinum is such a greater value and is the metal of choice for MICHAEL B. engagement rings and wedding bands.

To begin with, Platinum is far denser—i.e., you get more physical weight of precious metal for the same mass of ring. So when you pay for white gold, and you get the same size of ring as a Platinum ring, you receive less metal weight and thus less value for your money.

When you buy Platinum jewelry, as opposed to gold jewelry, you also get a higher percentage of the precious metal you are buying (90% for MICHAEL B. .900 Platinum as opposed to 75% for 18 karat white gold), so the value of Platinum is greater on two levels, first the increased weight for the same mass and second in the higher percentage of purity of the precious metal.

Unlike Platinum, “white gold” does not exist in nature—i.e., the initial 75% precious metal component in what is referred to as “white gold” is actually yellow gold mined in nature. The remaining 25% of 18 karat “white gold” jewelry consists of white alloy or pot metal infused into the mixture in an attempt to “whiten” the underlying yellow gold.

Because white alloys cannot fully change the color of yellow gold, jewelry manufacturers working in “white gold” usually apply Rhodium plating over the surface of white gold in order to whiten it further. This plating wears off over time, and eventually, the yellow color begins to shine through, thereby requiring plating each time the yellow hue becomes bothersome.

Platinum, on the other hand, is naturally white in nature. While Platinum is denser, stronger and more durable than gold, Platinum would be too soft in its elegantly pure form for jewelry making purposes. For this reason, 10% of Platinum jewelry consists of Iridium, another pure white metal within the Platinum family of metals, to add a sufficient level of hardness for jewelry manufacturing excellence.

So even the remaining 10% of MICHAEL B. Platinum is of a higher quality level than any of the alloys commonly mixed with yellow gold to produce “white gold.”

Platinum is hypoallergenic and is safe for all skin types. White gold, on the other hand, can tarnish and cause an allergic reaction on many skin types.

White gold is harder and far more brittle than Platinum and therefore has a greater tendency to “crack” on impact. Platinum bends, thereby retaining a greater level of durability and elasticity. A Platinum band that bends can be reshaped with relative ease; a white gold band that cracks on impact will require unsightly solder to repair the damage.

White gold, as even with yellow gold, rubs off and thins out over a shorter period of time because it lacks the density of Platinum, part of the reason why 1980's tennis bracelets faded in popularity after breaking apart so quickly once the gold links began to thin out. White gold prongs that hold a center diamond have a faster rate of thinning out over time and thus expose the center diamond to greater risk of loosening or worse yet being dislodged on impact. Platinum prongs are denser and far more secure.

The annual supply of Platinum is only about 130 tons, or about six percent (6%) by weight of the annual mine production of gold, and less than one percent (1%) of the annual mine production of silver.

Thus, on an annual basis, Platinum is nearly 17 times more rare than gold and 100 times more rare than silver. Compound this multiple on an annual basis over an extended period of time, and you will see that Platinum as a resource is hundreds and even thousands of times rarer than all other so-called "precious" metals.

In fact, according to Platinum Guild International, Platinum is so rare that all the Platinum ever mined throughout history would fill a basement of less than 25 cubic feet!

Eighty percent (80%) of the entire world's Platinum supply comes from just three mines located in South Africa. These are the Rustenburg mine, the Impala mine, and the Lonrho mine.

The Norlisk mine in the Siberian region of the Russian Federation produces most of the remaining Platinum outside South Africa, approximately 10% of the world's supply. An additional 3% is produced by the Stillwater mine in Montana.

Adding to the scarcity of Platinum, approximately fifty percent (50%) of this precious resource is needed for industrial purposes because of the unique properties of the underlying metal. Once used for industry, this Platinum is destroyed and unavailable for further use.

Because of its underpinning of many global currencies, markets and hedge funds, gold's market price fluctuates over time based on economic factors, including inflation, monetary expansion, and speculation.

Although gold remains in the midst of another bull market last seen in the 1930's and 1970's, as with previous runs, the current gold market bubble will burst, and when it does, the price of gold will fall because supplies will eventually outstrip demand.

Platinum's value, by contrast, has risen steadily independent of economic factors because of its intrinsic quality and extraordinary scarcity that will continue to push demand far in excess of supply for the foreseeable future.

While white gold is flashy, the rich luster of platinum exudes understated elegance. So whether you wear jeans or a cocktail dress, your MICHAEL B. Platinum will look spectacular without overpowering your wardrobe.

Because of its durability, Platinum can be passed on for generations. And in the case of Michael B. Platinum, you acquire fine art in three dimensional form that is sure to increase in value decades and even centuries beyond the extraordinary life of this unique, flamboyant and gifted designer.

MICHAEL B. DIAMONDS

MICHAEL B. uses only the finest diamonds available for micro pavé work. Mined in Russia, evenly calibrated and scrupulously hand cut to perfection, MICHAEL B. diamonds have always been conflict free in full compliance with United Nations standards. In fact, MICHAEL B.'s diamond supplier initiated the movement against the sale of conflict diamonds. The color grade used for MICHAEL B. micro pavé work is F-G, the highest color grade available for such diamonds, and the clarity level is VVS 1 to VVS 2, again the highest clarity grade available for such diamonds. By using the finest diamonds in the world, MICHAEL B. ensures the highest level of brilliance and stunning beauty that can be achieved.

LIMITED WARRANTY

MICHAEL B. jewelry represents the finest level of handmade craftsmanship using only the world's best materials and jewelers. Any defect in materials or craftsmanship should be brought to the attention of your MICHAEL B. authorized retailer immediately and no later than 90 days from the date of purchase. All defects shall be corrected free of charge for the first 90 days. In addition, all micro pave set m \acute{e} lée diamonds that fall out within one year of purchase without substantial impact shall be replaced free of charge. After the 90 day and one year warranty periods, MICHAEL B. will repair jewelry and replace any loose or missing diamonds for a service charge through a MICHAEL B. authorized retailer. The 90 day and 1 year periods automatically renew upon completion of MICHAEL B. repair service.

JEWELRY CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Cleaning should be done by an authorized MICHAEL B. retailer. If you must clean jewelry, use a mild organic dish soap under hot water with a closed drain and with jewelry placed into a fine sifter over a bowl. Unless your jewelry accumulates substantial residue, try to limit or avoid ultrasonic cleaners, as they can loosen diamonds through an electromagnetic charge, a detriment that can offset the benefit of dirt removal in some cases. An authorized retailer can, upon request, steam clean the jewelry without exposing it to an ultrasonic machine. Jewelry should be removed before applying lotion or showering with chemicals. Use fingertips on all ring fingers and be careful of desk tops, door knobs, steering wheels and other hard objects.

REFURBISHING

While necklaces, bracelets and earrings should last a lifetime without the need for significant refurbishing, engagement rings and wedding bands worn daily on active hands are subjected to substantial wear and tear.

As a result, even the world's densest precious metal—platinum—and the world's hardest material—diamonds—can wear down and even break over time with repeated use. Just as the finest automobiles retain their beauty and value longer with proper care and maintenance, rings are no different.

MICHAEL B. recommends that engagement rings and wedding bands be taken to an authorized MICHAEL B. retailer for inspection and refurbishing every three to five years depending on the amount of wear and tear. For a service charge estimated for your approval upon inspection by MICHAEL B., any loose, crushed, broken or missing diamonds will be replaced by a certified MICHAEL B. diamond setter; all Platinum beads covering micro pavé work will be restored using a laser machine; all diamond settings will be checked and tightened where necessary; all abrasions will be polished; the ring will be plated with a high quality rhodium finish to further protect the Platinum work; and any sizing work, sizing beads, knuckle springs, and sizing plates will be completed to perfection.