

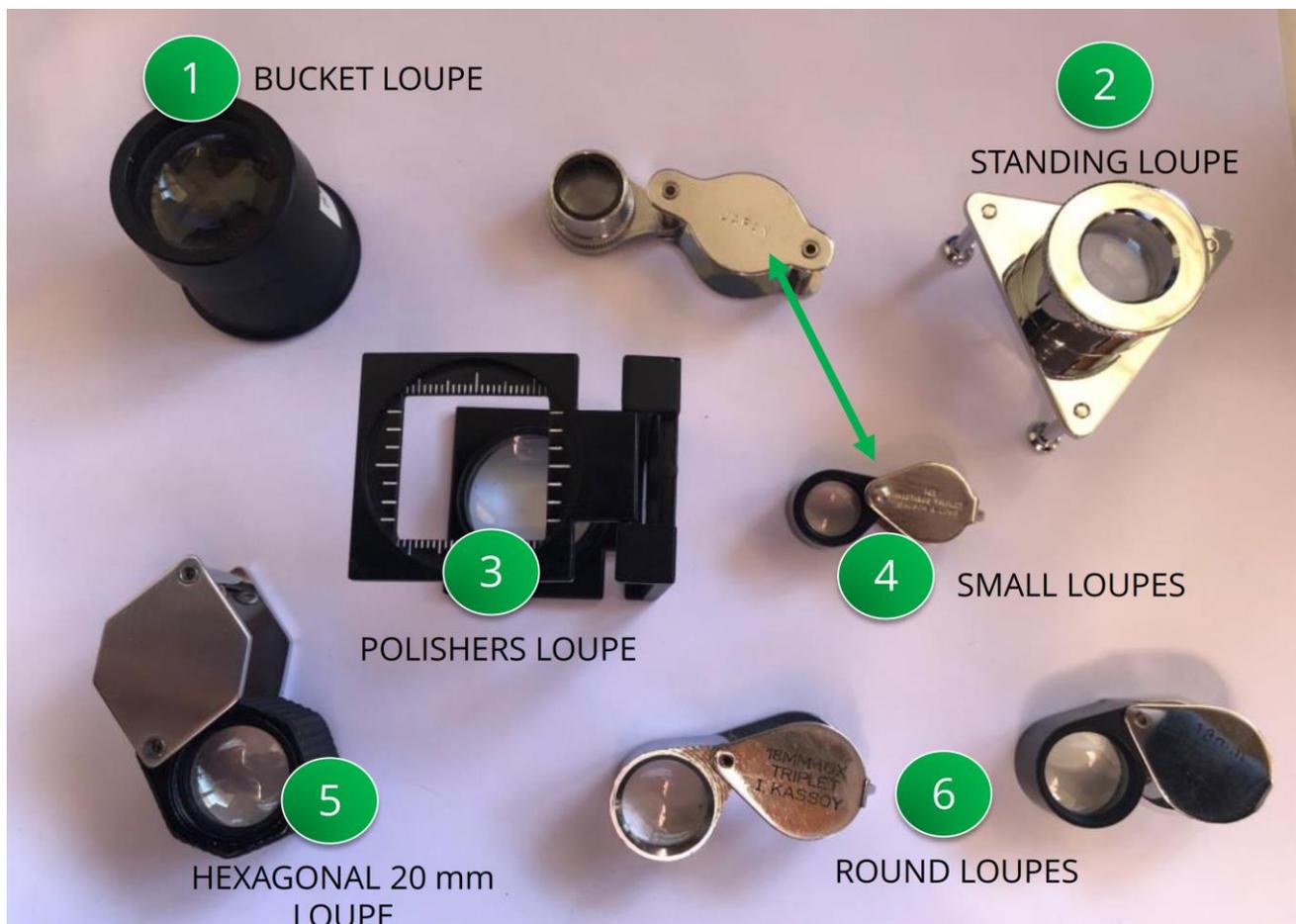
Loupes

A loupe is essentially a magnifying glass specifically designed for viewing gemstones. Loupes are available in a variety of magnifications, for instance, seven times magnification indicated as 7X, ten times magnification indicated as 10X, 20 times magnification indicated as 20X.

The world standard for loupe magnification when viewing diamond is 10X and therefore is the loupe most used in the industry when viewing diamond and as a result, in most cases, coloured gemstones.

As with most equipment there is a variety of qualities and the better the quality, the greater the price. However, look after your loupe and it will last for a very long time. I suggest that you look for a good quality triplex loupe. This loupe has three lenses and this helps to minimize the distortion around the edges of the gem being viewed.

The illustration below contains a variety of loupes, some of which are specific to a particular task and for some, there is a cross-over of uses. The descriptions below set out the uses of the loupes.



Number 1- The bucket loupe

This loupe is used by the operators of the sawing and bruting machines. The reason for this that the units give off diamond powder and when the operators look at the gem the loupe serves as a magnifier but also it protects the eyes of the operator because the loupe covers the area producing the diamond dust.

Number 2- The standing loupe

This loupe is primarily used by persons who are sorting very small diamonds. The loupe is positioned so that the operator's eye is directly above the loupe and the operator then uses tweezers to move the diamonds within the loupe vision area.

Number 3- The polisher's loupe



This is the most basic of the loupes, but effective, and is used by the diamond polishers in the polishing factories. Some of the polishers will use the round loupe as described in number 6.

Number 4- Small round loupes

These small loupes are normally 10X but always check, also check if they are triplex or not. Many people use them and it comes down to personal preference.

Number 5- The hexagonal 20mm loupe

The hexagonal loupe comes normally in 18 and 20mm sizes. These loupes have a larger viewing area and are in my opinion easier to use and give a more comfortable view. Again, look for the triplex loupe.

Number 6- The 18mm round loupe

These loupes are commonly 18mm and are very popular amongst women. It comes down to a personal choice.