



The Choo Yilin Jade Kit:
**YOUR CHEAT SHEET TO SHOPPING
FOR JADE**

Choo Yilin

USER GUIDE

The Choo Yilin Jade Kit is your very own Cheat Sheet to Buying Jade. We split this comprehensive guide into three parts for your ease of reference:

PART ONE - KNOW YOUR JADE

These are questions to ask the seller when shopping for jade - this is particularly useful if you're looking to purchase your dream Type A Jadeite bangle.

PART TWO - IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS

In this section, we dive deep into the characteristics of jade, the different types of jade available in the market, and the factors which influence the price of a jade piece.

PART THREE - THE SUMMARY

We thought a summary of our Jade Kit may come in useful for moments when you simply need guidance at a glance.

PART ONE

Know Your Jade:

Ask Questions!

Jade can be one of the most complex and confusing things to purchase in the fine jewellery world. Something that seemingly looks the same can be sold for vastly different amounts.

With this Choo Yilin Jade Kit, we break it down for you into the different factors that account for the price variance. We've created a simple but comprehensive cheat sheet for you to bring along when you go shopping.

Before you make your purchase, these are some questions you should be asking the retailer -

QUESTIONS TO ASK

01

IS THIS
JADEITE
OR
NEPHRITE?

02

SHOULD MY
BANGLE BE
TYPE A
JADEITE?

03

HOW DOES ONE
VERIFY THAT A
PIECE IS TRULY
TYPE A?

04

HOW DOES
JADE QUALITY
DETERMINE
ITS VALUE?

05

DOES THE CUT
MAKE A DIFFERENCE
IN TERMS OF
COMFORT AND FIT?

01

IS THIS JADEITE OR NEPHRITE?

Although both jadeite and nephrite are classified under the term “jade”, the seller should know the differences between the two.

When it comes to jade jewellery, we choose to work exclusively with jadeite as its rarity, toughness, and value make it the perfect material for celebrating significant moments, or gift giving loved ones.

Jadeite can also take on a higher gloss polish than nephrite, which makes it more suited for fine jewellery.

02

SHOULD MY BANGLE BE TYPE A JADEITE?

Mother Earth can take millions of years to create the beautiful colours and textures you see in each bangle. Our duty is to craft and polish them in a manner that brings out the inherent radiance of each piece.

Type A jadeite is the gemstone's most organic form - no heat treatments, no added colours, no added polymers. Due to its organic nature, the colour of a Type A jadeite piece is unlikely to change over time.

Type B and C jadeite, having undergone treatment, could potentially change in appearance in just a few short years.

The retailer should be able to tell you the differences between Type A, Type B and Type C jadeite.

03

HOW DOES ONE VERIFY THAT A PIECE IS TRULY TYPE A?

For verification of Type A jadeite, you may have the piece certified at reputable, non-affiliated gem labs in Singapore.

04

HOW DOES JADE QUALITY DETERMINE ITS VALUE?

Jade quality is determined by the following factors: colour, translucency, texture (grain density & clarity), and cut.

The value of a jade piece is dependent on a confluence of quality factors. Most importantly, it has to be pleasing to the individual owning the piece.

Your seller should be able to have a conversation with you regarding all four quality factors should you need further guidance.

05

DOES THE CUT MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN TERMS OF COMFORT AND FIT?

Aim to get jade bangles that are custom-cut according to specially-designed proportions, instead of mass-produced hololiths. A hololith is a ring shape carved from a single piece of stone. Mass-produced hololiths prioritise maximising the number of bangles that can be crafted from a single jade boulder.

Fine jewellers place the necessary time and resources into developing proportions that benefit the customer. Bangles crafted with a set of proportions in mind would make a difference both in aesthetics and in how the bangle fits on a human wrist.

Your comfort is key to the longevity of your bangle's wearability.

PART TWO

In -Depth Analysis:

Different factors
that influence price

If you would like to better understand the rationale for each of the questions and answers outlined above, we've put together a comprehensive guide below to explain what to look out for when you buy a jade bangle.

01

JADEITE VS NEPHRITE

The word “jade” actually refers to two completely different chemical compounds - jadeite and nephrite! We’ve put together a simple table to illustrate some of the key differences between the two.

CHARACTERISTICS	JADEITE	NEPHRITE
MOH'S HARDNESS	7.0 to 7.5	6.0 to 6.5
CHEMICAL COMPOSITION	Sodium Silicate	Magnesium and Calcium Silicate
PRIMARY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	Myanmar	China and New Zealand
COLOURS	Includes all shades of green, lavender, grey, blue, white, glassy “Ice”, honey, and black.	All shades of green, yellow, brown, white, black
SCARCITY	Scarce	More readily found in nature

02

THE PURITY – HOW UNTREATED YOUR JADE IS

The first question anyone should ask when purchasing a jade piece is whether that jade is Type A. In the jadeite world, the purity of a jade bangle is defined by whether it's Type A, B or C.

TYPE	WHAT IT MEANS	WHAT IT SUGGESTS
A	No heat, no polymers, no colour added. 100% natural – the jadeite undergoes only cutting and polishing.	Less than 5% of the world's jade is Type A.
B	Jade is subject to heat treatment. Polymers are then added to make it appear more translucent, and to look like it has higher clarity.	Unclear what the percentage of the market is, but Type B jadeite is often marketed as Type A to increase its price.
C	Artificial colour is added to enhance a specific colour – to either make it more intense or/and homogenous.	Unclear what the percentage of the market is, but Type C jadeite is often marketed as Type A to increase its price.
B+C	Combination of both B and C Treatments.	Unclear what the percentage of the market is, but Type B+C jadeite is often marketed as Type A to increase its price.

03_a

THE QUALITY – HOW BEAUTIFUL YOUR TYPE A JADEITE IS

We recommend that when studying the various factors that determine the quality of jade, to look at them as a whole. Together, the various factors affect the look of the jade, and crucially, determine its price. We have written extensively about the quality factors in The Choo Yilin Guide to Jade (which can be found on the Choo Yilin blog at <https://rebrand.ly/CYLGuidetoJade>)

It's important to understand that not ALL factors have to be in the desired range for a jade piece to be valuable. In fact if any ONE or TWO of the factors are in the desired range, your piece can already be potential heirlooms.

03b

The table illustrates how the price can vary depending on the different quality factors.

QUALITY FACTORS	ACCEPTED AND NORMAL	DESIRABLE	HIGHLY DESIRED
DESIRABILITY			
TRANSLUCENCY	Low-Medium	Medium. Jade has a glassy surface, and you can start to “see into” the jade.	Icy (High)
COLOUR	Speckled/mottled and spectrum of colours present in a single piece.	Medium speckled, and features no more than 2-3 harmonious colours present in a single piece.	Close shades of a single colour, and homogenous. If not homogenous, then the colours are very harmonious - nature’s artwork. Ice Jade, Lavender and Imperial Green are the traditionally most sought after colours but the modern jade consumer tends to prefer a soft, pale green or milky off white with pastel greens, lavender & grey-blue.
TIGHTNESS OF GRAIN	Visible grains	Medium visibility of grain	Very tight, almost “poreless”
CLARITY	Veins, clouds, and iron oxide flecks are present across the piece.	A medium amount of veins, clouds, and iron oxide flecks are present.	Little to no veins, clouds, and iron oxide flecks are present.

04

THE CUTTING TECHNIQUES – MASS PRODUCED VS CUSTOM-CUT

Jade bangles come in many different shapes, sizes, and thicknesses. The reason for that is primarily because jade boulders come in many shapes and sizes as well. What most jade traders will do is to maximise how many bangles they can craft out of every jade boulder.

At Choo Yilin, we pay close attention to the cut of each jade bangle, and over the course of a decade, we have found a range of proportions that work best with our designs.

MASS-PRODUCED JADE BANGLES	CUSTOM-CUT JADE BANGLES
The priority is to maximise the yield of a jade boulder – some round, some oval. Some thicker, some thinner. Some bigger, some smaller. There doesn't necessarily need to be a pattern.	As per the range indicated in the client's specifications, or as decided upon through meticulous research and development. The shapes and cuts would look more cohesive.

For example, we experimented for over six months before we were finally satisfied with the proportions for our Classic Oval Jade bangles; proportions that we felt would fit our wrists snugly and comfortably.

The cut matters to us, and custom-cut jade bangles are always going to cost a premium, simply because there will be a lot of material wastage to achieve the right proportions for each hololith.

05

THE AUDIT – IS YOUR JADE REALLY TYPE A?

Finally, what also influences the cost of the jade bangle is the amount of resources that goes into ensuring that the jade bangle is truly Type A. One of the biggest issues in the jade industry today are sellers misrepresenting their product(s).

There is approximately less than 5% of today's jade in the world that is truly Type A. Yet, the amount of jade that's being sold as Type A in the market is significantly more. At Choo Yilin, we conduct the necessary audits to ensure that each jade piece procured is truly Type A.

WHAT IT COMES DOWN TO

The massive price differences you see in a jade bangle really boil down to four main factors –

PURITY

QUALITY

**CUTTING
TECHNIQUES**

**AUDIT PROCESS
OF THE
JADE BANGLE**

PART THREE

Summary Table:

Factors that account
for price differences

Knowing more about the different jade quality factors will aid in understanding the price differences between jade pieces. Here's a quick summary.

JADEITE FACTORS	MARKET VALUE	ENTRY LEVEL TO MID-RANGE	MEDIUM	HIGH
PURITY		Type B+C	Type B/C	Type A Less than 5% of the jade in the world is Type A.
AUDIT FOR PURITY		No audit or research process. Takes the seller's word for it where no checking is done. Or, seller deliberately sells Type B or C jadeite as Type A.	Audit done sporadically	Regular internal audits and external audits done by reputable, independent third-party gemologists.
QUALITY - TRANSLUCENCY		Acceptable and normal	Desirable	Highly desired
QUALITY - COLOUR		Speckled/mottled and spectrum of colours present in a single piece.	Medium speckled and usually no more than 2-3 harmonious colours present in a single piece.	Close shades of a single colour, and homogenous. If not homogenous, then the colours are very harmonious - nature's artwork. Ice Jade, Lavender and Imperial Green are the traditionally most sought after colours but the modern jade consumer tends to prefer a soft, pale green or milky off white with pastel greens, lavender, and grey-blue.
QUALITY - TIGHTNESS OF GRAIN		Visible grains	Medium visibility of grain	Very tight, almost "poreless"
QUALITY - CLARITY		Veins, Clouds and Iron Oxide flecks across the piece.	A medium amount of veins, clouds and iron oxide flecks are present.	Little to no veins, clouds and iron oxide flecks present
CUTTING TECHNIQUES & PRIORITIES		Cutting priority to maximise the number of jade bangles that can be crafted from a jade boulder; to maximise yield.	Cutting priority to maximise the number of jade bangles that can be crafted from a jade boulder; to maximise yield.	Priority is on getting the proportions of each piece right, as required by artisans, and as required to honour the design a bangle will be paired with.

THE CHOO YILIN JADE SHOPPING CHECKLIST

1. Is your jade piece Jadeite or Nephrite?

(Refer to Part One)

- JADEITE NEPHRITE UNKNOWN OTHERS
(E.g. Serpentine, Glass)

Comments:

2. What **purity** is your shortlisted jade piece?

(Refer to Part Two)

- TYPE A TYPE B TYPE C TYPE B+C UNKNOWN

Comments:

3. How would you describe the **colour** of the piece shortlisted?

(Refer to Part Two)

- CLOSE SHADES OF A SINGLE COLOUR
Homogenous CLOSE SHADES OF 2-3 COLOURS
Blended together harmoniously SPECKLED / MOTTLED
Spectrum of colours present

Comments:

4. How would you describe the **translucency** of the piece shortlisted?

(Refer to Part Two)

- HIGH
Looks Icy MEDIUM
Glassy Surface LOW TO MEDIUM

Comments:

5. How would you describe the **texture** of the pieces shortlisted?

(Refer to Part Two)

- VERY TIGHT, ALMOST PORELESS MEDIUM VISIBILITY OF GRAIN VISIBLE GRAINS

Comments:

7. How has the jade piece been **cut**?

(Refer to Part Two)

- CUSTOM CUT MASS PRODUCED

Comments:

6. How would you describe the **clarity** of the piece?

(Refer to Part Two)

- LITTLE TO NO VEINS, CLOUDS, AND IRON OXIDE FLECKS ARE PRESENT A MEDIUM AMOUNT OF VEINS, CLOUDS, AND IRON OXIDE FLECKS ARE PRESENT VEINS, CLOUDS AND IRON OXIDE FLECKS ARE PRESENT ACROSS THE PIECE

Comments:

8. How has the jade piece been **audited**?

(Refer to Part Two)

- BY REPUTABLE & INDEPENDENT 3RD PARTY GEM LAB BY RETAILER'S IN HOUSE EXPERTS AT THE SOURCE ALL THE ABOVE NONE OF THE ABOVE

Comments:

9. Overall Assessment of Jade Piece –

(Refer to Part Three)

	NORMAL & ACCEPTABLE (COLUMN A)	DESIRABLE (COLUMN B)	HIGHLY DESIRABLE (COLUMN C)
PURITY			
COLOUR			
TRANSLUCENCY			
CLARITY			
CUTTING			
AUDIT			
TOTAL QUANTITY			

FINAL COMMENTS

MOSTLY COLUMN A (Normal & Acceptable) - For Basic Luxury

MOSTLY COLUMN B (Normal & Acceptable) - For Luxurious Keepsakes

MOSTLY COLUMN C (Normal & Acceptable) - For Serious Investment

There are so many factors that make jade such a marvel to celebrate and cherish, and we hope that our Cheat Sheet to Shopping for Jade helps you on your journey to discovering your own trove of precious keepsakes.

The more people come to know about jade, the more value it holds for this generation, and the ones to come. As Jade Specialists, it's our privilege to be able to share the beauty of Asia's royal gem.

With Love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Choo Glin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Choo" and last name "Glin" clearly distinguishable.