

What does a Hallmark look like?

A Hallmark is made up of 3 compulsory symbols:



1. The Sponsor's or Maker's Mark

This indicates the maker or sponsor of the article. In the UK this mark consists of at least two letters within a shield. No two marks are the same.



2. Metal and fineness (purity) Mark

Indicates the precious metal content of the article and that it is not less than the fineness of the article indicated. The fineness is indicated by a millesimal number (parts per thousand) and the metal type is indicated by the shape of the surround.

Silver	Palladium	Gold	Platinum
800	2009 500	375 9 carat	850
925 Sterling	950	585 14 carat	900
958 Britannia	999	750 18 carat	950
999	2010 500	916 22 carat	999
	950	990	
	999	999 24 carat	

3. Assay Office Mark

Indicates the Assay Office at which the article was tested and marked.



Edinburgh

There is also a range of optional marks that can be applied alongside the Hallmark if requested. These are:

Traditional Fineness Symbols – optional



Sterling Silver



Sterling Silver
Scotland



Britannia
Silver



Palladium



Gold



Platinum

The Date Letter – optional

Until 1999 the date letter was compulsory. This is no longer the case, but it can be applied voluntarily in addition to the compulsory marks. The date letter changes once a year on January 1st.



2008



2009



2010



2011



2012



2013

Alternatively...

The Common Control Mark and Convention Marks

The UK has been a signatory to the International Convention on Hallmarks since 1972. This means that UK Assay Offices can strike the Convention Hallmark which will then be recognised by all member countries in the International Convention. Conversely, Convention Hallmarks from other member countries are legally recognised in the UK. Articles bearing the Convention Hallmark do not have to be re-hallmarked in the UK.



Silver



Palladium



Gold



Platinum

Finenesses recognised under the Convention are:

Silver: 800, 925, 999

Palladium: 500, 950, 999

Gold: 375, 585, 750, 916, 990, 999

Platinum: 850, 900, 950, 999

A Convention Hallmark consists of four marks:



Sponsor



Common
Control Mark

925

Fineness
(Purity) Mark



Assay
Office Mark