Cartier Santos Custom

Inverse-set black diamond treatment | 66 supplied photographs reviewed



PA280694.JPG | Raised black stone setting, Roman numeral dial and integrated bracelet.

ESTIMATED DIAMOND COUNT

Approximately 1,430

Practical photographic range: about 1,300-1,500 stones

The supplied CGL report states **35.00 ct total diamond weight (approximate)**. The stone count above is a separate photographic estimate; the certificate does not state a count.

The custom design combines a dense black diamond dial with larger, pointed exterior stones across the bezel, case and bracelet. Its strongest visual feature is the sculptural, continuous coverage around the watch.

The watch in the photographs

Observed markings, supplied documentation and model-family context



PA280687.JPG | Caseback markings.



PA280691.JPG | Folding clasp interior.

Item	Recorded information
Name used in this report	Cartier Santos de Cartier, custom black diamond setting
Caseback identifiers	421744BX and 4072, shown separately
Other caseback text	Cartier; SWISS MADE; AUTOMATIC; WATER RESISTANT 100m; STAINLESS STEEL
Certificate serial field	4072421744BX - consistent with 4072 + 421744BX
Visible display	Black stone-set dial; white Roman numerals; Cartier and AUTOMATIC labels; central hands; date at 6 o'clock
Bracelet and clasp	Metal link bracelet, exterior stone setting, side-set links and folding clasp with double-C motif

The proportions, date display and bracelet architecture are consistent with the modern large Santos de Cartier family. The exact retail reference, production year and internal caliber are not established by these photographs.

For context only, Cartier lists the standard WSSA0018 large model with a 39.8 mm case and automatic caliber 1847 MC [W1]. Those are factory model specifications, not measurements or movement verification of this customized watch. The engraved 100m is recorded as a marking; current water resistance was not tested.

What the CGL report says

Transcribed from PA280742.JPG and PA280744.JPG; whole document shown in PA280743.JPG

Field	Text or meaning in the supplied report
Issuer shown	CGL - The Certified Gemological Laboratory of Europe
Report number	2776168836007602
Report date	Thursday, October 1, 2026
Total diamond weight	35.00 Cts; detail field specifies 35.00 Cts (Approx.)
Description	Cartier Santos de Cartier; stainless steel; black diamond exterior and dial; Roman numerals; original movement (issuer statement)
Serial as printed	4072421744BX
Cut and shape	Round Brilliant
Cut / polish / symmetry	Excellent / Excellent / Excellent
Color	Black
Comments - exact wording	"Natural Black Diamonds had been color treated."
Stone count	No number of individual diamonds is stated.

How to describe the stones accurately

Use **natural diamonds with treated black color, according to the supplied CGL report**. Natural origin and natural color are different claims. The document explicitly discloses color treatment; it does not identify the treatment process.

The photographed grading scales are reference charts, not a selected clarity grade. No VVS, VS or flawless clarity grade is assigned in the watch description. The Excellent entries refer to cut, polish and symmetry. GIA likewise distinguishes black diamond reporting from ordinary transparent-stone clarity grading [W3].

The certificate was read from the supplied images. An issuer-hosted record for this report was not retrieved, and this review does not independently test the stones or authenticate the movement. CGL's verification page distinguishes online report verification from a gemological report [W2].

A reproducible estimate

Reconciled model: 1,426 stone positions, sensibly reported as about 1,430

Distinct surface	Model	Working range	Basis
Dial	410	335-459*	335 identifiable positions across views; 124 unverified candidates. Practical scenario estimate about 410.
Front bezel and shoulders	44	44	32 marked bezel centers + 12 marked central shoulder stones. Outer ridges counted below.
Case flanks and lug edges	127	107-132	Both sides inspected: 107 resolved centers + 20 tentative candidates; five-position upper allowance.
Bracelet link faces	783	756-810	27 owner-confirmed links x 29 sampled face stones. Sensitivity allowance: 28-30 per link.
Bracelet side faces	36	36	Owner confirms only 6 links have side stones: 6 x 2 sides x 3 stones.
Clasp perimeter	26	26	Full border numbered in PA280700.JPG and checked against PA280702.JPG.
Combined model	1,426	1,304-1,507	Model sum and sensitivity envelope; rounded practical range about 1,300-1,500.

What this range means

*The dial bounds are a visibility floor and a conditional grid ceiling, not measured limits. The combined range is a sensitivity envelope, not a statistical confidence interval. Hidden numeral coverage and foreshortened case ends remain the largest uncertainties.

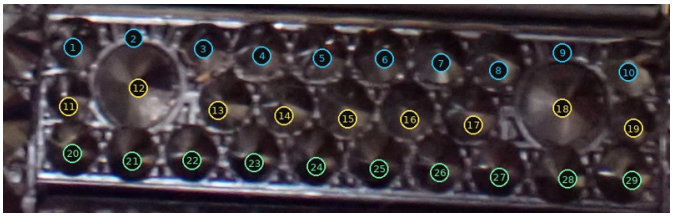
Three parallel passes audited the dial, case and bracelet. Cropped, rotated and annotated comparisons identify stone centers and preserve source filenames. The 27-link inventory and 36 side stones come from the owner; the full clasp perimeter refines the initial approximate 12 to 26.

Excluded: the blue crown insert, metal prongs, screw heads, the plain caseback, bracelet undersides and interior clasp. No unseen spare links are assumed. These are counts of stone positions treated as diamonds according to the supplied certificate, not individual gem identifications.

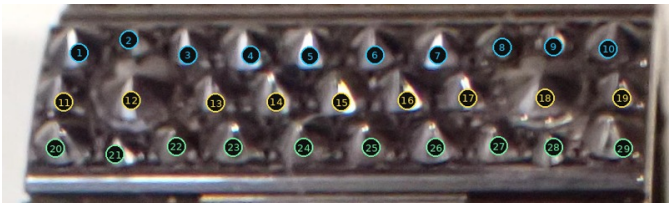
Bracelet faces: 29 per link

Stone-center annotations checked across multiple source photographs





PA280740.JPG | Near-case link, same 29-stone pattern.



PA280740.JPG | Far-end link, same 29-stone pattern.

10 upper + 9 middle + 10 lower = 29 face stones. The two larger accents are included in the middle nine. Small bright shared prongs are excluded. Additional links in PA280685.JPG and PA280696.JPG support the same pattern.

Extrapolation: **27 owner-confirmed links x 29 = 783 face stones**. The views overlap, so samples from different photographs are not assumed to be distinct physical links. The total remains conditional on all 27 links matching the sampled pattern.

Clasp and side stones

Reconciled with the owner-confirmed physical inventory

Clasp border: photo-based alternative of 26 stones

PA280700.JPG; cross-checked in PA280702.JPG



6 + 6 short-edge stones (corners included) + 7 + 7 long-edge interiors = 26.

Full border count includes the long edges omitted by the earlier ~12 estimate.

The numbered perimeter is inside the seams separating the adjacent regular link faces. Those adjacent link stones are excluded.

Bracelet subtotal: 783 + 36 + 26 = approximately 845 stones.
Sides: only 6 links x 2 sides x 3 stones = 36. The other 21 links have no side stones. Clasp: the complete photographed border contributes 26.

The initial owner estimate of about 12 clasp stones is refined by the photographed perimeter: 12 across the short ends plus 14 along the long-side interiors. Corners are counted once. This correction adds 14 stones and does not alter the fixed side count.

Dial: observed versus obscured

A cell-by-cell guide avoids treating every grid position as a confirmed diamond



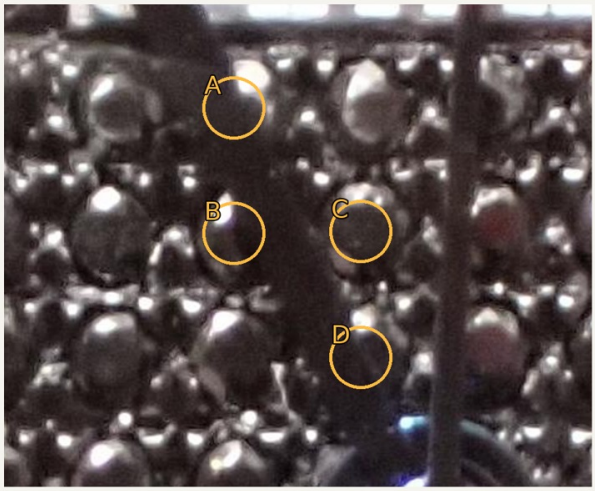
Combined-view audit: 335 identifiable positions, 124 unverified candidates and 25 excluded grid positions. The 22 x 22 lattice is a counting aid. It is not proof of 484 diamonds, or of stones beneath every numeral stroke.

Recovering obscured dial stones

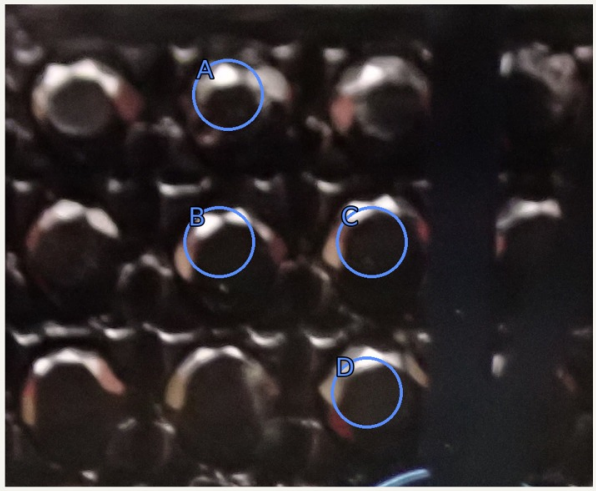
Matching row and column addresses prevents counting the same stone twice

COMBINING PHOTOGRAPHS RECOVERS FOUR POSITIONS

PA280692: four unverified cells



PA280714: corresponding stones visible



A R8 C10 B R9 C10 C R9 C11 D R10 C11

331 reference identifications + 4 recovered = 335 identified positions across photographs.

Matching rows and neighboring stone centers establish correspondence. Recovered cells are counted once. The remaining 124 candidate positions are still unverified; fixed numeral coverage is unresolved.

Row	Seen	Unverified	Excluded
1	0	19	3
2	13	9	0
3	15	7	0
4	12	10	0
5	17	5	0
6	17	5	0
7	13	3	6
8	22	0	0
9	22	0	0
10	17	5	0
11	15	7	0

Row	Seen	Unverified	Excluded
12	14	8	0
13	18	4	0
14	19	3	0
15	17	5	0
16	11	5	6
17	16	6	0
18	19	3	0
19	12	8	2
20	13	7	2
21	15	5	2
22	18	0	4

335 seen + 124 unverified + 25 excluded = 484 lattice positions. Of the 124 unverified positions, 92 involve numerals, 21 upper-rim blur and 11 hands/pivot. Plaque exclusions are a model convention, not proof of absence underneath.

The practical dial estimate of about 410 is a heuristic scenario within the observed/candidate bracket. Photographs cannot establish hidden occupancy beneath fixed markings.

Case front: 44 marked positions

32 inner bezel stones plus 12 central shoulder stones

FRONT-ONLY COMPONENTS: 44 RESOLVED SETTINGS

B1-B32: bezel. S1-S12: six central shoulder stones at each end.



Outer ridge / lug corners belong to the side ledger. First bracelet panels excluded.

Head component	Resolved	Tentative	Model total
Bezel + central shoulders	44	0	44
Noncrown side and ridge	51	12	63
Crown side and ridge	56	8	64
Head exterior total	151	20	171

The first bracelet panels and the blue crown insert are excluded. The outer upper ridges visible here are assigned to the side ledger on the next page, once.

Case sides: three distinct rows

Both sides inspected directly; no whole-side symmetry extrapolation

CASE EXTERIOR: SIDE BANDS / LUGS

R = upper ridge; U / L = two side-wall rows; F = crown-border fillers.
Solid dot: resolved center. Hollow dot and ?: tentative edge position. Blue crown excluded.
Noncrown side: 51 resolved + 12 tentative = 63 candidate settings (PA280736).



Crown side: 56 resolved + 8 tentative = 64 candidate settings (PA280734).



The ridge is the same outer band seen in front views: count it here only once.
Endpoint positions are candidates, not a proof of hidden stones. No symmetry extrapolation.

Head estimate: approximately 170 stones. The ledger contains 151 resolved centers and 20 tentative edge/lug positions, giving 171 candidates. A practical inspection envelope of 151-176 allows five further unresolved endpoint positions. It is not a certified physical count.

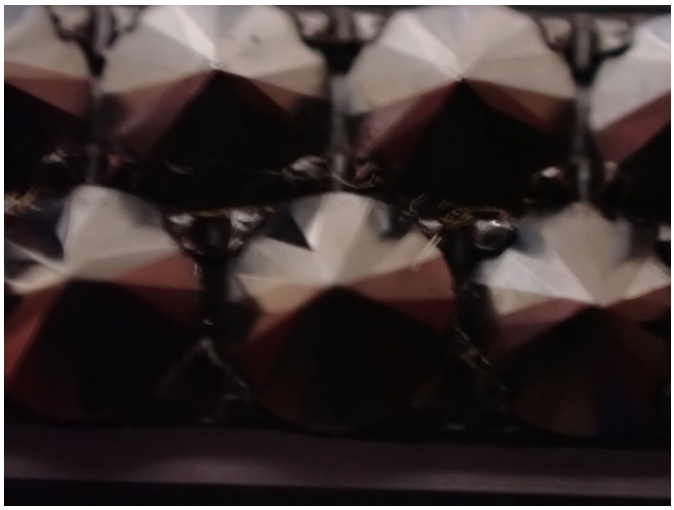
The two upper ridge runs contribute 44 candidates; the two side-facing wall rows and crown-border fillers contribute 83. This separation explains why the simpler first pass understated the head exterior.

A sculptural black-on-black custom

Appearance and visible condition, separated from laboratory and mechanical claims



PA280705.JPG | Continuous exterior coverage.



PA280718.JPG | Projecting pointed facets in macro view.

Design and setting

The exterior shows raised, pointed stone surfaces consistent with an inverse or reverse-set presentation. This is a setting-orientation description, not a claim that the stones have a special "pyramid" cut. The supplied certificate calls their shape and cut Round Brilliant. The dial uses a much finer, close-set pattern under the crystal.

The dark stones create broad metallic-looking flashes, contrasted by white Roman numerals and dark blue-looking hands. Larger paired accents organize the bracelet pattern, while polished divider rails keep each link visually distinct. The blue crown insert provides a small contrasting color detail; its material is not identified by this review.

Condition visible in the image set

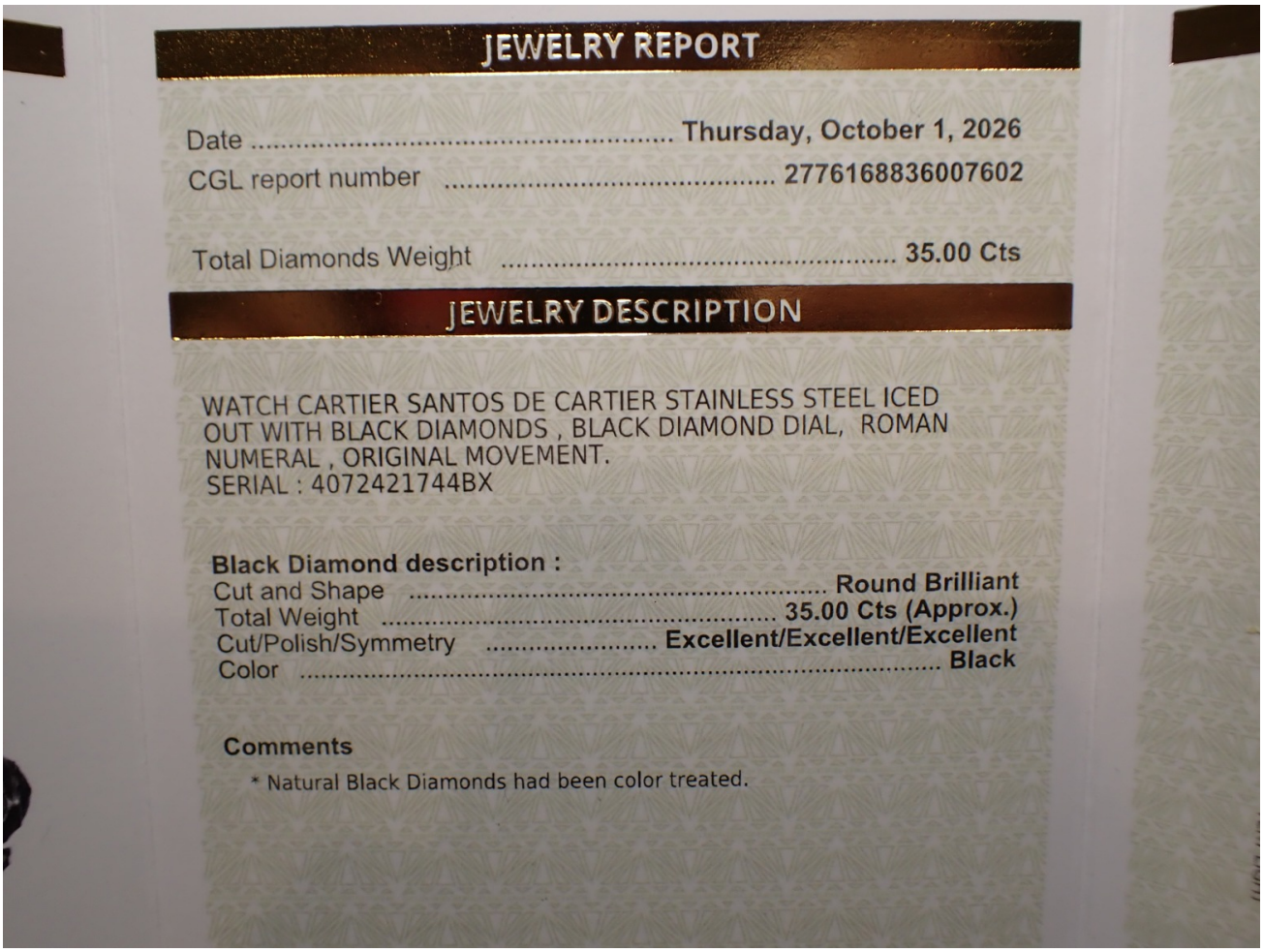
The owner describes the watch as "perfect." The photographs show a cohesive, well-presented exterior with no conspicuous large gap in the principal stone patterns. They do not establish that every small seat is occupied or that every stone is secure.

Macro views also show loose fibers around some settings and fine surface lines on exposed metal, particularly divider rails and clasp areas. Photographs cannot consistently separate hairlines, residue and reflections. A flawless or unworn condition grade is therefore not assigned from this set.

Movement originality is stated by the certificate. No opened movement, timing results, pressure test, dimensions or gross watch weight are supplied.

Certificate image and source notes

The supplied document is the source of the 35.00 ct and treatment statements



PA280744.JPG | Supplied CGL jewelry report detail, reproduced from the owner's photograph.

Weight and count are different measurements. At about 1,430 stones, the stated 35.00 ct would average about 0.0245 ct per stone. That arithmetic does not validate either number: tiny dial stones and larger exterior stones contribute very differently to the weight.

Scope: a photographic inventory and design report, not a physical gemological examination, Cartier authentication, mechanical service report or monetary appraisal. An exact count requires a jeweler's seat-by-seat tally, including the dial and concealed transitions, or the setter's original stone schedule.

External context consulted

[W1] Cartier, WSSA0018 official product listing: cartier.cn/creation/WSSA0018
[W2] CGL, Jewelry Online Verification: cgl-labs.com/jewelry-online-verification
[W3] GIA, Black Diamond Buying Guide (16 Jan 2026): Natural origin, treated color and black diamond grading
Consulted 27 October 2026. Object evidence: 66 supplied photographs plus the owner-confirmed link, side-stone and clasp inventory.

Source photographs

Original files PA280680.JPG through PA280701.JPG | orientation retained



01 PA280680.JPG



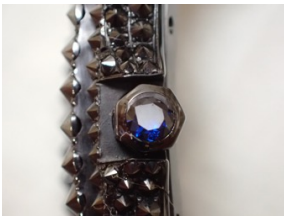
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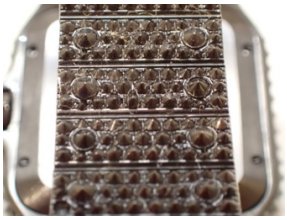
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07 PA280686.JPG



08 PA280687.JPG



09 PA280688.JPG



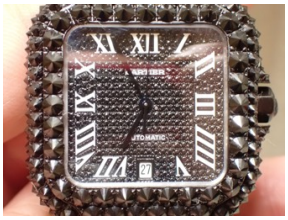
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11 PA280690.JPG



12 PA280691.JPG



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16 PA280695.JPG



17 PA280696.JPG



18 PA280697.JPG



19 PA280698.JPG



20 PA280699.JPG



21 PA280700.JPG



22 PA280701.JPG

Source photographs

Original files PA280702.JPG through PA280723.JPG | orientation retained



23 PA280702.JPG



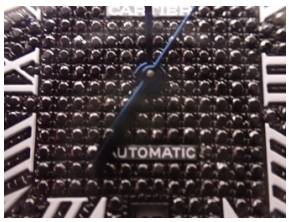
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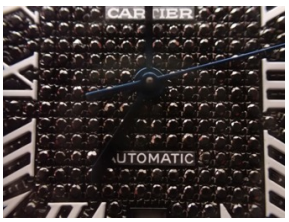
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26 PA280705.JPG



27 PA280706.JPG



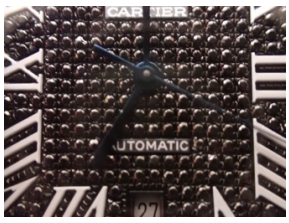
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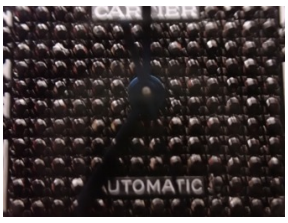
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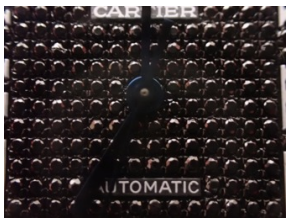
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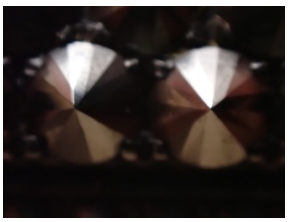
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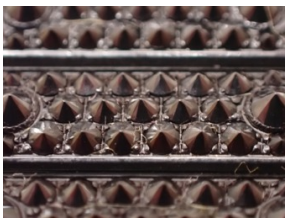
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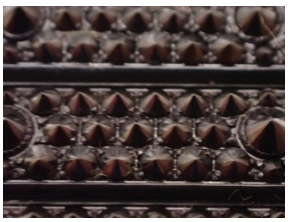
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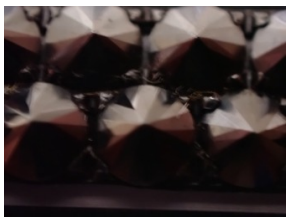
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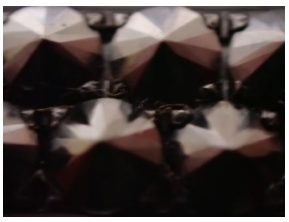
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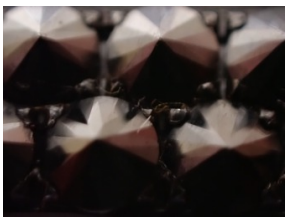
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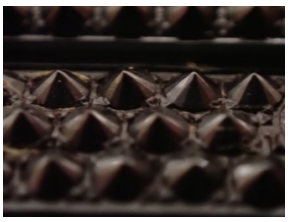
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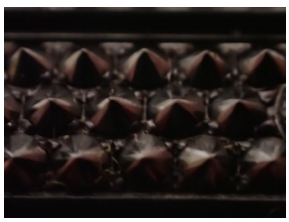
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44 PA280723.JPG

Source photographs

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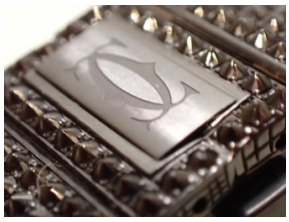
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52 PA280731.JPG



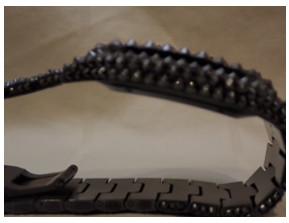
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59 PA280738.JPG



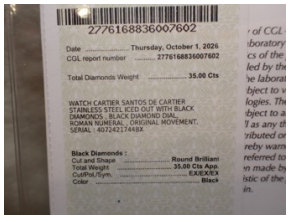
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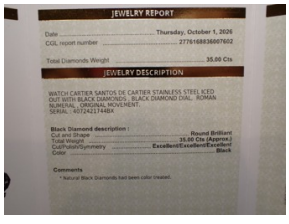
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