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The Allure of Vintage Engagement Rings by [Alexandra Gulkin](#)

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When picking out that special ring for that extra-special someone, it doesn't take long to realize there are about a bazillion options. But if you're looking for something that's truly unique (like her) you might want to consider the allure of vintage engagement rings.

These days, it's easy to spend a whole lot of money on a single piece of jewelry and, unfortunately, if you don't know just what you're looking for, you could easily pay too much for quality that's, frankly, not worth the price. Naturally, engagement rings are not an area where you want to skimp, but with a little creativity – thinking “outside the box” – you'll discover the many ways in which vintage engagement rings can serve to fulfill two very distinct needs; budget-friendliness and character.

For engagement rings to qualify as “vintage,” the standard dictates that they must be 30-50 years old. A ring older than 50 years is typically categorized as an “antique.” Either way, there are a lot of benefits to going this route in your search for the perfect ring.

Budget-Friendliness

While vintage engagement rings are not typically found to be “cheap,” they can be found to be of equal or greater value for the price than many of their contemporary counterparts. Especially if you consider the sentimentality associated with vintage jewelry; this is often an investment that people find to be very satisfying on a variety of (some intangible) levels. There are also some little-known, creative ways to save money on vintage engagement rings which will be discussed further on.

Character

Perhaps the greatest allure of vintage engagement rings is their inherent character. Jewelry was often a lot more intricately designed “back then.” As such, there are many unique and beautiful settings to be found; styles that can be found nowhere else.

WHERE TO FIND VINTAGE ENGAGEMENT RINGS

Now, you might be wondering where to begin your search for that one-of-a-kind vintage ring. The good news is, there are a lot of places where that perfect ring can be found. Estate sales are one great place to find vintage jewelry, as are auctions. Vintage jewelry turns up frequently in pawn shops when people come in hoping to trade cash for gold and diamonds. And don't forget to check with your local jeweler. If they don't happen to have what you're looking for in stock, they often know just where to find it.

*Money saving tip: If you've got an existing vintage ring, but you want to “shine it up” a bit, bring your jeweler for customization. Sometimes the simple addition of a solitaire or a few smaller stones is all it takes to transform old jewelry into something unique and beautiful. You can also collect your unused or unwanted jewelry and sell your gold to the jeweler in exchange for credit towards goods or services.

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Alexandra Gulkin is a reporter, writer and columnist in the jewelry industry. She is celebrated for her real-time coverage of trade shows, jewelry trends in a [cheap engagement rings](#), gemstones, events and secrets on where to find the highest quality a [diamond engagement rings](#).

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