

Grading Standards

EDITION 1.1

UPDATED 7/1/2026



Flawless

Grade: 10.0

- The highest grade assigned.
- The marble appears as if it were made today.
- Surface has pure wet sheen with zero flaws, including “as-mades” or other defects.
- If handmade, must exhibit perfect pontil work.



Gem Mint

Grade: 9.8 – 9.9

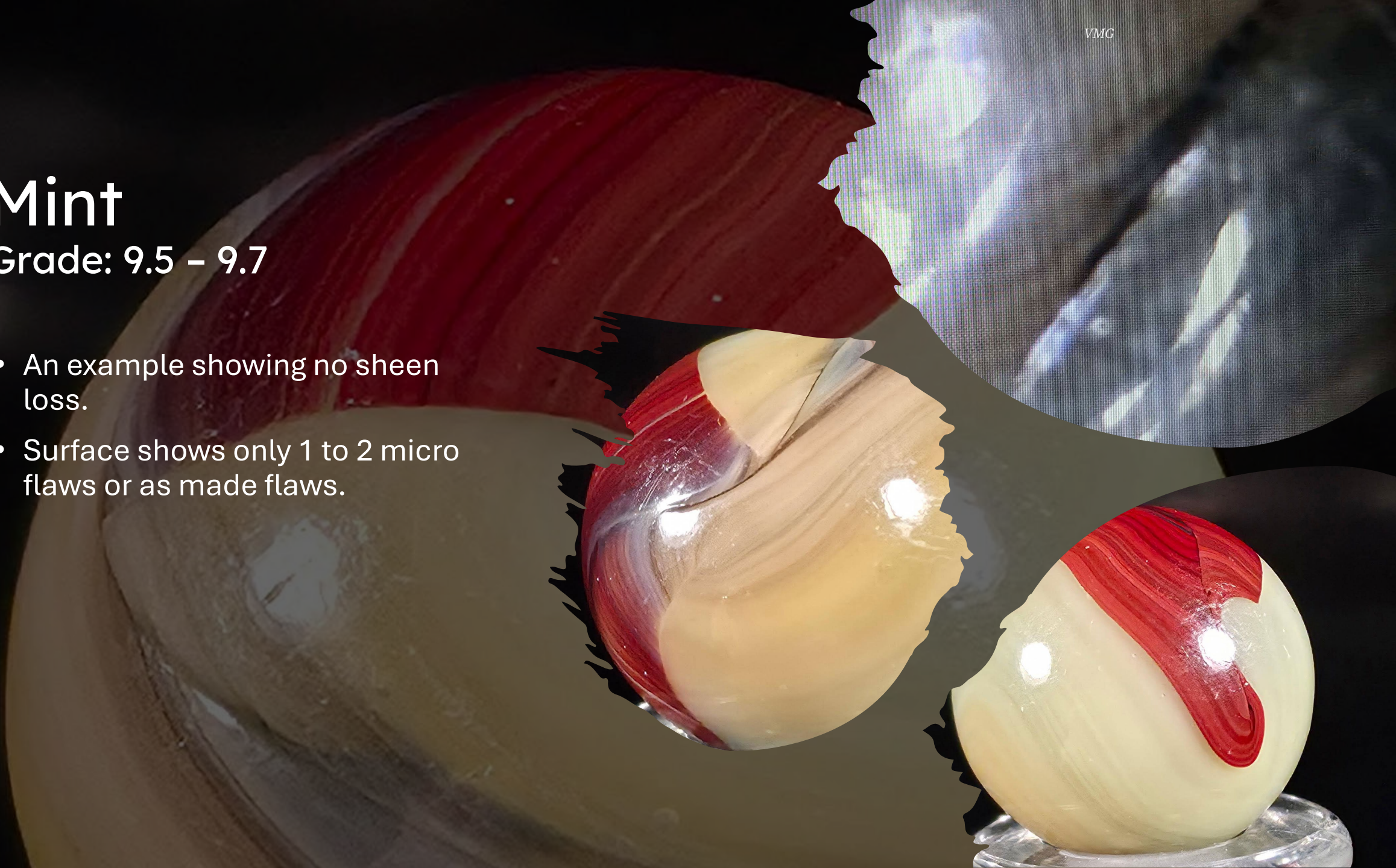
- A beautiful mint example that appears perfect in hand.
- Surface has no noticeable defects; only microscopic flaws exist visible past 10x magnification.
- No “as-made” flaws allowed.



Mint

Grade: 9.5 – 9.7

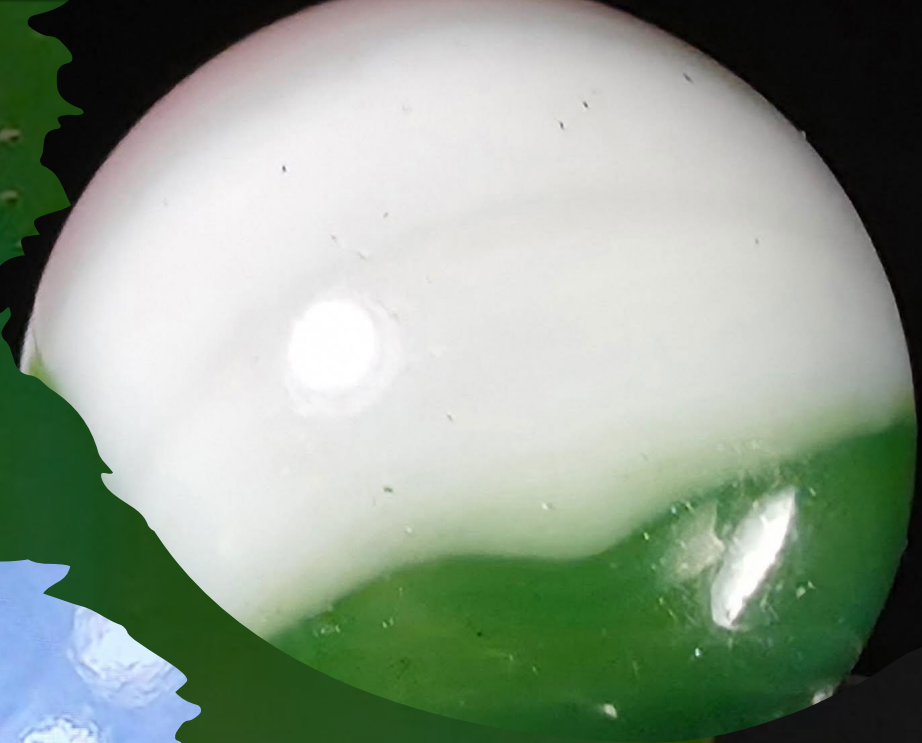
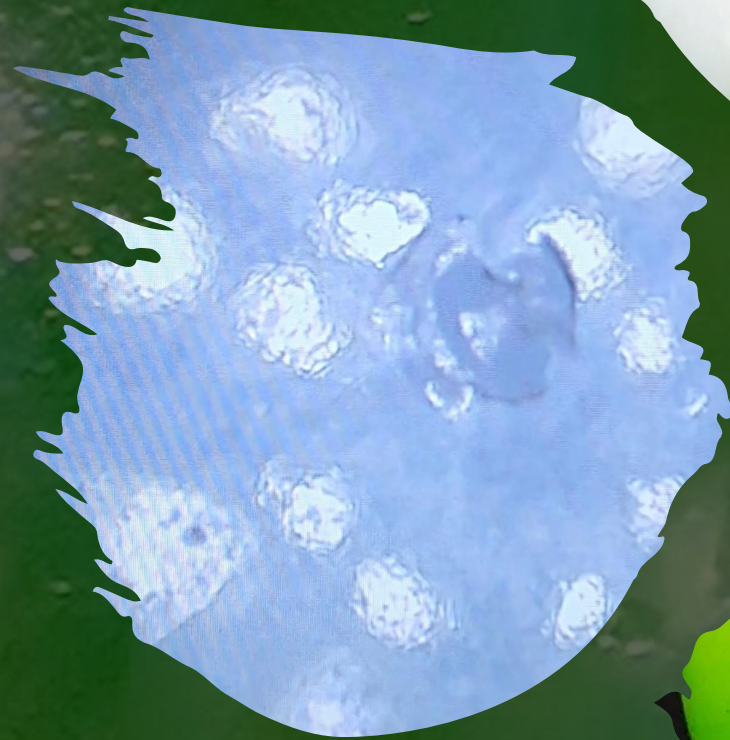
- An example showing no sheen loss.
- Surface shows only 1 to 2 micro flaws or as made flaws.



Mint(-)

Grade: 9.0 – 9.4

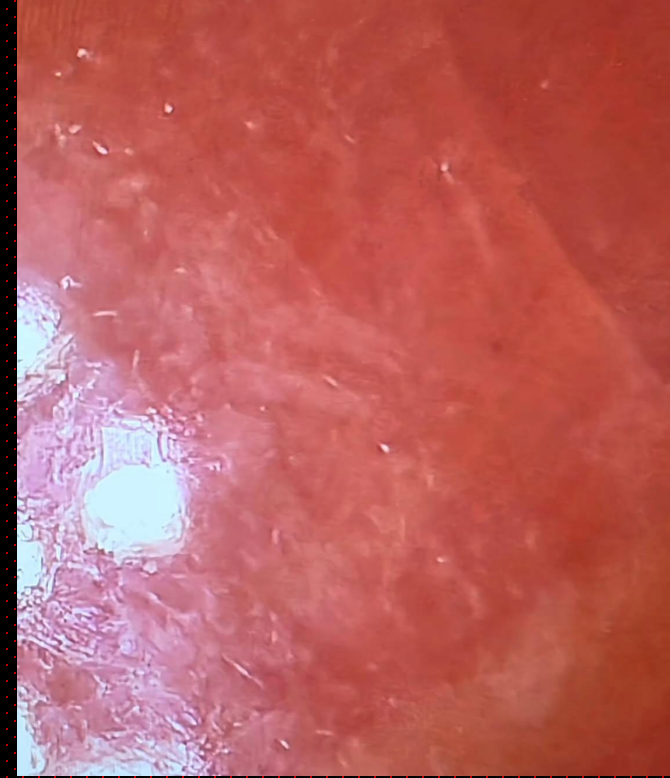
- The marble appears great in hand. Surface may show 2 to 4 minor flaws.
- “As made” fractures on otherwise perfect marbles fall in this category.

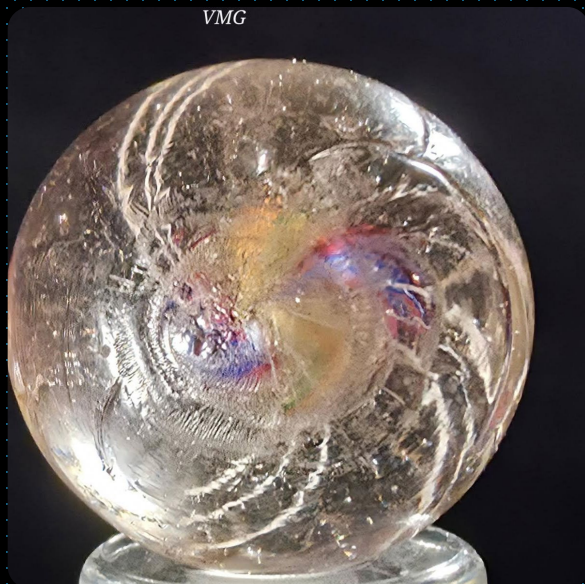


Near Mint(+)

Grade: 8.6 – 8.9

- The broadest range of marbles sold worldwide.
- Surface can show 3 to 5 minor to moderate flaws.
- Minor pocket wear and/or “as-mades” may be present.
- No major flaws allowed.





Near Mint

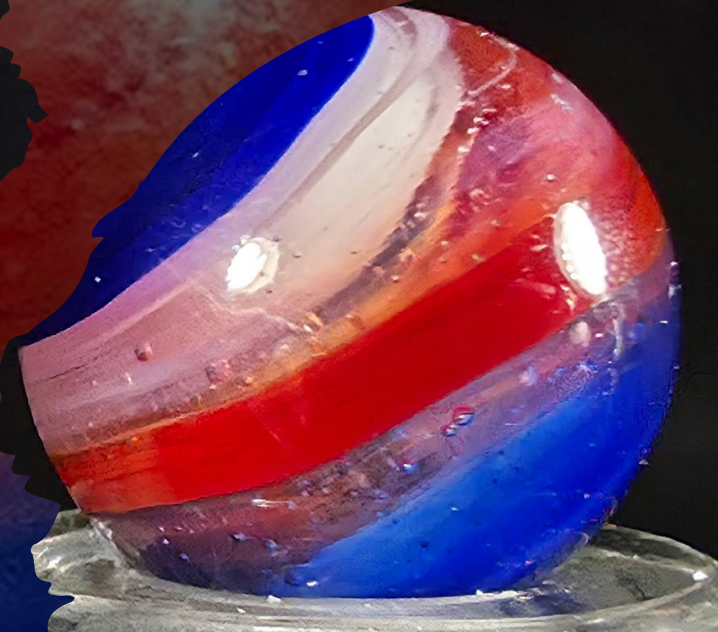
Grade: 8.0 – 8.5

- Surface will not exhibit a “wet” surface and may show pocket wear.
- Will exhibit multiple moderate flaws, or a single major flaw.

Authentic

Grade: Below 8.0

- Marbles graded below an 8.0 are designated as “VMG Authentic,” rather than being assigned a grade.
- The marble will be slabbed and inputted into our database with a unique serial number assigned.





Altered Designation

- The “Altered” designation applies to marbles showing signs of polishing, buffing, or remelt.
- The marble will be slabbed and inputted into our database with a unique serial number assigned.

Flaw Categories

Flaw Category	Description & Examples	Deduction Value
Minor	Slightly out of round; pin pricks; 1–2mm blow holes (as-made); microscopic subsurface reflections; surface wetness < 90; microscopic scuffing/scratches; minor cold rolls.	-0.01 to -0.02
Moderate	Fleabites > 2mm; clustered pin pricking; blowholes > 2mm; subsurface moons or crescents; surface moons; wetness < 85; moderate scuffs; cold rolls impacting view.	-0.02 to -0.04
Major	Noticeably out of round; large blowholes; subsurface fracturing; large flakes/chips; wetness < 80; large scratches; major as-made defects.	-0.04+

Scarcity and Pattern Rating

To further explain a marble, condition is only part of the story! Scarcity and pattern or “eye appeal” can change the marbles valuation as much or more than condition at times.

- **Scarcity Rating:** Scarcity numbers will be automated based on sales of 5 well known marble markets. Tracking the number of sales of each verified type, and calculating a rating against 10 being under 50 sold in the last 180 days.
- **Pattern:** Premium patterns are based on overall sales over the past 15 years, with a 10 pattern being the top of said makers variety, i.e., a specific pattern with AV may garnish a higher Pattern Rating than a marble of same type, with type NLR ribbons.