



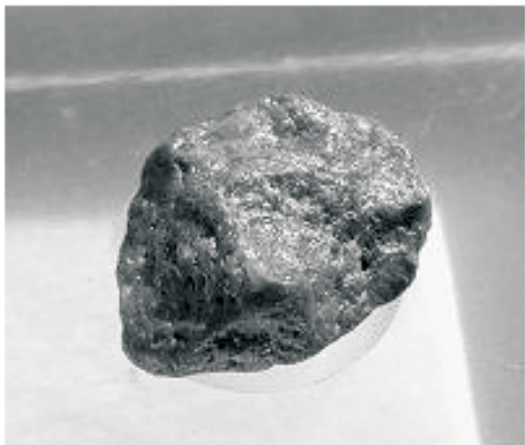
**Carbonado Diamond**

**1.3ct, 6.4mm x 6mm, \$182.00**



**Carbonado Diamond**

**2.2ct, 9mm x 7.5mm, \$296.00**



**Carbonado Diamond**

**2.4ct, 9mm x 6.5mm, \$330.00 **SOLD****

### **Current data on Carbonados**

Carbonado or "black" diamonds, are the exotic diamonds found in Brazil and the Central African Republic. They are unusual for being the color of charcoal and full of frothy bubbles. These diamonds can also have a face that looks like melted glass. A research team led by Stephen Haggerty of Florida International University in Miami

has presented a new study that the odd stones were brought to Earth by an asteroid billions of years ago. The findings were published online in the journal "Astrophysical Journal Letters" on December 20, 2006.

The scientists exposed polished pieces of carbonado to extremely intense infrared light.

The test revealed the presence of many hydrogen-carbon bonds, indicating that the diamonds probably formed in a hydrogen-rich environment-such as that found in space.

The diamonds also showed strong similarities to tiny nanodiamonds, which are frequently found in meteorites. Astrophysicists have developed theories predicting that nanodiamonds form easily in the stellar explosions called supernovas, which scatter debris through interstellar space.

Haggerty maintains that the deposits in the Central African Republic and Brazil, probably come from the impact of a diamond-rich asteroid billions of years ago, when South America and Africa were joined. So even though the two diamond fields are now thousands of miles apart, they're remnants of a single, original deposit. Haggerty estimated that the asteroid must have been about half a mile (one kilometer) in diameter.

The unusual bubbles seen in specimens of carbonados probably came from fizzing gases when the diamonds were forming, Haggerty added. This adds further credence to the extraterrestrial origin theory, since conventional diamonds form under immense pressure deep beneath the Earth's crust, where gas bubbles simply couldn't form. Carbonado diamonds also contain a mineral called osborneite, which has been found only in meteorites and comet dust recovered by the recent Stardust mission. Additionally, adding to the evidence for an extra-terrestrial origin, carbonado diamonds have never been reported among any of the other 600 tons of "conventional" diamonds mined, sorted, graded, traded, cut, and polished in the last century. Hopefully, researchers will eventually identify a carbonado parent body in the Asteroid Belt."