

KILOBARS

The **kilobar** (1000 g) is the world's most widely manufactured and traded small gold bar.

Kilobars are popular among jewellery fabricators and large investors because they are normally traded at a low premium above the prevailing value of their fine gold content.

BACKGROUND

While almost all kilobars now have a flat "international" shape, "traditional" kilobars in the shape of a brick are still traded in some countries.

International: Typical lengths range from 110-120 mm, thicknesses around 8-10 mm. This shape, which has been adopted progressively since the 1960s as the international standard, is easy to stack and carry.

Traditional: A typical length is 90 mm, thickness around 17 mm. The sides of the bars are sometimes tapered so that the base area can be significantly less than the top.

Kilobars are manufactured in three main millesimal purities: 995, 999 or 999.9.

In some years since 2000, over 1,000,000 kilobars (1,000 tonnes) have been manufactured annually.

Switzerland is the major supplier of kilobars for the international market, alongside South Africa and Australia.

Some regions and countries have purity preferences. For example, while jewellery fabricators in the Far East prefer 999.9, there is a preference for 995 in India.

The table below records information on representative kilobars manufactured by LBMA-accredited refiners. Apart from one, illustrations of kilobars in this section are **not** in actual size.



Flat "international" kilobars manufactured by Metalor (Switzerland).



"Traditional" brick kilobar manufactured by Umicore (Europe).



Most kilobars are manufactured to a gold purity of 999.9 or 995.



Manufacturing kilobars at Tanaka (Japan).



TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION

Country	Refiner or Brand	Weight	Type	Fineness mm	Dimensions	First Issued#
Germany	Commerzbank**	1000 g	Cast	995, 999.9	116.5 x 51 x 9.5	1999
Germany	Heraeus	1000 g	Cast	995, 999.9	116.5 x 51 x 9.5	1995
Switzerland	Argor-Heraeus	1000 g	Cast	995,999,999.9	116.5 x 51 x 9.5	1952
Switzerland	Metalor	1000 g	Cast	995, 999.9	117 x 52 x 9	1965
Switzerland	PAMP	1000 g	Cast	995,999,999.9	116 x 51 x 8.67	1984
Switzerland	Valcambi	1000 g	Cast	995,999,999.9	116.5 x 53 x 9	2003
USA	Johnson Matthey	1000 g	Cast	995,999.9	118 x 52 x 8	1983
Japan	Tanaka	1000 g	Cast	999.9	113 x 52 x 10	1978
South Africa	Rand Refinery	1000 g	Cast	995, 999.9	116 x 51.5 x 9.5	1988
Australia	The Perth Mint***	1000 g	Cast	995,999.9	112 x 52 x 9	1972

Source: Refiners # Some refiners have changed their company names, kilobar dimensions and markings over time.
 ** Manufactured by Argor-Heraeus (Switzerland). *** The Perth Mint: new official stamp applied in 2010.

EXAMPLES OF KILOBARS



Tanaka
Japan
Actual size.



Commerzbank
Germany



Heraeus
Germany



Argor-Heraeus
Switzerland



Metalor
Switzerland





PAMP
Switzerland



Valcambi
Switzerland



Johnson Matthey
USA



Rand Refinery
South Africa



The Perth Mint
Australia



MMTC-PAMP
India



Zhongyuan
China



Novosibirsk
Russia





Valcambi
Switzerland



PAMP
Switzerland

Standard minted kilobars have been issued by Valcambi since 2008 and by PAMP since 2010.



China Gold issued an unusual cast kilobar, which has smooth, even surfaces on all sides, in 2006.



Rand Refinery
South Africa

Stamping serial numbers onto kilobars.





PAMP
Switzerland

Many refiners supply dealers with a certificate for each bar.

HISTORICAL KILOBAR



1001.1 g
Issued before 1967

Rothschild
United Kingdom

Until the 1960s, few refiners manufactured "kilobars" to a precise weight of 1000 g, or recorded the weight on the bar.

Refer to disclaimer on website: www.goldbarsworldwide.com

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