

KILOBARS

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

More than 1,000,000 kilobars (1,000 tonnes) are manufactured annually. The most important market for kilobars is India, the world's largest national gold market.

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 Rand Refinery (South Africa).



"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	Fineness	Dimensions mm	First Issued#
Belgium	Umicore*	1000 g	999.9	110 x 46 x 12	2006
	Umicore*	1000 g – Brick	999.9	90 x 40 x 17	2006
Germany	Commerzbank**	1000 g	995, 999.9	116.5 x 51 x 9.5	1999
Germany	Heraeus	1000 g	995, 999.9	116.5 x 51 x 9.5	1995
Switzerland	Argor-Heraeus	1000 g	995,999,999.9	116.5 x 51 x 9.5	1952
Switzerland	Metalor	1000 g	995, 999.9	117 x 52 x 9	1965
Switzerland	PAMP	1000 g	995,999,999.9	116 x 51 x 8.67	1984
Switzerland	Valcambi	1000 g	995,999,999.9	116.5 x 53 x 9	2003
USA	Johnson Matthey	1000 g	995,999.9	118 x 52 x 8	1983
Japan	Tanaka	1000 g	999.9	113 x 52 x 10	1978
South Africa	Rand Refinery	1000 g	995, 999.9	116 x 51.5 x 9.5	1988
Australia	AGR Matthey***	1000 g	995,999.9	112 x 52 x 9	1972

Source: Refiners # In current dimensions: some refiners have changed their company names and the marks on their kilobars over time. * Manufactured by Umicore’s refinery in Amsterdam (Netherlands). ** Manufactured by Argor-Heraeus (Switzerland). *** Perth Mint brand.

EXAMPLES OF KILOBARS



Tanaka
Japan
Actual size.



Umicore
Europe



Commerzbank
Germany



Heraeus
Germany



Argor-Heraeus
Switzerland





Metalor
Switzerland



PAMP
Switzerland



Valcambi
Switzerland



Johnson Matthey
USA



AGR Matthey
Australia



Many refiners supply dealers with a certificate for each kilobar.

Refer to disclaimer on website: www.goldbarsworldwide.com

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