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attached are photographs of a legitimate metalor 1000gm au bar that has been drilled out and filled with tungsten

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Thursday, March 22, 2012

Tungsten filled Gold bars

At ABC Bullion we always recommend that you **only** purchase bullion from a well established dealer whose core business is bullion trading. See the [Common Traps](#) section of our website to help avoid issues when buying bullion.



ABC Bullion received the following email from one of our refinery partners this week as a general warning to those in the bullion industry.

Note:

- ABC Bullion did not purchased this bar, the bar was bought by a dealer in the UK that has no connection to ABC Bullion, the email and photos were sent to us as a general warning.
- The bar is a "one off"
- I xxx'ed out the city's name to avoid any second guessing as to the name of the dealer.

19/03/2012:

Attached are photographs of a legitimate Metalor 1000gm Au bar that has been drilled out and filled with Tungsten (W).

This bar was purchased by staff of a scrap dealer in xxxx, UK yesterday. The bar appeared to be perfect other than the fact that it was 2gms underweight. It was checked by hand-held xrf and showed 99.98% Au. Being Tungsten, it would not be ferro-magnetic. The bar was supplied with the original certificate.

The owner of the business that purchased the bar only became suspicious when he realized the weight discrepancy and had the bar cropped. He estimates between 30-40% of the weight of the bar to be Tungsten.

This is very worrying and reinforces the lengths that people are willing to go to profit from the current high metal prices. Please be careful.



Gold Reserves by Country

Country	Reserves (Ounces)
UNITED STATES	261,532,679
GERMANY	131,561,013
IMF	109,345,321
ITALY	90,472,834
FRANCE	77,644,685
CHINA	78,287,700
SWITZERLAND	33,437,409
JAPAN	24,949,612
TOTAL GOLD PRODUCTION	17,919,430
GOLD RESERVES	983,135,653

OilPrice.com

Favourite Videos

China Loves Silver

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1000g Gold bar cut showing inserted tungsten rods

The two halves of the cut bar



Posted by [Tears of the Moon](#) at 5:19 PM

19 comments:

[megwarconsulting](#) Mar 22, 2012 12:48 AM

2 grams isnt that much of discrepancy in a 1kg CAST bar, there is some thing wrong in the story,,

the other thing is how do people know if they got tungsten bars? if even the tools and scanners gives them 99.9% Au?

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[Tears of the Moon](#) Mar 23, 2012 04:25 AM

Actually 2g on 1000g bar is huge, particularly underweight by 2g. To prove my point I went and



Leeb on Silver



Robert Kiyosaki on Silver



Jim Rogers on Gold



The Dinar and Dirham



Libyan Gold



Gold for Bread



The Secret of Oz



weighed two Australian made ABC 1kg gold bars today. One weighed 1000.01g the other 1000.02g, compared to 2/100th of a gram 2 grams (200 x 1/100th of a gram) is a huge error.

The best way to avoid dud bars is to buy from established dealers who certify the purity of their bars and offer to buy them back.



alaskaman Mar 25, 2012 01:03 AM

Re: 2 grams missing. That's not the story fool, read it again. It's 30 to 40% of 1000 grams of gold missing. At around 50+ bucks a gram, that's over \$15,000 to more than \$20,000 of missing gold per bar.

[Reply](#)



Motley Fool Mar 24, 2012 11:55 AM

Anyone know the feasibility and costs involved in doing this on a smaller scale? Say one ounce coins.

For bars, especially LGD bars, I can imagine this to be feasible.

On coins, I'm not so sure.

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[Replies](#)



Goldstube24 Mar 25, 2012 09:59 AM

It is much harder filling up a minted coin than filling up a 1 kg casted gold bar. Imagine a Kruegerrand. Drilling holes in it and hiding those holes should be really difficult.

Coins mostly are minted/casted from other metals than gold. Better fakes are gold plated for a better look.

Most of the time a good scale is your friend. Fake coins mostly don't show the correct weight. And if they show an acceptable weight, they are too thick ;)

[Reply](#)



Anonymous Mar 24, 2012 05:49 PM

Thanks for this heads up :)

[Reply](#)



Britta O. Mar 25, 2012 02:03 AM

Saw this already in : <http://www.bullion-investor.de/1605-goldbarren-mit-wolfram-kern.html>

[Reply](#)



Tears of the Moon Mar 25, 2012 03:10 AM

Tungsten rods for sale on ebay: http://www.ebay.com/itm/Tungsten-Rod-Polished-0-25-D-x36-L-/390108410618?pt=LH_DefaultDomain_0&hash=item5ad445f2fa

[Reply](#)



PM Bug Mar 25, 2012 06:11 AM

The pictures are interesting. From the views of the cut, it appears that the diameter of the tungsten rods are nearly equal to the height of the gold bar - there isn't a lot of space between the rods and the top or bottom of the bar. How did they manage to drill original, stamped bars so close to the surfaces and avoid breaking through where the surfaces were stamped?

Are any pictures available of the (sealed) ends of the bar? I'm curious as to how well they managed to conceal the drill holes.

[Reply](#)

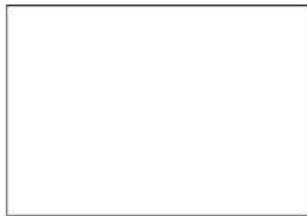
[Replies](#)



Anonymous Mar 26, 2012 04:32 AM

They are not really that close to the outside of the bars, the cut was made by a shear which will compress the outside of the bar by force until the cut can be made. Similar to cutting with scissors.

[Reply](#)



What You Gonna Do?



Slinky School of Economics



Silver stake for Wall St



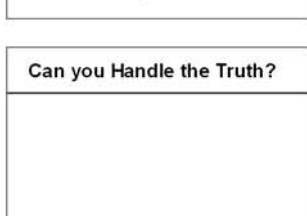
911 Truth



Lest we Forget



WTC7 11 Sep 2001



Can you Handle the Truth?



9/11: A Conspiracy Theory



Goldstube24 Mar 25, 2012 09:49 AM

A 1 kg gold bar with 2 grams missing should set your alarm going off. Bars always should be somewhat heavier than their nominal weight. Because no customer will complain if a bar has an overweight of 0.01 gr. But many customers would complain if a 1 kg bar has a weight of 999,8 gr only ;)

It would be interesting to see pictures of the front sides of the gold bar. Any signs where the tungsten rods were inserted?

[Reply](#)

[Replies](#)



Anonymous Mar 26, 2012 04:35 AM

That would be the interesting part ... how did this stuff get inside? ...



Tears of the Moon Mar 26, 2012 07:17 PM

Yes it should set off alarm bells. Actually many of our clients ask to weigh their bars before leaving the store to ensure peace of mind. No bar has ever been underweight.

Sorry I can't tell you how they inserted the bars as those photos were the only photos sent to us (with the email). I am guessing they used a drill press and tungsten rods (see the ebay link above)

[Reply](#)



Jeanne d'Arc Mar 25, 2012 10:24 AM

Hmmm... we're sceptical:

<http://screwtapefiles.blogspot.com/2012/03/salted-gold-or-fishy-tale.html>

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[Replies](#)



Tears of the Moon Mar 26, 2012 07:19 PM

Faked, fake gold pics - interesting. Don't think so though.

[Reply](#)



Anonymous Mar 25, 2012 12:58 PM

There was a story several years ago about tungsten filled gold bars during the Clinton administration which were sold to China. .

[Reply](#)



Anonymous Mar 25, 2012 05:45 PM

Buy platinum instead.

[Reply](#)



Chris Mar 26, 2012 01:07 PM

Ouch, that has to hurt.

If that one got through one can wonder how many there is out there?

Thanks for the article.

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[Replies](#)



Tears of the Moon Mar 26, 2012 07:25 PM

I suspect very few bars like this are out there as second hand bars tend to get re-refined to be made into a other size/branded bars or used by manufacturing jewelers. We would soon hear about it if it was a more common occurrence. The fact that this story has made news around the world with over 100,000 views in different publications shows how rare such bars are.

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The Lone Gunman

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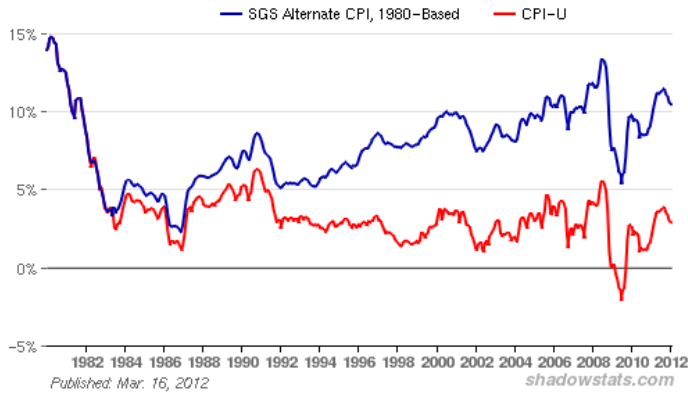
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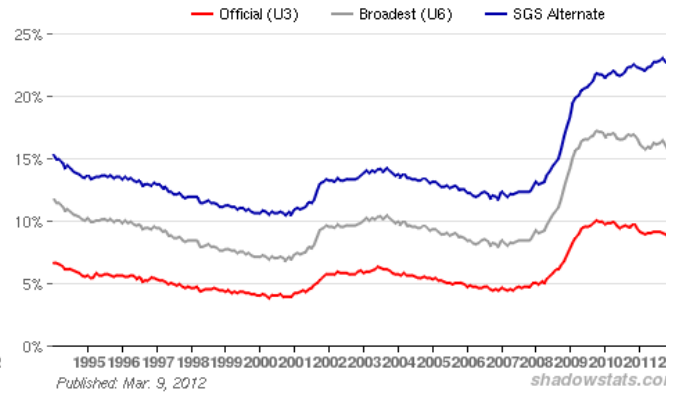
US Inflation Rate

Annual Consumer Inflation - Official vs SGS (1980-Based) Alternate
 Year to Year Change. Through Feb. 2012. (BLS, SGS)



US Unemployment Rate

Unemployment Rate - Official (U-3 & U-6) vs SGS Alternate
 Monthly SA. Through Feb. 2012 (SGS, BLS)



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