



MIT
2009 BRASS RAT

HISTORY OF THE BRASS RAT

In 1929, Class President C. Brigham Allen appointed representatives from the classes of 1930, 1931 and 1932 to the first MIT Ring Committee. Charged with designing the original Standard Technology Ring, the Committee appointed the Institute mascot, the beaver, to be the centerpiece. Lester Gardner, class of 1898, presented the beaver mascot to the Institute president in 1914 with the following explanation:

"We first thought of the kangaroo which, like Tech [MIT], goes forward by leaps and bounds. Then we considered the elephant. He is wise, patient, strong, hard working, and like all those who graduate from Tech, has a good tough hide. But neither of these were American animals. We turned to Mr. Hornaday's book on the animals of North America and instantly chose the beaver. The beaver not only typifies the Tech, but his habits are peculiarly our own. The beaver is noted for his engineering and mechanical skills and habits of industry. His habits are nocturnal. He does his best work in the dark."

Each class has designed a unique ring, representative of their experiences at MIT. Each ring is adorned with a beaver on its bezel, as well as "MIT" and the class year on opposing shanks. As the seventy-eighth Ring Committee, we are proud to present the 2009 Brass Rat.





THE RING BEZEL

As is customary, the focus of the bezel is our Institute mascot, the beaver. In one hand, he holds a spyglass representing the future outlook of the Institute and our important role in charting new territory. In the other, he holds a pocket watch, symbolizing the time MIT students constantly struggle to balance. Our unofficial school motto, "IHTFP," is hidden in the beaver's tail.

The gnawed logs in the lower left represent the hard work of the

beaver and of MIT students. Below the fallen log are eight ivy leaves crushed by the beaver's accomplishments. Shavings from the trunk form 142, as we will be the one hundred forty-second class to graduate from MIT. The cannon behind the beaver represents MIT's unique hacking community and rivalry with other institutions.

As MIT is a place where the support of friends is essential to success, a companion beaver swims in the Charles River. The

background shows Boston at night, where MIT students find much of their nightlife, and Cambridge during the day, the center of our schooling and daily activities.

The MIT campus is guarded by Kerberos, the Greek mythological guardian of the underworld. The six simple machines are also hidden on the bezel, representing the foundations of science and engineering that all MIT students learn.



THE CLASS SHANK

The Class Shank reminds us of our experiences here at MIT and also represents what is unique to the Class of 2009. The centerpiece of the shank is the Great Dome, the iconic image of MIT and also the location of our graduation in June of 2009. On top of the Dome is the symbol for infinity, as the Dome lies above the Infinite Corridor and represents the endless possibilities we discover at MIT.

Building 10, as in real life, serves as a memorial to the past. The T token to the left of “Massachvsetts Institvte of Technology” salutes the recently retired T token; to the right, the fire department seal salutes the fire truck hack on the Great Dome at the beginning of

our sophomore year. The dollar bill is placed in memory of the old cashier’s office mural. In remembrance of the former ninth planet, Pluto sits to the left of the Great Dome. A winged zero is on the right, as our class is the last to begin our shortened name with a “0.”

At the bottom below Building 10 lies an ambigram representing the decision that MIT students are faced with each and every day: to punt or to tool. When the shank is inverted, the “punt” inscription instead reads “tool” — a testament to the intertwined nature of the two. A fire hose sits at the base in honor of the saying that “getting an education from MIT is like taking a drink from a fire hose.”



THE SEAL SHANK

The more traditional Seal Shank boasts five main elements. MIT rests proudly at the top of the shank, reminding ourselves and the outside world of the Brass Rat’s prestige.

Our original, unaltered seal, designed in 1863, represents the grand traditions of the Institute that we are still committed to today.

Our school motto “Mens et Manus,” meaning “Mind and Hand,” reminds us of the important link between knowledge and

application.

The globe represents MIT’s universal thinking and the fact that its students come from each end of the earth; it also forms the nucleus of a classical model of an atom, representing MIT’s recent commitment to helping solve the world energy crisis.

Finally, the open book at the bottom shows MIT’s dedication to the open exchange of information and knowledge.



SKYLINES

The Boston and Cambridge skylines are engraved on either side of the ring and contrast the time of day represented by the Bezel's skylines.

Cambridge is now shown at night, as MIT students are often thought nocturnal and go without sleep at many points during the

semester. The daytime view of Boston represents the bright future that lies ahead for each of us.

When the ring is reversed at graduation, we will fondly look back upon our campus, as the sun will have set on our college days, and advance forward toward our future.

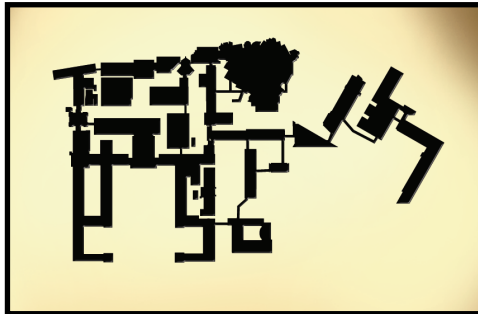


BOSTON



CAMBRIDGE

ENGRAVED MAP



The map engraved on the inside of the ring is a hackers' map which shows only the buildings connected by tunnels, as hacking is a memorable tradition of MIT students. The entrances to the

hallway of Building 6 have been blocked off with a single line because the building has been inaccessible due to construction since our class's arrival at MIT.

PRICING & ACCESSORIES

RING STYLE	10K	14K	18K	CE *
Extra Small	\$280	\$352	\$443	\$118
Small	\$300	\$376	\$472	\$118
Medium	\$361	\$471	\$592	\$118
Large	\$410	\$539	\$680	\$118

* Celestrum™ is a silver-colored metal similar to stainless steel. A Celestrum™ ring is \$59.00 with purchase of a gold Brass Rat. The Celestrum™ ring must be ordered at the same time as the gold ring, for the same person, and be the same style and size.

ACCESSORIES

Cherry Wood Ring Box with MIT Seal	\$30
Bezel Money Clip	\$55
Bezel Charm	\$45 (EC) \$50 (SS) \$440 (G)
Bezel Cuff Links	\$130 (EC) \$140 (SS) \$940 (G)

With purchase of any gold Brass Rat, receive 50% off all accessories.
Key: EC = Gold Electroplate, SS = Sterling Silver, G = 14K Yellow Gold

MIT RING PRICING INCLUDES:

- Inside engraving in either script or block lettering
- Choice of yellow or white gold
- Choice of ring finish
- Lifetime warranty, free resizing, Loss Protection Plan

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Wear as you pay: Payments made by credit card may enjoy a "Time Payment." Leave at least a \$75 deposit (or 20% of total, whichever is the greater amount) when ordering. The remaining balance is then divided into up to six equal payments and billed at 30-day intervals.

Cash on delivery: Leave a \$25 deposit when placing an order. The remaining balance is paid upon delivery of your ring (cash, personal checks, or money orders made payable to Balfour are accepted).

Pay in full: Pay with cash, money order, check (made payable to Balfour), or credit card.

Accepted cards: MasterCard, Visa, AmEx, or Discover



THE RING COMMITTEE



TOP ROW

Siamrut Patanavanich, Christine Yen,
Eugene Jang

MIDDLE ROW

Amy Gilpin, Arjun Naskar, Jeremy
Smith, Becky Millson, Colleen Mosley,
Alexander Papageorge

BOTTOM ROW

Christopher Whitfield, Allysya Piché,
Chaitra Manjunatha



2009 RING COMMITTEE

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY