

SUPER BOWL TROPHY -- AND RING -- BY THE NUMBERS

Immediately following a Super Bowl victory, NFL Commissioner **PAUL TAGLIABUE** presents the winning team with the **VINCE LOMBARDI TROPHY**.

"Sometimes it is slightly damaged during the celebration," says **ED WAWRYNEK**, vice president of Tiffany & Co., the trophy's manufacturer. "We always have an extra in case a catastrophe occurs, but so far nothing major has ever happened."

A trophy is then returned to Tiffany & Co. for any repairs and the engraving of the team names and the final score onto the base. It then goes back to the team for permanent possession. The particulars of the Vince Lombardi Trophy:



Weight	7 pounds
Height	22 inches
Man-hours To Complete	72
Made of	Sterling silver *
Year Designed	1966
First Sketched On	A napkin
Sketched By	Oscar Riedener **
Crafted by	Hand
Made In	Parsippany, NJ
Made By	Tiffany
Value	\$12,500
Sought Yearly By	1,700 players ***

*Including nuts and bolts. ** Former Tiffany VP of design. ***At least.



THE SUPER BOWL CHAMPIONSHIP RING

SUPER BOWL RINGS are some of the world's rarest and most coveted jewelry.

A handful of companies hotly compete for the contract to design and make each year's ring and the attendant bragging rights.

Jostens stepped in again this year to design the ring for the Super Bowl XXXIX winners, the New England Patriots, whose 2004 title was their third in four years. Jostens has made 25 of the 38 Super Bowl rings, starting with the Super Bowl I ring for the 1966 Green Bay Packers.

Like the 2001 and 2003 Patriots championship rings, the 2004 ring (above) is cast in a brilliant 14-carat white gold.

Weighing 4.06 ounces, this year's championship ring is a quarter of an ounce heavier than the 2003 ring, making it the heavyweight among all Super Bowl rings. The ring features 124 diamonds in all, totaling approximately five carats in diamonds.

The top of the ring is designed in the shape of a football, which is flanked by the words "WORLD" on the left and "CHAMPIONS" on the right. Each letter is filled with small round diamonds. The center structure features three Lombardi Trophies, each topped by a marquise-shaped diamond with the Patriots logo at the base of the trophies.

Twenty-one diamonds, representing the team's NFL-record 21 consecutive wins, surround the Patriots' logo. Diamonds also line the perimeter of the ring, with 20 above the Patriots logo and nine below the logo. The 20 diamonds represent the team's current 20-game win streak at Gillette Stadium. The nine diamonds below represent its nine-game win streak in the playoffs.

Each ring is customized with a last name and uniform number. The name is raised in bold letters atop the left side of the ring, just over a banner that reads "3 out of 4." Just below that is a raised Patriots helmet with a colored logo and the dates '01, '03 and '04. Below that "21 Straight" is embossed into the base of the shank.

On the right side, a banner atop the ring reads "Back to Back," which flies above "World Champions 2004." A Super Bowl XXXIX logo is featured above the score, "Patriots 24, Eagles 21," and centered by a Lombardi Trophy. At the bottom, "9-0 Playoffs" is carved into the base of the shank.

This year, the largest rings ordered by the Patriots belong to running back **COREY DILLON** and defensive tackle **KEITH TRAYLOR** (now with Miami), who were each fitted with a size 17 ring. Pinky rings have become fashionable as well, with rings ranging in size from 6.5 to 11.

RUSSIA'S SUPER BOWL RING

In late June, Patriots owner **ROBERT KRAFT** joined other influential U.S. businessmen in meeting with Russian President **VLADIMIR PUTIN** at a business/investment summit at Konstantinovsky Palace near St. Petersburg, Russia.

Near the end of the meeting, Kraft took off his Patriots Super Bowl XXXIX championship ring and showed it to Putin.

"Upon seeing the ring, President Putin, a great and knowledgeable sports fan, was clearly taken with its uniqueness," says Kraft. "At that point, I decided to give him the ring as a symbol of the respect and admiration that I have for the Russian people and the leadership of President Putin. I have ancestors from Russia, so it added significance for me to know that something so cherished would reside at the Kremlin along with other special gifts given to Russian presidents.

"It was truly an act of serendipity and one that I am honored to have experienced. It touched me to see President Putin's reaction to the ring and I felt, emotionally, that it was the right way to conclude an exceptional meeting."

