

Here's What a Grammy and Other Award Statues Are Actually Worth

 finance.yahoo.com/news/oscar-other-award-statues-actually-100052043.html

Gabrielle Olya

Earning a prestigious award such as a Grammy, Oscar, Golden Globe or Emmy can boost an entertainer's career — and earning potential. But aside from the added clout, how much are the awards themselves really worth? Not surprisingly, most of the statuettes cost hundreds of dollars to make, as they're all made from real precious metals. But when it comes to resale value, some are worth significantly more than others.

Last updated: Jan. 23, 2020

Grammys

Cost per award: \$15, plus additional manufacturing costs

All the Grammy Awards that will be given out on Jan. 26 originate with one man: John Billings, who handcrafts them at his shop in Ridgway, Colorado, Syracuse.com reported. The statuettes are crafted from a strong zinc alloy — which Billings has dubbed “Grammium” — and are then gold-plated. Based on the cost of the materials and the 15 to 20 hours of labor that go into each statuette, Vocativ reported that Desmond Barlow, an engineer at die-casting company Cast-Rite, estimated the cost per award at \$15, plus extra manufacturing costs. Once the statuette has been awarded, its actual value drops to \$0, as the Recording Academy has banned the resale of its awards, TMZ reported.

Although the award itself is worthless, it still has a definite monetary value for winners due to the phenomenon known as the “Grammy bounce.” According to Forbes, a sampling of performers and producers who won a Grammy saw a 55% boost in concert ticket sales and producer fees in the year following their win.

Pictured: Quincy Jones cradles his Grammy Awards during the 33rd annual Grammy Awards at New York's Radio City Music Hall in 1991.

Total Cost of Awards for the Grammys: \$1,260

Grammy Awards will be given in 84 categories at the 62nd annual ceremony in 2020, bringing the minimum cost of all the statuettes created for the show to \$1,260. That number is based on the \$15-per-statuettes estimate and doesn't include additional manufacturing costs and doesn't account for categories where more than one statuette will be given out (i.e., when a musical group or producing team wins).

Johnny Cash's Grammy Sold for \$187,200

Although the Recording Academy has reportedly banned the resale of Grammy Award statuettes, some have been sold at auction. In 2004, a 1986 best spoken word or nonmusical recording Grammy won by Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis and Roy Orbison for their collaborative album called "Class of '55: Memphis Rock & Roll Homecoming" was sold by Sotheby's for \$187,200. The sale of the statuette was part of an auction of property from the estate of Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash.

Pictured: John Carter Cash, son of country legend June Carter Cash, accepts the award for best short form music video for "Hurt," featuring Johnny Cash, during the 46th Annual Grammy Awards.

The Champs' Grammy Sold for \$62,500

In May 2015, a Grammy auction conducted by Nate D. Sanders fetched \$62,500 for a statue that was given out at the first-ever Grammy Awards ceremony back in 1958. The statue originally belonged to guitarist Dave Burgess of The Champs, who won the best rhythm and blues performance Grammy for the song "Tequila."

Oscars

Cost per award: \$400

Oscar statuettes cost \$400 to produce, reports CBS News, and they're made of solid bronze and plated in 24-karat gold. However, the value of the award is actually only \$1 due to a 2015 court ruling that states that it must first be offered to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for \$1 before an Oscar statuette can be put up for bid, Entertainment Weekly reports. Its value has actually dropped over the years: The value was \$10 at the time of the ruling but has since declined.

Total Cost of Awards for the Oscars: \$9,600

Statuettes are given to Oscar winners in 24 categories, bringing the minimum cost of the awards given out to \$9,600. The real cost is actually greater, as some categories, such as best screenplay and best visual effects, can be given to multiple people. In addition, the Academy makes extra statuettes each year to account for ties and the possibility of multiple recipients in some of the categories, since they are not privy to the winners before the live envelope opening.

'Gone With the Wind' Oscar Sold for \$1.54 Million

The most expensive Oscar ever sold at auction went to Michael Jackson, who bought producer David O. Selznick's "Gone With the Wind" best picture statuette for \$1.54 million at

a 1999 Sotheby's auction. After the singer's death in 2009, the statuette was considered missing as no one knew where he stored it, The Hollywood Reporter reports. A representative for the estate told THR they were hopeful the statuette would be found so it could be reclaimed by his children.

Orson Welles' Oscar Sold for \$861,142

Orson Welles' 1942 best screenplay Oscar for "Citizen Kane" sold for nearly \$1 million dollars at auction, but the statuette had been embroiled in legal battles for years before being sold to its final owner in 2011, AOL reports. The Oscar went missing and resurfaced 10 years after his death in 1994 when a cinematographer attempted to sell it at auction. Welles' daughter Beatrice sued for repossession, won and then tried to auction it off in 2003.

However, the Academy sued Beatrice, as they had banned the selling of statuettes — except back to the Academy — in 1950. But because Welles won the award before that rule was put into place, the statuette was able to be auctioned off. It was ultimately sold by Nate D. Sanders' auction house for \$861,142.

Herman Mankiewicz's Oscar Sold for \$588,455

The best screenplay Oscar for "Citizen Kane," awarded to Orson Welle's writing partner Herman Mankiewicz, was also a big winner at auction. His statuette sold for \$588,455 at an auction held by Nate D. Sanders in 2012.

Golden Globes

Cost per award: \$800

The Golden Globe Awards statuettes are created at a small factory in Oklahoma, where the six artisans who make up Society Awards work with high-tech machines to create each one, MarketWatch reports. All of the artisans are college-educated, and many have electronic engineering degrees that enable them to work with sophisticated machinery. The \$800 cost accounts for the level of skill of the people who create them and also the materials used: The statuettes are made of marble and zinc and are covered in genuine gold.

Total Cost of Awards for the Golden Globes: \$20,800

The Golden Globes give out awards in 25 categories plus the Cecil B. DeMille Award, bringing the total minimum cost of the statuettes for the show to \$20,800. However, MarketWatch reports that Society Awards produces 100 statuettes for each show, which is likely to account for multiple people winning in each category or ties. That means the actual total cost of the awards is closer to \$80,000.

Marlon Brando's Golden Globe Sold for \$68,500

Marlon Brando's 1955 Golden Globe for best performance by an actor in a motion picture – drama for "On the Waterfront" was sold for \$68,500 at a 2013 auction conducted by Heritage Auctions, The Hollywood Reporter reports. According to the report, the award sold for tens of thousands of dollars despite scratches on its marble base.

Natalie Wood's Golden Globe Sold for \$17,500

Natalie Wood's first Golden Globe — her 1957 new star of the year award for her role in "Rebel Without a Cause" — fetched \$17,500 during a 2015 auction held by Bonhams. Her Golden Globe for "From Here to Eternity" also sold for \$17,500 during that auction.

Emmys

Cost per award: \$400

The Emmy Award statue — which pictures a woman with wings holding an atom — costs \$400 to make, People reports. Each statue takes 5 1/2 hours to produce and is coated with copper, nickel, silver and gold. The Television Academy actually gets some of the money they spend to make the statues back: In certain categories where the winners include a large number of people, some have to pay a fee to keep the statue, according to People.

Total Cost of Awards for the Emmys: \$46,400

Emmy Awards are given out for a whopping 116 categories. Outside of the categories shown during the televised broadcast, awards are given for a variety of fields within the television industry including casting, lighting design and stunts. The \$46,400 does not account for all of the categories that have multiple winners, so the actual cost could be much higher.

Station Achievement Emmy Award Sold for \$17,365

Even though the winner of the 1954 station achievement Emmy is not marked on the statuette, the rarity of the award itself enabled it to rack up \$17,365 at an auction held by Nate D. Sanders in 2012.

'The X-Files' Emmy Award Sold for \$15,786

During a 2012 auction held by Nate D. Sanders, an Emmy for outstanding makeup for a series for the 1998 to 1999 season of "The X-Files" sold for \$15,786. The award was given to makeup artist Mark Shostrom for his work on the episodes "Two Fathers / One Son (Parts 1

& 2)."