

Autumn / Winter 23

CUTLER AND GROSS



THE GREAT FROG

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“The sophistication of Cutler and Gross’s timeless silhouettes have been brought willingly into disrepute, adding unashamedly gauche embellishments in classic Great Frog style. By using traditional manufacturing techniques and precious metals, these works of art are handmade to the most exacting standards.

Cutler and Gross and The Great Frog have over 100 years combined history; perfecting their game, offering the best of British, gender-bending, anti-establishment, irreverent, iconic style.”

— Reino Lehtonen-Riley, The Great Frog

The Collaboration

Thumbing through The Great Frog’s archive of historical pieces, Reino recalls finding an old pair of black sunglasses amongst the jewellery. On further inspection, it turned out they were in relatively good condition with Cutler and Gross inscribed on the inside.

He asked his father, founder of The Great Frog, about the origin of the frames, and was told the story of a trade that took place with an optician in a private members club in Soho in the late 1980s.

This optician was Mr Tony Gross. Frequenting numerous exclusive haunts in London from the 70s through to the 90s, Mr Gross made it his business to rub shoulders with fellow tastemakers, artists, rock stars, writers, and royalty.

Naturally, exact details of this conversation and subsequent exchanging of goods are scant. The passage of time can make memories as hazy as the smoke-shrouded room in which the conversation took place. Nevertheless, Reino considered it reason enough to initiate a collaboration.

About

Cutler and Gross



Mr Tony Gross and Mr Graham Cutler

Cutler and Gross was founded on the principle that when it comes to eyewear, it's not just about how we see the world, it's about how others see us. For over 50 years now, we have been at the forefront of optical design – as trailblazers, disruptors and pioneers whose legacy has been much imitated, but never surpassed.

A brand built on friendship, it was established by opticians Mr Cutler and Mr Gross in 1969. Thanks to word of mouth, what began in London's Knightsbridge as a small but innovative bespoke service soon became a fully-fledged mecca for the cultural cognoscenti. Together, the pair created the perfect balance between taste and technicality, quickly cementing their reputation as industry leaders in eyewear.

By making glasses fashionable, they altered the faces of generations. With every carefully sculpted curve, line or shape, their elegance, character and magic have the power to transform people. Cutler and Gross didn't just make glasses – they were optical architects in pursuit of a product so intrinsically iconic that no external logo or branding was necessary.

Made in Italy by perfectionists who champion the art of creating each frame individually, our methodology breaks the mould. Handcrafted excellence, the finest raw materials and an endless enthusiasm to celebrate the clarity of vision, has ensured that Cutler and Gross remains as relevant today as ever.

About



Founders Carol Lehtonen and Paterson Riley in The Great Frog store on Carnaby Street in the 1970s [Image courtesy of The Great Frog]

The Great Frog

The Great Frog is a second generation, family-owned business helmed by Creative Director, Reino Lehtonen-Riley. For fifty years, the rock'n'roll jeweller has been handcrafting unique pieces in its London workshop, using traditional methods of design and production. Renowned for its legendary skull rings and collaborations with ingenious bike builders and monolithic brands such as Iron Maiden, Motörhead and Slayer, The Great Frog has garnered a reputation for its outstanding collections that remain authentic to the brand's rebellious roots.

Established in London's Carnaby Street in 1972, The Great Frog has transformed from its humble family-owned beginnings into a culturally significant tour-de-force that now includes six standalone stores across London, New York, Los Angeles, and Tokyo.



Brian Lehtonen, Reino's uncle, in The Great Frog London workshop in the 1970s [Image courtesy of The Great Frog]

The Eyewear Collection



Guttural, ground-quaking engines soundtrack the arrival of the Harley hoodlum. Kicking up the gravel, they roar to a stop. Battered leather waistcoats reveal inked arms underneath. Hardened hands are decorated with tarnished silver jewellery.

A thud of scuffed leather boots stride towards the garage. The door jangles open – an intake of breath – the atmosphere hardens with the newcomers' presence. From the shelves, black square-framed sunglasses are grabbed from view.

Sitting cross-legged in front of the TV, young Reino was captivated by the infernal world of old-school bikers. Marlon Brando and Peter Fonda were his protagonists, existing on the raw edge of rebellion. At weekends, Reino would pedal his battered BMX to motorbike rallies, dreaming that one day it'd be replaced with a chrome, petrol machine.

The Great Frog's authentic links to motorheads and hard rock counterculture set the backdrop for the new Cutler and Gross X The Great Frog collection. It draws inspiration from the adrenaline-chasing moments of outlaw life, and Reino's roots in the grungy biker scene. Dating back to the 60s, both brands' archives provided a heritage reference point.

In a masterful meeting of minds, the collaboration combines Cutler and Gross's unprecedented craftsmanship with The Great Frog's anarchic signatures. The result? Legendary frames that are bespoke to The Great Frog and steeped in subversion.

6 statement styles are introduced, broken down into 8 sunglasses and 5 opticals. Each frame is sculpted by hand in Italy and spliced with The Great Frog's Sterling Silver iconography: Dagger, Love and Death, Soaring Eagle, Bones Link, and Lucky Diamond.

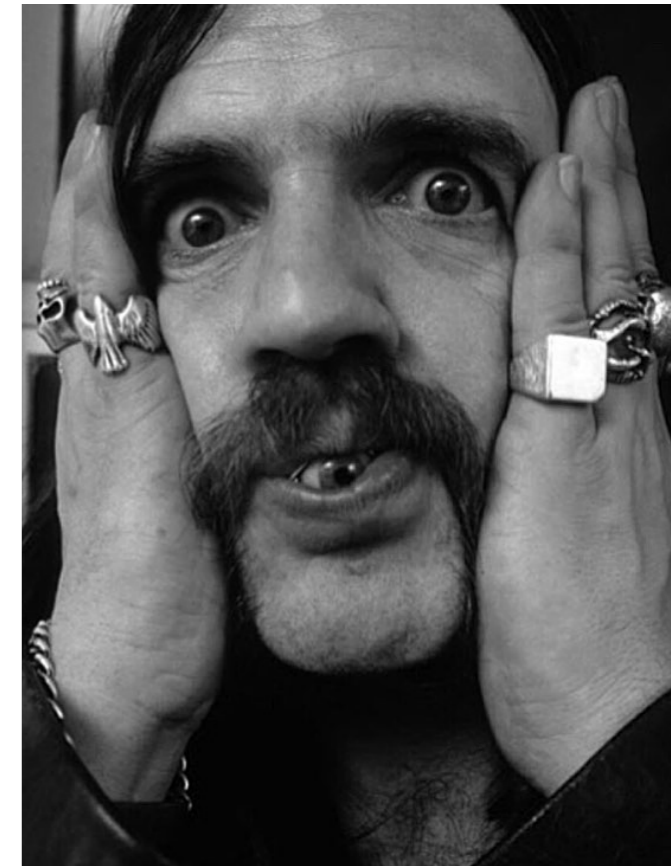
But then there are the Limited Edition styles, in a realm of their own...



Metallica's James Hetfield wears The Great Frog [Image courtesy of The Great Frog]



Iggy Pop wears Cutler and Gross, alongside Blondie



Motörhead's Lemmy wears The Great Frog
[Image courtesy of The Great Frog]

“The objective of this collaboration was simple: to merge both our stylistic codes. Incorporating The Great Frog’s irreverent aesthetic and our fundamentals of design to create something dramatic but wearable.

From the rivets to the hinges, to the acetates and chain temple core, the materials were very important to us. It was also the first time we got to experiment with sterling silver applications, which was exciting. The result is a collection that is visibly robust, classic with a twist and the perfect blend of both our brand DNA’s.”

— **Alessandro Marcer, Cutler and Gross**

In Detail: Limited Edition Frames

The Great Frog's legendary metalwork reaches new heights with the Limited Edition sunglasses. Each glossy black frame is adorned with gothic emblems cast in Sterling Silver and plated in 24K Gold. Soaring Eagles and skeletal hands wrap around the temples, while gilded bones stud the side arms.

The initial emblem designs are hand carved and whittled into wax by Reino Lehtonen-Riley, The Great Frog's Creative Director. Using the same techniques and tools from centuries ago, an intricate mould is shaped from the carving and the Sterling Silver motifs are cast. They are then gilded in 24K Gold by a master craftsman in Vicenza, before being twinned with the frames.

The sunglasses and opticals are shaped, polished and embellished by a medley of expert hands. Perfectionists from start to finish, the Cutler and Gross x The Great Frog artisans combine over 100 years of heritage craftsmanship. In so doing, the collection shatters the boundaries between eyewear and jewellery.



Cutler And Gross x The Great Frog



OPTICALS

OPTICALS



004

The Great Frog Soaring Eagle

The Great Frog's iconic metalwork reframes this square optical with renegade roots. Cast in Sterling Silver, Dagger and Soaring Eagle frontal and temple pins disrupt the design. It's crafted by hand to an old-school biker-style silhouette and sculpted with weight-saving milling.

Available in Black, Havana and Deep Blue.



GFOP-004-48-01
Black



GFOP-004-48-02
Havana



GFOP-004-48-03
Deep Blue

006

The Great Frog Lucky Diamond I

Hand cast from Sterling Silver, The Great Frog's skull and crossbones iconography adds bite to this optical. It is crafted in Italy to a rounded 90s-inspired shape that's subverted by a flat top. Lock Down chain core wire adds structure, while Dagger pins accent the frontal.

Available in Black, Havana, Deep Blue and Olive.



GPOP-006-48-01
Black



GPOP-006-48-03
Deep Blue



GPOP-006-48-04
Olive



GPOP-006-48-02
Havana

007

The Great Frog Lucky Diamond II

The Great Frog's anarchic vision takes this square optical into bolder territory. It's detailed with Dagger and Lucky Diamond emblems, which are cast from Sterling Silver by a jeweller in Vicenza. The frame is crafted using weight-saving reverse-milling and structured with custom Lock Down chain core wire.

Available in Black, Dark Turtle, Deep Blue and Olive.



GFOP-007-52-01
Black



GFOP-007-52-02
Dark Turtle



GFOP-007-52-03
Deep Blue



GFOP-007-52-04
Olive



008

The Great Frog Love And Death

Cat-eye glasses have been brought willingly into disrepute with the Cutler and Gross X The Great Frog collaboration. Intricately hand cast from Sterling Silver, Dagger frontal pins accent the 80s-inspired frame, while Lock Down chain core wire threads through the temples. It's shaped with a gender-bending flat top and finished with chunky Plectrum tips.

Available in Black, Dark Turtle, Deep Teal, and Sand Crystal.



GFOP-008-49-01
Black



GFOP-008-49-02
Dark Turtle



GFOP-008-49-03
Deep Teal



GFOP-008-49-04
Sand Crystal

009

The Great Frog Mini Cat-Eye

The Cutler and Gross X The Great Frog collaboration combines over 100 years of heritage craftsmanship, and this optical is a case in point. It's sculpted by hand to an eccentric cat-eye silhouette with Dagger frontal pins cast from Sterling Silver. Lock Down chain core wire structures the 50s-inspired shape, pinned by Big Eye rivets.

Available in Black, Havana, Deep Teal, and Bordeaux.



GFOP-009-52-01
Black



GFOP-009-52-02
Havana



GFOP-009-52-04
Bordeaux

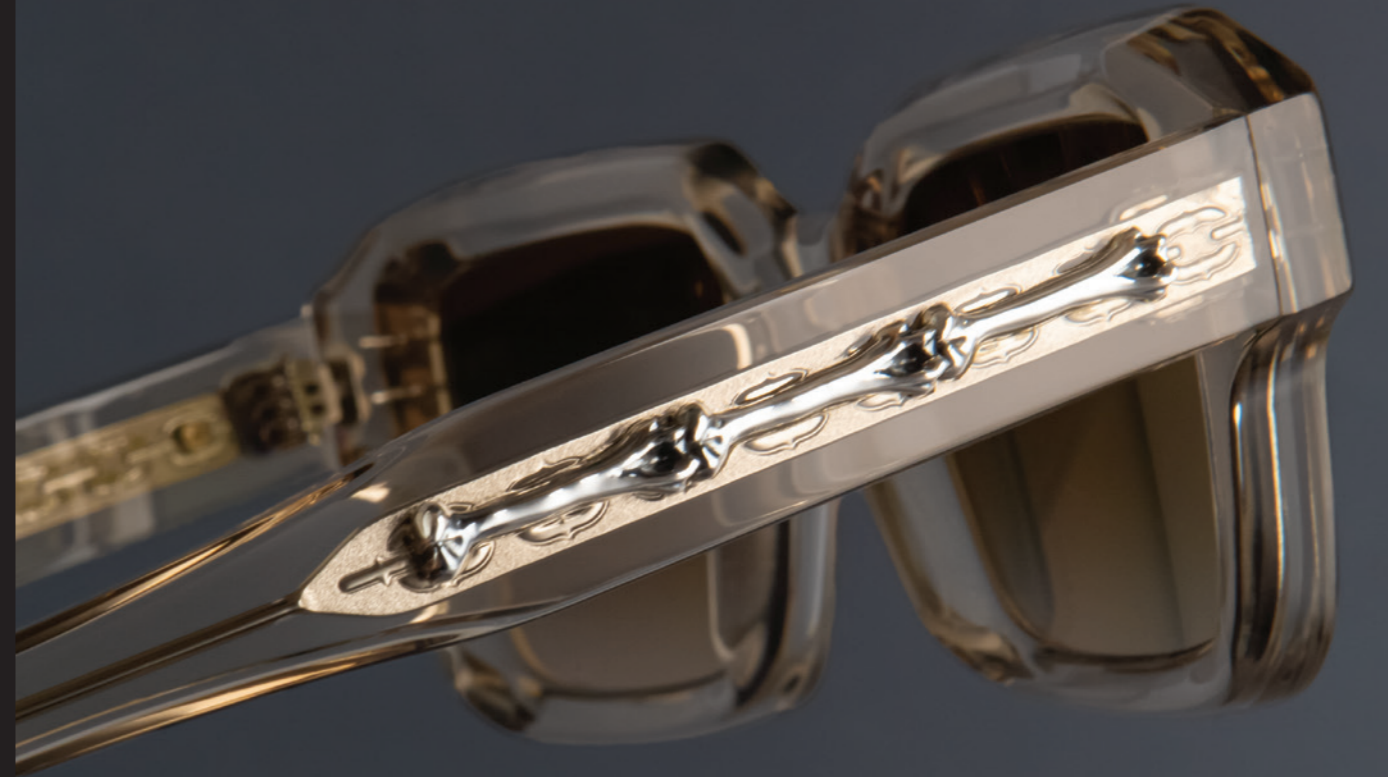


GFOP-009-52-03
Deep Teal



SUNGLASSES

SUNGLASSES



004

The Great Frog Soaring Eagle

Designed in collaboration with rock'n'roll jeweller The Great Frog, this sunglass is punctuated with irreverent iconography; a Dagger and Soaring Eagle embellish the front and temple, hand cast from Sterling Silver. It's shaped into a soft, square silhouette that nods to old-school biker frames.

Available in colours Black, Havana and Leaf Green.



GFSN-004-50-01
Black



GFSN-004-50-03
Leaf Green



GFSN-004-50-02
Havana



005

The Great Frog Bones Link

The Great Frog's legendary jewellery meets Cutler and Gross's acetate artistry with this square sunglass. Hand cast in Sterling Silver, Bones Link and Dagger emblems gild the temples and frontal. The clean-cut shape is reverse-milled and threaded with Lock Down chain core wire.

Available in Black, Brush Stroke, Deep Blue and Sand Crystal.



GFSN-005-52-01
Black



GFSN-005-52-02
Brush Stroke



GFSN-005-52-04
Sand Crystal



GFSN-005-52-03
Deep Blue

006

The Great Frog Lucky Diamond I

This round sunglass showcases the heritage handiwork and gothic spirit of the Cutler and Gross X The Great Frog collaboration. It's crafted in Italy to a flat-top design that's spliced by Sterling Silver iconography – Dagger frontal pins and Skull and Crossbones emblems at the temples. Flat, gradient lenses complete the set.

Available in Black, Havana, Red Jed and Deep Blue.



GFSN-006-48-02
Havana



GFSN-006-48-03
Red Jed



GFSN-006-48-04
Deep Blue



GFSN-006-48-01
Black

008

The Great Frog Love and Death

Drawing from The Great Frog's anarchic iconography, a skeletal hand clutching a rose wraps around the temple of this sunglass. It's handcrafted to a gender-bending cat-eye silhouette with a straight brow line. Two Sterling Silver daggers embellish the front, while Lock Down chain core wire structures the temples.

Available in Black, Dark Turtle, Dark Grey and Bordeaux.



GFSN-008-51-01
Black



GFSN-008-51-02
Black Turtle



GFSN-008-51-04
Bordeaux



GFSN-008-51-03
Dark Grey

009

The Great Frog Mini Cat-Eye

Cat-eye sunglasses take an irreverent turn, courtesy of The Great Frog collaboration. This iteration is crafted by hand to an exaggerated 50s-inspired silhouette and spliced by Dagger frontal pins in Sterling Silver. A custom Lock Down chain core wire threads through the temples.

Available in Black, Brush Stroke, Bordeaux and Sand Crystal.



GFSN-009-52-01
Black



GFSN-009-52-03
Bordeaux



GFSN-009-52-04
Sand Crystal



GFSN-009-52-02
Brush Stroke

LIMITED



EDITION

Sunglasses

The Great Frog Soaring Eagle 24K Sunglasses

Gilded in 24K Gold, an eagle soars across the side of this sunglass. They're crafted by hand to a square silhouette that echoes old-school biker frames. Reflecting The Great Frog's rebellious mood, 24K Gold-plated Dagger pins punctuate the frontal, while custom Lock Down chain core wire threads through the temples.



GFLE-004-50-01
Black Gold

The Great Frog Bones Link 24K Sunglasses

These square sunglasses are gilded with The Great Frog's anarchic iconography in 24K Gold: three bones disrupt the sidearm while a dagger slices through the frontal. The limited edition design is set with gradient lens and threaded with 24K Gold-plated Lock Down chain core wire.



GFLE-005-52-01
Black Gold

The Great Frog Love and Death 24K Sunglasses

24K Gold details accent these limited edition cat-eye sunglasses, created in collaboration with The Great Frog. The Black frames are disrupted by a Gold, skeletal hand that wraps around the temple, clutching a rose. Two daggers mark the front of the gender-bending silhouette, which features a straight brow line and Plectrum tips.



GFLE-008-51-01
Black Gold

CONTACT

Sales

+44 (0) 208 451 0331

askmewholesale@cutlerandgross.com

Press Office

+44 (0) 208 451 0331

pr@cutlerandgross.com

General Enquiries

+44 (0) 208 451 0331

askmeonlinehelp@cutlerandgross.com

cutlerandgross.com

[@cutlerandgross](#)

General Enquiries The Great Frog

+44 (0)203 149 8341

info@thegreatfroglondon.com

thegreatfroglondon.com

[@thegreatfrogldn](#)

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cutlerandgross.com
thegreatfroglondon.com