

# Turning Africa's weapons into bling

How to phase out AK-47s: turn them into high-end jewellery

precious stones, is turned into cufflinks, rings and earrings by high-end jewellery designers Roland Iten and Philip Grangi. The jewellery is sold for between \$25,000 (£15,000), for a ring, and \$150,000, for a pair of earrings. The money is funnelled back to the DRC via UK charity Mines Advisory Group (MAG), where it is used to buy up and destroy more AK-47s. Thum says a pair of cufflinks (\$35,000) funds the purchase and destruction of 100 rifles.

Fonderie 47 won't say how much money it has raised so far, but MAG says it has destroyed 7,000 guns thanks to jewellery sales. Nicely targeted. *DB fonderie47.com*

There are an estimated 20 million assault rifles in Africa, making the continent a perilous place to live – and invest – in. So one social enterprise, Fonderie 47, is setting out to reduce that number by transforming the AK-47's recyclable materials into jewellery.

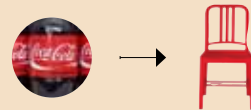
Founded in November 2011 by Peter Thum, a social entrepreneur and the force behind Ethos Water, and John Zapolski, a designer and business adviser, New York-based Fonderie 47 buys decommissioned AK-47s in the Democratic Republic of Congo and melts them down into high-quality steel. This, along with recycled gold and semi-pre-

## ...AND OTHER WAYS UPCYCLING IS GOING UPSCALE



### OBsolete LPs TO FASHION JEWELLERY

Marni designer Consuela Castiglioni has launched a range of necklaces, earrings and bracelets made using vinyl records – the grooves are a desirable feature. *marni.com*



### OLD COKE-BOTTLES TO CLASSIC CHAIRS

Commissioned by Coca-Cola and developed by Emeco and BASF, the Emeco 111 Navy Chair remakes a design classic, built with 111 recycled plastic Coke bottles. *emecowithcoke.com*



### USED FIRE-HOSES TO BIJOU BAGS

Elvis & Kresse makes high-end bags, belts and accessories from reclaimed waste including old fire-hoses, coffee sacks, parachute silk and sail cloth. *fire-hose.co.uk*



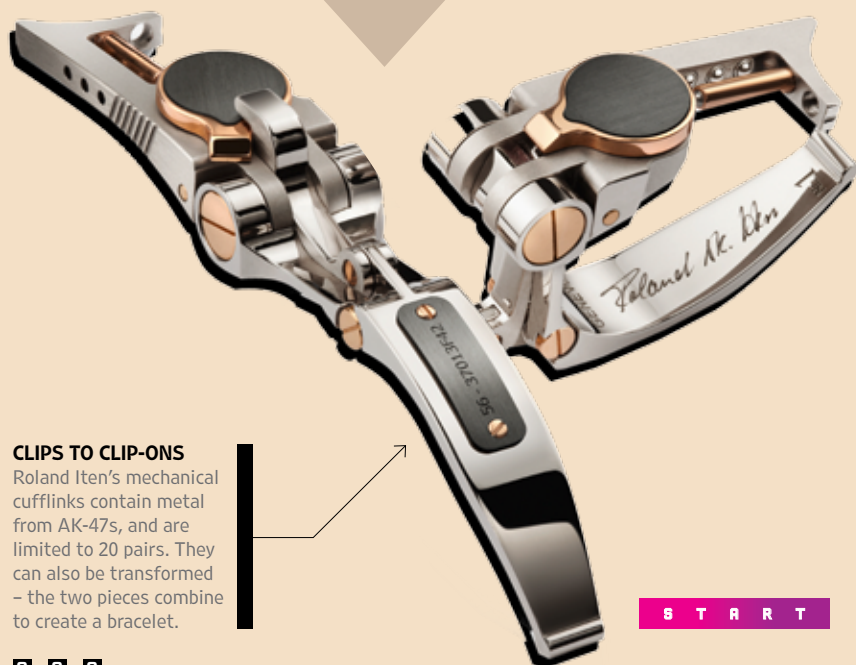
### WASTE AND SCRAPS TO ARTISAN OBJET

Hermès has created Petit h – around 2,000 "objets" made from rejects and leftovers found on its workshops' floors, such as coat hooks made from old teapot spouts. *hermes.com*



### RIFLE RECYCLING

Once the AK-47s have been put beyond use – slicing them into chunks usually does the trick – the metal parts are melted down into ingots, ready to be reworked.



### CLIPS TO CLIP-ONS

Roland Iten's mechanical cufflinks contain metal from AK-47s, and are limited to 20 pairs. They can also be transformed – the two pieces combine to create a bracelet.

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