

GoS

a timepiece of Scandinavia



Gustafsson & Sjögren - GoS Watches

Johan Gustafsson has been forging knife blades as a full-time bladesmith for more than 20 years. His work has won him numerous international awards and one of his major accomplishments has been the development of the technique known as mosaic Damascus steel. The steel that he creates for GoS is however the traditional Damascus steel with organic and flowing patterns, e.g. the "Wildflower" pattern in the Bifrost model. He has practically reinvented the ancient technique, using modern Swedish tool steels to create a style that is all his own.

Johan's steel smithy is located in an area well-known for ancient monuments from the Viking era. Archeologists have documented an ancient weapon forge that was active from around 1170- 1500 AD, which Johan can see from his house.

Johan had a vision of using his steel in watches in early 2000 but it wasn't until he was introduced to Patrik during 2007 that things fell into place. The first GoS watches were designed and finalized during spring 2008.





Patrik Sjögren is a skilled watchmaker and has received praise for the GoS watches from the most demanding watch aficionados. His work with GoS movements and their bridges in Damascus steel has received worldwide recognition. Patrik Sjögren manufactures not only the crowns, dials and dial components but also the watch hands and movement parts. Every part is then finished by Patrik to his own high specifications, which means that at least one working day is spent on finishing a set of watch hands alone.



The finishing of one Damascus steel bridge requires approximately one full week, as it is very labour intensive. The resulting combination of raw Damascus steel surfaces and high-gloss polished details is another unique feature of GoS watches and the result of the combined efforts by Johan and Patrik.

Patrik prioritizes finishing, design and function in his watch movement preferences in favor of complications, except for the Tourbillon. You may see a GoS watch with a Tourbillon movement and damascus steel bridges in a not too distant future.

**Once used for Viking swords, GoS now use
Damascus steel in watchmaking.**

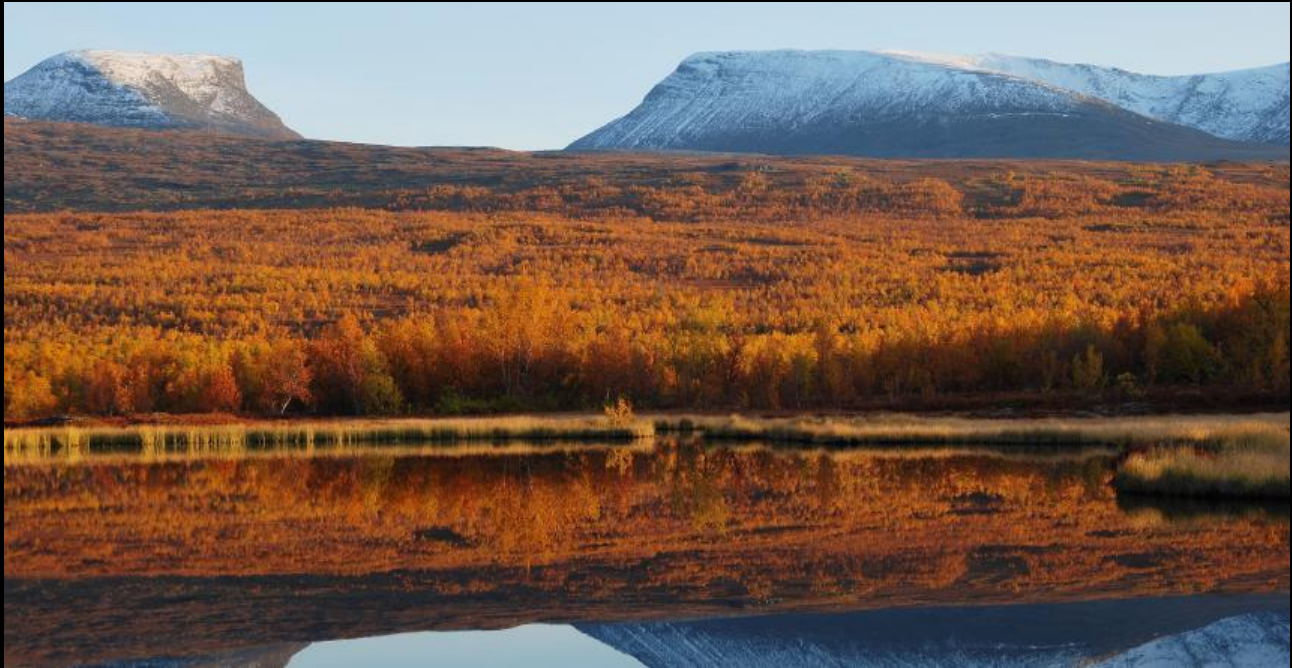
Metalworking has a long history in Sweden: the Vikings were among the first to develop a patternwelding technique to make their swords superior to others. The best Viking swords had a core of patternwelded steel, which made it possible to make them thinner and longer. The swords were both flexible and very sharp because of the mixture of steel types.

The partnership between Johan Gustafsson and Patrik Sjögren was forged to provide truly unique watches, inspired by the beauty of northern Scandinavia and the ancient Swedish tradition of metallurgy.



A genuine Viking sword from the 10th Century, still sharp enough to cut through paper.





Scandinavian nature and history are key sources of inspiration when Patrik and Johan design the elements of GoS watches. One example of this is the Northern Lights, which was used as the inspiration for the Aurora model. Shapes and colours found in nature are also an important influence for the GoS team. The photo shows the "Lapland gate" in northern Sweden.



The Northern Lights or **Aurora** Borealis, named after a Roman goddess, is a natural phenomenon where colorful lights swirl around the sky in a dramatic dance, leaving different patterns and shapes. Sometimes the shapes appear as fold upon fold of luminous draperies that majestically move across the sky. Other times they are like gigantic flaming swords furiously slashing at the heavens.

Aurora's Damascus steel dial has been tempered to a blue-green color and the flowing colored lines are framed by bright streaks. The white gold dial details and hands match the highlights on the dial.

The movement is based on a chronometre grade Unitas 6498 that has been modified with 3/4 bridges made from one solid piece of handforged damascus steel that has a woodgrain pattern. Both Johan and Patrik appreciate contrasts in designs and patterns, which is why Patrik chose to give the bridges a combination of traditional movement finishing on some surfaces and a more raw damascus steel on others.

Case: Stainless steel and stainless damascus steel
44.5mmx10.5mm (10ATM)

Lug width: 22mm

Glass: Flat sapphire glass with AR coating

Movement: Swiss manual ETA 6498, improved to chronometre grade by the swiss company Soprod.

Movement customization: Bridges made from one piece of solid damascus steel.





Midnight Sun is inspired by the Lapland summers when the sun never sets. The bright summer nights have a different kind of gentle light, which is sometimes referred to as "the golden light". GoS has captured the golden light by using a solid gold dial and applying several steps of radial finishing to achieve the sunray effect.

The abstract shape of the sun is captured in the damascus steel chapter ring. The chapter ring and the hands are made from Johan Gustafsson's handforged steel, which has been shaped, polished, etched and then beveled to create the rough patterned surface and sparkling beveled edges.

The Midnight Sun model is a collaboration between GoS Watches and master watchmaker Jochen Benzinger who has developed his own style in movement skeletonization. The chronometre grade 6498 movement has received a custom sunray-skeletonization to complement the Midnight Sun theme. The blued main plate and wheels also feature some of his beautiful guilloche work.

Case: Stainless steel and stainless damascus steel
44.5mmx10.5mm (10ATM)

Lug width: 22mm

Glass: Sapphire glass with AR coating

Movement: Swiss manual ETA 6498, improved to chronometre grade by the swiss company Soprod.

Movement customization: Skeletonized and re-finished by Jochen Benzinger

Dial: Solid 18K gold, finished with a sunray effect





Bifrost is the poetic name of the sacred rainbow bridge in Norse mythology. The rainbow bridge was thought to connect the earth (Midgård) and the realm of the gods (Asgård). GoS tempered damascus steel dials require natural light to generate their dynamic colors, much in the same way that a rainbow appears only when light shines through the moist air.

Isblå is the first model to be featured in the Bifrost collection and captures the blue nuances that can be found in thick ice. Johan Gustafsson has refined the process of handforging stainless damascus steel during the autumn of 2013. There are only a handful of bladesmiths who have succeeded in making pattern-welded stainless steel. However, Johan has taken it to the level where he is now able to create the same kind of dense and expressive patterns in his new stainless damascus steel as when he is working in carbon based steel.

Bifrost wears comfortably beneath a shirt sleeve although it is not sized as a traditional dress watch. This makes it one of most expressive dress watches available and in addition, it also wears very well on ladies wrists too.

Case: Stainless steel and stainless "high contrast" damascus steel 42.5mmx9.5mm (5ATM)

Lug width: 22mm

Glass: Flat sapphire glass with AR coating

Movement: Swiss automatic - Soprod A10 with a GoS custom rotor in stainless Damascus steel





Winter Nights - Gold is the first bicolor GoS watch. It combines our handforged damascus steel with solid 18K gold details in the Swedish red gold nuance, also known as pink gold. File work is used by the most skilled knife makers to enhance their work and a knife with handmade file work transcends the tool from a utility to functional art.

GoS decided to re-introduce filework to the watches by applying it to the damascus steel crown. The numbers three and nine are both significant numbers in Norse mythology, which is why we designed the pattern to consist of nine indentations on each side. The file work not only adds new details and highlights but also improves the grip.

The reflections of red gold onto the polished damascus steel is striking and we believe that the Swedish red gold is a perfect companion to the natural contrasts of the handforged damascus steel. The dial is manufactured from two different Swedish tool steels that are forged together and folded to reach a total of 192 layers.

***Note:** The photos show the prototype with a 6498*

Case: 18K red gold and stainless damascus steel
43mmx10mm (10ATM)

Lug width: 22mm

Glass: Sapphire with double AR
coating

Movement: GoS2 based on Chronometre grade
Technotime TT713 with 120h power reserve. ***Note:**
Center second hand on production model*





Johan Gustafsson has developed a new folder knife that is roughly half the size of his normal folder knives while still containing his trademark elements. GoS can therefore now offer a **gentleman's folder knife** as an optional companion to a GoS watch. The knives are individually made to match the aesthetics of the watch.

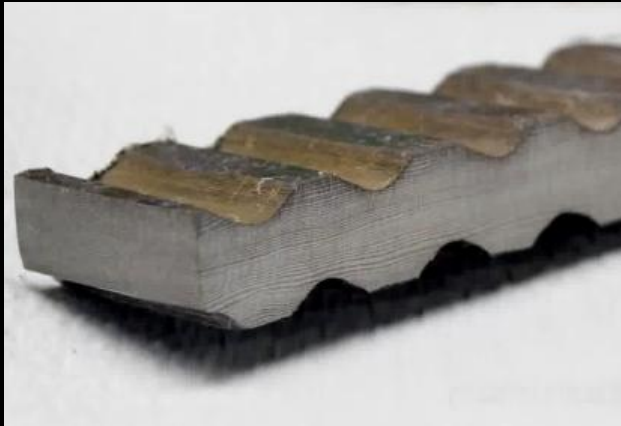


GoS welcomes requests for customization and have been able to satisfy a lot of different client requests in the past. Occasionally, the result is something that we decide to develop further into a model that makes it into the GoS collection. The illustrations above show customization work for projects we've done in the past.



To create these beautiful patterns, Johan Gustafsson starts with at least two different types of steel and forges them together into one solid piece, then folds and forges them again, repeatedly. Every time the steel is folded over, it doubles the number of layers. One of the most important skills of the bladesmith is the ability to forge the steel together, using his hammer in a way that ensures every layer is distinctly folded. When Johan is done with the steel, it can have hundreds of different layers. The pattern is now determined by how Johan deforms the steel. The pattern runs throughout the steel, not just on the surface, and is revealed by etching the steel in acid. Different steels react differently to the acid, and this creates the contrast.

The photos to the right illustrate the steps to create a woodgrain pattern from a 128-layered steel rod. It starts with a deformation process which is followed by Johan carefully forging the steel flat again. The resulting pattern becomes visible after flatmilling followed by etching in acid.







The deep passion that Patrik and Johan have for their own crafts and the Scandinavian craft tradition is highly visible in all aspects of the GoS watches. All parts are finished by hand, which means that a lot of time and effort is put into every manufactured part. The result are highly exclusive and unique watches that are made to last.

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Photos by Björn Dahlgren, Norrköping



The GoS concept is unique and given the nature of the Damascus steel itself and the colour tempering technique, it is not possible to create two identical GoS watches.

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