





# Rebus



# Welcome

## SIGNET RINGS AND SYMBOLISM

For thousands of years people have used symbols on signet rings to express and communicate the things that mean the most to them, creating symbols for identification, love, friendship, affiliation, promise, rebellion. They all serve as personal statements and are often striking and surprising.

The use of heraldry as a theme emerged during the Middle Ages, mainly from the military as a means of identification. When wearing suits of armour and closed helmets on the battle and tournament field, the need for a quick, visual way to identify each other became a matter of survival. Today signet rings bearing family crests or symbols are fascinating, not only for their aesthetic appeal but also for the great amount of information they contain. It is our link to an ancient past and a symbol of pride in continuing family heritage. Although they occur in many cultures, they are united in that they are all 'works of art' in miniature, exquisite form. They are jewels within their own right.

If you would like to discover your family crest or to seek design inspiration, explore our database and enjoy discovering your family crest or how fabulous a monogram of your initials could look.

Since 1971 our expertise and knowledge has developed to create the Rebus brand of today, based in Hatton Garden, London's famed jewellery quarter, and is home to a small team of award-winning skilled goldsmiths and hand engravers who take enormous pride in their work. Using traditional hand-engraving methods, Founder Emmet Smith and his team create bespoke hand-crafted signet rings and jewellery for customers who want to express their individuality and appreciation of craftsmanship, whilst conveying a sense of quintessential British style.

"With a hand-engraved message or symbol, an object can be transformed from the ordinary into the extraordinary, giving it a life and meaning of its own. And in time, the item will acquire its own personality. It will become a talisman – unique and treasured."

EMMET SMITH - Founder



# The creation process

Our methods are steeped in the rich traditions of the rings themselves and we will only use traditional hand-engraving tools to carve your family crest, monogram or any design you care to supply.



## 1. Choose a ring

We have a diverse range of styles, shapes, precious metals and stones to choose from. Our dedicated team are on hand to walk you through each step of the creation process and help you create a ring you can wear for a lifetime. We can also create bronze replicas so you can be absolutely sure you are making the right ring choice.



## 2. Create your design

Once you have decided on your ring style, you now have a blank canvas that you can personalise and bring to life. You can supply your own design or choose a design from our online family crest and monogram database, to be hand engraved onto your signet ring. Whether you would like to see how your design will look on the ring, or work with us to create something meaningful, our artists can create beautiful, hand drawn sketches. Our craftsmen will then use traditional hand held tools to carve the design into your signet ring.



## 3. Order Online or in-store

We work with many customers worldwide and our team are on hand to answer any queries. You are welcome to pop by our workshop anytime during the week, or book an appointment for a private consultation on Saturday. You'll be able to try on our full range of signet rings, have your finger measured and talk to the craftsmen who will be working on your jewellery. For international or out of hours' consultations, we can organise a Skype call.

14CT ROSE GOLD SIGNET RING  
OXFORD OVAL | EXTRA HEAVY WEIGHT  
£280.00

PRODUCT | METAL | STONE | SIZE | SUBMIT REVIEW

The Ribus Oxford Oval signets are available in five faces sizes to suit the very largest to the smallest hands. The 14mm x 12mm face size is by far our best selling gentlemen's signet ring. Assuming the signet ring will be worn on the little finger:

FACE SIZE 11mm x 9mm (€370) FINGER SIZE A (US 1/2)

ENGRAVE Yes (€50) No 1 ADD TO BAG

wish love from mum and dad x

PLEASE NOTE: ENGRAVE TEXT SITS INSIDE SHANK

FIND YOUR CREST



# Stamp of Individuality

## SIGNET RINGS IN HISTORY

Signet rings have been symbols of power, prestige and heritage since the earliest days of civilisation. For thousands of years, they have served many important roles in the societies of which they were created. The earliest recorded use of a signet ring dates back to ancient Egypt, where rings adorned with hieroglyphics were discovered among the riches and finery of pharaohs' tombs. As this period predated traditional writing, it is understood that these rings were also used for identification during business transactions instead of signatures.



Signet rings were also a vital component of Greek and Roman culture. Decorated warriors, emperors and noblemen wore signet rings which were often adorned with images of Greek and Roman gods, pagan symbols and creatures from mythology.

The wearing of a coat of arms began to develop in the 1100's. During this time, a system of designing images and symbols were initially drawn onto the outer coat of a soldier's clothing, and became known as a 'coat of arms', enabling him to be identified quickly as a friend or foe on the battlefield. As the practice grew, the process of granting and designing of arms became formalised in the tradition known as heraldry.

In contemporary culture, although signets are still worn as a part of familial traditions, they are also for aesthetic purposes, to express and communicate the things that mean the most to us, creating symbols for identification, love, friendship, affiliation, promise, rebellion. They all serve as personal statements and are often striking and surprising.



# Stone Set Oval Signet Ring

In our classic Oxford Oval style, choose from a variety of semi-precious stones to add colour to your signet ring.

All Rebus stone set rings are made with solid backs, giving the stones strength and stability. Available in Sterling Silver, 9ct, 14ct and 18ct Gold or Platinum.



Yellow



White



Bloodstone



Cornelian



Lapis



Onyx



Sardonyx



Tigers Eye



## Oxford Oval Signet Ring

Available in two weights, the Rebus Oxford Oval Signet Ring has become the byword for understated luxury. Its beautifully proportioned and traditional shape has become our bestselling style and represents the finest quality of British craftsmanship. Available in Sterling Silver, 9ct, 14ct and 18ct Gold or Platinum.



Yellow

White

Rose



## Stone Set Cushion Signet Ring

A classic rectangular Cushion shape and the high quality stone setting create the perfect backdrop for your bespoke seal engraving. All Rebus stone set rings are made with solid backs, giving the stones strength and stability. Available in a variety of semi-precious stones, in 9ct, 14ct and 18ct Gold or Platinum.



Yellow



White



## Cushion Signet Ring

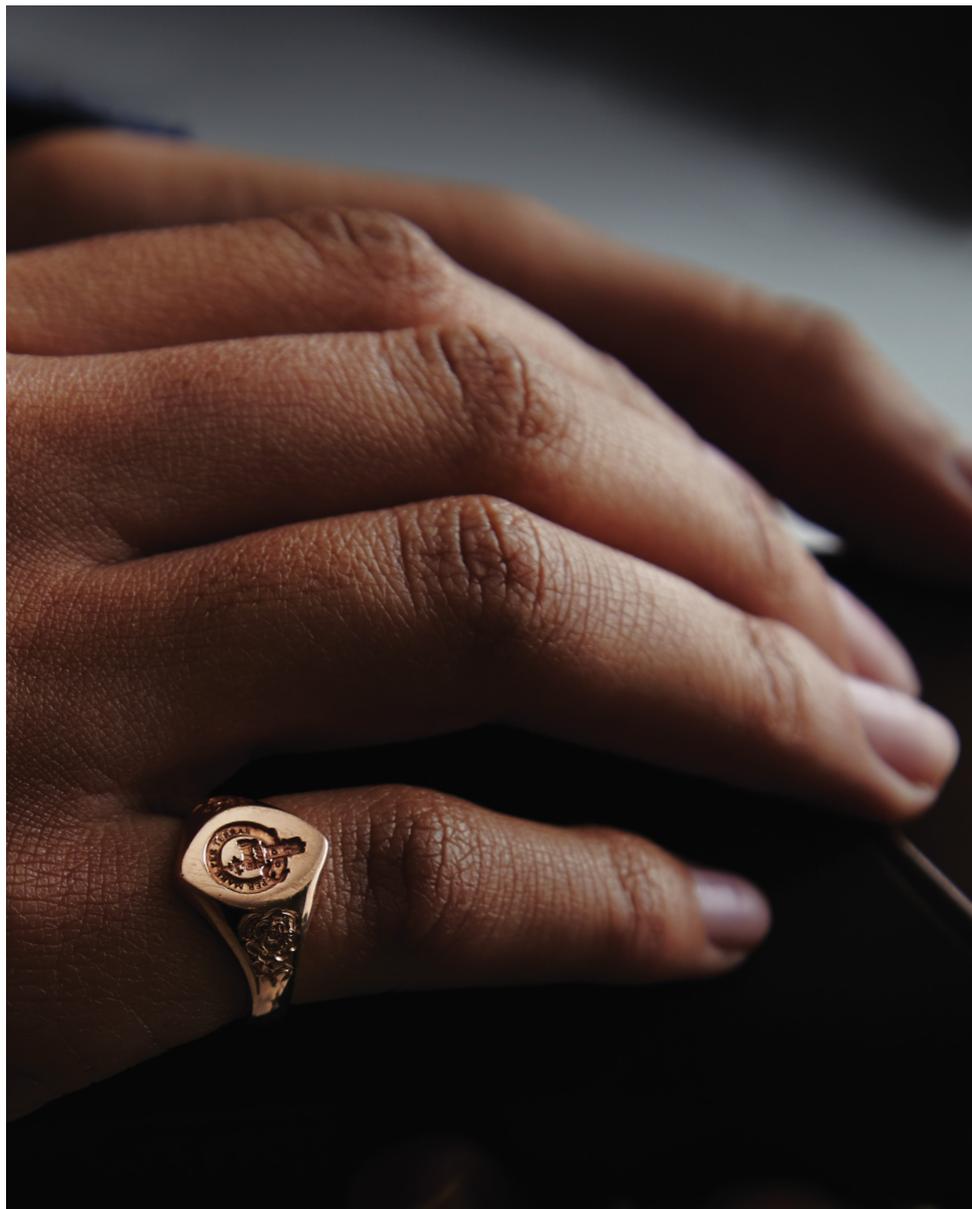
The Rebus Cushion Signet Ring provides a broad canvas for more detailed engravings, such as a full Coat of Arms and intricate bespoke designs. Available in 9ct, 14ct and 18ct Gold or Platinum.



Yellow

White

Rose



## Marquise Signet Ring

Inspired by the diamond shape, the Marquise signet ring is a modern twist on the classic Oxford Oval. Available in 9ct, 14ct and 18ct Gold or Platinum.



Yellow



White



Rose

## Landscape Oval Signet Ring

Well proportioned, the Landscape Oval signet ring is an elegant backdrop for your chosen hand engraved design, creating a beautiful item of jewellery that is wholly unique to you. Available in 9ct, 14ct and 18ct Gold or Platinum.



Yellow

White

Rose



## Round Signet Ring

A Rebus Round signet ring is understated and classic in its strong British style; the perfect proportions of a circular shaped face create a stylish backdrop for your unique design. Available in 9ct, 14ct and 18ct Gold or Platinum.



Yellow

White

Rose





## Rebus Keeper Rings

The Rebus Keeper Collection is inspired by a long history of companion rings. The idea was first conceived by tastemaker Queen Charlotte, wife of King George III, who wore a band set with diamonds above her engagement ring inscribed with her wedding date. The ring protected her engagement stone, compounding its sentiment and served to establish the keeper ring as an enduring symbol of protection.

Our Keepers are designed to follow the curves of our signets; worn alone, stacked together, or used to compliment your signet ring, these half set Keeper Rings will make a bold, contemporary statement. Our stone-set Keepers are available with white or black diamonds, rubies or sapphires.

### Stones



Black  
Diamond



Blue  
Sapphire



White  
Diamond



Red  
Ruby

### Metal



Yellow



White



Rose



## Pendants

An elegant addition to your everyday jewellery, Rebus pendants are perfect for layering with other necklaces or wearing alone day to night. A range of different styles crafted in silver, solid 9 carat or 18 carat gold that can be personalised with a symbol or message and transform them into a bespoke gift to wear close to your heart.



## Cufflinks

Classic, sophisticated and ever popular, each pair of cufflinks are handmade in England and are individually polished to ensure a beautifully crisp blank – the perfect canvas for the hand engraving of your choice. Available with a swivel-back or chain linked in silver, 9ct and 18ct yellow gold, your initials, monogram or crest will look exquisite engraved onto these superbly crafted cufflinks.



## Jim & Sofia's Story

“When I first met Sofia, we were sitting on the roof terrace of a pub in Brighton with lots of friends; I was asking her about a bangle she was wearing that had an engraving on it. Sofia studied poetry at University and the engraving was the first line of a poem by GM Hopkins - “As kingfishers catch fire, dragonflies draw flame”. To be honest, I had no idea what it meant, but I just thought that sentence had a beautiful rhythm to it. It really stuck with me. A couple of years later, when I was thinking about proposing, I did some research into it and loved the idea that the first few lines of the poem describe creatures and objects that are different, but bound by something totally out their control. I don't think it was Hopkins' intention, but isn't that just a beautiful metaphor for love? So, when caught in the sunlight, a kingfisher's plumage appears to catch fire much like a dragonfly's iridescent wings do. When it came to getting a ring to propose with it seemed to make sense to get one each, one with a kingfisher engraved and the other with a dragonfly. She said yes, and we've barely taken them off since!



“ Sofia studied poetry at University and the engraving was the first line of a poem by GM Hopkins - As kingfishers catch fire, dragonflies draw flame ”



*As kingfishers catch fire, dragonflies draw flame*  
Gerard Manley Hopkins, 1844 – 1889

As kingfishers catch fire, dragonflies dráw fláme;  
As tumbled over rim in roundy wells  
Stones ring; like each tucked string tells, each hung bell's  
Bow swung finds tongue to fling out broad its name;  
Each mortal thing does one thing and the same:  
Deals out that being indoors each one dwells;  
Selves—goes itself; myself it speaks and spells,  
Crying Whát I do is me: for that I came.

Í say móre: the just man justices;  
Kéeps gráce: thát keeps all his goings graces;  
Acts in God's eye what in God's eye he is—  
Chríst—for Chríst plays in ten thousand places,  
Lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his  
To the Father through the features of men's faces.



“ I wanted the design to look natural, the rabbit element is a little gruesome but that can be nature’s way and Rebus helped to create a beautiful, natural image, without making it look stylized like some of the eagles from military banners. The detail in the engraving you achieved is incredible, thank you. ”

## John’s Story

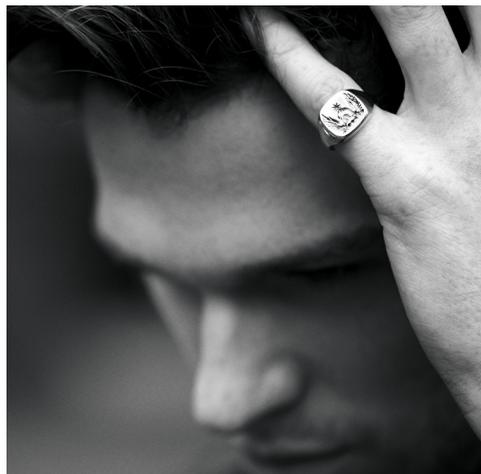
Having recently moved back to the UK after years in America where I used to live in New York State, happy times; I wanted to mark that period of my life and having been recommended Rebus I decided to buy a signet ring.

My girlfriend and I like to hike and the Catskills Mountains were quite close to us. One of Catskills is called Balsam Mountain, which is very similar to my surname and of course that is one of the peaks we decided to climb. It was at the top when the trees finally cleared to reveal an amazing view of eagles soaring around the aptly named neighbouring peak, Eagle Mountain, which was a rare privilege to witness.









“Ultimately, as the signet ring becomes a means of personal expression, where and how it’s worn will be as unique as the person who wears it”

#### HOW TO WEAR YOUR SIGNET RING

We’re often asked about the ‘rules’ of wearing your signet ring and we find that opinions vary widely. This is because signet rings are very much steeped in tradition, yet their identity and purpose evolves as fashions change across the centuries.

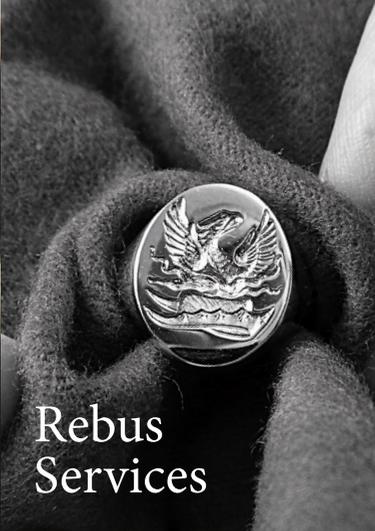
However, there are traditions across the world and one or more of them might appeal to you. In the UK, the signet ring is traditionally worn on the little finger on the non-dominant hand. In Switzerland, men wear signet rings on the right finger of their right hand, while in France men use the right finger of their left hand.

In the United States, it’s quite normal to see people wearing a signet ring on their ring or middle finger – for example, Steve McQueen. Winston Churchill defied tradition by wearing his gold signet ring, bearing the family crest, on his third ring finger. Prince Charles wears his wedding ring on his little finger, stacked next to his signet ring.

In the Middle Ages, the little finger was favored for a signet ring. This ensured that the wearer was easily able to use the ring for its traditional purpose – as a tool to emboss a wax-seal.

During the seventeenth century, the signet ring briefly fell out of fashion. Instead, prominent members of society preferred to have their seal in an ornamental mount worn on a chain or ribbon, along with a watch. This continued until the latter part of the eighteenth century, when the signet ring became popular again.

Ultimately, as the signet ring becomes a means of personal expression, where and how it’s worn will be as unique as the person who wears it.



Rebus  
Services





### SURFACE ENGRAVING

As with seal engraving, surface engraving is undertaken by hand, using hand held gravers that are pushed through the metal. It is the same technique used by the traditional bank note engravers, but unlike seal engraving, we do not carve deep into the metal, we engrave the design by cutting hundreds of lines of varying widths and depths until the design comes to life.

### SEAL ENGRAVING

For signet rings, seal engraving the design is the most popular method. We create your crest, monogram or motif by carving deeply into the signet ring, hand engraving the design in reverse. Once the seal engraving is completed we then use the ring to produce a 3D wax impression, the seal.



### PACKAGING

Your ring will arrive presented in a gift box with an encapsulated wax impression of your design, along with a wax taper so that you can make your own wax seals at home.

Be sure to keep this safe, as it is an excellent artwork reference, in case you or future generations would like to have another Rebus ring created.



## HALLMARKS

Each precious metal signet ring is independently tested at the London Assay Office and comes with feature hallmarks under the face of the ring; this is your guarantee of the precious metal content through the practise of third party independent hallmarking.



## GIFT BOX VOUCHER

Designed for those who want to either fully gift or contribute towards that special someone's signet ring or for those of you who have left it too late to create a bespoke ring in time for a special event, The Rebus Gift Box is the ideal solution. It contains a bronze replica signet ring, a gift card to add a personal message, a Rebus brochure and a finger sizing gauge, plus the Rebus Welcome Pack, which includes a personalised invitation to the Hatton Garden workshop.

## ALTERATIONS

If the finished signet ring needs a size adjustment either three sizes up or down from the original size, we will do this free of charge, if returned to us within 28 days of receipt. Please contact us before returning your jewellery for further advice.



## SHIPPING

We offer free worldwide shipping using a fully insured tracked service for peace of mind.



# Rebus

Let's be friends



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