



Cast part for a crown in bronze (r) and finished object with gold plating and decorative stones produced for the stopper on a perfume bottle (l.)

# A TEAM PLAYER WITH EXPERIENCE

Some 50 specialists at Kalman Hafner ensure high quality jewellery production based on a lost wax technique. During the GZ team's visit to the company, the employees took some time out for a bit of fun, despite their heavy workload...

Robin Hafner knows what it takes to handle the business: "Expert craftsmanship and the latest technological facilities go hand-in-hand for us. Only then can we take tricky tasks right to the boundaries of feasibility and even beyond," says the Managing Director of Kalman Hafner. He is a self-confessed 'Pforzheimer fan' and has long been associated with this company which his father Kalman Hafner founded in 1967 and named after himself. After completing studies in commerce and taking a business administration course, Robin Hafner now manages the Europe-wide family business together with his uncle Viktor Hafner and Wolfgang Gungl, both authorised signatories.

## EVERYTHING UNDER THE SAME ROOF

"We cover the entire product range and can therefore provide process-oriented advice," Wolfgang Gungl explains. "The production stage at which a customer joins us depends on their vertical range of manufacture." On the one hand, customers can commission Kalman Hafner to undertake the entire jewellery production process – goldsmithing and stone setting is carried out by a partner establishment. Another option: the customer can provide their own models and wax and only request the company's casting ser-

vices. Alternatively, a CAD file can be sent. Kalman Hafner's team will then use wax plotting to produce one-off items or series or cast a prototype model. Based on this model, a rubber or silicone mould is cut out in the mould construction department and used to replicate the item. A great deal of dexterity and experience are required – this also applies to the subsequent handling of items during the wax casting, fitting, embedding and casting processes using gold, silver, platinum, brass, bronze and copper. "To create the optimal cast components with a smooth and homogenous surface, it is enormously important that the production process is clean and precise at every stage," says Viktor Hafner who is responsible for the quality control and customer care.

## DESIGN PROTECTION GUARANTEED

The basement of the company building contains some 300,000 rubber and silicone moulds which have been created based on the supplied customer models. "We take design protection very seriously," says Robin Hafner. "All of the models and moulds remain the property of the relevant customer." And this also applies to the crown produced as a perfume bottle stopper. *Saraj Morath* ■

[www.hafner-guss.de](http://www.hafner-guss.de)

Photos: Martin Glauner



In reality, this relaxed attitude in the mould construction department is only permitted for the GZ photo



Right alongside the mould construction department is the wax casting facility where the wax components are produced for subsequent use in jewellery items



During the fitting stage, the wax components are carefully put together to form wax trees



The wax trees are then placed in cuvettes and embossed in a chalky mass



Once the wax has been melted in the kiln, the casting is carried out by long-standing and experienced employees



Production of rubber mould using a so-called relief cut



To retrieve the wax component undamaged from the mould, the spiral-shaped rubber is carefully pulled out



Managing Director Robin Hafner (right) manages the company together with the two authorised signatories Wolfgang Gungl (left) and Viktor Hafner (centre)