

The Rolex Submariner has long been an icon of luxury dive watches, boasting several coveted variants over the decades. Among these, the “Kermit” — reference **16610LV** — holds a special place in collectors’ hearts. But is it truly the only Submariner to possess a green aluminum bezel, or are there nuances worth unpacking?

Understanding the Kermit and Its Uniqueness

The Rolex Submariner 16610LV — nicknamed the “Kermit” — was introduced in 2003 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Submariner line. With its distinctive green aluminum bezel insert combined with the classic black dial, it immediately distinguished itself from the traditional all-black bezel variants.

Collectors prize the 16610LV green aluminum for several reasons:

- **Kermit Uniqueness:** It was the first Submariner to mix a vibrant green bezel with black dial, a bold departure from standard designs.
- **Discontinuation and Finite Supply:** Produced from 2003 until 2010, Rolex eventually halted the 16610LV in favor of the newer 116610LV “Hulk” with a green ceramic bezel, marking the end of the green aluminum era.
- **Configuration Details:** The original green aluminum bezel insert coupled with the specific dial, hands, and case dimensions differentiate the Kermit sharply from later green bezel Subs.

Are there other Submariners with Green Aluminum Bezels?

Some collectors wonder if other Submariner models sported similar green aluminum bezel inserts. The short answer is no — at least not from Rolex's core offerings. The 16610LV was the only Submariner factory-released with a green aluminum bezel insert. Subsequent green-bezel Subs, such as the “Hulk” (116610LV), feature a green ceramic bezel—a material offering superior scratch resistance and glossiness.

Other models, such as special editions or aftermarket customizations, may feature green bezels, but these are not factory-original green aluminum inserts from Rolex. Hence, in the context of authentic, factory-stock Submariner manuals produced by Rolex themselves, the Kermit stands uniquely alone in its green aluminum bezel configuration.

Market-Based Valuation: Why Configuration Details Matter

In valuing a Rolex Submariner — especially one as unique as the Kermit — it’s vital to use market-based valuation tools grounded in current comparable sales. Several evaluation inputs influence price significantly:

- **Reference and Model:** The precise reference number (e.g., 16610LV) determines the baseline desirability and scarcity.
- **Dial and Bezel Configuration:** Authenticity and originality of bezel inserts and dial variations are paramount. The green aluminum bezel of the Kermit is irreplaceable in its factory form.
- **Production Years:** Watches from early or late production runs sometimes have slight variations or are more collectible.
- **Completeness:** Complete sets including original boxes, papers, and accessories fetch a strong premium versus loose watches.
- **Service History:** Proper documentation and recent servicing can reassure buyers, though over-serviced pieces with replacement parts may see lower valuations.

Discontinuation Creates Finite Supply

When Rolex discontinues a model — as they did with the Kermit in 2010 — it instantly freezes the supply at a fixed number in the market. No new pieces enter, so collectors covet the existing pool. This finite supply often leads to demand spikes as collectors realize the irreplaceability of the original reference.

Consider other famous watches: the Paul Newman [justluxe.com](https://www.justluxe.com) Daytona, vintage Patek Philippe sports models, and the Sea-Dweller “Double Red” examples. Each saw valuation surges after discontinuation, partly due to limited availability.

Demand Can Rise After Retirement

Demand for the Kermit has surged since it was retired. Several factors contribute to this:

1. **Nostalgia and Milestones:** As the 50th-anniversary watch, the Kermit symbolizes a legacy milestone.
2. **Green Bezel Appeal:** Green is an uncommon but popular Rolex color, creating a unique visual identity.
3. **Collector Recognition:** The model’s nickname and historical significance have bolstered desirability.

Market data shows the Kermit now commands strong premiums relative to other reference 16610 Subs, evident in both private sales and auction results.

Complete Sets Command Premiums

A fundamental principle in watch valuation is the weight of completeness. While the watch itself is the core value, a complete box and papers set—especially original warranty papers, hangtags, and boxes—can increase the value by 15-30%, sometimes even more for historically significant watches.

The reason is simple: completeness offers authenticity verification and collectible appeal. Buyers looking for trophy watches want the full presentation, not just the watch alone.

Service History and Its Role

Rolex watches generally need servicing every 5-10 years to maintain performance. A documented service history reassures buyers of proper maintenance. However, excessive servicing or replacement of key components like bezels or dials can erase collector value, especially for a model like the Kermit where the originality of the green aluminum bezel is critical.

Price Example: The Ultimate Valuation Context

While the Kermit may not have fetched record-breaking auction prices like some ultra-rare vintage Rolex Daytonas, Rolex watches in general have touched astonishing heights. For instance, Paul Newman Daytonas and similar vintage pieces have sold for eye-watering amounts — including examples reaching **\$17.8 million** in a *Phillips sale in 2017*. These prices underscore the mind-boggling potential for rare, historically significant Rolex models.

Though the Kermit remains a relatively accessible entry point compared to multimillion-dollar Daytonas, its distinct green aluminum bezel insert, limited production, and anniversary status ensure it remains a vital and highly sought-after piece in the Submariner lineage.



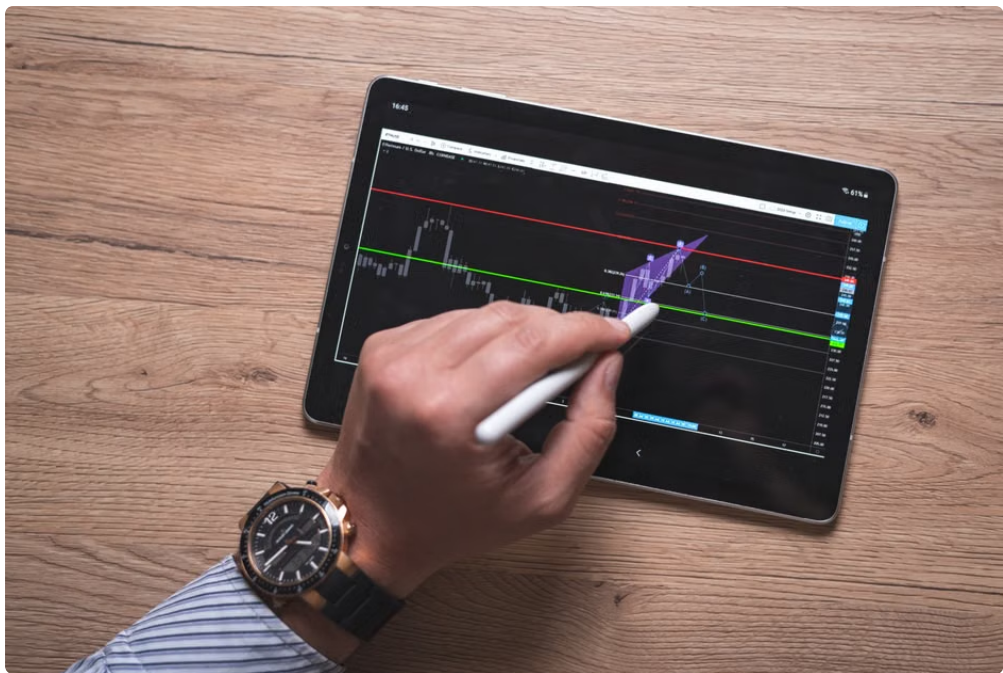
Summary Table: Evaluative Factors for the Kermit’s Value

Factor	Significance	Impact on Value	Reference (16610LV)	Unique factory reference with green aluminum bezel
High - core rarity factor	Dial and Bezel Configuration	Original green aluminum bezel + black dial	Very High - drives authenticity	
Production Years (2003-2010)	Limited production span creates finite supply	Medium to High - scarcity factor		
Completeness (box, papers)	Original packaging and warranty papers	Medium to High - premium for collectors		
Service History	Documented, well-maintained but with original parts	Medium - impacts buyer confidence		

Conclusion

To answer the question: *Is the Kermit really the only Submariner with a green aluminum bezel?* Yes, it is the only factory-produced Submariner to feature a green aluminum bezel insert in its original configuration. Collectors prize this singularity, enhanced by the watch’s anniversary status, finite production run, and the scarcity created with its discontinuation in 2010.

Using market-based valuation, weighing factors such as reference, dial and bezel configuration, production years, completeness, and service records, the Kermit commands a special place in the luxury watch market. While not in the league of multi-million dollar auction records like other ultrarare Rolex models, its steady rise in demand underlines the power of discontinuation and finishing details in driving value.



For enthusiasts and collectors, understanding these nuances can make the difference between owning just a Submariner and owning a true piece of horological history.