

ARMIN STROM

SWISS WATCH MANUFACTURE

The Orbit - the world's only watch displaying the date on a bezel – returns in the Manufacture Edition

Biel/Bienne, Switzerland, July 14, 2022: Following the resounding success of the Orbit First Edition, the world's only watch with a column-wheel driven date displayed on the bezel returns in the Orbit Manufacture Edition, a piece of forward-thinking haute horlogerie with a resolutely sporty appeal. The new edition emphasizes contrast and sporty sleekness with a black offset dial and silvery rhodium-coated bridges.

Transparent mechanics on full display are a driving force for the Armin Strom manufacture, and nowhere is this more evident than in the Orbit. The most recent addition to the System 78 collection, which is the manufacture's line of inventive and unexpected haute horlogerie creations in its purest form, the First Edition of the Orbit was unveiled in March 2022 and immediately appealed to discerning collectors. Now, the uniquely Orbit returns as permanent Manufacture Edition with an even more decidedly sporty aesthetic.

REINVENTING THE DATE

Visually captivating and mechanically ingenious, the Orbit completely reimagines one of the most useful and ubiquitous watch functions in existence: the date. By combining several complications into one, the "Column-Wheel Date" is a singularly creative and refreshing take on a complication that's rarely ever revisited. Entirely conceived, developed and built in-house by Armin Strom, the Orbit flips the script by offering a new and unprecedented implementation of the date, with its inventive mechanics entirely visible on the dial side.

As its name implies, the column-wheel mechanism drives the date indicator, which is visible from the dial side. This system, typically found in chronograph mechanisms, improves the date indicator's stability and performance while also providing a satisfying and reassuring tactile experience when engaging and disengaging the date function. Indicated on the black engraved ceramic bezel by a large central hand with a red "A" tip for Armin, the date hand essentially has two modes: stationary and active.

When the date hand is in the stationary mode, it is "off" and remains in its fixed position pointing at 12 o'clock, leaving the off-centred dial unobstructed. Using the pusher on the left side of the case, the date hand is "engaged" and instantaneously jumps to point at the correct date, then advances once a day at midnight. With another push of the button, the hand returns to its stationary position, with a mechanical memory allowing it to jump back to the correct date when required by the wearer. The retrograde mechanism allows the date hand to jump back from 31 to 1, avoiding any confusion with the hand's disengaged stationary mode. The date can be rapidly set using a corrector button on the 8 o'clock position of the case or can be advanced manually via the crown by advancing the time.

Further enhancing the three-dimensional mechanical appeal of the Orbit Manufacture Edition is the movement itself. Based on the development of the Gravity Equal Force – the world's first automatic watch with equal force transmission – the Orbit's movement delivers consistent power to the balance, with a power reserve of 72 hours. Renewing and evolving the wisdom and principles of watchmaking from centuries past, its "stop-work" mechanism is a clever solution to providing more consistent torque from the barrel by preventing the mainspring from

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fully unwinding, thus leveraging only the part of the mainspring's unwinding process that can deliver power most consistently. This marks the first time that such a mechanism is incorporated in an automatic wristwatch movement.

And like all Armin Strom creations, the manufacture movement is finished to exceedingly high standards reserved for the upper echelon of haute horlogerie. Hand-finished and decorated elements include chamfered and polished edges on the bridges, polished *chatons* and *perlage* graining on the main plate.

A MEN'S COMPLICATION WITH A SPORTY ALLURE

Envisioned as a piece of haute horlogerie for daily active wear, particular attention was paid to the overall ergonomics and aesthetic of the Orbit Manufacture Edition. Rugged yet sophisticated at the same time, the Orbit ushers a new category for Armin Strom: Men's complications in a sporty package. Perfectly integrated with the 43.4 mm stainless-steel case, the bracelet of the Orbit was carefully designed to offer a minimalistic look that doesn't take away from the micromechanical spectacle within. Superbly finished with alternating polished and satin-brushed surfaces, the surprising slimness of the steel bracelet makes it exceedingly comfortable.

Compared to the First Edition, which predominantly features dark grey "black gold" coating, the Orbit Manufacture Edition emphasizes contrast and sporty sleekness with a black offset dial and silvery rhodium-coated bridges. The dial occupying the left side of the display indicates the hours and minutes as well as the seconds on a separate counter. The numerals, hour markers and hour and minute hands are filled with off-white Super-LumiNova® for optimal legibility in the dark. A rare feat for most watch manufactures, the steel hands are manufactured by Armin Strom and, like all the visible parts of the movement, are meticulously hand-finished in-house.

Technically tantalizing and visually compelling, the versatile and unequalled Orbit Manufacture Edition now officially joins Armin Strom's core collection and opens new avenues of creativity and mechanical marvels for the independent manufacture. While the Manufacture Edition is not a limited edition, it will be produced in limited quantities.

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Technical specifications: Orbit – Manufacture Edition

Reference no. ST22-OR.90

Indications: Hours, minutes, seconds, power reserve indicator, date

Movement: Armin Strom manufacture Caliber ASS20

Automatic winding with micro rotor, Geneva-drive equal force barrel, offset display with subdial seconds, Column-Wheel Date

Regulating system: Balance wheel with 4 regulating screws

Power reserve: Geneva stop-work limited to 72 hours

Dimensions: 35.52 mm x 8.42 mm

Frequency: 3.5 Hz (25,200 vph)

Finishing: Hand-finishing to the highest quality level

Jewels: 30

Number of components: 273

Case: Stainless steel, ceramic fixed bezel

Sapphire crystal and caseback with anti-reflective treatment

Diameter: 43.4 mm

Height: 12.6 mm

Water resistance: 5 ATM

Dial: Black, numbers and indexes with Super-LumiNova® filling

Hands: Manufactured by Armin Strom, steel with hand finishing and Super-LumiNova® filling

Bracelet: Stainless-steel with a double folding clasp

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About Armin Strom

Armin Strom is an independent watch company based in Biel/Bienne, Switzerland. Armin Strom timepieces offer a unique fusion of the Swiss-German horological tradition, avant-garde “transparent mechanics” and an unwavering commitment to horological innovation. The hallmark of the brand’s low-volume, artisanal approach to watchmaking is its commitment to exposed dial-side movement mechanics, with every part hand-finished to the highest haute-horology standards.

Armin Strom was established in 1967 by Mr Armin Strom, a legend in the art of hand-skeletonization. In 2006, the stewardship of Mr Strom’s legacy became the responsibility of Master Watchmaker Claude Greisler and businessman Serge Michel, who together revitalized the brand with the opening of Armin’s Strom’s first fully-integrated Manufacture in 2009. Today the brand designs, develops, mills, embosses, galvanizes, hand-finishes and assembles all of its own watches in-house, enabling Armin Strom to bring even the most complicated ideas to life without any of the compromises that typically stem from reliance on a supply chain.

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