

KEEPING TIME

Your one-stop read on the latest beats and trends in luxury watchmaking

BALL WATCH

TRAINMASTER KELVIN

If you asked us about the type of features we would like to see on a mechanical wristwatch today, a thermometer wouldn't even rank in the top twenty things we could think of. But that's because we have a poor imagination, really. Mention thermometer to the new gen and some might even scoff at its use outside of a doctor's tool kit. We hear ya. But that doesn't diminish its novelty on a wristwatch dial. After all, how many environment-examining features have you seen on a mechanical wristwatch lately? Probably only on Brevé's Génie with its altimeter and barometer gauges. Any other notable examples would stretch as far back as an antique Breguet pocket watch – and those belong in a safe or a museum. This is where Ball Watch's Trainmaster Kelvin enters the fray as the middle ground to those inaccessible ultra-pricey options and cheap battery-operated Casio. While this is not the first wristwatch from Ball Watch that features its patented mechanical thermometric indication after its first few releases in 2011, this is however its most dress watch-friendly package. That said, the module still works on the same *tough enough* mentality that the watchmaker is known for. Apart from the shock-resistant and anti-magnetic properties of the wristwatch, the thermometer module is capable of measuring temperatures ranging from -35°C to 45°C/-31°F to 113°F (available with a Celsius or Fahrenheit scale). It's so badass slick that we're sure even James Bond wouldn't mind wearing this on the weekend.

www.ballwatch.com



MUST-HAVE

NOSTALGIA

You don't have to rub your eyes as these aren't black market modifications. These wristwatches by serious watch labels are indeed inspired by the likes of Snoopy, The Little Prince, Space Invaders, Batman, and even James Bond. If it doesn't bring a little tear to your eye or an extra skip in your step, then we can confirm that adulthood has eroded your childlike sense of wonder. While these aren't considerations for those buying their first wristwatches, they make for perfect seconds and thirds. The best part is, no longer is Mickey Mouse the only serious consideration in legit watchmaking as explored by the likes of Seiko, Gerald Genta, and Chopard. Our fave, however, is Valbray's dial-based labyrinth game – yes, the ball is included. The objective is to navigate the ball through the maze using perfectly timed movement, which is a test of your skills and eyesight. And like the rest of the wristwatches you see here, they would get those around you geeking out in an instant.



VALBRAY
Oculus Minotaurus
www.valbray.ch

MONTBLANC

VILLERET 1858 METAMORPHOSIS II

You hanker for a classic wristwatch but you don't want to appear uninspired. So, you opt for a futuristic option but folks in the office can't believe you're wearing something that looks like a souvenir from a *Star Trek* convention. Your answer? Montblanc's Metamorphosis II. It was around five years ago that Montblanc first showed the original Metamorphosis, a concept conceived by two young minds Johnny Girardin and Franck Orny. On paper, we were told that this is a mechanical wristwatch with the ability to swap between a classic and a chronograph dial with the aid of a slider. And no, it isn't capitalising on a concept similar to the Reverso either. Imagine a dial that works on the same premise as automated sliding doors of an elevator. By activating the slider located between 8 and 10 o'clock of the case, the upper and lower portions of the multi-layered dial either opens or closes to unveil a new change of outfit – either a classic or a sportier chronograph face. While we can only describe this mechanical transformation, seeing it in the flesh is a treat. It took four years to master the movement but that's also because there are more technicalities involved than just *sliding doors* on a regulator dial (a separate display for the hour and the minutes). It takes roughly five seconds for the transformation to happen after the activation of the slider. Numerous components are at work here in order to lift or lower the underlying dial when called upon by the wearer – trust us, it will draw *oohs and aahs* whether you're showing off at the boardroom or the bar. And most would already be pleased by witnessing the retrograde minute display in action (upon the minute hand's landing at the '60' mark, it will skip back to '00' to continue the count). What is neat is that this is also a single-pusher chronograph, which means that only one pusher is involved in the start-stop-reset actions rather than the usual two. Montblanc has ensured that even if the chronograph counters are running and the wristwatch has been switched to the classic mode (this means the hour and minutes revert to reporting the home time), the chronograph function continues to keep count on the down low. Upon the return to the sporty dial face, the elapsed time is on display again (this works the same as the date window at 6 o'clock). As for the price? You really don't want to know.



www.montblanc.com



RJ-ROMAIN JEROME
Batman-DNA
www.romainjerome.ch



BAMFORD WATCH DEPARTMENT
The Rodnik Band
Snoopy Datejust
www.bamfordwatchdepartment.com



RJ-ROMAIN JEROME
Space Invaders
Ultimate Edition
www.romainjerome.ch



IWC SCHAFFHAUSEN
Pilot's Watch Perpetual
Calendar Edition
"Le Petit Prince"
www.iwc.com



OMEGA
Seamaster Aqua
Terra James Bond
www.omegawatches.com

TREND: SMOKER'S SPECIAL

Non-smokers, hold your breath as this is a good one. We're in uncharted territory with wristwatches that celebrate the relationship between man and tobacco.

We must admit that there are times when we don't know if our fave watchmakers today are being serious or trying to pull a fast one on us. Now we know, and the answer lies somewhere in-between (yes, we're still not that convinced). While luxury watchmaking isn't the first thing one would associate with the tobacco industry, it'd probably rank a close eighth after lighters, humidors, cutters, ash trays, scotch, country club memberships, and fast cars. The same cigar-chomping bigwigs we know today have a love for the finer things in life and that includes luxury wristwear. In the traditional bees to honey context, watchmakers are taking this seriously – maybe too seriously if you ask us. The likes of Hublot started to dip their toes into the tobacco field as far back as 2012 when they created the King Power Arturo Fuente in association with the legendary Dominican Republic-based cigar label. The limited edition wristwatch, housed in a special humidor, is kitted in matte brown colours closely associated with the brown cigar wrapper. This year, the association with Arturo Fuente is taken to another level with the tourbillon-equipped Classic Fusion Forbidden X, which flaunts a dial layered with real tobacco leaves from their limited quantity cigar named – you guessed it – Forbidden X. This level of luxury is seen in the cigar community as a fitting tribute and rightly so. After all, stranger things have been housed in a wristwatch before (i.e. fossilised dinosaur poop). Oddly enough, the other watchmaker who has embedded a tobacco leave on a wristwatch is ArtyA, the ones behind the dino dung. Meanwhile, liquid-timetelling specialist HYT has gotten more adventurous with their exploration of materials. Their collaboration with Singapore-based cigar bar La Casa Cubana has led to a case embedded with bits of Rodolfo Vitola cigar leaves in clear polyepoxyde resin. With only eight pieces created, this is exclusively for the cigar clubhouse. That said, the one that piques our interest is by Snyder, the guys who first created high-end wristwatches with attachments such as a laser pointer. Now, an action-packed lighter module is an option, one that allows wearers to light up a cigar or cigarette at a moment's notice. And you thought your wristwatch was cool?



SNYPER
Ironclad with
Lighter module
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HYT
H1 Cigar
www.hytwatches.com



HUBLOT
King Power Arturo Fuente
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HUBLOT
Classic Fusion Forbidden X
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BELL & ROSS
WW1 Edición Limitada
www.bellross.com



ARTYA
Son of Earth Classic Tobacco
www.artya.com

HUBLOT
Classic Fusion
ForbiddenX
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