

ATELIER DE CHRONOMÉTRIE

BARCELONA

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The new AdC#8, a Split-Seconds chronograph

After 2 years of hard work we are very happy to present our latest creation; the *Atelier de Chronométrie #8*, a Split-second chronograph. This AdC8 is the answer to the question of what an AdC *rattrapante* would be like. Like all our timepieces, it is a unique timepiece, one of a kind, which has been entirely handcrafted, exclusively using age old watchmaking techniques and hand-operated machines and tools. Working by hand gives us the powerful freedom to create new and unique projects each time, where prototyping and learning by trial and error are our daily routines.

This Split-second chronograph with 12-hour counter is based on a Venus 185 movement and it is presented in a new case design made of 18k Grey gold with teardrop lugs. The Pulsations black galvanic "gilt" dial with silvered lettering and scales, and applied Breguet numerals, completes the overall look of this chronograph.

The story of the AdC#8

The story behind each AdC are unique. The AdC8 project started with the idea of a collector of independents from California who placed his trust in us to make it a reality. The challenge was to create a *rattrapante* chronograph with the AdC style. So, the first thing we did was to look for a good calibre base to start to work from. Finally, we found an entire vintage *rattrapante* chronograph with a calibre Venus 185. The first step to create a new *rattrapante* calibre was made.

Another essential part of the watch design was the case. It had to be a fancy organic case, where ergonomics was a key requirement of the customer. Its creation process was an authentic and constant challenge in terms of design and handcrafting and took 9 months. During this time, we changed the initial case design until we found a new one which was the perfect.

For the dial, the idea of creating a medical dial with a pulsometric scale appealed to us. Apart from the black galvanic "gilt", we also designed a two tone (rose and silver) dial, but the forcefulness of the black one was determinant for the final choice.

Throughout these 2 years we have been in regular communication with the customer and some ideas have been incorporated during the evolution of the project such as the creation of the *rattrapante* wheel in Titanium with the AdC symbol as well as the re-design of the initial case.

The calibre

The calibre is based on a Venus 185 movement (from a vintage split-seconds chronograph). From a total of 280 calibre parts, 50 new parts have been created completely by hand without using CNC milling machines. The rest of the 230 parts have been modified and decorated by hand too.

The finishes include handmade *grainage* as well as black polish, *anglage*, *perlage*, polished countersinks, straight graining, *etirage des flancs*, etc. The calibre aesthetics combines a balanced mixture made of the combination of the pink gold plated bridges with the rhodium plated wheels and the steel accents of the levers and black polished parts as well the purple black polished beveled screws. At the center, a new *rattrapante* wheel made of Titanium with the shape of the *Atelier de Chronométrie* symbol brings finesse and delicacy.

Technical specifications:

- Movement based on a Venus 185.
- Manual winding.
- 23 jewels.
- Power reserve 36 hours.
- Frequency 18.000 b.p.h.
- 3 bridges made in Arcap with *grainage* finish, 18k pink gold plated, polished countersinks, *anglage*, *etirages des flancs* and purple black polished beveled screws.
- Free sprung balance regulated by 6 masselottes made in 18k rose gold with a black polished stud holder plate.
- Anchor bridge made of steel, black polished, polished countersinks and *anglage*.
- Purple black polished beveled screws.
- *Rattrapante* bridge made of steel with 18k pink gold *chaton* with black polished countersinks, *anglage* and beveled screws.
- *Rattrapante* wheel made of Titanium with the AdC symbol shape.
- Hand-engraved number 8 satined finish.
- All the levers have been decorated with *anglage*, polished countersinks and straight graining.
- The wheels have been rhodium plated and decorated with *anglage* and circular satin finished.
- Finishes included: *grainage* as well as black polish, *anglage*, *perlage*, polished countersinks, straight graining, *etirage des flancs*, etc.

The case

Due to the height of this *rattrapante* calibre, the main goals for the creation of this case were to create a visual effect that make it "thinner" and secondly to make it comfortable on the wrist. For those reasons, the center part of this three-body case has a curved shape and is combined with a concave bezel and case back. Inspired by the vintage chronographs, the teardrop lugs give more personality to the whole watch design. The design of the crown with the *rattrapante* pusher and the two pushers has been executed in order to not protrude excessively from the case profile to maintain harmony.

As all our watches are unique pieces, the key to making them is the process. To make this case, we spent 9 months creating and testing two different and entire case prototypes made in brass until we attained the perfect case. Then, taking the good case as a reference, we handcrafted the final case in 18k Grey gold. This 18k Grey gold alloy is a high Palladium alloy, which is why it doesn't need to be rhodiumed.

The dial

All the *Atelier de Chronométrie* designs are inspired in the aesthetics from 40's and as is the AdC8. We were attracted by the ideal of creating a medical dial including in the design a pulsometric scale. The black galvanic "gilt" with mirror polished silvered lettering and scales was made by a technique very common in the past but nowadays is really rare and highly laborious to be properly executed. The applied Breguet numerals and three engine-turned counters (30-minute counter, 12-hour counter and seconds counter) combine perfectly with the 7 leaf hands made in 18k Grey gold.

Technical specifications

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- Frequency 18.000 b.p.h.
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- Free sprung balance regulated by 6 masselottes made in 18k rose gold with a black polished stud holder plate.
- Anchor bridge made of steel, black polished, polished countersinks and *anglage*.
- Purple black polished beveled screws.
- *Rattrapante* bridge made of steel with 18k pink gold *chaton* with black polished countersinks, *anglage* and beveled screws.
- *Rattrapante* wheel made of Titanium with the AdC symbol shape.
- Hand-engraved number 8 satined finish.
- All the levers have been decorated with *anglage*, polished countersinks and straight graining.
- The wheels have been rhodium plated and decorated with *anglage* and circular satin finished.
- Finishes included: *grainage* as well as black polish, *anglage*, *perlage*, polished countersinks, straight graining, *etirage des flancs*, etc.
- Pulsometric black galvanic "gilt" dial with mirror polished silvered lettering and scales and applied Breguet numerals and 3 engine turned sub-seconds.
- Handmade 18k Grey gold leaf 7 hands.
- 39'8 mm three-body case in 18k Grey gold with concave bezel and case back and teardrop lugs with high polish finishes.

- Handmade 18k Grey gold *rattrapante* crown and 2 pushers.
- Dimensions: 39'8mm diameter, 20mm lugs and 1'5mm height.
- Handmade 18k Grey gold buckle.
- Handmade leather strap.
- Handmade 18k Grey gold bracelet.
- Sapphire glass front and back.

The price

The price of an AdC Split seconds chronograph starts at 85.000 Euros.

As every AdC is a unique timepiece, the final price of each project is fixed according to the customer's requirements.