



THE ULTIMATE  
MINUTE REPEATER

KARI VOUTILAINEN MINUTE REPEATER

THE WORLD'S ONLY MINUTE REPEATER WRISTWATCH THAT STRIKES TIME USING HOURS, 10-MINUTE INTERVALS AND MINUTES IS SUBLIMELY STYLED AND WELL PRICED. USING A MORE LOGICAL WAY OF REPRESENTING TIME, KARI VOUTILAINEN, THE HEAD OF THE FINNISH NEW WAVE OF WATCHMAKING, HAS TAKEN THE HIGH WATCHMAKING WORLD BY STORM.



Kari Voutilainen's gorgeous repeater strikes out the ten minute intervals instead of the quarters.

## FIRST TO THE FINNISH KARI VOUTILAINEN MINUTE REPEATER WITH (DECIMAL) TEN MINUTE STRIKE

WHEN WE ASKED THE FATHER of the independent watchmaking movement, Philippe Dufour for his picks of the next hot crop of independent watchmakers to keep an eye on, Dufour smiled sagely and replied: "Check out Kari Voutilainen." Voutilainen is one of the new wave of Finnish watchmakers that includes the head of Girard-Perregaux's Special Projects Team, Marko Makkinen (featured in Volume 3 of REVOLUTI★N) invading the haute horological scene.

After watchmaking school, Voutilainen worked with Michel Parmigiani for several years specializing in the fabrication of exquisite high complications. This period left an indelible impression on him. "It was from working with Parmigiani that I formed many of my ideas regarding finish and even the way a movement should be shaped to please the eye," he tells us. In the evenings and on weekends, Voutilainen worked on his own projects including a tourbillon pocket watch with detent escapement. Finally Voutilainen summoned his courage and struck out on his own.

His initial projects have focused on repeating wristwatches with his own movements built on vintage Jules Audemars ebauches. He attributes his supply of these ebauches to "having a very understanding wife who allowed me to invest every cent we made into movements, parts and tools for setting up my atelier". What distinguishes Voutilainen's repeaters is that, rather than striking the hours, quarters and minutes, they strike the hours, 10-minute intervals and then the minutes. Says Voutilainen: "My wristwatches are the first to incorporate this feature... Because of the way the human mind processes information, the 10-minute intervals are far easier to discern and calculate than the quarters."

Voutilainen has a point. For example, 1:48 with a traditional minute repeater sounds like this dong (1 hour), ding-dong, ding-dong (3 quarters), ding, ding, ding (3 minutes). A little mathematical gymnastics is needed to add the three fifteen minute intervals to arrive at 45 minutes before adding the remaining three minutes to arrive at 1:48. Conversely, with

"Because of the way the human mind processes information, the 10-minute intervals are far easier to discern and calculate than the quarters," says Kari Voutilainen.



Voutilainen's repeater 1:48 sounds like this... dong (1 hour), ding-dong, ding-dong, ding-dong, ding-dong (4 x ten minute intervals) followed by ding, ding, ding, ding, ding, ding, ding, ding (8 minutes). Voutilainen's brilliant method of telling time is the aural equivalent of reading time off a digital clock. Add to this the truly exceptional tone of the Voutilainen decimal repeater and you have one of the most innovative, beautifully-sounding and gorgeously-styled minute repeaters in the world. An added bonus is Voutilainen's lovely aesthetic sense that marries 18th century classic watchmaking with Art Nouveau, creating a signature style that is at once rooted in the past but appealingly contemporary. At a fair bit lower in price than repeaters from some of horology's more haute de gamme brands or more famous watchmakers, the Voutilainen repeater is also something of a bargain.

Using a wonderfully old world bespoke philosophy, Voutilainen crafts each watch as a unique piece and they can incorporate additional complications as requested by owners. Kari Voutilainen is not currently carried by any retailers in the region. If you want to contact him, telephone him at +41 32 861 4832 or email him at [kari.voutilainen@bluemail.ch](mailto:kari.voutilainen@bluemail.ch) ★



Voutilainen has been given the nod of approval by none other than Philippe Dufour!



Voutilainen's movements are built on vintage Jules Audemars Vallée de Joux ebauches.

