



THE ULTIMATE SLEEPER
VOLKER
VYSKOCIL'S
V-30/45-01-A

REVOLUTION★MAGAZINE NOMINATES
VOLKER VYSKOCIL'S EXTRAORDINARY
V-30/45-01-A AS THE FIRST IN OUR
SERIES OF ULTIMATE SLEEPER WATCHES.

In American street-racing, which has burned rubber since the 1950s, the innocuous name 'Sleeper' is actually a badge of honor. It refers to any car that might on the exterior look simple or even a little plain, but in fact houses a motor capable of eviscerating tires with insane levels of horse power. The ultimate Sleeper was created by the Chevrolet Company in 1969. The Chevy Camaro ZL1 was a normal-looking car from the outside, but howling under the hood like a Hun army amped on Red Bull was a 427 cubic inch all aluminum racing motor that was, for horse-power junkies, the closest approximation to heaven on earth.

Similarly in the watch world, we've noticed a trend towards Sleeper watches... timepieces that are at first glance simple but in fact are nothing but. In our first of Ultimate Sleepers, REVOLUTI★N has nominated independent German watchmaker Volker Vyskocil's V-30/45-01-A. So just what are the hidden features that blaze away inside the Zen-like tranquility of this watch's exterior? Let's take a look....

Unparalleled Precision In Time Setting

The V-30/45-01-A is capable of being set with the most precision when slaving it to a time source such as a nuclear clock. While watches from A. Lange and Sohne, Glashutte Original and now Panerai have movements with zero reset functions — where the seconds hand automatically leaps to zero when you pull the crown out to set the watch — Vyskocil's watch takes another path.

The minute and seconds hands are permanently locked together using a special ratchet mechanism that fixes the seconds hand to the minute hand. Conversely, in most watches the seconds and minute are detached when setting the time and reattached using a frictional coupling device. The shortcoming with this is that the second and minute hands are synchronized based on your eye's ability to determine that they are in the right positions corresponding to one another.

In Vyskocil's watch the seconds and minutes are always in the correct position related to one another. When the seconds hand reads "30" seconds, the minute hand will be precisely 1/2 of the way between minute indices. So how do you set time on Vyskocil's high performance timepiece?

Position 1 - The crown is in its normal position and can be used to wind the watch to its 40 hour power reserve.

Position 2 - The crown is pulled to its first detent and is used to set the hour. The hours can be set only to full hours for added precision.

Position 3 - Pull the crown to its next detent and you can set the hours and minutes, the seconds will continue to run and the minute hand will lock to align with the seconds hand.

Position 4 - Pull the crown out and the massive balance of



Note that this prototype expressing Volker's new style does not have the 'H', 'M' and 'S' indices for the gear selection applied yet.



Inside this charmingly discreet watch is a powerhouse of technical innovation.



ANATOMY OF A MOVEMENT

- Small lever that stops balance during time setting or when power reserve is low
- Breguet overcoil hairspring
- Escape wheel placed on top of seconds wheel
- Offset center wheel
- Seconds and minute coupling device
- Regulator screw
- Regulator index
- Massive screw balance
- Hidden wheel inside case band operates the small lever and gear selector
- barrel

Vyskocil's watch is stopped. This occurs using a small lever (SL) that is driven by the wheel hidden in the case band of the watch and set in motion by the crown. At this point you can set the seconds precisely where you want them and the minute hand will automatically adopt the correct position!

Gear Selection Indicator

Hidden discreetly in the power reserve indicator of the watch is another high performance innovation of Vyskocil's. The German watchmaker's is the third marque to have created a watch with a 'gear selector' (a term taken from automotive terminology) following in the footsteps of Audemars Piguet's Royal Oak Concept and Richard Mille's tourbillons. As you pull the crown on the watch to set the hours, the power reserve indicator will quickly leap to the 'H' position located above the 20 hours power reserve mark. When you pull the crown to set the minutes, the power reserve indicator will leap to 'M' and, when setting the seconds, the hand will leap to 'S' at the same time the balance of the watch is stopped.

A True Power Reserve Indicator

The same wheel hidden in the case band that drives the 'gear selector' is also what attaches the power reserve indicator to the differential mechanism that powers it. Let's explain... A power reserve indicator is traditionally located directly on top of the

barrel of the watch — the component that contains the watch's power supply — but in Vyskocil's watch, even though his barrel is found at 2 o'clock, he's transplanted the power reserve to the 5 o'clock position for better dial balance and visibility. In order to achieve this he built a traditional differential mechanism on top of the barrel located 2 o'clock, then created a wheel that is hidden in the case band and that crosses over the crown of the watch (an impressive engineering feat) and that feeds information to the power reserve.

Movement of about 10 degrees in this hidden wheel is the equivalent to the power reserve indicator moving from full to zero power. Amazingly, this hidden wheel is also what drives Vyskocil's gear selector. This hidden wheel also activates a small lever that stops the balance when the watch crown is pulled to the hack seconds position or when the power reserve is depleted by 40 hours.

Because no watch can give a totally precise measurement of the time between when it is fully wound and when its barrel is totally depleted, Vyskocil decided to integrate his own level of precision into this indicator. When the watch's power has diminished by 40 hours the balance is automatically stopped.

A PRECISE FINE REGULATOR

Vyskocil's watch boasts one of the most beautiful and ingenious fine-regulating devices we've ever seen. Hidden

beneath the top plate that houses the incremental plus or minus seconds regulator index is a Swan's Neck fine regulator. This regulator is adjusted using the hex pattern regulator screw (RS) located at the base of the balance cock. When you adjust this screw, the circular "plus and minus" regulator indicator turns to show you how much you have adjusted the watch. Vyskocil explains: "In traditional regulators, if you forget how much you adjusted them, you have to observe the watch for 24 hours before you can tell the beat error. In this watch, you have a quick visual reference so there is no mistaking where you set the regulator."

A Balance Inspired By George Daniels

One look at the movement of this sublime beast of a watch and you can tell Volker Vyskocil is a man who loves large balances. "I know the modern way to provide accuracy is with a smaller balance at a higher vibrational speed, but I was inspired by the master watchmakers such as Breguet and George Daniels," he reveals. Vyskocil even tried out a screw-less balance with opposable weights in the arms, but eventually he created the massive antique-looking balance with screw weights located in recessed pitches. Because the balance filled up so much of the 30mm diameter movement, Vyskocil had to shift his watch center minute wheel to the side of the movement, tucked beside the barrel.

A Unique Escape Wheel Configuration

Vyskocil is an engineer and loves to watch machines interact. Hence he decided to invert the traditional arrangement and place his escape wheel (EW) on top of his seconds wheel. This is so that when looking at the movement you can see exactly how the escape and pallet interact to drive the massive balance at 19,600 beats per hour.

Dials And Movement Finish

The finished Vyskocil watches have evolved significantly from when they were first shown to the public at Singapore's Tempus event hosted by The Hour Glass (an event created by Michael Tay). The watches display a refined level of finish. Dials are either brass-plated with black chrome or lacquered massive silver. According to Vyskocil: "It is difficult to achieve the correct black finish on silver dials, so I use brass instead." Indices are no longer printed but cut from white, yellow or rose gold and hand applied. Movements also are well finished with a lovely frosted texture on the plate and bridges reminiscent of classic English and German 18th century pocket watches.

A UNIQUE PEAR WOOD BOX

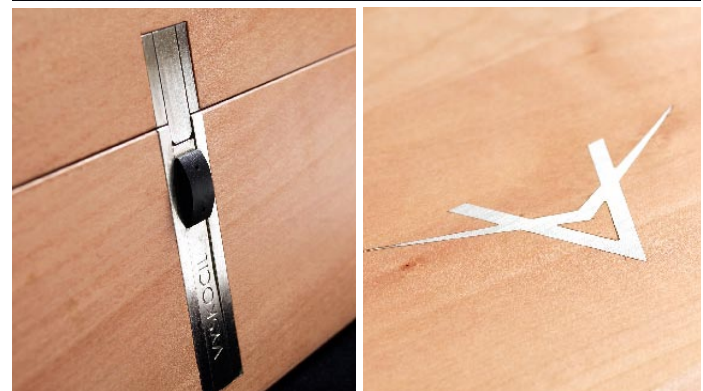
Such is Vyskocil's obsessive compulsion to create perfection in each component that he's even sourced a particular type of wood for his watch boxes. Vyskocil uses pear wood, a material indigenous to the region where he works in Germany. "For me,



Light dials are massive silver whi



Vyskocil's pear wood box boasts homemade hinges and a massive silver emblem affixed by the watchmaker.



the watch is something like a scientific instrument. Historically, scientific instruments were often made of wood or protected in wooden boxes. I decided to use pear for the boxes because pear has a very fine grain," he points out. Furthermore, Vyskocil lines each of these boxes with 100-year-old velvet that he's sourced from his region. Because he wasn't satisfied with the hinges on conventional watch boxes, he set about making his own. Finally each box is also inlaid with Vyskocil's flying V-logo crafted by the man himself out of solid silver. With this intimidating level of perfection in each detail, it is fitting that Vyskocil is considered one of the most exciting watchmakers of his generation. 