

A CRITICAL EYE • ROBIN SWITHINBANK

Time zone

Hundreds of watch brands take to the floor at Baselworld this week. Here are the most arresting new pieces to be unveiled at the world's biggest luxury watch fair.

Material gains

Bronze is back, and look out for a retro run of black PVD, or physical vapor deposition, the vacuum coating returning to popularity.

1. TUDOR HERITAGE BLACK BAY BRONZE
The Heritage Black Bay has done more to revive Tudor's fortunes than any other model since the brand re-entered the United States and British markets a couple of years ago. This new piece is a 43-millimeter bronze version of the 1950s-inspired diver's watch. Its case and crown are made of a brushed aluminum bronze alloy, a material that naturally develops a patina over time. This watch also is the first Black Bay to pack Tudor's debut in-house movement, a chronometer-certified unit with a 70-hour power reserve. The watch comes on a brown leather strap with a green fabric option included at purchase.
tudorwatch.com
£2,730

2. ZENITH HERITAGE PILOT CAFÉ RACER
The yoking of Zenith to the world of classic cars and motorbikes has all the hallmarks of a marketing exercise but away



from the brand associations, the company is making some good-looking watches

3. ORIS DIVERS SIXTY-FIVE
Edition has a case, crown and bezel made of the stuff. The watch is based on the Divers Sixty-Five introduced so successfully by the independent Swiss brand last year and has a deep blue dial and an automatic movement. It is named for Carl Brashear, the United States Navy's first African-American master diver and the first amputee to hold the honor. Mr. Brashear's life was celebrated in the 2000 movie "Men of Honor"; he died in 2006.
oris.ch
£1,900/\$2,300

4. TAG HEUER MONZA CHRONOGRAPH
In 1976, Heuer (as it was then) created the Monza to mark the Formula One driver Niki Lauda's first world championship win

among those who needed accurate timekeepers to aid navigation — the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen is said to have taken one with him to the South Pole in 1911. But that reputation was crushed by the Iron Curtain, which split Glashütte from the watchmaking traditions of Western Europe. Now revived, the company's latest is the Senator Chronometer, a watch certified for accuracy by the venerable chronometer testing institute in Glashütte. Its unique feature is its blue velvety grain-and-lacquer dial, the result of a special treatment carried out in the company's new Pforzheim factory, about 375 miles from its headquarters in Saxony.
glashutte-original.com
£21,300/\$32,200

Tricky devils

From traditional high complications to in-house innovations.

CHOPARD L.U.C. PERPETUAL CHRONOGRAPH

It's been 20 years since the Swiss-based watchmaker Chopard began its L.U.C. fine-watchmaking venture, taking the initials of the company founder, Louis-Ulysse Chopard, for its name. One of the pieces put forward for the anniversary is this 20-piece, perpetual calendar chronograph model, cased in 45 millimeters of fairmined 18-carat white gold.
chopard.com
£61,710/\$85,000

BREGUET TRADITION MINUTE REPEATER TOURBILLON 7087

Breguet's engineers say they synthesized 100,000 sounds before selecting the perfect chiming tone for this minute repeating watch (one that chimes the time on demand). They also found a way of harnessing the isochronous qualities of magnetism to regulate the mechanism behind the device. That is, theoretically, a milestone — magnets typically freeze mechanical watches, but come into their own here, reducing wear and noise.
breguet.com
£329,000/\$460,700

GRAFF MASTERGRAFF PERPETUAL CALENDAR

Graff's watchmaking division shows signs it is coming of age with this skeletonized perpetual calendar tourbillon. Peeking through the ghosted dial is the company's proprietary Calibre 7 movement, an automatic that delivers a semi-linear readout of the day, date and month, and a subdial showing leap-year indication. Kept wound, it won't need adjusting for month length until the year 2100.
graffdiamonds.com
Price on application

NOMOS GLASHÜTTE TETRA NEOMATIK

The first round of "neomatik" watches by the German brand NOMOS Glashütte sold out on their introduction last fall. The next watch to feature the company's in-house automatic movement with its "swing system" escapement is the square-cased Tetra. Until now, Tetras have been on the smaller side and targeted at women, but this new model is slightly larger at 33 centimeters by 33 centimeters and intended to appeal to a masculine audience, too.
nomos-glashutte.com
£2,420/\$3,860



from the brand associations, the company is making some good-looking watches