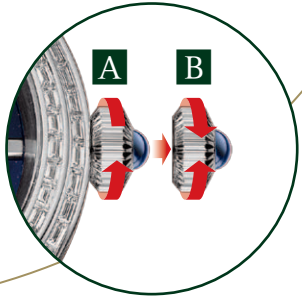
INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE
MODE D'EMPLOI

TOURBILLON

CALIBRES 2861, 2938, 2939 AND 2940
HAND-WOUND

AUDEMARS PIGUET
Le Brassus


1
2


A
B

ENGLISH

Quick-link contents page.

Simply click on the relevant title or subheading to following the link to your chosen section.

Click on the white «English» to return to the main contents page.

GUARANTEE AND CARE

All details concerning the guarantee and care instructions of your watch are provided in the certificate of origin and guarantee attached.



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Introduction
THE MANUFACTURE AUDEMARS PIGUET

THE VALLÉE DE JOUX: CRADLE OF THE WATCHMAKER'S ART

In the heart of the Swiss Jura, around 50 kilometres north of Geneva, nestles a landscape which has retained its natural charm to this day: the vallée de Joux. Around the mid-18th century, the harsh climate of this mountainous region and soil depletion drove the farming community settled there to seek other sources of income. With their high degree of manual dexterity, inexhaustible creativity and enormous determination, the inhabitants of the Vallée, known as Combiers, were naturally drawn to watchmaking.

Due to their high quality, the movements they produced acquired great popularity with the Geneva firms which used them to create complete watches.

From 1740 onwards, watchmaking developed into the principal industry of the vallée de Joux. This region was thus transformed, as an 1881 chronicle put it, "into a land of milk and honey, in which poverty has rapidly disappeared".



TWO NAMES FOR A GREAT ADVENTURE

In 1875, two young men passionate about Haute Horlogerie – Jules Louis Audemars and Edward August Piguet – decided to pool their skills to design and produce watches with complications in the vallée de Joux, the cradle of Haute Horlogerie. Determination, imagination and discipline led them to instant success. A branch in Geneva was their next move in about 1885 and new commercial links were forged at the 1889 Paris World Exposition, where they exhibited complication pocket watches. The Audemars Piguet factory continued to expand as the years went by. Its creations represented major milestones in the history of Haute Horlogerie, like the first minute repeater wristwatch in 1892 and the smallest five-minute repeater movement ever made in 1915.

From 1918 onwards, the founders passed the reins of the business onto their sons, who in turn perfected their expertise in manufacturing men's and ladies' wristwatches as well as designing new sophisticated, ultra-thin movements. Perseverance and initiative were the watchwords: while the Wall Street crash in 1929 was a bitter blow, the company directors were soon designing so-called skeleton watches before embarking on chronograph production. But this new momentum was abruptly interrupted by the Second World War. Re-organisation was necessary in the aftermath of the conflict. The factory focused on creating top-of-the-range items in keeping with its tradition of innovation. A strategy that would prove its worth, especially since it was backed by outstanding creative daring.





Audemars Piguet continued to build on its now international reputation with creative designs. 1972 saw the launch of the Royal Oak, the first, immediately successful high-quality sports watch in steel, followed in 1986 by the first ultra-thin tourbillon wristwatch with automatic winding. The creative spirit of the Manufacture has not faltered since, offering aesthetically original timekeepers with outstanding movements. Thus it brought watches with complications back into fashion at the end of the 1980s, launching its extraordinary Tradition d'Excellence collection in 1999. All the signs of a bold spirit rooted firmly in tradition and auguring well for the future.

About the watch

THE TOURBILLON

THE MOST OUTSTANDING WATCHMAKERS HAVE BEEN STRIVING TO IMPROVE TIMING ACCURACY SINCE THE SECOND HALF OF THE 18TH CENTURY.

The desire to achieve an identical setting for a timepiece in all positions is a major challenge. Under the Earth's pull, the tiniest variations in equilibrium have a negative influence on the regulating part (balance/balance-spring) when positioned vertically, thus causing running differences in the watch.

In 1801 the watchmaker Abraham Louis Breguet thought up a tourbillon regulating system that balanced the running differences in all positions.

The operating principle has remained largely the same to this day: the escapement parts (wheel, pallet and balance) are held in a movable frame rather than being fixed in the movement. By rotating on its axis every minute with the escapement parts, this frame enables all the parts to change position constantly, thereby offsetting the running differences caused by the effects of gravitation.

185 years later, in 1986, Audemars Piguet successfully fitted this system for the first time into a production wristwatch with an ultra-thin automatic mechanical movement. The Manufacture in Le Brassus has since built on this success by presenting many tourbillon models combined with all watch complications.

The Manufacture, still one of the select few mastering the secrets of this complication, offers more than 25 different tourbillon movements.

NATURAL MINERALS

THE PRECIOUS METALS OR THE SAPPHIRE CRYSTAL ARE MATERIALS COMMONLY USED IN WATCH COMPONENTS, BUT ON SOME MODELS THE NATURAL MINERALS PROVIDE EXCEPTIONAL SURFACE AND FINISH.

In 2001, Audemars Piguet launched a tourbillon with a rutilated quartz dial within its Edward Piguet Collection. This natural stone had been chosen for the small golden inclusions forming decorative motifs within the block itself.

Since then, the Manufacture in Le Brassus has shown its pioneering spirit by using other marvels from Nature: moss agate, with inclusions evoking plant forms, chalcedony with its milky reflections, mother-of-pearl, made up of aragonite and conchiolin crystals and recognisable by its iridescent glints, and onyx, powerful and fascinating through its mineral inclusions.

Today, blue aventurine is taking centre stage. Decorating some dials with its deep blue, this semi-precious stone evokes the heavens and their twinkling stars.

Reflections, patterns and shine, all features that make each stone unique. Each one tells a story of fire, rock, water and gas, a story that harkens back to the mists of time.









A REVOLUTIONARY MANUFACTURING METHOD

Machining the natural mineral is very tricky, be it for the master part of the watch (the mainplate) or some dial components.

Traditional methods such as grinding cannot be used with these materials, since hard abrasives have a stripping effect that breaks up the surface, allowing small shards to come loose under physical impact or heat.

To rise to this challenge, Audemars Piguet has resorted to a revolutionary technique: machining by ultrasound with a free abrasive in a liquid environment – a world first in the watchmaking field!

The Manufacture thus acquired new equipment that took five years of development to achieve an impeccable cut and surface to within precision levels of the nearest one hundredth of a millimetre. However, this procedure is extremely time-consuming: it takes nearly an hour to remove 1 mm of material at a rate of four million vibrations a second and nearly a week of work to produce a single mainplate, for example.

Watch description

VIEWS OF THE MOVEMENT

Calibre 2861



Caseback side



Dial side

TECHNICAL DATA OF THE MOVEMENT

Total thickness: 7.10 mm

Total dimensions: 35.10 x 30.10 mm

Frequency of balance wheel: 3 Hz (21,600 vibrations/hour)

Number of jewels: 15

Minimal power reserve: 72 hours

Hand-wound

Balance with variable inertia screws

Breguet balance-spring

Mobile stud-holder

Number of parts: 184

SPECIFICITIES

Openworked movement

Chalcedony mainplate with pink gold rings set with diamonds

Manual finishing of the bridges (côtes de Genève, polished bevels, satin-brushed edges, perlage on the recesses)

Manual finishing of the cut out parts (polished bevels, grained finishing on top and Matt “brouillé” finishing underneath)

Watch description

VIEWS OF THE MOVEMENT

Onyx Calibre 2861



Caseback side



Dial side

TECHNICAL DATA OF THE MOVEMENT

Total thickness: 7.10 mm

Total dimensions: 35.10 x 30.10 mm

Frequency of balance wheel: 3 Hz (21,600 vibrations/hour)

Number of jewels: 15

Minimal power reserve: 72 hours

Hand-wound

Balance with variable inertia screws

Breguet balance-spring

Mobile stud-holder

Number of parts: 184

SPECIFICITIES

Openworked movement

Onyx mainplate with pink gold rings set with diamonds

Manual finishing of the bridges (côtes de Genève, polished bevels, satin-brushed edges, perlage on the recesses)

Manual finishing of the cut out parts (polished bevels, grained finishing on top and Matt “brouillé” finishing underneath)

Watch description

VIEWS OF THE MOVEMENT

Calibre 2938



Caseback side



Dial side

TECHNICAL DATA OF THE MOVEMENT

Total thickness: 7.10 mm

Total dimensions: 35.10 x 30.10 mm

Frequency of balance wheel: 3 Hz (21,600 vibrations/hour)

Number of jewels: 19

Minimal power reserve: 72 hours

Hand-wound

Balance with variable inertia screws

Breguet balance-spring

Mobile stud-holder

Number of parts: 187

SPECIFICITIES

Openworked movement

Aventurine mainplate with white gold rings set with diamonds

Manual finishing on both bridges and mainplate

Manual finishing of the cut out parts (polished bevels, grained finishing on top and Matt “brouillé” finishing underneath)

Watch description

VIEWS OF THE MOVEMENT

Calibre 2939



Caseback side



Dial side

TECHNICAL DATA OF THE MOVEMENT

Total thickness: 7.10 mm

Total dimensions: 35.10 x 30.10 mm

Frequency of balance wheel: 3 Hz (21,600 vibrations/hour)

Number of jewels: 19

Minimal power reserve: 72 hours

Hand-wound

Balance with variable inertia screws

Breguet balance-spring

Mobile stud-holder

Number of parts: 191

SPECIFICITIES

Openworked movement

White gold mainplate and white gold rings set with diamonds

Manual finishing on both bridges and mainplate

Manual finishing of the cut out parts (polished bevels, grained finishing on top and Matt “brouillé” finishing underneath)

VIEWS OF THE MOVEMENT

Calibres 2940

Pink gold



White gold



Caseback side





Dial side

TECHNICAL DATA OF THE MOVEMENT

Total thickness: 7.10 mm

Total dimensions: 35.10 x 30.10 mm

Frequency of balance wheel: 3 Hz (21,600 vibrations/hour)

Number of jewels: 19

Minimal power reserve: 72 hours

Hand-wound

Balance with variable inertia screws

Breguet balance-spring

Mobile stud-holder

Number of parts: 190

SPECIFICITIES

Openworked movement

Gold mainplate and gold rings set with diamonds

Manual finishing on both bridges and mainplate

Manual finishing of the cut out parts (polished bevels, grained finishing on top and Matt “brouillé” finishing underneath)

Use of functions

WATCH INDICATIONS AND FUNCTIONS

(see figure on the inside cover)

1. Hour hand
2. Minute hand

Your watch is fitted wih a two-position crown:

A. Crown in manual winding position
B. Crown in position for setting the time



Use of functions

SETTING THE TIME

Pull the crown to position B. You may now set the time by winding in either direction without risk of damaging the movement. It is advisable to set the hand five minutes past the desired time and then to move it back to the exact time. This allows the gears to re-align themselves, thus ensuring optimal precision.

WINDING THE WATCH

Your watch is fitted with a mechanical hand-wound movement.

We recommend that you rewind your watch completely every two days at the same time (crown in position A). Take great care not to overwind (never force it when fully wound).

The crown is fitted with a disconnecting-gear system that protects the barrel mechanism. This prevents potential damage when the watch is fully wound and too much force is applied. When fully wound, the crown uncouples and no longer drives the stem. A certain resistance remains, however, from the uncoupling mechanism.

