

## Skull Bad Boy: Dark side of the Skull



Skull. Bad. Boy.

Need we say more? The name really says it all. Its appearance speaks volumes, yet masks a stunning complexity. There's more to the skull than meets the eye!

### Back to black

One would naturally assume that the starting point for the Skull Bad Boy was the skull itself, unveiled by HYT in 2015. Not so. The creative impetus actually came from the new liquid which surrounds it.

This is not a simple aesthetic variation. This opaque black, so simple to look at, took more than 12 months to develop. Like the four other colours developed by HYT, the black version has its own chemical properties. These affect attributes such as viscosity, expansion coefficient and UV resistance.

Its creation meant going back to scratch. The goal? to create a fluid able to adapt to the constraints of an HYT movement, which does not adhere to the wall of the capillary, can hold a meniscus and does not interact on a molecular level with the elements it comes into contact with. The result was achieved in autumn 2015 before undergoing several weeks of testing to confirm its chemical stability.

### Black...out

Chemistry was one concern, but aesthetics was another. Creating a black fluid is not without its problems: whilst the other colours created by HYT are able to reflect all or some of the light they receive, black absorbs everything. The inevitable result is that it is impossible to read the time on the Skull Bad Boy in the dark.

*"It was a deliberate decision", explains Vincent Perriard, CEO of HYT. "There were other solutions which would have made the piece visible at night. But if we wanted to play with the darkness inherent to the Skull Bad Boy, we had to go all the way. Night is part of the world of shadows and darkness. Perfectly in tune with the spirit of the skull".*

### **Neuchâtel – Damascus**

To go with this new black liquid, HYT wanted to create a skull with the distinctive appearance of Damascus steel, used for knives and Samurai swords. The dial comprises two half-moons decorated with the Clous de Paris stud pattern. Its indexes are created in a Gothic font, complementing the Skull Bad Boy's hard rock look. Its matte black 51 mm case, made from fully microblasted DLC titanium, is attached to a brand new buffed alligator strap with hints of slate grey. It has a velcro clasp *so that it can be adjusted to fit on a leather biker jacket*", says Vincent Perriard with a smile.

The Skull is coated with a new composite material, created to resemble Damascus steel. A foundry in the Neuchâtel region created the raw material: multiple layers of steel and carbon are folded in on themselves a total of 256 times! This material is cast in batches of five skulls, no two of which will ever be identical.

The result is an ever-changing interplay of its two component materials. The steel is an eye-catching grey, whilst the black colour of the carbon is revealed by a chemical abrasion process. In its unfinished state, the Skull has countless tiny crevasses, evidence of the intense exertions it has undergone in the foundry. HYT levels the surface then covers it with a translucent layer of varnish.

All the functionalities of the original Skull have been preserved. The power reserve indicator sits in the right eye socket, which gets darker as the piece reaches the end of its 65-hour power reserve. The left eye socket houses the seconds disc, permanently, imperceptibly, turning.

The Skull Bad Boy is available as a limited edition of 50 pieces.

## **Specifications**

### **Skull Bad Boy**

**Case:** black DLC titanium with microblasted finish

- Diameter: 51 mm
- Height: 17.9 mm
- rubber coated screw-down crown
- black DLC titanium dome at 6 o'clock
- convex sapphire crystal with anti-reflective coating on the dial side
- Screw-down sapphire case-back
- water resistant to 50 metres.

**Functions:** black retrograde fluidic hours; seconds

**Movement:** Mechanical with manual winding, exclusive HYT calibre

- 28,800 Vph, 4 Hz, 35 jewels
- bridges hand-bevelled and adorned with Côtes de Genève, rhodium-plated bellows
- 65-hour power reserve

**Dial:** unstructured, rhodium-plated with Clous de Paris stud pattern, hours indicated by a black fluid

- skull made from Damascus steel
- black hour dial, grey numerals and offset black indices
- seconds disc (left eye)
- power reserve indicator (right eye)

**Strap:** buffed slate grey alligator, velcro clasp with keeper

**Ref. :** 151-DL-43-NF-AS, **limited edition of 50 pieces**

## **HYT in a few words**

HYT's Hydromechanical Horologists have turned fantasy into reality, mixing mechanics and liquid within a wristwatch. While addicted to non-conformism, these alchemists have drawn upon the strictest codes of fine watchmaking, and shattered them.

### **The principle**

Two flexible reservoirs with a capillary attached at each end. In one, a coloured liquid; in the other, a transparent one. Keeping them apart is the repulsion force of the molecules in each fluid.

The hours are indicated by the coloured liquid released from a flexible reservoir compressed by a piston. These reservoirs, or bellows, are located at six o'clock and are made from a supple alloy. The first coloured liquid travels through the capillary pushing the transparent one back into its own reservoir and then returning to its original position at six o'clock in what is referred to as a retrograde manner.

The two reservoirs at 06:00. While the first compresses, the second expands, and the other way round, resulting in the movement of the liquid in the capillary. As the hours go by, the coloured liquid advances. The meniscus, in the shape of a half moon, marks the separation point with the other fluid in the tube, indicating the time. At 18:00, the coloured liquid comes back to its original position, going backwards.

The secret that gets the reservoirs going? Two bellows made of a highly resistant, flexible alloy, each driven by a piston. And this is where watchmaking comes in to activate the system.

HYT is continuing its all-encompassing quest for hybridisation by introducing its H2 in 2014, and the very new H3. This timepiece was born of a vision shared by the teams of HYT and Audemars Piguet Renaud & Papi overseen by Giulio Papi.

### **The founders & the CEO**

Patrick Berdoz, Lucien Vouillamoz, Emmanuel Savioz,  
Vincent Perriard (CEO)

### **HYT in a few figures**

Objectives realized in 2015:

- Production: sale of 450 pieces
- 66 points of sale
- 13 novelties launched

2016 Pipeline Objectives:

- More than 80 points of sale
- 7 novelties will be launched in 2016
- Opening of the first HYT Boutique in Kuala Lumpur