



# HYT

PRESS REVIEW  
2012 - 2/2

AUTUMN 2012  
HONG KONG  
« REVOLUTION »

BASELWORLD 2012

HYT  
H1  
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TECH

SPECS

**MOVEMENT** HYT manual-winding movement; hours; minutes; small seconds; power-reserve indicator; 65-hour power reserve

**CASE** 48.6mm; titanium, black DLC titanium or rose gold

**STRAP** Black canvas or brown crocodile leather



There was a large measure of anticipation circulating about BaselWorld regarding the first timepiece from Vincent Perriard's new watch brand, HYT. Buzz had been building up over the preceding weeks about the teaser images of a slim, curved tube containing a fluorescent yellow liquid, and the near-constant human traffic in and around the BaselWorld Palace where HYT had its booth was testament to the excitement surrounding this watch. At the forefront of my mind was the question of the brand name. Journalists were attributing the uppercase trio of letters to an abbreviation of the brand's subtitle, "The Hydro-Mechanical Horologists" — an abbreviation which seemed pretty contorted and implausible to me, given that the central conceit of the H1 is fluidity. So I went straight to the source, CEO Vincent Perriard, for an answer: HYT stands for Hydraulic Technology.

So that's out of the way.

The H1 is a mind-expanding synthesis of two worlds which would otherwise never have collided — the sphere of mechanical watches, and the realm of liquids. In a way, mechanical watch movements are like furry little mogwais that you should probably keep liquids away from at all costs. HYT has upended this table of assumptions in rather spectacular fashion, however. The hours are indicated via a circular capillary tube which rings the dial. The tube houses a column of transparent, bright yellow liquid end-to-end with a column of clear liquid. The columns move reciprocally along the tube, with the division between the two liquids as an easily discernible marker that is then read off the hour scale on the periphery of the dial. The two liquids are immiscible, and the interior of the capillary tube is coated with hydrophobic material, so the indications

are always clear and precise.

The exact positions of the two columns of liquid are determined by two pistons — one at each end of the capillary tube — which work in inverse relation. The pistons are in turn controlled by a cam that reads information off the hour wheel and translates it into the linear action of the pistons (which is then again translated into the circular motion of the liquid column, a fascinating study in nested mechanisms).

An interesting thing happens at 5:59, when the yellow liquid reaches the very end of the tube (its ends are hidden beneath the massive six o'clock hour index). The pistons leap into accelerated action as the yellow liquid backtracks all the way to the other side of the six o'clock hour index to repeat its clockwise journey around the dial. All in all, the H1 is a strong start from a brand we're pretty certain we'll be hearing from more in the future. ♦