



HYT

PRESS REVIEW
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Time Flows By

*HYT's debut creation is not only a hydromechanical masterpiece,
but also a stunner on the wrist.*



A LOOK AT Swiss horologist HYT's first model, the H1, brings to mind the kind of technological sophistication that one would usually associate with the state-of-the-art engine of a German automobile. And why should it not? After all, it took the company more than 10 years since the inception of the idea to reach this level of parity. The ingenious watch, devised by innovator Lucien Vouillamoz, pays allegiance to horological art and hydromechanical technology and transfers ancient clepsydras, or water clocks, onto man's wrist—the H1 uses fluid to indicate time.

"It is one of the first real innovations in watchmaking in many years, if not decades," claims Vincent Perriard, CEO of HYT. "It has an intuitive, unconscious root in everyone's mind—time flows."

It was a display of watches in the Three-Lakes region of Watch Valley, Switzerland, during the Swiss National Exhibition in 2002, that served to inspire Vouillamoz to exploit fluid technology in mechanical timepieces. He started developing upon the idea and got a welcome boost in 2010 after a meeting with Perriard, who had previously

The H1 watch, which will officially be launched next month, mixes mechanical horology with fluid technology.

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also attempted to use fluid in a transportable watch. Perriard recalls, "A mutual friend acted as a heaven-sent intermediary for this explosive encounter. I'd dreamt of going even further [with my idea], and Lucien Vouillamoz could provide the key to this dream—the technology." Perriard and Vouillamoz immediately knew that their attempt, if successful, would pique the interest of connoisseurs and collectors worldwide.

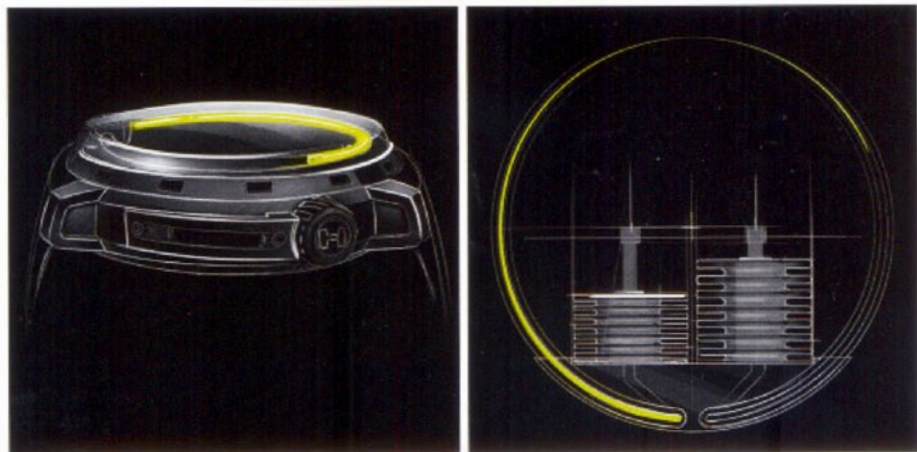
The H1 was launched at Baselworld, the prestigious annual watch and jewellery fair in Basel, Switzerland, in March this year to a "fantastic welcome". "Collectors were amazed by our watch. An amazing number of watch aficionados immediately recognised the innovation, which translated into a very successful launch," says Perriard. Indeed, the pieces presented in Basel were an instant sell-out. HYT has scheduled a worldwide official launch for next month.

The idea at the root of the hybrid watch consists of fixing two flexible reservoirs to either end of a 120-millimetre-long capillary, which is visible along the circumference of the dial. Vouillamoz thought of using an aqueous liquid filled with fluorescein (to lend luminescence) in one capillary and a transparent viscous liquid in the other. A meniscus marks the boundary between the two and thus, indicates time. The fluid replaces the hour hand and the minutes are read on the dial at the 12 o'clock position. While the fluid in the watch follows its crescent-shaped course, the seconds tick by in a small seconds-

display resembling a water wheel. At the 2.30 position, a 65-hour power-reserve hand indicates the remaining energy available across three arcs of a circle. The mechanical movement is an exclusive HYT calibre made by Swiss manufacturer Jean-François Mojon's company, Chronode.

The technologically-sound H1 also benefits from a taut and masculine design. The uncompromising construction by the watch's architect, Sébastien Perret, can be viewed just as well through the 5-millimetre sapphire crystal back as from the front. The geometric design, fluorescent fluid, capillaries, rhodiumed bellows, pistons and baignoire-shaped hour-markers, all evoke an industrious image. But the watch, measuring 48.8 millimetres in diameter and 17.9 millimetres in thickness, rests elegantly on the wrist.

HYT will be making the H1 available in four variants—titanium, titanium black DLC, pink gold, and titanium black DLC and pink gold—priced from ₹27.5 lakh. Perriard reveals that the company is already working on H1 extensions as well as H2 and H3 models, which are expected to be introduced from 2013 onwards. And following several customer requests, HYT will soon also be giving shape to exclusive-setting pieces in its future collection—allowing watch aficionados to own a unique personalised horological masterpiece. —AROMA SAH



The watch boasts an industrial design with pistons and bellows, and its dial contains fluorescent fluid that follows a crescent-shaped course to tell time.

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