



HYT

Live and **LET DYE**

BY SCOTT HICKEY

HYT adds a splash of color to its hydro-mechanical watches with new red and blue hour indicators.



More than a simple cosmetic change, creating these new fluid colors presented a formidable technical hurdle. To better understand why, HYT CEO Vincent Perriard says it's important to remember that the hour "hand" is actually comprised of two liquids — one colored and water-based and the other clear and viscous. "The challenge is to keep these two fluids separate so they never mix," he explains. "That means we not only had to develop a new colored liquid, but also find the formula for its viscous counterpart." Starting from scratch, the company spent a year developing the red display and more than 18 months on the blue version.

Housed in a 48.8mm titanium case, HYT's mechanical movement keeps time and powers the retrograde liquid hour indicator. Production of the H2 Titanium Platinum SQ will be limited to 15 pieces.

FLUID MOVEMENTS

A standout among these kaleidoscopic debuts is the **H2 Titanium Platinum SQ**. Its red liquid moves like a retrograde hand as it traces the curves of the round platinum bezel. When it reaches the titanium dome at 6 o'clock, the red recedes and then continues its journey from its starting point.

In the H2, this revolutionary fluid indicator is paired with a caliber designed by master watchmaker Giulio Papi. By angling the bellows that contain the liquids into a V-shape, he created more space to show off the movement architecture, including the oscillating balance wheel at the top of the dial. The design also adds functionality with a central minutes hand, a crown position indicator and a thermal gauge that lets you know when the watch is in its optimal temperature range.

The view from the back has evolved as well. The H2's large crystal caseback reveals two mainspring barrels used to store the watch's eight-day power reserve. Instead of adding a conventional power reserve indicator, HYT skeletonized the barrels so you can observe the tension in the springs and quickly see if the watch needs winding.

PERSONAL TIME

The new hues, however, aren't limited to the H2 collection. This year, HYT also introduced several colorful limited editions, including the **H1 Dracula DLC** (50 pieces) and the **H1 Sand Barth** (25 pieces). The latter opens up a range of creative possibilities the likes of which have never been seen in high-end watchmaking.

Like the H1 AZO Project and H1 Graphite Project introduced last year, the H1 Sand Barth features a case made from polyepoxyde, an extremely strong material that's four times lighter than titanium. With the earlier models, HYT tinted the material to create colored cases.

For this latest version, the brand went a step further by injecting the polyepoxyde resin with grains of white sand taken from a beach on St. Barths. "This resin can capture any solid element you can imagine. It could be bubbles from your favorite Champagne, or even flakes of tobacco from a cigar. The possibilities are amazing," Perriard says.

With this exciting new development, HYT is taking bespoke watchmaking to a whole new level. ©

From top: Grains of sand appear suspended in the clear polyepoxyde case that houses the H1 Sand Barth, which boasts HYT's new blue hour indicator. HYT will only make 25 of these watches.

Bright red courses through the H1 Dracula DLC's hour display, which circles the black DLC-coated titanium case. Production is limited to just 50 pieces.

