



IN FOCUS



Essentials

**HYT H2**  
Titanium DLC

**Price:** £99,000  
**Case:** Titanium DLC  
**Movement:** bellows-driven exclusive caliber  
**Diameter:** 48.8mm  
**Functions:** retrograde "fluidic" hours, minutes with jumping hand; crown position indicator; temperature indicator

**QP verdict:**  
Already a technical masterpiece; now it's a colourful one

## NO PRESSURE

How do you improve on a pioneering, unique liquid-based watch? If you're HYT, you start again entirely from scratch

When HYT launched in 2012, some misguided souls might have written the H1 off as a bit of a gimmick – in principle, at least. The use of liquid to tell the time was limited to Chinese water clocks, and few people would have been surprised if it stayed that way [don't miss our interview with CEO and founder Vincent Perriard on page 24].

But, in part due to the appetite for avant-garde watch designs created by MB&F, Urwerk *et al* over the past half-decade, HYT enjoyed a groundswell of appreciation in horological circles; the H1 was a success, and this year the concept was being refined in the H2.



Refined is a rather too... well, *refined* way of putting it, in reality. Only the twin barrels from the H1 were carried over into the H2 unchanged. Everything else got a ground-up overhaul, and the resulting watch cannot help but make its predecessor look a bit "done" – if that's possible for a watch that uses a bellows-driven tube of luminous liquid to indicate the passage of hours.

The APRP-developed running train has been reworked to allow for a V-shaped arrangement of the bellows, which is more engaging than the squat layout from before. The power reserve has been tweaked, in line with the skeletonisation of the dial as a whole, to show the spring that controls it, and a temperature indication has been added, balancing out the left hand side of the dial. Temperature, of course, matters more when your watch relies on the behaviour of a viscous liquid. HYT tests the mixture between -30°C and +40°C to ensure consistency. So it will be a rare day that you need to act on the information of the gauge, but it brings home the point that this isn't just about bright colours moving around.

Indeed, the release of blue and red versions of the liquid – accompanying various colour ways in the case design – is no mere aesthetic flourish. Changing the colour of the liquid inevitably means changing its chemical makeup, and it took HYT's engineers several months to come up with – forgive the pun – the solution. Elsewhere, idiosyncrasy thrives: the minute markers are not aligned with the hour indexes, because the minute hand is designed to jump, when it reaches 30, across from one side of the bellows to the other – never impeding ones view of the watch's signature feature. Unnecessary? Of course. But it bespeaks a certain charm, and that's the H2's greatest success – to be resolutely scientific, yet rather a lot of fun too.

Chris Hall