



designer spotlight

BY MICHAEL R. MASHUTA

Silicon Valley Welcomes HYT: **THE HYDRO-MECHANICAL HOROLOGISTS**

What began as an abstract concept for a liquid wristwatch in 2002 became a reality nearly ten years later when HYT introduced themselves as the hydro-mechanical horologists. HYT brought their vision to life by disregarding traditional boundaries and uniting two – fluid mechanics and haute horology. The faint, spidery drawings of gears, springs and mechanisms that have defined Swiss time keeping for over 200 years are a stark contrast to the bright, laser-printed patents for HYT's liquid-filled wristwatch. There is no doubt that HYT's unique innovation represents the first major shift in watchmaking ideology since the days of the early masters.

Where others have endeavored to keep liquid out of their watches, HYT has found a way to perfectly harmonize the fluidic hour display with exquisitely finished movements, ensuring their place of respect within the world of haute horology. CEO Vincent Perriard eloquently summarizes the effort by saying "We are very proud of our technology as we have turned utopia into reality – by mixing mechanics and liquid within a wristwatch, we have in fact united two worlds that are supposedly diametrically opposed, and the door is open to many new developments."

History

HYT gained the attention of the watchmaking world in a way that most aspiring watch brands could only dream of—by taking home the Innovation Watch Prize at the 2012 Grand Prix de l'Horlogerie de Genève. Each year this hard-fought competition attracts the top entries from the best manufacturers in the world. Winning at the Grand Prix confirms HYT's dedication to the values designed to enhance the international renown of the Swiss watch industry: innovation, perpetuating expertise across generations, and a constant quest for excellence.

HYT H1

The H1 was the first offering by the brand and the recipient of the Innovation Prize in 2012 with its titanium black DLC case version. The most prominent feature is the green liquid hour indicator running around the perimeter of the dial. The liquid filled bellows, which anchor the design at the six o'clock position, expand and contract to move two fluids: one fluorescent and one transparent. Like oil and water, neither is able to mix with the other and the boundary of this relationship marks the passing hours. Beginning underneath the titanium dome at six o'clock at the bottom of the dial, the green liquid fully encircles the face of the watch over a twelve-hour period. Twice a day, at six in the morning and evening, the liquid races back around the capillary tube, disappearing in less than sixty seconds. The minute display is shown on the machined sub-dial bearing the HYT name. Running seconds are captured by a uniquely colored spoke of a watermill to the left of the sub-dial at 10:30. This is visually balanced at 02:30 on the right by a power reserve display, highlighting the 65 hours of running time provided by the hand-wound, mechanical movement.

The taut, industrial design of the 48.8 millimeter case displays the mechanical movement through sapphire crystal on the back of watch, highlighting the hand-finished bridges adorned with the traditional Côtes de Genève engraving. The case of the H1 is available in materials varying from lightweight, high-tech to luxurious, including titanium, Alun 316 (a composition of aluminum with a zirconium, magnesium and titanium alloy), polyepoxyde resin (4 times lighter than titanium but 3 times more resistant) and pink gold. Depending on the choice of cases, the hour-indicating liquid can be neon green, an electric blue, or a volcanic red. All combinations are held securely to the wrist with an ergonomically-angled rubber strap and chunky pin buckle. When the H1 released to critical acclaim and high demand, HYT could have rested on its laurels. However, the relentless hydro-mechanical horologists forged ahead and released the even more radical H2.



TITANIUM BLACK DLC **HYT H1**

HYT H2 TITANIUM PLATINUM SQ

HYT H2 ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| |||||

While the H1 delivered proof that HYT could envision and execute a ground-breaking concept; the H2 demonstrates their commitment to create an ultra-high performance hybrid wristwatch. For the heart of the H2, HYT formed a partnership with legendary movement supplier Audemars Piguet Renaud & Papi. Together they created an all-titanium, deconstructed movement with an amazing 8 day power reserve. The exclusive movement has numerous functions that are each highlighted on the redesigned dial.

First, the liquid filled bellow-like reservoirs have been rearranged to an iconic "V" shape, simultaneously making the design more aggressive and exposed. A jumping minutes hand dominates the center of the dial of the H2. The hand jumps instantaneously between the bellows at thirty minutes past the hour. Angling these reservoirs not only evokes the powerful stroke of a sports car V8, but also creates room for a crown-position

indicator and a thermal indicator showing if the watch is in its optimal temperature segment to be handled. As a whole, the H2 has more three-dimensional character than its predecessor. This is especially thanks to the balance spring beating furiously at the top of the dial. This fusion of technology, liquid and mechanics is captured inside a 48.8 millimeter case that is available in a range of high-tech materials and finishes.

HYT has created a new category in the old world of haute horology. In just two short years they continue to their sights even higher - through lighter materials, more complex movements and greater worldwide distribution. HYT has captured a world-first technology by pairing precision engineering with cutting edge design to create a line of timepieces that are as exclusive as they are high-performing. Owning an HYT states a dedication to exploration in search of expertise and breaking boundaries to create real innovation.

