



SPECIAL FEATURE

## Hydro Horology

**A** fresh and intriguing new watch brand emerges every now and then, and one that has quickly gained the attention of watch enthusiasts is HYT. First making a debut in 2012, the HYT H1 adorns uncommon parts that do not conform to that of a typical watch: liquids and pistons. Conventional wisdom is that watches are crafted with the idea to keep water out of its internal system. Ingeniously, HYT incorporates liquids within the body of the watch itself. The showstopper of the H1 is that the hour hand is replaced with a liquid indicator pumped by two flexible reservoirs that look like pistons of a car engine. While the top center circle is to show minutes, at 2:30 is a 65-hour power reserve indicator, and at 9:30 is a seconds wheel. It might



HYT H2 SQ Mush 300

Photos courtesy of © HYT  
be a simple yet creative concept, but to execute the project took years of research and development. To overcome the fluid fluid regulating challenges of the H1, the R&D team had to look for answers beyond the

watch industry, such as tapping into NASA space shuttles' nano technology. In order for the two liquids- clear and fluorescent- to perfectly circulate, the glass tube had to even be coated with seven types of chemicals. Just take a look at the sapphire crystal back of the watch as it is visible that the mechanical movement is limited to just half of the diameter of the watch. The movement of the 48.8mm diameter watch is extremely light as it is made out of a combination



HYT H1 Black Mush 300

of titanium and aluminium, housed within a titanium case.

The next evolution came in the form of the H2, which share the same fluid principles of the H1 but this time with a different movement and face presentation. First appearing in BaselWorld 2013, the H2 was created by the HYT team with support from Giulio Papi of Audemars Piguet Renaud & Papi- the advanced research arm of Audemars Piguet. The striking difference is that the pistons on the H2 are now v-shaped, mimicking



HYT H1 GoldLiftFace Mush 300

a V-engine of high-performance automobiles. The minute hand is made centered revolving the whole diameter of the watch, and at 12:00 the motion of the balance wheel made clearly visible. At 3:00 are three letters, H-N-R, with design cues from an automobile gear stick which functions to indicate the position of the crown. At 9:00 is a temperature indicator to indicate the most optimum temperature range for the fluid to function properly: blue indicates that the surrounding temperature is too cold, red is too hot, and white is just right. Another astonishing feature of the H2 is that the movement has an 8-day power reserve, all the while having to power the two flexible pistons that require a relatively big amount of energy. The H1 is water resistant up to 100 meters, and the H2 can handle depths of 50 meters.

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