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HYT's Skull Bad Boy: Fluid Time-Telling Evolves Thanks To Swiss Engineering

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HYT Skull Bad Boy

HYT burst onto the luxury watch scene in 2012 with a revolutionary fluid display technology that uniquely saw the boutique brand having to invent glass capillaries and colorful liquid as well as a miniaturized bellows system to fit inside the confines of a mechanical watch movement in order to achieve its goals.

That's a hefty list of accomplishments needed just for one "simple" thing: displaying time.

And the fun thing is that HYT hasn't rested on its liquid laurels: in 2015, the Neuchâtel-based brand saw the launch of both the imposing H3 (see [How The HYT Is Set To Ensure HYT's Future](#)) and something quite a bit more unusual: a watch with liquid display whose main attraction is a skull staring out at you (see [The HYT Skull: Fad, Trend, Style, Or Movement](#)).



At the 2016 edition of Baselworld, HYT presented the Skull Bad Boy, a variation on the liquid time-telling skull theme that offers more than first meets the eye. Nothing has changed about the fact that the hours are indicated by fluid circumnavigating the perimeter of the skull – but what has changed is the color of that fluid: it is jet-black. And while that sounds like an easy thing to do, rest assured that it is not because it called for changing the chemical composition of the capillary fluid. This was a development that required 12 months' worth of research and development.



HYT Skull Bad Boy

The power reserve indicator remains within the right eye socket – which gets darker as the 65-hour power reserve winds down – while the seconds are displayed in the left eye socket. You can cease looking for a display of minutes because there isn't one; however, you can estimate the time to the nearest ten-minute interval using the hour display. But that's no great shakes, either, because once it gets dark you can't see the time anyway.

This was a desired effect as the black liquid, the “dark” presence, and the new skull crafted in a novel, funky material combine to provide this new timepiece with its fitting name: Bad Boy. That funky material is one the brand calls “Neuchâtel Damascus,” so named because it resembles Damascus steel. This Damascus composite comes from a foundry in the Neuchâtel region that folds multiple layers of steel and carbon fiber on itself 256 times to achieve the desired look. No two batches (one batch is enough to cast five skulls) will ever be identical. The black of the carbon fiber is further revealed by a chemical abrasion process after which it is covered by a translucent varnish to fill the tiny crevasses that emerge from the process.

At 51 mm in diameter, the manually wound titanium-encased HYT Skull Bad Boy is not for the faint of wrist. It comes in a limited edition of 50 pieces for a price of 90,000 Swiss francs. For more skull-themed watches I found at Baselworld, see [Give Me Five! Skulls Grinning From Behind The Crystal At Baselworld 2016](#).

Elizabeth Doerr is the editor-in-chief of Quill & Pad, an online publication that keeps a watch on time.