

Glashütte, June 2013

The creator of time

The Moritz Grossmann manufacture presents the ATUM, its second line of watches

Atum, the god of creation in ancient Egyptian mythology, is the eponymous figure after whom the second watch line of the young manufacture in Glashütte has been named. The manually wound ATUM epitomises mature technology and the ultimate in manufacturing perfection. It is a manifestation of time in the form of precious materials and traditional craftsmanship.

The superb functionality of the ATUM is reflected in its subtly balanced aesthetic appeal. The movement is embedded in a three-part precious-metal case with a slender bezel. The applied markers with polished chamfers clearly contrast against the solid-silver dial. The subsidiary seconds dial above the "6" is recessed, so that the hands can hover tightly over the crisply defined minute scale.

The hands are manually fashioned in the manufacture – a rare artisanal process in modern watchmaking – and are endowed with a lance shape as well as broad chamfers to match the three-dimensionality of the hour markers. Each hand is meticulously tempered and ground to achieve a sharp, elongated tip. The colour of the hands is chosen in the interest of maximum contrast against the base colour of the dial: Shiny stainless steel hands match the dark dials while flame-annealed steel hands are the perfect complement for all brighter dials. Brown, an unusual colour for steel, is the result of a carefully timed annealing process that needs to be stopped with one-second accuracy.

Several innovations in the movement of the ATUM are noteworthy in the ways they optimise its user-friendliness and functional reliability.

The Grossmann balance, a newly conceived oscillator, is crafted in-house in its entirety.

The manual Grossmann winder with pusher incorporates a perfected handsetting mechanism.

And the remodified Glashütte stopwork allows the components to be flexibly configured.

Calibre 100.1 movement

The calibre 100.1 movement of the ATUM can be admired through the ample, non-reflective sapphire-crystal display back. Subtly proportioned components in untreated German silver with different types of finissage constitute the individual levels of the pillar movement. The signature is hand-engraved into the characteristic 2/3 plate decorated with wide horizontal ribbing. The circular cutout of the plate reveals the new Grossmann balance for the first time. It is carried by the cantilevered, hand-engraved balance cock with the typical micrometer screw. The ATUM also embodies all the hallmarks and underlying values of a classically crafted timepiece signed MORITZ GROSSMANN GLASHÜTTE I/SA.

- Pillar movement with 2/3 plate and frame pillars in untreated German silver
- Hand-engraved 2/3 plate, balance cock, and escape-wheel cock
- Wide horizontal Glashütte ribbing on the 2/3 plate
- Adjustment with Grossmann micrometer screw on a cantilevered balance cock
- Remodified Glashütte stopwork with backlash
- Separately removable clutch winder
- White sapphire jewels in raised gold chatons with brown-violet pan-head screws
- 3-band snailing on the ratchet wheel

The Grossmann balance

The calibre 100.1 movement is the first to incorporate the newly designed oscillator. Optimised for artisanal manufacturing techniques, the ingenious design of the Grossmann balance improves the adjustability of inertia and achieves high kinetic energy combined with minimised air resistance and the smallest possible mass. The number of screws in the balance wheel rim was minimised, and the bores in the rim are equidistant. This makes it possible to vary the moment of inertia by inserting mass screws with different head lengths in the bores. The smooth cylindrical balance staff is integrated in the hub and can easily be replaced if necessary. The Grossmann balance is paired with a Nivarox 1 balance spring that is overcoiled with a quarter arc on the inside and secured to the slotted roller with a brass pin.

The manual Grossmann winder with pusher

The watchmakers at Grossmann addressed the requirements imposed on a manually wound watch by focusing on improved convenience and greater functional reliability. The Grossmann winder with pusher features a refined handsetting mechanism that eliminates two possible error sources: the ingress of particles into the case while the hands are being set and the unintentional alteration of the hand positions while the crown is being pushed home again.

When the user briefly pulls the winding crown out, the winder switches to the handsetting mode and simultaneously stops the movement. The crown immediately returns to its home position but can now be turned to precisely set the hands. Afterwards, the movement is restarted with the pusher adjacent to the winding crown without altering the positions of the hands. At the same time, the mechanism switches back to the winding mode.

A modified Glashütte stopwork secures the tension of the mainspring. After winding, it allows the ratchet wheel to reverse somewhat and slightly relax the mainspring. With the launch of the calibre 100.1 movement in the ATUM, Grossmann's watchmakers introduced an optimised, space-saving variation of this recoil. The stop click sits on a lever that pivots about the centre of the mainspring barrel and accommodates the backlash stroke.

Myths of creation

The Ennead of Heliopolis is one of the oldest stories in ancient Egyptian mythology about the inception of the world. The nine deities are revered in Heliopolis, where the Bennu incarnated on earth as the first living being. The god Atum is the origin of the nine. Self-begotten from nothing, he represents the genesis of everything. Atum is the cosmos, matter, and the complete one; through his progeny, he is the finisher of the world. With his creative powers, Atum engendered air and moisture, the heavens and the earth, and time. The mythos of time is as fascinating as the enigmatic mythology of creation. And the god of creation inspired the second model line of the Grossmann manufacture, which now bears the name ATUM.

Models and prices

The following ATUM models are available:

ATUM Rose gold, Reference 002.B-211-11-1, argenté dial

ATUM White gold, Reference 002.B-221-11-1, argenté dial

ATUM White gold, Reference 002.B-221-13-1, charcoal dial

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