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Moritz Grossmann presents the PERPETUAL CALENDAR

The Glashütte manufactory celebrates its 17th anniversary with a grand complication

For Moritz Grossmann, the goal behind this new PERPETUAL CALENDAR was to create a timepiece that outlasts the changing eras and preserves its being in perpetuity. Its mechanism keeps the date display correct permanently, even when the months differ in length or the year is a leap year. This complication is considered one of the greatest challenges in watchmaking and combines precise technology with master craftsmanship.

For the 17th anniversary of its rebirth, the Glashütte-based manufactory is unveiling an impressive, newly engineered design. Ever since Christine Hutter brought new life to the tradition-filled Moritz Grossmann name in 2008, the brand has stood for a combination of classic mechanisms, contemporary style and utmost craftsmanship.

When it comes to the legacy of the man who gave the manufactory its name, Christine Hutter says, *'When I stumbled across Moritz Grossmann, I quickly realised just how significant this special watchmaker from the 19th century was. His story, his personality and work fascinated me right from the start. We have adopted Grossmann's standard of simple but perfect mechanics in our watches and expanded it to include modern design approaches and technical innovations.'*

The perpetual calendar indicators

Traditionally, a perpetual calendar combines a variety of information on a single dial. Arranging this information in an appealing way is a challenge of its own. The Moritz Grossmann PERPETUAL CALENDAR offers a symmetrical and clear dial where all the indicators come together to form a single, harmonious picture.

Both the watch's appearance and its legibility benefit from the way the date is presented on a ring running around the dial, with a full date scale from 1 to 31 printed on it. To distinguish the date display from the hour and minute hands and keep the face tidy and clear, there is a cup-shaped indicator on the outside that marks the current date by framing it. Another ring further in on the dial has a fine radiant cut to it that bolsters the elegant appearance.
The month and day of the week are displayed on two subsidiary dials left and right of centre, at 3 and 9 o'clock. They are decorated using a refined Azurage technique, just as the small seconds are. This technique involves a circular pattern of ultra-thin grooves which catch the light in an intriguing and appealing way. Each

of these subsidiary dials has a small window at its centre. One of them serves as a leap year indicator, as the hallmark of a perpetual calendar is its knowledge of leap years and indication of the 29th of February every four years. The second small window is a day–night display which makes it easier to link the time with the date when setting the watch.

The 12 o'clock position features a poetic moon phase display where a gleaming mother-of-pearl moon tracks across a dark night's sky with small, sparkling stars. The soft glow of the moon is set against a goldstone background which is illuminated by small copper crystals. Together, it is all reminiscent of a starry night's sky.

Convenient operation

Correctors are located on the sides of the case for all the displays on the PERPETUAL CALENDAR. Using them, the date, day of the week, month and moon phase can quickly be set and coordinated. The correctors are recessed subtly into the case and are operated with a special tool that comes with the watch.

The timepiece offers a further special feature in the form of a sum corrector. If the watch goes a few days without being wound, this pusher is all the wearer needs to revise the date since the day-of-week, month and moon phase indicators will all follow automatically.

Calibre 101.13 – a newly engineered design

The PERPETUAL CALENDAR sets new standards with the newly engineered 101.13 hand-wound calibre. This calibre is purely a plate movement based on a modified 100.1 movement with a module set on top for the perpetual calendar. Overall, it is an exceedingly complex piece of design that integrates numerous components. The module for the perpetual calendar alone consists of 211 individual parts, and they are complemented by the 190 components in the base movement.

Innovative mechanism with a fine finish

Many of the movement's details are brand new, including a simpler, optimised stopwork, an integrated manual winder and an escape wheel bearing integrated into the barrel bridge.

Apart from the sophisticated architecture, just the sheer aesthetics of the calibre alone are another key feature. This is because Moritz Grossmann decorates and finishes its movements in accordance with all the rules of traditional haute horlogerie.

A premiere with three variants

The Moritz Grossmann PERPETUAL CALENDAR is making its debut in three variants. Two models sport a rose gold case with slim, lance-shaped hands made of rose gold. The cup-shaped date indicator and hour appliqués are colour-coordinated to perfection. One of the models features a gleaming silver argenté dial whilst the other has a vibrant anthracite dial.

The third PERPETUAL CALENDAR variant is presented in a platinum case with a dial combining argenté and anthracite colours. The hour appliqués also have a silver colour, and the slender hands are made of blue tempered steel to ensure they are easy to read against the light background.

All three watches are worn on a dark brown alligator leather strap with a prong buckle.

The story behind the Perpetual Calendar

Our calendar is part of a bigger picture and connected to the greater universe: the path of the earth, its orbit around the sun and the cycle of the seasons. Notably, absolutely none of this occurs with complete regularity. Our months are of different lengths, and even the number of days in a year changes during leap years.

This is all linked to the course of the sun and our desire to keep our time in synchrony with the time of the sun. This desire was already influencing humans thousands of years ago, and actually drove the ancient Romans to come up with a very precise calendar. They even invented the leap year for it, which saw an additional day – the 29th of February – being counted every four years.

Despite the Romans' cleverly devised calculations, their calendar was eventually not precise enough as the Christians' Easter festival kept shifting to later and later in the year as the centuries progressed. Pope Gregory XIII, pontiff of the Catholic church in the 16th century, took this as cause to have astronomers recalculate the time. He subsequently introduced a new calendar, the eponymous 'Gregorian calendar', with the particularity that the leap year is skipped every 100 years – except for full centuries divisible by 400.

For watchmakers, this irregularity represents an exceptional challenge because the demands placed on the mechanism require absolute regularity. It takes a perpetual calendar to master this complexity as only a perpetual calendar accounts for different month lengths and leap years independently. A manual readjustment will not be necessary until the year 2100.

MORITZ GROSSMANN
GLASHÜTTE I/SA

Technical Data for the PERPETUAL CALENDAR

Reference:	Perpetual Calendar Rose Gold, Argenté: MG-003906 Perpetual Calendar Rose Gold, Anthracite: MG-003907 Perpetual Calendar Platinum, Argenté, Anthracite: MG-003904
Movement	Manufacture calibre 101.13. manual winding, regulated in five positions
No. of parts	401 (movement 190/calendar gears 211)
No. of jewels	37 jewels, including 4 gold chatons, 3 of which are screwed
Escapement	Lever escapement
Oscillator	Shock-absorbed Grossmann balance with 4 inertia screws and 2 poising screws, suspended Nivarox 1 balance spring with No. 80 terminal curve, Gustav Gerstenberger geometry
Balance Diameter: 14.2 mm, frequency: 18,000 semi-oscillations per hour	
Power reserve	42 hours when fully wound
Functions	Hours and minutes, small seconds with stop-second function, date, day of week, month, moon phase, Grossmann manual winder with pusher
Operating elements:	Crown in rose gold/platinum to wind the watch and set the time; pusher in rose gold/platinum to start the watch; correctors in rose gold/platinum to set the date, day of week, month and moon phase; sum corrector in rose gold/platinum to correct the date
Case dimensions	Diameter: 41.0 mm, height: 13.9 mm
Movement dimensions: Diameter: 36.4 mm, height: 8.3 mm	
Case	Three-part, rose gold/platinum
Dial	Argenté, argenté/anthracite, inner ring finished with a radiant cut, subsidiary dials decorated with Azurage, indices in the form of appliqués, goldstone moon phase display, mother-of-pearl moon
Hands	Manually crafted rose gold, polished; manually crafted steel annealed to a blue hue
Crystal/display back: Sapphire crystal, antireflective coating on one side	
Strap	Hand-stitched alligator leather with solid prong buckle in rose gold/platinum
Special features	Balance staff with integrated safety roller, location of the impulse pin in the balance (Glashütte style); index adjuster with fine screw; 2/3 plate inspired by historical M. Grossmann pocket watches; frame parts in untreated German silver; raised gold chatons with pan-head screws; stop-second function at safety roller for pulling the crown; hand setting override and start of movement with lateral pusher; gear wheel stopwork with two-teeth backlash

Moritz Grossmann watches:
Moritz Grossmann, born in Dresden in 1826, was deemed a visionary among Germany's great horologists. In 1854, his friend Ferdinand Adolph Lange persuaded the young, highly talented watchmaker to establish his own mechanical workshop in Glashütte. Apart from building a respected watchmaking business, Grossmann was committed to political and social causes. He established the German School of Watchmaking in 1878. Moritz Grossmann passed away unexpectedly in 1885, after which his manufacture was liquidated.
The spirit of Moritz Grossmann's horological traditions sprang back to life in 2008 when trained watchmaker Christine Hutter discovered the venerable Glashütte brand and had it re-registered. She developed concepts and was inspired by the vision of reviving Grossmann's legacy more than 120 years later with a particularly exquisite wristwatch. And she convinced private watch enthusiasts to support her in making this dream come true. On 11 November 2008, she founded Grossmann Uhren GmbH in Glashütte.
At Grossmann, gifted watchmakers are preserving traditions without copying historic timepieces. With innovation, superb craftsmanship, a combination of traditional and contemporary manufacturing methods as well as precious materials, they celebrate 'Schönstes deutsches Handwerk' with their timepieces.

PERPETUAL CALENDAR, image and video material to download:
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PERPETUAL CALENDAR Rose gold, Argenté

PERPETUAL CALENDAR Rose gold, Charcoal

PERPETUAL CALENDAR Platinum, Argenté

PERPETUAL CALENDAR Rose gold, Argenté

PERPETUAL CALENDAR Rose gold, Charcoal

PERPETUAL CALENDAR Platinum, Argenté