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MB&F

HOROLOGICAL MACHINE NO. 4 THUNDERBOLT

Taking off with Max Büsser's latest wild creation

MB&F HM4 THUNDERBOLT

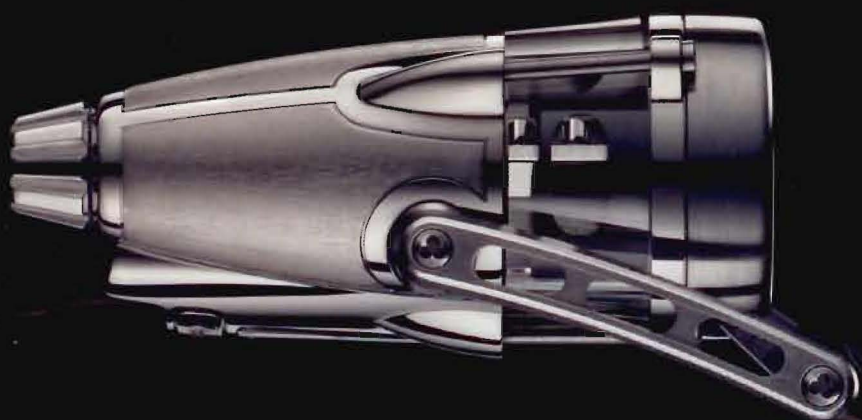
MOVEMENT: Engine developed by Laurent Besse and Beranger Reynard, balance frequency 21,600bph; 72-hour power reserve

FUNCTIONS: Hours, minutes and power reserve; separate crowns for time setting and winding

DIALS: Black with arrow tipped Super-Luminova filled hands, power reserve indicated via MB&F's battle-axe

STRAP: Black handstitched calfskin strap with titanium and white gold custom-designed deployment buckle





From the side, the HM4 resembles a sleek aircraft engine; the back provides a clear view of the special dual-barrel movement.

Max Büsser likes to keep us guessing. His Horological Machines have continually surprised us over the years: five to be exact as MB&F just celebrated its anniversary! His watches' form and function have been a breath of fresh air in a universe of traditionalism and history. This time, he had a difficult time containing himself, as his newest creation, the Horological Machine No. 4 Thunderbolt, is perhaps his most radical time-piece yet, but it's also the first to be animated by a movement exclusively developed for MB&F.

In fact, you'd be hard pressed to find another watch that could make use of the Thunderbolt's heart. It is comprised of over 300 components, with virtually each and every one, down to the screws, developed specifically for this movement. Max Büsser first showed it to the world during Basel, but left everyone guessing as to the watch design itself. As far as we can tell, no one got close to guessing the final design, even after a teaser video was released, a few days before the grand reveal.

Perhaps inspired by his time spent on flights, criss-crossing the globe on his now legendary world tours, each year presenting his creations to his avid followers, the HM4 Thunderbolt could be called MB&F's "pilot watch." Resembling two aircraft engines side by side, the left "pod" is the watch's fuel tank, showing the

power reserve with MB&F's signature battle-axe. The right pod shows hours and minutes, with an aviation style dial and Super Luminova filled hands. Perhaps the biggest surprise is how legible the Thunderbolt is, in spite of its unusual shape; the previous Horological Machines have occasionally been a boon for optometrists, as the wearers were occasionally left baffled by how to actually read the time – but you don't wear these pieces of art just for that, do you?

Taking a closer look though, you'll notice that the HM4 is made of grade 5 titanium, with five sapphire crystals: two for the dials, one for the central case section, and one for each of the display panels on the top and bottom. We must not forget the friends who worked on this project either: Laurent Besse and Beranger Reynard, of Les Artisans Horlogers, spent three years developing the movement. It features horizontally configured dual mainspring barrels, driving two vertical gear trains that transfer power, with a reserve of 72 hours, to the twin pods. The articulated lugs ensure that the machine's oversized dimensions are not an impediment to its wearing comfort.

Max Büsser says that the HM4's roots are in fact from his childhood passion for model aeroplane kits. Rev★lution applauds him for letting his inner child express himself through his horological machines today.★