

MELCHIOR ONLY WATCH

MB&F by L'EPÉE 1839



10TH ANNIVERSARY
MB&F
A CREATIVE ADULT IS A CHILD WHO SURVIVED

MB&F
by
L'EPÉE 1839



MELCHIOR

UNIQUE PIECE - ONLY WATCH 2015

SUMMARY

MELCHIOR – A ROBOT-CUM-TABLE CLOCK

MELCHIOR'S MOVEMENT IN FOCUS

THE NAME 'MELCHIOR'

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

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MB&F

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Melchior Only Watch is a friendly robot best buddy with a mission to help and protect. Only Watch is a biennial charity auction of unique timepieces under the High Patronage of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco to raise money for research on Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD). This is a genetic disorder characterized by progressive muscle degeneration affecting young children, primarily boys.

With his broad shoulders protected by bright red anodised aluminium pads, strong metallic arms and legs, and a personality highlighted by an animated brain and blinking eyes, Melchior is ready to play with his friends. And he also has a small arsenal at his disposal, just in case any bad guys turn up and try to spoil the party!

But while Melchior is certainly playful, he is not a toy. For as well as his always-at-the-ready-to-serve-and-defend demeanour, Melchior is also a high-end table clock crafted by L'Epée 1839– Switzerland's only specialised high-end clock manufacture – featuring jumping hours, sweeping minutes, double retrograde seconds, and an impressive 40-day power reserve drawing from five mainspring barrels.

Hours and minutes are displayed via discs on Melchior's chest, while a dial on his abdomen indicates the state of wind of that long power reserve. Melchior's eyes blink through a combination of fixed vents and revolving discs, endowing the robot with a playful touch of human-like personality. Melchior's brain, which is actually the movement's precision regulator, provides further animation as it gently pulsates under the polished glass dome on his head.

Founded in 2005, MB&F celebrates its first decade in 2015 under the theme: "A creative adult is a child who survived". Melchior Only Watch epitomises that expression perfectly. A true robot companion is one you can play with, and Melchior does not disappoint. His upper arms rotate and lower arms pivot up or down – excellent manoeuvrability for aiming his rocket launcher or Gatling gun to blast away any bad guys that try to spoil the fun. And more practically, the gun detaches and doubles as the winding/setting key for the movement.

"A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away, man's best friend was his robot," says Büsser. "As a 10-year-old fan of Star Wars, I knew Luke Skywalker could never have prevailed had it not been for droids like R2-D2 – a loyal, resourceful, and brave robot who was always saving his friends. As an only child, I imagined having my own robot companion. Melchior makes that childhood fantasy a reality."

The unique piece Melchior Only Watch is the 100th and final piece in the Melchior series. Clothed in palladium-plated brass and steel with bright red shoulder pads, Melchior is sure to put smiles on children's faces and melt the hearts of adults.



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MB&F founder Maximilian Büsser developed the Melchior concept with designer Xin Wang in a quest to revisit his childhood hankering for a robot friend. Melchior comprises no fewer than 480 components, each one machined and finished at L'Epée's Swiss atelier, bar the 50 movement jewels. An impressive 334 components make up the movement, while another 146 pieces comprise Melchior's bodywork and armour.

Such was the originality of MB&F's robot concept that L'Epée needed to develop several new components: Machining, finishing and assembling a piece like the bulging glass dome forming Melchior's skull was a first for L'Epée, as was crafting a stainless steel winding/time-setting key to resemble a Gatling gun.

The winding/time-setting key clips into Melchior's left elbow joint socket. It is held by a small magnet strong enough to hold the key, but not so powerful as to affect the function of the movement. The key boasts a double-depth square socket that neatly fits over both of the square pegs on the back of Melchior. One of the pegs is for winding the movement, the other for time setting.

Working from MB&F's design, L'Epée diligently developed the various bodywork and armour components, carefully choosing materials according to the properties required. Where precision was critical – Melchior's kinetic parts and his precision rocket launcher, for instance – plated brass was selected. His armour on the other hand is crafted mainly in stainless steel, providing optimal resistance to withstand any enemy attacks.

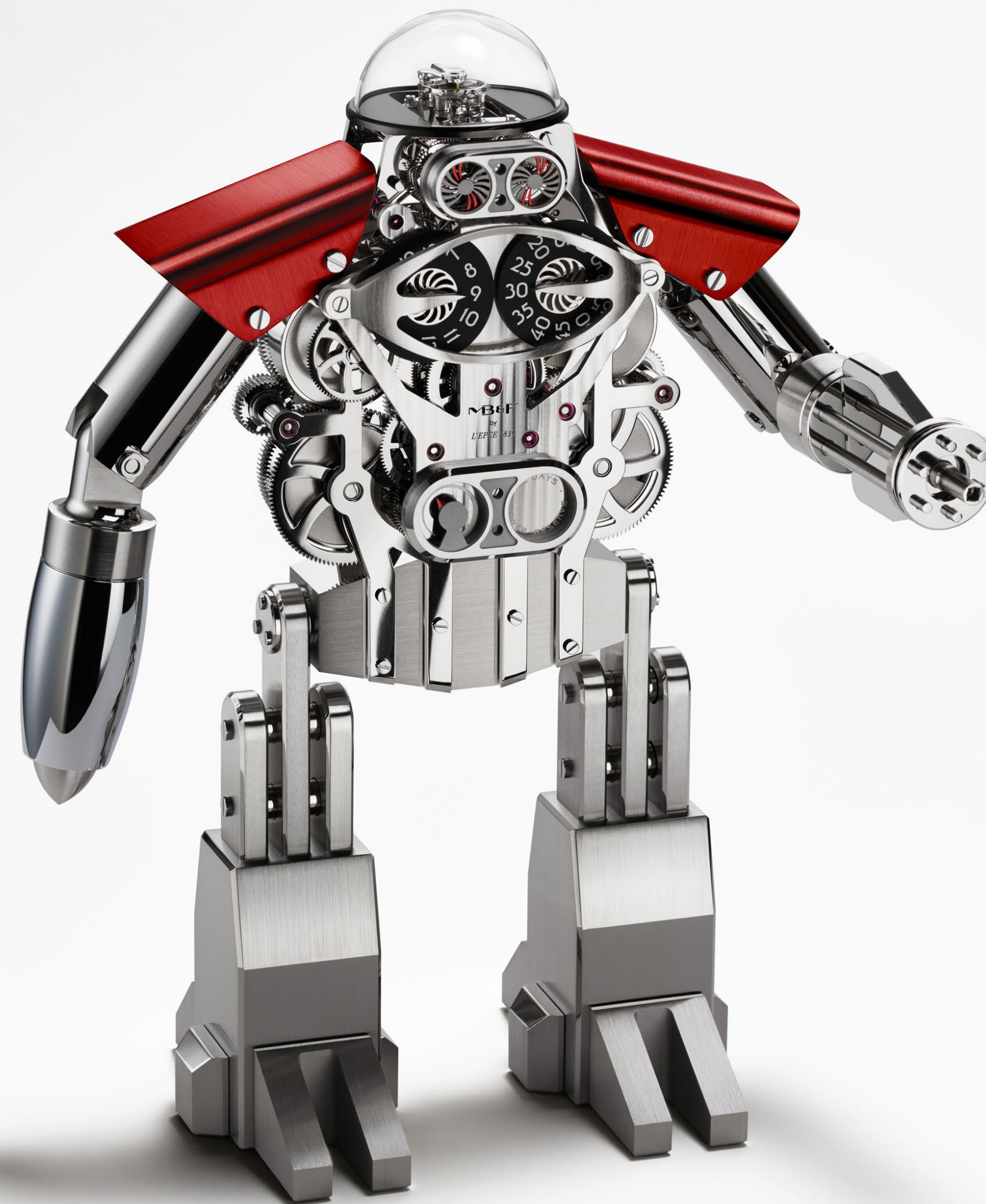
And for the finishing touch, L'Epée have applied a range of eye-catching finishes to Melchior's bodywork – including anglage, mirror polishing, satin finishing, circular satin finishing, sand-blasting and polishing.

"L'Epée are amazing, a joy to work with," says Maximilian Büsser. "They always step up to the plate, no matter how original, how challenging the design".

For L'Epée CEO Arnaud Nicolas, the positive feeling is mutual. "We had a real blast making Melchior with MB&F,"

he says. "Melchior is not just a table clock, it is a kinetic sculpture for eternal children and includes lots of small details, the type that we love working on at L'Epée. It was a stimulating technical challenge".

Arnaud Nicolas adds: "There is a real majesty about Melchior. When we first saw the plans for it, we knew it was going to be good. But only after making the first prototype did we realise quite how special it was going to be. On that day we knew MB&F's creativity had pushed us once again to a place no one had gone before."



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MELCHIOR'S MOVEMENT IN FOCUS

To create Melchior's highly visible movement, L'Épée developed a completely new skeletonised main plate in palladium-plated brass, which sandwiches the movement mechanism, also in palladium-plated brass.

For clear reading of the hour, L'Épée developed a 'slow' jumping hour. This in-house complication sees the hour disc remain static for 55 minutes, then start to turn five minutes before the new hour so that the change of hour is smooth and subtle.

The movement regulator features an Incabloc shock protection system, which minimises the risk of damage when the clock is being transported. This sort of shock protection is generally only seen in wristwatches. In fact, Melchior's exclusive table clock movement features the same type of mechanisms as a wristwatch – gear train, spring barrel (here, five in series), balance wheel, escape wheel, and anchor – but their dimensions are far larger.

The movement also features superlative fine finishing – côtes de Genève, anglage, polishing, sandblasting, circular and vertical satin finishing – that is seen on a wristwatch. However, finely finishing a clock movement is far more challenging than finishing a wristwatch because of the greater surface areas of the larger components.

L'Épée CEO Arnaud Nicolas explains: "It's not simply a case of double the size of the components, double the time it takes to finish them. The complexity increases exponentially. For polishing, for example, you need to apply the same pressure as when finishing a watch movement but on a bigger surface. Any variation in that pressure will show up in the finishing, so a skilled and steady hand is required to apply uniform pressure."

THE NAME 'MELCHIOR'

Fictional robots often possess monikers sounding like acronyms or reference numbers – think of HAL 9000, C-3PO, or K-9. But Max Büsser was eager to christen this one 'Melchior'.

He explains: "In the Büsser family, for over five centuries from the 1400s onwards, every eldest Büsser son was either called Melchior or Balthazar. It alternated. My grandfather was called Melchior and hated it, so he had everybody call him Max, which is how I became a Max. My grandfather hated the Melchior-Balthazar thing so much that he put an end to this 500-year-old tradition by calling my father Mario. Now, a century later, I happen to love the name Melchior!"

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Melchior Only Watch is a unique piece for Only Watch 2015 with bright red anodised aluminium shoulder pads contrasting against the monochromatic body. The back is engraved "Melchior Only Watch Piece Unique"

DISPLAY

'Slow' jumping hours and sweeping minutes: Twin discs forming part of Melchior's breast plate, one disc displaying hours, the other disc minutes, both featuring MB&F's signature numerals

Retrograde seconds: Flyback discs mark 20-second intervals behind a steel mask

Power reserve indicator: Dial on abdomen providing intuitive view of remaining energy

MOVEMENT

L'Épée in-house designed and manufactured movement

Balance frequency: 18,000 bph / 2.5Hz

Barrels: 5 in series

Power reserve: 40 days

Movement components: 334

Jewels: 50

Incabloc shock protection system

Mechanism in palladium-plated brass

Manual-winding: double-depth square socket key sets time and winds movement

Movement finishing: includes côtes de Genève, anglage, polishing, sandblasting, circular and vertical satin finishing

MELCHIOR'S BODY AND ARMOUR

Dimensions: 30.3cm x 21.7cm (depending on position of the arms) x 11.2cm

Weight: 6.3kg

Body/armour components: 146

Head

Dome: polished glass screwed via polished and bevelled palladium-plated brass bezel

Retrograde seconds display in stainless steel

Movement mainplate in palladium-plated brass

Torso

Breastplate (forming hour and minute hands) in palladium-plated brass

Abdomen (power reserve indicator frame) in stainless steel

Ribcage/spine (formed by skeletonised main plate) in palladium-plated brass

Legs

Pelvis, thighs, shins and feet in stainless steel

Hips (long central bars joining pelvis) in stainless steel

Shoulders and arms

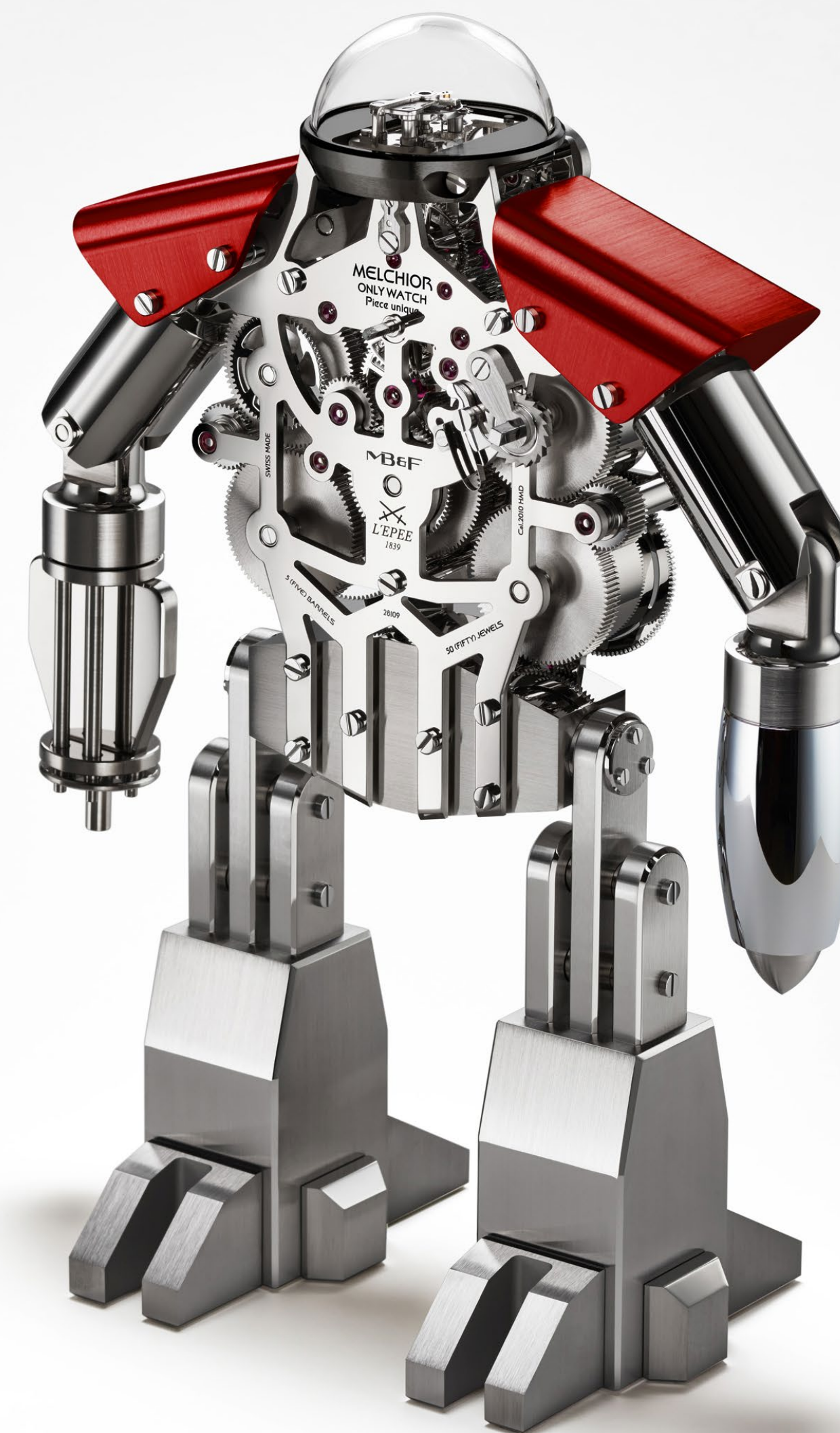
Shoulders in red anodised aluminium

Upper arms and lower arm sockets in stainless steel; magnet in left arm socket

Right forearm: screwed-in rocket with chrome-plated brass body and stainless steel warhead

Left forearm: Gatling gun/detachable stainless steel winding key with palladium-plated brass

Body and armour finishing includes anglage, mirror polishing, satin finishing, circular satin finishing, sandblasting, polis



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L'EPÉE 1839 – THE PREMIER CLOCK MANUFACTURE IN SWITZERLAND

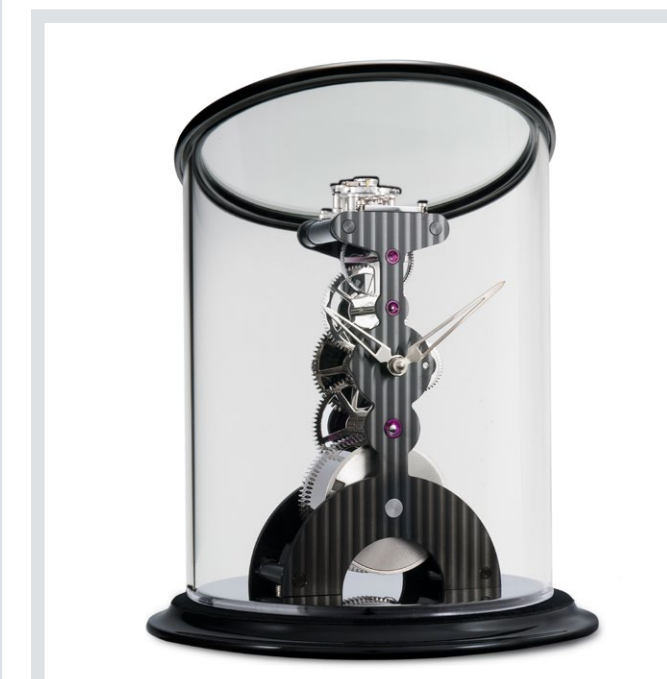
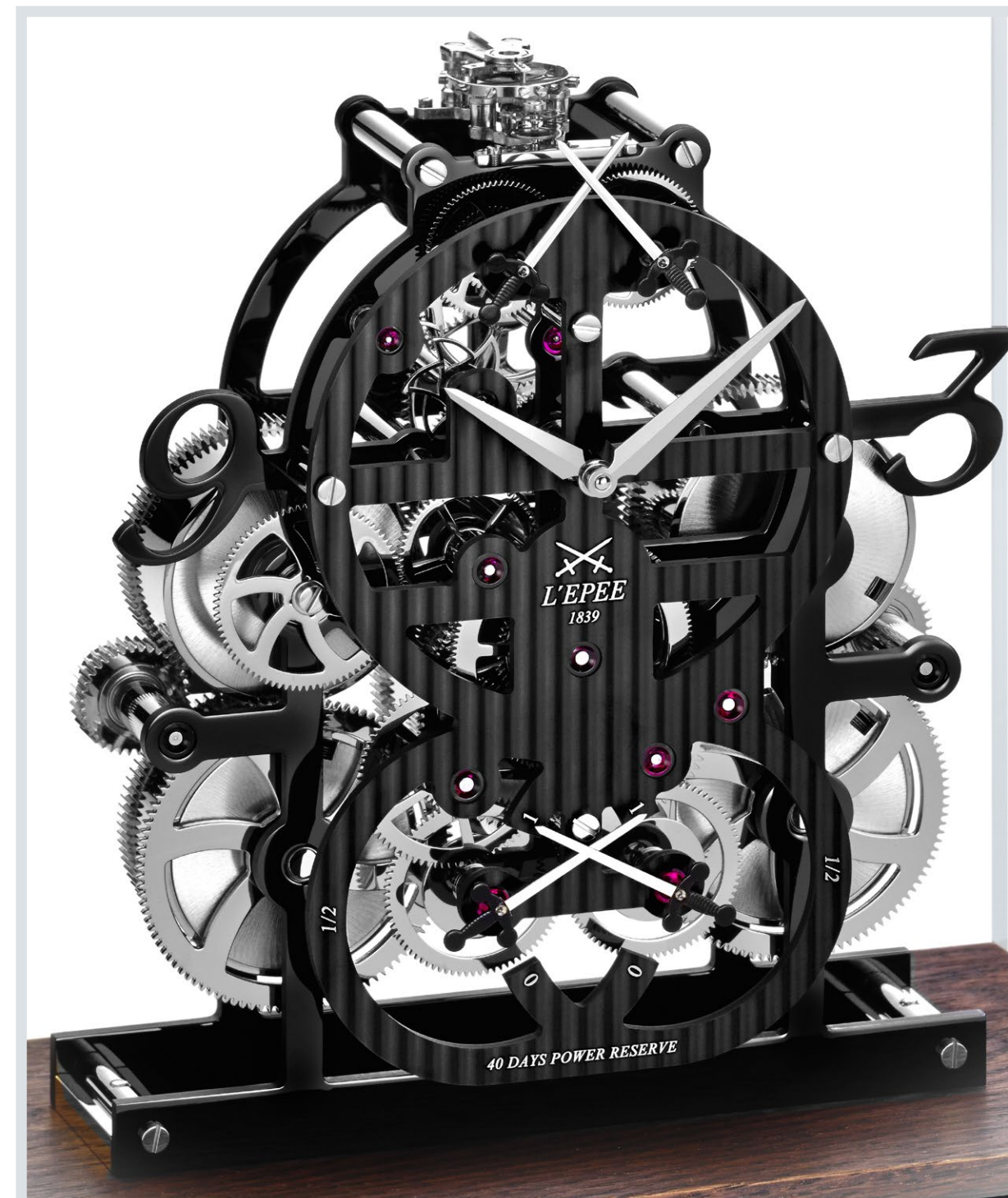
For over 175 years, L'Épée has been at the forefront of watch and clock making. Today, it is the only specialised manufacture in Switzerland dedicated to making high-end clocks. L'Épée was founded in 1839, initially to make music box and watch components, by Auguste L'Épée who set up the business near Besançon, France. The L'Épée hallmark was that all parts were made entirely by hand.

From 1850 onwards, the manufacture became a leading light in the production of 'platform' escapements, creating regulators especially for alarm clocks, table clocks and musical watches. By 1877, it was making 24,000 platform escapements annually. The manufacture became a well-known specialist owning a large number of patents on special escapements such as anti-knocking, auto-starting and constant-force escapements and the chief supplier of escapements to several celebrated watchmakers of the day. L'Épée has won a number of gold awards at International Exhibitions.

During the 20th century, L'Épée owed much of its reputation to its superlative carriage clocks and, for many, L'Épée was the clock of the influential and powerful; it was also the gift of choice by French government officials to elite guests. In 1976 when the Concorde supersonic aircraft entered commercial service, L'Épée wall clocks were chosen to furnish the cabins, providing passengers with visual feedback of the time. In 1994, L'Épée showed its thirst for a challenge when it built the world's biggest clock with compensated pendulum, the Giant Regulator. At 2.2m high, it weighs 1.2 tons – the mechanical movement alone weighs 120kg – and required 2,800 man-hours of work.

L'Épée is now based in Delémont in the Swiss Jura Mountains. Under the guidance of CEO Arnaud Nicolas, L'Épée 1839 has developed an exceptional table clock collection, encompassing a range of sophisticated classic carriage clocks, contemporary design clocks (Le Duel) and avant-garde, minimalist clocks (La Tour). L'Épée clocks feature complications including retrograde seconds, power reserve indicators, perpetual calendars, tourbillons and striking mechanisms – all designed and manufactured in-

house. Ultra-long power reserves have become a signature of the brand as well as superlative fine finishing.



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MB&F / GENESIS OF A CONCEPT LABORATORY

10 years old, 10 calibres, countless highs, boundless creativity

In 2015, MB&F celebrates its 10th anniversary and what a decade it has been for the world's first ever horological concept laboratory: 10 years of hyper-creativity; 10 remarkable calibres forming the base of the critically acclaimed Horological Machines and Legacy Machines for which MB&F has become renowned.

After 15 years managing prestigious watch brands, Maximilian Büsser resigned from his Managing Director position at Harry Winston in 2005 to create MB&F – Maximilian Büsser & Friends. MB&F is an artistic and micro-engineering laboratory dedicated to designing and crafting small series of radical concept watches by bringing together talented horological professionals that Büsser both respects and enjoys working with.

In 2007, MB&F unveiled their first Horological Machine, HM1. HM1's sculptured, three-dimensional case and beautifully finished Engine inside set the standard for the idiosyncratic Horological Machines that have followed: HM2, HM3, HM4, HM5, HM6 and HMX – all Machines that tell the time, rather than Machines to tell the time.

In 2011, MB&F launched their round-cased Legacy Machine collection. These more classical pieces – classical for MB&F, that is – pay tribute to 19th century watchmaking excellence by reinterpreting complications from the great horological innovators of yesteryear to create contemporary objets d'art. LM1 and LM2 were followed by LM101, the first MB&F Machine to feature a movement developed entirely in-house.

Since then, MB&F alternate between launching contemporary, resolutely unconventional Horological Machines and historically-inspired Legacy Machines.

And there have been distinguished accolades to remember along the journey so far. To name a few, at the Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève in 2012, MB&F were awarded the Public Prize (voted for by horology fans) and the Best Men's

Watch Prize (voted for by the professional jury) for Legacy Machine No.1. At the 2010 Grand Prix, MB&F won Best Concept and Design Watch for the HM4 Thunderbolt. Last but not least, in 2015 MB&F received for the HM6 Space Pirate a "Red Dot: Best of the Best" award – the top prize at the international Red Dot Awards.

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THE MACHINE



MELCHIOR ONLY WATCH
FRONT



MELCHIOR ONLY WATCH
BACK

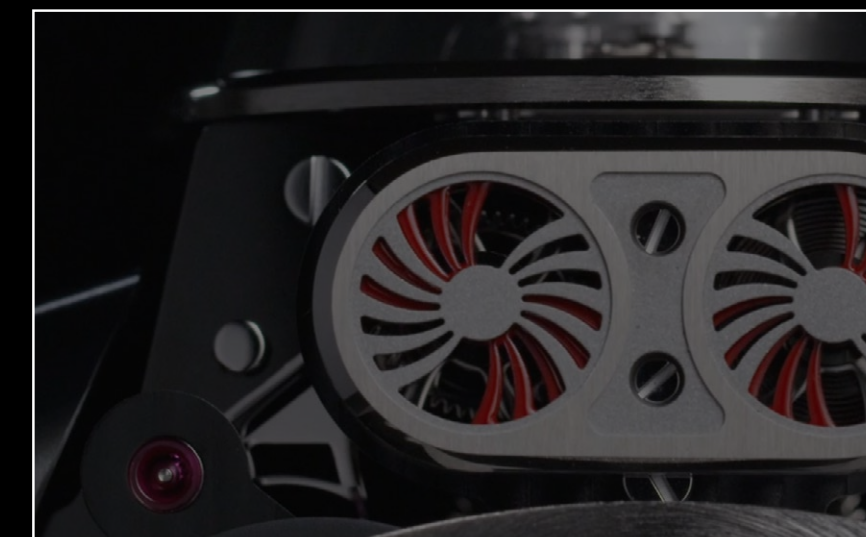


MELCHIOR ONLY WATCH
CLOSE UP



MELCHIOR ONLY WATCH
IN SITU

FILM ('LIGHT' AND 'DARK & LIGHT' EDITIONS)



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