

FERDINAND BERTHOUD

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BERTHOUD

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Chronomètre Ferdinand Berthoud FB 1.3

CASE: platinum (PT 950) equipped with four portholes each protected by a glareproofed sapphire crystal, anthracite gray ceramic lugs **DIAMETER:** 44mm, 13mm thick **MOVEMENT:** Calibre FB-T.FC, officially chronometer-certified by the COSC, comprising a tourbillon with direct-drive seconds, a suspended fusee-and-chain mechanism with differential winding system, a suspended barrel with Maltese cross stopwork system ensuring a 53h power reserve, and a suspended power reserve via a mobile cone system **FUNCTIONS:** hours, minutes, seconds and power reserve **DIAL:** nickel silver dial with vertical satin-brushed finish **CASEBACK:** screw-in exhibition back fitted with a glareproofed sapphire crystal pane **STRAP:** hand-stitched rolled-edge alligator leather made from a single piece of leather **WATER RESISTANCE:** 30m **LIMITED EDITION:** 50 units

The consummate art of resurrection

Drawing inspiration from the work of a great historical watchmaker and offering a contemporary reinterpretation of his accomplishments is an extremely hazardous endeavor. It is easy to fall into the trap of cold, soulless interpretations resembling miniature museum pieces; stumble into a pompous style that can easily end up being kitsch; or simply betray the spirit of the Maestro due to sheer intellectual laziness. So imagine actually taking over his name in order to make a viable commercial brand! The renaissance of Ferdinand Berthoud's name under the impetus of Karl-Friedrich Scheufele, co-president of the Chopard group, was a truly daunting challenge. Since 2006 already, this passionate enthusiast had acquired a number of creations – and notably marine chronometer – by the brilliant Neuchâtel watchmaker. On September 22nd 2015, after years of work, the Chronomètre Ferdinand Berthoud FB 1.1 (white gold) and FB1.2 (rose gold) models emerged from the workshops of the

Chronométrie based in Fleurier, at the heart of the Val-de-Travers. Very few recent horological creations can lay claim to such substantial historical and intellectual substance, while adopting a modern and innovative approach to watchmaking. These have been followed by three new variations: one identical to the first two but with a 950 platinum case (FB 1.3); along with two more contemporary versions made in titanium (FB 1.4-1 and FB FB 1.4-2) comprising several notable aesthetic modifications. It is on the three latter that we will focus here.

PILLARS OF TIME

Devotees of historical watchmaking will naturally thrill at the sight of the extraordinary movement powering them and which could well be regarded as a kind of manifesto from the youthful Chronométrie Ferdinand Berthoud. Built according to the oldest known structure in horology and typical of marine chronometers, it is composed of two plates between which the various parts composing the movement are arranged and which are held together by slender titanium pillars. Inside are several elements

They are driven by an extraordinary movement that could well be considered as a kind of manifesto of the youthful Chronométrie Ferdinand Berthoud.



Chronomètre Ferdinand Berthoud FB 1.4-2

CASE: octagonal grade 5 titanium equipped with two portholes each protected by a glareproofed sapphire crystal, grade 2 titanium lugs **DIAMETER:** 44mm, 13mm thick **MOVEMENT:** Calibre FB-T.FC-2, officially chronometer-certified by the COSC, comprising a tourbillon with direct-drive seconds, a suspended fusee-and-chain mechanism with differential winding system, a suspended barrel with Maltese cross stopwork system ensuring a 53h power reserve, and a suspended power reserve via a mobile cone system **FUNCTIONS:** hours, minutes, seconds and power reserve **DIAL:** silver-toned galvanic-plated brass dial with vertical satin-brushed finish **CASEBACK:** screw-in exhibition back fitted with a glareproofed sapphire crystal pane **STRAP:** hand-stitched rolled-edge alligator leather made from a single piece of leather **WATER RESISTANCE:** 30m **LIMITED EDITION:** 20 units



Chronomètre Ferdinand Berthoud FB 1.4-1

CASE: octagonal grade 5 titanium equipped with two portholes each protected by a glareproofed sapphire crystal, grade 2 titanium lugs **DIAMETER:** 44mm, 13mm thick **MOVEMENT:** Calibre FB-T.FC-2, officially chronometer-certified by the COSC, comprising a tourbillon with direct-drive seconds, a suspended fusee-and-chain mechanism with differential winding system, a suspended barrel with Maltese cross stopwork system ensuring a 53h power reserve, and a suspended power reserve via a mobile cone system **FUNCTIONS:** hours, minutes, seconds and power reserve **DIAL:** beablasted black brass dial with galvanic treatment and lacquer coating **CASEBACK:** screw-in exhibition back fitted with a glareproofed sapphire crystal pane **STRAP:** hand-stitched rolled-edge alligator leather made from a single piece of leather **WATER RESISTANCE:** 30m **LIMITED EDITION:** 20 units

brimming with history and yet also enhanced by brilliant technical innovations. First of all, the astonishing device providing an indication of the power reserve: designed like a cone mounted on an arbor and equipped with a feeler spindle transmitting the information to the dial. Secondly, the fusee-and-chain system regulating the transmission of force to the regulating organ has been suspended – as has the barrel itself – by means of an original construction in order to limit their respective thicknesses. Moreover, this device that dates back to the 15th century is enriched with a patented differential winding

system serving to avoid the watch coming to a halt during winding. Finally, the one-minute tourbillon does not carry a seconds indication. It is instead coupled with a transmission wheel enabling a display of the seconds via a long central sweep-seconds hand on the dial side. Nonetheless, a movement alone does not make a watch, even if it represents the beating heart of the timepiece. This caliber has thus been housed inside a cylinder, itself fitted with two octagonal-shaped side pieces: the resulting overhead view recalls the design of a marine chronometer firmly secured to its gimbal suspension.

WIDE-OPEN HORIZON

The platinum FB 1.3. differs very little from its predecessors and since the only real distinction lies in its exterior, personal preference is the only factor that might lead one to opt for one rather than another. On the other hand, the FB FB 1.4-1 and FB 1.4-2 versions feature a distinctively new aesthetic. Made in grade 5 titanium, they exude a resolutely contemporary and technical look, yet the most significant change lies on the back of these models. The glazed portholes cut out from the case middle and initially designed to offer a view inside the movement now come with all-sapphire bridges. The result is an unobstructed and spectacular view of each element that sends light flooding across the flamboyant finish of this “cathedral” caliber, to truly dazzling effect. The future is doubtless bright for a brand that has countless new chapters of horological history to tell.

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