

Breguet

AN ICONIC COLLECTION

Tradition collection by Breguet

For more than two centuries, Breguet's watchmakers have remained committed in their pursuit of precision, innovation and excellence. Skilled artisans combine avant-garde processes with closely guarded traditional techniques to produce some of the world's finest timepieces. Ever mindful of A.L. Breguet's legacy, the Maison's craftsmen work daily, to perfect each timepiece, reinforcing Breguet's position as the architect of fine horology.

Inspired by a strong heritage of innovation

When Breguet launched the Tradition collection by Breguet in 2005, its 7027 model became the first contemporary timepiece to reveal the movement organs above the baseplate. This innovative design allowed connoisseurs to witness the precision and beauty of the main movement, and soon established the Tradition as a horological icon. What also set the Tradition watches apart, was their powerful graphic identity which resulted from the symmetrical layout of the movement components. On most Breguet Tradition models you will find a barrel in the centre, a dial at 12 o'clock with hands directly driven by the barrel, a balance wheel, and intermediate wheels forming an arc stretching from 4 to 8 o'clock. The protective pare-chute shock-absorbing system, invented by Abraham-Louis Breguet, also appears on many Tradition creations ensuring that they are instantly recognisable.

The design of the Tradition models, as the collection's name implies, draws on Breguet's rich history, and its founder's horological innovations. The ability to see the movement organs above the baseplate for example was inspired by the "subscription" watch that was finalised in 1796. A.L. Breguet described it in the first chapter of his treatise on horology: "The arrangement of the movement is such



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that a devotee of mechanics can follow all its effects through the open side (...)."

The "subscription" watch's calibre was used three years later, to make his first tact watches. These watches were distinguished by an arrow on the outside of the case that reproduced the position of the hours hand and by 12 raised markers placed around the case, allowing time to be read by touch. Time could conventionally read off the traditional dial bearing two hands. These smaller and in some instances offset dials, are picked up on the contemporary Tradition models, testifying to the Maison's exceptional capacity for innovation.

Besides these innovations, the Tradition line has been progressively enriched with complications over the years, such as a power-reserve indicator, tourbillon, fusée and chain transmission, GMT function and retrograde small seconds, alongside the use of ultra-modern materials such as silicon and titanium.

Breguet Tradition Automatique

Seconde Rétrograde 7097

The new model gets its name from the retrograde seconds hand at 10 o'clock, which supplements the hours and minutes

shown by Breguet-style open-tipped hands in blued steel. The manufacture's watchmakers show off the complication with the help of a circular-brushed semi-circle that also makes the other indications easy to read.

The bridges and baseplate of the Breguet Tradition Automatique Seconde Rétrograde 7097 are peened according to a decorative technique that requires rare skill and faultless execution to achieve a regular and uniform finish. The gold winding rotor borrows its style from the movements of the period, while a conventional engine-turned hobnail pattern, done by hand, highlights a dial in silvered gold offset at 12 o'clock. This type of dial can be found on many of the tact watches that Abraham-Louis Breguet made from 1799 onwards.

To maintain the symmetry, the pare-chute is located at 4 o'clock. This Breguet invention, which protects the balance staff from shocks. The reference 7097 has incorporated the latest technology including an inverted in-line lever escapement with silicon pallets and a silicon Breguet overcoil balance spring that ensures exceptional stability of rate.

From the historical N°960, 1009 and 1576 watches to the latest Breguet creations, the iconic Tradition collection - born from the subtle merging of two exceptional eras in the development of the watchmaking art - is a magnificent showcase of the expertise and innovation of this impressive horological House. ■

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