

The Oyster Perpetual
COSMOGRAPH DAYTONA



Oyster, 40 mm, yellow gold

COSMOGRAPH DAYTONA

The Cosmograph Daytona, introduced in 1963, was designed to meet the demands of professional racing drivers. With its highly reliable chronograph and bezel with tachymetric scale, it allows drivers to perfectly measure average speeds up to 400 kilometres or miles per hour, as they choose. An icon eternally joined in name and function to the high-performance world of motor sport.



Reference

116518LN

MODEL CASE

MODEL CASE

Oyster, 40 mm, yellow gold

OYSTER ARCHITECTURE

Monobloc middle case, screw-down case back and winding crown

DIAMETER

40 mm

MATERIAL

18 ct yellow gold

BEZEL

Black monobloc Cerachrom bezel in ceramic with engraved tachymetric scale

WINDING CROWN

Screw-down, Triplock triple waterproofness system

CRYSTAL

Scratch-resistant sapphire

WATER-RESISTANCE

Waterproof to 100 metres / 330 feet

MOVEMENT

MOVEMENT

Perpetual, mechanical chronograph, self-winding

CALIBRE

4130, Manufacture Rolex

FUNCTIONS

Centre hour, minute and seconds hands, small seconds hand at 6 o'clock.

Chronograph (centre hand) accurate to within 1/8 of a second, 30-minute counter at 3 o'clock and 12-hour counter at 9 o'clock. Stop seconds for precise time setting

OSCILLATOR

Paramagnetic blue Parachrom hairspring

WINDING

Bidirectional self-winding via Perpetual rotor

POWER RESERVE

Approximately 72 hours

PRECISION

-2/+2 sec/day, after casing

BRACELET

BRACELET

Oysterflex

BRACELET MATERIAL

Flexible metal blades overmoulded with high-performance elastomer

DIAL

DIAL

White mother-of-pearl set with diamonds

DETAILS

Dial with snailed small counters

GEM-SETTING

Diamonds in 18 ct gold settings

CERTIFICATION

CERTIFICATION

Superlative Chronometer (COSC + Rolex certification after casing)



The ultimate chronograph

THE COSMOGRAPH DAYTONA

The Oyster Perpetual Cosmograph Daytona is the consummate Rolex chronograph. Efficient, precise, legible, robust, reliable, waterproof and self-winding, it is also comfortable, elegant, timeless and highly prestigious. Judging by the success and outstanding reputation worldwide of this peerless alchemy of form and function, it is considered in many respects to be the ultimate chronograph. Fifty years after its launch in 1963, this embodiment of perfection is the product of a long maturation process. Each inscription on the dial of a Rolex watch is a guarantee of performance; on this emblematic model, they were added one by one as the watch evolved. Solely "Cosmograph" at the outset, over the years "Oyster", "Perpetual", "Cosmograph", "Daytona" and "Superlative Chronometer Officially Certified" were added, chronicling a legend in watchmaking.

1963

COSMOGRAPH, THE CHRONOGRAPH OF THE FUTURE

In 1963, Rolex launched a new-generation chronograph, the Cosmograph, dedicated to racing drivers. The singular name invented by Rolex immediately marked it out as a very different new model with an equally innovative style. The chronograph counters stood out clearly on the dial thanks to their strongly contrasting colour: black on a light coloured dial or light coloured on a black dial. The tachymetric scale – a graduation allowing the measurement of average speeds over a given distance using the chronograph seconds hand – was moved from the dial to the circumference of the bezel, opening up and simplifying the dial. Dictated by functional considerations, as is usually the case at Rolex, these features made the chronograph functions far more legible – one of the challenges of the time. They also gave the watch a technical and sporty look making it instantly recognizable. The Cosmograph clearly deserved its place among the Professional watches, a category created by Rolex 10 years previously, in 1953, with models such as the explorer dedicated to explorers and mountaineers, or the Submariner specially designed for deep-sea diving.





1965

BLACK BEZEL AND SCREW-DOWN PUSHERS

The Cosmograph evolved in 1965 with the launch of a version that introduced screw-down chronograph pushers instead of the pump pushers found on the original model. The screw-down pushers brought the finishing touch to the Oyster concept, and prevented the pushers from being manipulated accidentally. In testimony to its reinforced waterproofness, the name “Oyster” was inscribed on all the dials in addition to “Cosmograph”. Another new feature came in the form of a black Plexiglas insert for the tachymetric bezel. The white graduation increased legibility yet again.

1988

SELF-WINDING MOVEMENT AND SUPERLATIVE CHRONOMETER

With the arrival of quartz movements in the 1960s–1970s, Rolex nevertheless remained faithful to the mechanical watch and to the Cosmograph Daytona, preparing its future evolution. In 1988, the Daytona became self-winding. The brand opted for a quality, commercially available chronograph movement, which it then significantly modified to meet its own requirements, replacing more than 50 per cent of the components with parts specifically designed for Rolex Daytona movements.

The resulting new calibre 4030 included, among other features, a Rolex “heart” – an oscillator with a variable inertia balance wheel, Microstella regulating nuts and a hairspring with a Breguet overcoil – as well as a self-winding module with a Perpetual rotor invented by the brand in 1931. The movement was systematically submitted for official certification to receive the designation of chronometer, attesting to its superior precision. All versions of the new model featured the phrase “Superlative Chronometer Officially Certified” on their dial as well as “Oyster Perpetual Cosmograph Daytona”.





2000

A NEW CHRONOGRAPH STANDARD

As a backdrop to the launch of an entirely new interpretation of the Cosmograph Daytona, it is difficult to imagine a more symbolic event than that of entering a new millennium. Introduced by Rolex in the year 2000, this new model – like the first Cosmograph in its time – embodied the chronograph of the future.

Its aesthetics remained deliberately faithful to the codes of the 1988 Cosmograph Daytona, perfecting the iconic and distinctive design of the original, and its subtly sculpted strong lines and balanced ergonomics. In 1963 the Rolex chronograph had innovated with radically new aesthetics that enhanced the legibility of its functions. However, the innovations in the Oyster Perpetual Cosmograph Daytona for the new millennium essentially lie inside the case.

This model has a new-generation self-winding chronograph movement – calibre 4130 – specially designed for the Cosmograph Daytona and entirely manufactured in-house. A masterpiece of engineering and micromechanics, replete with innovative and patented technical solutions, this high-performance movement has set a new standard for luxury self-winding chronographs in terms of robustness, reliability, efficiency and precision, as well as for ease of maintenance.

2013

DAYTONA MEETS PLATINUM

Fifty years after its creation, the Cosmograph Daytona remains in a class of its own among sport chronographs and continues to evolve. It is the first Oyster model in the Professional range to be offered in platinum, the noblest of precious metals, fitted for the occasion with an ice blue dial, exclusive to Rolex platinum models. It is also equipped with a spectacular monobloc Cerachrom bezel, an exclusive Rolex innovation with exceptional resistance properties and incomparable aesthetics.





2016

NEW MONOBLOC CERACHROM BEZEL

The new monobloc Cerachrom bezel in high-tech ceramic offers a number of advantages: it is corrosion resistant, virtually scratchproof and the colour is unaffected by UV rays. This extremely durable bezel also offers an exceptionally legible tachymetric scale, thanks to the deposition of a thin layer of platinum in the numerals and graduation via a PVD (Physical Vapour Deposition) process. The monobloc Cerachrom bezel is made in a single piece and holds the crystal firmly in place on the middle case, ensuring waterproofness.



Rolex and motor sports

THE PLACE

The city of Daytona, Florida has gone down in history as the world capital of speed. Motor racing has been taking place on its beach since 1903 and many world land speed records have been broken there, the most significant culminating at 276 mph (445 km/h) in 1935. Today, Daytona is considered in the United States to be the "world centre of automobile racing". From its headquarters in Daytona, the International Speedway Corporation oversees 13 American race tracks including the legendary Daytona International Speedway, which was at its origin. Daytona also hosts the governing bodies of NASCAR and GRAND-AM.

A black and white photograph of a vintage open-wheel race car. The image shows a close-up of the front left side, including the large, curved front fender, the wheel, and the cockpit area. The car's body is made of metal, with visible rivets and bolts. The cockpit has a canopy. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

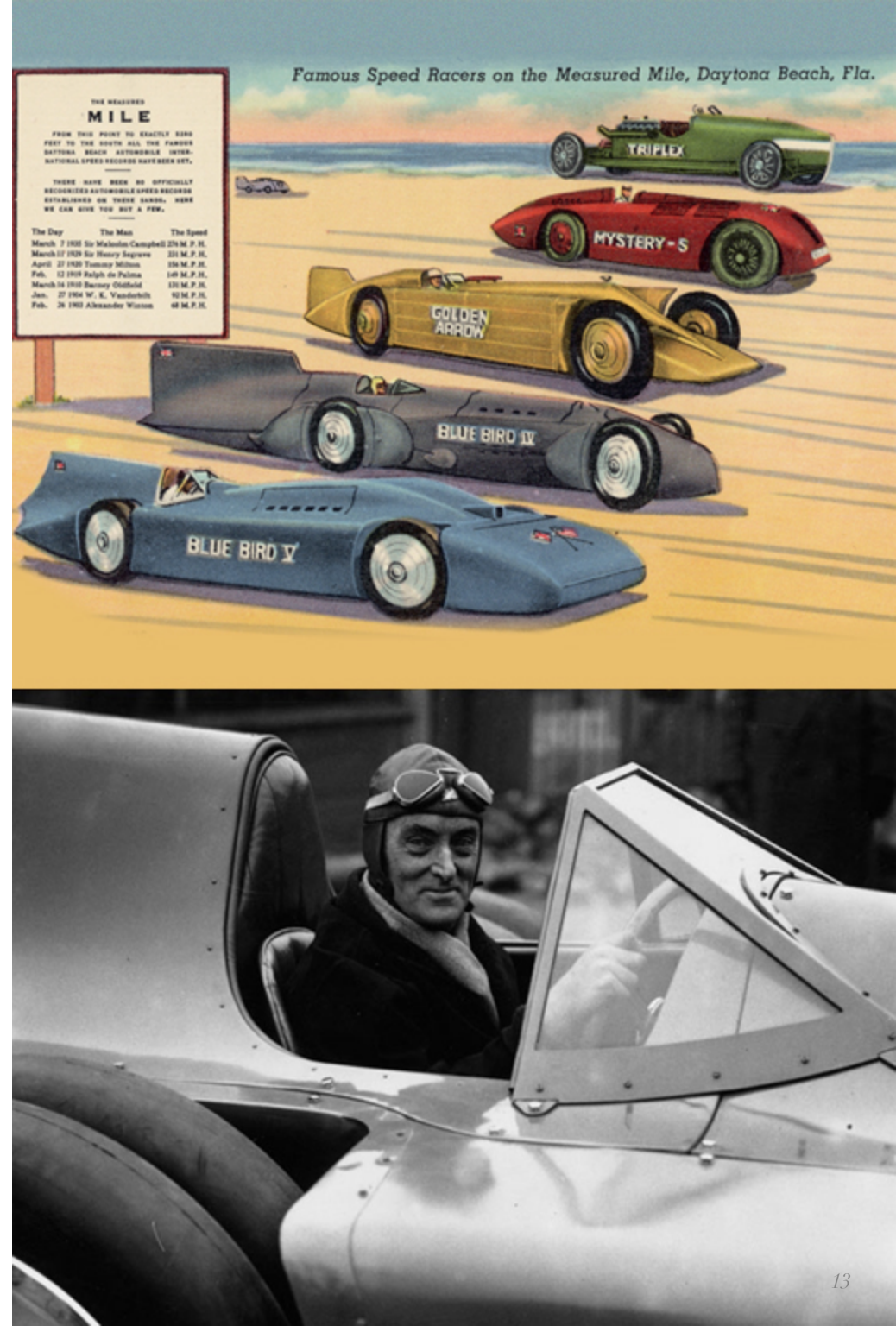
THE RACES ON THE BEACH WERE EXTREMELY
SPECTACULAR AND WERE FOLLOWED BY
HUNDREDS OF SPECTATORS.

1903 - 1935

THE KINGS OF SPEED

From 1903 to 1935, the hard-packed sand beach in Daytona, Florida became famous worldwide as the perfect place to beat speed records. No fewer than 80 official records were set there, 14 of which were for the fastest speed in the world. Piquing interest around the world, such motor sport exploits soon led to Daytona being known as the world capital of speed. The tightly run races culminated in March 1935 with a world land speed record of 276 mph (445 km/h) set by British driver Malcolm Campbell in his famous Bluebird. He went on to break the 300 mph (482 km/h) barrier a few months later, but on the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah. Since the early 1930s, the man who would go down in history as the king of speed had been wearing a Rolex Oyster. Thus, the first Rolex Testimonee in motor sport was already closely tied to Daytona.

Record-setting cars at Daytona: Ray Keech's green Triplex (1928), Henry Segrave's red Sunbeam Mystery S (1927) and golden arrow (1929), as well as Malcolm Campbell's 1932 and 1935 Bluebird models, in which he set a number of speed records. Malcolm Campbell in his 1935 Bluebird.





1936 - 1959

A SAND TRACK UNIQUE IN THE WORLD

The beach in Daytona did not end its romance with motor sport after the attempts to set land speed records moved to Utah. As of 1936, races that were unique in the world were held there, allowing Daytona to maintain its status in automobile racing. Soon came the golden age of stock car races on an oval track. Half of it was on the beach and half on a narrow road parallel to the ocean. From 1937, this unlikely race track also attracted the 200-mile American motorcycle championship, which became a classic under the name Daytona 200. The races on the beach were extremely spectacular and followed by hundreds of spectators. Soon wooden grandstands were erected alongside the turns on the sand where some competitors became bogged down, when they did not end up in the ocean.

The mid-1950s saw the launch of an ambitious construction project for a permanent, hard-surface race track for the speed races: the Daytona International Speedway.

1959 - 2013

A TEMPLE OF MOTOR RACING

When it was inaugurated in 1959, the Daytona International Speedway was the fastest racing circuit in the United States, and one of the first Super Speedways in the world. Its unusual design is all about speed with 31-degree banking in the turns, more than 10 metres high at its tallest point. The high banking allows cars to approach the turns at great speed without skidding off the track due to centrifugal force, and offers spectators a good view of the race from any seat in the grandstands.

It includes a road racing course on the in-field of the giant speedway to host sports car races, combining a classic track and a unique oval with banked turns.

This innovative approach brought about the race that would become the Rolex 24 At Daytona, one of the most prestigious endurance races in the world. The first edition took place in 1962, just one year before the launch of the Rolex Cosmograph Daytona. Rolex became Official Timepiece of the Daytona International Speedway, and, to emphasize the brand's connection to the American race track, Rolex gave its new model the name Cosmograph Daytona.

The Rolex 24 At Daytona, commonly known as "The Rolex", marks the opening of the international motor sport season. The race tests the ultimate limits of man and machine for a complete 24-hour cycle.

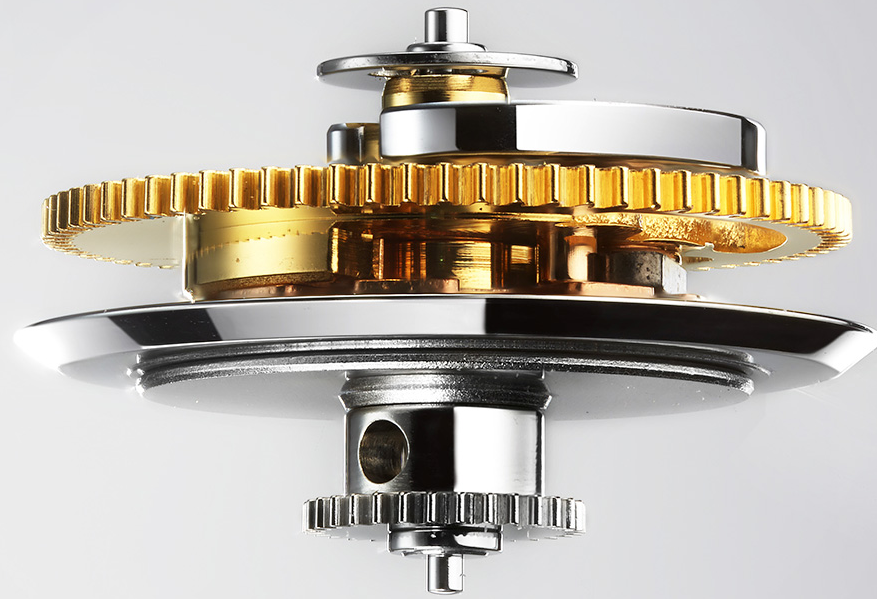




DAYTONA

DAYTONA

Sahlen's
mazda
42
NASCAR
DAYTONA
SPEEDWAY
SAHLEN'S



4130

A CASE OF SUPERLATIVES

The Cosmograph Daytona's 4130 chronograph movement, entirely designed and manufactured by Rolex, is a distillation of the brand's innovations and know-how. With its performance, precision and reliability, this marvel of technology has set a new standard for self-winding chronographs.





4130

VERTICAL CLUTCH AND INCREASED PRECISION

The Cosmograph Daytona is equipped with a new-generation self-winding chronograph movement – calibre 4130 – entirely designed and manufactured in-house. Replete with innovative and patented technical solutions, this high-performance movement has set a new standard for luxury self-winding chronographs in terms of robustness, reliability, efficiency and precision, as well as ease of maintenance.

Calibre 4130's performance stems particularly from the use of a vertical – instead of lateral – clutch to activate the chronograph. This new solution functions on the principle of two discs, one above the other, which work together by direct friction contact and offer significant advantages – extremely precise starting and stopping of the perfectly smooth running chronograph seconds hand as soon as the pusher is pressed; and the capacity of the chronograph to function for long periods of time with no negative impact on the precision of the watch.

4130

VERTICAL CLUTCH AND INCREASED PRECISION

With calibre 4130, Rolex engineers managed to reduce by 60 per cent the number of components for the chronograph mechanism. They particularly simplified the minute and hour counter systems – traditionally two distinct mechanisms situated on each side of the movement – by integrating them into a single module judiciously placed on one side of the movement with an off-centre clutch. A patented solution which reduces from five to one the number of adjustments by eccentric screws required to regulate the chronograph. It also saves space, making it possible to house a larger mainspring and thereby extend the power reserve from 50 to 72 hours. This mainspring, the energy source of the watch, can be replaced without the whole movement having to be disassembled. Additionally, the efficiency of the self-winding mechanism has been substantially enhanced, notably with a system of new-generation reversing wheels that allow more efficient bidirectional winding.



The oscillator, the strategic heart of the watch and guarantor of its precision, also took advantage of telling innovations. A larger balance wheel, equipped with the Rolex micrometric regulating system via Microstella nuts, contributes to the movement's precision. In keeping with the architecture of Rolex calibres, it is held in place by a traversing balance bridge, fixed at both sides to improve resistance to shocks and vibrations. But one of the most spectacular developments introduced on the oscillator of the new Cosmograph Daytona is the Parachrom hairspring. Developed, patented and entirely manufactured by Rolex in an alloy of niobium and zirconium, the Parachrom hairspring has exceptional qualities that greatly increase the precision of the movement by significantly enhancing its resistance to disturbances. It is also insensitive to magnetic fields, extremely stable when exposed to temperature variations and is unaffected by the thousands of small shocks a watch is subjected to in daily wear, while remaining up to 10 times more precise than a traditional hairspring.

With such a high-performing movement, the Cosmograph Daytona deserves to be qualified as a "superlative chronograph".





Style of the Daytona

A CHRONOGRAPH MADE FOR THE ROAD

With its state-of-the-art technology, evocative heritage and sporting aura, the Oyster Perpetual Cosmograph Daytona swiftly became an iconic watch. Its dial carries in red letters the name “Daytona” – the most famous motor racing circuit in the United States.

Available in 904L steel, 18 ct gold, Rolesor and platinum versions with a variety of dials, robust Oyster bracelets as well as elegant leather straps both equipped with high security Oysterlock clasps.



Function of the Daytona

START, DRIVE, STOP

At Rolex, form and function work in harmony. The Daytona's chronograph functions are activated by pushers that screw down like the winding crown when they are not in use, guaranteeing waterproofness to 100 metres. One press to start, stop or reset the chronograph produces a crisp, clear click that was perfected using the most advanced technology.

Rolex watchmakers also perfected the mechanism to suit the ideal finger pressure on the pushers, and engineered it to provide an instantaneous and accurate start to the timing without sacrificing reliability.

Function of the Daytona

ON-BOARD INSTRUMENTATION

The Cosmograph Daytona was designed as a high-precision personal timing tool for drivers in endurance races. Rolex resorted to pioneering yet elegantly simple engineering, by incorporating fewer components than in a standard chronograph and enhance reliability.

The central sweep seconds hand allows an accurate reading of 1/8 second, while the two counters on the dial display elapsed time in hours and minutes. Drivers can accurately map out their track times and tactics without fail: the Daytona is a watch for winners.





Features

THE OYSTER CASE, SYMBOL OF WATERPROOFNESS

The Cosmograph Daytona's Oyster case, guaranteed waterproof to a depth of 100 metres (330 feet), is a paragon of robustness, proportion and elegance. Its characteristically shaped middle case is crafted from a solid block of 904L steel. The fluted case back is hermetically screwed down with a special tool that allows only Rolex watchmakers to access the movement. The winding crown – fitted with the Triplock triple waterproofness system – as well as the chronograph pushers screw down securely against the case. Its crown guard is an integral part of the middle case. The crystal is made of virtually scratchproof sapphire. The waterproof Oyster case provides optimum protection for the Cosmograph Daytona's high-precision movement.



Features

SUPERLATIVE CHRONOMETER CERTIFICATION

The Cosmograph Daytona is covered by the Superlative Chronometer certification redefined by Rolex in 2015. This exclusive designation testifies that the watch has successfully undergone a series of tests conducted by Rolex in its own laboratories according to its own criteria, which exceed watchmaking norms and standards. The certification applies to the fully assembled watch, after casing the movement, guaranteeing its superlative performance on the wrist in terms of precision, power reserve, waterproofness and self-winding. The precision of a Rolex Superlative Chronometer after casing is of the order of $-2/+2$ seconds per day, or more than twice that required of an official chronometer. The Superlative Chronometer status is symbolized by the green seal that comes with every Rolex watch and is coupled with an international five-year guarantee.



Features

SUPERLATIVE CHRONOMETER

The green seal accompanying every Rolex watch is a symbol of its status as a Superlative Chronometer. This exclusive designation attests that it has successfully undergone a series of specific final controls by Rolex in its own laboratories according to its own criteria, in addition to the official COSC certification of its movement. This unique testing of the chronometric precision of the cased-up movement, as well as of the watch's waterproofness, self-winding and power reserve, pushes back the boundaries of performance and makes Rolex the benchmark for excellence in mechanical watches. The green seal is coupled with a five-year guarantee which applies to all Rolex models.





Where to buy a Rolex

THE OFFICIAL ROLEX RETAILER

Only official Rolex retailers, distinguishable by this official green plaque, are allowed to sell and maintain a Rolex. With the necessary skills, technical know-how and special equipment, they guarantee the authenticity of each and every part of your Rolex, not to mention its reliability over time, helping you make the choice that will last a lifetime.



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