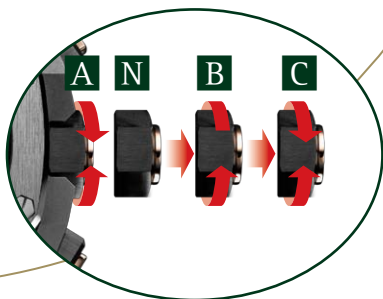


INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE
MODE D'EMPLOI

ROYAL OAK
CONCEPT
LAPTIMER
MICHAEL
SCHUMACHER

CALIBRE 2923
HAND-WOUND

AUDEMARS PIGUET
Le Brassus



ENGLISH

ENGLISH

Quick-link contents page.

Simply click on the relevant title or subheading to following the link to your chosen section.

Click on the white «English» to return to the main contents page.

GUARANTEE AND CARE

All details concerning the guarantee and care instructions of your watch are provided in the certificate of origin and guarantee attached.



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Introduction

THE MANUFACTURE AUDEMARS PIGUET

THE VALLÉE DE JOUX: CRADLE OF THE WATCHMAKER'S ART

In the heart of the Swiss Jura, around 50 kilometres north of Geneva, nestles a landscape which has retained its natural charm to this day: the Vallée de Joux. Around the mid-18th century, the harsh climate of this mountainous region and soil depletion drove the farming community settled there to seek other sources of income. With their high degree of manual dexterity, inexhaustible creativity and enormous determination, the inhabitants of the valley, known as Combiens, were naturally drawn to watchmaking.

Due to their high quality, the movements they produced acquired great popularity with the Geneva firms which used them to create complete watches.

From 1740 onwards, watchmaking developed into the principal industry of the Vallée de Joux. This region was thus transformed, as an 1881 chronicle put it, “into a land of milk and honey, in which poverty has rapidly disappeared”.



TWO NAMES FOR A GREAT ADVENTURE

In 1875, two young men passionate about Haute Horlogerie – Jules Louis Audemars and Edward August Piguet – decided to pool their skills to design and produce watches with complications in the Vallée de Joux, the cradle of Haute Horlogerie. Determination, imagination and discipline led them to instant success. A branch in Geneva was their next move in about 1885 and new commercial links were forged at the 1889 Paris World Exposition, where they exhibited complication pocket watches. The Audemars Piguet factory continued to expand as the years went by. Its creations represented major milestones in the history of Haute Horlogerie, like the first minute repeater wristwatch in 1892 and the smallest five-minute repeater movement ever made in 1921.

From 1918 onwards, the founders passed the reins of the business onto their sons, who in turn perfected their expertise in manufacturing men's and ladies' wristwatches as well as designing new sophisticated,

ultra-thin movements. Perseverance and initiative were the watchwords: while the Wall Street crash in 1929 was a bitter blow, the company directors were soon designing so-called skeleton watches before embarking on chronograph production. But this new momentum was abruptly interrupted by the Second World War. Re-organisation was necessary in the aftermath of the conflict. The factory focused on creating top-of-the-range items in keeping with its tradition of innovation. A strategy that would prove its worth, especially since it was backed by outstanding creative daring.



Audemars Piguet continued to build on its now international reputation with creative designs. 1972 saw the launch of the Royal Oak, the first, immediately successful high-quality sports watch in steel, followed in 1986 by the first ultra-thin tourbillon wristwatch with automatic winding. The creative spirit of the Manufacture has not faltered since, offering aesthetically original timekeepers with outstanding movements. Thus it brought watches with complications back into fashion at the end of the 1980s, launching its extraordinary Tradition d'Excellence collection in 1999. All the signs of a bold spirit rooted firmly in tradition and auguring well for the future.

About the watch

LAPTIMER AND FLYBACK CHRONOGRAPH

WE ARE OFTEN CALLED UPON TO BE ABLE TO MEASURE THE TIME SEPARATING TWO EVENTS. THIS MAKES THE CHRONOGRAPH AN INDISPENSABLE INSTRUMENT.

A watchmaker from the Vallée de Joux - Adolphe Nicole - invented the modern chronograph watch, lodging the first patent for this complication in 1844.

Since 1875, Audemars Piguet has created exceptional chronographs, equipped with split-second, jumping fractional second, deadbeat seconds and flyback. While the new calibre 2923 faithfully reflects this philosophy, dating back over one hundred years, the movement makes its own mark with an exclusive chronograph mechanism, showcasing one of the Brassus Manufacture's latest advances in reliability and precision.

This chronograph mechanism features a new, highly-efficient rocker wheel coupling principle. This provides dual gearing adjustment to ensure greater accuracy, an exclusive Audemars Piguet innovation that also prevents the chronograph hand from jumping when the start function is activated.

Combined with the chronograph, two particularly practical functions have been included in this new calibre 2923: the Laptimer and the Flyback.



LAPTIMER FUNCTION

The Laptimer function is especially appreciated in motor racing.

It is ideal for timing a repetitive event, such as measuring the time of successive laps by a driver on a track.

The Laptimer can stop the timing in progress (sweep-seconds hand no. 1) and relaunch it, instantaneously (sweep-seconds hand no. 2), by pressing and releasing immediately the Laptimer pushpiece.

Advantage of the Laptimer function

The Laptimer can time laps without limitation, which is impossible with a traditional chronograph.

Stopping a first sweep-seconds hand and simultaneously resetting the second to zero (to start a new timing sequence) alternate every time the pushpiece is pressed.

Several times can therefore be measured in succession and the differences compared.





FLYBACK FUNCTION

The chronograph with flyback function has a special feature compared with the traditional chronograph.

The flyback is used to reset the timing in progress to zero and to relaunch it, instantaneously, by pressing and releasing immediately the reset to zero pushpiece.

An ingenious device added to aviation chronographs in the 1930s, the flyback system is a sizeable asset.

It allows the pilot who uses his timepiece to judge the approach of a point to avoid any discrepancy in the time measurement.

He now has to activate only one of the pushpieces to restart his chronograph. The hand returns instantaneously to zero and picks up its travel without being stopped first. The pilot thus simplifies and refines considerably the accounting of the time.

Watch description

VIEWS OF THE MOVEMENT

Calibre 2923



Caseback side



Dial side

TECHNICAL DATA OF THE MOVEMENT

Total thickness: 12.70 mm

Total diameter: 34.60 mm

Frequency of balance wheel: 4 Hz
(28,800 vibrations/hour)

Number of jewels: 34

Minimal power reserve: 80 hours

Hand-wound

Balance with variable inertia blocks

Breguet balance-spring

Mobile stud-holder

Number of parts: 413

SPECIFICITIES

First mechanical Flyback and Laptimer chronograph movement

Chronograph mechanism with three column wheels

Dual angular indexing mechanism

30-minute counter

Flyback second counter

Rocker wheel coupling

Contemporary manual finishes on components

Use of functions

WATCH INDICATIONS
AND FUNCTIONS

(see figure on the inside cover)

In chronograph mode, your watch can measure times to 1/8 second and up to 30 minutes.

- ① Hour hand
- ② Minute hand
- ③ Small second hand
- ④ Chronograph sweep-seconds hand n°1
- ⑤ Chronograph sweep-seconds hand n°2
- ⑥ Chronograph minute counter hand (up to 30 minutes)
- Ⓔ Pushpiece of the chronograph function
Push once: start
Push again: stop
- Ⓕ Flyback and return to zero pushpiece
- Ⓖ Laptimer pushpiece

Your watch is fitted with a four-position crown:

- Ⓐ Crown in “screwed down” position
- ⒩ Crown in neutral position
- Ⓑ Crown in manual winding position
- Ⓒ Crown in position for setting the time

Caution: the crown must be unscrewed to access the different settings. Afterwards, carefully screw it back into position **Ⓐ** to ensure water resistance.



Use of functions

SETTING THE TIME

Always unscrew the crown to access the different setting positions. The unscrewed crown will automatically position itself at **N** (Neutral).

Pull the crown to position **C**. You may now set the time by winding in either direction without risk of damaging the movement. It is advisable to set the hand five minutes past the desired time and then to move it back to the exact time. This allows the gears to re-align themselves, thus ensuring optimal precision.

Push the crown back to position **N**, then carefully screw it in to position **A** to guarantee water resistance.

WINDING THE WATCH

Your watch is equipped with a hand-wound mechanical movement.

Always unscrew the crown to access the different setting positions. The unscrewed crown will automatically position itself at **N** (Neutral).

Pull the crown to position **B**. We recommend that you rewind your watch completely every three days at the same time.

The crown is fitted with a disconnecting-gear system that protects the barrel mechanism. This system prevents potential damage when the watch is fully wound and the wearer continues winding. When fully wound, the crown uncouples and no longer drives the stem, but a certain degree of resistance from the crown can still be felt due to the uncoupling mechanism.

Push the crown back to position **N**, then carefully screw it in to position **A** to guarantee water resistance.

Use of functions

USING THE CHRONOGRAPH

Start

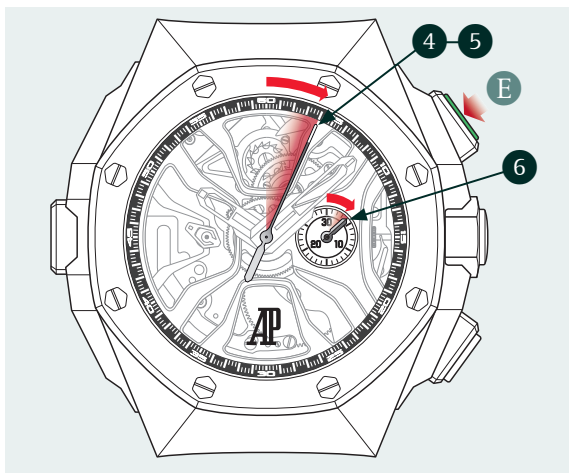
Press the pushpiece **E**

Stop

Press pushpiece **E** once again

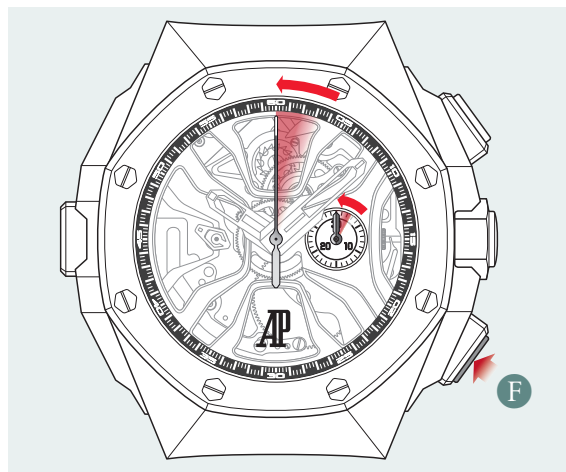
To read the time taken for an event, consult the following:

- the two sweep-seconds hands **4** and **5** that are placed on top of each other
- the minute counter hand **6**



Returning to zero

Press the pushpiece **F**



Continue the timing

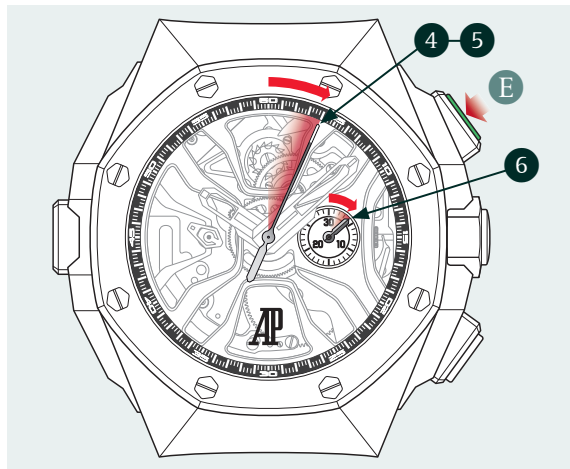
After the first stop, the chronograph can be restarted and stopped at will without first requiring you to return it to zero. This means you can obtain a total time by adding the second time to the first and so on. During all these operations, the watch continues to function normally.

Use of functions

USING THE CHRONOGRAPH: FLYBACK FUNCTION

Start

Press the pushpiece **E**



Flyback

Press the pushpiece **F**

When the chronograph is running, pressing pushpiece **F** resets to zero the two sweep-seconds hands **4** and **5** and the hand of minute counter **6** for a new timing sequence that starts instantaneously when the pushpiece is released.



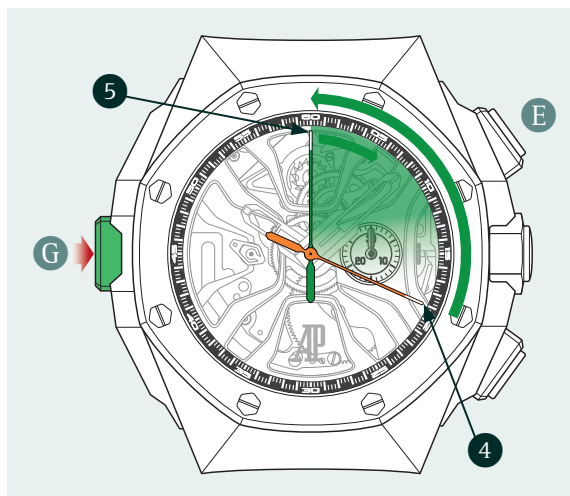
Use of functions

USING THE CHRONOGRAPH: LAPTIMER FUNCTION

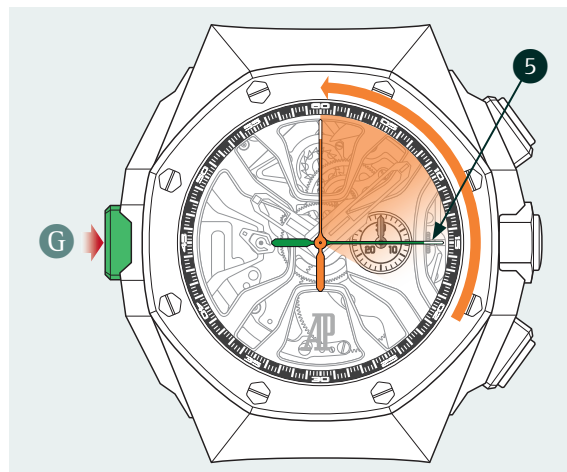
Start

Press the pushpiece **E**

The two sweep-seconds hands move together (chronograph function). Pressing the Laptimer pushpiece **G** stops the first sweep-seconds hand **4** (first time: 19 seconds) and simultaneously resets to zero the second sweep-seconds hand **5** that restarts instantaneously when pushpiece **G** is released.



Pressing pushpiece **G** a second time stops the sweep-seconds hand **5** during timing (second time: 15 seconds) and resets to zero the previous sweep-seconds hand **4** that indicated the first time for a new timing sequence that starts instantaneously.



Every time the Laptimer pushpiece **G** is pushed, the two sweep-seconds hands **4** and **5** alternate the timing/reset to zero sequences one after the other.

If timing is more than the minute for the lap, the number of minutes must be memorised (minute counter **6**), as when one sweep-seconds hand stops and the other goes back to zero, the minute hand also goes back to zero.

Use of functions

LAPTIMER FUNCTION: RETURNING TO ZERO SWEEP-SECONDS HAND ONLY DURING TIMING

After started a timing sequence (pushpiece **E**), press pushpiece **G** to activate the Laptimer mode.

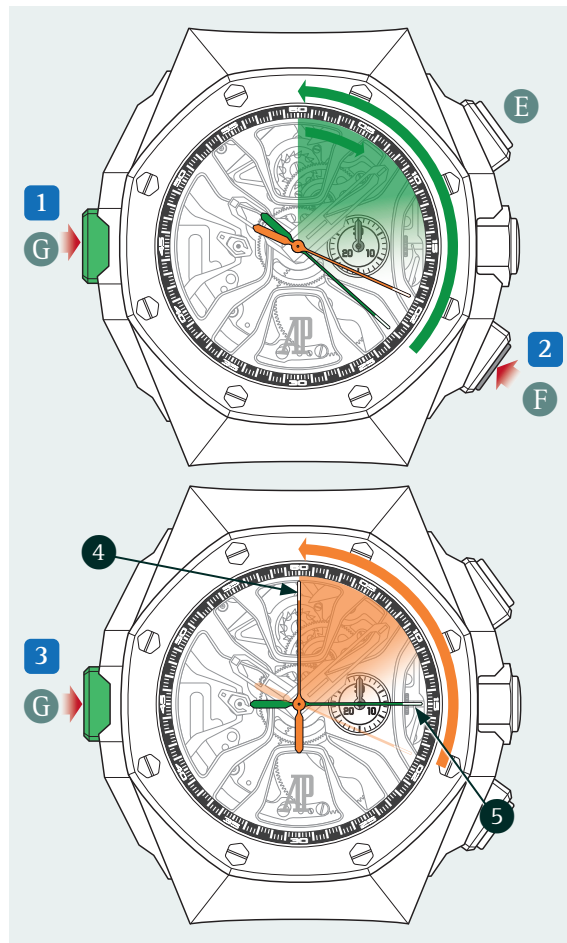
Pressing pushpiece **F** means that the chronograph returns to zero only the sweep-seconds hand that is currently timing. The one that is stopped does not move. This sequence means that the reference time continues to be displayed.

Example:

The time of the current timing operation (22 seconds) has gone over the reference time (19 seconds).

Press pushpiece **F** to store the best time (19 seconds).

Pressing the Laptimer pushpiece **G** stops the hand currently timing **5** (15 seconds) and resets the other hand **4** to zero to start a new timing sequence.

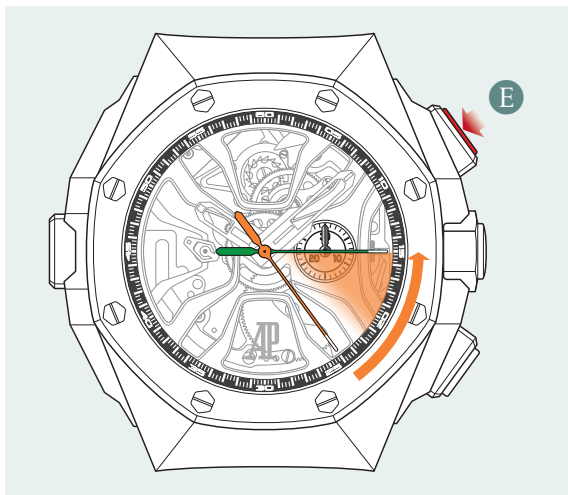


Use of functions

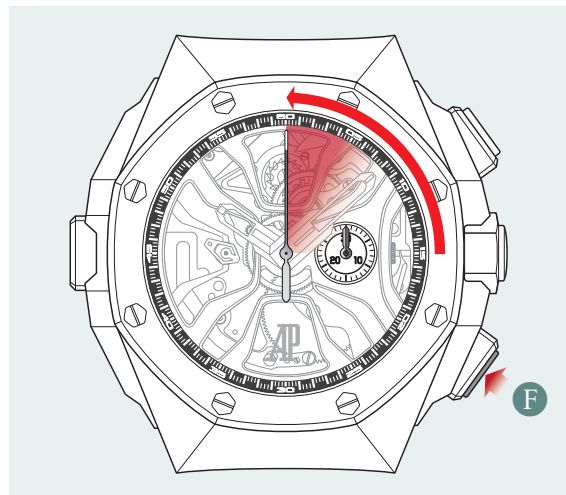
LAPTIMER FUNCTION: STOPPING AND RETURNING TO ZERO (PUSHPIECE **F**)

Pressing pushpiece **E** in Laptimer mode stops the sweep-seconds hand that was performing the timing sequence and positions the sweep-seconds hand that was indicating the previous time on top of it.

The movement is once more in chronograph mode and is stopped.



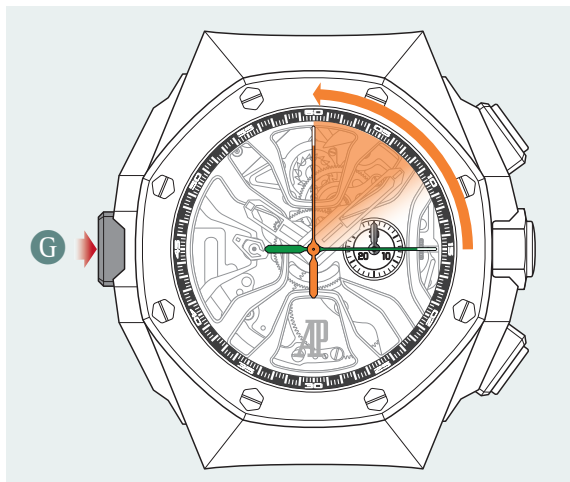
Pressing pushpiece **F** then resets both sweep-seconds hands to zero (at 12 o'clock).



Use of functions

LAPTIMER FUNCTION: STOPPING AND RETURNING TO ZERO (PUSHPIECE **G**)

When the chronograph is stopped (see page 62), pressing the Laptimer pushpiece **G** resets one sweep-seconds hand to zero at 12 o'clock. The other sweep-seconds hand still indicates the previous time.



There are two possibilities after this stage:

Fig. 1: pressing pushpiece **G** again resets the second sweep-seconds hand to zero at 12 o'clock. Both hands are now on top of each other at 12 o'clock.

Fig. 2: pressing pushpiece **E** resets the second sweep-seconds hand to zero at 12 o'clock. Both hands are now on top of each other at 12 o'clock and start a new timing operation.

Fig. 1

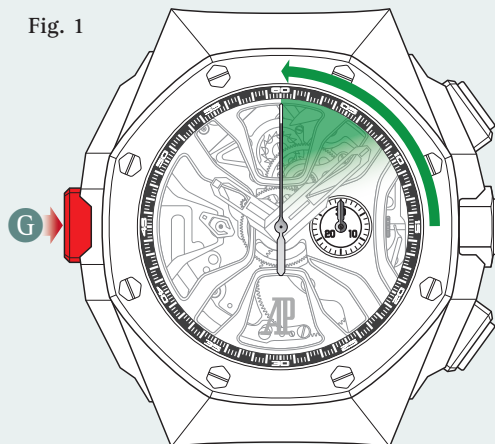


Fig. 2



