

Mode d'emploi / Instructions for use

MINUTE REPEATER,
TOURBILLON AND
CHRONOGRAPH



Calibre 2874 – hand-wound

AP
AUDEMARS PIGUET
Le maître de l'horlogerie depuis 1875

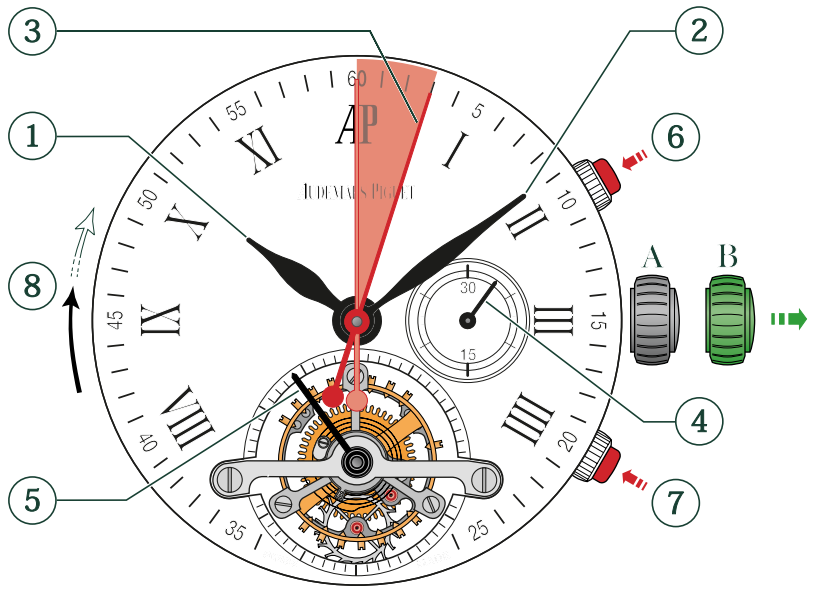


TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. **The Audemars Piguet factory and its history**
2. **The Audemars Piguet tourbillon minute repeater chronograph watch**
3. **Technical details of movement**
4. **Description of watch**
 - 4.1. Indications provided on the watch
 - 4.2. Functions and complications illustrated in diagram
5. **Basic functions**
 - 5.1. Setting the time
 - 5.2. Winding the watch
6. **Chronograph functions**
 - 6.1. Start
 - 6.2. Stop
 - 6.3. Returning to zero
7. **Function and operation of minute repeater mechanism**
8. **Note**

1. THE AUDEMARS PIGUET FACTORY AND ITS HISTORY

The Vallée de Joux, cradle of the watchmaker's art

In the heart of the Swiss Jura, around 30 miles 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 combined with the poor soil led the farming community who 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 *Combiers*, were naturally drawn to watchmaking.

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

From 1740, watchmaking was able to develop as an independent activity in the Vallée de Joux. Thus this region was transformed, as an 1881 chronicle puts it, "into a land of milk and honey, in which poverty has rapidly disappeared".

Two names for a great adventure

After working together closely from 1875, the two young and highly talented watchmakers *Jules-Louis Audemars* and *Edward-Auguste Piguet* founded their own company on 17 December 1881 at Le Brassus, to which they gave the name "*The Audemars Piguet & Co. watchmaking factory*". The former had Huguenot roots and the latter came from one of the oldest families in the *Vallée de Joux*. Seldom does one witness an encounter between two such promising individuals as these exceptionally talented young watchmakers. From the beginning, *Jules-Louis Audemars* took on the role of technical manager, whilst *Edward-Auguste Piguet* dealt mainly with the financial side of the business. Dividing responsibilities in this way worked so well that it is the system which has been used by virtually every succeeding generation, up to the present day.

As early as *1889*, the young firm was able to provide a spectacular demonstration of its abilities at the tenth *world exhibition* in *Paris*: for the first time, a *Grande-Complication watch* was on show. From the outset, it earned *Audemars Piguet* distinction and recognition, and even today it is regarded as one of the

company's best products. Besides the display of hours, minutes and seconds, this highly luxurious watch also features a minute-repeater striking mechanism, a chronograph with split-seconds hand, and a perpetual calendar.

Then, remarkably, this relatively young brand began to establish itself quickly on the demanding complication watches market. As well as the subsidiaries already established in *London* and *Paris*, more were soon set up in *Berlin*, *New York* and *Buenos Aires*.

By *1907*, the steady growth rate necessitated the construction of a second building at Le Brassus. After several enlargements, to mark the company's *125th* anniversary in the year *2000*, another modern production building was built in line with current quality criteria. Both buildings are located right next to the original building, which today houses the *Audemars Piguet Museum*.

Soon after the turn of the twentieth century, the company's founders embarked in earnest upon a quest for a completely new type of watch, which despite considerable resistance began to gain ground: *the wristwatch*. Once again it was the complex models which earned *Audemars Piguet* particular recognition. *Ultra-thin* or extra small *minute repeater* movements made their appearance, as well as *calendar* and *chronograph movements*. This created a wealth of experience, which today still leaves its mark in all watches produced at *Audemars Piguet*. In the brightly lit workshops, the inspiration from this unrivalled landscape continues to encourage traditional craftsmanship. Tranquillity and concentration are as vital as they ever were. Today as in the past, each and every activity is guided by the quest for total perfection, and absolute quality still takes precedence over quantity in every case, as if time at Audemars Piguet has stood still; Producing the most refined precision watches is a task which, as in the past, will not endure haste. This admirable business philosophy is carried on to this day, where traditional craftsmanship and demands for the very highest quality live on. The reason for this continuity surely lies in the fact that the business is still to this day the property of the two *founding families of Audemars and Piguet*.

2. THE AUDEMARS PIGUET TOURBILLON MINUTE REPEATER CHRONOGRAPH WATCH

We congratulate you on becoming the fortunate owner of a superb example of watchmaker's art. This Tourbillon Minute Repeater Chronograph watch with manual wind will prove to you that our passion for watchmaking knows only one limit: a strict respect for the most noble of traditions.

Production was launched in 1875 and, since that time, the master watchmakers of Audemars Piguet pay daily homage to the supreme craftsmanship of watch-making. These masterpieces of innovation and performance, which bear the distinguished Audemars Piguet mark, owe their outstanding quality to the degree of patience and care devoted to their production. Finishing work such as chamfering and polishing, then component construction and assembly are all carried out solely by hand. Only the hand of the skilled craftsman is capable of creating the Tourbillon Minute Repeater Chronograph watch.

The Tourbillon

In the second half of the 18th Century, the most advanced watchmakers sought a means to improve the measurement of time. How to keep time consistently in all vertical positions was a major problem of the period. The attraction exerted by the earth influenced timing devices (balance/hairspring) in such a way that they were adversely affected by even the most infinitesimal shifts in equilibrium. Consequently, the force of gravity altered the operation of the watch.

Abraham-Louis Breguet was renowned for both his profound knowledge of the science of watch mechanics and his intuitive understanding of these timepieces. His ingenuity found its full expression in his special creation in 1795. This system, which would allow for differences in the watch's operation irrespective-of its position, was patented on 26 June 1801.

The basic principle has been retained and is used even today: the escapement devices – wheel, pallet and balance – are mounted in a movable carriage rather than being rigidly fixed in the movement. The carriage rotates on itself once a minute, thereby allowing these components to change position continually. This eliminates the operational inconsistencies created by the watch's position.

This mechanism is still the ultimate example of watch-making art at its most delicate and sophisticated. Two centuries after its invention, Audemars Piguet has added yet another dimension.

The Minute Repeater

The historical origins of the minute repeater can be found in the importance of keeping time during the night. The first repeating clocks were made in the Middle Ages; they were designed to mark each hour at night by striking a bell with a hammer. With the passage of time, we have seen growing mastery in miniaturisation; the alarm pocket watch, followed more recently by the alarm wrist watch. The action of the slide allows the repeater to strike the hours, quarters or minutes if required.

The Chronograph

Circumstances and events regularly lead us to measure a fixed amount of time between two events. This makes the chronograph an indispensable instrument. Its invention is the work of a watchmaker in the Vallée de Joux, Henri-Féréol Piguet, who conceived and created this system.

Since the end of last century, Audemars Piguet has developed and produced some of the world's most sophisticated timepieces with a dazzling array of features. The Audemars Piguet Tourbillon Minute Repeater Chronograph watch with manual wind, consisting of 665 pieces, contains in a confined space the absolute quintessence of the watchmaker's genius.

3. TECHNICAL DETAILS OF MOVEMENT

- Thickness of movement: 7.65 mm
- Movement diameter: 29.90 mm
- Casing diameter: 29.30 mm (12¹/₂ line)
- Oscillations/hour: 21600 (3 Hz)
- Jewelling: 38 rubies
- Continuous running of movement when fully wound: 48 hours
- Manual wind
- Anti-shock system on “KIF Elastor” balance
- Breguet balance spring
- Screw balance

Basic movement cal. 2874



Basic movement with
chronograph mechanism
(movement side)



Basic movement with minute
repeating mechanism
(dial side)

4. DESCRIPTION OF WATCH

4.1. Indications provided on the watch

Your watch shows:

- hours,
- minutes,
- and seconds.

It strikes on request:

- hours,
- quarters,
- and minutes.

With its chronograph function, **it records:**

- intervals of 1/5th of a second while counting the total number of minutes completed.

N.B.: The Audemars Piguet Tourbillon Minute Repeater Chronograph watch with manual wind is dust proof **but is not water-resistant.**

4.2. Functions and complications illustrated in diagram

- 1 Hour hand
- 2 Minute hand
- 3 Chronograph hand
- 4 Minute counter hand (up to 30 minutes)
- 5 Seconds hand at 6 o'clock on the Tourbillon
- 6 Pushbutton for chronograph function:
 - push once: start
 - push again: stop
- 7 Pushbutton to return to zero
- 8 Slide for actuating striking mechanism

Your watch is fitted with a two-position crown:

- A** Crown in position for manual winding of movement.
- B** Crown in position for setting the time.

5. BASIC FUNCTIONS

5.1. Setting the time

Adjustments to the watch in either direction, without risk of damage, can be carried out with the winding button pulled out (**B**).

Please note: do not set the time while the minute repeater is striking.

5.2. Winding the watch

Your watch is fitted with a mechanical hand-wound movement. We recommend that you wind your watch fully at the same time each day, ensuring that you do not use force or overwind the watch at any time.

6. CHRONOGRAPH FUNCTIONS

6.1. Start:

Press push-piece (**6**) which starts the chronograph hand (**3**) and the minute counter hand (**4**).

6.2. Stop:

Press push-piece (**6**) once again to stop the chronograph.

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

- the minute counter hand (4) which indicates the number of minutes taken,
- the chronograph hand (3) which indicates the number of seconds taken.

6.3. Returning to zero:

To return the hands to zero, press push-piece (7).

7. FUNCTION AND OPERATION OF MINUTE REPEATER MECHANISM

The Tourbillon Minute Repeater Chronograph with manual wind can strike on request hours, quarters and minutes in succession by means of two hammers striking two different notes, a low-pitched note for the hours and a high-pitched note for the minutes. The two are used alternately to sound the quarters.

The winding of the spring which activates the repeating mechanism is carried out by means of a slide piece (8) drawn round the rim of the case middle.

A locking device releases the repeating mechanism only when the slide has reached the end of its travel.

N.B.: The amount of travel varies depending on the numbers of hours to be struck.

While the repeating mechanism is in operation, the slide must not be constrained in any way whatsoever.

8. NOTE

Guarantee:

We guarantee your watch against any defect or faulty craftsmanship for a period of two years from the date of purchase.

Due to the particular complexity of your watch, only our After-Sales Service in Le Brassus, Switzerland, is authorised to carry out this procedure. Any repair work not carried out in our own service centres will invalidate the guarantee.

Water resistance:



As shown on its certificate of guarantee, your watch is sealed against dust and water splashes. However, it should not be submerged. Protection against dust and water splashes may be adversely affected by accidents or by contact with aggressive substances (acid, perfume, liquid metal, salt water, etc.). After an incident of this type, it is essential to avoid all contact with moisture and have a new inspection or water-proof servicing performed immediately.

Recommendations:

To ensure that your watch remains a precise and reliable time-keeper, we recommend that you have it completely serviced every 4 to 6 years.

To ensure protection of the case against dust and water splashes, a check on the dustproof gaskets and splash-proof gaskets should be performed at least every 2 years.

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