L'EPÉE 1839
X
ECAL
GEORG FOSTER

REFERENCES

74.6004/114
Silver
74.6004/134
Green
74.6004/144
Blue
74.6004/164
Red
74.6004/184
White with blue stripes
74.6004/194
Blue with white stripes

TIME FAST D8

RACE CARS MEET SWISS WATCHMAKING

L'Epée 1839 takes us behind the wheel of the Time Fast. This vintage-inspired race car and a modern clock in one is a kinetic sculpture that tells the time. It was designed by Georg Foster, a promising young newcomer and major contributor to this second collaboration between ECAL (Ecole cantonale d'art de Lausanne) and the Swiss manufacture.

The piece features a number of eye-catching details, such as the long protruding engine hood, the typical 1950s radiator grill, the large spoked wheels, the driving seat positioned to the rear and the sloping back section. Its overall sporty feel is reinforced by its elegant design, flawless finishes and fluid lines.

The name of the Time Fast D8 clearly conveys its technical aspirations, incorporating a motor that can last 8 days—or rather an in-house caliber with a 192-hour power reserve beating at 18,000 vibrations per hour.

This kinetic sculpture displays the hours and minutes like a race number, allowing the time to be easily read on the side of the chassis. A figure sits in the cockpit, where a glass dome, or rather a driver's helmet, highlights the thrumming escapement. In front of him is the steering wheel, which adopts the three-spoke design typically seen in race cars, serving to set the time.

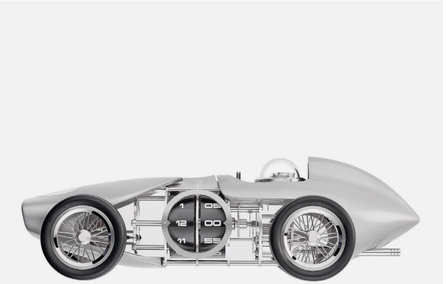
Meanwhile, in a subtle nod to childhood memories, the mechanical motor is wound just like a pull-back car.

With 289 ultra-precise mechanical components finished with the greatest care, Time Fast promises its owner nothing but pure pleasure and sensations.

Measuring 38 cm long, 16 cm wide and 12 high and weighing just 4.7 kg, this race car is by no means lacking in stature and could easily have come straight from one of the greatest motorsports stables.

TIME FAST D8 IS A LIMITED EDITION:

100 PIECES PER BODY COLOR, INITIALLY PRODUCED IN RED, BLUE, GREEN, GREY, BLUE WITH WHITE STRIPES AND WHITE WITH BLUE STRIPES VERSIONS.



TIME FAST D8 IN DETAILS

DESIGN & INSPIRATION

For all generations, classic 50s cars are firmly ingrained in the collective subconscious and imagination. Single-seaters boasting a sleek design, fluid lines and assertive aerodynamics, they fuel many a dream. Time Fast, which was designed by Georg Foster while he was a master's student at ECAL, draws inspiration from a dream of becoming a race driver, or simply the desire to experience the thrills of speed. To create this realistically proportioned mechanical sculpture, he drew on his childhood memories to add symbols and representations, such as boards, bodywork and steering wheels.

The shaping and production were entirely entrusted to the manufacture's passionate teams, predominantly comprised of automotive enthusiasts. With the exception of the raw aluminum casting, the crystals and the jewels, which are sourced from elsewhere, every piece has passed through the hands of the twenty or so experts within the L'Epée 1839 workshops.

THE CAR'S STRUCTURE

Just like a normal-sized car, Time Fast D8 is formed of solid aluminum body parts, as well as components as small as an escapement wheel (measuring just a few millimeters across). But here, each part is individually and impeccably finished, whether decorated, polished, satin finished or sand-blasted by hand. The movement's plates form the chassis.

Each has been designed with great attention to detail, symbolizing for instance the engine block of old race cars. As if to cool the motor constantly running at 18,000 vibrations per hour, the radiator grill is openworked to reveal the manufacturer's emblem. A dual exhaust provides one final nod to the automotive world.

Particular attention has been paid to the four wheels, whose spoked rims are wrapped in soft rubber for greater grip, providing excellent transmission of power during winding.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

LIMITED EDITION

100 pieces per color

FUNCTIONS

Hour and minute display
Freely move forwards

POWER RESERVE

8 days

ENGINE

Tiered mechanical movement
L'Epée 1839 1855 MHD in-house caliber
Incabloc protection system
2.5 Hz
26 jewels

WINDING & TIME SETTING

Time set via counterclockwise rotation of the steering wheel
Reverse the car to fill it up (Carefully wind the movement like a pull-bar car)

DIMENSIONS

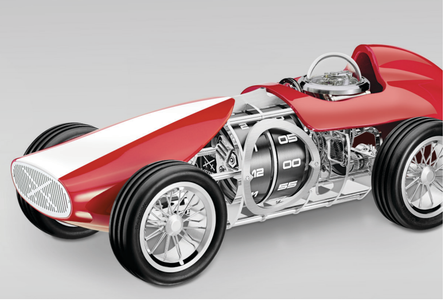
289 parts
Weight: 4.7 kg
Dimensions:
38.5 cm long x 16 cm wide x 12 cm high

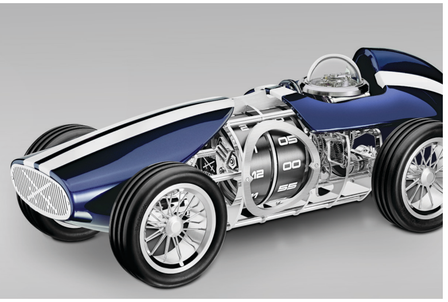
MATERIALS

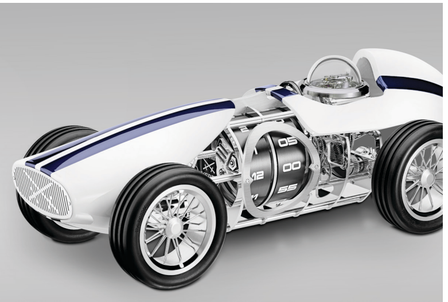
Nickel- and palladium-plated brass, stainless steel
Blown glass dome
Front and rear bodywork in aluminum
Spoked rims in stainless steel
Tires in hard-wearing rubber

FINISHES

Polished and sand-blasted movement
Satin-finished struts
Polished and satin-finished rims
Painted bodywork (Automotive paint)







AUTOMOTIVE AND HOROLOGICAL FUNCTIONS

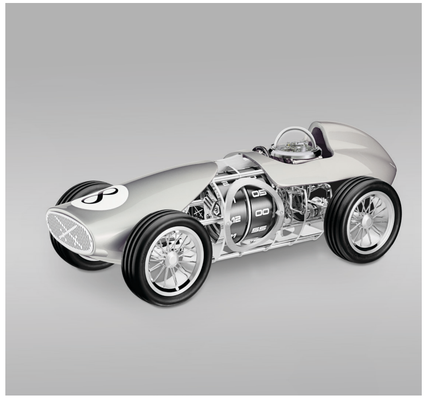
In motor racing, it's well known that although the driver is the only one to be first over the finish line, his entire team helps to make this victory possible by achieving the impossible. What applies to the track also applies to life as a whole. The teams of designers, engineers and watchmakers therefore embraced the challenge of producing an exceptional and unique clock incorporating all the elements of a race car. Every detail has been carefully considered to intimately interlink form and function to spark a renewed fascination for kinetic sculptures.

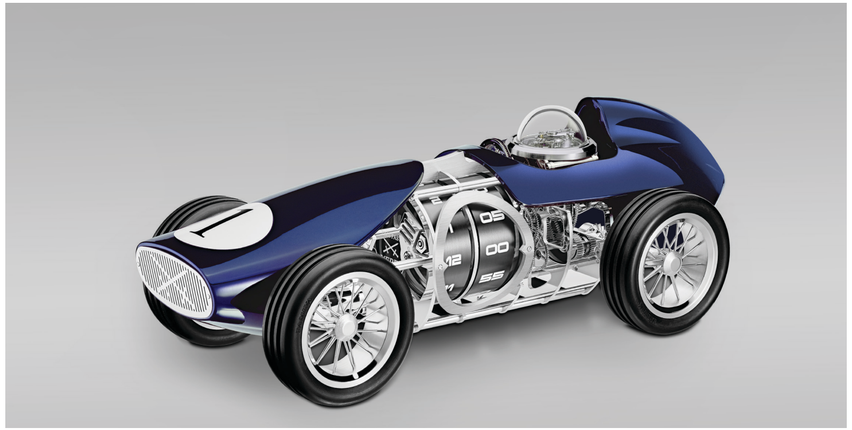
THE ENGINE CONSISTS OF A TIERED MOVEMENT WITH AN 8-DAY POWER RESERVE THAT WAS ENTIRELY DEVELOPED TO HUG THE CURVES OF THE BODYWORK.

The hours and minutes are displayed on the side through an aperture resembling a typical competition number, via two engraved stainless steel disks. On the other side of the chassis is the advertising spot, the characteristic circle on iconic race cars, which can be optionally customized to create a personalized car, by means of an engraving, for example (the L'Epée 1839 logo comes as standard).

In the cockpit, the car's steering wheel, which has been specially designed to incorporate the time-setting wheel, can be used to adjust the time if the engine ever breaks down. Located in the driver's seat, a counterclockwise adjustment adjusts the time, while clockwise adjustment can be used to reposition the steering wheel once the correct time is set.

Time Fast D8 needs to be filled up (with mechanical energy) once every week. The mechanical movement's barrel is wound by moving the wheels in reverse to provide the car with the power it requires to remain fully functional. Meanwhile drive mode is simply designed to provide unimpeded delight.





GEORG FOSTER

DESIGNER / ECAL

Son of an engineer, Georg Foster (26) discovered a passion for mechanics at a young age. After studying design in London (London College of Communication and Central Saint Martins), Georg continued his professional development in the fields of furniture, jewelry and accessories, working in particular on artisanally produced motorbike helmets. This varied experience brought him closer to the world of luxury, know-how and high-precision work. In 2017, he enrolled in a Master of Advanced Studies in Design for Luxury and Craftsmanship at ECAL (Ecole cantonale d'art de Lausanne).

During his studies, thanks to a partnership with L'Epée 1839, he was able to work on a project that combined two of his favorite disciplines: precision mechanics (watchmaking) and travel (Georg lived in several African countries, as well as Turkey and the UK before moving to Switzerland, where he is partly from).

His idea was to design a car, and more precisely a monocoque single-seater whose shape recalls the vehicles taking part in classic races since the very invention of the automobile.