**Balthazar ‘B4’ and ‘B5’: Two new editions**

Are you currently living on planet Earth? If so, you certainly haven’t missed the latest episode of Star Wars: The Last Jedi.

Whether you absolutely love, moderately appreciate or just hate the saga, we all have in common the never-ending search for a hero. Our hero is without a doubt a robot from Tatooine – an adventurer despite himself, who lost an arm on the battlefield and was built by Anakin himself: C-3PO. Inspired by this gold humanoid robot, L’Epée has developed a very special gold edition of Balthazar: ‘B4’, limited to 20 pieces. His brother, straight out of the dark side, Balthazar B5, features a fully black PVD armor and a light palladium-plated movement. The balance between light and dark side is respected.

Balthazar B4 and B5 are respectively the fourth and fifth, final editions of Balthazar: after blue, black and green editions, the B4 / B5 limited editions are now fully gold plated, from head to toe and fully black (except movement that couldn’t be PVD due to technical reasons). Unlike C-3PO, these new editions may not be fluent in six million forms of communication, but they can indicate the moon phase with extreme accuracy: all he needs is a single day of adjustment after 122 years! They will also unfailingly tell you the time.

Standing nearly 40 centimetres tall (16 inches), Balthazar is composed of 618 beautifully finished, micro-engineered components. More specifically, Balthazar is a sophisticated high-precision robot clock displaying “slow” jumping hours and trailing minutes via two discs on his chest. A power reserve indicator is located on his belly – he boasts an impressive month-busting 35 days of power reserve. His friendly face may seem serene, but he remains nonetheless always on guard: his red eyes, which continually scan the surroundings, are actually 20-second retrograde displays.

But beware… there is also a dark side to Balthazar, as there is in all of us.

Balthazar rotates around the hips like the high-precision machine that he is; you can feel the miniscule bumps of each micro-roller as he turns, and each distinct notch when he rotates the full 180°. Then everything changes: smiling Balthazar becomes rather terrifying. To quote another Star Wars figure, the infamous Darth Vader: "If you only knew the power of the dark side."

On this side, the nature of Balthazar's darkness is revealed by the cold hard skull with menacing teeth and deep-set ruby-red eyes. Fortunately, it's not all threat here as Balthazar's chest also contains the moon phase display. You can adjust the moon phase manually, providing one of many of Balthazar's tactile pleasures.

Balthazar does more than display horological events: as well as rotating around the hips, his arms articulate at both the shoulders and the elbows, and his hands can clasp and hold objects.

Finally, Balthazar's shield conceals and protects the secret of his awesome power: an integrated clock-winding and time-setting key.

**Balthazar B4 is a limited gold-plated edition of just 20 pieces.**

**Balthazar B5 is a limited palladium-plated movement and black PVD armor edition of 20 pieces.**

**Balthazar in detail**

**Balthazar – a robot-cum-table clock**

Balthazar is an amazingly solid piece of complex high-precision micro-engineering. An incredible 618 components go into the construction of his body and clockwork; more pieces than most complicated wristwatches.

If you look at Balthazar’s eyes, you will see that he is always on guard: his red eyes, which continually scan the surroundings, are actually 20-second retrograde displays.

And for those who look very carefully into his eerie, ruby-red eyes, which may remind you of Star Wars robot C-3PO’s eyes, there is an ultimate surprise perfectly illustrating just how seriously L’Epée takes the notion of form-follows-function. Those red eyes are actually the ruby bearings that support the 20-second retrograde eye displays on the other side of his face.

Surprisingly, because of Balthazar's size – and he is even heavier than he looks – manipulating any of Balthazar's joints and even the moon phase indication is extremely tactile. Moving anything on this robot is like gently closing the door on a high-end German sedan; it's the type of feel that requires much more than excellent high-precision micro-engineering capability, it requires caring deeply about touch, sensations, and even sounds from the outset. Balthazar is built to watchmaking precision by a team that cares deeply; you can feel it.

Balthazar is full of surprises: joints move in ways that astonish (and it's astonishing that some move at all); motions feel so wonderfully better than you expect that you want to repeat them again and again. The build quality continually surprises and it's hard to emphasise just how solid Balthazar feels. Then there is yet another surprise: the double-depth square-socket winding/time-setting key integrated neatly into the shield, which naturally slips in and out of its concealed niche with horological precision.

Further animation is provided by the regulator. If the protective glass dome acts like a skull, then the regulator symbolises Balthazar’s brain at work; just as the brain governs the body, the regulator governs the clock’s mechanism, giving you the impression he is continuously calculating…

Balthazar's movement also features the same superlative fine finishing – Geneva waves, anglage, mirror polishes, sandblasting, circular and vertical satin finishing – seen on haute horlogerie wristwatches.

**Balthazar B4: technical specifications**

**Balthazar B4 comes with a fully gold-plated movement, body and armour,**

**Balthazar B5 comes with a fully palladium plated movement and a black PVD body and armour, both limited to only 20 pieces.**

**Displays**

"Slow" jumping hours and sweeping minutes, displayed by twin discs on the chest

20-second retrograde displays in the eyes: red "pupils" in each eye scan over 20-second intervals and indicate seconds

35-day power reserve indicator: dial on the belly provides intuitive view of remaining energy

Double hemisphere moon phase indicator: phases of the moon are displayed on a disc on the "dark side" chest

**Movement**

L’Epée 1839 in-house designed and manufactured movement

Balance frequency: 18,000 bph / 2.5Hz

Barrels: 5 in series

Power reserve: 35 days

Movement components: 405

Jewels: 62

Incabloc shock protection system

Clockwork in gold-plated brass B4 or palladium-plated brass B5

Manual-winding: double-depth square socket key sets time and winds movement; when not in use the key integrates into a dedicated slot in the shield

Movement finishing includes Geneva waves (moon phase and power reserve bridges), polishing, sandblasting, circular and vertical satin finishing and starburst decoration

**Balthazar’s body and armour**

Dimensions: 39.4 cm high x 23.8 cm wide (depending on position of the arms) x 12.4 cm (boot size)

Weight: 8.2 kg

Body/armour components: 213

*Head*

Dome: polished glass secured via polished and bevelled gold-plated brass bezel, circular brushed finish around escapement

Skull: gold or palladium-plated bronze with brushed and sandblasted finishes

Teeth: each tooth milled in gold or palladium-plated stainless steel and polished before being mounted into the skull individually

Eyes: 20-second retrograde display in stainless steel painted with red lacquer

*Torso*

Breastplate in three pieces, two gold-plated or black PVD breast and shoulder pads

Hours, minutes, and power reserve indicators on one breastplate, moon phase display on the other

Protective plate in sapphire crystal

*Hips*

Rotate on precision ball bearings with spring click to indicate and hold at resting positions

Balthazar's centre of gravity is low around the hips to minimise any risk of being knocked over

*Legs*

Each leg weighs 1.5 kg.

Each femur is in 3 parts to reinforce the look of telescopic-potential and armour plating

Legs, shins, and feet in gold-plated brass B4 or Black PVD B5

*Shoulders and arms*

Articulation: pivot at arms/shoulders, rotation at the elbows, pivot lower arms with spring locking system

Fingers: on each hand, two fingers cross into the other three so that the hands can clasp objects

Shield: double-depth square-socket key in polished and laser-engraved brass with integrated winding/time-setting key

Key is gold-treated to maximise the longevity of the polished finish