**TIME MACHINE**

**If you could choose, would you travel into the future or the past?**

L’Epée 1839 has been measuring time for over 179 years, which perhaps explains its passion for reacting to time, even acting on it, or at least constructing it. Inspired by the most famous examples of the genre, L’Epée 1839 today unveils its new co-creation, ‘Time Machine’. In an era when scientific minds continue to ponder the question of whether time travels in one direction only, L’Epée 1839 takes advantage of the present to take off and explore the future.

With a futuristic design inspired by the film world, and a subtle nod to the mechanics of yesteryear, the Time Machine is nothing less than a mechanical sculpture that tells the time. Remember those crazy time travel contraptions, with all those frenzied moving, twirling parts? The new kinetic architecture of L’Epée 1839 belongs right there alongside them. The entire upper part revolves. A single press sets the entire time capsule – the glass tube, the carriage, the time display, and the whole mechanical movement – rotating and transporting you through time.

The two propellers at either end of the carriage are also mobile: the first winds the movement, while the second adjusts the time.

The time capsule, powered by all these rotations, rests on a stable and immobile tripod that ensures total stability for safe take-offs and landings. A wing-nut system at the center of the clock locks the rotation of the capsule and stabilizes the precious mechanism during the journey.

With its 370 components, the Time Machine is a complex table clock measuring 22 cm high and 26 cm wide. It includes a mechanical L’Epée 1839 caliber featuring an 8-day power reserve. As with any dream machine, the onlooker immediately seeks to understand how it works: the motor is therefore visible in its entirety, providing a clear view of the mechanics and their timekeeping.

**The Time Machine is produced in three limited editions of 50 pieces each: silvered, black and silvered, and black and gold.**

**TIME MACHINE**

**Design: echoes of the world of cinema**

Inspired by the most famous time machines and created with meticulous attention to detail, the Time Machine is the combined result of three minds from very different backgrounds: engineer and creator Nicolas Bringuet, designer Martin Bolo, and artistic director and general manager of L’Epée 1839, Arnaud Nicolas. Together they have created a mobile and truly dynamic scientific instrument that offers some subtle nods to the worlds of industry and cinema, while shining a light on mechanical clockmaking.

Each element of the Time Machine has been conceived and designed to evoke a memory. The capsule consists of a glass tube with a propeller at each end, symbolizing movement, the vortex, and science. The technically indispensable part required to lock the tube's rotation is inspired by the very first machine featured in the film "The Time Machine". Finally, the tripod reflects the temporal convector of one of the most famous American cars of the 1980s, the DeLorean. Every detail is significant.

**The movement: the key element of the machine**

The dynamic thrust of the object is omnipresent throughout this project, since no journey through time can be made without space. L'Epée 1839 thus set out to create a mobile clock. The first striking feature is the 360-degree rotation of the time capsule and the entire gear train of the watchmaking movement visible within it. Every rotating device also needs a locking system: and this one has been designed as a wing-nut that is turned to block the rotation, thus making the owner the key player in its usage.

The Time Machine displays the hour and minutes by means of two black metal cylinders inside a glass cylinder (the time capsule) which is framed by a propeller at each end. Each cylinder is machined and decorated by hand. The numbers, notably, are manually filled with white lacquer for maximum visibility. The time sequence and reading is made possible by a central indicator placed between the hour and minute cylinder.

The propellers are not simply a significant secondary design element, they are the two key elements of the timekeeping mechanism. The left propeller sets the time, while the right winds the barrel. These two propellers enable the owner to adjust their machine, and thus control their journey through time.

Of course, the time capsule containing the caliber 1855 (also present in the Destination Moon), is protected by a cylindrical glass so that no particle can change the future, the past, and the present... making this a true time machine.

We can all picture images of flying contraptions allowing us to travel through time, complete with their bumpy landings. L’Epée 1839 has therefore deliberately created a stationary tripod for stability on all surfaces, whether a runway or a simple desk, while incorporating slight flexibility in the foot (the only element in contact with the ground during an eventful landing!).

**Designing and producing the machine**

Although accustomed to exceptional handmade finishes, the experienced observer will note the multiple alternations of polished and satin-finished edges, thus creating marked angles and accentuating the interplay of light and reflections. This detail highlights the work of expert hands and the undeniable know-how of the teams at the L'Epée 1839 clock manufacture.

The twin ends of the capsule also required a time-consuming process of hand-finishing and polishing, both on the curved surfaces and the propellers themselves. The end result creates a visually absorbing mirror effect that both mesmerizes and showcases the chamfering work on the components.

**Time machines**

In centuries past, scientists and philosophers alike were already pondering the question of time travel. They imagined fantastical adventures in machines capable of harnessing energy to help us escape the present.

From the 1960s MGM movie, "The Time Machine", itself inspired by H.G.Wells’ 1895 science fiction novel "The Time Machine: An Invention", to the television series of the 2000s and the legendary "Back to the Future" trilogy of movies, they all had one thing in common: a machine capable of traveling through time. Whether in a DeLorean or a telephone booth, they all involved human manipulation, as does the Time Machine itself, which is based on the codes of the most beautiful mechanical devices of recent centuries.

**TIME MACHINE**

**TECHNICAL DATA**

Limited series: 50 pieces per configuration

Dimensions: 25.7 x 22 x 21 centimeters

Weight: 5.2 kg

Number of components: 370

**FUNCTIONS:**

Hour and minute display in the center of the tube via two black laser-engraved PVD stainless steel cylinders

Winding and time-setting carried out via the propellers on either end of the tube.

360° tube rotation

**L’EPEE 1839 MOVEMENT**

Horizontal L’Epée 1839 movement designed and manufactured in-house

Caliber 1855 – Vertical escapement

Balance wheel frequency: 18,000 A/h / 2.5 Hz

Single barrel

Power reserve: 8 days

Number of jewels: 17

Number of components: 162

Incabloc protection system

Time-setting via the left propeller, by turning clockwise with the H/M display facing you

Winding via the right propeller

Materials: brass and stainless steel, base plate: nickel or black PVD, gear train palladium or gold plated

**THE MACHINE**

208 components

Materials: brass and stainless steel

Finishes including polishing, sandblasting, satin finishing.

The capsule:

Mineral glass crystal

Two propellers at each end. Produced by bar turning and waterjet cutting.

Materials: palladium brass and PVD depending on the versions.

Base structure:

Fixed tripod in brass and stainless steel (palladium, gold or black PVD depending on the version)

Stainless steel (fixed) cylinders

Capsule rotation locked by means of a nut system.

**Reference:**

74.6001/114: steel

74.6001/204: black and gold

74.6001/214: black and steel

**Martin Bolo, a talented young designer**

Having grown up in a family of cabinetmakers, from his earliest childhood Martin inherited the precious values of two generations of craftsmen. Naturally attracted by manual and creative trades, he embarked on a rather unusual career. After his first qualification in industrial mechanics, he obtained a national diploma in Plastic Arts from the Limoges School of Fine Arts, specializing in object design.

In a bid to perfect his artisanal knowledge and reconnect with his Swiss roots, Martin obtained a place at ÉCAL (the Lausanne canton school of art), to study for a Masters in Advanced Studies Design for Luxury and Craftsmanship.

Collaborations with prestigious companies developed Martin’s experience in the professional arena, giving him an understanding of the fascinating worlds of fine watchmaking, culinary arts and haute couture.

A technology and science fiction enthusiast, Martin is naturally attracted to machines, particularly the improbable kind... Currently based in Delémont, Switzerland, Martin is a watch designer for the L’Epée 1839 manufacture.

***L’EPEE 1839—Switzerland's leading clock manufacture***

L’Epée has been a prominent clockmaking firm for more than 180 years. Today, it is the only manufacture in Switzerland to specialize in the production of high-end clocks. Founded in 1839 by Auguste L’Epée in France’s Besançon region, the company originally focused on producing music boxes and watch components. Even at this early stage, the brand was synonymous with entirely hand-made pieces.

Starting in 1850, the manufacture became a leader in producing escapements and began to develop special regulators for alarm clocks, table clocks and musical watches. It gained wide recognition and filed numerous patents for special escapements, particularly for use in its anti-knocking, auto-starting and constant force systems. L’Epée became the principal supplier of several famous clockmakers and went on to win many gold medals at World Fairs.

During the 20th century, the firm owed its success largely to its remarkable travel clocks. Many associate the L’Epée brand with influential individuals and people in positions of power. Members of the French government often gave clocks to their distinguished guests. When the Concorde supersonic airplane began its commercial flights in 1976, L’Epée fitted the cabins with wall clocks to give passengers the time. In 1994, the brand demonstrated its penchant for challenges by constructing the largest pendulum clock in the world, the “Giant Regulator”, which features in the Guinness Book of Records.

L’Epée 1839 is currently based in Delémont in the Swiss Jura Mountains. With CEO Arnaud Nicolas at the helm, it has developed an exceptional collection of table clocks that includes an entire range of sophisticated clocks.

The collection focuses on three themes:

Creative Art - Artistic pieces first and foremost, often developed in partnership with external designers as joint creations. These clocks surprise, inspire and even shock the most seasoned collectors. They are intended for those consciously or unconsciously looking for exceptional objects that are one of a kind.

Contemporary Timepieces - Technical creations with a contemporary design (Le Duel, Duet, etc.) and minimalist, avant-garde models (La Tour) incorporating complications such as retrograde seconds, power reserve indicators, moon phases, tourbillons, chiming mechanisms or perpetual calendars.

Carriage Clocks - Lastly, classic travel clocks, also known as “officers’ clocks”. These historical pieces issued from the brand’s heritage also feature their fair share of complications: chiming mechanisms, minute repeaters, calendars, moon phases, tourbillons and more.

All pieces are designed and manufactured in-house. Their technical prowess, combination of Form and Function, very long power reserves and remarkable finishes have become signature features of the brand.