
IWC LAUNCHES CERAMIC CHRONOGRAPHS INSPIRED BY ITS COLLABORATIONS WITH U.S. NAVY SQUADRONS

Schaffhausen, 9th September 2021 – IWC Schaffhausen has launched three new chronographs in its Pilot's Watches collection. The new ceramic models are directly inspired by timepieces that the brand created in the context of its military programme in collaboration with selected squadrons of the U.S. Navy. The Pilot's Watches Chronograph Editions "Royal Maces", "Tophatters", and "Blue Angels®" all feature the respective squadron patch on the dial and eye-catching details in the corresponding unit's colour scheme.

Ever since IWC engineered the first Pilot's Watch 85 years ago, the company has fostered an in-depth dialogue with pilots to precisely understand their specific needs and requirements. This exchange has been particularly crucial for developing the brand's mil-spec service watches, like the Mark 11 for the British Royal Air Force. Today, IWC continues this dialogue within the frame of its military program, which emerged from the brand's partnership with the U.S. Navy. Since 2018, IWC is licensed to work on watches for the entire U.S. Navy and Marine Corps aviation units, including Blue Angels® and the 247 active and 100 inactive squadrons. IWC has since collaborated with more than a dozen squadrons to create special editions that are exclusively available to present and former members.

"The IWC military programme is an important platform for our engineers and designers to exchange ideas with elite pilots from the U.S. Navy and other armed forces around the world. These pilots put our watches to the test every day in the harsh environment of the jet cockpit. Their feedback is invaluable for us not only to improve the quality and durability of our timepieces but also to create unique and appealing designs," explains Christoph Grainger-Herr, CEO of IWC Schaffhausen.

Now, IWC releases three new chronographs in its Pilot's Watches collection, which are directly inspired by the brand's collaborations with U.S. Navy squadrons, marking the first time these designs are available to non-pilots. The annual production of these chronographs will be limited to 500 pieces each.

Strike Fighter Squadron 27, known as the "Royal Maces", is stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni in Japan and forms part of Carrier Air Wing 5. The **Pilot's Watch Chronograph Edition "Royal Maces"** (Ref. IW389107) is inspired by the military-exclusive edition IWC has developed with members of the squadron. The chronograph features a black zirconium oxide ceramic case. The pushers and the crown are made of Ceratanium®. The dial features the "Maces" patch at 6 o'clock and also has a yellow day-date indication. The yellow stitching on the strap, the tip of the chronograph seconds hand and the small seconds add details in the signature "Maces" colour. The case back is made of grade 5 titanium and features an engraving of the squadron's F/A-18E Super Hornet jet next to the official squadron denomination "VFA-27".

Naval Air Station Lemoore in California is the home base of The Strike Fighter Squadron 14, nicknamed "Tophatters". Having formed in 1919, VFA-14 is the Navy's oldest active squadron. The **Pilot's Watch Chronograph Edition "Tophatters"** (Ref. IW389108) has a case made of black zirconium oxide ceramic. The chronograph pushers and the crown are manufactured Ceratanium®. Developed by IWC, this material is as light and robust as titanium and at the same time similarly hard and scratch-resistant like ceramic. The squadron's patch with the classic top hat can be found at 6 o'clock on the dial and engraved on the titanium case back. The day-date display, the tip of the chronograph seconds hand, the small seconds and the stitching on the black calfskin strap add more details in the squadron's characteristic red.

Established in 1946, the "Blue Angels®" U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron is currently made up of 141 members from the Navy and Marines. The **Pilot's Watch Chronograph Edition "Blue Angels®"** (Ref. IW389109) is the third timepiece to emerge from IWC's license agreement. Inspired by the military-exclusive watch developed with Blue Angels members in Pensacola, the chronograph features a blue ceramic case. The bright blue colour is the result of mixing zirconium oxide with other metallic oxides. Here, too, the chronograph pushers and the crown are made of IWC-developed Ceratanium®. The iconic "Blue Angels®"

crest with the U.S. Navy Wings of Gold is at 6 o'clock on the dial; the characteristic lettering is engraved on the titanium case back. Yellow details are provided by the chronograph seconds hand, the small seconds and the day-date display at 3 o'clock. This watch is fitted with a blue rubber strap with textile inlay.

IN-HOUSE COLUMN-WHEEL CHRONOGRAPH MOVEMENT

The IWC-manufactured 69380 calibre movement powers the new chronographs. Consisting of 231 individual parts, this mechanical chronograph movement is engineered with a focus on robustness, reliability and precision. A column wheel controls the stopwatch function. The bi-directional pawl-winding system supplies the movement with energy, building up a power reserve of 46 hours. The timepieces also feature a soft-iron inner case to protect the movement efficiently from the effects of magnetic fields. The front glasses are specially secured to avoid displacement in the case of sudden drops of air pressure.

The Pilot's Watches Chronograph Edition "Royal Maces", Edition "Tophatters" and Edition "Blue Angels®" will be available from September 9th through IWC boutiques, authorised retail partners or online on IWC.com. The timepieces are eligible for registration under the My IWC care program and thus benefit from a 6-year extension to the standard 2-year International Limited Warranty.

PILOT'S WATCH CHRONOGRAPH EDITION "ROYAL MACES"

REF. IW389107

FEATURES

Mechanical movement – Chronograph function for hours, minutes and seconds – Date and day display – Small hacking seconds – Soft-iron inner case for protection against magnetic fields – Screw-in crown – Glass secured against displacement caused by drops in air pressure

MOVEMENT

IWC-manufactured calibre	69380
Frequency	28,800 vph / 4 Hz
Jewels	33
Power reserve	46 h
Winding	Automatic

WATCH

Materials	Ceramic, black dial, black hands, black calfskin strap with yellow stitching
Glass	Sapphire, convex, anti-reflective coating on both sides
Water-resistant	6 bar
Diameter	44.5 mm
Height	15.7 mm

PILOT'S WATCH CHRONOGRAPH EDITION "TOPHATTERS"

REF. IW389108

FEATURES

Mechanical movement – Chronograph function for hours, minutes and seconds – Date and day display – Small hacking seconds – Soft-iron inner case for protection against magnetic fields – Screw-in crown – Glass secured against displacement caused by drops in air pressure

MOVEMENT

IWC-manufactured calibre	69380
Frequency	28,800 vph / 4 Hz
Jewels	33
Power reserve	46 h
Winding	Automatic

WATCH

Materials	Ceramic, black dial, black hands, black calfskin strap with red stitching
Glass	Sapphire, convex, anti-reflective coating on both sides
Water-resistant	6 bar
Diameter	44.5 mm
Height	15.7 mm

PILOT'S WATCH CHRONOGRAPH EDITION "BLUE ANGELS®"

REF. IW389109

FEATURES

Mechanical movement – Chronograph function for hours, minutes and seconds – Date and day display – Small hacking seconds – Soft-iron inner case for protection against magnetic fields – Screw-in crown – Glass secured against displacement caused by drops in air pressure

MOVEMENT

IWC-manufactured calibre	69380
Frequency	28,800 vph / 4 Hz
Jewels	33
Power reserve	46 h
Winding	Automatic

WATCH

Materials	Ceramic, blue dial, black hands, blue rubber strap with textile inlay
Glass	Sapphire, convex, anti-reflective coating on both sides
Water-resistant	6 bar
Diameter	44.5 mm
Height	15.7 mm

IWC SCHAFFHAUSEN

In 1868, the American watchmaker and entrepreneur Florentine Ariosto Jones travelled from Boston to Switzerland and founded the 'International Watch Company' in Schaffhausen. His visionary dream was to combine advanced American manufacturing methods with the craftsmanship of Swiss watchmakers to make the best pocket watches of his time. In doing so, he not only laid the foundation for IWC's unique engineering approach but also established the centralised production of mechanical watches in Switzerland.

Over its 150 year history, IWC Schaffhausen has developed a reputation for creating functional complications, especially chronographs and calendars, which are ingenious, robust, and easy for customers to use. A pioneer in the use of titanium and ceramics, IWC today specialises in highly engineered technical watch cases manufactured from advanced materials, such as titanium-aluminide and Ceratanium®. Preferring the principle of "form follows function" over decoration, the Swiss watch manufacturer's timeless creations embody their owners' dreams and ambitions as they journey through life.

IWC sources materials responsibly and takes action to minimise its impact on the environment, creating intrinsically sustainable timepieces that are built to last for generations. The company prides itself in training its own future watchmakers and engineers, as well as offering an excellent working environment for all employees. IWC also partners with organisations that work globally to support children and young people.

DOWNLOADS

Images of the Pilot's Watches Chronograph Editions "Royal Maces", "Tophatters" and "Blue Angels®" can be downloaded free of charge at press.iwc.com

FURTHER INFORMATION

IWC Schaffhausen

Public Relations department

Email press-iwc@iwc.com

Website press.iwc.com

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