
DA VINCI

FROM VINCI TO SCHAFFHAUSEN – A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

The famous Da Vinci Reference 3750 in stainless steel – the first chronograph by IWC with a completely mechanically programmed perpetual calendar

Some 561 years ago, a small village in Tuscany saw the birth of a man without whose genius today's world would be a different place: Leonardo da Vinci. In the 67 years until his death on 2 May 1519, he dreamed up more inventions and machines, and discovered and documented more of the laws of nature than hundreds of his contemporaries and those who followed him.

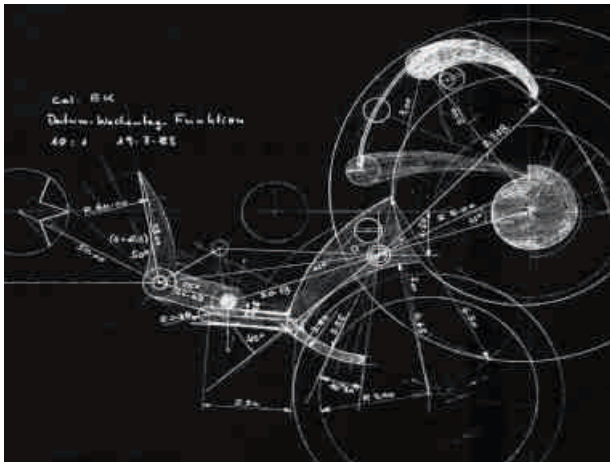
His lifelong passion was the precise measurement of time. Countless sketches testify to his enthusiasm for the earliest clockworks of the Renaissance. All his groundbreaking inventions, such as helical gears, bevel gears and complicated screw transmissions, can be found in many machines today, including watches. His work on space-saving spring drives and new escapements, in particular, was pivotal. Posterity is still in awe of the some 6,000 pages of manuscript which he left behind.

Leonardo da Vinci was much celebrated as an artist, scientist and builder of fortifications during his lifetime. But it was only in the 19th century that people slowly began to understand how far ahead of his time he was. For Leonardo da Vinci, the entire known world was a platform for his imagination and love of experimentation. The genius from the tiny village of Vinci invented objects such as the helicopter, the armour-plated vehicle, a three-barrelled cannon, the bicycle, the parachute and even a diving apparatus. None of these items could be built with the technologies and production methods available at that time. In the course of a Da Vinci exhibition initiated by IWC, a mechanism that was assumed to have been a form of propulsion for an aircraft turned out to be a precursor for a watch movement – a discovery that attracted worldwide attention.

This perpetual calendar's century slide only expires on 31 December 2299

IWC PRESENTS A MASTERPIECE OF HAUTE HORLOGERIE: THE DA VINCI, WITH A PERPETUAL CALENDAR THAT IS MECHANICALLY PROGRAMMED THROUGHOUT

In the late 1960s, Leonardo da Vinci's revolutionary way of thinking inspired IWC to introduce a watch named after him. Even that very first Da Vinci model surprised watch lovers with a special quality that has remained typical of the family to this day: that of always being a little ahead of its time. Many trailblazing innovations have first been developed for use in a Da Vinci, including the revolutionary Beta 21 series quartz movement for wristwatches, unveiled in 1969, as a joint effort by the Swiss watchmaking industry: a quantum leap in the history of precision measurement. However, the massive influx of cheap quartz movements from the Far East, the oil crisis and the collapse in the price of the dollar against the Swiss franc precipitated the greatest crisis ever experienced by the Swiss watchmaking industry. Despite all of this, the classical art of mechanical watchmaking, as found in complicated pocket watches, for instance, remained intact at IWC. So it was that, in 1985, IWC presented a masterpiece of haute horlogerie: the Da Vinci as a mechanical chronograph with a completely mechanically programmed perpetual calendar and a display that shows the year in four digits.



A sketch by Kurt Klaus for the Da Vinci's perpetual calendar mechanism

Never before in an IWC wristwatch had a gear train converted the enormous distance travelled by the escape wheel into a single movement of the century slide: between two of these movements, a point on the outer rim of the balance covers a distance equal to 40 times of that around the earth.

Its intricate mechanism comprises just 83 components and is extremely simple to use. For the first time in IWC's history of portable time, the displays for the date, day, month, year, decade, century, millennium and phase of the moon can all be set synchronously, a day at a time, via the crown.

Just one year later, in 1986, IWC presented a Da Vinci in a high-tech case of coloured ceramic: a world first. To mark the tenth birthday of the automatic Da Vinci Chronograph with a perpetual calendar, the Da Vinci Rattrapante, Reference 3751, appeared in 1995: its split-seconds hand, which was used to record intermediate times, was also the watch's tenth hand. For the millennium, IWC excelled itself once again and, with the Da Vinci Tourbillon, Reference 3752, scaled new heights in mechanical timekeeping. In much the same way that Leonardo da Vinci had never ceased striving to make things better, IWC opened a new chapter in the history of the legendary watch family in 2007: after years of research, testing and improvement, all Da Vinci models were housed in a distinctive tonneau-shaped case. The IWC-manufactured 89360 calibre was built for the Da Vinci Chronograph from start to finish in Schaffhausen. For the first time ever at IWC, it integrated the watch-within-a-watch principle: in other words, a chronograph that could be read off directly and whose stopped minutes and hours appeared on a display similar to a normal watch. Other highlights in 2007 were the limited Da Vinci Perpetual Calendar Edition Kurt Klaus – a tribute to the 50th full year of service for IWC by its spiritual father – and the Da Vinci Automatic, whose large date display has since been extremely popular with IWC devotees.

In 2009, the company's engineers added yet another outstanding member to the watch family in the form of the Da Vinci Perpetual Calendar Digital Date-Month: the first flyback chronograph with a perpetual calendar and digital leap year display as well as a digital display for the month and date with large numerals. This development was a watchmaking tour de force that has been genuinely worth the effort. Finally, 2010 saw the arrival of the Da Vinci Chronograph Ceramic, with a surprising combination of high-tech ceramic (material: zirconium oxide) and titanium which is polished or satin-finished.

The IWC-manufactured 89800 calibre displays date, month and leap year in numerals


DA VINCI
MONTH
DATE
LEAP
YEAR
IWC
SCHAFFHAUSEN
SWISS MADE
PERPETUAL CALENDAR

A BIG DATE FOR THE PERPETUAL CALENDAR

In 1884, using the Pallweber system, IWC produced the first “digital” watches in its history. These did not show the hours and minutes on an analogue display with hands, but with numerals in separate windows. 125 years later, IWC presented the Da Vinci Perpetual Calendar Digital Date-Month with digital displays for both the date and, for the first time, even the month with large numerals. The power required to switch both month and date discs at the end of the month is accumulated in the spring over the course of the entire month in a quick-action switch specially developed for this purpose. At the end of the month, the energy is released and ensures that the displays are advanced, even if the digital leap year display also needs to be switched at the same time. Thanks to the flyback function, the chronograph can be reset to zero without first having to be stopped. The IWC-manufactured 89800 calibre consists of 474 individual parts and builds up a power reserve of 68 hours.

DA VINCI PERPETUAL CALENDAR DIGITAL DATE-MONTH

REFERENCE 3761

REF. IW376107
in 18-carat rose gold with dark brown
alligator leather strap

Mechanical chronograph movement · Self-winding · 68-hour power reserve when fully wound · Perpetual calendar with crown-activated rapid advance · Large double-digit displays for both the date and month · Leap year display · Stopwatch function with hours, minutes and seconds · Hour and minute counters combined in a totalizer at 12 o'clock · Flyback function · Small hacking seconds · Screw-in crown · Sapphire glass, convex, antireflective coating on both sides · See-through sapphire-glass back · Water-resistant 3 bar · Case height 16.3 mm · Case dimensions 44 × 52.8 mm

A NEW TAKE ON CALCULATING TIME

In 1985, with its unrivalled Da Vinci calendar/chronograph movement, IWC heralded the arrival of a new age in mechanics. Then, in 2007, the Da Vinci Chronograph, featuring an IWC-manufactured movement from the 89000-calibre family in an innovative tonneau-shaped case with a glass back cover, marked the advent of another new and exciting future. As in the past, it records seconds with the large central chronograph hand, but displays longer periods of time in an easily legible form, with analogue hands, on a single subdial. Stopped hours and minutes can be read off immediately and unmistakably as if on a second time display. They no longer need to be viewed in separate counters and added together. This innovation, which is based on an extremely sophisticated movement design, has substantially increased the chronograph's practical benefits.

DA VINCI CHRONOGRAPH

REFERENCE 3764

REF. IW376416
in platinum with black
alligator leather strap

Limited edition of 500 watches in platinum · Mechanical chronograph movement · Self-winding · 68-hour power reserve when fully wound · Date display · Stopwatch function with hours, minutes and seconds · Hour and minute counters combined in a totalizer at 12 o'clock · Flyback function · Small hacking seconds · Screw-in crown · Sapphire glass, convex, antireflective coating on both sides · See-through sapphire-glass back · Water-resistant 3 bar · Case height 14.4 mm · Case dimensions 43.1 × 51 mm

DA VINCI CHRONOGRAPH

REFERENCE 3764

REF. IW376417
in 18-carat white gold with dark brown alligator leather strap

REF. IW376420
in 18-carat rose gold with dark brown alligator leather strap

Mechanical chronograph movement · Self-winding · 68-hour power reserve when fully wound · Date display · Stopwatch function with hours, minutes and seconds · Hour and minute counters combined in a totalizer at 12 o'clock · Flyback function · Small hacking seconds · Screw-in crown · Sapphire glass, convex, antireflective coating on both sides · See-through sapphire-glass back · Water-resistant 3 bar · Case height 14.4 mm · Case dimensions 43.1 × 51 mm

DA VINCI CHRONOGRAPH

REFERENCE 3764

REF. IW376421
in stainless steel with black
alligator leather strap

REF. IW376422
in stainless steel with
stainless-steel bracelet

Mechanical chronograph movement · Self-winding · 68-hour power reserve when fully wound · Date display · Stopwatch function with hours, minutes and seconds · Hour and minute counters combined in a totalizer at 12 o'clock · Flyback function · Small hacking seconds · Screw-in crown · Sapphire glass, convex, antireflective coating on both sides · See-through sapphire-glass back · Water-resistant 3 bar · Case height 14.4 mm · Case dimensions 43.1 × 51 mm

SMALL DA VINCI, BIG DATE

The Da Vinci Automatic is an attractive alternative for watch lovers who would prefer a slightly smaller version of this illustrious watch family. The tonneau-shaped case measures 35.6 × 42.5 millimetres, and the attractive large date display is clearly legible. The silver-plated dial, combined with the 18-carat rose gold case and brown alligator leather strap, is the epitome of elegance. The tobacco-coloured dial, framed by the stainless-steel case, is likewise balanced to perfection by the dark brown strap. The stainless-steel case with its blue strap and rhodium-plated hands on the silver-plated dial radiates classical cool. The stainless-steel version with a high-contrast black dial offers excellent readability. With its 30130-calibre automatic movement, the Da Vinci Automatic is the perfect companion for any occasion.

DA VINCI AUTOMATIC

REFERENCE 4523

REF. IW452311
in 18-carat rose gold with brown
alligator leather strap

REF. IW452312
in stainless steel with black
alligator leather strap

Mechanical movement · Self-winding · 42-hour power reserve when fully wound · Large date display · Central hacking seconds · Screw-in crown · Sapphire glass, convex, antireflective coating on both sides · Water-resistant 3 bar · Case height 10.9 mm · Case dimensions 35.6 × 42.5 mm


IWC
SCHAFFHAUSEN
DA VINCI
AUTOMATIC
12
6
29

DA VINCI AUTOMATIC

REFERENCE 4523

REF. IW452314
in stainless steel with blue
alligator leather strap

REF. IW452306
in stainless steel with dark brown
alligator leather strap

Mechanical movement · Self-winding · 42-hour power reserve when fully wound · Large date display · Central hacking seconds · Screw-in crown · Sapphire glass, convex, antireflective coating on both sides · Water-resistant 3 bar · Case height 10.9 mm · Case dimensions 35.6 × 42.5 mm