

Press Release

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ZEITWERK DATE

New roadmap for A. Lange & Söhne's digital watch

On the occasion of its tenth anniversary, Lange's first mechanical wristwatch with a precisely jumping digital display is endowed with a new manufacture calibre featuring a remarkable extra function. The glass ring date of the ZEITWERK DATE shows the current date in red.



A mechanical leap forward: ZEITWERK DATE in white gold with a grey dial

With the presentation of the ZEITWERK in 2009, A. Lange & Söhne started a new era in timekeeping. The prominent face and innovative concept of the first mechanical wristwatch with constant-force escapement and precisely jumping digital displays that indicate the hour and minute with jumping numerals have been commended with multiple awards. Within a fraction of a second, the unique mechanism advances the numeral discs, even simultaneously incrementing all three discs at the top of the hour. Given the controlled release of the forces involved, the ZEITWERK is a genuine "time machine".

Ten years later, Lange's mechanical digital watch welcomes a newly designed movement that incorporates an additional function: The ring-shaped date display, perfectly harmonised with the ZEITWERK design, circles the dial. The ZEITWERK DATE comes in a 44.2-millimetre white-gold case with a grey dial and a red date.

The circumferential date ring consists of glass with printed numerals from 1 to 31. The current date is displayed in red. To achieve this effect, a small colour segment beneath the date ring performs one step exactly at midnight. So in the course of a month, it moves around the dial by one full revolution. With this arrangement, the date is always clearly legible at all times and also recognisable intuitively. The date display can be adjusted with the corrector at 8 o'clock; the switching impulse is generated when it is released.

For the developers at Lange, the ZEITWERK is both a challenge and an opportunity. The large numeral discs and the prominent dial with the time bridge make it impossible to integrate a conventional date, let alone an outside date. That is why they needed a totally new design approach. The precisely jumping ring date matches the ZEITWERK design as a seamless fit with the unusual concept.



Lange manufacture calibre L043.8

The technical innovations in the ZEITWERK DATE include an additional button at 4 o'clock. It is used to separately advance the hour indication, thus solving a problem that originated in the date display in the first place. Since it calls for a time setting that is accurate to 24 hours, it would take too long to adjust the time via the crown – minute by minute. The integration of the hour button was associated with considerable design modifications. To enable the correction independently of the switching cycles of the movement, a clutch uncouples the hour ring from the jumping numerals mechanism each time the button is pressed. The switching impulse is generated when the button is released.

The new manually wound calibre L043.8 stands out with its clearly organised movement architecture. What remains is the patented constant-force escapement that handles two tasks. As a remontoir device, it powers the balance with a uniform amount of force for the entire running

duration. Additionally, it delivers the one-per-minute impulse for switching the three-disc jumping numerals display.

The characteristic Lange hallmarks of the ZEITWERK DATE include the lavish finissage of the 516-part movement. A number of its components, for example the engraved ratchet wheel and the filigreed remontoir bridge, can be viewed through the sapphire-crystal caseback.

About A. Lange & Söhne

Dresden watchmaker Ferdinand Adolph Lange laid the cornerstone of Saxony's precision watchmaking industry when he established his manufactory in 1845. His precious pocket watches remain highly coveted among collectors all over the world. The company was expropriated after World War II, and the name A. Lange & Söhne nearly vanished. In 1990, Ferdinand Adolph Lange's great-grandson Walter Lange had the courage to make a new start. Today, Lange crafts only a few thousand wristwatches in gold or platinum per year. They are endowed exclusively with proprietary movements that are lavishly decorated and assembled by hand. With 63 manufacture calibres developed since 1994, A. Lange & Söhne has secured a top-tier position in the world of watchmaking. Brand icons such as the LANGE 1 with the first outside date in a regularly produced wristwatch and the ZEITWERK with its precisely jumping numerals display rank among the company's greatest successes. Sophisticated complications such as the ZEITWERK MINUTE REPEATER, the TOURBOGRAPH PERPETUAL "Pour le Mérite" and the TRIPLE SPLIT reflect the manufactory's determination to achieve ever new pinnacles in horological artistry.

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ZEITWERK DATE	Ref. 148.038
Movement	Lange manufacture calibre L043.8, manually wound, crafted to the most exacting Lange quality standards, decorated and assembled by hand; precision-adjusted in five positions; three-quarter plate made of untreated German silver; balance cock engraved by hand; jumping minutes; constant-force escapement
Movement parts	516
No. of jewels	70
Screwed gold chatons	2
Escapement	Lever escapement
Oscillation system	Shock-resistant cam-poised balance; superior-quality balance spring manufactured in-house with patent-pending attachment (balance spring clamp), frequency 18,000 semi-oscillations per hour, precision beat adjustment system with lateral setscrew and whiplash spring
Power reserve	72 hours when fully wound
Functions	Time indicated in hours and minutes with jumping numerals, subsidiary seconds with stop seconds; ring date; power-reserve indicator
Operating elements	Crown for winding the watch and setting the time; button at 4 o'clock for correcting the hour; corrector at 8 o'clock for correcting the date display
Case dimensions	Diameter: 44.2 millimetres; height: 12.3 millimetres
Movement dimensions	Diameter: 37 millimetres; height: 8,9 millimetres
Glass and caseback	Sapphire crystal (Mohs hardness 9)
Case	White gold
Dial	Solid silver, grey
Date display	Red
Time bridge	Rhodiumed German silver
Hands	Rhodiumed gold
Strap	Hand-stitched alligator leather, dark brown
Buckle	White-gold prong buckle