

DE BETHUNE
L'ART HORLOGER AU XXI^E SIÈCLE

DB28 Steel Wheels

Geneva, January 13th 2018



DB28 Steel Wheels

2018 marks the start of a new era in the rich history of the Manufacture De Bethune. The new DB28 Steel Wheels is all about transparency and light, thanks to a dial providing stunning views of the mesmerising movement architecture. In keeping with the design codes of its predecessors, it perpetuates the heritage of the Maison: an ideal blend of daring aesthetics and exceptional mechanics.

“Hold on to your watch”

Over the years, the DB28 has become a Manufacture De Bethune classic. Interpreted in various contemporary iterations, from the “Skybridge” to “Kind of Blue”, it notably won the “Aiguille d'or” Grand Prix in 2011, the most prestigious distinction awarded by the Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève.

At the SIHH 2018, De Bethune takes centre-stage by highlighting the original architecture of its movement with an exceptional timepiece: the DB28 Steel Wheels, issued in a limited edition of 25.

In unveiling the very heart of its horological expertise, De Bethune is revealing cutting-edge technology dedicated to serving art: a double self-regulating barrel ensuring a six-day power reserve, a signature De Bethune balance-spring with flat terminal curve, a silicon escape-wheel, a triple pare-chute shock-absorbing system, as well as a new even more high-performance titanium balance-wheel with white gold inserts.

The distinctive architecture of Calibre 2115V4 is beautifully highlighted by the decision to trim down the mechanism, notably by openworking the barrels and ratchet wheels, as well as cutting out the heart of the central delta-shaped bridge. The latter is adorned with a “Côtes De Bethune” decoration, produced using the Microlight micrometric engraving technique developed by De Bethune. The entire movement thus creates the impression of levitating.

The ratcheted chapter ring inspired by gear-wheel tothing surrounds 12 polished spheres marking the hours and adding to the overall volume of the mechanism. The new hours hand, made of sapphire rimmed by blued steel, reveals the heart of the movement. Each detail of the anatomy of this new creation is thus open to view. The Manufacture's signature spherical moon composed of palladium and blued steel sets the perfect finishing touch to this magnificent vision. Appearing against its night-sky backdrop at 6 o'clock, it spins on its axis with such precision that it will take 122 years to accumulate a one-day discrepancy.

Like all the models in this collection, the DB28 Steel Wheels surprises observers by the light feel of its case, entirely crafted in titanium, and by the presence of De Bethune's patented floating-lug system adjusting to wrist size and movements.

Powerfully mingling the graceful charm of daring beauty with the power of an exceptional mechanism, this horological work of art reflects the constant evolution of De Bethune creations in their most contemporary expression.

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About De Bethune

Founded in 2002, Manufacture De Bethune is an independent watchmaker that develops and produces all its own timepieces.

While its production remains extremely modest in terms of volume, De Bethune displays peerless inventiveness and is distinguished by the highest level of quality and innovation within the extremely exclusive sphere of Swiss Haute Horlogerie.

Since its founding, De Bethune has developed no less than 26 calibres, presented 30 or so world firsts, filed a number of patents and launched around 150 one-of-a-kind models. Its timepieces have won awards in major international competitions.

Through its creations, De Bethune is perpetuating the work of the great 18th century master watchmakers in their quest for perfect time measurement backed by a sense of supreme aesthetic beauty. Leveraging cutting-edge scientific and technological discoveries, its efforts are devoted to inventing unique, innovative and high-performance solutions.

Not doing more, but doing better; drawing inspiration from the past so as to perpetually reinvent it and create bridges with other fields of knowledge: such are the principles guiding De Bethune in developing horological mechanisms and expressing artistic creativity.

Testifying to this quest for perfection and this tireless pursuit of beauty, the pure style, taut lines and slenderness of the cases embody a contemporary interpretation of the watchmaking art according to De Bethune.

Shaping 21st century watchmaking while safeguarding the finest traditions, firmly rooted in history and resolutely looking to the future, De Bethune pursues an outstanding approach effectively combining art and science.

DB28 Steel Wheels
Technical specifications

Name:	DB28 Steel Wheels
Reference:	DB28SWTIS1PN/S
Functions:	Hours, Minutes, Spherical moon phase indication at 6 o'clock, Power reserve situated on the back
Movement:	DB2115V4
Type:	Mechanical hand-wound movement
Adjustment:	Winding and setting the time by means of the crown (2 positions) Spherical moon phase adjustment via a corrector

Technical features of calibre DB2115V4

Number of parts:	275
Jewelling:	35 jewels
Diameter:	30 mm
Power reserve:	6 days, ensured by a self-regulating twin barrel <i>De Bethune Innovation (2004)</i>
Specificities:	Titanium balance wheel with white gold inserts, optimised for temperature differences and air penetration <i>De Bethune Patent (2016)</i> "De Bethune" balance-spring with flat terminal curve <i>De Bethune Patent (2006)</i> Silicon escape wheel Spherical moon phase indication accurate to a degree of one lunar day every 122 years – <i>De Bethune Patent (2004)</i> Triple <i>pare-chute</i> shock-absorbing system <i>De Bethune Innovation (2005)</i>
Frequency:	28,800 vibrations per hour
Adornment:	Concave polished grade 5 titanium plate cover Hand made mirror-polished grade 5 titanium motion works bridge Barrels bridge adorned with "Côtes De Bethune" and "microlight" engraving Open worked and hand sailed barrels Rhodium power reserve indicator background decorated with "De Bethune" circular graining Blued and engraved ring Steel parts beveled and polished by hand

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Display

Display: Sapphire hours hand rimmed with flame-blued steel
Minutes hand in hand-polished flame-blued steel
Spherical moon phase indication in palladium and flame-blued steel with an accuracy of one lunar day every 122 years at 6 o'clock – De Bethune Patent (2004)

Dial: Circular-grained titanium hours ring
Moon phase bezel in polished blued titanium
Spherical polished titanium hour-markers set on a blued polished titanium circle

Case and strap

Case material: Polished grade 5 titanium
Case diameter: 42.6 mm
Case thickness: 9.30 mm
Lugs: Short or long floating lugs in polished grade 5 titanium
De Bethune Patent (2006)
Crystal: In sapphire crystal (1800 Vickers hardness) with double anti-reflective coating
Case back: Screwed case back in grade 5 polished titanium that opens on a linear power reserve indicator in blued steel
Sapphire crystal (1800 Vickers hardness) with double anti-reflective coating
Water resistance: 3 ATM
Strap: Extra-supple alligator leather, alligator lining
Buckle: Pin buckle in polished grade 5 titanium