



DE BETHUNE

L'ART HORLOGER AU XXI^e SIÈCLE

DB25L Milky Way

Press Release, Geneva 2017





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For thousands of years, man has been trying to express the fragile beauty of the heavens in material form. A source of endless fascination, and a canvas for both spiritual and artistic endeavour, the infinity of its enigmatic immensity is not easily tamed, as those who have sought to capture it have found. How can so much subtlety, life and complexity ever be apprehended? For, from the finely curved lines of ancient celestial goddesses to the shameless gazes of our satellites, the Milky Way is a vibrant reflection of humankind and of its progress through time.

Following the example set by nature, the De Bethune Manufacture's craftsmen have used an artful combination of elements and materials to encapsulate in gold and glass a few drops of the essence of the skies. Dexterous fingers have shaped a titanium mirror and, through the flames, an experienced eye has brought forth its infinite chromatic richness. This unique blue oxide structure plays host to the captive stars. First, small white gold spheres set one by one by hand stand out from the deep sky blue. Then, their abundance is revealed under the fiery dart of the laser. Draped in a fine layer of pure gold leaf, they shine and sparkle, casting out subtle golden glints of colour. Finally, a blued steel and platinum spherical moon-phase stands guard majestically over this Elysium. Mesmerised by so much life, unable to turn away, one surrenders to it, leaving behind a small part of one's soul as the price for redemption. This reciprocity, close to love, is the very essence of De Bethune creations, where an emotional and infinite connection is created between the object and its owner, exuding a beauty that will endure over time.





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And yet, it is precisely time that inhabits this proud platinum case with hollowed lugs. Centuries of knowledge and experience stand alongside the most contemporary of materials and innovations in an alliance where the spirit of the great master watchmakers of the past is reborn each second. Here, the respiration of a balance spring on its silicon core echoes the age-old transformation of energy into units of time. There, the steel case back of its mechanical body, polished to a mirror shine, celebrates a forgotten knowledge once reserved solely for the emperors of China. Emerging from this fusion of past and present is the future of mechanical time, that of twenty-first century watchmaking. However, also underlining the outstanding mastery of the De Bethune Manufacture artists and the unique challenge they face in their work, is its apparent simplicity, like that of starry nights. For, in their quest for perfection and the absolute, the essential reigns supreme and the best always triumphs over pointless complexities. Even the dazzling diamonds encircling it show modesty and restraint beside the celestial clouds of gold on its dial. So, whenever life's frenzy takes over and monopolises our time, as we reflect upon its relentless onward march, we may suddenly need to lose ourselves momentarily in contemplation of one of its most sublime representations, and to reach for the stars.

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Technical specifications

Name:	DB25L Milky Way
Reference:	DB25JLPS3V2
Vintage:	Production limited to 1 piece in 2018
Functions:	Hours, minutes, spherical moon phase at 12 o'clock, Power reserve on case back
Movement:	DB2105V2
Type:	Mechanical hand-wound movement
Adjustment:	Using the crown (3 positions) for winding, setting the spherical moon phase and setting the time

Technical features of calibre DB2105V2

Number of parts:	286
Jewelling:	29 jewels
Diameter:	30 mm
Power reserve:	6 days, ensured by a self-regulating twin barrel A <i>De Bethune Innovation (2004)</i>
Technical features:	Silicon annular balance encircled by a white gold ring <i>De Bethune Patent (2010)</i>
curve	“De Bethune” balance-spring with flat terminal <i>De Bethune Patent (2006)</i>
	Silicon escape wheel
	Spherical moon phase indicator with precision of one lunar day every 122 years – <i>De Bethune Patent (2004)</i>
	Triple pare-chute shock-absorbing system <i>De Bethune Innovation (2005)</i>
Frequency:	28,800 vibrations per hour
Adornment:	Plate and barrel bridge cover in mirror-polished steel Hand snailed barrels Hand-polished, chamfered steel parts



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Display

Rose gold curved hands

Spherical moon phase indicator in palladium and flame-blued steel with precision of one lunar day every 122 years at 12 o'clock – *De Bethune Patent (2004)*

Power reserve indicator on the back

Dial

De Bethune star-studded sky in blued and polished titanium with hand-fitted white gold pins depicting the stars

Milky Way patterns produced by laser beam micro milling, gilded with 24-carat gold leaf

Case

Material: Platinum set with 66 baguette-cut diamonds

Diameter: 44 mm

Thickness: 11.3 mm

Lugs: Integrated, hollowed lugs

Crystal: Sapphire (1800 Vickers hardness), with double anti-reflective coating

Back: Open back in polished white gold and linear power reserve on the back

Sapphire crystal (1800 Vickers hardness) with double anti-reflective coating

Strap

Extra-supple alligator leather, alligator lining

Buckle and ardillon in platinum