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DB28 Maxichrono

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The contemporary expression of a time-measuring instrument

In every new creation by De Bethune, the company's founders, David Zanetta and Denis Flageollet perform a balancing act. It involves recombining age-old expertise and the styles of the Age of Enlightenment in a contemporary creation of new materials and technical innovations. By imagining what the great watchmakers of the 18th century would have made today, they lay the foundations of tomorrow's watchmaking. They dismantle preconceptions to extend the frontiers of knowledge. They discover and explore the new horizons of science and technology, yet return to the mechanical and artistic essentials.

The chronograph, the traditional way of measuring elapsed times, joins the contemporary DB28 collection. The result is a creation that combines the old and the new in both its design and technical construction.

The juxtapositions extend to the surprising combination of a round case with openworked floating lugs on springs – a patented system that adapts them precisely to the shape of the wrist and its movements. The rose gold case makes a sharp contrast with the blackness of its floating lugs in hand-polished, oxidised zirconium.

Even the indications are expressed through dichotomies.

Contemporary skeleton hands in polished black oxidised steel tell the time of day. They point to black numerals in a modern typeface, their presence reinforced by their colour and size.

Elapsed times are recorded more conventionally with hands that are shaped, polished and blued in the traditional way over a flame. Numerals borrowed from marine chronometers complete the indications of the chronograph counters.

Yet the DB28 Maxichrono remains a modern chronograph with a button paired with the crown controlling the five hands mounted coaxially in the centre of the dial. Stacked wheels with their shafts fitting inside each other took real technical prowess to realise.

On the back, the window on the calibre DB2030 displays the architectural layout of the movement's bridges in rose gold and polished steel.

The DB28 Maxichrono, fitted with De Bethune's absolute clutch system, is a precise and reliable time-measuring instrument where traditional heritage and modern styling coexist in harmony to proclaim a strong identity.

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De Bethune total clutch system: a patented chronograph invention

De Bethune's research and development department has announced the filing of a patent application n° CH00076/14 for the chronograph mechanism. De Bethune's absolute clutch aims to improve the performance of chronographs by correcting the faults identified in current mechanisms.
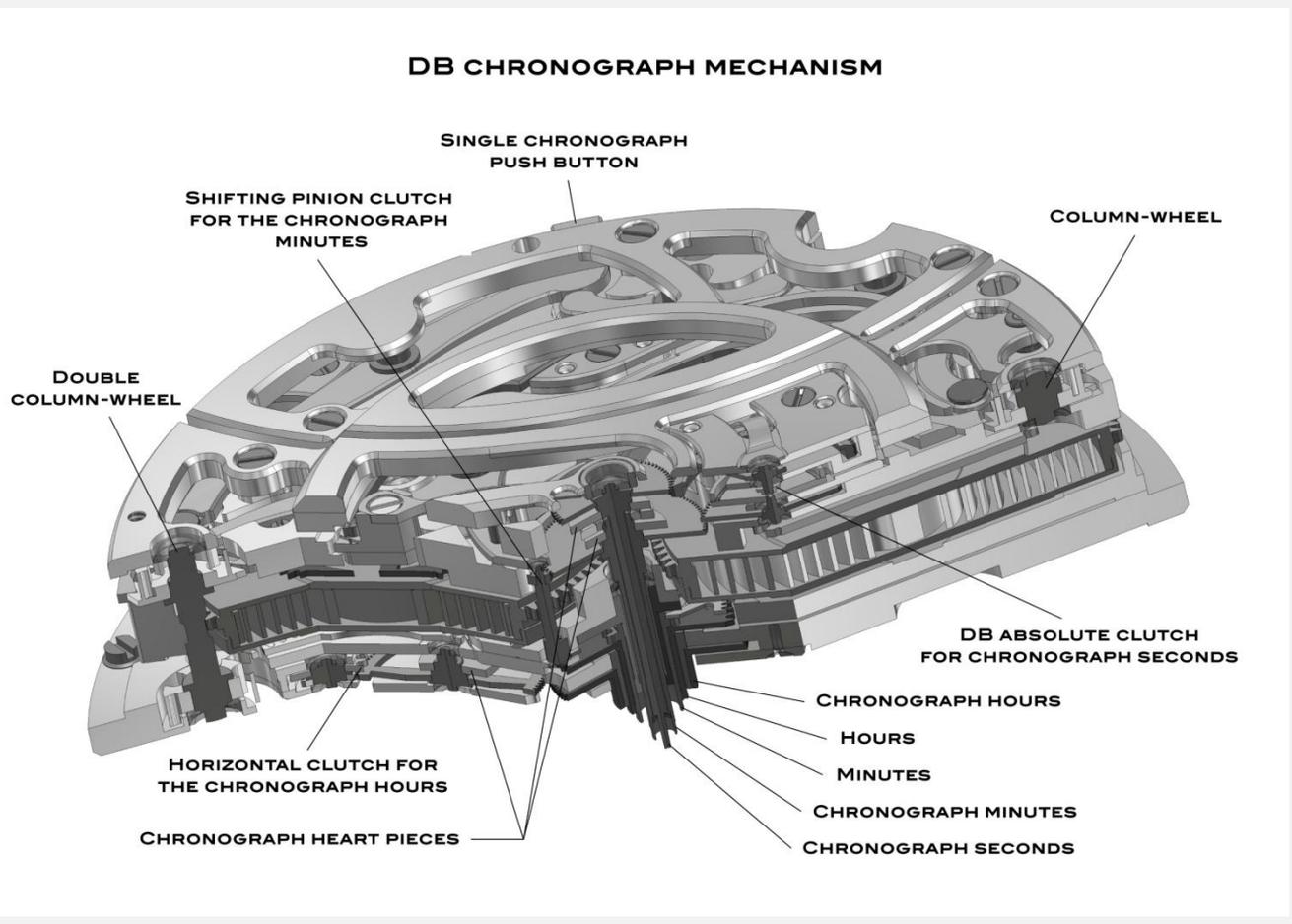
This mechanism makes the most of the advantages of the horizontal and vertical clutch systems while eliminating their faults. It thus benefits from a marked reduction in the friction that affects the movement both when the chronograph is running and when it is functioning without the chronograph engaged.

The absolute clutch operates in a system engaging the two traditional clutch methods to allow the different chronograph counters to function semi-autonomously:

- The chronograph seconds are governed by the new absolute clutch system;
- The minutes counter is controlled by a shifting pinion;
- The hours counter is engaged by a horizontal clutch.

Three different types of clutch behind three semi-independent systems controlled by three column-wheels thus govern the different chronograph elapsed-time counters.

In this way De Bethune marks a significant technological breakthrough in the history of chronographs, the result of continuous research heralded by the DB21 Maxichrono in 2006. Constant innovation relying on an extensive knowledge of age-old expertise has enabled the brand to simplify and enhance the reliability of the absolute clutch system so that it can be implemented in a movement manufactured by the production workshops in the Swiss village of L'Auberson.

DB CHRONOGRAPH MECHANISM

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DB28 Maxichrono
Technical specifications

Name: DB28 Maxichrono
Reference: DB28MCRZN / S
Limitation: Limited annual production of 20
Functions: Hours, Minutes, Mono-pusher chronograph with 24 hours, 60 minutes, 60 seconds
Movement: DB2030
Type: Mechanical hand-wound movement
Adjustment: By the crown (2 positions) for winding and setting the time
                       Via a push-piece integrated in the crown for the chronograph function

Technical features of calibre DB2030

Number of parts: 426
Jewelling: 51 jewels
Diameter: 30 mm
Power reserve: 5 days, ensured by a self-regulating twin barrel
                       De Bethune Innovation (2004)

Specificities: Silicon annular balance encircled by a white gold ring
                       De Bethune Patent (2010)

                       "De Bethune" balance-spring with flat terminal curve
                       De Bethune Patent (2006)

                       Silicon escape wheel

                       "De Bethune Absolute Clutch "
                       De Bethune Patent (2014)

Frequency: 36,000 vibrations per hour

Adornment: Bridges mirror-polished, sandblasted and snailed by hand
                       Steel parts polished and chamfered by hand

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Display

Display:	5 curved central hands – hand-polished and blackened steel for hours and minutes hands and flame-blued steel chronograph and seconds indicators – chronograph minutes indicator in rose gold
Dial:	Three dimensional silver dial constructed on different levels to maximize readability. From the center to the periphery: central hours counter – hour ring – minutes ring and minutes counter – 1/10th of second graduated outer ring for seconds counter Blackened, polished steel Arabic relief as hour markers

Case and strap

Case material:	Rose gold 5N
Case diameter:	46 mm
Case thickness:	11 mm
Lugs:	Short or long floating lugs in polished black zirconium *De Bethune Patent (2006)*
Crystal:	In sapphire crystal (1800 Vickers hardness) with double anti-reflective coating
Case back:	open on the mechanism with bridges in rose gold 5N and hand-polished steel parts 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 black polished zirconium and 5N rose gold

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