DE BETHUNE

L'ART HORLOGER AU XXIe SIÈCLE

# DB28XP Kind of Blue Tourbillon Sapphire

Hong Kong, December 1st 2023

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## The independent watch Manufacture De Bethune is proud to announce the latest addition to its collection of iconic watches in blued titanium. This new creation is the result of the union between the proven elegance of the DB28XP and the timeless charm of the DB28 Kind of Blue Tourbillon, with a touch of sapphire!

## A limited edition of 10 pieces

**[Hong Kong, December 1st 2023] – Currently on a tour across Asia to engage with passionate collectors of the brand and explore its rich history and culture, Denis Flageollet, the founder and master watchmaker of De Bethune, has chosen to unveil the new DB28XP Kind of Blue Tourbillon Sapphire in Hong Kong. This special timepiece, he believes, will resonate with a market attuned to the vibrations of such artifacts and the energy they exude.**

### A Natural Evolution of Excellence

The DB28XP Kind of Blue Tourbillon Sapphire represents the seamless evolution of two iconic models from De Bethune: the DB28XP and the DB28 Kind of Blue Tourbillon. It encapsulates the best of both worlds by merging the sleek design and refinement of the DB28XP with a distinctly blue aesthetic inspired by the DB28 Kind of Blue Tourbillon, a hallmark of the Manufacture's signature style.

### A Captivating Dial

This is a realm where layers of interpretation, textures, and the interplay of light with shadows and reflections take center stage. Crafted from blued titanium, the watch unveils an architectural fusion of space, time, and light at first glance. Its deep and luminous blue hue is achieved through the natural oxidation of the material, transforming each timepiece into a unique work of art.
The dial, entirely crafted in Microlight, breathes new life into and modernizes the traditional guilloché technique. Across its expansive flat surface, this method gains newfound significance, reinforcing its structure. By playing with shadow and light, it introduces depth, resulting in a more structured and dynamic architectural outcome. The overall effect becomes distinctly contemporary.

### Ultra-Thin Mastery by De Bethune

De Bethune embarked on a groundbreaking journey into the realm of ultra-thin timepieces in 2020 with the launch of the DB28XP, celebrating two decades of mechanical and aesthetic exploration. In his pursuit of an ultra-thin watch, Denis Flageollet conceived it as both a technical and aesthetic challenge—an intricate dance between delicacy and complexity, an adventure demanding precision and a harmonious interplay between design and constraints.

As if destined, the DB28XP has evolved into an embodiment of beauty, an elegance that epitomizes simplicity even in its most absolute form. Today, it stands as an ideal representation of refined aesthetics and technical finesse.

**The Chronometric Expertise of De Bethune**

The manually winding DB2009v4 movement features the distinctive De Bethune balance wheel, visible through the dial via a 6 o'clock opening. It is the outcome of De Bethune's ongoing physical and mathematical approach to enhancing its functionality. This balance wheel incorporates the latest advancements—modest in diameter, crafted from titanium, and fitted with small white gold weights positioned externally, providing it with exceptional inertia, reliability, and remarkable regulating quality.

Equipped with the renowned De Bethune hairspring, a delicate spring considered the soul of the mechanical watch, it has been meticulously designed to maintain its center of gravity precisely at the midpoint. This is achieved through a flat curve fixed externally to the hairspring. Variations in the thickness of the blade contribute to nearly perfect concentric development, offering numerous advantages, including reduced height, improved concentricity quality, finer adjustment of the pallet, eliminating the need for pins, and the curve's shape acting as a shock absorber.

Furthermore, the internal structure of the material remains intact, having been neither stressed nor bent. Through these proven and continually evolving enhancements, De Bethune has increased the power reserve efficiency by +20%, extending it to a total of 5 days. This achievement is visible through the sapphire glass case back, allowing connoisseurs to marvel at the complexity and beauty of each component.

**The De Bethune Tourbillon: Why So Small, So Light, So Fast?**

In the expansive array of complications and functions that De Bethune has mastered, the tourbillon has often taken a leading role. A tourbillon equipped with an extraordinarily lightweight cage (0.18 gr., the lightest ever created) rotating every thirty seconds, comprising a total of 63 components (the lightest of which weighs less than 0.0001 gram!).

Today, a wrist-worn watch experiences significantly more "torture" than a pocket watch. Rapid and erratic wrist movements impose kinetic brutality on watch mechanics, warranting careful consideration. Just as Breguet invented the tourbillon to counteract the effects of Earth's gravity and enhance the precision of marine watches, De Bethune sought ways to optimize it for today's wristwatches.

The equation? To be more effective on a wrist subjected to quick and erratic movements, the tourbillon must have a higher frequency and a faster rotation speed.
By creating a tourbillon in titanium and silicon with a frequency of 36,000 vibrations/hour and an extraordinarily lightweight cage rotating every thirty seconds, describing the feat is easier

than achieving it. Much like an airborne insect, a true exoskeleton maintains the entire structure.

Thus, the De Bethune tourbillon, so small, so light, so fast, simply fulfills its function better for contemporary watches. The futuristic shape of the tourbillon bridge symmetrically and perfectly supports the tourbillon on both sides, keeping it in its position.

**Comfort and Innovation**

True to the essence of all models in its collection, the DB28XP Kind of Blue Tourbillon Sapphire consistently surprises with the lightweight construction of its case. Crafted entirely from polished blued grade 5 titanium with a microlight case, embellished with sapphire rods and mounted on floating lugs that adapt to the size and various movements of the wrist—a patented De Bethune system. The case features a more contoured profile, following the natural lines of the wrist. The Microlight finish of the baseplate extends onto the sides, reaching the outer edge of the case—a meticulous undertaking that proves challenging in the absence of simple geometric elements.

Completing the ensemble is an alligator leather strap with a titanium buckle, contributing to the practical and enjoyable wear of this timepiece.

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