

Press Release

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DATOGRAPH PERPETUAL

An exclusive gem of watchmaking artistry

With the DATOGRAPH PERPETUAL, A. Lange & Söhne introduces two of the most intricate complications in precision watchmaking, showcasing the characteristic DATOGRAPH design. Limited to 50 pieces, the timepiece exhibits a particular exclusivity thanks to the exceptional materials used, such as diamond appliques on the dial and a platinum bracelet.



The new DATOGRAPH PERPETUAL features a case and bracelet in 950 platinum, as well as a black dial graced with eleven diamond hour-markers

Launched in 2006, the DATOGRAPH PERPETUAL was the first A. Lange & Söhne wristwatch to unite a chronograph and a perpetual calendar with an outsize date. Now, twenty years after its debut, the new version in 950 platinum underscores the enduring fascination of the classic. Boasting a black dial graced with eleven baguette-cut diamonds as hour markers, it interprets the timeless concept in a unique way. The diamonds are applied by hand and represent an emblem of the preciousness of time.

Precision in the short and long term

The chronograph functions were implemented in typical Lange fashion: a classic column-wheel transmission assures precise and dependable control of all short-time measurements. The precisely jumping minute counter always delivers doubt-free readings of the elapsed minutes

while the flyback function makes it possible to stop an ongoing measurement with the actuation of a pusher and to start a new one.

Whereas the chronograph can measure time with an accuracy of one fifth of a second in the here and now, the mechanical precision of the perpetual calendar extends far into the future. The mechanism is programmed to correctly display date, day of week and month across decades while also recognising which years are leap years. On 1 March 2100, when the leap year is omitted according to the rules of the Gregorian calendar, the calendar display must be corrected by one day. The moon-phase display also fully lives up to this degree of long-term precision: it will deviate from a true lunation by only one day after 122.6 years if the watch is kept running continuously.



Close-up of the new DATOGRAPH PERPETUAL

The ingenuity of the watch's mechanisms matches the ease with which it is operated. All calendar indications and the moon-phase display can be jointly advanced with the rapid-correction pusher at 10 o'clock. They can also be separately adjusted with individual recessed correctors. A sophisticated safety mechanism prevents inadvertent actuation of the rapid-correction pusher.

Harmony of the displays

Both complex mechanisms interact with precision and are paired with a harmonious dial design that sets the stage for the numerous displays, rendering each one clearly legible. The characteristic Lange outsize date in the framed twin aperture at 12 o'clock marks the tip of an equilateral triangle. The auxiliary dials for the small seconds, day of the week and day/night indicator at 9 o'clock, and for the month and leap-year display as well as the precisely jumping

minute counter of the chronograph at 3 o'clock are located below the horizontal centre axis of the dial, forming the base of the triangle. The harmonious configuration of the indications for time, the calendar and chronograph functions is rounded off with the moon-phase display at 6 o'clock.

Sparkling accents

In the new version, the timeless design concept of the DATOGRAPH PERPETUAL impresses with exclusive facets. Eleven manually applied baguette-cut diamonds with a total weight of approx. 0.13 carats constitute the hour markers: a pair of diamonds marks the 12 o'clock-position. The markers were omitted at 4 and 8 o'clock, creating space for the rhodié-coloured auxiliary dials that were moved downwards slightly and stand out prominently against the black background.



The reverse side of the new DATOGRAPH PERPETUAL

Perfected appearance

The platinum case has a diameter of 41.0 millimetres and a height of 13.5 millimetres. The precious metal is renowned for its extraordinary quality and high robustness. Moreover, the durable cool tone, high density and resilience contribute to the material's distinct appearance.

Secured with a deployant buckle, the five-row platinum bracelet is harmoniously integrated into the case and eminently comfortable to wear thanks to its shape. The interplay of polished and matted surfaces combined with the lateral chamfering of the links expressively showcases the properties of the precious metal.

Intricate watchmaking artistry

The well-balanced design and artisanal finish of the watch extend into the interior. The reliable manually wound L952.1 calibre comprises 556 individual parts – of which 223 alone make up the calendar mechanism. The meticulously blended composition of different materials and traditional finishing techniques creates a lustrous play of colours – turning the manufacture movement which was assembled twice into a true gem.

A glance through the sapphire-crystal caseback affords mesmerising insights into the chronograph mechanism. It is controlled by a classic column wheel that coordinates all switching sequences. To this end, various rockers and switching levers engage with this wheel. The special dial design necessitates the considerable length of the levers: they ensure that the outsize date mechanism has sufficient space and the lengthier paths to the auxiliary dials that were moved downwards are factored in.

The separate adjustment of the chronograph mechanism and the perpetual calendar already pose quite a challenge, yet the level of difficulty increases immensely when both complications are juxtaposed in one watch and must be harmonised with each other. This feat requires our watchmakers' utmost technical expertise and artisanal virtuosity.

About A. Lange & Söhne

Dresden watchmaker Ferdinand Adolph Lange laid the foundations for Saxony's precision watchmaking industry when he established his manufacture 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 relaunch the brand. Today, Lange crafts only a few thousand wristwatches per year, predominantly in gold or platinum. They are equipped exclusively with movements made in-house that are elaborately finished and assembled by hand. With 77 manufacture calibres developed since 1990, A. Lange & Söhne has secured a top-tier position in the world of watchmaking. Its greatest achievements include the LANGE 1, the first regularly produced wristwatch with an outsize date, and the ZEITWERK, with its precisely jumping numerals. Extraordinary complications such as the MINUTE REPEATER PERPETUAL, the LANGE 1 TOURBILLON PERPETUAL CALENDAR "Lumen" and the TRIPLE SPLIT represent what the manufacture always strives for: to drive the traditional art of watchmaking to ever-new heights. Launched in 2019, the sporty-elegant ODYSSEUS in stainless steel marked the beginning of a new chapter for the manufacture.

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DATOGRAPH PERPETUAL		Ref. 410.136E
Movement	Lange manufacture calibre L952.1, manually wound; decorated and assembled by hand; precision-adjusted in five positions; plates and bridges made of untreated German silver; balance cock engraved by hand	
No. of movement parts	556	
No. of jewels	45	
No. of screwed gold chatons	4	
Escapement	Lever escapement	
Oscillation system	Shock-resistant balance with eccentric poising weights; balance spring crafted in-house, frequency 18,000 semi-oscillations per hour; precision beat-adjustment system with lateral setscrew and whiplash spring	
Power reserve	36 hours when fully wound	
Functions	Time indicated in hours, minutes, and subsidiary seconds with stop seconds; flyback chronograph with precisely jumping minute counter; tachymeter scale; perpetual calendar with outsize date, day of week, month and leap year; day/night indicator; moon-phase display	
Operating elements	Crown for winding the watch and setting the time; two pushers for operating the chronograph; rapid-correction pusher for jointly advancing all calendar indications, one corrector each for separately advancing the day of week, month/leap year and moon phase	
Case dimensions	Diameter: 41.0 millimetres; height: 13.5 millimetres	
Movement dimensions	Diameter: 32.0 millimetres; height: 8.0 millimetres	
Crystal and transparent caseback	Synthetic sapphire-crystal (Mohs hardness 9)	
Case	950 platinum	
Dial	925 silver, black/rhodié	
Hands and appliques	Hour and minute hands, day of week, month and leap-year hands in 750 gold; chronograph minute counter and subsidiary seconds hand in blued steel; chronograph seconds hand in rhodiumed steel; hour markers: 11 baguette-cut diamonds (F-G, VVS, total weight approx. 0.13 carats)	
Bracelet	950 platinum	
Buckle	Quick-release deployant buckle in 950 platinum	
Limited edition	50 watches, edition number engraving	