

THE AQUATIMER
FROM SCHAFFHAUSEN
SINCE 1967



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SWITZERLAND, SINCE 1868

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EDITORIAL

GRÉGOIRE KOULBANIS

You descend, as if in slow motion, to the reef. Eyeball to eyeball with the inhabitants, you cast your gaze over the gardens of coral. A parrotfish nibbles away at one of the branches whilst a turtle paddles gracefully towards the light for a breath of air. In stark contrast to this, going with the current in open water is like riding a roller coaster: big fish frequently shoot by as we hurtle with them through the water.

Go ice diving and you drop through a hole into the bitter cold below: enshrouded in milky white ice, with scarcely a suspended particle to impair the view, the scene can be breath-taking. Cave diving means dealing with enclosed spaces, darkness, limited visibility and danger, but is also unforgettable in its own way.

When you are diving professionally, of course, these beautiful multicoloured images of fish and coral reefs are replaced by sludge, concrete and steel. And as for visibility, you count yourself lucky if you can see your hand in front of your face.

Whether I am dropping majestically above the coral reefs or working on some assignment under the toughest conditions imaginable, the one thing that never ceases to amaze me is the sensation of being completely surrounded by water and floating in a three-dimensional medium. Diving never ceases to fascinate me. I have been to the playgrounds of the giant manta rays and octopuses in the Gulf of Papagayo off the coast of Costa Rica. The water around the Thai island of Koh Tao showed me some of the most magnificent coral I have ever seen. Deep dives in the Red Sea have forced me to concentrate as never before and taken me to my physical and mental limits. And in the ocean around the Galapagos Islands, I discovered underwater fauna that was uniquely beautiful.

Divers are equipment freaks. Every dive is preceded by a thorough check. Are the dive computer and regulator working properly? Can we rely one hundred percent on our compressed air tanks and watch? It is a peculiar relationship into which we enter with technology, and one on which our survival below the surface depends.

It is probably the desire to escape normality and the routine constraints of everyday life that drives us into the silent domain beneath the surface. And the sense of satisfaction we feel after a successful dive simply serves to drive us still deeper in a relentless search for the unknown.



Grégoire Koulbanis, head diver and scientific adviser for UNESCO since 1999, has been diving professionally for 25 years and has completed 10,000 dives in every corner of the globe. He was born in Geneva in 1961 and studied geography, semiotics and environmental management. Koulbanis qualified as an international diving instructor in 1982 and has since accumulated many more qualifications as a diver and underwater photographer. From 1988 he worked for nine years as a scientific researcher and diver with Commander Jacques-Yves Cousteau on the Calypso and the Alcyone. He worked on 15 Cousteau documentary films in 25 different countries.



GALAPAGOS ISLANDS: EVOLUTION'S LABORATORY



Unique and fascinating, the landscape alone is a gem. Many fall for the beguiling charm of its flora and fauna. However, viewed at closer quarters, the Galapagos Islands barely live up to their idyllic, picture-postcard image. This is a terrain of blackened lava fields and bare, scorched slopes on which only cacti, low saltbushes and Palo Santo trees will grow. The climate is moist and cool in the uplands: most of the mountains are shrouded in mist. On beholding these apparently inhospitable islands, Charles Darwin recorded his impression of “an Arctic rather than a tropical land”.

These volcanic islands were spewed from the submarine depths of the Pacific some four million years ago and have never been linked to the South American continent. Nearly 1000 kilometres separate them from the mainland. Their animal inhabitants must once have arrived here by arduous routes, mostly not of their choosing. And it was anything but a soft landing: the fresh, rocky lava demanded major feats of adaptation from survivors arriving after a long passage by air or carried by the cold currents. Those that made it became specialists in surviving this hostile habitat.

The result was an animal and plant ecosystem unique in the world. Three-quarters of the animals living on the Galapagos only exist here. The Galapagos tortoises, Darwin's finches and marine iguanas are indigenous species which exist nowhere else on Earth. Sea lions feel at home in the cool water, while flamingos, turtles and iguanas

bask on the warm, dry land. The albatrosses nest on Española and the red-footed boobies on Genovesa. Seymour Norte is the territory of the frigate birds, while Fernandina belongs to the marine iguanas.

The underwater habitat is no less unusual than the land. Squadrons of rays patrol the shimmering turquoise coves, while sea turtles propel themselves forward with smooth strokes, like lumbering angels. Lurking in rocky crevices are seahorses and multicoloured butterflyfish. Hammerhead sharks circle at lower depths, while sea lions hurtle through the briny waves in seemingly weightless acrobatics. It is a maritime cornucopia.

Under the *aegis* of UNESCO, the Charles Darwin Foundation has been researching the fragile Galapagos biotope since 1959 and advises the Ecuadorean Government on the careful preservation of this unique natural inheritance. The main threat to the natural balance on the islands comes from the growing numbers of people who make their way here, to tour or to settle. The object of the Charles Darwin Foundation is therefore to raise visitors' and new inhabitants' awareness of the uniqueness of the archipelago. The Foundation gives guidance in ecologically compatible practices, to protect this unique island world and preserve the world-famous flora and fauna for future generations.



AQUATIMER: PRECISION CONQUERS THE DEPTHS



To explore a strange, secretive and exciting world has always been the attraction of diving. To glide, weightless, through water is to absorb what Jacques-Yves Cousteau dubbed the "silent world". In the ancient world, Alexander the Great reportedly tried to dive in the Mediterranean, and Aristotle mentions in his writings the sport which is now so popular. Universal genius Leonardo da Vinci also experimented underwater and designed diving bells that are identifiable forerunners of present-day models. In the 18th century the scientist Edmond Halley was the first to hit on a specific notion of how air might be channelled through a hose into a diving bell. But free movement underwater only became possible with the development of scuba – self-contained underwater breathing apparatus – equipment. Inspired by Jacques-Yves Cousteau, the legendary pioneer diver, engineers Georges Commines and Emile Gagnan developed the first automatic breathing device called aqualung – a quantum leap in the conquest of the underwater world.



Time must be measured precisely during every dive. This is the reason why a diver's watch, watertight to the murkiest depths, is a primary safety device in addition to the dive computer, which is now standard equipment. The specific challenges posed by diving have also long been a source of fascination to the engineers at IWC Schaffhausen. The Aquatimer diver's watch, unveiled in 1967, was their answer to the demands of a growing number of professional and leisure divers. Equipped with an innovative rotating inner bezel from which dive time could be reliably read off in minutes, this was a watch designed for professional use. Pressure resistance down to 20 bar was revolutionary at the time. Today, Reference 812AD/1812 is a rare and coveted collector's item.

From 1978, co-operation with the designer F. A. Porsche led to further technical advances at IWC. It became the first company in the watchmaking industry to produce cases and bracelets made of titanium, a material hitherto used mainly in aviation. Although it featured in many other models, the special metal was also part of another significant development: the Ocean 2000 diver's watch, Reference 3500, introduced in 1982. The no-frills design was a blend of modern and classic, in a watch which remained water-resistant to an incredible 200 bar. Its diameter of 42.5 mm was unusually large at the time.



Autumn 1997 saw the market launch of a new line from IWC, called GST. This included a diver's watch, the GST Aquatimer, Reference 3536. Almost as large, at 42 mm diameter, this Aquatimer was available in steel and titanium and came to epitomise sporting prowess and strength, which it combined with proven reliability in daily use.

In 1999 came the debut of a very special diver's watch in the GST line. Reference 3527, dubbed the GST Deep One, was the fruit of exceptional watchmaking flair and technical design. Powered by an IWC 8914 calibre with 36 jewels, the watch featured a unique complication: a mechanical depth gauge. What made it so unusual was that water was allowed to penetrate part of the case. The water pressure moved a tube spring which operated an analogue depth display on the watch face. It was a perfect symbiosis of sporting appeal, functional reliability and technical orientation, and a pacesetter for the subsequent Aquatimer generation. The GST Deep One was water-resistant to 10 bar. Its design also set new standards: the yellow arc on the dial epitomised the distinctively sporty touch so typical of IWC.



The Cousteau Society, which was founded by diving pioneer Jacques-Yves Cousteau, and IWC have been working together as partners since 2004. Cousteau had roamed the seas for more than four decades in his legendary research vessel "Calypso" and produced unforgettable sea films such as "Le Monde du Silence" (The Silent World, 1956) or "Le Monde sans Soleil" (World without Sun, 1964). The latter film won him an Oscar for best documentary. His research voyages left Cousteau in no doubt of the threat posed by the human race to the marine ecosystem. He therefore dedicated himself passionately to ocean conservation. IWC Schaffhausen has honoured the marine researcher with several Aquatimer "Cousteau Divers" models. The company uses part of the proceeds to support the maintenance of Cousteau's world-famous research ship.



First Aquatimer (1967), Reference 812AD/1812



Ocean 2000, Reference 3500



GST Deep One, Reference 3527



Aquatimer "Cousteau Divers", Reference 3548





AQUATIMER DEEP TWO: PERFORMANCE & INNOVATION REFERENCE 3547



Technically speaking, the Aquatimer Deep Two is the ambassador of the new collection. Its predecessor, the GST Deep One, which featured a unique mechanical depth gauge with a split hand, had already demonstrated IWC's right to a place in the echelons of watchmaking technology. The Aquatimer Deep Two, with its further improved depth gauge mechanism, underlines this. As in the case of its predecessor, a wheel train is activated by water pressure and converts it into a movement on the depth gauge indicator. The latter displays current depth and maximum dive depth down to 50 metres. The Aquatimer Deep Two is water-resistant to 12 bar. The newly developed rotating outer bezel with its high-quality coating (which continues to glow for a long time underwater) makes it very easy to read. The Aquatimer Deep Two continues to probe the depths of the oceans with the precision, unmatched performance and masculine understatement that is typical of IWC.



AQUATIMER CHRONOGRAPH: SOPHISTICATION IN RED GOLD REFERENCE 3769



The chronograph in 18 ct. red gold is IWC's first diver's watch with a precious metal case and a transparent sapphire glass case back. Make no mistake: this is a thoroughbred luxury timepiece, both underwater and on dry land. Equipped with the same highly developed case technology as the other models in the Aquatimer family, its functional design is combined here with the advantages of the IWC-manufactured 89360-calibre movement. The circular IWC automatic movement with its 68-hour power reserve and double-pawl winding system features a largely off-centre chronograph mechanism controlled by a column wheel: all in all, a design that meets the highest possible standards. The wealth of sophisticated technical features inside the chronograph is no less impressive than the case itself, which is an imposing 44 mm in diameter and has been tested for water resistance to 12 bar. Times recorded by the stopwatch are as easy to read on the dial as the time of day. And, thanks to the flyback function, the chronograph is ready to start timing again in the twinkling of an eye.



AQUATIMER CHRONOGRAPH: FUNCTIONALITY & STYLE REFERENCE 3767



The Aquatimer Chronograph comes with two impressive features: first, the highly functional Aquatimer family design, developed for diving; and, second, the additional benefit of a self-winding mechanical chronograph. Thanks to its high-level functionality, the newly developed rotating outer bezel with its inset sapphire glass ring is particularly easy to use. It can be turned easily – with or without gloves – before the dive and snaps reliably into place. Even if a diver's electronic dive computer malfunctions, the luminescent markings on the hands enable him to time his decompression stops safely and precisely. The bezel is coated with top-quality Super-LumiNova®, which remains luminescent for a long time underwater. The watch is water-resistant to 12 bar. Another attractive feature for dive watch enthusiasts is the attractive design of the watches in luminescent marine colours.



AQUATIMER CHRONOGRAPH
EDITION GALAPAGOS ISLANDS:
HIGH TECH & ECOLOGY
REFERENCE 3767



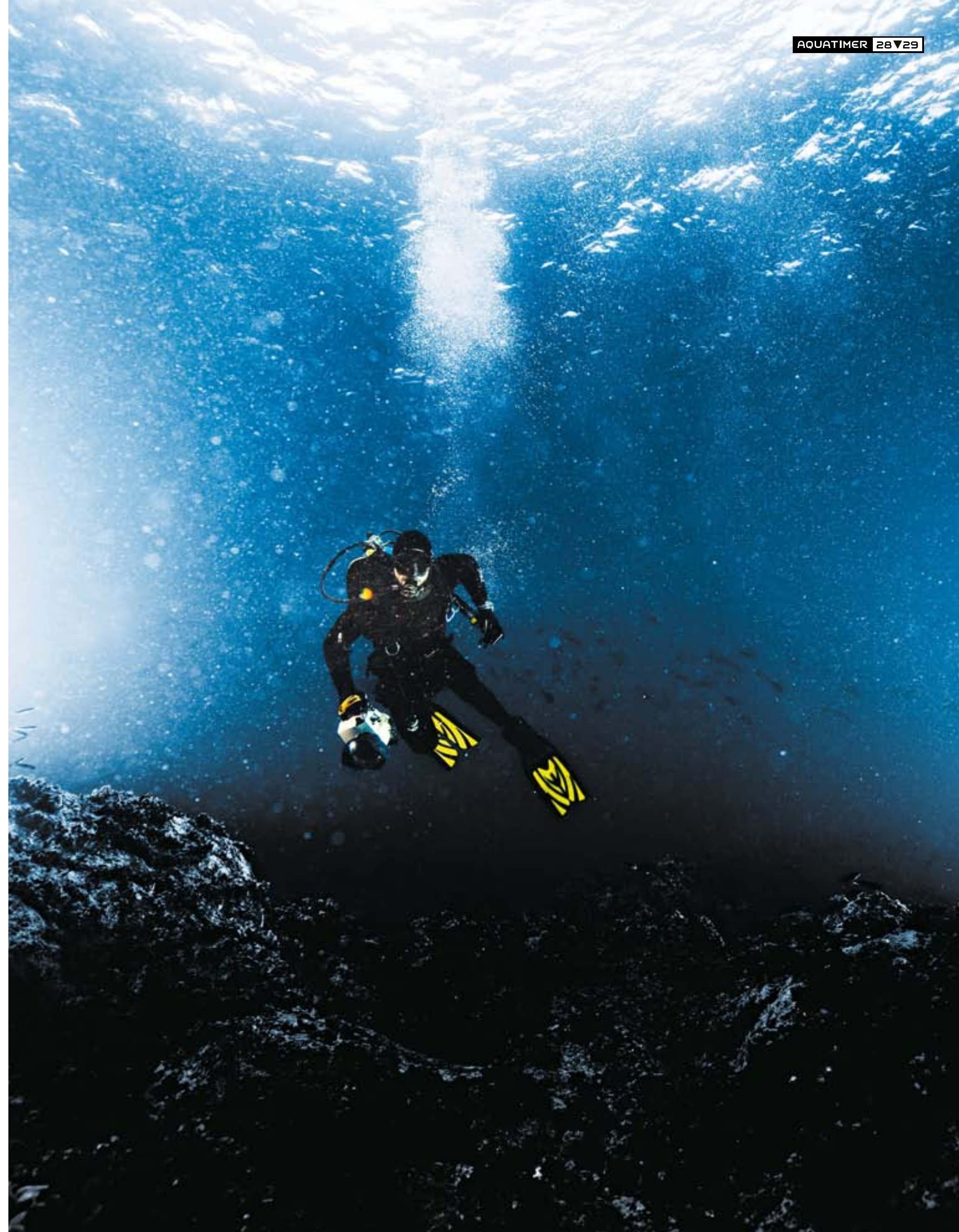
As an ecosystem, the Galapagos Islands are unique. At the same time, they are a popular tourist destination. One of the main concerns of the Charles Darwin Foundation is to make visitors aware of the archipelago's uniqueness and to provide them with guidelines for ecologically sound behaviour. IWC Schaffhausen is proud to make a substantial annual contribution to the Foundation's work. The watch, which is identical in design to the popular Aquatimer Chronograph, is equipped with a black rubber strap and suitable for diving to pressures of 12 bar. The case is coated with vulcanised rubber and protects the rugged chronograph against impacts and harmful influences of all kinds. Like all the watches in the new Aquatimer family, this model too features a practical rotating external bezel, which is used for setting and reading off dive times. The engraving of the well-known Galapagos giant tortoise *Geochelone nigra* on the back of the case makes this diver's watch a much-coveted rarity.



AQUATIMER AUTOMATIC 2000:
SPORTY & ELEGANT
REFERENCE 3568



The Aquatimer Automatic 2000 is a professional diver's watch through and through: a tough, no-nonsense timepiece with a 44-mm case. Designed not as a showcase but as a working instrument for underwater use by demanding divers, it is available in stainless steel with a stainless steel bracelet or rubber strap. Like all the new models in the Aquatimer line, it is instantly recognisable by the rotating outer bezel in steel with its inset sapphire glass ring: a user-friendly feature created for professionals by professionals. The design is fresh and appealing. This is a new watch with new features that also maintains a tradition. Like the first Aquatimer Automatic 2000 (Reference 3538), this latest model is also water-resistant to 200 bar: an impressive milestone in the development of diver's wrist-watches in Schaffhausen that now goes back more than 40 years.



AQUATIMER COLLECTION



Reference IW354702
in stainless steel with black dial |
Black rubber strap

Reference IW354701
in stainless steel with black dial |
Stainless steel bracelet



Reference IW376903
in 18 ct. red gold with black dial |
Black rubber strap



Reference IW356802
in stainless steel with black dial |
Black rubber strap



Reference IW356801
in stainless steel with black dial |
Stainless steel bracelet

Mechanical movement | Self-winding | 40-hour power reserve when fully wound | Centre hacking seconds | Date display | Screw-in crown | Mechanical rotating external bezel | Mechanical depth gauge with a split hand for a maximum dive depth of 50 m | Luminescent elements on hands, dial and external bezel | Sapphire glass with antireflective coating on both sides | Bracelet quick-change system* | Water-resistant 12 bar | Height of case 15.5 mm | Diameter 46 mm

Mechanical chronograph movement | Flyback function | Self-winding | 68-hour power reserve when fully wound | Small hacking seconds | Date display | Screw-in crown | Mechanical rotating external bezel | Luminescent elements on hands, dial and external bezel | Sapphire glass with antireflective coating on both sides | Transparent sapphire glass back | Bracelet quick-change system* | Water-resistant 12 bar | Height of case 15.5 mm | Diameter 44 mm

Mechanical movement | Self-winding | 40-hour power reserve when fully wound | Centre hacking seconds | Date display | Screw-in crown | Mechanical rotating external bezel | Luminescent elements on hands, dial and external bezel | Sapphire glass with antireflective coating on both sides | Bracelet quick-change system* | Water-resistant 200 bar | Height of case 14 mm | Diameter 44 mm



Reference IW376702
in stainless steel with black dial |
Black rubber strap

Reference IW376701
in stainless steel with black dial |
Stainless steel bracelet



Reference IW376703
in stainless steel with blue dial |
Stainless steel bracelet

Reference IW376704
in stainless steel with blue dial |
Blue rubber strap



Reference IW376705
in rubber-coated stainless steel
with black dial |
Black rubber strap

Mechanical chronograph movement | Self-winding | 44-hour power reserve when fully wound | Small hacking seconds | Day and date displays | Screw-in crown | Mechanical rotating external bezel | Luminescent elements on hands, dial and external bezel | Sapphire glass with antireflective coating on both sides | Bracelet quick-change system* | Water-resistant 12 bar | Height of case 15 mm | Diameter 44 mm



BRACELET QUICK-CHANGE SYSTEM*: FLEXIBILITY AND SAFETY

IWC divers' watches were developed for amateur and professional underwater use and have a modern, technologically advanced design. One of their outstanding features is a new bracelet quick-change system* that enables the wearer to exchange the wristband in seconds. Any diver can swap the bracelet for a rubber strap or a practical hook-and-loop strap in no time, completely hassle-free. A catch on the underside of the lugs is released, separating the band from the case. When tightened on the diver's wrist, the watch cannot be separated from the band, even unintentionally. The replacement wristband (whether hook-and-loop, rubber or a steel bracelet) is pushed into the lugs and clicks firmly into place. The process is simplicity itself and requires no tools. The rubber and above all the hook-and-loop straps are an attractive alternative to the stainless steel bracelet and can be adjusted to the required length quickly and simply.

* The Aquatimer bracelet quick-change system has been developed by IWC under a patent license from Cartier.
** IWC Schaffhausen is not the owner of the Super-LumiNova® trademark, which is the protected property of a third party.

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