



LOUIS MOINET

1806



1816

1816

AN ICON REBORN

1816 was one of the great turning points in watchmaking history. It is the year in which the great watchmaker Louis Moinet completed the world's first chronograph.

Today, a new timepiece, the 1816, shines the spotlight onto the legacy of this masterpiece. This timepiece remains true to its original essence and is now ready to write the next chapter in its history.

«Our roots are our future! And the 1816 is proof of this. Its originality and its sheer power carry the heritage of a pioneering work»

Jean-Marie Schaller, CEO & Creative Director

1816: THE YEAR OF THE WORLD'S FIRST CHRONOGRAPH

Louis Moinet originally designed his novel instrument to carry out his celestial observations, which required precise calculations of the speed at which the stars moved. This «thirds counter» (compteur de tierces) was the first of its kind and a testament to the genius of its creator. Indeed, it was the first chronograph ever built. Louis Moinet's brilliant creation incorporated numerous innovations, some of which would not be repeated until a century later. Today, this historic timepiece is carefully preserved in the Louis Moinet Museum in Saint-Blaise.

REINVENTING HERITAGE: THE 1816 chronograph

A closer look at Louis Moinet's new 1816 chronograph means taking a deep dive into over 200 years of history through a timepiece exhibiting a resolutely contemporary style. The DNA of the original timepiece, which with its sober, functional, and, for its time, avant-garde design, emerges in every detail. The aesthetic codes of the original model have been given a totally new interpretation but one that is always in keeping with the traditional codes of haute horlogerie. Let's explore them.

The double-gadroon case, in polished and satin-finished grade 5 titanium, measures 40.6 mm in diameter and is composed of 51 parts. It retains its original Directoire style semi-bassine design with a flat case middle. Two ascetic push-pieces frame the winding crown, which is decorated with the fleur-de-lys, the emblem of Bourges, Louis Moinet's birthplace. The 1816, sober, elegant and timeless, was made to be worn on the wrist.

The slightly vaulted dial is both legible and functional. The chronograph hand is very visible and is accompanied by two totalizers – one for the hours, the other for minutes – along with a small seconds subdial.

The whole is surrounded by a minute and seconds chapter divided in increments of six, recalling the original sixtieths of a second indication.

The hand-wound mechanism includes components specific to traditional watchmaking, such as an instantaneous minute counter, a column wheel, and swan-neck regulating spring.

The grade 5 titanium bracelet integrated into the case is the very first metallic bracelet developed by the Ateliers Louis Moinet. It was named “Project BRIDGE” by the technical department for the elegant, curvilinear shape of its wide links. This truly contemporary bracelet exhibits a singular, unclassifiable design. It was conceived as a natural extension of the case. The progression of links articulates in a natural continuity, hugging the wrist while remaining perfectly balanced. Their dimension is emphasised by a satin and polished finish, creating a sculptural whole that is both fluid and ergonomic.

The whole ensemble forms a timeless haute-horlogerie timepiece. It is aimed at connoisseurs who want to wear a timepiece with strong evocative power.

A NEW IN-HOUSE, TRADITIONALLY CONCEIVED CALIBRE FOR THE 1816

The challenge when designing the 1816 was to preserve the quintessence of the original chronograph while integrating a movement that could meet all haute horlogerie standards. This entailed designing a fully integrated calibre, conceived from scratch, in collaboration with Concepto.

By the same token, the actual construction of the mechanism follows Louis Moinet’s avant-garde vision of the watch, with a distinct architecture for the movement and dial. Ever since, watchmaking has been driven by such aspects as functionality and mechanical elegance, aesthetics and legibility. For the 1816 timepiece, this is reflected in a calibre composed of 330 parts including 34 jewels. It beats at 28,800 vibrations per hour. It was developed exclusively for the 1816 chronograph so as to preserve the DNA of the “thirds counter,” the *compteur de tierces*, while adding a contemporary touch.

The absence of a plate on the back reveals the grand interplay of shaped parts, overlapping planes and bridges, concatenated cogs, and chronometric controls. The contrasts are striking: the white of the steel, the satin finish and brassy hue of the bridges, the blue of the fixing screws, and the deep red of the rubies.

Watch connoisseurs wishing to have a physical connection with their timepiece will appreciate the manual winding ritual, which will ensure 48 hours of autonomy. Connoisseurs will appreciate the instantaneous minute counter, the column wheel control, and the swan-neck regulator, all witnesses to the authenticity, care and quality of the movement.

The instantaneous minute counter prevents reading errors.

The jumping minute counter precisely measures short intervals of time. Unlike a trailing counter, where the hand moves slowly and continuously, the jumping minute counter permits error-free reading since its hand jumps instantaneously from one gradation to the next at the sixtieth second. In other words, it displays the number of minutes elapsed directly and without scrolling. This enables time to be read off immediately. The hour counter, on the other hand, works in the traditional way, displaying the time as it passes sequentially.

The column wheel, the special component of high-end chronographs

First introduced in 1862, the column wheel is a ratchet wheel with six or nine triangular teeth or columns set at right angles to each other. It precisely coordinates the start, stop, and reset phases of the chronograph.

The swan-neck regulator, an ever-popular setting standard

The swan-neck regulator is a device consisting of a spring curved around the lever, which is acted upon by a micrometre screw allowing the fine adjustment of the watch's rate. It was invented and patented in 1867, and is still highly prized for its sleek, elegant shape.

LOUIS MOINET'S AVANT-GARDE VISION AND THE 1816 DIAL

From the end of the 18th century, as watch mechanisms became more precise, master watchmakers paid increasing attention to the aesthetics and legibility of their creations. Louis Moinet was no exception. The layout of the subsidiary counters on his compteur de tierces already anticipated the modern configuration of 20th-century chronographs. It established the perfect balance between functionality and design as a genuine measurement interface.

The contemporary version of the dial remains faithful to this functional architecture. It uses the same layout as that designed by Louis Moinet. The subsidiary dials for the small seconds and the 30-minute instantaneous totaliser are arranged horizontally on the top half of the dial on either side of the stationary central chronograph hand. They overlook the 12-hour totaliser. The composition is well balanced, with each counter featuring a satin-brushed so-called annular dial with Arabic numerals. The same finishing is used for the minute scale, which is divided into increments of six minutes punctuated with ten blackened nickel cabochons.

Engraving has made it possible to precisely inscribe the dial markings, the name of the timepiece – 1816 -- and the name Louis Moinet, reproduced in the typography of the original creation.

The central chronograph hand, along with the counters' hands, are out of blued steel. The hours and minutes are indicated by Louis Moinet-style openworked hands, with tips coated with SLN. Excellent readability is ensured thanks to the sharp contrast with the rhodium dial serving as a backdrop.

The entire dial is composed of twenty-three elements, including the ten cabochons. The centre of the totalisers, the flange, and the dial have been bead blasted. True to the original, the dial plate itself has been mounted onto the watch with four blued-steel screws.

The final touch is the fleur-de-lys logo at twelve o'clock. It pays homage to the city of Bourges, where Louis Moinet was born in 1768.

Louis Moinet was both an artist and a watchmaker. The aesthetics of the new 1816 chronograph reflect this dual talent. It is a sober, functional and powerful creation, conceived as an instrument in the service of time combining mechanical power and visual purity.

Our sincerest thanks go to Bernard Vuilliomenet and Dominique Fléchon, whose expertise and passion have been invaluable assets in rediscovering and illuminating the history of the world's very first chronograph, created by Louis Moinet in 1816.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

WATCH



MODEL

1816

CASE & BRACELET



MATERIAL

Polished and satin-brushed grade 5 titanium | Sapphire crystal with double-sided anti-reflective treatment



DIAMETER | HEIGHT

40.6 mm | 14.7 mm



WATER RESISTANCE

30 meters

DIAL & HANDS



DIAL

Colour : rhodium
Construction : 23 parts
Finishing: bead-blasted
Markings: engraved
10 cabochons, blackened nickel
4 blued-steel screws



COUNTERS

Satin-brushed ring, bead-blasted centre



FLANGE

Bead-blasted



HANDS

Hours and minutes: Facetted and skeletonised, with luminescent matter
Blued-steel chronograph hand and totaliser hands

MOVEMENT - LM1816



FUNCTIONS

Hours, minutes, seconds, Chronograph 60-second & 30-minute & 12-hour counter

COMPLICATION

Column-wheel chronograph



DIAMETER | HEIGHT

30.4 mm | 7.9 mm



TYPE

Hand-wound mechanical



OSCILLATIONS

28,800 vibrations per hour



JEWELS

34



POWER RESERVE

48 hours