



IN FOCUS

THE HM4 THUNDERBOLT | LIGHTNING STRIKES A FOURTH TIME FOR MB&F

Considered by many to be the most audacious machine to emerge from the creative micro-engineering concept laboratory known as MB&F, the HM4 Thunderbolt hit on July 7, when lab founder Maximilian Büsser simultaneously unveiled it in person in Singapore and online to the world.

Both the actual and the virtual presentations elicited immediate and overwhelmingly positive responses. The fourth creation in MB&F's growing roster of "horological machines" has been called a stunning masterwork and a statement timepiece.

With an unmistakable tone of admiration, its engine has been described as "indecently complex," its debut as "ostentatious," and its "instrument feel" has been touted. To say simply that the HM4 Thunderbolt is not a traditional wrist-watch is to understate its particularity.

Every component of the movement and case was designed and produced specifically for this watch. What's more, the case and movement were made specifically for each other. The jet engine-like twin pod configuration conceived by Büsser would be impossible otherwise.

Comprising 65 parts, the aerodynamic titanium and sapphire crystal case displays the maker's originality, its

sophisticated use of alternating finishes and its expertise with sapphire crystal formed into tightly curved shapes. There are five crystals in all, offering multiple views of the movement. The crystal in the top of the case puts the oscillating balance on full display. Articulating front lugs attach a black calfskin strap, and conform this 52-by-54-mm bundle of power to the wrist.

There are 311 components making up the movement. Horizontally configured dual mainspring barrels drive two vertical gear trains that transfer power to the machine's dual displays—one indicating hours and minutes via Super-LumiNova filled hands and the other indicating what remains of the 72-hour power reserve.

MB&F plans to produce 20 HM4s, each priced at \$158,000, before the end of the year. Is it a small price to pay for MB&F's most radical machine yet? Fans of the brand are likely to think so.

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HM4 CREDITS

Every product coming out of MB&F is the output of a collective of independent horological professionals working to reinterpret horology. The list of collaborators is always lengthy, and everyone is duly recognized. Responsible for the HM4 are:

Concept: Maximilian Büsser

Product design: Eric Giroud

Technical and production management: Serge Kriknoff

Production logistics: David Lamy

Movement development: Laurent Besse, Béranger Reynard, Patrick Lété

Movement manufacturing: Daniel Uhlmann, Nicolas Broquet, Yann Ryser

Hand-finishing of movement components: Jacques-Adrien Rochat, Denis Garcia

Movement assemblage: Didier Dumas, Georges Veisy

Case and buckle construction and production: Jean-Pierre Kohler, Lionel Gavignet, Martin Stettler, Dominique Mainier, Bertrand Jeunet

Dials: François Bernhard, Denis Parel

Hands: Pierre Chillier, Isabelle Chillier, Félix Celetta

Strap: Olivier Purnot

Presentation box: Olivier Berthon

Communication:

Graphic design: Alban Thomas, Gérald Moulière

Product photography: Maarten van der Ende

Display architecture: Frédéric Legendre

Portrait photography: Régis Golay

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Texts: Ian Skellern

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The engine of the HM4 Thunderbolt



The top of the case, revealing the oscillating balance in a central atrium