**Legacy Machine 101**

For a classically sized 40mm wristwatch, Legacy Machine 101 (LM101) covers a lot of ground. Or to be more precise, LM101 covers a lot of time: over 100 years between inspiration and realisation.

Legacy Machine 101 embodies and accentuates the very essence of what is essential in a wristwatch: the balance wheel, which is responsible for regulating precision; how much power remains in the mainspring, which indicates when it needs to be next wound; and of course, the time.

LM101 has one more very special feature, one that cannot be seen: it houses the very first movement developed entirely in-house by MB&F.

Visually, LM101 is dominated by the monumental suspended balance wheel, its sedate oscillations drawing the eye ever closer. Two pristine-white subdials hover just above the fine sunray-engraved movement top plate: At the top right, highly legible hours and minutes are displayed by beautiful blued-gold hands contrasting against the immaculate white, while the 45-hour power reserve indicator is displayed in a smaller, but similar subdial below.

In an apparent feat of magic, the sapphire crystal protecting the dial appears to be invisible; creating the illusion that you can reach out and touch the prodigious balance wheel hanging mesmerisingly from elegant twin arches. The arches are milled from a solid block of metal and require more than five hours of hand polishing to achieve their mirror-like lustre.

Turning over Legacy Machine 101, the display back crystal – domed to reduce the thickness of the caseband and, visually, the height of the watch – reveals the exquisitely hand-finished movement. Sensually curved plates and bridges pay homage to the style found in high quality historic pocket watches and testify to the respect accorded to historical legitimacy.

With its undulating Geneva waves, hand polished bevels, gold chatons and countersunk blued screws, the beauty of LM101’s movement doesn't just stay faithful to a bygone era. It also heralds the dawn of a new epoch as it is the first MB&F calibre to be entirely conceived and designed in-house.

While award-winning independent watchmaker Kari Voutilainen took responsibility for the movement's fine finishing specifications and fidelity to the horological past, its architecture and construction are 100% pure MB&F.

First launched in 18k red or white gold, and then in two limited ‘Frost’ editions with frosted finishing, Legacy Machine 101 is now also available in a limited edition of 33 pieces in platinum 950 – recognisable thanks to its distinctive blue face.

**Legacy Machine 101 in detail**

**Engine:** While the movement of Legacy Machine 101 is superficially similar to that of Legacy Machine No.1, closer examination reveals that it is an entirely new calibre. It is not merely a scaled down version of LM1's movement, but an entirely new calibre conceived and developed in-house by MB&F.

The balance wheel and spring are at the very heart of any mechanical watch movement and their isochronal (equal intervals of time) oscillations regulate the movement's precision. Büsser has long been fascinated by the large slowly oscillating – 2.5 Hz/18,000 vph compared with the much faster 4 Hz/ 28,800 vph more common today – balance wheels of antique pocket watches. So it was no surprise that this was his starting point.

What was surprising though is just how radically he re-interpreted tradition by relocating the balance wheel from its more usual position hidden at the back of the movement to majestically floating not just the above movement but high above the dial.

While the location of LM101's oscillator may be considered avant-garde, ‘tradition’ is upheld by the large 14mm diameter balance wheel, featuring regulating screws specifically developed for MB&F, balance spring with Breguet overcoil and mobile stud holder.

And if you thought that the balance wheel looks impressive in Legacy Machine N°1, it looks even larger in the smaller diameter setting of LM101.

**Dial and Indications:** While the animated suspended balance visually dominates LM101, the immaculate white dials for the time (hours and minutes) and power reserve indications are both aesthetically appealing and highly legible thanks to the high contrasting blue hands.

Complementing the three-dimensionality of the balance floating in space, the white dials with their bright blued-gold hands float just above the top of the movement. The dials are gently domed with a translucent, high-gloss lustre created using a *laque tendue* process in which multiple layers of lacquer are applied and heated, causing them to stretch over the surface of the dials.

To ensure aesthetic purity of the dials, a sophisticated fixation underneath removes the necessity of visually obtrusive attachment screws. A fine golden perimeter circumscribing each dial elegantly reinforces their timeless classicism.

**Fine Finishing and Historical Legitimacy:** While the movement was developed entirely in-house, acclaimed master watchmakerKari Voutilainen assumed responsibility for ensuring the movement's historical accuracy of the bridge design and fine finishing.

A finely engraved sun-ray pattern on top of the movement plate (dial side) subtly catches the eye at certain angles without distracting attention from the white dials of the time and power reserve indications and suspended floating balance. But it is in the style and finish of the bridges and plates visible through the display on the back of the movement where Kari Voutilainen has excelled in providing exquisite historical fidelity in both the shape of elegantly curved bridges and the traditionally wide space between the bridges and between the perimeter of the bridges and the case.

On the back of the movement, over-sized ruby jewels set in highly-polished countersunk gold chatons provide striking visual counterpoints to the Geneva waves traversing the sensually curved bridges. While providing historical links with the large jewels seen in high-grade antique pocket watch movements, the ruby bearings have a practical application in reducing wear/increasing longevity by accommodating large diameter pinions and holding more lubricating oil.

**Inspiration and Realisation:** MB&F's Legacy Machines were conceived when Maximilian Büsser started fantasising: *"What would have happened if I had been born in 1867 instead of 1967? In the early 1900s the first wristwatches appear and I would want to create three-dimensional machines for the wrist. There are no Grendizers, Star Wars or fighter jets for my inspiration but I do have pocket watches, the Eiffel Tower and Jules Verne. So what might my early 20th century machines look like*? *They had to be round (tradition) and three-dimensional (MB&F Machine): Legacy Machines are the answer.*"

Maximilian Büsser has had a long affinity with pocket watches of the 18th and 19th centuries. Virtually all horological complications we see today were not only imagined in that period, they were developed using just paper and pen (no sophisticated computer programs), components were produced to extremely high precision using – by today’s standards – fairly primitive machines (no electricity) and finely finished, assembled and regulated to an incredibly high quality that we still strive to match today. Their generous size compared with modern wristwatches allowed for uncluttered movement architectures with beautifully shaped bridges and plates.

While MB&F’s futuristic Horological Machines have a firm foundation in the very best of traditional horology, Büsser wanted to pay homage to that rich tradition by imagining the type of timepiece he might create if he had been born a 100 years earlier. With its large, sedately oscillating balance, domed dials, historical bridge design and classical fine-finishing, Legacy Machines are the very contemporary, yet traditionally elegant fruition of that dream.

Legacy Machine N°1 (LM1) was the first piece in the Legacy collection; other pieces are Legacy Machine N°2 and Legacy Machine Perpetual. LM101 takes the traditional theme even further in offering a more classically sized 40mm case compared to 44mm for the other Legacy Machines.

**Legacy Machine 101 – Technical Specifications**

**Engine:**

Three-dimensional horological movement developed in-house by MB&F

Movement aesthetics and finish specifications: Kari Voutilainen

Manual winding with single mainspring barrel

Power reserve: 45 hours

Balance wheel: Bespoke 14mm balance wheel with four traditional regulating screws floating above the movement and dials

Balance spring: traditional Breguet curve terminating in mobile stud holder

Balance frequency: 18,000bph/2.5Hz

Number of components: 229 components

Number of jewels: 23

Chatons: gold chatons with polished countersinks

Fine finishing: superlative hand finishing throughout respecting 19th century style; internal bevel angles highlighting hand craft; polished bevels; Geneva waves; hand-made engravings

**Functions:**

Hours, minutes and power reserve indicator.

Large suspended balance wheel over dial

**Case:**

Available in 18k red gold or 18k white gold and a limited edition of 33 pieces in platinum 950

Dimensions: 40mm wide x 16mm high

Number of components: 35

**Sapphire crystals:**

High domed sapphire crystal on top and box sapphire crystal on back, both with anti-reflective coating on both sides.

**Strap & Buckle:**

Black or brown hand-stitched alligator strap with gold or platinum tang buckle to match case.

**'Friends' responsible for Legacy Machine 101**

*Concept:* Maximilian Büsser / MB&F

*Product design:* Eric Giroud / Through the Looking Glass

*Technical and production management:* Serge Kriknoff / MB&F

*Movement design and finish specifications*: Kari Voutilainen

*R&D:* Guillaume Thévenin and Ruben Martinez / MB&F

*Wheels:* Jean-François Mojon / Chronode

*Balance wheel bridge:* Benjamin Signoud / AMECAP

*Balance wheel:* Dominique Lauper / Precision Engineering

*Plates and bridges:* Rodrigue Baume / Damatec

*Hand-engraving of movement:* Eddy Jaquet and Sylvain Bettex / Glypto

*Hand-finishing of movement components:* Jacques-Adrien Rochat / C-L Rochat

*Movement assemblage:* Didier Dumas, Georges Veisy, Anne Guiter and Emmanuel Maitre / MB&F

*In-house machining*: Alain Lemarchand / MB&F

*Quality Control:* Cyril Fallet / MB&F

*Case :* Fabien Chapatte and Riccardo Pescante / Les Artisans Boitiers

*Buckle:* Erbas

*Dials:* Maurizio Cervellieri / Natéber

*Hands:* Pierre Chillier, Isabelle Chillier and Marcos Zamora / Fiedler

*Glass:* Martin Stettler / Stettler

*Strap:* Olivier Purnot / Camille Fournet

*Presentation box*:Olivier Berthon / ATS atelier luxe

*Production logistics:* David Lamy and Isabel Ortega / MB&F

*Marketing & Communication:* Charris Yadigaroglou, Virginie Meylan and Juliette Duru / MB&F

*M.A.D.Gallery:* Hervé Estienne / MB&F

*Sales:* Luis André, Patricia Duvillard and Philip Ogle / MB&F

*Graphic design*: Samuel Pasquier / MB&F, Adrien Schulz and Gilles Bondallaz / Z+Z

*Product photography:* Maarten van der Ende

*Portrait photography*: Régis Golay / Federal

*Website:* Stéphane Balet and Victor Rodriguez / Sumo Interactive

*Texts:* Ian Skellern / Underthedial

**MB&F – Genesis of a Concept Laboratory**

***10 years old, 11 calibres, countless highs, boundless creativity***

In 2015, MB&F celebrates its 10th anniversary – and what a decade it has been for the world’s first ever horological concept laboratory: 10 years of hyper-creativity; 11 remarkable calibres forming the base of the critically acclaimed Horological Machines and Legacy Machines for which MB&F has become renowned.

After 15 years managing prestigious watch brands, Maximilian Büsser resigned from his Managing Director position at Harry Winston in 2005 to create MB&F – Maximilian Büsser & Friends. MB&F is an artistic and micro-engineering laboratory dedicated to designing and crafting small series of radical concept watches by bringing together talented horological professionals that Büsser both respects and enjoys working with.

In 2007, MB&F unveiled its first Horological Machine, HM1. HM1’s sculptured, three-dimensional case and beautifully finished engine (movement) set the standard for the idiosyncratic Horological Machines that have followed: HM2, HM3, HM4, HM5, HM6 and HMX – all Machines that tell the time, rather than Machines to tell the time.

In 2011, MB&F launched its round-cased Legacy Machine collection. These more classical pieces – classical for MB&F, that is – pay tribute to 19th century watchmaking excellence by reinterpreting complications from the great horological innovators of yesteryear to create contemporary objets d'art. LM1 and LM2 were followed by LM101, the first MB&F Machine to feature a movement developed entirely in-house. The year 2015 saw the launch of Legacy Machine Perpetual featuring a fully integrated perpetual calendar. Today MB&F alternates between launching contemporary, resolutely unconventional Horological Machines and historically-inspired Legacy Machines.

And there have been distinguished accolades reminding us of the innovative nature of MB&F’s journey so far. To name a few, at the Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève in 2012, MB&F was awarded the Public Prize (voted for by horology fans) and the Best Men’s Watch Prize (voted for by the professional jury) for Legacy Machine N°1. At the 2010 Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève, MB&F won Best Concept and Design Watch for the HM4 Thunderbolt. Last but not least, in 2015 MB&F received for the HM6 Space Pirate a ‘Red Dot: Best of the Best’ award – the top prize at the international Red Dot Awards.