

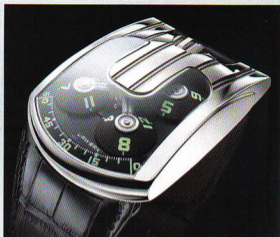
# Bat-Watch

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Strangely, the very day I sat down to write wistfully of my fantasy watch, QP's London office enjoyed a surprise visit from the very watch brand I had chosen. And irritatingly, Urwerk's delightful PR, Yacine had brought with her something that easily topped the watch I was preparing to wax lyrical about - but something we can't reveal until the April-fairs embargo passes. So, for now, I'll just have to make do with Urwerk's well-established '103.07' in white gold (€41,400, ca £27,250), which, nonetheless, still outshines anything else in this price range for me.

Like Richard Mille and De Bethune (also notable here), Urwerk wears its modernity on its sleeve, unafraid to draw inspiration from anything outside traditional watchmaking (something that's becoming more and more important as the luxury watch industry settles into a healthy future). Architecture, astronomy, fighter jets and science fiction all combine with awesome menace on the 103.07. And though its 'orbiting satellites' or 'wandering hour' concept dates from the 1820s (Breguet, surprise, surprise), revived in the 1990s by Audemars Piguet's classical Star Wheel watches, Urwerk's approach seems so utterly unique and so, well... cool.

If you think the carousel dial's a gimmick, then it's one that I'm sure a few brands wish they'd thought of first. With characteristic foresight, one of Max Busser's last acts as head of Harry Winston Rare Timepieces was to get Urwerk's watchmaker, Felix Baumgartner on board for the most popular Opus collaboration yet. Opus V showed that Urwerk was anything but a one-trick



pony, with a completely new hour-satellites system - three rolling cubes instead of four spinning discs - proving Baumgartner's formidable horological talent beyond any doubt. Sure, a Patek, a Vacheron or an Audemars would be nice, but my £25,000 gets me a watch that has enjoyed contact with the talent himself. And Urwerk's independence (Baumgartner is an AHCI member) means production will stay low and exclusive. I could even visit the *atelier* and witness my new toy taking shape on the bench.

And since you're desperate to know, the watch Yacine showed us - the 201 'Hammerhead' - evolves Opus V's cube system, but within a watch that looks even more at home on Batman's utility belt than the 103.07. Given that Urwerk's first watch was inspired by the *Millennium Falcon*, it seems the boys will always have the best toys.