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UR
220



URWERK PRESENTS
THE UR-220 SL ASIMOV
LIGHTS IN THE NIGHT

URWERK[®]
BY BAUMGARTNER + FREI



PRESENTING THE UR-220 SL “Asimov”

Geneva – 30 June 2021.

Night finally enfolds the city. It is at this precise moment that the UR-220 SL *Asimov* comes to luminous life. A UR-220 model whose hours satellites glow as they gently emit the light stored up during the day. A fluorescence that accompanies the counting of the hours and renders it visible. Like phosphorescent photons, moulded Super-LumiNova® satellites enliven the baseplate of the UR-220 SL *Asimov*, giving light to the night.

*Someone clawed at the torch, and it fell and snuffed out.
In the instant, the awful splendor of the indifferent Stars leaped nearer to them.
On the horizon outside the window, in the direction of Saro City, a crimson glow began growing, strengthening in brightness, that was not the glow of a sun.
The long night had come again.*

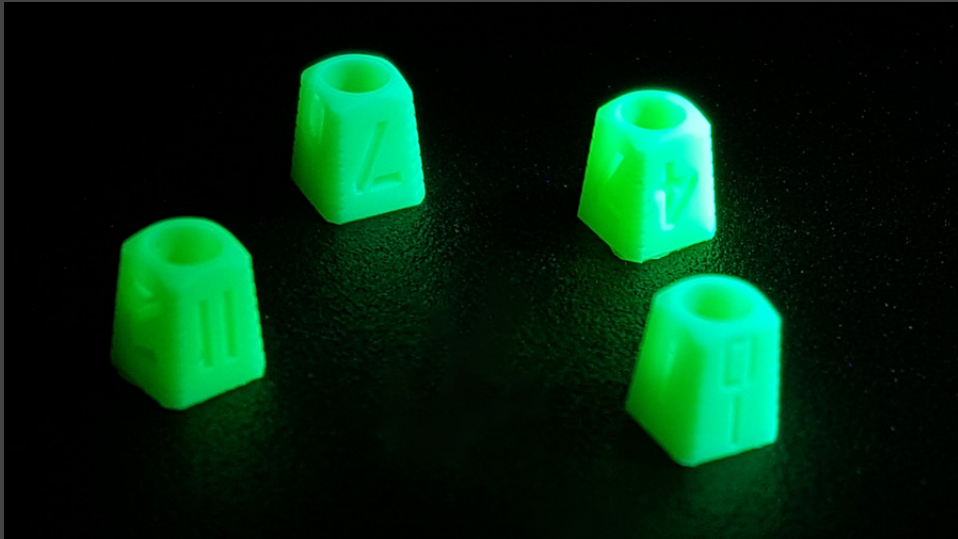
—Isaac Asimov “Nightfall” (1941)



THE UR-220 SL "Asimov"

Stealth spaceship by day, luminescent installation by night, the UR-220 SL Asimov is the third variation of the 220 collection. Under the impetus of designer and URWERK co-founder Martin Frei, the model has undergone subtle changes in materials, colours, finishes and aesthetic characteristics. Against a predominantly black carbon backdrop, the UR-220 revisits a fascinating play on contrasts and luminosity.

The UR-220 SL *Asimov* indicates the time by means of luminous truncated pyramid-type hour transporters. The cube shape featured in previous versions of the UR-220 resulted from meticulous work on URWERK's CNC machines. In this iteration, these elements free of any sharp edges are cast from a silicon mould and hand-adjusted to ensure their perfect finish. Their degree of hardness at the end of the process is close to that of ceramic. This technical expertise was developed by the Swiss company RC Tritec, which has 80 years of experience in the field.



The three hours transporters are therefore "made" of colour, specifically Swiss Super-LumiNova® Grade X1 BL. And it is at night that the transformation takes place, when they become phosphorescent. There is no engraving here, as the satellites and hour-markers are one and the same. They are light catchers, active pigments whose function is to capture each light unit and then restore them in the dark so as to achieve optimal nocturnal legibility.

This new display underlines the technical nature of the time reading. It remains based on URWERK's patented wandering hour satellite complication. The wandering hours are displayed on three rotating truncated pyramid-shaped transporters. Each in turn is inserted into a 3D minutes pointer which travels over the 120 degrees of the minute scale and at the end of the hour makes a big jump back to the "0" marker to welcome the next transporter. This powerful and swift retrograde minutes display is undoubtedly the most impressive ever in a wristwatch, notably featuring a minutes pointer openworked on all sides.

The dial also provides a power-reserve indication that can be read off on two subdials. The autonomy of the movement is indicated by these 24-hour gauges. During manual winding, the right-hand gauge is the first to indicate the mainspring degree of wind and once it has reached the maximum level, the left-hand indicator takes over. Split between two 'reservoirs', the power-reserve display is composed of 83 mechanical elements, testifying to the complexity of its development.

URWERK UR-220 SL "Asimov"



The back of the UR-220 SL *Asimov* features a digital *Oil Change* gauge appearing on two adjacent rollers. The wearer of the watch triggers this device by removing a protective pin and pressing a pusher to activate the counters that will display the mechanism's active running time in months. After 39 months – three years and three months – a service is recommended and once this is complete, the URWERK teams reset the counter and replace the pin.

This UR-220 SL *Asimov* is a quintessential expression of URWERK-ian design construction in which interior and exterior are melded into a coherent whole. The inner or outer shapes, finishes and colours may be merged, shifted or flipped in either direction. The complex shape of the bezel, the slender, hollowed-out lines of the case middle, the strength of the crown at 12 o'clock, are all part of a horological layout exclusive to URWERK.

URWERK / UR-220 SL “Asimov”

MOVEMENT

Calibre	Calibre UR-720, developed by URWERK
Winding	Manually wound
Escapement	Swiss lever
Frequency	28, 800 v/h - 4 Hz
Hairspring	Flat
Energy source	Single mainspring barrel
Jewels	59
Power reserve	48 hours
Materials	Baseplate in ARCAP P40, 3D minutes pointer in aluminium with bronze counterweight; central spring in steel. Hour transporter in aluminium; central carousel and screws in grade 5 titanium.
Decorative finishes	Hours studs moulded in Swiss Super-LumiNova® Grade X1 BL. Black-lacquered markers. Black circular-grained power-reserve bridge and module. Black shotpeened power-reserve subdial. Finely sandblasted carousel and its cage featuring a circular satin finish and black rhodium-plated. Finely sandblasted satellite cam with a circular satin finish. Finely sandblasted PVD-blackened 3D hand SuperLuminova components: yellow glowing yellow for the hour transporters and hour-markers; white glowing blue for power reserves; green glowing green, red glowing green for the 60-minute marker and the end of the power-reserve scale. Polished screws.
Indications	Wandering hours on a satellite complication (URWERK patent). 3D retrograde minutes hand. Double power-reserve indicator. Oil-change indicator on two rollers on the back showing the accumulated running time of the movement in months.

CASE

Material	Carbon CTP (Carbon Thin Ply) – 81 layers
Dimensions	Width: 43.8mm; length: 53.6mm; depth: 14.8mm
Glass	Transparent sapphire crystal
Caseback	Black DLC-treated titanium and sapphire crystal glasses.
Water resistance	Pressure tested to 30m/3 ATM
Decorative finishes	Black DLC-coated shotpeened and sandblasted crown; Black DLC-coated sandblasted crown guard; Back black DLC-coated sandblasted caseback; Pin: satin-finished body with sandblasted engraving, polished needle; Tinted sapphire crystals; Polished screws.
Strap	Vulcarboné® cured rubber, reference “Kiska” with black DLC-coated buckle; Velcro® fastening



ABOUT URWERK

"We don't try to bring out new versions of existing grandes complications," explains watchmaker Felix Baumgartner, co-founder of URWERK.

"Our watches are unique because they are all designed as original works, which makes them rare and priceless. Our main aim is to go beyond the traditional horizons of watchmaking."

The original styling of each URWERK model is signed by chief designer Martin Frei, the company's other co-founder.

"I come from a background where creativeness has no limits. I am in no way prisoner of the traditional constraints of watchmaking, and I can therefore be freely inspired by my cultural heritage."

Although URWERK is a young company established in 1997, it is recognised as a pioneer among independent watchmakers. Producing just 150 watches a year, the company sees itself as a craftsman's studio where traditional expertise coexists with avant-garde styling. The company manufactures modern and complex watches that are unprecedented and in keeping with the most demanding criteria of fine watchmaking: independent design and research, advanced materials and handcrafted finishes.

The name URWERK comes from the ancient city of Ur of the Chaldees in Mesopotamia, founded nearly 6,000 years ago where the Sumerian inhabitants first established units of time based on the shadows cast by its monuments. Ur in the German language also means primeval or original and Werk means an achievement or a mechanism. Thus, URWERK can be translated as an original movement — a tribute to generations of watchmakers whose work has resulted in what we know today as haute horlogerie, or superlative watchmaking.



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THANK YOU!

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