

**URWERK®**  
BY BAUMGARTNER & FREI

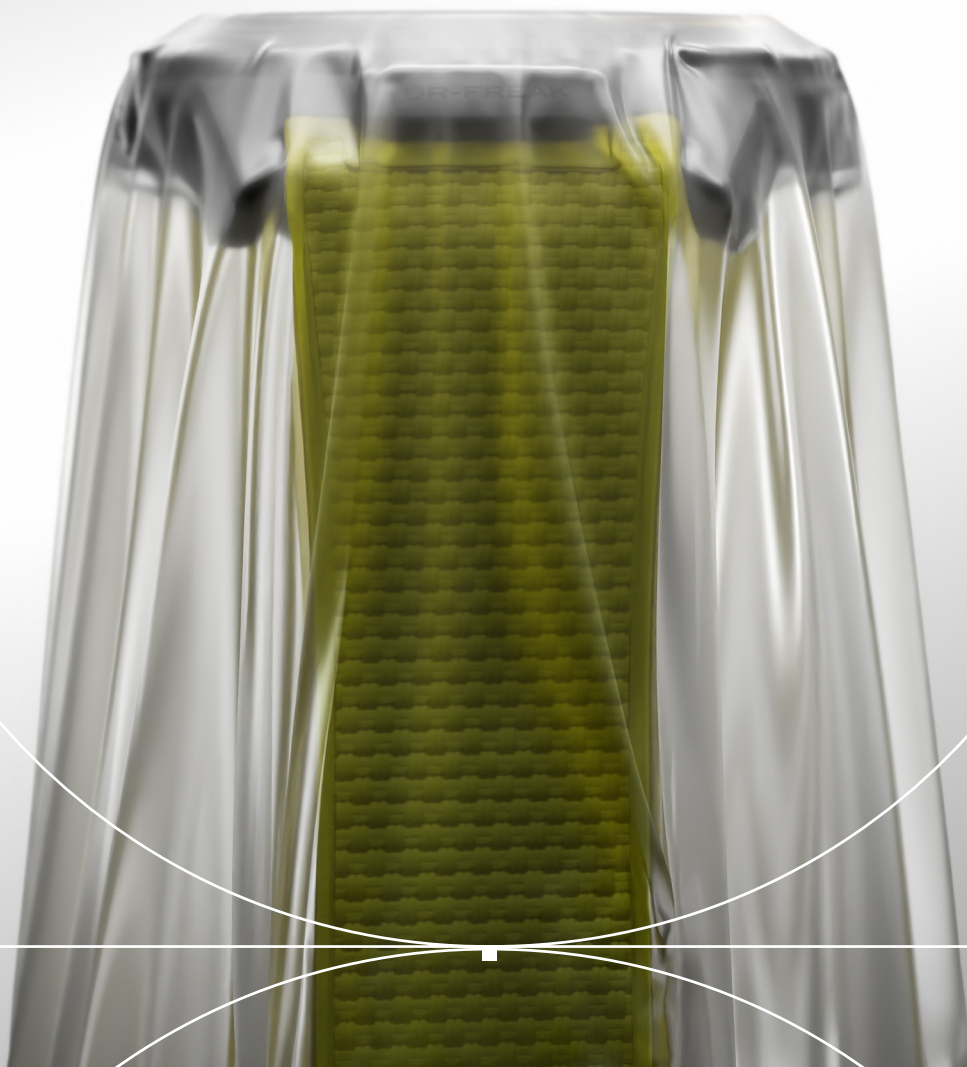


**ULYSSE NARDIN**



# UR-FREAK

**PIONEERS OF MODERN WATCHMAKING COLLIDE:  
A MECHANICAL AND CREATIVE FUSION BY URWERK AND ULYSSE NARDIN**







## UR-FREAK OVERVIEW

The UR-FREAK is a limited-edition reimagining of Ulysse Nardin's Freak, considered by many to be one of the most important contemporary contributions to horology. The UR-FREAK was designed in collaboration with the imaginative minds of two pioneering independent Swiss watchmakers. URWERK and Ulysse Nardin who are vanguards in their own respect and worked together for the first time to create the UR-FREAK.

THE **FIRST COLLABORATION** BETWEEN URWERK AND ULYSSE NARDIN.

**MECHANICS DEFINE THE DESIGN:** FUSION OF THE ICONIC WANDERING HOUR SATELLITE OF URWERK AND THE ULYSSE NARDIN FREAK.

ULYSSE NARDIN'S FREAK ROTATES THE MOVEMENT TO TELL THE TIME; URWERK'S HOUR SATELLITE BENDS MECHANICS AND RESHAPES OUR PERCEPTION OF TIME ITSELF. NOW, TWO COMPLEX MECHANISMS **ARE FUSED INTO A SINGLE, FULLY INTEGRATED, IN-HOUSE CALIBER.**

NEW **FULLY INTEGRATED, IN-HOUSE** MOVEMENT COMBINING A **3-HOUR ROTATING CAROUSEL** WITH AN HOUR **SATELLITE DISPLAY.**

**BEST OF TECHNOLOGY:** INTEGRATION OF ULYSSE NARDIN'S GRINDER® SYSTEM, DIAMONSIL AND SILICON TECHNOLOGY, FIRST INTRODUCED BY ULYSSE NARDIN INTO WATCHMAKING IN 2001, PRIOR TO ANY OTHER WATCHMAKER

EXCLUSIVE AND LIMITED EDITION OF **100 TIMEPIECES**



PART · 1



# THE FOUNDING OF A PIONEERING COLLABORATION

URWERK® × ULYSSE NARDIN

BY BAUMGARTNER + FREI





# COMBINING YEAR 2000-ERA TECHNOLOGY OPTIMISM, WITH ADVANCED HOROLOGICAL SYSTEMS THE WORLD HAS NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

The UR-FREAK is a watch that combines the technological and performance prowess of the most advanced Ulysse Nardin Freak timepiece, with a “satellite” display system made popular by the esteemed Genevan watchmaker URWERK. Although the UR-FREAK is a watch being released in 2025, its story goes back nearly three decades to the beginning of today’s mature and highly coveted modern luxury watch era.

Within the span of just four years, both the URWERK brand was founded (in 1997 by Felix Baumgartner and Martin Frei), and the original Ulysse Nardin Freak watch was debuted (2001). Ulysse Nardin as a company goes back to 1846, but starting in the 1980s, the company began investing in surprising and modern forms of wristwatch technology and design. The late 1990s and early 2000s were a prodigious era for the traditional watchmaking industry. It was an exciting time for artists and entrepreneurs who were suddenly able to take advantage of a confluence of forces that made today’s era of independent and advanced watchmaking possible.

Business-wise, the era was a time of revival for the traditional watch industry that for years was focused on making similar products, with similar technology, and similar materials. New thinkers entered the field with advanced tools such as computer-aided design software, modern milling and machining techniques, and new materials that offered upgrades and benefits over many legacy metal and alloys.

This new school of thinkers had a simple mission. As a whole, they wanted to take the passion and beauty of traditional high-end mechanical watchmaking and inject it with modern forms and features, while also emphasizing contemporary design. To match the power of established watchmaking giants, underdogs needed to rethink traditional ideas and norms. Accordingly, Ulysse Nardin has always considered the Freak platform to be a laboratory on the wrist. A small but impactful space to explore revolutionary shapes, materials, and technology. The goal is always to challenge classic concepts while also respecting tradition.

Likewise, URWERK was founded with a decidedly futuristic interpretation of horology. They refused to simply reinterpret existing complications. Instead, its creations were conceived as original works in their own rare, singular way - a true avant-garde manifesto. URWERK’s watches are not just instruments to tell the time, but conceptual mechanisms designed to expand, challenge, and ultimately transcend the established horizons of watchmaking.

In 2001, under the leadership of the maverick-minded Rolf Schnyder, Ulysse Nardin debuted a remarkable new concept that they could only refer to as the “Freak,” for it defied existing definition conventions. In addition to changing the way people think about high horology systems and techniques, a major consequence of the Freak was showcasing a then-new-for-



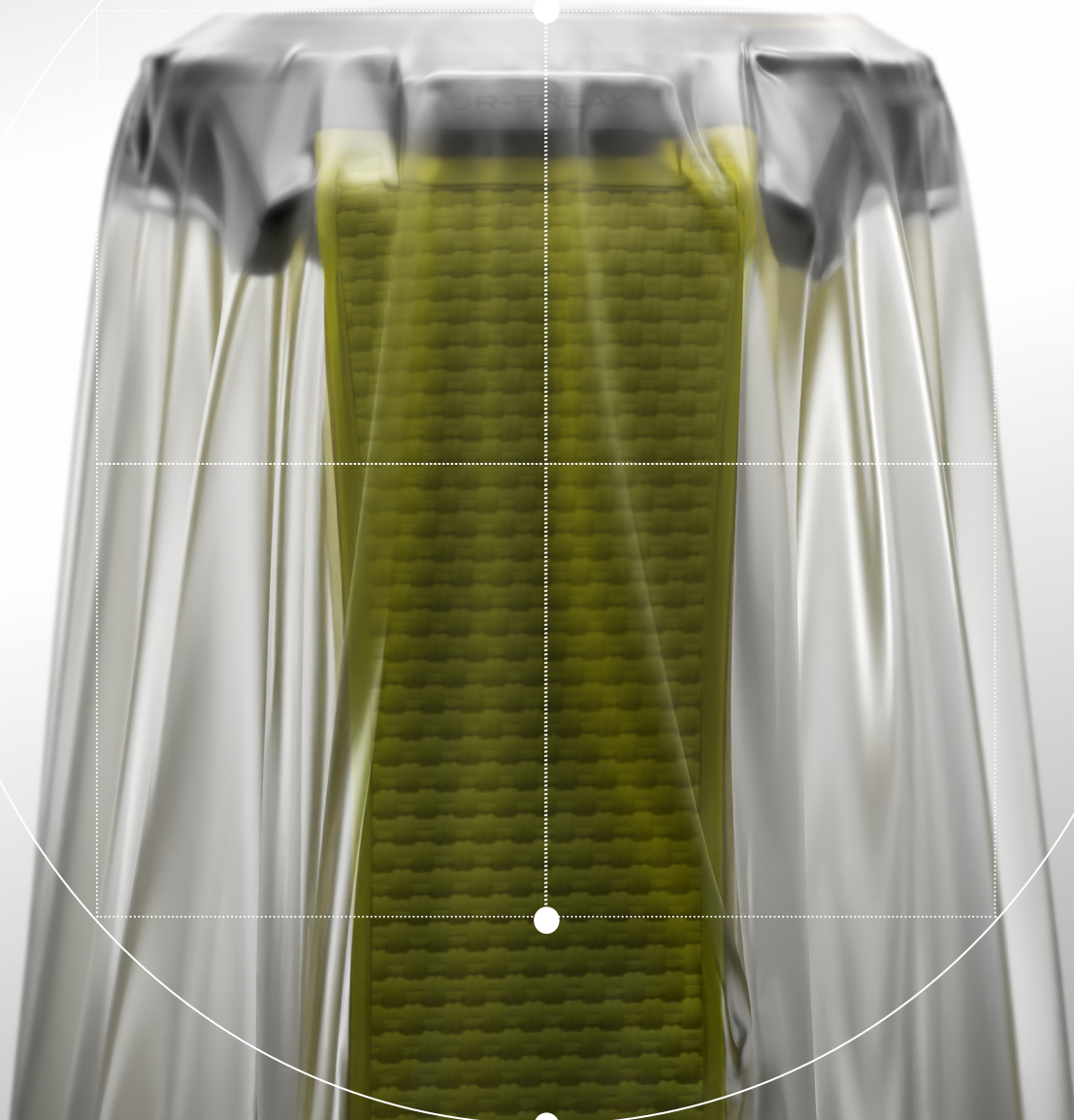
watchmaking material, silicon. At the time, Ulysse Nardin’s technical director, Pierre Gyga, had the considerable challenge of adapting manufacturing technology intended for computer microchips to making mechanical movement components. Collaborating closely with the genius watchmaker Dr. Ludwig Oechslin, Ulysse Nardin wanted to create a mechanical watch movement that replaced certain key parts traditionally produced in metal, with new parts made from silicon, a metalloid. In 2006, the company established its own micromechanical lab, named Sigatec. In 2001, Ulysse Nardin’s team was so confident of silicon’s superior use in watchmaking that the Freak boldly put its novelty right on the dial, another shocking move to the traditionalist community. The minute hand of the watch also doubled as a visible gear running train, with parts such as the balance wheel and escapement produced from silicon. Since 2001, Ulysse Nardin has not stopped iterating and improving the Freak. Even though just a few thousand pieces have been created in total, the Freak has advanced considerably in the nearly 25 years since it was introduced. Today, a new chapter in the Freak imagines its iconic display being replaced by yet another iconic display.



PART · 2



A COLLABORATION  
CELEBRATING  
**INDEPENDENCE**







## A NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDEPENDENT BRANDS

Collaborations between watchmakers who might otherwise be considered competitors actually goes back to the beginning of the modern high-end watch era some 30 years ago. The reality is that nearly all advanced timepieces require the skills of multiple professionals and minds to materialize. In other words, collaborations are already common behind the scenes. Making them public is both transparent and allows fans and collectors to better appreciate and admire the worlds that bring them the beautiful watches they enjoy wearing.

Collaborations in the high-end watch space is also where many revolutionary ideas are born. Pioneering concepts from multiple independent minds often result in avant-garde creations and concepts that inspire watchmakers and collectors alike. Ulysse Nardin has consistently pushed its team and collaborators to push the boundaries of what was previously considered possible and create cutting-edge products for the world's most demanding collectors and enthusiasts.

Ulysse Nardin and URWERK are no strangers to collaborations but have not previously worked together prior to the creation of the highly original UR-FREAK. In fact, this is the first time Ulysse Nardin has collaborated with a fellow watchmaking brand. Ulysse Nardin has been openly collaborating with personalities like the above-mentioned Dr. Ludwig Oechslin for decades.

URWERK has always placed collaboration at the core of its identity. The brand was born from the encounter of two complementary visions: master-watchmaker Felix Baumgartner and designer Martin Frei. Their union fused technical mastery with conceptual audacity, giving rise to timepieces that are not only mechanically groundbreaking but also radically distinct in their aesthetic language. Together, they forged URWERK into one of the most original voices in contemporary watchmaking, redefining what an independent Maison can be.

Together, Ulysse Nardin and URWERK continue this strong legacy of teamwork and the resulting UR-FREAK is an exclusive creation that combines the best of both worlds to celebrate independence.



## DIFFERENT WORLDS, BUT A SINGLE CONCEPT OF “INDEPENDENCE”

Ulysse Nardin and URWERK are fixtures of today's modern high-end Swiss watch industry, although each embodies a unique perspective and personality. Both companies exemplify independence individually but share a core definition for “independence” that equates to “freedom”. URWERK have intentionally maintained their small size in order to promote a singular product and design vision advanced by founders Martin Frei and Felix Baumgartner. For URWERK, independence is about not making compromises, not having to appeal to the whims of third parties, and being able to artistically explore without limits. At Ulysse Nardin, independent freedom manifests itself in their ability to focus on whatever technical or manufacturing projects they choose. The company is primarily focused on not only designing increasingly impressive mechanical movements, but also developing the techniques and industrial knowledge to create such marvelous machines. URWERK and Ulysse Nardin's definitions of “independence” agree that creative inspiration needs to come from within the company, as opposed to following trends. They also agree that independence allows a watchmaker to follow a focused, long-term path to help realize highly ambitious goals. Accordingly, independence allows these noteworthy watchmakers to also choose who they work with, and why. The best horological collaborations result when two powerful, independent entities possess the total freedom to invest deeply in the relationship. In this instance, the UR-FREAK is the result.

## A TRUE TECHNICAL COLLABORATION

It is worth distinguishing the relationship between Ulysse Nardin and URWERK, from most other creative collaborations in today's luxury watch space. Much of the time, collaborations result in novel, but merely cosmetic alterations to existing timepiece products. A technical collaboration, such as that between Ulysse Nardin and URWERK, results in an entirely new mechanical system. Accordingly, the UR-FREAK watch does not just combine DNA elements from the respective brands, but also presents an entirely new mechanical movement co-developed by the two Swiss masters. Inspired by the legacy of the iconic Ulysse Nardin Freak, URWERK sought to apply their signature satellite system for indicating the time, with the in-house silicon component mastery of Ulysse Nardin. Together, they created an entirely new system that has never been seen before, but that elegantly fits into both worlds. The UR-FREAK is therefore a uniquely balanced collaboration watch, as it equally promotes the respective values the horological community recognizes from Ulysse Nardin and URWERK. For the brands, the UR-FREAK is a successful collaboration because of its ability to blend the appeal from both brands, showing the enthusiasts similarities between the companies that may not already be obvious to many observers.





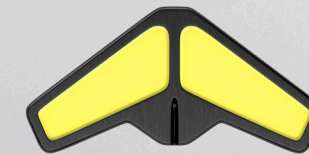
PART · 3

UR-FREAK



THE WATCH:

UR-FREAK





# UR-FREAK

With the spirit of crossovers and collaborations now deeply part of contemporary high-end watchmaking culture, this highly exclusive creation as a concept should be readily understandable by watch enthusiasts and collectors. For Ulysse Nardin and URWERK, the UR-FREAK is the perfect fusion between the avant-garde Freak concept and the innovative URWERK time display. The spirit is fueled by the desire to merge expert know-how and unique company masteries that yield previously unimaginable new designs and concepts.

## MECHANICS DEFINE THE DESIGN

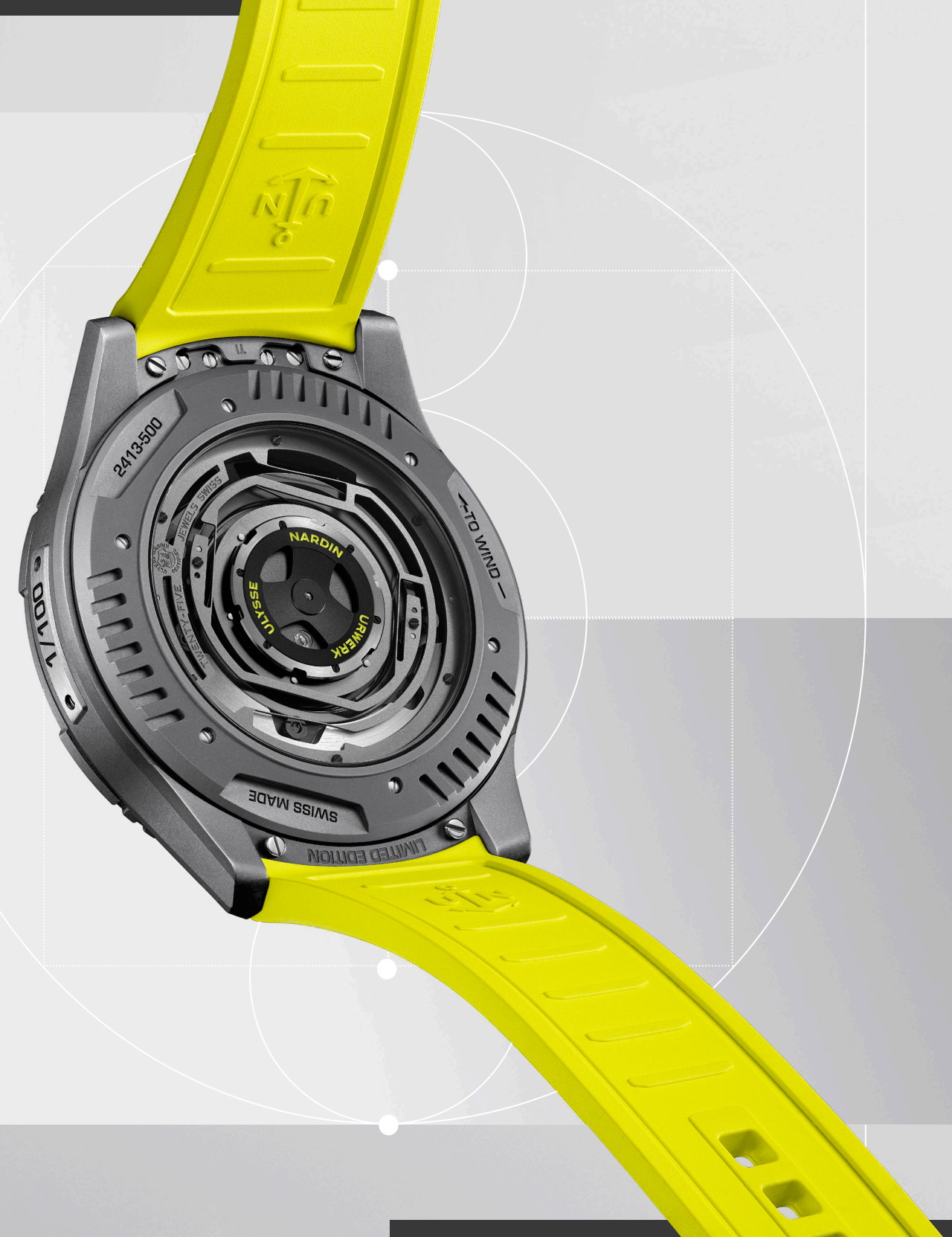
The Freak rotates the entire movement to tell the time; URWERK's hour satellite bends mechanics and reshapes the perception of time itself. Now, two complex mechanisms are fused into a single, fully integrated, in-house caliber.

To create this marvel of engineering, over 150 entirely new components were developed in order to design the distinctive wandering hours satellite display as well as the case's bezel design. Time is indicated by one of three connected hands. The active hand slides along the minute indicator scale on the right side of the face. Each hand has a turning domed disc that acts as a jumping hour display. Once the current hour connected to the rotating carousel has completed its path along the 60-minute marker scale, the hour disc changes, and the next hour is ready to be read by the next hand, which begins its travel along the beginning of the minute track. The entire wandering hours satellite system, in true Freak form, is connected to the regulation system. In the center is a silicon-based balance wheel oscillator and escapement assembly. It turns with the satellite system and makes a full rotation every three hours. Similar to how a traditional tourbillon or carousel works, the UR-FREAK's constant change of orientation helps reduce timing errors.

The UR-FREAK is based on Ulysse Nardin Freak [ONE] watch

case that is 44mm wide, and here rendered in a typical URWERK deep anthracite gray sandblasted titanium. Added to this foundation are more signature URWERK design elements that further elevate the piece. These include three distinct fluted sections on the titanium turning bezel and caseback, a hallmark design element of URWERK. Additionally, the titanium hues are accented by URWERK's emblematic electric yellow Pantone 395 C, a vibrant color that highlights the satellite pointers, minute markers, as well as the bespoke fitted rubber strap.

Another hallmark of most Ulysse Nardin Freak watches is the absence of a traditional crown. The UR-FREAK accordingly does not have a crown, which adds to a clean, streamlined aesthetic on the wrist. Instead of a crown, Freak collection watches typically employ both a turning bezel and caseback. A small tab known as the "locker" at the six o'clock position on the case holds the bezel secure when not in use. It has a special "UR-FREAK" label for this limited-edition watch. When the locker is lifted, the bezel freely turns, and when it does, it moves the hands in order to adjust the time. Even though the UR-FREAK employs a Grinder®-based automatic winding system, the UN-241 movement can also be manually wound by turning the caseback. Despite being sandwiched between sliding parts, the UR-FREAK case still offers 30 meters of water resistance.

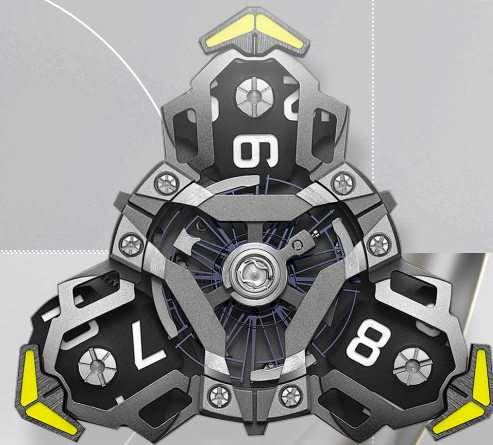




## A MARVEL OF ENGINEERING

The mechanical system under the URWERK-designed wandering hours satellite display is a new in-house-made Ulysse Nardin caliber UN-241 movement. A fusion into a single, fully integrated, in-house caliber. Based on the iconic GPHG-winning Freak [ONE] UN-240 caliber and applying over two decades of know-how and innovations, the movement is a fantastic blend of balanced performance and modernity in an extremely wearable package. The silicon oscillator operates at a 3Hz frequency and offers a full 90 hours of power reserve.

Where most movements hide their oscillator at the back, the Freak has always revealed its beating heart on the front. In this new design, the oscillator takes center stage. Thanks to advanced silicon technology, it is 25% larger than standard versions. To maximize visual impact and save space, the oscillator is positioned centrally, above the rotating hour satellites. This unique layout was only possible by designing the movement and dial simultaneously, breaking away from the traditional step-by-step watchmaking approach, where form and function are conceived together.



## PIONEERING TECHNOLOGY

Its self-winding system is unlike that in any other watch outside of a select number of other Ulysse Nardin Freak [ONE] and Freak [S] timepieces. Ulysse Nardin calls the system “Grinder®,” a name which simply mimics how the system works. Most automatic winding systems rely on a moving weight that must experience a certain volume of force and motion prior to generating power in the mainspring. Grinder® vastly increases the winding efficiency of traditional systems by converting even the smallest movement into kinetic energy. Grinder® is not only a unique system, but also revolutionary because it is one of the first true improvements to automatic winding system efficiency in decades.

### SILICON, THE REVOLUTIONARY MODERN WATCHMAKING MATERIAL THAT WAS FIRST INTRODUCED BY ULYSSE NARDIN

Since 2001, Ulysse Nardin has filed more than 20 patents for the Freak and is both a specialist in and producer of silicon. The company pioneered the use of silicon, a metalloid, in watchmaking when it released the original Freak timepiece in 2001. Silicon is a useful alternative for traditional metals for a number of reasons. The natural element is resistant to environmental changes such as temperature fluctuations and the presence of magnetic fields, which can both cause serious problems for traditional metal components. Silicon also benefits from extremely low friction properties, a common issue for watchmakers seeking efficiency and long-term performance. Silicon parts can last for very long periods of time and also do not require traditional forms of lubrication – further delaying necessary service intervals and contributing to owner satisfaction.

When Ulysse Nardin first investigated silicon as a watchmaking material, it was highly expensive to machine and challenging to apply to traditional watchmaking. The promise of its performance benefits outweighed concerns for the pioneering Swiss company who invested heavily in engineering the material as well as inventing uses for it in mechanical watch movements.

One of Ulysse Nardin's inventions is a material known as DIAMonSil. As the name suggests, it is a silicon material that is coated with diamond. This coating adds an important, durable layer that protects against silicon's brittle nature. DIAMonSil is used for the escapement in the UN-241 movement, given the constant forces such components are subjected to. No other watchmaker aside from Ulysse Nardin is able to equip their timepieces with DIAMonSil technology. Today, most major watch manufacturers incorporate silicon into at least some of their leading products.





**UR-FREAK**  
[2025]



FREAK ONE  
[2023]



FREAK S  
[2022]  
& [2024]



FREAK  
VISION  
[2019]



FREAK  
CRUISER  
[2013]



FREAK  
2001  
[2001]



UR-100V  
LIGHTSPEED  
[2024]



UR-100V  
MAGIC T  
[2023]



UR-100V  
ULTRAVIOLET  
[2022]



UR-100  
SPACETIME  
[2019]



UR-101  
[1997]



# UR-FREAK

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS



### REFERENCE

2413-500LE-2A-UR/3B

### MOVEMENT & FUNCTIONS

Caliber UN-241 Manufacture  
Automatic movement  
Hours, minutes  
Flying carousel movement rotating around its own axis  
Satellite time display  
Oversized balance wheel & balance spring in silicon  
Escapement wheel & anchor in DIAMonSil  
Grinder Automatic Winding System, blades technology  
Ruthenium plated bridges with yellow Superluminova®  
263 Components / 25 jewels  
Frequency 3 Hz / oscillations 21'600 V/H

### CASE

Titanium sandblasted case and bezel  
Titanium open sapphire case back  
Diameter 44 mm, water resistance 30 m  
Perceived Height 12 mm

### STRAP & BUCKLE

Integrated yellow rubber “ballistic” textured strap  
Integrated black rubber strap  
Titanium sandblasted deployant buckle

### LIMITED EDITION

100 pieces





NO BOUNDARIES. SINCE 1846.

Ulysse Nardin is an independent Swiss Maison disrupting Haute Horlogerie to advance watchmaking through pioneering technology and unmatched craftsmanship. Founded in 1846 in Le Locle, Switzerland, the Manufacture quickly became renowned for its precision timing instruments, critical to ocean exploration. Over five generations, the Nardin family produced the most reliable marine chronometers, trusted by leading navies and used by scientists in fields like geodesy, astronomy, and earth sciences.

Ulysse Nardin has led innovation in chronometry, in-house movements, and material R&D, accumulating over 4,300 technical and design awards. The Manufacture introduced groundbreaking pieces like the first chiming watch with Jacquemarts automats, the Astrolabium Galileo Galilei, and the first perpetual calendar that could be set both forwards and backwards via the crown. Pioneering the use of silicon in horology, Ulysse Nardin also developed DiamonSil®, a revolutionary surface treatment.

The Freak, launched in 2001, epitomized Ulysse Nardin's unique approach, combining high technology and craftsmanship. More than 20 years later, the Freak [ONE] was awarded the "Most Iconic Watch" prize at the Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève.

As part of the first collective of independent watchmaking manufactures, with its sister company Girard-Perregaux, Ulysse Nardin continues to push the boundaries of horology, redefining expectations for a storied heritage brand, with boutiques worldwide including flagships in Geneva, Silicon Valley, Dubai, and Shanghai.

ULYSSE-NARDIN.COM







**URWERK®**  
BY BAUMGARTNER + FREI

“From the very beginning, we made a deliberate choice not to confine ourselves to the same old grandes complications,” explains watchmaker Felix Baumgartner, co-founder of URWERK. “Our aim has always been to push beyond the traditional boundaries of watchmaking. Each of our creations is conceived as an original work.” This philosophy is shared by Martin Frei, URWERK’s chief designer and fellow co-founder: “I come from a background where creativity knows no bounds. Free from the constraints of classical watchmaking, I’m able to draw inspiration from my cultural heritage without limitations.”

Founded in 1997, URWERK is today recognized as a pioneer among independent watchmakers. With an annual production of just 150 timepieces, the brand operates as a true craftsman’s laboratory — where cutting-edge technology meets radical design. Its creations are structured around three lines: the Chronometry collection, a testing ground for precision and pioneering mechanics; the Hour Satellite line, URWERK’s icon, where wandering hours redefine our perception of time; and Special Projects, the space for bold experimentation and radical ideas.

URWERK timepieces are modern, complex, and unlike anything else, yet remain faithful to the highest standards of fine watchmaking: independent research, advanced materials, and meticulous hand-finishing.

The name URWERK pays tribute both to the ancient and the avant-garde. It references the Mesopotamian city of Ur, where Sumerians first measured time by the shadows cast by monuments and draws from the German words Ur (primeval/original) and Werk (work/mechanism). Together, they express the idea of an “original mechanism” — a fitting emblem for a brand dedicated to reimagining the very concept of time.

URWERK.COM



