

URWERK'S UR-220 – Birth of a new collection

Geneva, October 20, 2020.

The collection of UR-220 watches has taken off. The initial version in carbon has now been joined by a new model — the UR-220 *All Black*. URWERK is exploring all the shades of its lucky colour. Black will always be black, but it comes in many textures.



With these two watches you can have any colour you like, so long as it's black. One is made of carbon in patterns reminiscent of crop circles; the other is in a deep, intense black. Both are from the URWERK workshops and belong to the new UR-220 collection.

The UR-220 *All Black* version is made of titanium and steel. The carbon UR-220 is the first URWERK model in this material and was unveiled last September. Its case, built up in 81 layers of carbon, is unmistakable.

The main difference between them lies in their weight. The carbon watch, on an avant-garde rubber strap, weighs 25% less than the *All Black* version, which has a more traditional leather strap. Both watches are built with the same care and attention to detail expected of URWERK's watchmaking.

“The UR-220 is above all a natural progression from our UR-210 model,” explains Martin Frei, the designer of URWERK’s watches and co-founder of the company. “It meant the death of the UR-210 so that it could be resurrected in a new guise. The differences are subtle but noticeable to the practiced eye.”

On the instrument panel

In a break with tradition, we’ll start with the back of the watch, home to a feature unprecedented and unique in watchmaking — URWERK’s oil change indicator. After an absence of some years, this complication returns to tell you for how long the movement has been running and when it is time to lubricate and service the machinery. Originally in the UR-110 models, the oil change indicator has undergone significant improvements.

In the UR-220 the number of months the movement has been running is shown on two side-by-side rollers. The wearer of the watch starts the count by removing a locking pin and pressing the button on the back of the watch. When the rollers show that the movement has been running for 39 months, it’s time to have the watch serviced. URWERK’s technicians will reset the counter to zero and replace the locking pin.

Felix Baumgartner, URWERK’s other co-founder puts the idea into context: “It’s more than just a numerical counter, but an additional connection with your watch. The oil change indicator is witness to the time your watch has spent on your wrist. It’s also a visible record of the energy you have put into the movement by winding it regularly.”



Riding the carousel

The UR-220 adopts its predecessor’s satellite wandering hours, patented by URWERK. The hours are grouped in fours on three rotating cubes at the end of the carousel arms. In turn they pick up a hollow minutes pointer and carry it across the 120° arc of the minutes scale. At the 60th minute, the pointer flashes back to zero, to be picked up by the next hour. To reduce inertia and increase the speed, the surfaces of the minutes pointer have been pierced. This must be the most sophisticated retrograde minutes indication in any watch.



The lightning-fast fly back of the retrograde minutes depends on three engineering achievements:

- The central axis keeps the mechanism stable. Running on ruby bearings, it is the rock on which the complication is built. A cylindrical spring, rather like a traditional chronometer hairspring, accumulates the energy needed to power the fly-back.
- The unusual minutes pointer, which forms the cowling for the hours satellites, is precision engineered to tolerances of a hundredth of a millimetre. With a length of 22.29mm, 8.03mm wide and 7.3mm deep, it weighs just 0.302 grams. Built of aluminium, its bronze counterweight ensures it is perfectly balanced.
- Two coaxial star cams govern the retrograde action. Its coupling and rotation determine the trajectory of the minutes pointer.

The other information on the dial is the two-stage power-reserve indicator. The time left for the movement to run is shown on two 24-hour gauges. As you wind the watch, the right hand gauge fills up. When it reaches its maximum, the gauge on the left takes over. The mechanism for these two power reserves is extremely intricate, requiring 83 mechanical components.

The smallest detail

No detail can be neglected, especially not the numerals of the UR-220. Martin Frei has designed a new typography, making the hours and minutes even sharper. They find their inspiration in the graphics of contemporary video science-fiction games.



URWERK UR-220 "Falcon Project"

All Black edition limited to 25 watches

Movement

Calibre:	Calibre UR-7.20, 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. Hours satellites in aluminium; carrousel and screws in grade 5 titanium.
Decorative finishes:	Power reserve bridge and module circular-grained in black. Power reserve subdial shot peened in black. Vertically brushed satellites with polished bevels. Carrousel and its cage finely sanded with a circular satin finish. Rhodium plated in black. Satellite cam finely sanded with a circular satin finish. Painted SuperLuminova markers: white glowing blue for the power-reserve indicator; yellow glowing green for the hours and minutes; red glowing blue for the 60 minutes 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:	Steel and titanium with black DLC.
Dimensions:	Width: 43.8mm; length: 53.6mm; depth: 14.8mm
Glass:	Clear sapphire crystal
Caseback:	Black DLC on titanium and sapphire crystal glass.
Water resistance:	Pressure tested to 30m/3 ATM
Decorative finishes:	Black DLC on shot-peened and sanded crown; Matt sanded logo; Black DLC on sanded crown guard; Caseband in black DLC on stainless steel. Back: black DLC on sanded caseback; Pin: satin finished body with sanded engraving, polished hand; Tinted sapphire crystal; Polished screws.
Bracelet:	Leather with a titanium buckle.
Price:	CHF 130,000. (Swiss francs /excl. tax)

Media contact: Yacine Sar / yacine@urwerk.com

+41 22 900 2027

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