***Grenade***

**Horological art blowing up your conceptions of time**

***Grenade* is a mechanical masterpiece combining clockmaking excellence with a call to “pull the pin and live for now!”**

L’Epée 1839 introduces a new series of Grenades, available in a variety of striking metal finishes: Full gold-plated, rose gold-plated, gold-and-palladium combination and a refined rose gold-plated & black,.

L’Epée 1839 sets you free with the horologically volatile Grenad*e*. An innovative timepiece inspired by a dangerous explosive, Grenade is a compact desk and mantel clock challenging the hold that time has on our lives as we are often consumed by the pressing need to fill our schedules with never-ending tasks overwhelming our days. The Grenade clock releases your mind from the grind of modern life.

Grenade is modelled after the historical MKII grenade with an M6A4C fuse that uses a pin that is pulled to activate the explosive. In a similar way, the L’Epée Grenade features a pin that doubles as the key, which when pulled allows for setting the time and winding the eight-day movement. The moment you pull the pin on a grenade the mind is focused: the grenade is live, and you must concentrate on the here and now to survive.

Grenade from L’Epée provides a similar experience when you pull its pin. You can change the time to whatever you want it to be, and by winding the mainspring you give it the power to direct that time. The clock forces the mind to focus on the moment you are in and the task of winding and setting the time, reminding you that you are only guaranteed this very moment, so don’t waste it.

The hours and minutes are displayed on two black aluminium disks rotating directly over the beating heart of Grenade. Ticking away at a traditional 18,000 vibrations per hour, the balance is front and center, audibly reminding us that time is slipping away, and we never know how much time we have left. Once you wind Grenade and set its time display, the next step is to seize the day.

The master watchmakers of L’Epée took great care to craft a device that not only tells time precisely and consistently, but commands attention in your home. Grenade isn’t simply an eye-catching clock; it is an experience. Pulling the pin allows you to shatter the concept of time into its smallest parts, each tick and every tock is something that we experience only briefly. Time explodes out from every second, carrying us swiftly into the future and along for the ride.

That is why L’Epée urges you to *pull the pin and live for now.*

**Construction and Inspiration**

This historical MKII grenade has become the iconic image of this weapon as well as a symbol of war and violence. But a grenade on its own is simply potential energy like a coiled mainspring. Pulling the pin on the fuse starts a chemical reaction that results in the countdown, but once the mainspring of L’Epée Grenade is wound it’s the balance wheel that keeps track of time.

Grenade’s frame is composed of five distinct plates and six vertical supports, all notched and interlocking to resemble the grooved shell of the original MKII grenade. The key pin, which is safely stored in the fuse-shaped frame atop the structure when not in use, is removed and inserted onto a post in the center of the top plate to set the time. A small pointer, modelled after the 1915 German stick grenade, indicates the hours and minutes as they rotate slowly by on disks.

The going train is mounted in the centre of Grenade, peeking out from behind the balance and escapement assembly positioned on the front. Underneath is the long eight-day mainspring barrel that is wound from a post on the bottom of the clock.

The pin is the main point of interaction with a grenade – as it is with the L’Epée Grenade. Unlike the historical MKII, whose purpose was violence, the Grenade clock seeks only to challenge our perceptions of time and what it means to our lives. Many think of time like a flowing river, but time is made up of infinite tiny moments lined up next to each other. The tick-tock of Grenade highlights these small moments, each an opportunity to change one’s life.

When a regular grenade explodes, it annihilates anything nearby. When the L’Epée Grenade is activated, it asks us to blow up our outdated ideas of the moments we experience every second. Time has a granular structure, and each granule is a chance to decide anew. We may not be able to change how time passes, but we can change how we pass the time.

An explosion happens in a split second and so do our choices. If you knew that the next moment could be your last, would you savour that moment? That is why the key to the L’Epée Grenade is the pin, the very thing that must be pulled to create the explosion.

Will you heed L’Epée’s call to pull the pin? The Grenade is waiting to let you live for now.

***Technical specifications***

Dimensions: 120.5 mm (height) x 77.6 mm (width) x 66.6 mm (depth)

Weight: 620 g (real MKII grenade of same shape is 600 - 630 g)

**FUNCTIONS**

Hours and minutes are displayed on black aluminium disks with engraved numerals.

Time is set with grenade pin on top of frame, mainspring wound on bottom of frame.

Number of components: 255

**MOVEMENT**

L’Épée 1839 movement designed and manufactured in-house

Multilevel vertical architecture

Balance frequency: 2.5 Hz / 18,000 vibrations/h

11 jewels

Incabloc shock protection system

Power reserve: 8 days

**MATERIALS & FINISHING**

Palladium-plated brass

Stainless steel

Aluminium

Finish: polished, satin brushed, sandblasted.

***L’EPEE 1839: Switzerland's leading clock manufacture***

L’Epée has been a prominent clockmaking firm for more than 180 years. Today, it is the only manufacture in Switzerland to specialize in the production of high-end clocks. Founded in 1839 by Auguste L’Epée in Besançon, France, the company originally focused on producing music boxes and watch components. Even at this early stage, the brand was synonymous with entirely handmade pieces.

Starting in 1850, the manufacture became a leader in producing escapements and began to develop special regulators for alarm clocks, table clocks, and musical watches. It gained wide recognition and filed numerous patents for special escapements, particularly for use in its anti-knocking, auto-starting, and constant force systems. L’Epée became the principal supplier of several famous clockmakers and went on to win many gold medals at World Fairs.

During the 20th century, the firm owed its success largely to its remarkable travel clocks. Many associate the L’Epée brand with influential individuals and people in positions of power; members of the French government often gave clocks to their distinguished guests. When the Concorde supersonic airplane began its commercial flights in 1976, L’Epée fitted the cabins with wall clocks to give passengers the time. In 1994, the brand demonstrated its penchant for challenges by constructing the largest pendulum clock in the world, the “Giant Regulator”, which features in the *Guinness Book of Records*.

L’Epée 1839 is currently based in Delémont in the Swiss Jura Mountains. With CEO Arnaud Nicolas at the helm, it has developed an exceptional collection of table clocks that includes an entire range of sophisticated clocks.

The collection focuses on three themes:

Creative Art: artistic pieces first and foremost developed in partnership with external designers as joint creations. These clocks surprise, inspire, and even shock the most seasoned collectors. They are for those consciously or unconsciously looking for exceptional objects.

Contemporary Timepieces: technical creations with a contemporary design (Le Duel, Duet, etc.) and minimalist, avant-garde models (La Tour) incorporating complications such as retrograde seconds, power reserve indicators, moon phases, tourbillons, chiming mechanisms, and perpetual calendars.

Carriage Clocks: also known as “officers’ clocks,” these historical pieces issued from the brand’s heritage also feature their fair share of complications: chiming mechanisms, minute repeaters, calendars, moon phases, tourbillons, and more.

All of L’Epée 1839’s timepieces are designed and manufactured in-house. The clocks’ technical prowess, combination of form and function, long power reserves, and remarkable finishes have become signature features of the brand.