**Gaz Derrick**

**“Extracting hours and minutes”**

Countless trips through space with the Starfleet Machine and Destination Moon, or through the depths of the ocean with Octopod; closer to the surface, L’Epée 1839 seizes control of Planet Earth with the launch of its new kinetic timepiece: *Gaz Derrick.* Hours and minutes rise up from the movement and involve a new caliber that has been recently developed by the manufacturer. Whether drilling on an offshore platform or inland, Gaz Derrick boasts of 2 dials in the shape and style of gas gauges; each displays the hour and minutes.

The winding and time-setting key is embedded on the clock. The time setting nod is the gaz burner located on top of the derrick symbolizing the possibility to overcome any unexpected problems. As no holes can be made close to a gaz field, a control-valve-shape winding key is located on the right side of the base allowing the owner to operate the release of energy.

Designed, developed and manufactured by L’Epée 1839 in the Jura (Switzerland), Gaz Derrick takes its inspiration from vast industrial landscapes that captured our imagination and turns that into a tangible, luxurious and meticulous interpretation.

Reading the time as reading gage: Hours and minutes are displayed on two distinct and independent dials – somehow like a regulator - placed on top of each other, in the middle of the derrick. The similarities between the dials and true industrial gages are such that they drive us to the command-centre of the gaz derrick. All around, there are several elements, evoking a detailed realism, that pique your curiosity: valves, pipelines, reservoirs, pumps, and even a central drilling axis. The scenery of a complete exploitation.

Similar to conventional structures, the clock mechanism is powered by the earth’s energy. The power source is located in the black base that supports the various decorative elements. A careful eye will easily find the gears, escapement and the unique barrel that keeps energy. The movement allows for precise timekeeping for up to 7 days. Made up of 281 fine pieces and expertly assembled by hand, the handiwork can be admired through discreet openings at the base of the derrick.

This normally overwhelming industrial landscape is now presented in a more restricted size: 23 centimetres high with a width of 17.8 centimetres and 10 centimetres in depth.

**Gaz Derrick is presented in two limited editions (50 pieces each) with a black base; the movement and elements are either yellow gold- or palladium-plated.**

**A spectacular artwork when it comes to watch-making**

Inspired by various types of building toys from their childhood, young talented designer Martin BOLO and Arnaud Nicolas, Brand Director, succeeded in creating a homogeneous and realistic structure, relying on the high-quality workmanship courtesy of L’Epée 1839’s age-old expertise.

The main elements of a gas extraction platform become an example of industrial architecture, the design allowing you to quickly and easily identify the structure behind this clock. In the middle, the derrick is standing, then the pipelines, valves and pumps. Everything is protected by a harmonious and fine squared protective glass atop the black base.

The design forces you to be closer to the elements; it's true to life, but is still a thing of beauty, leaving you with the aestheticism of its lines and everything else to your imagination.... The excellent workmanship typical of L’Epée 1839 is of course present.

**A first-time technique for this L’Epée 1839 movement: The regulator**

After having developed a movement with arms for Sherman, or legs (Arachnophobia) or even accompanying it with a skull mechanism (Requiem), L’Epée is bringing one of its signature calibre movements back to the table and offsets the hour and minute indicators thanks to bevel gears – a new technical challenge! Discover a horizontal movement with horizontal escapement paired with a central axis of nearly 200 mm in length; this enables L’Epée 1839 to display hours and minutes way off its original position. Displayed separately, like the regulator movement of a watch, two independent dials allow you to read the hour and the minutes away from the movement itself. Somehow like the operator reading the instrument in the safety zone…

Here, the key drilling axis element of a derrick becomes the central axis for the hour and minute hands, displaying all information to the user as though it were a derrick. Going even further with this industrial aspect, the dials themselves have been designed to look like manometers.

A derrick gas burner, located on the top, allows you to adjust overpressure and maintain safe installation; at L’Epée 1839, the Burner becomes the time-set crown, allowing you to adjust the hour in case the power supply runs out; for example, if the owner forgets to wind the mechanism.

With its one-week power reserve, the 1853RV calibre mechanical movement is entirely made at the Delémont factory workshop.

Just as rich mineral resources are extracted from beneath the ground to fuel the need for power, the Gaz Derrick by L’Epée 1839 runs on the energy of its barrel located inside the base, underneath the derrick. Regulators used in the petroleum industry are based on a system of pressure relief valves; here, the same happens but in the form of a time regulator with its actuator gear train and escapement. A signature feature for the brand, the mechanism is visible through potholes, enabling those who like beauty and mechanical structures to appreciate the workmanship.

Day or night, drilling platforms must keep running and need to be able to provide information on their status.... So, Gaz Derrick features two hands equipped with Superluminova so that you can read the time regardless of the lighting.

**The industry at a glance**

The most impressive element of this kinetic sculpture is without any doubts the derrick. It measures more than 14.3 centimetres – this is a far cry from standard watch-making dimensions – and both the gold and palladium versions boast of perfect finishes. Essential for drilling, it is the key element here as well. The derrick supports the axis which sends power and information from the clock mechanism to the hour and minute hands.

Inside the derrick, the perfectly executed drill strings are used to hoist rock fragments and gas. Gaz Derrick also incorporates this drill string; it has been turned into the central axis for the timer, which allows you to set the hour and minute indicators.

Lower down, on the ground level, you will find a few typical elements that bring to mind a particular world while at the same time remaining true to the design.

The inquisitive spirits and questioning minds who wish to have a deeper understanding of the realisation will wonder where the winding-key hole is. In fact, there is none… Remember we are in a special environment; no holes can be made. So, the control valve, on the right side of the base field, is in fact the key for winding the movement.

Each week, all you have to do is to open the valve so that enough power is supplied to the clock, just as a petroleum operation manager will feed the gas derrick with gaz. By making between 5 and 7 complete rotations, the watch will be run for the next 7 days.

 **History of the derrick and natural gas extraction**

The first patent for a four-legged Derrick was issued in 1825, and then built from wood in 1830. Countless subsequent improvements of the structure were carried out until, in 1912, the first steel derrick was launched. The start of the 19th century saw the birth of countless inventions and ingenious creations; gas extraction was begun and modernised, always with the same principal of drilling and extraction.

This isn’t as simple as it seems, since more often than not, the gas is contained within stone. With all the risks that this entails, professionals try to channel Mother Nature’s forces so they can extract the most they can and provide us with the necessary power for our everyday lives.

Natural gas is one of the most effective ways to achieve the ambitious CO2 reduction targets that States want to achieve. It is also a way to help meet the world's growing energy needs in a safe, clean and price-competitive manner, and to sustainably meet the world's growing demand for energy. Durably, but also efficiently, because gas is a flexible energy, which allows to have production tools whose mode of operation can adjust very quickly. This makes it the best ally of the renewable energies of which it compensates the intermittency, when there is neither sun nor wind. It can also supplement them in case of peak consumption, while extending their environmental benefits.

GAZ DERRICK

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Reference:

76.6007/002 – Gold-plated

76.6007/102 – Palladium-plated

Limited editions: 50 items per colour

Dimensions: 17.8 x 10 x 23.3 cm

Weight: 3.2 kg

Total of 281 components

**FUNCTIONS**

Hour and minute display: two independent, white bright black pad-printed dials placed one on top of the other with hour indicator on the upper dial and minutes on the lower dial. Time displayed by means of polished hands (gold- or palladium-plated depending on version) with Luminova (SLN Green to make up for lack of power).

**L’EPEE 1839 MOVEMENT**

Horizontal L’Epée 1839 movement designed and created in-house.

1853RV calibre – horizontal escapement

Frequency: 18'000 A/h / 2.5 Hz

Unique barrel

Power reserve: 7-day

Number of components: 147

Number of jewels: 11

Incabloc protection system

Gold- or palladium-plated brass mechanism

Hand-wind movement via solitary valve

Time adjust via crown above derrick

Materials: Stainless steel and brass

Included finishes: polished, sandblast, satin-finishing

**STRUCTURE AND DECORATIONS**

Number of components: 134 completely hand-finished components (movement not included).

* The Derrick: Fine industrial-style structure protecting the hour and minute referral mechanism.
* The Valve: Used for clock winding
* Motors: decorative, entirely hand-polished
* Pipeline: made from folded and plated brass rods
* Pump: Decorative, made from hand polished and satin-finished brass

**CASING**

Black aluminium base with exposed horizontal escapement on top and cylinder visible through two transparent circles

Mineral glass without prop.

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

L’Epée has been a prominent clockmaking firm for more than 175 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 France’s Besançon region, the company originally focused on producing music boxes and watch components. Even at this early stage, the brand was synonymous with entirely hand-made 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, often developed in partnership with external designers as joint creations. These clocks surprise, inspire and even shock the most seasoned collectors. They are intended for those consciously or unconsciously looking for exceptional objects that are one of a kind.

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 or perpetual calendars.

Carriage Clocks - Lastly, classic travel 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 pieces are designed and manufactured in-house. Their technical prowess, combination of form and function, very long power reserves and remarkable finishes have become signature features of the brand.