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# 25

### Complications

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Gets Vertigo

### Carl F. Bucherer

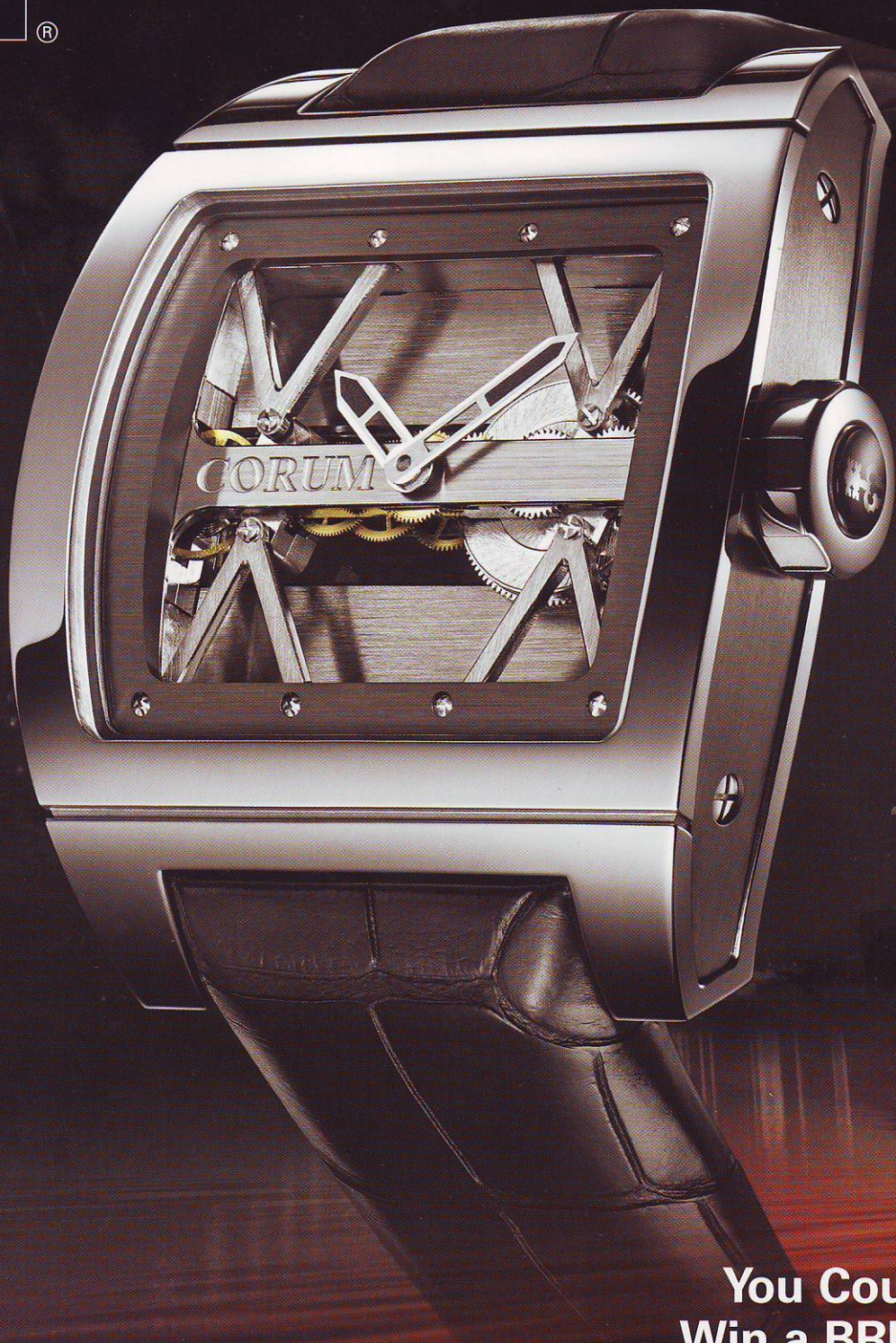
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# BASEL

# 2009

## COMPLICATIONS

BY ELIZABETH DOERR

Even though many had predicted this year's BaselWorld might be less interesting than in the past, this editor found it to be more arresting than ever. Complications in every shape and size were to be found at the fair and satellite exhibitions, from perpetual calendars to minute repeaters and everything in between. Here were a few of the notable models.

### AZIMUTH

#### TBT

Azimuth's founders, Chris Long and Alvin Lye, explained at BaselWorld that the TBT was inspired by "hardcore contemporary super cars"; for them the TBT therefore represents a "new era of micro-machine making" and unites their passions for both automobiles and high-end watchmaking.

**Movement:** Manually wound caliber, one-minute tourbillon, 28,800 bph, five days power reserve

**Functions:** Hours shown on rotating disks, minutes shown by scale as per current disk

**Case:** 50 mm x 45 mm titanium with carbon fiber inlay, sapphire crystal

**Dial:** Comprising the functions

**Band:** Leather woven fiber strap

**Price:** \$90,000

**Limitation:** 25 pieces



### ANDREAS STREHLER

#### Papillon

Andreas Strehler is not a household name, but watch fans should know him at least from his work with Chronoswiss (Chronoscope, Compteur Minutes) and Moser (perpetual calendar) and as the creator of Harry Winston's Opus 7. The Papillon model (French for "butterfly") is the only watch the talented Swiss watchmaker is currently manufacturing under his own name.

**Movement:** Manually wound in-house tonneau-shaped caliber, double mainspring and 72 hours power reserve, 18,000 bph

**Functions:** Hours and minutes displayed by the skeletonized gear wheels themselves

**Case:** 42 mm white gold, sapphire crystal

**Dial:** Two toothed wheels made of sapphire crystal display the hours and minutes

**Band:** Alligator-skin strap, white gold buckle

**Price:** 140,000 Swiss francs

**Limitation:** Limited production

### BREGUET

#### Classique Grande Complication

Accompanying an announcement of a partnership with the Louvre, Breguet continues to prove its mettle in terms of high complications. This new grande complication is typically Breguet in appearance, and when the repeater is activated, it emits a deliciously melodic chime.

**Movement:** Hand-wound Breguet Caliber 567/2 with 40 hours power reserve, 21,000 bph, entirely hand-engraved

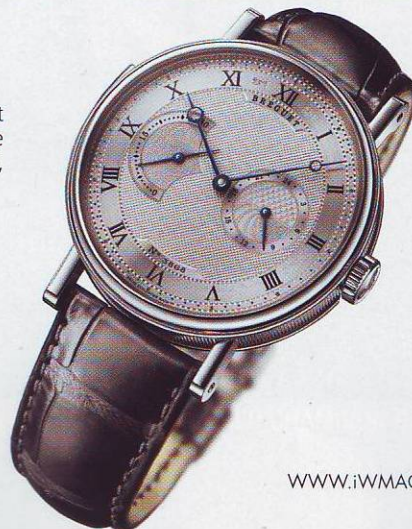
**Functions:** Hours, minutes, subsidiary seconds, 24-hour display (second time zone)

**Case:** 42 mm white gold or rose gold, fluted case band typical of Breguet watches, sapphire crystal, exhibition case back

**Dial:** Silver-plated 18-karat gold, hand-guilloch , blued steel Breguet-style hands

**Band:** Crocodile skin strap

**Price:** \$214,000 in rose gold and \$215,000 in white gold



JONATHAN BUES

### 1. Azimuth - Roulette

It's hard not to like Azimuth's rare alchemy of the complicated and the affordable. The SP-1 Roulette watch was a showstopper for me even before I heard the estimated price, just under \$4,000. Clicking the die-shaped crown sends a hand with a ball tip flying around the dial at break-neck speed. Where it lands depends on your luck.

### 2. Harry Winston - Opus 9

This year designer Eric Giroud and watchmaker Jean-Marc Wiederecht teamed up for the Opus 9. Wiederecht opted for a Frederique Piguet movement over an in-house creation to power this clever interpretation of the retrograde, which even sports a little bling. Diamonds, of course, are a Harry Winston speciality, but the firm has in the past avoided using them in the august Opus series. Here the stones are functional, and I like it a lot.

### 3. Concord - C1 Quantum Gravity

When you see as many watches as we do, it can be difficult to avoid being jaded. But my jaw nearly hit the floor when I saw the new C1 Quantum Gravity, a biaxial tourbillon reinforced with tiny wires that resemble the cables of a suspension bridge. The piece also has the first vertical power reserve I have ever seen: a green tube filled with luminescent nanoparticles!

### 4. Swiss Military Watch - 20,000 Feet

I have a special place in my heart for affordable watches with personality. Hence my choice of the Azimuth above. Swiss Military Watch has won a place in the Guinness Book of Records for the most water resistant mechanical watch ever made. The piece is water resistant to 20,000 feet, a depth achieved without filling the case with liquid to equalize the pressure within. The piece will sell for around \$4,000.

### 5. Corum - Ti-Bridge

This resolutely modern interpretation of the Corum's famous Golden Bridge is crafted almost exclusively in Titanium from its case to its movement. Where the Golden Bridge sported a vertically oriented straight-line movement, the Ti-Bridge turns things horizontal. And by eschewing the precious metal at the heart of the Golden Bridge, Corum keeps the cost down to the consumer.

ELIZABETH DOERR

### 2. Harry Winston - Opus 9

After eight years of ever more complicated Opus models, Harry Winston did not simply get lucky: Jean-Marc Wiederecht is great at making the complicated simple, and when given free design reign it should come as no surprise that his "ultimate retrograde" (his term) perfectly fits the mood of the times—and mine.

### 5. Corum - Ti-Bridge

Michael Wunderman told me Corum set out to make a stand-out timepiece at a reasonable price, and, boy, have they done it! The modified Vaucher baton movement rotated 90° visible within the masterful design of the titanium case couldn't have been more noticeable among the year's understated offerings. At about \$12,000, close to affordable too!

### 6. Chronoswiss - Sauterelle

A few stagnant years sorting internal issues now result in full bloom: the Sauterelle is a revelation and a true homage to the skills of Gerd-Rüdiger Lang in choosing just the right thing at the right time. His know-how combined with the movement design talent of Karsten Frasdorf equals classic beauty.

### 7. Glashütte Original - Sixties Square Chrono

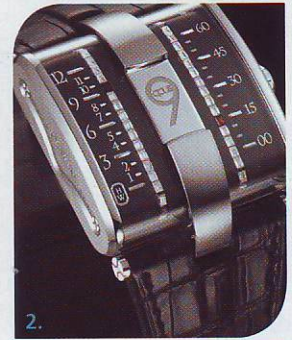
Talk about classic, this line inspired by typical 1960s design has much more to it than what meets the eye. The manufacture movement is combined with such an eye-catching case and complicated-yet-simple dial that you can't help but fall in love with it.

### 8. Tutima - Grand Classic PVD

You've got to hand it to Tutima: a great watch like this with all the bells and whistles for \$2,100 is just so incredibly fair. AND I have to really hand it to the Teutonic brand for also heading back to its Glashütte roots and developing a classic new movement slated for introduction later in the year. The complete package!



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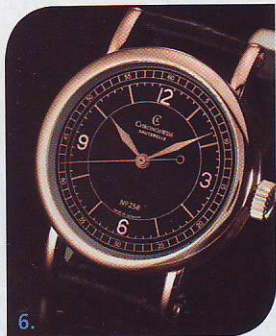
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