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Home > Resources & Tools > Basel/SIHH 2007 > "From Basel: Omega Speedmaster 50th Anniversary Patch Limited Series (pics) >>>"

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Author

Mike Disher



Posts: 2985 Location: At my desk Registered: October 2003

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Topic

From Basel: Omega Speedmaster 50th Anniversary Patch Limited Series (pics) >>>

Apr 11, 2007 - 12:46 PM





**Speedmaster 50th Anniversary
1957-2007
LIMITED SERIES
Omega Speedmaster Professional Chronograph Moonwatch**

OMEGA's Limited Series launch of the Speedmaster Professional Chronograph Moonwatch is sure to create a stir among Moonwatch purists. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Speedmaster - the first and still the only watch to have been worn on the Moon - a Limited Series of 5,957 stainless steel pieces with a special commemorative design of a golden seahorse on the dial will give collectors a rare opportunity to own a piece of space history. The physiognomy of the 42 mm Professional Chronograph Moonwatch with its black dial, chronograph counters and tachymeter scale bears the DNA of the original hand-winding 1957 Speedmaster and its heart is powered by the famous Calibre 1861 that accompanied the watch into zero gravity.

Launched in 1957 and designed to measure speed with chronograph and tachymeter functions, the Speedmaster has proved time and time again an invaluable and life saving partner to pilots, astronauts and explorers as they defy boundaries and push to ever-higher limits in the exploration of the universe. With an impressive track record of 11 NASA tests and 6 Moon landings, the Speedmaster has been on every US manned space flight and is currently on board Russia's ISS International Space Station making this manual-winding timepiece a cornerstone of horological and space history.

OMEGA's Speedmaster Chronograph was officially "flight-qualified by NASA for all manned space missions" in 1965 although

the Speedmaster had already been to space on the wrist of astronaut Walter Schirra on board the Sigma 7 in 1962. Able to withstand extreme temperature changes and zero gravity, the Speedmaster touched down on the moon with Apollo 11 astronauts in July 1969 and subsequently became known as the Moonwatch. During the troubled and dramatic Apollo 13 "Houston, we've had a problem here" mission of 1970, the Speedmaster saved the day. An explosion of a reserve oxygen tank compromised all the time keeping mechanisms on board: except one. Commander James Lovell relied on his Speedmaster Chronograph to time, within a fraction of a second, the extremely critical firing of the re-entry rockets allowing for the safe return of his crew to planet Earth. In recognition of the crucial role that its Speedmaster chronograph played on the Apollo 13 mission, OMEGA received the "Snoopy" Award in October 1970 – the highest honour awarded by NASA astronauts. The Speedmaster was present for yet another decisive moment in space history during the 1975 joint USSR-USA Apollo-Soyuz docking. The symbolic handshake in space at the height of the Cold War revealed that both crews were wearing the Speedmaster Chronograph.

To celebrate its half-century of life, the words '50th Anniversary' crown the golden seahorse featured at 12 o'clock on the dial. The hour and minutes hands, the central chronograph seconds hand and baton indexes have been highlighted with Super-LumiNova for maximum legibility in any conditions -on earth or in space. Although the original 1957 Speedmaster featured the iconic "Broad Arrow" hands, these were replaced in 1963 with "Dauphine" hands. Being slimmer, they create more space on the dial for a clearer view of the three counters with 12 hour, 30 minute and 60 second totalisers that proved vital on the Apollo 13 mission. As a tribute to its space legacy, the hands on this watch are white, just like those on the Apollo 11 mission to the Moon. The Arabic numerals on the counters and on the characteristic black aluminium tachymeter scale on the bezel have been designed with maximum clarity and legibility in mind. A scratch-resistant sapphire crystal with anti-reflective treatment protects the dial of this Limited Series Moonwatch.

Purists will appreciate the respect shown for the original Speedmaster in the manual-winding movement. In fact, the Limited Series Moonwatch is powered by OMEGA Calibre 1861, the famous movement that accompanied man on the moon and a tribute to its resilience.

The 42 mm stainless steel case of the Limited Series Moonwatch has inherited dominant Speedmaster family traits with its iconic curved and faceted horns and its large push buttons to activate the chronograph. A seahorse medallion has been embossed on the stainless-steel case back as well as the number of the Limited Series 0000/5957 and the words: "FLIGHT-QUALIFIED BY NASA FOR ALL MANNED SPACE MISSIONS. THE FIRST AND ONLY WATCH WORN ON THE MOON".

Space enthusiasts will remember the original 'Velcro' strap designed to fasten the Speedmaster to the exterior of the astronauts' spacesuits during their missions. Inspired by the first solid link bracelet of the 1960's, this Limited Series Moonwatch is fitted with a stainless steel bracelet that straps to the wrist with a foldover clasp.

With a 45-hour power reserve and water-resistant to 50 metres/167 feet, the Speedmaster Professional Moonwatch has proved it can withstand extreme atmospheric conditions on Earth and in space and, with this limited Series release, is destined to become a coveted collector's item.

Source: Omega official press materials

Cheers,
Mike

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[sevag02](#)

Re: From Basel: Omega Speedmaster 50th Anniversary Patch Limited Series (pics) >>>

Apr 11, 2007 - 12:54 PM ▲▼

Posts: 562
Location:
orlando, fl
Registered:
December 2006

nice

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Rolex GMT-C (116710)/Panerai 112/Mont Blanc Timewalker Big Date Automatic/Ball Engineer Master II Diver/Tag Heuer Formula One

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[john1974](#)

Re: From Basel: Omega Speedmaster 50th Anniversary Patch Limited Series (pics) >>>

Apr 11, 2007 - 12:58 PM ▲▼

Posts: 4254
Registered:
February 2007

was expecting something more exciting

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lucretius



Posts: 2695
Location:
Toronto, Canada
Registered:
August 2004

This is a big let down!

Apr 11, 2007 - 02:08 PM

No improvements to the dial, case back, movement ... nada! This is an ordinary, run-of-the-mill Moon Watch with a little gold blob on the dial and "Limited Series" stamped on the back -- not even a display back. To add insult to injury, "THE FIRST AND ONLY WATCH WORN ON THE MOON" has been engraved on the caseback -- (1) the Speedy Pro was not the only watch worn on the moon, and (2) there isn't a shred of evidence that a watch with caliber 1861 (or caliber 861 for that matter) has ever been worn on the moon. And for this abomination, expect a significant increase in the MSRP over and above the regular Moon Watch. Pass on this one, folks!

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lucretius

Forgot to add >>>

Apr 11, 2007 - 02:48 PM



Posts: 2695
Location:
Toronto, Canada
Registered:
August 2004

This limited edition watch has a "scratch-resistant sapphire crystal". Therefore, the words "FLIGHT-QUALIFIED BY NASA FOR ALL MANNED SPACE MISSIONS" are incorrect! Only the standard Moon Watch with a hesalite (acrylic) crystal is so qualified. More abomination!

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Fergie



Posts: 1828
Location:
North Lincolnshire, UK
Registered:
October 2006

Looks wise, its a gem

Apr 11, 2007 - 07:49 PM

I've clicked on almost every picture so far and only this and the rose gold anniversary model speedy work for me. IMO nearly every other one was designed by a young teenager with no taste whatsoever.....Sorry I'm not even going to finish this post. Hopefully we'll see a lot better in the next few days.

If you ask Chuck Norris what time it is, he always says, "Two seconds 'til." After you ask, "Two seconds 'til what?" he roundhouse kicks you in the face. Chuck Norris doesn't wear a watch, HE decides what time it is!

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samkan



Posts: 1340
Location:
Omicron Persei 8
Registered:
March 2004

Re: Looks wise, its a gem

Apr 12, 2007 - 01:31 AM

yeh, you know, this one actually doesn't look too bad but i do agree that i was kinda expecting a bit more...

-Nothing in life worth having comes easy- "Can you feel it? SamKan!"

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Blackdog

This looks like acrylic crystal to me...

Apr 12, 2007 - 09:57 AM



Posts: 315
Location:
Netherlands
Registered:
February 2004

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... the omega logo can be clearly seen in the center of the crystal on the second pic.

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Maybe it is indeed acrylic, otherwise they shouldn't be right engraving the "NASA approved" inscription on the caseback.

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