ULYSSEUNARDIN

Hand in hand, Devialet engineers, experts in distortion phenomena, collaborated with Ulysse Nardin's watchmakers specialised in sound to redefine each step in the audio signal chain sent from Ulysse Nardin's striking mechanisms to deliver the best performance ever recorded on a striking watch, 85 dB to 100mm.

With a classic striking mechanism, a hammer hits a timbre generating sound frequencies, when emitted, tells the time on command. However, in the Hourstriker Phantom, the heel of the timbre is fixed by a system of torsion arms that change the direction of the action forces induced by the timbre's vibrations. In a classic system, the forces produced are essentially in the watch's movement, which generates a small amount of air that is then displaced by the various components of the watch. With the Hourstriker Phantom, the action forces created by the timbre thus find their way outside of the watch itself. These forces are vigorously transferred using a transmission arm to a thin membrane, which is found on the bottom side of the watch. As the membrane has a large surface area, a large amount of air is displaced, which results in a high sound level. One could compare this to a loudspeaker and its cone and membrane.

The bottom side of the watch is perforated with eight openings under its membrane that allows the sound to travel and contains the UN-610 automatic manufacture movement. The result is stunning and all the sonic potential of this timepiece appears to be released, amplified, and enhanced. Its fully polished 43 mm titanium case also amplifies the sound and extends its resonance to 85 decibels, an unrivaled level of sound in the world of watchmaking.

"This new Hourstriker Phantom is the very essence of Devialet expertise expressed through a timepiece: a refined object with an optimised compactness/performance ratio and unbridled power. If Devialet products are looking to give the listener the impression that the artist is right in front of them, then this new Ulysse Nardin striking watch gives the sensation of a real musical instrument", concludes Patrick Pruniaux.

The watch's face is adorned with a satin-brushed anthracite dial inspired by Chladni's figures, formed by the materialisation of vibratory waves, a nod to the Devialet Phantom's protective net placed over the tweeter. Hidden under this sculpted lace-like net, tinted glass obscures the watch's movement for an ultra-contemporary look. A small, but original feature, the "rose gold" coloured hands point towards the Arabic numeral indexes, all tilted outwards, in single file and in a clockwise direction, just like a navy compass. At three o'clock, a small "rose gold" chip disappears and reappears depending on whether you want to activate or deactivate the striking mechanism (ON/OFF button). At CHF 72,500, the Hourstriker Phantom has become the most affordable striking watch on the market. The piece is enhanced by a black alligator strap and will be sold as a limited edition of 85 pieces, evoking the 85 decibels that it majestically reaches.



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

6103-132
Calibre UN-610 automatic movement
Striking mechanism/Rings on the hour and half-hour
Optimized sound up to 85 dB to 100mm
42 hours
Polished titanium
Polished titanium
Satin-brushed anthracite
43mm
30 meters (3 ATM)
Black alligator strap fastened with a pin