

# CO - PILOTS



IN OUR DREAMS, we match these pilot's watches with fourteen classic aircraft



By Jan Tegler

**A** viation and timepieces go together like airspeed and altitude indicators. Airmen began taking wristwatches aloft with them less than a decade after they first reached the skies. As successive generations of fliers and aircrafts became more sophisticated so too did the watches that accompanied them. Thus was born a genre of timepieces adapted to and styled with aviation in mind.

Today, the pilot's watch is as popular with the ground-bound public as it is with modern sky kings. Aviators and enthusiasts the world over keenly anticipate the latest models just as they appreciate a classic aircraft. In that spirit we've decided to pair fourteen new pilot's watches with fourteen great airplanes – copilots for the wrist and the sky. While most are not real-life partners, we think these fliers would match perfectly with these timers.



## BREGUET TYPE XXII

Eurocopter NH 90 NFH

Breguet's Type XXII Chronograph is the latest version of the Type XX Chronograph, the collection originally designed for the Aéronavale (French Naval Air Arm) in the 1950s. Of course, the Aéronavale has completely modernized its fleet of aircraft since the mid-20th century but Breguet has kept pace, incorporating cutting-edge technology in the Type XXII.

The new watch is the first and only series-made mechanical chronograph movement with a silicon escapement and balance spring whose frequency has been raised to 10 Hertz (or 72,000 vibrations per hour). The high frequency gives the Type XXII 1/20th of a second precision. Key to the chronograph's accuracy and durability is its use of silicon, resulting in more lightweight mobile components and the avoidance of lubrication problems generated by high frequencies.

Actuate the chronograph's flyback function and its chronograph seconds hand makes two complete rotations in sixty seconds. It's like watching the four blade main rotors of the Eurocopter NH 90 NATO Frigate Helicopter (NFH) swing into action as the NFH leaves the deck of a French warship.

Entering service with the Aéronavale this year, the NH 90 "Caiman" is the French Navy's newest helicopter. It's also one of the newest helicopters of the 21st century, having debuted in 2006. Selected as a medium-lift, multi-role helicopter by fourteen nations including France, the Caiman will replace the Aéronavale's aged fleet of Super Frelon and Lynx helicopters flying a multitude of missions, from anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare to search and rescue.

The Type XXII serves the wearer with a rugged 44 mm steel case, housing Breguet's caliber 589F automatic movement. Available with a leather strap or steel bracelet, the Type XXII has the right high-tech specs to go with the Aéronavale's new NH 90 NFH.



## BREMONT MUSTANG P-51 CHRONOGRAPH

North American P-51 Mustang

For the second time, Bremont brings the connection between the pilot's watch and aviation as close as physically possible with a timepiece that actually includes material from a famed World War II fighter.

Following the 2008 release of the EP120, crafted with metal from EP120, a Supermarine Spitfire Mk.Vb credited with seven kills, Bremont this year debuts the limited edition (251 pieces) P-51 chronograph. The P-51 chrono adheres to a similar theme with each example including aluminum from the fuselage of a P-51K (serial number 44-12016) known as "Fragile but Agile."

Serving with 348th Fighter Group in the Philippine Islands in early 1945, the original "Fragile but Agile" was piloted by Lt. Bert Lee Jr. and was credited with two kills – a Japanese Mitsubishi A6M "Zero" and a Mitsubishi G4M "Betty" bomber.

Assembled in Bremont's England-based atelier rather than their Swiss workshop, the P-51 chrono combines the hardened steel "Trip Tick" case along with a new rotating "Roto Click" inner bezel, housing four ball bearings. The 43 mm case houses a modified Swiss BE-54A automatic chronometer movement and encloses a dial inspired by the clocks found on the Mustang's instrument panel.

But the fantastic feature tying watch and aircraft directly together is the inclusion of aluminum from the fuselage skin of 44-12016 in the chronograph's subdial and its beautifully hand-crafted rotor, designed to resemble the Hamilton Standard propeller utilized by the Mustang.

Meticulously restored, "Fragile but Agile" is now flying in Texas, owned by well-known American war bird collector Dan Friedkin, thus raising the possibility that you could own a watch that incorporates the DNA of an active piece of aviation history.



## ORIS BC3 AIR RACING LIMITED EDITION

Cassutt

Air racing in America got its start in 1910 and progressed in popularity through the 1930s with the wildly acclaimed, hugely attended Cleveland National Air Races. Privately-designed, single-purpose racing aircrafts dominated the pre-war period, but after the war, ex-military fighters produced by the nation's burgeoning aviation industry came to the fore front in the Unlimited Class.

In 1947, a new class of racers appeared at Cleveland, created as an alternative to the Unlimiteds. The 190-cubic-inch division featured 85-horsepower custom-built midget racers, weighing as little as 500 pounds. Soon to be known as International Formula One (IF1), the class became one of the signature divisions of modern air racing and an integral part of the Reno National Championship Air Races (NCAR) that succeeded Cleveland as the premier national air racing contest in the late 1960s.

First appearing in 1954, Tom Cassutt's "Cassutt" mid-wing Formula One racer became one of the most successful and numerous designs ever to race in IF1. Refined and modernized through the decades, the Cassutt is still racing in IF1 57 years later. In 2010, Oris formed a link with that proud history, sponsoring the Oris Big Crown Racing Team.

Led by Swiss pilot and aerobatic champion, Don Vito Wypraechtger, the team made its first appearance at the NCAR, campaigning "Scarlet Screamer", a modified Cassutt III M. After qualifying an excellent third overall, Wypraechtger flew Scarlet Screamer to a fantastic second place finish in the IF1 Gold Championship race at a speed of 234.093 mph.

Oris pays tribute to Wypraechtger and the Big Crown Racing Team with the BC3 Air Racing Limited Edition version of its Big Crown pilot's watch. Powered by Oris' caliber 668 (ETA 2893-2 based), the BC3 surrounds its two time zone black dial with a 42 mm multi-piece titanium case. The aircraft-shaped pointer that serves as the second time zone hand echoes the color of "the Scarlet Screamer" while the engraved caseback features a rendition of the Cassutt.

Available with a titanium bracelet and rubber strap, just 1,000 examples of the BC3 Air Racing Limited Edition will be made.





## BREITLING TRANSOCEAN CHRONOGRAPH LIMITED

### Boeing 707

Perhaps the best-recognized maker of pilot's watches, Breitling has released the Transocean Chronograph Limited to reinterpret the original Breitling Transocean, first produced in 1958 at the dawning of jet age transatlantic travel.

Made possible by a new generation of jet-propelled airliners, including the Douglas DC-8, De Havilland Comet and Boeing 707, the high-speed airborne crossings that ushered in the "jet age" created quite a stir. Passengers could board a jetliner on America's East Coast and be in Western Europe just eight hours later.

No jet airliner was more widely used or better recognized than the famed Boeing 707. Pan American World Airways inaugurated transatlantic service between New York and Paris with the 707 in October 1958, roughly coincident with the debut of the original Transocean. Undoubtedly, many made trips back and forth across the Atlantic on the wrists of 707 pilots as Breitling watches were already well known in the worldwide aviation community.

The new Transocean Chronograph Limited updates the lines of the classic Transocean, redrawing them in a clean contemporary style. Breitling's Calibre 01, self-winding chronograph movement powers the understated new watch. Its elegant 43 mm case features a slender bezel with a beveled profile, streamlined lugs, classic round pushpieces and a compact crown.

The chronograph's stylish dial in black or Mercury Silver incorporates large "baton" type straight-line hands, applied hour-markers and counters which are finely recessed and "snailed". An 18-karat gold rendering of the initial B that served as the brand's emblem for a period sits at 12 o'clock.

Issued first in a limited edition of 2,000 steel case and 200 red gold case versions, and available with a woven steel bracelet or crocodile leather strap, the Transocean Chronograph Limited exudes a similar panache as the original model - a popular accessory for the "Jet set".





## OMEGA HOUR VISION CO-AXIAL SKELETON PLATINUM LIMITED EDITION

### Solar Impulse

This year Omega continues its sponsorship of the record-setting Swiss solar-powered aircraft, Solar Impulse. And in a slight departure from our fantasy theme, we're pairing it with the brand's new Hour Vision Co-Axial Skeleton Platinum Limited Edition.

The goal of Solar Impulse is to fly around the world on solar energy alone, employing contemporary technologies. The new airplane has already achieved several milestones, including a 26-hour flight (day and night) on solar energy, which just garnered three records for solar-powered aircraft. Solar Impulse now holds records for longest duration (26 hours, 10 minutes, 19 seconds), absolute height (30,300 feet) and height gain (28,687 feet).

The sun-driven airplane's development program continues this year with its first international flight (from Lausanne to Brussels) and an appearance at the 49th International Paris Air Show.

Omega is breaking new ground of its own with the Hour Vision Co-Axial Skeleton Platinum Limited Edition. The unique model has a 41 mm platinum case with a 360-degree transparent sapphire case body set inside it. Reminiscent of the open-paneled wing of the Solar Impulse into which 12,000 solar cells have been fitted to power the aircraft's four electric motors, Omega's new timepiece allows unobstructed views of both sides of its exclusive Co-Axial calibre 8403 movement.

The innovative movement features a clever co-axial escapement on three levels and a silicon balance spring. Polished screws and an 18-karat gold rotor sporting a sapphire plate with the Omega logo are visible from the back. Available with a matte black leather strap with a polished platinum buckle, only eighty-eight pieces will be produced.



## HAMILTON KHAKI SKYMASTER UTC

Douglas DC-3/C-47/R4D

Hamilton has maintained close ties to the world of aviation and the military since the 1920s. During the 1930s, the American brand supplied watches to many American airlines as commercial air travel expanded. Further, Hamilton was contracted to provide more than a million timepieces to U.S. armed forces in World War II.

The famed Douglas DC-3 was an icon of the era, debuting with American airlines in 1936. One of the most significant transport aircrafts ever made, military versions of the twin-engine airliner were produced in large numbers for the U.S. Army Air Force as the C-47, the U.S. Navy as the R4D and the RAF as the Dakota. Airlines and Air Forces around the world utilized the "Gooney Bird" for the balance of the 20th century and many examples are still in service today.

The Khaki Skymaster UTC recalls the pilot's watches and marine chronometers the company produced when the DC-3 first flew. These timepieces served as accurate wrist watches and navigational instruments by integrating sidereal time. The new Skymaster UTC carries forward the formula today in a watch that incorporates twenty-four different time zones on its vintage-look dial's inner scale and an aperture at 9 o'clock displaying international airport codes that correlates with the small UTC hand.

The second time zone measures time by the passing of the stars around earth as opposed to the sun. Effectively, this means one must do calculations to arrive at a time at the destination – "LON" for London as an example– by either adding or subtracting the number indicated by the UTC hand from the current time displayed on the outer scale.

Powered by an anti-magnetic ETA-2893-2 movement, the Skymaster UTC integrates a stainless steel 42 mm case with a nicely stitched leather strap and is available with a black or cream-colored dial.







## LONGINES TWENTY-FOUR HOURS

Douglas DC-7C

Longines, with its Lindbergh models, has a rich heritage with pilot's watches. It also supplied a model to Swissair in the 1950s for its pilots and navigators. The original, made between 1953 and 1956, is revived with the brand's new Twenty-Four Hours.

It was during this period that Swissair purchased the new Douglas DC-7C to inaugurate non-stop service to the United States. The DC-7 was the first piston-engined transport that could reliably provide non-stop crossing of the Atlantic to America headed westward (against the jetstream) as well as eastward. Certainly, many of the original watches supplied to Swissair air crews made the trip frequently on the wrists of pilots and navigators.

The new Twenty Four Hours automatic is fitted with Longines' caliber L704.2 self-winding movement in a generously-sized 47.5 mm stainless steel case. The model's hands make one full circle of its matte black dial in twenty-four hours, pointing to Arabic numerals coated with SuperLuminova and a railway-track minute circle.

A stainless steel caseback cover opens to reveal a transparent caseback. The inside of the cover is engraved with the inscription. "Re-edition of a Longines navigation watch exclusively made for Swissair navigators, 1953-1956."





## LOUIS VUITTON TAMBOUR VOYAGEZ FLYBACK

Bloch MB-151

"Dear comrades, times may be difficult, but don't lose hope in the future." This was written by Marcel Bloch while imprisoned at Buchenwald during WWII. Bloch's refusal to collaborate with the invading army after the Armistice led to his incarceration in Montluc Fort in Lyons, along with his wife and children, at the hands of the Vichy Government. He was then sent to Drancy concentration camp before spending eight months in Buchenwald. As head of a large airplane manufacturer in France, the Germans deemed him a menace to their goals.

Yet he kept abreast of the air industry and prophetically opined: "At the end of this war, during which ships, rolling stock and commercial aircraft will have been destroyed, commercial aviation will expand as never before and will replace most means of transport."

After he was set free in 1945, he went about rebuilding his firm into the successful Dassault Aviation. The company built the French Air Force's first jet aircraft, the MD-450 Ouragan (1949) and pioneered the French postwar aeronautical industry's steps into the export market.

Louis Vuitton, the Paris-based brand that makes its watches in Switzerland, is as adept at translating its sense of style and function in its watches as it is when making its world famous leather goods. With a nod to the famed Dassault designs and its forbearers, Louis Vuitton's new Automatic Tambour Flyback is a bold chronograph that recalls tarmacs marked by innumerable landings and takeoffs. In two tones, set off by dashes of yellow, a reference to the firm's well-known yellow couture thread, the watch's dial presents two auxiliary counters inspired by aeronautic instruments, while the clear areas on the dial seem to resemble the aluminium pieces of old plane cabins riveted together.

Its precise graduation is engraved in yellow on the edge of the dial, introducing the flyback function, which originally was an essential pilot's tool. It makes it possible to put the chronograph back to zero again and to instantly start it by pressing and immediately releasing the reset button.

Two new 44 mm models in this series are being made, including a racing model with a tachometer that will also be offered in pink gold. Three new references are also available in limited editions. This model will eventually be integrated with brown dials in the permanent collection.



## TUTIMA GRAND CLASSIC BLACK CHRONOGRAPH PR

Fokker E.1 "Eindecker"

Founded in 1927 in Glashütte, Germany, Tutima has been producing pilot's watches for most of its history. Today, the brand continues to emphasize the look and heritage of these timepieces in many of its modern collections. The classic Flieger Chronograph, made in the 1940s for Luftwaffe pilots, remains the central stylistic element.

New for 2011, the Grand Classic Black Chronograph PR builds on the design continuity of Tutima's aviation chronographs. The chrono's 43 mm stainless steel case undergoes a special process to harden it below its surface layer. Both case and bracelet receive a coating of ultra-hard PVD to further protect from shocks and scratches.

A modified version of the Valjoux 7750 automatic movement drives the watch, and Tutima uses cues such as the watch's fluted rotating bezel and characteristic red marker at twelve o'clock. But it is the dial (available in black and red) that puts us in mind of another German aviation classic, the Fokker E.1 "Eindecker".

Dubbed "Eindecker" for its monoplane design, the Fokker E.1, introduced in 1915, pioneered an innovation that the fighter aircraft of World War I and beyond would incorporate. The world's first true fighter featured synchronizer gearing that enabled the pilot to fire a Spandau machine gun through the arc of the propeller without striking its blades.

Known by the allies as the "Fokker Scourge", the Eindecker gave the German Air Service air supremacy from the summer of 1915 through early 1916. The wire rigging of the E.1's mid-mounted wing reminds us of the power reserve indicator at three o'clock on the Grand Classic Black PR's dial - a fitting link between the two.





## BELL & ROSS WW1

### Nieuport-Delage NiD 42

French military aircrafts were at the cutting edge of design and technology during World War I. From the SPAD S.VII to the Nieuport 28, French fighters in particular were well regarded, producing many famous aces, both French and American. In the decade after the war, French aircraft development remained progressive with designs like the Nieuport-Delage NiD 42.

Built in the early 1920s, the NiD 42 was the first in a family of Nieuport designs that would form the backbone of the French Air Force until the 1930s. Franco-Swiss brand Bell & Ross didn't come along until seven decades later. But the company quickly earned a fine reputation for its cockpit instrument-inspired pilot's watches.

This year, Bell & Ross premiered two creative designs which pay tribute to the evolution of the military watch. The WW1 and PW1 illustrate the transition of the watch, from the pockets of aviators to their wrists during World War I and throughout the Roaring Twenties. The Wrist Watch One and Pocket Watch One take inspiration from watch designs of the 1920s.

The WW1 features a large diameter (45 mm) fob style, polished steel case with horns welded on as lugs to attach its strap—much in the manner pocket watches were transformed into early wristwatches. Its clean, highly readable black dial incorporates luminescent hands and a power reserve subdial, indicating the power level remaining in its ETA-2897 automatic movement.

Almost a century later, it's easy to imagine taking it aloft in an NiD 42.



BR PW1



BR WW1



BR 123



BR 02



BR 01

## ZENITH EL PRIMERO STRATOS FLYBACK STRIKING 10TH

Dassault Rafale

Zenith refers to its new El Primero Stratos Flyback Striking 10th as "the chronometric instrument of the French Air Force (FAF)." The Stratos Flyback Striking 10th is so called because it was inspired by Zenith's 1997-release Rainbow Flyback chronograph, designed according to a set of specifications prepared by the French Ministry of Defense for the FAF.

That's a trait it shares with the FAF's most advanced modern fighter, the Dassault Rafale. In service with the FAF and French Navy since 2004, the twin-engine Mach 1.8 delta wing design is a swing-role fighter, capable of air-to-air and air-to-ground missions. The type has only recently seen significant combat operations, flying in support of the U.N.-mandated "no-fly zone" over Libya in March/April 2011.

The Striking 10th features a flyback complication. The chronograph's flying central hand races around the watch's anthracite gray subdial once every second, enabling timing down to 1/10th of a second. Midnight blue and light gray subdials measure hours and minutes along with the hour/minute indexes around the dial.

Inside the 45.5 mm steel case is Zenith's well-regarded El Primero caliber 4057B automatic column wheel chronograph movement. Surrounded by a notched, unidirectional rotating bezel with telemeter scale, the colors of the three subdials recall the available dial hues of the original 1969 El Primero chronograph. Just 1,969 examples (mirroring the debut date of the original El Primero) will be produced.



## VICTORINOX AIRBOSS AUTOMATIC

F/A-18C/D/E/F, EA-18G Hornet/Super Hornet/  
Growler

Victorinox has introduced a new version of its popular AirBoss line of pilot's watches, the AirBoss Automatic. Simpler in design than its predecessors, the three-hand AirBoss Automatic features a clean dial (in silver/white or charcoal gray) for easy legibility at a glance.

Not as easy to read but no less fascinating is the ever-changing dance of airplanes, equipment and people that takes place on the flight deck of an aircraft carrier. At the center of it all is the Air Boss, the officer in charge of all aviation operations on the flight deck and up to five nautical miles around the ship. Victorinox pays tribute to these hard-working masters of organization and precision with the AirBoss collection.

Today, Air Bosses on every U.S. Navy aircraft carrier manage more F/A-18s than any other aircraft. That's because the Navy has made the Hornet its primary carrier-borne tactical jet. From single-seat and two-seat "Legacy" Hornets, including the older model F/A-18C/D to the new F/A-18E/F and EA-18G (airborne electronic attack) Growler, Air Bosses spend the majority of their time interacting with these versatile fighters.

So do flight controllers in many foreign air forces. Seven other nations fly the F/A-18, including Switzerland, which operates the smaller Legacy C and D model Hornets.

An anti-reflective sapphire crystal confers a clear view of the dial, which features raised Arabic numerals, an outer chapter ring with a 60-second scale, an inner chapter ring which displays the brand's signature 24-hour military time scale and a date window at six o'clock.



## GALLET MUSEUM EDITION FLIGHT OFFICER CHRONOGRAPH

USS Harry S. Truman



Here's a pairing that may seem like a departure from the theme but what could go better with an aviation inspired timepiece than a ship whose primary purpose is to conduct air operations at sea, named for an American president who recommended a pilot's watch as a requirement for pilots of the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II.

First produced in 1938, the Gallet Flight Officer Chronograph was worn by Harry S. Truman during his term as America's 33rd president. Upgraded iterations of the watch have been in production continuously for seventy-three years, and in mid-2010 Gallet released a limited-edition version known as the Museum Edition Flight Officer Chronograph.

Sales of the advanced chronograph, touted by the Swiss brand as "the world's most accurate and highly developed pilot's watch," benefit the National Watch and Clock Museum in Columbia, Pennsylvania, with a portion of the proceeds of the planned 1,050 examples going directly to the museum.

Known for its initial funding of the Museum of Watchmaking in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, Gallet has been a staunch supporter of institutions that preserve the history of the art of timekeeping.

The original Flight Officer Chronograph was the world's first wristwatch to combine time zone calculations with elapsed time recording capabilities. Now, the Museum Edition Flight Officer Chronograph, powered by Gallet's Duo-Force Calibre G330 automatic movement, is the world's first self-winding split rattapante chronograph to be powered by twin mainsprings.

Boasting a 72-hour power reserve, the new watch claims a high level of chronometer accuracy. Like the original, this new edition allows the wearer to calculate the time across all of the world's time zones. A trio of hour, minute and seconds counters grace its black dial. Five versions are offered and priced accordingly. The 42 mm case can be had in stainless steel, yellow-gold, white gold, rose-gold (250 pieces each) or solid platinum (50 pieces). Engraved on their caseback with the Museum logo and edition number, each watch is hand-assembled.





## ALPINA STARTIMER

### Cessna Citation Ten

Like many of the brands featured here, Alpina has a history of producing pilot's watches. The new timepieces from the 2011 Startimer collection take styling cues from the military watches the brand made in the 1920s and 1930s.

Four models comprise the collection, including; a three-hand date automatic utilizing Alpina's caliber AL-525, an automatic featuring minute and hour indication and off-center date hand powered by the in-house AL-710 caliber, the Startimer Pilot Regulator with central minute hand and off-center hour subdial driven by Alpina's in-house caliber AL-950, and finally an automatic chronograph version built on the AL-860 movement.

All employ matte black dials and a clean, attractive design with oversized white luminous numerals, a glare-free sapphire crystal and the signature red Alpina-triangle on the second hand. Their stainless steel cases measure 44 mm and attach to the wrist via a distinctive leather strap which closes on the front side of the wrist, not on the reverse or lower sides, resembling the vintage leather straps of the past.

Alpina is releasing the Startimer collection in conjunction with Cessna Aviation and Swiss business/private jet charter company PrivatAir to cross promote their pilot's watch. Cessna's new Citation Ten is the latest in the company's highly regarded Citation X long-range bizjet line and also a model that can be found among PrivatAir's fleet. Debuting in 2011, it's the fastest civilian aircraft in the sky. Able to cruise at up to Mach .92, or 604 mph, while carrying eight to twelve passengers in great comfort for as much as 3,000 miles, the Ten is now the crown jewel in the famous manufacturer's long line of business jets and piston-powered private aircrafts.



## GLYCINE AIRMAN SST CHRONOGRAPH

### The Concorde

Glycine's Airman series, in production since 1953, has been a mainstay for the brand and popular choice for pilots and travelers alike. This year Glycine introduces the 24th generation of the Airman, the SST Chronograph.

The new edition SST Chronograph revives the original model which debuted in 1968 as the brand's first chronograph. Only 100 pieces of that special version were made but its successor will be produced in larger numbers.

During the same period, commercial aviation was expanding rapidly and it was compelling to consider the prospect of a supersonic transport (SST) that could carry passengers on medium and long-range routes in half the time of conventional subsonic airliners. The U.S., Europe and the Soviet Union embarked upon SST designs in the mid-1950s.

By the late 1960s two designs emerged with enough support to achieve production, the famed pan-European British Aircraft Corporation/Aerospatiale Concorde and the Russian-built Tupolev Tu-144. Concorde entered commercial service in 1976 and flew profitably for twenty-seven years. The Tu-144 entered service in 1977 but after two disastrous crashes, passenger flights were cancelled in 1978 after only fifty-five trips.

With this in mind, the only truly successful SST is the Concorde. Crafted with a sense of style and sophistication that compares favorably to the Concorde, the new SST Chronograph recalls the era of supersonic air travel and updates the model with 21st century technology.

The styling and size of the new version are faithful to the original. The same 43 mm diameter stainless steel case with its distinctive fourteen-sided screwed steel, 24-hour bezel and basic black dial highlighted by chronograph subdials in two variations. A special execution with arrow-tipped 24-hour hand and orange 24-hour ring is available with a black dial or eye-catching black and blue dégradé dial. Altogether, it's a pilot's watch worthy of an SST.



An Air France Concorde taking off  
Photographer : Ph DELAFOSSE Ref: 014053