

# Racer Retro by Anton Suhanov

*The independent watchmaker Anton Suhanov, presents his new wristwatch at the AHCI Masters of Horology 2023 exhibition in Geneva, in which he is participating as an AHCI (Académie Horlogère des Créateurs Indépendants) candidate.*

Anton Suhanov, the creator of triple-axis tourbillon clocks and car-inspired wristwatches with unusual complications from St. Petersburg, is participating in the Masters of Horology exhibition for the first time. He entered the world of mechanical timepieces a long time ago, because since 2007 he has been working as a chief designer in the watch manufactory of Konstantin Chaikin. In 2016, Anton won the Young Talent Competition supported by F. P. Journe. He presented for the competition a Black Clock featuring triple-axis tourbillon, the first clock of this kind made in Russia and one of the few in the world.

Inspired by this success, Anton Suhanov decided to continue his career as an independent watchmaker and create his own brand for the production of his timepieces. In 2018, he finally opened his own company. In 2019, the master launched the Faros clock, based on the same idea of triple-axis tourbillon, and in 2020, the Lotus clock, combining his triple-axis tourbillon with a spectacular lotus flower animation. At this point, he decided to develop his own wristwatch collection, especially since he had already collected many ideas for various watch complications.

In 2021, Anton Suhanov presented the Racer Jumping Hour GMT, his first wristwatch. It was a unique development inspired by the design of the dashboard of a car. A view that every person encounters every day while driving a car. This was quite different from the usual approach to car-inspired watch design. This includes, for example, the use of elements of corporate identity of car brands or the caliber of a chronometer or chronograph that measures the speed of a car and functionally resembles a table clock of a car participating in classic races.

Instead, Suhanov falls back on his own ideas about the style of a classic car. Thus, he came up with an unusual time display implemented by a unique module designed and manufactured by Suhanov himself, where retrograde minutes can symbolize the speed indicator and retrograde jumping hours a tachometer. This common view unites hundreds of millions of people around the world who get behind the wheel of their car every day or occasionally, whether it's an ordinary car or an expensive supercar, and simply enjoy driving.

On the occasion of the Masters of Horology 2023 exhibition, Anton Suhanov announces the launch of the Racer Retro watch, inspired by classic cars and the emotions they evoke among fans and collectors. Cars have played an important role in people's lives for more than a century. No wonder there is a huge number of fans and collectors of retro cars, who admire the creativity reflected in the development of numerous designs and technologies. This sense of admiration for automotive civilization is the main motive that led Anton Suhanov to design a new Racer Retro. Without committing to a specific type or era of the automotive industry, he has tried to convey with this watch the image of a retro car, which is sure to evoke an emotional response.

## **Racer Retro, the design and caliber evolution**

In the new Racer Retro, the main features of the original Racer Jumping Hour GMT, which were very well received by professionals and the public, are clearly visible. These include an unusual dial design with two retrograde time counters and a discreet display of the additional functions – seconds, date and GMT, a cushion-shaped steel case constructed on the principle of a regular Reuleaux polygon, and a distinctive GMT button that breaks the symmetry of the design and gives the watch an eye-catching character. Watch enthusiasts have surely noticed the outstanding esthetic and technical qualities of the Su100.20 caliber, Racer Jumping Hour GMT movement. The only thing that could make you change the design of this watch is the fact that the finely crafted movement in Racer Jumping Hour GMT remained hidden under the dial. That's why Anton Suhanov had a plan ready as soon as this model was introduced. Now that we have the new Racer Retro in front of us, this decision seems obvious - to ensure that the outstanding caliber is visible through the openings in a skeletonized dial.

This is what was made. The black guilloché dial was given four openings, two on the hour and minute dials and two more in the form of bat or pterodactyl wings in the upper part of the dial. Now the owner of the watch has an excellent opportunity to enjoy the view of the exquisite workmanship of the caliber, which has received an impressive black coating. In addition, Suhanov modified the caliber to open the date ring and, in accordance with his esthetic

sensibilities, changed the shape of some bridges. Thus, through the openings of the dial, one can see how the mechanisms of the retrograde hour and minute displays and the 24-hour GMT display work. *“Fine watch mechanics should give pleasure to the owner of the watch – this is my conviction,”* formulates Anton Suhanov. *“I think I’ve mastered this task, although it took me at least half a year to think about different options for the design of the Racer Retro dial. Thanks to the black color of the dial and the black coating of the movement parts, the watch leaves the impression of a whole. While silvery racks, stars, levers and flat springs seem to float in the black depths of space...”*

For the color of the retrograde dials, the master chose an unusual sandy-beige shade. It could be perceived as brushed green gold. However, it could also be perceived as the wooden rim of a steering wheel, which was very popular in sports cars in the 1960s and 1970s. That’s why Anton Suhanov designed new hands for the Racer Retro with accentuated perforations reminiscent of the spokes of a steering wheel – another nod to the theme of vintage sports cars.

The change in case design is minor, but it gives the Racer Retro a new emotional feel. Instead of the smooth, tapered lugs of the Racer Jumping Hour GMT, the steel case of the Racer Retro has been given a new, accentuated lug shape. Its concave sides seem to echo the shape of the case sides, but in reverse. *“This change creates a new tempo that makes the Racer Retro’s design even more dynamic. I’m very happy that I managed to find such a design,”* says Anton Suhanov.

Another important innovation is the new shape of the automatic winding rotor. The new watch retains the mysterious design of the full-disc rotor, but instead of the flat rotor of the Racer Jumping Hour GMT, which is reminiscent of the shape of a brake disc, the Racer Retro has a new domed rotor with a fine circular brushing. The watchmaker's allusion is clear: these are large, domed nickel hubcaps of classic 1950s American cars, the epitome of streamlined modern with their aerodynamic and curved shapes. The 'stick-on weight' attached to the disc, engraved with the watch number of the limited edition, looks like a relevant joke of the master.

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### Technical specifications

#### Limited edition of 28 pieces.

**Case:** stainless steel, 39 x 39 mm, thickness 12.5 mm; sapphire crystal; transparent sapphire caseback; 30 m water-resistant.

**Dial:** in 24 parts; the base, appliques and the bows of retrograde subdials – brass with ruthenium coating, guilloche, titanium retrograde subdials with sandy-beige anodization.

**Functions:** triple retrograde indication invented by Anton Suhanov with retrograde subdials for hours (at 8 o’clock), minutes (at 4 o’clock) and seconds on 20-seconds scale at the centre, jumping hour hand, 24 hours GMT jumping digital indication (at 12 o’clock) with synchronous switch of minutes, hours and GMT at the end of hour; date window at 6 o’clock.

**Movement:** caliber Su100.25, self-winding; diameter 31.5 mm, 6.9 mm thick (with indication module); the base caliber Eta 2824-2, modified by Anton Suhanov, decorative full-disc oscillating weight (rotor); frequency 28’800 semi-oscillations per hour; 38-hour power reserve.

**Indication module:** invented, developed and made by Anton Suhanov; 132 parts.

**Jewels:** 43 (base caliber – 25 jewels; indication module – 18 Jewels).

**Strap:** high quality brown leather strap; stainless steel buckle made by Anton Suhanov and designed as a sportcar spoiler.