— Press kit —

November 2026



Carrousel Incliné

Ref. 66222S



With the Carrousel Incliné, Blancpain Opens a New Chapter for its Signature Complication and Elevates Chronometry to a New Level of Excellence.

The carrousel has been a Blancpain watchmaking signature since 2008. Indeed, Blancpain stands alone as the only watch house to have mastered the challenging carrousel construction and to have developed an entire family of carrousel movements so that it rightly asserts its position as the driving force behind this storied construction. Born in Britain during the late 1800s, an era devoted to the quest for chronometric excellence, the carrousel design established itself as the gold standard, completely dominating observatory timing trials. Today, faithful to this legendary history, Blancpain opens door, not just for a simple update, but to debut a revolutionary new chapter in the carrousel's chronometry evolution.

Driven by a longstanding devotion to chronometry, Marc A. Hayek, President & CEO of Blancpain, did not simply wish to offer a new interpretation of the carrousel. Much as the Grande Double Sonnerie introduced melody into the world of chiming watches, his ambition was to elevate the carrousel's original reason for being: chronometric performance. The project began with the idea of an inclinable carrousel whose angle could be adjusted at the wearer's discretion. But one question quickly became decisive: what would such movement actually contribute? Gradually, the ambition became more clearly defined. Blancpain's movement designers were tasked to conduct detailed chronometric trials aimed at determining the ideal angle of inclination which would optimize not only chronometric performance but also achieve a wearable thin profile. Four years of development would be required to meet this challenge.

Blancpain's research was resolutely substantive and yielded a genuine world first technical achievement. By mounting the bridge holding the key carrousel components at a 30-degree angle from the level of the movement's open worked main plate, the new Carrousel Incliné's timing parameters – amplitude, running rate, and maximum positional variation – attain a stunning level of performance not only in all six positions but across the full 100-hour power reserve. Accompanying the delivery of each timepiece to its new owner will be a certificate documenting the timepiece's performance over all six positions over its power reserve to a tolerance of -0/+2 seconds per day.

This stunning performance has not called for any sacrifices in wearability. With a profile of a mere 11.30 mm and a diameter of 40 mm, the Carrousel Incliné truly has a dual personality never before seen in a single timepiece: groundbreaking chronometry and the refined ambiance of a thin dress watch.

The Carrousel Incliné is further distinguished by an exceptionally advanced level of skeletonisation. Its highly openworked architecture reveals every mechanical function, including those that would normally remain hidden. Housed within a full sapphire case, a first in Blancpain's history, the Carrousel Incliné's 222ISQ movement, reflects 210 hours of painstaking hand finishing. The carrousel bridge alone requires a full 1.5 weeks of work by Blancpain's finishing craftsmen. Indeed, the finish department was called upon to create more than 60 custom fashioned tools to bestow finishes upon the movement's elements.

— Key highlights —

- **The carrousel returns to centre stage:** calibre 222ISQ, an entirely new movement developed from a blank sheet of paper, debuts a new carrousel generation, that will serve as the foundation for future Blancpain carrousels, reaffirming Blancpain's position as the world's specialist of this complication.

- **A world first:** a one-minute flying carrousel inclined at 30 degrees. Blancpain's quest was chronometry, to reduce rate variations in all six positions (four vertical and two horizontal). A side benefit, stunning visual depth to the movement.

- **Four years of development:** following a preliminary research phase which measured the effects upon amplitude, rate, and maximum rate variation in six positions conducted at angles between 0 and 35 degrees (assessed at each 5-degree point), Blancpain determined that 30 degrees offered the ideal balance of precision, movement slimness, and visual harmony.

- **A patented construction:** a double ball-bearing system reduces the height of the carrousel cage while making both drive trains visible.

- **Exceptional chronometric performance:** every Carrousel Incliné is supplied with an individual Blancpain chronometry certificate specifying a mean daily rate tolerance of 0 to +2 seconds per day.





- **Power reserve:** two mainspring barrels connected in series deliver a guaranteed 100-hour power reserve and are designed to provide a more stable torque curve throughout their unwinding cycle, contributing to stable timekeeping across the entire reserve. The skeletonised barrels also allow the state of wind of the mainsprings to be observed directly, providing a visual indication of the power reserve.

- **Ultra-skeletonisation:** available in either red gold or rhodium-plated gold, the architecture of calibre 222ISQ is openworked to an extreme degree, showcasing the movement's finishing while making its mechanical functions fully visible, including those normally hidden from view: the state of wind of the mainsprings, the winding click, the carrousel drive trains and more.

- **A first for Blancpain:** a full sapphire case, comprising an integrated case middle and back together with an integrated bezel and crystal, each requiring approximately 100 hours of machining and polishing. The ultimate in transparency, the sapphire case reveals the movement and its mechanical functions from almost every angle.

- **Traditional hand finishing:** 210 hours of hand finishing carried out in Blancpain's Decoration Workshop in Le Brassus. The components of calibre 222ISQ, including 253 sharp inward angles, are finished on both their upper and lower surfaces.

- **Compact and reliable:** despite the inclination of its regulating organ, the Carrousel Incliné remains remarkably compact, measuring just 40.30 mm in diameter and 11.30 mm in thickness. Developed and tested to be worn, it combines Haute Horlogerie with everyday wearability and robustness.

- **Presentation box:** the Carrousel Incliné is presented in a wooden box adorned with marquetry.

“A carrousel only makes sense if it brings something meaningful to the watch. Inclining the regulating organ for spectacle alone never interested me. What I wanted was a watch with impeccable precision, whether on the wrist or at rest. And I wanted its owner to be able to see, through the sapphire, all the research and craftsmanship that made it possible.”
Marc A. Hayek,
President & CEO, Blancpain

Blancpain Heritage
Faithful to the great traditions of watchmaking, Blancpain manufactures 100% of its movements in-house at its workshops in the Vallée de Joux, the cradle of Haute Horlogerie, overseeing every stage from design and production to finishing and assembly. Every emblematic complication and construction in watchmaking can be found within its collections: complete calendars with moon phase, annual calendars, perpetual calendars, two time zones, tourbillons, chronographs, minute repeaters and grande sonnerie. Among them, the carrousel occupies a unique position. Invented in 1892 by Bahne Bonniksen and almost forgotten during the 20th century, this mechanism was reinterpreted by Blancpain, which brought it from the pocket watch to the wristwatch era before turning it into one of its most distinctive signatures.

Grand complications occupy a central place in the history of the house, which seeks not only to preserve watchmaking expertise but also to advance it. As recently demonstrated by the Grande Double Sonnerie and its calibre 15GSQ, enhanced with a second melody, Blancpain continuously strives to bring new dimensions to traditional complications. The Carrousel Incliné follows the same philosophy: to go beyond what already exists by proposing an entirely original interpretation of the carrousel, combining an innovative movement architecture with exacting artisanal finishing.





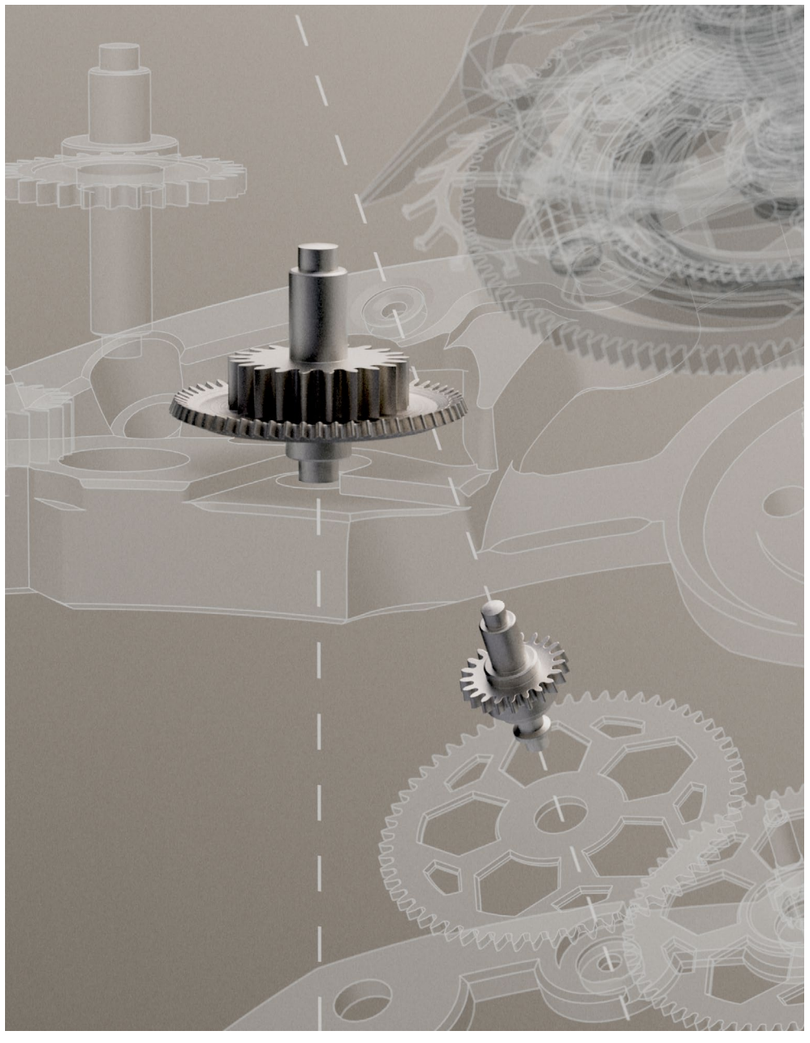
For Marc A. Hayek, it was clear that a new carrousel could not simply be more spectacular than its predecessors. Inclining the rotating carrousel itself solely for visual effect would have been meaningless. The inclination had to improve the watch’s rate performance, and that benefit had to be demonstrated through measurement. Yet even then, the exercise would only truly be complete if both the chronometric research and the artisanal expertise behind it could be placed before the eyes of the observer.

The Revival of the Carrousel
More than a century after its invention, Blancpain brought back the carrousel to the forefront of contemporary watchmaking. In 2008, Blancpain unveiled the first carrousel wristwatch, bringing together several major innovations: a flying construction, a one-minute rotation, a balance wheel centred within the cage, and automatic winding. Its 100-hour power reserve established a new benchmark for this type of mechanism.

Blancpain subsequently continued to develop the carrousel through unprecedented combinations with Haute Horlogerie complications: a minute repeater with cathedral gongs in 2010, a minute repeater chronograph with flyback function in 2013 and, later that same year, a watch uniting a tourbillon and a carrousel within a single movement, their rates averaged via a differential. Through these creations, the house transformed a largely forgotten chapter of watchmaking history into a genuine field of contemporary innovation.

To this day, Blancpain remains the only house to have developed this one-minute flying carrousel architecture into an entire family of wristwatch calibres. This accumulated expertise formed the foundation of the Carrousel Incliné. Blancpain thus returns to its signature complication, with calibre 222ISQ becoming the cornerstone. The developments it inaugurates will lead the way for future Blancpain carrousels. A mechanism once thought lost to watchmaking history becomes the starting point for a new chronometric chapter.

For Marc A. Hayek, this is where true chronometry resides: **"Precision in an ideal position is a laboratory result. Chronometry is about keeping accurate time at all times. It is the consistency of a watch that lives with its owner, moves with them and rests beside them at night. That, for me, is true chronometry."**



The Chronometric Signature

Chronometry was not a consequence of the Carrousel Incliné's architecture; it was its starting point. And that starting point lies in one of the fundamental challenges of mechanical watchmaking: compensating for the effects of gravity and friction upon the precision of a timepiece.

A conventional carrousel rotates its regulating organ in a plane parallel to the mainplate. This rotation averages a number of vertical positional errors, but when the watch is resting flat, the regulator likewise remains in a horizontal plane throughout its rotation. With the Carrousel Incliné, Blancpain has altered this geometry. Even when the watch is resting dial up or dial down, the regulator continuously travels through an oblique path relative to gravity, extending the range of orientations over which positional errors can be averaged. In this way, even when lying flat, the watch therefore continues to present its regulating organ to continually changing angles.

Before the architecture of calibre 222ISQ could be finalized, the chronometric benefits of inclination first had to be demonstrated scientifically through measurement. During the preliminary research phase, Blancpain conducted tests using demonstrators developed from existing calibres equipped with fixed regulating systems and with tourbillons. Inclination was studied in successive increments of 0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 degrees, with rate, amplitude, and greatest variation measured at each stage across the six standard timing positions. These studies made it possible to analyse the influence of inclination on the chronometric behaviour in six positions.

The turning point came early in the process. Between 15 and 20 degrees, positional variations were already narrowing significantly, and, at 30 degrees chronometric performance reached an exceptional level, within a tolerance of 0 to +2 seconds per day. This is the first benefit of inclination: making the watch largely insensitive to its operating position. Moreover, to simulate daily wear where the position of a timepiece varies constantly, Blancpain's analyses subjected the test subjects to frequent changes of position. The result: whether worn on the wrist, resting flat or standing on its side, its amplitude and rate remain almost unchanged. In other words, chronometric performance no longer depends on how its owner wears the watch.

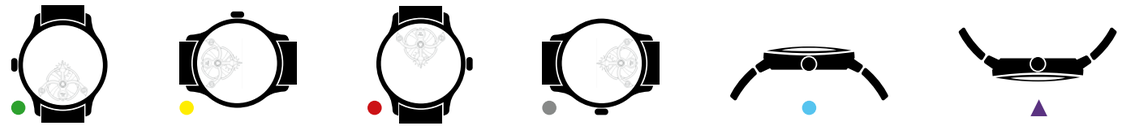
Blancpain sought to create a watch that was both elegant and harmonious. Thirty degrees ultimately emerged as the ideal angle, combining stable amplitude, balanced proportions and a refined overall profile.

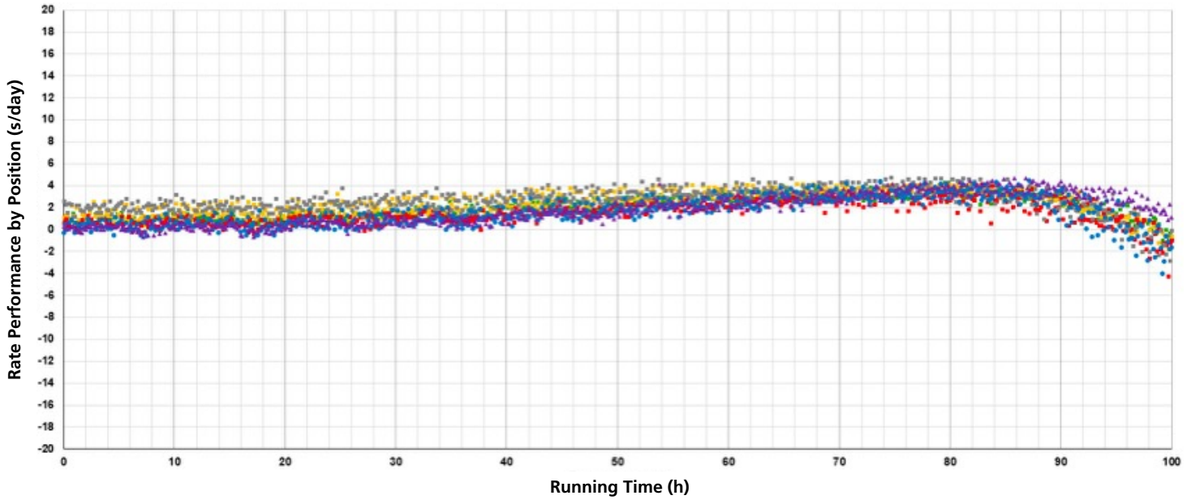
But this was only the first step. Delivering energy to a regulating organ operating on an inclined axis creates a further mechanical challenge. Rather than imposing the entire change in angle at a single point, calibre 222ISQ distributes the 30-degree transition across two successive gear engagements, at 22 degrees and 8 degrees respectively, upstream of the separation into the carrousel's two drive train. This construction limits the angular change at each engagement and allows both gear trains to operate within the same inclined plane.

CHRONOMETRIC SIGNATURE OF THE CARROUSEL INCLINÉ

Chronometric performance measured over the entire power reserve

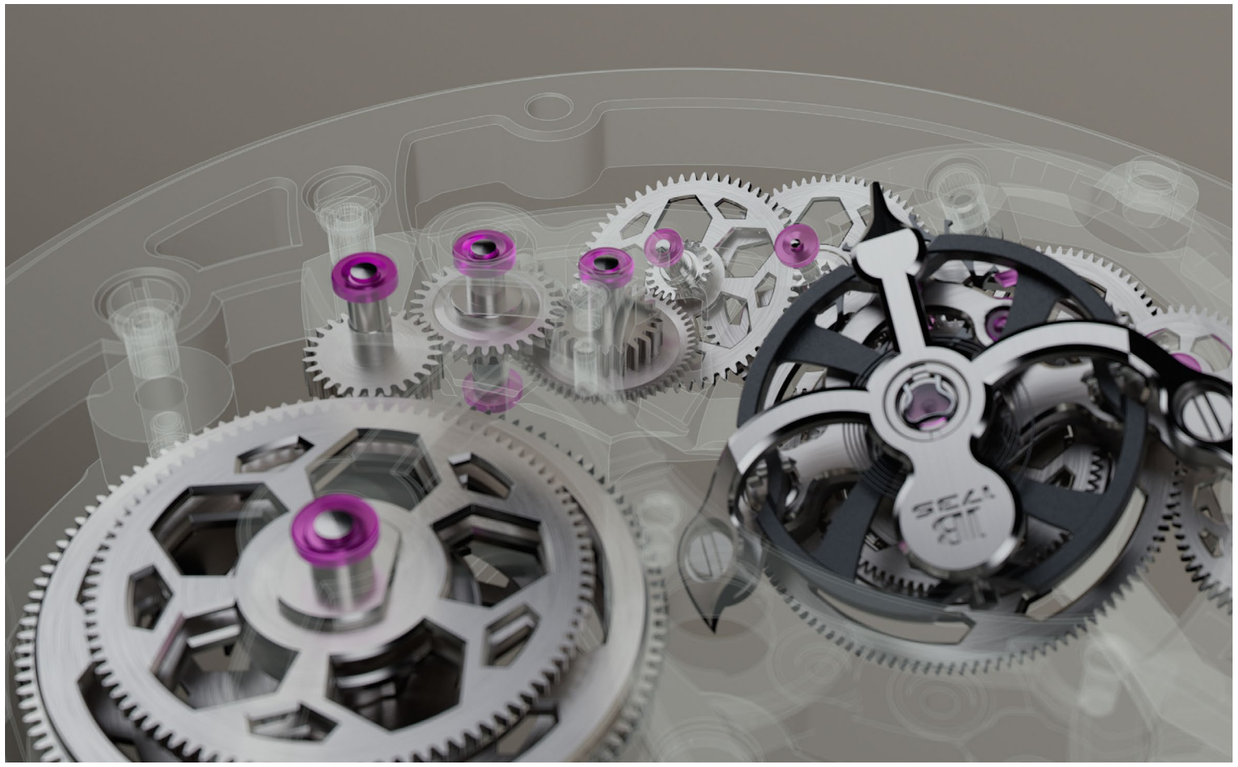
Standard watchmaking positions





Each point represents the rate measured over one minute in each of the six standard watchmaking positions represented by the pictograms (two horizontal positions and four vertical positions).

The six-position measurement cycle is repeated continuously throughout the entire running time of the watch (100 hours), making it possible to establish the complete chronometric signature of the timepiece, including the effects of position, state of wind, isochronism…



A second requirement soon became evident: ensuring the consistency of the force delivered to the regulating organ. Two mainspring barrels connected in series provide a guaranteed 100-hour power reserve. Their skeletonised construction allows the state of wind of the mainsprings to be observed directly, making the power reserve visible at a glance. The barrel that supplies the going train also incorporates a graphical power-reserve indication marked by the letters “E” (Empty) and “F” (Full), making the available energy easy to read.

The result of this work can be measured and certified. Each Carrousel Incliné is supplied with a Blancpain chronometry certificate demonstrating an average daily rate tolerance of 0 to +2 seconds per day. Established individually for each watch and delivered to its owner, the certificate records its chronometric performance across the six standard positions throughout the entire 100-hour power reserve, forming the unique chronometric signature of every Carrousel Incliné.

The Cage

The regulating organ of the Carrousel Incliné builds upon Blancpain’s 4 Hz carrousel architecture. To further enhance chronometric performance, however, its cage has been completely redesigned. Total mass has been reduced by 8.5%, while rotational inertia has been lowered by 30%. The centrally positioned balance wheel has been enlarged to 8 mm while retaining the same balance inertia. It incorporates inset adjustment screws and a silicon hairspring, while the cage completes one revolution every 60 seconds.

This larger balance wheel, combined with a more compact cage, also fundamentally transforms the visual proportions of the carrousel. The balance wheel gets greater presence, while the dimensions of the inclined assembly remain carefully controlled. The diameter of the cage wheel has consequently been reduced to 9 mm while preserving the gear ratios of the previous generation. Its smaller size limits the space occupied by the inclined assembly and brings its visual proportions closer to those of the balance wheel itself.

The cage adopts the distinctive visual vocabulary of Blancpain’s tourbillon. Its beak-shaped seconds indicator inclines slightly downward, a discreet but necessary detail that preserves clearance beneath the sapphire crystal.

A double ball-bearing support reduces the height of the cage while eliminating the bridges that previously obscured the transmission system. This arrangement, which is the subject of a patent application, makes both drive inputs visible: the engagement at the fourth-wheel pinion and the cage-rotation gear train. Finally, a three-arm cannon-pinion friction system contributes to radial compactness while allowing the hands to be set.

Together, these measures reconcile the 30-degree inclination with a remarkably restrained overall profile. The movement measures 35.2 mm in diameter and 5.3 mm in thickness, reaching 6.98 mm at the point where the cage projects above the plane of the movement. The complete watch remains only 11.30 mm thick.

Ultra-Skeletonisation and Sapphire Case

A watch whose very reason for being lies at the heart of its movement deserved to reveal its elements in full. For the first time in Blancpain’s history, an entire watch case has been crafted from sapphire. Combined with a sapphire dial, it reveals the movement from the front, the back and the sides.

The ultra-skeletonisation of the movement follows a functional principle: to make the watch’s mechanical functions visible, including those that would normally remain concealed. The intention was to show the movement, not merely to see through the watch. The architecture therefore had to retain sufficient visual substance to occupy this transparent space, without introducing anything mechanically or aesthetically superfluous. The sapphire case thus becomes, in effect, a stage for the movement.

And upon this stage, every function has a role to play. Openings in the barrel drums reveal the mainsprings and allow their state of wind to be observed. The setting mechanism exposes the setting lever, while further apertures reveal the winding click and its spring in motion with every turn of the crown. The cannon-pinion friction system and the carrousel’s drive train can likewise be observed, while the inclined gear engagement reveals itself from a specific viewing angle, rewarding the attentive observer.

Manufactured in Switzerland, in La Chaux-de-Fonds, from sapphire grown using the Kyropoulos process, the case comprises two principal sapphire components: an integrated case middle and back, and an integrated bezel and crystal. Each requires approximately 100 hours of machining and polishing. On the sapphire dial, bevelled and inclined gold appliques, together with luminescent hands, ensure clear legibility within this transparent construction.

This architecture emerged from a close dialogue between movement construction and design from the earliest stages of the project. Technical requirements



and aesthetic geometry evolved together: openings, bridge shapes and proportions were not applied to a completed mechanism, but conceived as integral elements of the movement itself.

Its ultra-skeletonised gold architecture, 100-hour power reserve and fully transparent sapphire case place Blancpain's chronometric research in full view. Yet they reveal just as much of the craftsmanship behind it: every opening exposes both a mechanical function and the hand-finished surfaces surrounding it.



The Art of Watch Finishing

Hand finishing is an art, and Blancpain is home to a dedicated Decoration Workshop in Le Brassus. It is there that the full repertoire of traditional decorative techniques is practiced by highly skilled artisans. Calibre 222ISQ alone requires 210 hours of finishing.

As befits a timepiece of this calibre, Blancpain traditionally applies finishing not only to visible surfaces but also to hidden ones. With the Carrousel Incliné, however, this distinction effectively disappears. Because the movement can be viewed from almost every angle, there is no true "hidden side". In the words of the artisans responsible for its decoration, calibre 222ISQ was conceived not with a "top" and a "bottom", but with "two upper sides". The open worked mainplate and bridges therefore receive anglage on both their upper and lower sides. Upper bevels are executed at 30 degrees, while lower bevels are cut at 45 degrees. The broader upper bevels carry forward the approach first developed for the Grande Double Sonnerie.

Among the most striking demonstrations of the expertise practiced in the workshop are the 253 sharp inward angles found throughout the movement's components, excluding the stamped angles of the lower cage wheel. Each of these junctions must be individually shaped and polished by hand. The artisans use burins to shape the bevels, followed by progressively finer abrasive papers mounted on wooden tools, before completing the process with a final polish using the stems of the wild gentian plant that grows in the Vallée de Joux.

Connoisseurs know that a rotary tool is incapable of producing a perfectly sharp inward angle. They therefore examine a movement's finishing with particular attention to this hallmark, widely regarded as one of the clearest indicators of the highest level of traditional hand finishing.

Perlage and straight-grained satin finishing complete the decoration. Wherever perlage is applied to a bevelled surface, the angles must subsequently be polished once again, a process demanding extraordinary patience. The mainplate or barrel bridge alone requires between 55 and 60 hours of work.

Designed to make its mechanical functions visible, the Carrousel Incliné unites the two dimensions at the heart of Blancpain Haute Horlogerie: the pursuit of chronometric performance and the emotion of seeing exceptional watchmaking brought to life. This same level of dedication extends to its assembly. Each movement is entrusted from beginning to end to a single master watchmaker, who personally brings every component together to create the finished timepiece. It is a faithful expression of Blancpain's grand complication tradition, where technical mastery remains inseparable from human craftsmanship.

And this is only the first chapter. With calibre 222ISQ, Blancpain lays the foundation for a new generation of carrousels.



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Blancpain Carrousel Incliné
Ref. 66222S 0000 55B (rhodium-plated 5N gold)
Ref. 66222S A 0000 55B (5N red gold)

Movement: Manufacture Calibre 222ISQ
Dimensions: 35.20 mm × 5.30 mm
Material: 18-carat gold, available in rhodium-plated 5N gold or 5N red gold
Functions: Hours, minutes and seconds
Regulating organ: One-minute flying carrousel inclined at 30°
Winding: Manual winding
Power reserve: 100 hours
Frequency: 4 Hz (28,800 vibrations per hour)
Hairspring: Silicon
Jewels: 37
Components: 224
Certificate: Blancpain chronometry certificate, demonstrating an average daily rate tolerance of 0 to +2 seconds/day

Case: Sapphire
Diameter: 40.30 mm
Thickness: 11.30 mm
Lug-to-lug: 46.45 mm
Lug width: 22 mm
Water resistance: 3 bar

Dial: Sapphire dial with gold appliques
Indexes: Applied, baton-style polished black gold
Hands: Leaf-shaped, with white Super-LumiNova® (daytime) and blue emission (night-time)

Strap: Glazed blue-grey alligator leather strap, interchangeable
Clasp: Gold folding clasp with safety system

Presentation box: Wooden box with marquetry

Price: CHF 380,000
Not a limited edition

INTERNATIONAL PR
Marie Ansel, marie.ansel@blancpain.com / Jordy Bellido, Jordy.bellido@blancpain.com