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Cutting Teeth

AHCI candidate member Volker Vyskocil embodies DIY ethos to the hilt. A self-taught watchmaker, the 39-year-old German master got struck by the wonders of micro-mechanics at the tender age of six, when he chanced upon a television programme profiling past scientific greats.

An ex-mechanical engineer who used to build tools for the printing industry and bending machines, Volker's horological education stems from after-hours devouring of relevant literature and repair of broken watches. Driven by nothing more than burning interest, he first founded www.clockwatch.de, a highly regarded horological resource website, before ditching his engineering career altogether in 1998 to build his own watches. He made his debut at BaselWorld 2004 with the V-30/45-01-A.

No Illusions

V-30/45-01-A

A classical-looking wristwatch that borrows from tradition only to break away from it, Volker calls his V-30/45-01-A a 'typically German piece' bearing the hallmarks of sobriety and sound engineering. Housing an entirely self-created movement without the aid of a base calibre, the watch recalls vintage timepieces with a precision regulator for more stability and a large balance wheel for visual pull.

These modifications result in the displacement of the centre-wheel to the side and a 4 o'clock crown. Also interesting is its 45-hour power reserve indicator at '5:30', with the letters 'S' (seconds), 'M' (minutes), and 'H' (hours) at the '0', '10' and '20' markers respectively. The alphabets visualise the crown positions, with the power reserve hand snapping to the corresponding letter when the hours, minutes and seconds are adjusted. Ninety-five percent handcrafted by Volker (with the exceptions of parts like hairsprings), he reveals that he's currently working on the first five pieces and has reportedly received orders for four more at Tempus.



