

URWERK's UR-100 *GunMetal*: where the sun rules

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From time immemorial, humans have shared the universal habit of looking skywards for guidance. Instinctively we all know that wherever we are in the world, the sun, our celestial clock and point of reference, rules our daily lives.

Thus, we devote an entire collection of watches to our spinning journey around the sun, starting with the UR-100 *GunMetal*, derived from URWERK's SpaceTime models.



URWERK takes its name from the dawn of civilization — the 6,000-year-old city of Ur in ancient Mesopotamia. It was there that the Sumerians divided the daily track of a shadow into 12 parts, creating our basic unit of time. These first crude measures have since evolved into today's highly sophisticated chronometers, but the principle remains the same: our days are governed by our silent spinning orbit around the sun. We passengers unwittingly travel several billions of kilometres through space every year on our rotating planet at an average speed of 30 kilometres a second.

It's a journey displayed on the dial of the UR-100 *GunMetal*.



In addition to URWERK's trademark satellite configuration of the wandering hours and minutes, the UR-100 *GunMetal* brings your spin through space into sharp focus. When the minutes hand has completed its 60-minute journey, it reappears on a 20-minute scale of 555 kilometres. This is the distance you travel in 20 minutes if you are standing on the equator of our rotating planet. The opposite scale tracks your journey through space around the sun: 35,740km every 20 minutes.

In the display on the UR-100 *GunMetal*, time and distance are on a par, the hours and minutes in vivid green, and the kilometres in bright white. Watchmaker and URWERK's co-founder, Felix Baumgartner, reveals that he got the idea from a clock given to him by his father, Geri, a noted restorer of antique timepieces. "It was made by Gustave Sandoz for the Universal Exhibition of 1893. Instead of showing the time, it showed the distance travelled by a point on the equator." URWERK's designer and other co-founder, Martin Frei, imposed the clock's indication to the UR-100. "The way I see it, a watch is both a physical and conceptual representation of our position on the rotating Earth. It fixes us on an exact, but ephemeral, time and longitude."

Under the UR-100's dome, URWERK's calibre 12.01 movement drives the carousel carrying the hours on three satellites that travel in succession along a 60-minute scale. Each is forged from anodised aluminium then sanded and shot-blasted. The satellite screws are each circular sanded. The satellites rest on a carousel of sanded brass plated in ruthenium. The structure on top of the hours display is in sanded and shot-blasted aluminium. The bi-directional selfwinding rotor of the UR-100 is governed by a profiled airscrew known as the Windfänger.

There's a nostalgic look about the case of the UR-100. Many owners of URWERK watches will remember the independent brand's first models. "We have adopted some of the stylistic features of our first constructions, and then deconstructed them," explains Martin Frei. "For example, the steel dome of our early models is now in transparent sapphire crystal. The hard outlines of the titanium case highlight its perfection. Because I'm always at odds with the dictates of symmetry, I have used different proportions to catch the eye," he concludes.

UR-100 *GunMetal* – Limited edition of 25

Movement

Calibre	Selfwinding UR 12.01 movement with the winding rotor governed by a Windfänger airscrew.
Jewels	39
Balance frequency	28 800v/h - 4Hz
Power reserve	48 hours
Materials	Satellite hours on beryllium-bronze Geneva crosses; aluminium carousel; carousel and triple baseplates in ARCAP alloy.
Finishes	Circular graining and sanding, shot peening; chamfered screw heads; hours and minutes painted in SuperLumiNova.
Indications	Satellite hours and minutes; rotational distance at the Equator in 20 minutes; orbital distance in 20 minutes.

Case

Materials	Titanium and stainless steel with a GunMetal PVD finish.
Dimensions	Width: 41mm, length: 49.7mm, height: 14mm
Glass	Sapphire crystal
Water resistance	Pressure tested at 3ATM (30m)

CHF 48,000 (Swiss francs / less tax)