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Co-founder of URWERK  
Artist and Chief designer

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Co-founder of URWERK  
Master watchmaker

**THE UR-150 SCORPION,  
URWERK'S NEW LETHAL MASTERPIECE.**

**UNDER EMBARGO TILL OCTOBER 17, 2024 - 02 PM GVA**

**URWERK**<sup>®</sup>  
BY BAUMGARTNER + FREI

# THE UR-150 SCORPION



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GENEVA – OCTOBER 2024.

**URWERK** reinvents its iconic satellite hours complication. A new mechanism for a new scenography. The **UR-150 Scorpion** appears in a rounded shell. But don't be fooled by its calm, relaxed facade: the **UR-150** hides a fearsome device, a lightning sting whose lethal function is triggered in a hundredth of a second.

### BEWARE THE FIERCE MECHANISM!

It's one of Muhammad Ali's most famous mottos and the secret of his success: 'Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee.' It's a statement that could easily be applied to the latest creation from **URWERK**, the **UR-150**, a watch that also flies and stings... but like a scorpion. Inspired by the arachnid's stinger, the nickname of this creation references the trajectory of the 240-degree minutes sector, resembling a scorpion's tail poised to attack. This symbolism also extends to the retrograde minutes hand, ready to unleash its blistering power as it strikes each passing hour... fast and fearsome.

Hammerhead, Tarantula, Cobra, Scorpion: **URWERK** has repeatedly been inspired by menacing creatures. "We've once again chosen an evocative nickname for our creation and the scorpion is indeed a nasty beast – yet the design of the **UR-150** is gentle. It's very **URWERK** ... the aggressive symbolism belies the reality of the watch's cool, calm personality", says **Felix Baumgartner**, master watchmaker and **URWERK** co-founder, with a laugh. "We choose to inhabit an extreme world, because we are anything but ordinary and reasonable", he continues.

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This **UR-150** features a large openworked hand framing the prevailing hour. The tip of this hand arcs over the minutes track. Once the 60<sup>th</sup> minute has elapsed, the hours hand jumps to zero and the journey begins anew. At the same time, all the satellite hours spin on their axes and the retrograde hand frames a new hour – all in just 1/100th of a second.

The model's retrograde mechanism is reminiscent of those developed for mechanical automaton : a flying carousel bearing the three hour satellites follows a route determined by a cam. The latter orchestrates the motion of the carousel, a performance that lasts precisely 60 minutes. As the hour hand reaches '60', depicted in green numerals, an **URWERK** spring triggers the **UR-150's** lightning-fast attack: the retrograde hand makes a 240° jump and the hour satellites simultaneously rotates 270°. *"It's like a perfect alignment of the stars, a perfect storm"*, says **Felix Baumgartner**.

*"In order to drive all the satellites, guide the hour hand and ensure that each element jumps at just the right time, we have designed a new satellite complication system. It is based around a flying wheel and pinion positioned between the satellites and the base movement. It decipheres and follows the 'guiding thread' of a cam. We have therefore replaced our 'classic' device based on Maltese crosses with this cam and a rack system. This necessitated developing a spring so special that we needed to machine it in our own workshop. To make this burst of movement more visible, we have doubled the usual distance between the 60 and 0 markers",* he concludes.

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The minutes display on the **UR-150** is more expansive and more ambitious, moving from the usual 120 degrees to a 240° arc. Optimising available energy is essential to maintaining perfect isochronism and achieving the 'Perfect Storm'. The retrograde system is the most ambitious ever undertaken by **URWERK**. The weights employed are the greatest ever used and the speed and inertia the most intense, necessitating the creation of an unprecedented means of controlling the various dynamic forces at play. This technical feat is achieved using a speed regulator fitted to the **UR-150's** flywheel, a mechanism usually employed to regulate the chiming sequence on a minute repeater. In this it smooths the return of the retrograde hand.

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The automatic winding system is among several innovative features found on the **UR-150**. Equipped with a double set of turbines, the ingenious system regulates the solid rotor's speed. It delivers unprecedented energy and shock-resistance. As **Felix Baumgartner** explains, *"The aim of the turbines is to absorb shocks to the rotor and avoid them affecting the arbor."*



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The **UR-150** also showcases a new artistic direction. The hard sting of the ‘Scorpion’ nickname contrasts with the organic shape of this new model. When designing the inaugural UR-100 collection, the Maison adopted an alternative approach to design: *“It’s an evolutionary process,”* explains **URWERK**’s Creative Director and Co-Founder **Martin Frei**. *“We like to play with lines and enjoy juxtaposing gentle curves with acute angles. Here, the profile of the case and sapphire crystal is a section of the same shape – meaning perfectly spherical – while the minutes hand shares exactly the same curve.”*

Viewed from the side, the **UR-150** features an arched profile, with the case and sapphire crystal extending from the curve of the bracelet along the same curved line, ergonomically hugging the curves of the wrist. The curvature extends beyond the case and into the movement itself, since the satellites and hours hand share the same sloping profile. *“On this **UR-150** you can read the time without twisting your wrist. The present faces us, confronts us. Everything is a matter of detail, a game of positioning. The tension between the gentle contours of the case and the forceful motion of the mechanism imbues the **UR-150** with vitality ... with energy,”* says **Martin Frei**. *“I’m not interested in harmony,”* he points out, convinced that *“Beauty appears through a field of tensions.”*

Inside this new body, **URWERK** has installed the latest evolution of its wandering satellite-hour movement. The **UR-150** delivers a sense of theatre when one hour dramatically transitions to the next. *“It’s a vibration in the spacetime continuum,”* **Martin Frei** continues. *“This moment of turning back time is very special. Can one lose or gain time? At **URWERK**, we love this moment, we wait for it and we observe it – and all the more so because it has a dual nature. While the minutes tick by slowly, in the absence of a seconds indicator, the minutes hand returns to its point of origin instantaneously.”*

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## THE UR-150 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

THE UR-150 WILL BE AVAILABLE IN TWO VARIATIONS - TITAN AND DARK - OF 50 PIECES EACH.

### MOVEMENT

Calibre	UR-50.01 with automatic winding system governed by a double turbine
Jewels	38
Frequency	28,800 vph - 4Hz
Power reserve	43 hours
Materials	Aluminium satellite hours on a brass carousel; aluminium retrograde hand Circular graining, sandblasted, shot-blasting, circular satin finishing Chamfered screw hands Hours and minutes index incorporating Super-LumiNova® treatment

**Indications** Satellite hours; minutes

### CASE

**Material** Sandblasted and shot-blasted titanium and steel for the Titan version  
Sandblasted and shot-blasted titanium

**Dimensions** Anthracite PVD -treated steel for the Dark version  
Width: 42.49mm x length: 52.31mm x thickness: 14.79mm

**Glass** Sapphire crystal  
**Water resistance** Screw-lock crown. Pressure tested at 5ATM (50m)  
**Strap** KISKA rubber strap

### PRICE

**Titan version** CHF 88,000 (Swiss francs / excl. tax)  
**Dark version** CHF 89,000 (Swiss francs / excl. Tax)

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## ABOUT URWERK

*"We don't try to bring out new versions of existing grandes complications,"* explains watchmaker **Felix Baumgartner**, co-founder of **URWERK**. *"Our watches are unique because they are all designed as original work. Our main aim is to go beyond the traditional horizons of watchmaking."*

The original styling of each **URWERK** model is signed by chief designer **Martin Frei**, the company's other co-founder. *"I come from a background where creativeness has no limits. I am in no way prisoner of the traditional constraints of watchmaking, and I can therefore be freely inspired by my cultural heritage."*

Although **URWERK** is a young company established in 1997, it is recognised as a pioneer among independent watchmakers. Producing just 150 watches a year, the company sees itself as a craftsman's studio where traditional expertise coexists with avant-garde styling. The company manufactures modern

and complex watches that are unprecedented and in keeping with the most demanding criteria of fine watchmaking: independent design and research, advanced materials and handcrafted finishes.

The name **URWERK** comes from the ancient city of Ur of the Chaldees in Mesopotamia, founded nearly 6,000 years ago where the Sumerian inhabitants first established units of time based on the shadows cast by its monuments. Ur in the German language also means primeval or original and Werk means an achievement or a mechanism. Thus, **URWERK** can be translated as an original movement — a tribute to generations of watchmakers whose work has resulted in what we know today as *Haute Horlogerie*, or superlative watchmaking.





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**THANK YOU!**

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