

## Kari Voutilainen: "Swiss Made"? Better "Hand Made"! (interview) by [Michele Tonon](#) - [Orologi di Classe](#)

**Kari Voutilainen** is an [independent watchmaker](#) that started his own workshop in 2002 and, due to his technical cognisance and his refined skills in applying perfect finishes to his timepieces, in a few years his name became well known by many connoisseurs and collectors. His masterpieces - instead of showing on the dial the writing «**Swiss Made**» reserved to the timepieces built in the country – show the text «**Hand Made**» which is a meaning - even more intriguing – of « **crafted by hands** » or «**artigianal piece**».



Kari Voutilainen: "Swiss Made"? Meglio "Hand Made"! - 'Vingt-8'

Already in 2007 at the Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève with its «[Observatoire](#)», he won the prize of «Favourite Men's Watch» of the year. He also developed the wonderful Chrono "**Chef d'oeuvre**" with the Carbondime escapement and ceramic balance.

Then I will not forget the [Vingt-8](#) with the direct escapement... but, if we notice that already in 2005 he introduced the "Decimal Repeater" - a 10 minutes repeater , think that I succeeded in explaining his extraordinary talent. That said, I cannot be but excited to present you the answers that Kari kindly gave to us. In the questions, I involved with pleasure other two well-known forum guys like "Équation\_du\_temps" and "erm2833".

Here follows the questions.

**“Équation du temps” – First question: Several watchmakers expressed concern about the abandonment of the education in the traditional watchmaking techniques within the schools, under pressure from the market demand created by the large companies. You are known for having kept a strong connection with your Alma Mater, what is your opinion on this topic?**

**Kari Voutilainen:** Is very true that level of education is going down; due to hours spend for the education. There is all the time less and less hours available in practical work in school. Once looking back, 40 years ago watchmaking school had more than 4000 hours practical work, now barely 2800 hours..



Kari Voutilainen - 'Vingt-8' back

**“Miche..” – Second question: All along in your works you always paid a lot in finishings. Why are they so important for you and how much they affect on the item for the price and from a chronometer point of view?**

**K.V:** It is important for a high quality watch to have both sides in top condition-technique and aesthetic.

It is name of the game, like Maserati—powerfull engine but top finish, nobody would pay the same price if there would be poor finish, scratches and so on.



Kari Voutilainen - 'Vingt-8' finishings

**“erm2833” – Third question: Mr. Voutilainen, would you give up to the refined aesthetics of your calibers to get in innovative materials as Silicon?**

**K.V:** Innovative materials don't have any history, silicon has to be glued, we can't screw, and either has friction fit. So this material might last for long time, but glue not. Another aspect is that it is very fragile; we can't put these silicon pieces in cleaning machine as we can steel parts. They don't resist any shocks. Due to these aspects, I don't see how these components can go in high quality watch!

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Don't forget to visit his website [www.voutilainen.ch](http://www.voutilainen.ch)

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