

DEAD SECONDS: BAD TO SAY BEAUTIFUL TO SEE

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ABSTRACT

Dead seconds – or jumping seconds – is a very hard to make horological complication, and from a mechanical point it's basis dig into the deepest watchmaking history.

Only few people knows that dead seconds were already born in the XVII Century when clocks started to become so sharp to gain a hand to indicate seconds. Considering that a pendulum oscillation last one second, the mechanic fitted very well for obtain them. This complication was also easy to find aboard the marine chronometers in which was fundamental for sincronizing the chronometer with a referential pendulum. With the advent of pocket and wristwatches – in which due to the different mechanic and the increase of frequency better suited the continuous seconds – this beautiful and helpful complication began almost to disappear.

Due for the difficult to making them, watch lovers have to pay respect for dead seconds... If in the past bringing them on pocket watches or wristwatches caused a lot of problems to be solved, we've to think that today it's a privilege to have this complication working so fine on a wristwatch. For instance the common – without rest – continuous seconds, doesn't allow us to make an effectively countdown, or a sharp sincronization between two watches like it happened in te past.. All the above mentioned thoughts could seem banal, but not for anyone who falls in love with high end horology. In mechanic watches dead seconds are a sophisticated performance to capture a fraction of time, hold it, and give us the possibility to perceive the exact moment in which a second is delivered! Absolutely wonderful to watch it..

Some of the most wonderful modern samples of wristwatches with dead seconds are certainly: François Paul Journe Tourbillon Souverain, Audemars Piguet Millenary Calibro 2905, De Bethune DB 25T, Grönefeld One Hertz.

Full article (Italian) can be found: <http://www.orologidiclasse.com/2012/orologi-secondi-morti/>