

EL PRIMERO
STRATOS FLYBACK RAINBOW

Limited edition channelling a legendary spirit



ZENITH

SWISS WATCH MANUFACTURE
SINCE 1865



LIMITED EDITION CHANNELLING A LEGENDARY SPIRIT

WELL ACCUSTOMED TO TECHNICAL CHALLENGES, ZENITH BUILT THE RAINBOW FLYBACK MODEL IN 1997 BASED ON TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS ESTABLISHED FOR THE FRENCH AIR FORCE. THE RESULT WAS A RUGGED, HIGH-PERFORMANCE TIMEPIECE CAPABLE OF STANDING UP TO THE MOST EXTREME CONDITIONS. THE BRAND WITH THE GUIDING STAR NOW DRAWS INSPIRATION FROM THIS HIGH-PRECISION INSTRUMENT IN PRESENTING AN EMINENTLY SPORTY VERSION NAMED EL PRIMERO STRATOS FLYBACK RAINBOW – A 250-PIECE LIMITED EDITION EXCLUSIVELY AVAILABLE IN ZENITH BOUTIQUES.



When he decided to create the most reliable and accurate watches of his era, Georges Favre-Jacot brought all the watchmaking professions under one roof in 1865 in order to contribute to the advancement of production methods. The first watch Manufacture in history was born and thus forever sealed the destiny of Zenith, which would be that of chronometric (meaning precision-timing) performance. Almost 150 years later, the brand remains true to its founder's visionary spirit. It is the most titled brand ever in the field of chronometry, with no less than 2,333 prizes to its credit. Its creations have laid milestones in the history of contemporary watchmaking, with over 300 patents registered for an array of more than 600 movement variations developed and produced within the Manufacture.

***The world's
most accurate
series-produced
chronograph***

In 1969, Zenith definitively put its name in the history books by presenting El Primero, the first ever integrated automatic watch, also beating at the exceptional speed of 36,000 vibrations per hour and thus displaying 1/10th second precision – an achievement that makes it the world's most accurate series-produced chronograph to this very day. Zenith therefore naturally responded to the bid for tender launched by the French Ministry of Defence which was seeking to develop a watch for fighter pilots, especially since the brand had earned an impressive reputation in the field of aviation right from the start of the 20th century. The technical specifications to be met by the Manufacture were unequivocal: the goal was to develop a watch capable of maintaining excellent precision even in extreme conditions of use – including violent accelerations from 9 to 11 Gs, variations in pressure and temperature, as well as vibrations and magnetic fields. In rising to this demanding challenge, the Manufacture once again pushed back the boundaries of reliability and resistance to present the Rainbow Flyback model in 1997.



*250-piece
limited-edition
interpretation of
an iconic model*

Today, the brand with the guiding star draws inspiration from this landmark model in creating a 250-piece limited edition available exclusively in Zenith boutiques. This El Primero Stratos Flyback Rainbow is driven by the El Primero Calibre 405 B automatic movement built around a column wheel. While this chronograph naturally beats at the frequency of 36,000 vibrations per hour enabling 1/10th second precision, it is also equipped with a date display, a telemetric scale, and above all with the famous flyback function. Closely bound up with the world of aviation, the latter enables pilots to stop, start and restart the chronograph at a single press on the push-piece, compared with three presses required for a standard chronograph.

Made of black Alchron – a light and resistant titanium and aluminium alloy – the case with its 45.5 mm diameter is topped by a rotating bezel bearing a scratch-resistant aluminium ring. The rounded sapphire crystal is shaped like an astrodome – the dome located on the fuselage's dorsal ridge to enable astronavigation. The equally transparent engraved sapphire case-back reveals the fascinating mechanism of the world's most accurate series-produced calibre. On the dial side, the minutes counter at 3 o'clock appears in colours enabling night-time readings in infrared-lit cockpits, exactly like the first model developed in cooperation with a fighter pilot, while the hours are displayed at 6 o'clock and the small seconds at 9 o'clock. The white superluminova hour-markers create a striking contrast with the black of the dial and case, while the chronograph sweep seconds hand stands out in red. The inner bezel ring bearing a telemetric scale creates an overall depth effect. The eminently virile and stylish El Primero Stratos Flyback Rainbow comes on a particularly sporty rubber strap fitted with a black PVD-coated folding clasp.



Rainbow Flyback, 1997.



EL PRIMERO STRATOS FLYBACK RAINBOW

- ★ A DESCENDANT OF THE ZENITH MILITARY CHRONOGRAPHS
- ★ CASE MADE FROM A TITANIUM AND ALUMINIUM ALLOY
- ★ AUTOMATIC COLUMN-WHEEL CHRONOGRAPH WITH FLYBACK FUNCTION

MOVEMENT

El Primero 405B, automatic
Calibre: 13 14''' (diameter: 30 mm)
Thickness: 6.60 mm
Components: 331
Jewels: 31
Frequency: 36,00 VpH – 5 Hz
Power reserve: min. 50 hours
Finishing: oscillating weight with
"Côte de Genève" pattern

FUNCTIONS

Hours and minutes in the centre
Small seconds at 9 o'clock
3-counter chronograph:
– Central sweep seconds hand
– 30-minute counter at 3 o'clock
– 12-hour counter at 6 o'clock
– Telemetric scale
Date window at 6 o'clock

CASE, DIAL AND HANDS

Material: TiAlum alloy
Unidirectional rotating bezel with
black aluminium disc
Diameter: 45.5 mm
Opening diameter: 35 mm
Thickness: 14.10 mm
Glass: Domed sapphire crystal glareproofed
on both sides
Case-back: transparent sapphire crystal
Water-resistance: 10 ATM
Dial: Black with 30-minute counter in original colours
Hour-markers: Arabic numerals in SLN C1
superluminova
Hands: Rhodiumed, faceted and coated with
SLN C1 superluminova

REFERENCE

24.2063.405/21.R515
Black rubber strap with black triple folding clasp



★
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Founded in Le Locle in 1865 by a visionary watchmaker, Georges Favre-Jacot, the Manufacture Zenith earned swift recognition for the precision of its chronometers with which it has won 2,333 chronometry prizes in a century and a half of existence: an absolute record in terms of pocket watches, onboard timers and wristwatches. Having earned fame thanks to its legendary El Primero calibre – an integrated automatic column-wheel chronograph movement launched in 1969 and endowed with a high frequency of 36,000 vibrations per hour that ensures measurements accurate to the nearest 1/10th of a second – the Manufacture Zenith has since developed over 600 movement variations. All Zenith watches are fitted with an in-house Zenith movement and are developed by the Manufacture in Le Locle. The latter currently stands at the exact spot where its founder built the first company workshop, thus physically embodying a continuity that is a rarity in itself.