

Glashütte, January 2013

An extra hand: 1815 UP/DOWN

The sublimely perfect four-hand 1815 UP/DOWN with a power-reserve indicator reflects the A. Lange & Söhne style in its purest form. The number 1815 in its name refers to the birth year of the founder of Saxon precision watchmaking, Ferdinand A. Lange - its design is inspired by his legendary pocket watches.



A four-hand classic: 1815 UP/DOWN

A. Lange & Söhne's 1815 stands for noble understatement at the pinnacle of horology. Its three-day movement has now been paired with a power-reserve mechanism. In the new 1815 UP/DOWN, an additional blued-steel hand at 8 o'clock indicates how long the watch will continue to run before having to be rewound.

The display with AUF for the fully wound and AB for the fully unwound movement is a traditional A. Lange & Söhne characteristic that dates back to a patent granted in 1879.

The principle employed in the 1815 UP/DOWN also relies on a patent filed by Otto Lange, one of the grandsons of the manufactory's founder. His invention was specially conceived for slender watches: a planetary gear system integrated in the movement drives the display without requiring extra vertical space. Lange adopted the same approach for the power-reserve indicator of the 1815 UP/DOWN. On the plate side, two additional gold chatons in the three-quarter plate made of German silver refer to the presence of the power-reserve mechanism. Despite the supplementary 57 parts, the L051.2 manufacture movement has exactly the same dimensions as that of the 1815 without the UP/DOWN indicator: a height of 4.6 millimetres and a diameter of 30.6 millimetres. Beneath the hand-engraved balance cock, a classic screw balance and an indexless oscillator assure optimised rate accuracy together with a balance spring developed and manufactured in-house, which is calibrated to a frequency of 21,600 semi-oscillations per hour.



Lange manufacture calibre L051.2

With its 245 parts lavishly finished by hand, manufacture calibre L051.2 features a host of hallmarks that underscore Lange's watchmaking artistry: they include chamfered and polished edges, Glashütte ribbing on the three-quarter plate, gold chatons secured with blued screws, the polished endpiece of the escape-wheel cock, and winder wheels decorated with solarisation that are visibly integrated in the plate.

The case and prong buckle of the 1815 UP/DOWN are crafted from 18-carat yellow, white, or pink gold; all model variations have an argenté dial made of solid silver. Superb legibility is guaranteed thanks to black numerals and blued-steel hands. With a railway-track minute scale, Arabic numerals, and symmetrically arranged subsidiary dials for the power-reserve indicator and the small seconds, the 1815 UP/DOWN pays tribute to the style elements of Lange's acclaimed pocket watches, now transposed in a contemporary way to the dimensions of a wristwatch.

About A. Lange & Söhne

When Ferdinand A. Lange, a Dresden watchmaker, established his watch manufactory in 1845, he laid the cornerstone of Saxony's precision watchmaking. His precious pocket watches remain highly coveted among collectors all over the world. The company was expropriated after World War II, and the name A. Lange & Söhne nearly fell into oblivion. In 1990, Ferdinand A. Lange's great-grandson Walter Lange had the courage to relaunch the brand. Today, Lange crafts only a few thousand wristwatches in gold or platinum per year. They are endowed exclusively with proprietary movements that are lavishly decorated and assembled by hand. In a period of little more than 20 years, A. Lange & Söhne developed over 40 manufacture calibres and secured a top-tier position among the world's finest watch brands. Its greatest successes include innovative time-keeping instruments such as the LANGE 1 with the first outsize date in a series produced wristwatch as well as the LANGE ZEITWERK with its supremely legible, precisely jumping numerals. Meanwhile, both models have become icons of a brand rich in tradition.

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1815 UP/DOWN			
Movement	Lange manufacture calibre L051.2, manually wound, crafted to the most exacting Lange quality standards, decorated and assembled by hand; precision-adjusted in five positions; plates and bridges made of untreated German silver; balance cock engraved by hand		
Movement parts	245		
Jewels	29		
Screwed gold chatons	7		
Escapement	Lever escapement		
Oscillator	Shock-resistant screw balance, superior-quality balance spring manufactured in-house, frequency 21,600 semi-oscillations per hour, precision beat adjustment system with lateral setscrew and whiplash spring		
Power reserve	72 hours when fully wound		
Functions	Time indicated in hours, minutes, and subsidiary seconds with stop seconds; power-reserve indicator		
Operating elements	Crown for winding the watch and setting the time		
Case dimensions	Diameter: 39.0 millimetres; height: 8.9 millimetres		
Movement dimensions	Diameter: 30.6 millimetres; height: 4.6 millimetres		
Crystal and caseback	Sapphire crystal (hardness 9)		
References	234.021	234.026	234.032
Case	Yellow gold	White gold	Pink gold
Dial	Solid silver, argenté	Solid silver, argenté	Solid silver, argenté
Hands	Blued steel	Blued steel	Blued steel
Strap	Hand-stitched crocodile strap, middle-brown	Hand-stitched crocodile strap, black	Hand-stitched crocodile strap, reddish-brown
Buckle	Prong buckle in yellow gold	Prong buckle in white gold	Prong buckle in pink gold