

## **X FATHOMS: THE WATCH OF ALL SUPERLATIVES**

**In the context of a spectacular event taking place in the largest aquarium in the world, the *Dubai Aquarium & Underwater Zoo* in the *Dubai Mall*, Blancpain revealed its latest diving watch. The *X Fathoms* revisits the characteristics of its iconic 1953 ancestor, and combines them with a mechanical depth gauge to create the most high-performance mechanical diving watch ever produced.**

Depth measure up to 90 meters and maximum depth reached memory, separate indication on the 0-15m scale with an exceptional +/- 30 cm precision, retrograde 5-minute counter for decompression stops, the *X Fathoms* concept watch abounds in world firsts. Its movement, reference 9918B, is based on the Manufacture-made Calibre 1315, which has already proved its worth by successfully powering several models in the Fifty Fathoms collection. Self-winding and equipped with three barrels ensuring a five-day power reserve, it is provided with a silicon balance-spring to withstand magnetic disturbances. Its imposing 55.65 mm case made of satin-brushed titanium is water-resistant to 30 bar. It features a helium decompression valve for saturation diving and the unidirectional rotating bezel characteristic to the collection for almost 60 years.

Research and testing conducted by Blancpain show that the elastic properties and the resistance to permanent deformation of amorphous metal make this material ideal for the depth gauge membrane. This choice allows to reduce its thickness by half compared to steel and gain in precision. It also allows avoiding the risk of microcracks formation given the long-term stability of the alloy. However, the non-linear nature of the membrane deformation had to be corrected. The ingenious solution to this problem is given by the asymmetrical tothing of the rack and pinion that linearises the curve of the membrane deformation. The individual calibration of each *X Fathoms* guaranties maximal precision of depth indications.

Displays result from in-depth research to offer optimal legibility, with central depth indication hands, matt black background colour to enhance contrast and three-colour luminescence to distinguish indications useful underwater. The most complex injected rubber strap ever conceived gives the final finishing touch. It comprises 14 articulated parts to ensure a perfect fit on the wrist and allow water to seep in under the watch in order to come in contact with the membrane under all circumstances.

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