ROLEX

PERPETUAL CALIBRES 32XX

Inaugurated in 2015, the 32XX family of movements is the most widely deployed across the range of Rolex models. It currently includes four calibres: the 3230, the 3235 – with date function – the 3255 – with day and date functions – and the 3285 – with date function and additional time zone in 24-hour format.

Consummate demonstrations of technology, calibres in the 32XX family are self-winding mechanical movements entirely developed and manufactured by Rolex. They carry a number of patents and deliver outstanding performance, particularly in terms of precision, power reserve, convenience and reliability.

The 32XX family currently comprises four movements: calibre 3230, calibre 3235, calibre 3255 and calibre 3285. Fitted with the Parachrom hairspring like those of the previous generation, these movements also incorporate the patented Chronergy escapement, which combines high energy efficiency with great dependability, and benefit from an optimized barrel architecture.

The first two movements in the 32XX family – calibre 3235, with date function, and calibre 3255, with day and date functions – were presented in 2015.

The Pearlmaster 39, launched in 2015, was the first Rolex watch to be equipped with calibre 3235; the movement remained on this model until the latter's removal from the brand's catalogue in 2022. In 2016, when the Datejust 41 was released, it was fitted with the same movement. A year later, the Sea-Dweller adopted calibre 3235, followed by the Datejust 36 and the Rolex Deepsea in 2018. It was introduced on the Yacht-Master 40 in 2019, as well as on the Yacht-Master 42 model launched the same year. In 2020, the Submariner Date was, in turn, equipped with calibre 3235.

Calibre 3255, reserved for the Day-Date watches, was inaugurated in 2015 on the Day-Date 40, a new model in the range. The Day-Date 36 was fitted with the same movement in 2019.

Calibre 3285, offering a second time zone function as well as the date, was introduced in 2018 on the GMT-Master II and brought to the Explorer II a few years later, in 2021.

Designed for watches without additional functions, calibre 3230 was unveiled in 2020 on the Oyster Perpetual 41 for the model's launch, as well as on the Oyster Perpetual 36 and the Submariner. In 2021, it was fitted on the Explorer 36, which replaced the existing 39 mm model, and subsequently on the Air-King in 2022 and on the Deepsea Challenge, launched in December of that year. The Explorer 40, presented in 2023, is also equipped with this movement.

Like all Rolex movements, each calibre in the 32XX family is certified as a chronometer by the Swiss Official Chronometer Testing Institute (COSC), the independent body in Switzerland officially qualified to award the designation 'chronometer' to movements that have passed its precision tests designed according to international criteria.

AT THE FOREFRONT OF WATCHMAKING TECHNOLOGY

The 32XX calibres incorporate the patented Chronergy escapement, made of nickel-phosphorus, which combines high energy efficiency with great dependability and is also resistant to strong magnetic fields.

These movements are fitted with the blue Parachrom hairspring, manufactured by Rolex in a paramagnetic alloy. In addition to resisting strong magnetic fields, this hairspring offers great stability in the face of temperature variations as well as high resistance to shocks. It is equipped with a Rolex overcoil, ensuring the calibre's regularity in any position.

The oscillator of the 32XX calibres has a large balance wheel with variable inertia regulated extremely precisely via gold Microstella nuts. It is held firmly in place by a height-adjustable traversing bridge enabling very stable positioning to increase shock resistance. The oscillator is also mounted on the Rolex-designed, patented high-performance Paraflex shock absorbers, further enhancing the movement's shock resistance.

The 32XX calibres are equipped with a self-winding system via a Perpetual rotor, which ensures continuous winding of the mainspring by harnessing the movements of the wrist to provide a constant source of energy. From 2023, their oscillating weight is fitted with an optimized ball bearing. Thanks to their barrel architecture and the escapement's superior efficiency, the power reserve of these movements extends to approximately 70 hours.

Movements in the 32XX family will be seen only by certified Rolex watchmakers, yet they are beautifully finished and decorated in keeping with the brand's uncompromising quality standards.

CERTIFIED PRECISION

Rolex sends each of its movements to the Swiss Official Chronometer Testing Institute (COSC) for 15 days and 15 nights of testing, involving seven eliminating criteria in five static positions and at three temperatures.

Movements that fulfil all the criteria of these rigorous tests are awarded a chronometer certificate attesting to their capacity to measure time without deviating from atomic time by more than a few seconds per day.

Like all Rolex movements, calibres 3230, 3235, 3255 and 3285 are certified chronometers.

After casing the movement in the Rolex workshops – an operation that can affect precision by several seconds per day – the brand tests the precision of each finished watch. Over a period of approximately 24 hours, using an exclusive protocol developed in-house, the watch is placed in a series of seven static positions, followed by a dynamic sequence of movement – two complementary steps that simulate real-life wear. The tolerance criteria are much stricter than those of the official certification in terms of precision: the deviation for a Rolex Superlative Chronometer must not exceed −2/+2 seconds per day, after casing, versus the −4/+6 seconds per day required by COSC for the movement alone.