



INTRODUCING

REVERSO HYBRIS ARTISTICA CALIBRE 179

A NOBLE MARRIAGE OF TECHNICAL PROWESS AND AESTHETIC BEAUTY
REINTERPRETED IN WHITE GOLD

KEY FACTS:

- **Watchmaking excellence:** Gyrotourbillon with 123 components, inner cage rotating 360° every 16 seconds, peripheral carriage rotating once per minute
- **Innovative double-wheel mechanism adjustable buckle:** white gold (18k, 750/1000) folding buckle with 46 components, weighing nearly 30 grams, adjustable to 0.5mm
- **Hybris Artistica:** the decorative plates and bridges, made of white gold (18k, 750/1000), are laser cut to create 200 hollows, which are then lacquered by 1 single craftsman per timepiece – an art only mastered by 3 craftsmen in the Manufacture

Exploring the full potential of the Reverso as a canvas for artistic expression, Jaeger-LeCoultre introduced the Reverso Hybris Artistica Calibre 179 in 2023—an exceptional timepiece that united the highest watchmaking expertise with intricate and sophisticated artistic decoration. Marrying La Grande Maison’s signature multi-axis tourbillon to the finest decorative craftsmanship, this creation exemplified the philosophy of the Hybris collection. In 2025, the Maison reinterprets the Reverso Hybris Artistica Calibre 179 in 18k white gold (750/1000), to be produced in a limited edition of 10 pieces.

A TOUR-DE-FORCE OF MECHANICAL INGENUITY INSPIRED BY A FASCINATION WITH THE TOURBILLON

Created in 1931, the Reverso was designed to meet the demands of the newly fashionable ‘sporting gentleman’. A challenge was set by polo-playing military officers in India during the British Raj of 1858-1947 to create a watch that could withstand the rigours of the polo field. The Reverso was the answer – a masterful integration of form and function. Quickly adopted by tastemakers from all walks of life, the Reverso soon transcended its original sporting purpose as new variations appeared – for both men and women. However, its iconic double-sided case (historical patent CH159982) and distinctive Art Deco lines have remained constant, making the Reverso one of the world’s most recognisable wristwatches.

The Reverso was born as a deft synthesis of style and function. Rooted in the Art Deco aesthetics, it also embodied a mechanical revolution allowed by La Grande Maison’s expertise. From the very beginning of its production, Reverso’s calibres were shaped to follow the curves of its rectangular case, an ingenious answer to



maximise space used and therefore the precision of the calibre. In 1931, it was seen as a revolution in *Haute Horlogerie*: an unusual rectangular case, powered by shaped calibres, set in a dedicated casing ring to protect them from shocks, humidity and the passing of time.

This technical challenge, overtaken by the Manufacture, was fully embraced in the beginning of the 1990s, when Jaeger-LeCoultre introduced high complications in Reverso. Calibre 179 features the fourth evolution of the Gyrotourbillon, the Manufacture's signature multi-axis tourbillon (historical patent CH694598A5) – a technical *tour-de-force* developed specifically for the Reverso. The demand that the regulating mechanism be integrated into a shaped movement that follows the contours of the rectangular Reverso case and is slim enough to be comfortable on the wrist, makes the engineering feat even more noteworthy. Moreover, Calibre 179 is a Duoface movement (historical patent EP0633514), displaying a different time zone on each dial as well as a 24-hour indicator for the second time zone on the reverse dial.

Visually enthralling to observe as it pirouettes around its twin axes, the structure of the Gyrotourbillon is highly complex: with a total of 123 components, it comprises one ultra-light titanium cage and a peripheral carriage mounted on ball-bearings; these two elements turn perpendicularly to each other at different speeds. The inner tourbillon cage rotates 360 degrees every 16 seconds and the peripheral carriage makes a full rotation once per minute; this peripheral carriage also provides a small seconds function, indicating the seconds on a ring that encircles the tourbillon aperture. A closer look reveals a greyed semi-spherical balance spring beating at the heart of the mechanism, as well as the distinctive double-anchor shape of a Gyrolab balance 'wheel' – both elements paying testament to Jaeger-LeCoultre's tireless pursuit of greater precision and mechanical efficiency. In this quest, the Manufacture's engineers have created balance springs in several different forms over the years and this hemispherical shape, perfectly adapted to the hollow sphere at the heart of the Gyrotourbillon adds aesthetic refinement as well as being highly efficient. The double-anchor shape of the Gyrolab was designed to reduce air friction and thus further enhance timekeeping accuracy.

Rather than being held in place by a conventional bridge, the tourbillon mechanism is supported by a ring of ball bearings. As a result, this flying Gyrotourbillon appears to be floating in the space between the front and back dials of the Reverso, with no apparent means of support. The effect is amplified by the light reflected from the mirror-like surface of a polished blue lacquer disc positioned on the supporting cradle of the watch directly beneath the tourbillon aperture.

A NEW COLOUR PALETTE SHOWCASES THE SKILLS OF THE MANUFACTURE'S CRAFTSMEN

Anchoring the colour palette of the Reverso Hybris Artistica Calibre 179 and creating a rich contrast with the solid white gold case, bridges and decorative plates, shiny dark blue lacquer also decorates the front and reverse dials of the watch.

With its double-sided, Duoface movement, this Reverso offers two distinct personalities. On the front dial, in a subtle allusion to the geometric patterns of Art Deco that determined the original Reverso design, a lattice of fine lines matches the colour of the precious metal case. The cool, silvery tones of the white gold contrast with



the blue lacquer of the decorative plates and bridges, complementing the deep blue gradient lacquer of the front dial.

These lines are in fact ultra-fine ribs of the calibre plate metal, which remained when the surface was hollowed out to create depressions to contain the lacquer. A work of extraordinary precision, the lacquer was deftly hand-applied between the metal ribs to achieve the desired richness of colour and exactly the right depth; the surface is then polished by hand by the same craftsman to a glossy finish that is perfectly flush with the ribs.

On the reverse dial, blue lacquer has been applied to the fine tracery of the skeletonised hours-minutes ring and its supporting bridges, highlighting the airy aesthetic and contrasting with the warm tones of various movement components and the soft texture of the micro-blasting. The decoration on the reverse dial is a fascinating marriage of technology and tradition, with laser skeletonisation complemented by hand chamfering and hand-applied lacquer – affirming Jaeger-LeCoultre’s deep commitment to tradition while constantly seeking innovative approaches to the art and science of horology. Representing approximately 14 hours of chamfering work only for the cage of the Gyrotourbillon and eight hours for the signature shape of one bridge on the reverse side, the Reverso Hybris Artistica Calibre 179 is testament to La Grande Maison’s commitment to hand-craftsmanship of the highest order.

A PERFECT EXPRESSION OF ART DECO DESIGN CREATES A TIMELESS ICON

Instantly recognisable, the rectilinear geometry and harmonious proportions of the Reverso case belie the complexity of a design that incorporates the signature slide-and-swivel mechanism. The inside of the cradle is decorated with a deeply engraved sunray pattern that radiates out from a blue lacquer disc. The strong Art Deco lines, emphasised by the signature gadroons above and below the dial, provide a perfect foil for the intricate decoration of the two dials of the Reverso Hybris Artistica Calibre 179.

Comprising 382 components, including the intricate Gyrotourbillon, the Reverso Hybris Artistica Calibre 179 embodies exceptional complexity. Yet, with an overall thickness of just 13.63mm and refined lugs, it remains both elegant and effortlessly comfortable – a testament to the ingenuity of our engineers in achieving such a harmonious balance of sophistication and wearability.

Crafted entirely in white gold (18k, 750/1000) and weighing nearly 30 grams, the adjustable folding buckle of the Reverso Hybris Artistica Calibre 179 epitomises both technical innovation and refined elegance. Comprising 46 meticulously assembled components, this intricate mechanism incorporates a double-wheel system that allows for micro-adjustments to the nearest 0.5mm, ensuring a perfectly tailored fit. Designed to complement the exceptional artistry of the timepiece, the buckle combines ergonomic sophistication with the timeless allure of precious metal, reflecting Jaeger-LeCoultre’s dedication to both precision and comfort.

Crafted for true connoisseurs of art and mechanics, the Reverso Hybris Artistica Calibre 179 is a noble expression of the 180 skills brought together under one roof at the Manufacture Jaeger-LeCoultre – a remarkable collaboration between watchmakers and artisans who are at the peak of their crafts.



TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS

REVERSO HYBRIS ARTISTICA CALIBRE 179

Case: White gold (18k, 750/1000)

Dimensions: 51.1 x 31 mm x 13.63 mm thick

Calibre: Manually-wound Jaeger-LeCoultre Calibre 179

Functions: Hours and Minutes on both dials; second time zone with 24-hour indicator on reverse dial,

Gyrotourbillon (visible on both front and reverse dials)

Power Reserve: 40 hours

Front dial: Blue lacquer

Back dial: Skeletonised, coated with blue lacquer

Water resistance: 30m

Strap: Blue alligator leather

Reference: Q39434E1

Limited edition of 10 pieces

ABOUT HYBRIS ARTISTICA

The word *hybris* (Greek for excess) embodies audacity, pushing the limits of creativity and expertise to achieve the extraordinary. Driven by this spirit, Jaeger-LeCoultre has fostered a true laboratory of ideas, responding to the *hybris* of its watchmakers' and artisans' ambitions. From this relentless pursuit of innovation emerged the Hybris Mechanica collection in 2003, dedicated to the most complex and groundbreaking complications, with 54 patents filed to date. Expanding this vision, the Maison introduced the Hybris Artistica collection in 2014 at the Salon International de la Haute Horlogerie, where high watchmaking meets the pinnacle of artistic craftsmanship. Bringing to life the 15 exceptional calibres of Hybris Mechanica, Hybris Artistica transforms technical mastery into an art form, enriching each timepiece with the *savoir-faire* of the Métiers Rares™ atelier. True to its legacy of invention, the Manufacture fuses ancestral techniques such as guilloché, micro-painting, enamelling, and engraving with sophisticated complications, achieving a rare alchemy of design, mechanics, and artistry. Hybris Artistica exemplifies Jaeger-LeCoultre's relentless pursuit of innovation, turning timepieces into true works of art.

ABOUT THE REVERSO

In 1931, Jaeger-LeCoultre launched a timepiece that was destined to become a classic of 20th-century design: the Reverso. Created to withstand the rigours of polo matches, its sleek, Art Deco lines and distinctive reversible case make it one of the most immediately recognisable watches of all time. Through nine decades the Reverso has continually reinvented itself without ever compromising its identity: it has housed 79 different calibres and has 39 patents, while its blank metal flip side has become a canvas for creative expression, decorated with enamel, engravings or gemstones. Today, more than 90 years after the Reverso was born, it continues to epitomise the spirit of modernity that inspired its creation.



ABOUT JAEGER-LECOULTRE – THE WATCHMAKER OF WATCHMAKERS™

Since 1833, driven by an unquenchable thirst for innovation and creativity, and inspired by the peaceful natural surroundings of its home in the Vallée de Joux, Jaeger-LeCoultre has been distinguished by its mastery of complications and the precision of its mechanisms. Known as the Watchmaker of Watchmakers™, the Manufacture has expressed its relentlessly inventive spirit through the creation of more than 1,400 different calibres and the award of more than 430 patents. Harnessing over 190 years of accumulated expertise, La Grande Maison's watchmakers design, produce, finish and ornament the most advanced and precise mechanisms, blending passion with centuries-old savoir-faire, linking the past to the future, timeless but always up with the times. With 180 skills brought together under one roof, the Manufacture creates fine timepieces that combine technical ingenuity with aesthetic beauty and a distinctively understated sophistication.

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