



## JAEGER-LECOULTRE PRESENTS A NEW INTERPRETATION OF THE DUOMETRE QUANTIEME LUNAIRE

- *Duometre: a revolutionary approach to timekeeping precision*
- *The first Duometre model in steel – and a new case design*
- *A deep blue dial distinguished by multiple decorative finishes*

Since the launch of the Duometre Chronograph in 2007 – the first timepiece based on the ground-breaking Duometre concept – the system has been used with a few other complications, giving its name to a line of technically advanced watches that are distinguished by highly precise timekeeping. In 2024, Jaeger-LeCoultre presents a new generation of Duometre timepieces – among them a reinterpretation of the Duometre Quantieme Lunaire (Moon Phase). The first Duometre piece to be offered in steel, its eye-catching blue dial, paired with a new case, lends a decidedly contemporary air to a timeless and distinctive design.

### **Ensuring a Perfect Supply of Energy**

With their invention of the Duometre in 2007, Jaeger-LeCoultre's engineers and watchmakers solved a fundamental problem of complex mechanical watches. That is, in order to operate, a complication must draw from the energy that is supplied from the barrel to the escapement via the gear train. This naturally interrupts the perfect regularity of the power supply and thus compromises precision.

In testament to the Maison's inventiveness since its earliest days, its watchmakers had already explored solutions to the problem in the 19th century: in an 1881 pocket watch they introduced Calibre 19/20RMSMI equipped with two barrels. However, a double-barrel calibre still does not address the real issue because both barrels feed power to a single gear train that is employed for both timekeeping and the operation of complications.

Nevertheless, that early calibre provided the Manufacture's 21<sup>st</sup>-century engineers and watchmakers with a starting point for the revolutionary Duometre concept. By effectively separating the power supply into two 'streams' – one barrel and gear train for timekeeping and a separate barrel and gear train for the complication(s), both linked to a single escapement – the Duometre system guarantees absolute constancy of the power supply, regardless of whether a complication is operating or not.

Emphasising the precision of the calibre, a distinctive element of the Duometre Quantieme Lunaire dial is the *seconde foudroyante* hand, which whirls continuously in a sub-dial at 6 o'clock. Making a complete revolution in one second (versus a 'standard' seconds hand, which rotates in 60 seconds) with six



'jumps' per rotation, the *foudroyante* hand makes it possible to observe intervals of precisely one-sixth of a second.

### **A Precise Approach to Aesthetics**

For Jaeger-LeCoultre, the pursuit of precision is not limited to the accuracy of timekeeping but is equally important for the beauty of the design and finishes. On the deep blue dial of the Duometre Quantième Lunaire, the long and very fine hands are a signature of all Duometre watches, as is the symmetrical layout, with three sub-dials forming an inverted pyramid. The sub-dial at 3 o'clock shows the time, with the cardinal hours marked by applied Arabic numerals; the sub-dial at 9 o'clock displays the date with a hand and the moon phase set against a blue sky. The *seconde foudroyante* sub-dial nestles beneath them at 6 o'clock.

The dial is made in several sections, with different finishes to create visual interest and contrast. The opaline main dial has the very soft glow and sense of visual depth characteristic of that decorative technique. The lower section of the dial is sunray-brushed and, in an added touch of refinement, the two power reserve indicators are distinguished from this sunrayed background by an opaline arc.

Inspired by the aesthetic of the sector dials that were featured on historic timepieces, the broad ring encircling each is sunray-brushed. The convex curve of the dial perimeter closely follows the contour of the glass -box crystal that protects it, and the sub-dials are slightly sunken into its surface, increasing the sense of visual depth.

Further evidence of the Maison's approach to precision can be seen in the finishing of the movement, fully visible beneath the transparent crystal case-back. Much of the calibre is open-worked, which serves both an aesthetic and a technical purpose: the latter enables the watchmakers to set and assemble some of the 374 components more easily, while the former allows a view deep into the mechanism.

Creating visual unity across the entire expanse of the movement, the bridges are decorated with sunrayed Geneva stripes. It's a challenging technique that demands absolute precision because the components must be decorated one-by-one, yet the stripes must radiate from the centre of the regulating organ to the edge of the calibre in perfect alignment once the movement is assembled.

### **A New Duometre Case: Contemporary Elegance Inspired by Tradition**

Marking the launch of three new Duometre models in 2024, Jaeger-LeCoultre has designed an entirely new case for the collection. A contemporary interpretation of the *savonette* pocket watches created by the Maison in the 19<sup>th</sup>-century, its rounded contours are highly tactile as well as visually appealing. (The French word *savonette* literally means a small disc of soap with rounded contours that can be cradled in the palm of a hand.) With its convex crystal and gracefully rounded bezel, the new Duometre case expresses this literal definition very well. The crown, too, has been redesigned, with deep and rounded



notches that make it a joy to handle. Indeed, the only sharp lines to be found are on the highly polished edges of the lugs.

A comfortable 42.5 mm in diameter, the case is a complex structure of 34 separate parts and the lugs are screwed rather than integrated, to enable multiple finishing techniques. A mixture of polished, brushed and micro-blasted surfaces creates a fascinating play of light with every movement of the wrist.

With its blue dial and steel case, the new interpretation of the Duometre Quantième Lunaire lends a decidedly contemporary air to a technically sophisticated timepiece. It perfectly represents Jaeger-LeCoultre's relentless pursuit of precision and its spirit of innovation, anchored in a deep respect for the traditions of Haute Horlogerie.

## TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS

### DUOMETRE QUANTIEME LUNAIRE

**Case:** Steel

**Dimensions:** 42.5 mm diameter x 13.05 mm thick

**Calibre:** Manually wound Jaeger-LeCoultre Calibre 381

**Functions:** Hour, Minutes, Central Seconds, 1/6<sup>th</sup> of a second, Moon Phases, Date, Two power reserves

**Power Reserve:** 50 hours for each barrel

**Front dial:** Blue opaline

**Water resistance:** 5 bar

**Strap:** Alligator with small scale alligator lining

**Reference:** Q604848J

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### 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 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.