

The Fifty Fathoms Bathyscaphe line expands

Blancpain unveils three new timepieces in its Fifty Fathoms collection. Featuring the sporty, assertive style of the black ceramic Bathyscaphe models, the new arrivals enrich the line with a flyback chronograph and two three-hand plus date models. These new watches with their striking dials are available with a variety of wristband options including the recently introduced high-tech ceramic bracelet, thereby offering a wide range of combinations.

Designed for daily wear while offering the possibility of seabed exploration, the Bathyscaphe was born in 1956 as the urban alter ego of the iconic Fifty Fathoms. Agile in all circumstances, this line with its colourful personality is a true urban chameleon, equally suited to a day at the office, a sporty getaway or a formal evening. Reinforcing this all-terrain character thanks to the high-tech ceramic from which they draw their strength, the new Bathyscaphe models enrich the family with their vibrant, sunny-hued faces.

Counterbalancing the powerful identity of the black ceramic used for the cases of these new models is a challenge which the dials developed by Blancpain have met with flying colours. Featuring a subtle gradient and sunburst finishing, they provide a unique balance by creating exceptional light effects. While a deep green dial energises the first three-hand plus date timepiece, a shade of blue evoking the sun's rays penetrating the depths of the sea adorns the second model of the same kind, as well as the flyback chronograph.

Measuring 43.6 mm in diameter and powered by robust, high-performance movements – Calibre 1315 for the three-hand plus date versions and Calibre F385 for the flyback chronograph – the new Bathyscaphe creations remain true to their diver's watch heritage, with their unidirectional rotating bezel and guaranteed water-resistance to 30 bar.

With the introduction of these new models, the Fifty Fathoms Bathyscaphe line revitalises its set of ceramic timepieces launched earlier this year, now offering three references (flyback chronograph, three-hand plus date and complete calendar with moon-phase models) featuring three different dials (blue, green and black) along with a generous choice of wristbands (sail-canvas and NATO straps along with a ceramic bracelet).

Calibre 1315: accuracy, reliability and performance

The new Bathyscaphe three-hand plus date watches are equipped with in-house Calibre 1315. This self-winding movement with its peerless high-precision timekeeping performance is designed, developed, produced, assembled and adjusted in-house – like all the movements powering Blancpain watches. Enjoying an impressive and constant five-day power reserve thanks to its three series-coupled barrels, it is equipped with a stop seconds function enabling time to be set with great accuracy. This movement

equipped with an NAC-coated 18K gold oscillating weight is entirely decorated in the *Haute Horlogerie* tradition.

Calibre F385: high frequency, high precision

Beating at the heart of the Bathyscaphe Chronographe Flyback, high-precision Blancpain Calibre F385 features a complex and prestigious column-wheel system with vertical clutch, ensuring that the chronograph starts and stops smoothly without any unwanted stuttering. Operating at a high frequency of 5 Hz, this calibre has a 50-hour power reserve and is accurate to 1/10th of a second. Its flyback function serves to reset the current timing operation and start a new one with a single press, unlike a conventional chronograph that requires three presses on two different pushers to stop, reset and restart the mechanism.

Ceramic: a sporty, sturdy material aligned with the Bathyscaphe's image

The Bathyscaphe line with its robust, youthful and dynamic DNA features a resolutely sporty, contemporary look. Its bold, innovative nature makes it the perfect field of expression for Blancpain's technological innovations. True to this spirit, high-tech ceramic is one of the ideal materials for this line.

Durable, highly scratch-resistant and hypoallergenic, high-tech ceramic is nearly five times harder than stainless steel, yet 25% lighter. It therefore proves ideal for straightforward daily use, without wearers having to worry about their every little move. Its 25% reduction in volume during firing at over 1,400°C also conveys the collection's experimental, innovative side. Accompanied by remarkable finishes executed by experts, Blancpain's high-tech ceramic creates incomparable light effects and reflects the contemporary aesthetics of the Bathyscaphe line.

A complex patented ceramic bracelet

The production of a fine ceramic watch bracelet is highly complex. Unattractive if the links are too loose and liable to break if they are too tight, the bracelet requires a perfect fit of its links in order to respect strict tolerances. Featuring a patented system for assembling the links with cam-shaped pins – so that they do not touch and break – Blancpain's black ceramic bracelet involved three years of research and development to offer perfect comfort and remarkable resistance.

Diving and safety: the rotating bezel

While diving in 1952, Jean-Jacques Fiechter, Blancpain's then CEO, learnt at his own expense how important it was to measure time spent underwater safely. His innovative solution was to equip the Fifty Fathoms –the first true diver's watch, launched in 1953, with a lockable, graduated and rotating bezel specially designed for underwater diving.

Today, the Fifty Fathoms collection features a unidirectional rotating bezel that only turns anti-clockwise for greater safety. The Bathyscaphe also has this type of bezel, like the original Fifty Fathoms that inspired it. The three new timepieces are no exception. The insert, positioned on the black ceramic bezel, complements the dial colour: in a bold black or deep green, adorned with grey Liquidmetal® indexes for added contrast, it highlights the striking sunray-brushed blue or green gradients. The bezel featuring a

thoroughly contemporary look is highly scratch-resistant and emits a clear-cut, powerful ‘click’ when handled.

The silicon revolution

A veritable early 21st-century revolution, silicon has enabled major advances in time measurement. Elastic without deforming, hard, light and highly resistant to corrosion, this material notably stands out for its resistance to magnetism, a welcome quality when it comes to ensuring timepieces’ precision.

Contrary to the 1950s, when the balances of timepieces were fitted with metal springs that could become magnetised – hence the need for a soft iron inner cage to shield and protect the movement from magnetism –, contemporary Fifty Fathoms feature a silicon balance-spring, which enables them to have a sapphire crystal case back revealing their unique movement construction. Benefiting from this technology, the three new Bathyscaphe models not only showcase a mechanism with high-quality finishes, but also offer superior timekeeping performance thanks to this material.