

— Press Release —

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Fifty Fathoms

Blancpain brings back the vintage spirit of the Bathyscaphe with a 70th anniversary limited edition

Born from the golden age of recreational diving, the Bathyscaphe embodies the typical skin diver codes through its balance of elegance and everyday wearability. Created in 1956 as the civilian counterpart to the Fifty Fathoms, the model bore a name that had already been registered in 1953 by Blancpain's then-CEO and passionate diver, Jean-Jacques Fiechter, reflecting his early vision of creating a diving watch designed not only for professional use but also for enthusiasts. Seventy years after its creation, Blancpain celebrates this legacy with a reproduction of a landmark model from 1968. A timepiece that bridges the aesthetic design of the past with watchmaking excellence, this 300-piece limited edition pays tribute to a defining chapter in the evolution of the diver's watch.



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— Key takeaways —

- Limited edition of 300 pieces, celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Bathyscaphe.
- The Bathyscaphe is the civilian version of the Fifty Fathoms.
- Powered by the Blancpain Manufacture calibre 1150 with a 100-hour power reserve.
- Vintage design, inspired by a 1968 model, 37.40 mm case, sunburst meteor grey dial, baton hands and indexes with vintage-coloured Super-LumiNova®.
- Sapphire crystal case back revealing the Haute Horlogerie finishing and an 18K gold rotor whose design is inspired by that of the original Fifty Fathoms.
- Presented on a chocolate calf leather strap that highlights the civilian and vintage style of the watch.

“The Fifty Fathoms is not just one model, it’s a family. And one important model in this family is the Bathyscaphe.”

Marc A. Hayek,
President & CEO, Blancpain

**The Skin Diver Style:
A New Relationship with
the Underwater World**

During the 1950s and 1960s, a new generation of watches emerged alongside the growing popularity of recreational diving: the skin diver. More than purely technical instruments, these watches reflected a new relationship with the underwater world, one shaped by leisure, enjoyment, and a growing

fascination with this emerging lifestyle. They captured the spirit of a time when diving became not only a professional activity, but also a source of personal adventure. Characterized by more compact proportions, clean lines, and a refined aesthetic, skin diver watches combined essential diving features with a more understated and daily-wear design.

Emerging from that philosophy, the Bathyscaphe was created in 1956 – despite the name having already been registered in 1953 – by Jean-Jacques Fiechter, then CEO of Blancpain and creator of the Fifty Fathoms, bringing Blancpain’s pioneering diving expertise into a civilian expression designed for everyday wear.

**The Bathyscaphe:
The Diver Legacy**

The name “Bathyscaphe” refers to the pioneering deep-sea exploration vessel conceived by Swiss scientist Auguste Piccard in the 1940s. Designed to reach the greatest depths of the ocean, the Bathyscaphe represented a major milestone in humanity’s exploration of the underwater world, an achievement that resonated with Jean-Jacques Fiechter’s own passion for diving and exploration.

While the Fifty Fathoms, introduced in 1953, was developed as a professional diving instrument for military forces, professional divers, and underwater specialists, the Bathyscaphe offered an everyday interpretation of the same heritage yet preserving the essential features of the diver’s watch. The distinction between the two models was particularly evident through their proportions. Measuring slightly over 41 mm in diameter, the original Fifty Fathoms was created to be a robust professional instrument. With a more compact 35 mm case, the first Bathyscaphe adopted a slimmer profile, reflecting a more civilian style while maintaining the reliability expected from a true diver’s watch.

Over seven decades, the Bathyscaphe has evolved through various interpretations but has always remained faithful to its original identity.

The Spirit of 1968, Reborn

For the model’s 70th anniversary, Blancpain turns to one of the most emblematic expressions of the Bathyscaphe’s history with a watch from 1968. This timepiece was selected for the way it embodied the collection’s defining qualities: balanced proportions, functionality, and understated elegance.



Fifty Fathoms Bathyscaphe, 2026



Fifty Fathoms Bathyscaphe, 1968



© Tim Vaux Photography

middle, contributes to the watch's harmonious profile on the wrist. The polished finishing, curved surfaces, and carefully shaped lugs enhance its refined aesthetics.

The bezel continues this dialogue between heritage and innovation. Made of steel with a ceramic insert and lacquered numerals – replacing the original black hesalite material – it reinforces durability and legibility.

Every element has been considered to reinforce the aesthetic codes of the original design, from the mid-20th century Blancpain logo to the baton hands and indexes enhanced by vintage-coloured Super-LumiNova®, which recalls the warm tones of the luminous materials used in the past. The hand-stitched chocolate calf leather strap further drives this heritage-inspired spirit, developing a natural patina over time.

The result is a faithful contemporary Bathyscaphe reproduction carrying the unmistakable character of its 1968 inspiration.

**Vintage Soul,
Contemporary Performance**
Beneath its vintage-inspired exterior, this anniversary edition

reveals the expertise of Blancpain's contemporary watchmaking. The Manufacture calibre 1150 was selected to equip this timepiece, offering a combination of reliability, precision, and exceptional autonomy with a 100-hour power reserve. Its silicon hairspring provides antimagnetic properties, contributing to the movement's stability and long-term performance.

Visible through the sapphire crystal case back, the movement showcases the meticulous Haute Horlogerie finishing. Inspired by the design of that of the original Fifty Fathoms, its open worked 18K gold oscillating weight highlights the beauty of the mechanical architecture. Unlike the 1968 inspiration piece, which featured a closed case back, this new interpretation allows the movement to become part of the experience of ownership, emphasizing the daily-wear DNA of the piece. This choice reflects Blancpain's desire to offer not only a connection to the past, but also a direct appreciation of the watchmaking expertise behind the timepiece.

Faithful to the standards of the Fifty Fathoms collection, the Bathyscaphe remains water-resistant to 30 bar. Limited to 300 individually numbered

pieces, each delivered in a Peli™ case, this anniversary edition celebrates a 70-year-old legacy by combining contemporary reliability with the enduring character of a historic model.



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TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Fifty Fathoms Bathyscaphe

Ref. 5903 1110 63A

Movement: Blancpain Manufacture Calibre 1150

Functions: Hours, minutes, seconds, date

Winding: Automatic

Power reserve: 100 hours (~4 days)

Dimensions: 26.20 × 3.25 mm

Frequency: 3 Hz (21,600 vph)

Hairspring: Silicon

Jewels: 28

Components: 210

Case: Stainless steel

Glass & back: Sapphire crystal

Water resistance: 30 bar (300 metres)

Diameter: 37.40 mm

Thickness: 12.30 mm

Lug-to-lug: 46.50 mm

Lug width: 18 mm

Dial: Sunburst meteor grey

Hands: Baton shape, with vintage-colour
Super-LumiNova®

Indexes: Baton shape, 18K white gold
with vintage-colour Super-LumiNova®

Strap: Chocolate calf leather

Clasp: Pin buckle

Limited Edition: 300 pieces

Price: CHF 13,800

Warranty: 5 years

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