

Watches

This month, pieces inspired by a Majorcan rally, a one-off custom motorbike and the creator of a Porsche engine **Words:** Simon de Burton

1 Oris Calobra Price: £2650 From: oris.ch

Oris backs the Rally Isla Mallorca, famous for a stretch of mountain road featuring a looped section known as the 'Nus de sa Corbata', which translates as 'tie knot'. In honour of the event, the brand has produced the Calobra special edition (named after a Majorcan village), based on its Artix GT sports chronograph with some automotive touches, such as red detailing and a perforated leather strap. The dial is unusual in having chronograph hands that come to rest at the eight o'clock position and a linear indicator for running seconds.

2 Bell & Ross BR01-94 B-Rocket Price: €4500 (c£3700) From: bellross.com

French firm Bell & Ross teamed up with British custom motorcycle builder Shaw Speed & Custom to create the B-Rocket, a retro-futuristic drag bike inspired by the jet planes of the 1950s. There's also a B-Rocket watch in the form of this 46mm chronograph featuring a black dial bordered by a black and white tachymeter scale for speed and distance calculations. The strap is padded black leather and based on the 'kneeler' bike's knee supports.

3 Scalfaro LM917 Hans Mezger Edition Price: €6917 (c£5700) From: scalfaro.com

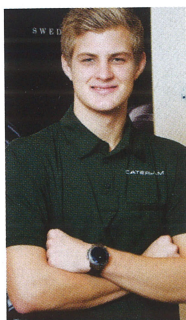
Hans Mezger will be familiar to *evo* readers as the designer of the air-cooled engines that powered Porsches to 15 victories at Le Mans. Perhaps the most famous car to carry a Mezger engine was the 917, now commemorated in a chronograph by German firm Scalfaro. The case contains 'original material' from a 917 and the seconds indicator is a miniature replica of a Porsche cooling fan. Mezger personally approved the design of the watch and his signature appears on the dial. Some 917 of these will be available in time for Porsche's return to the top class at Le Mans in June after 16 years away.

Now & Then

NOW

Halda Race Pilot Worn by: Marcus Ericsson

The 23-year-old Caterham F1 driver Marcus Ericsson recently became the latest ambassador for Halda watches, which are made in his native Sweden. The 2009 All-Japan Formula 3 champion made his F1 debut at the Australian GP on March 16.



THEN

Heuer Autavia Worn by: Jo Siffert

The late Swiss driver was the original F1 watch ambassador, having been signed by Jack Heuer after winning the British GP in 1968. It's said Steve McQueen modelled himself on Siffert in the film *Le Mans*, although Siffert wore a Heuer Autavia, not the Monaco famously sported by McQueen.



Watch tech

Moon phase

Since time is all about the relationship between the planets, it's not surprising that horologists have long been adept at recreating the waxing and waning of the moon in the miniaturised universe of a watch. The 'moon phase' display can take many forms, from a simple flat disc that roughly tracks the passage of the real thing, to elaborate three-dimensional orbs that replicate the moon's rotation around the Earth with remarkable accuracy.

One of the most impressive of all moon phase watches was unveiled by Saxon maker A Lange & Söhne at Geneva's SIHH watch show in January. The Grand Lange 1 Moonphase displays an extra-large moon formed from a solid gold disc (pictured above – only one moon at a time will be visible through the dial, of course). The disc's patented brilliant colours and sharp detail.

More than 300 stars are laser-cut on to the disc to create a truly spectacular representation of the galaxy, behind which sits Lange's hand-wound, calibre L095.3 movement, comprising 446 parts and featuring components made from untreated German silver.

The mechanism drives the moon phase display to such a degree of accuracy that the actual motion is impossible to detect. This is thanks to the use of a seven-gear reduction transmission that, assuming the watch is correctly set and kept running, means it will only need resetting once in every 122.6 years. That means a claimed accuracy of 99.9978 per cent!

