Rêveries des Secondes



A seconds hand that wanders, and is on time every minute.

Algorithme du Temps
www.algorithmedutemps.com

The seconds hand of this watch slows, stops, runs backwards, then races to three times its normal speed. However far it wanders, it crosses twelve exactly at every full minute. Its rhythm does not repeat within five minutes.

This press kit follows the presentation film: the question behind the watch, the research, what the hand does, and the watch itself.

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Seconds
-1× to +3×

At twelve
Every minute

Case
904L, 38.0 × 42.1 mm

Movement
Sellita SW200-1



For an instant, the hand seems to stop

Glance at a clock's seconds hand and, for a short moment, it seems to stand still. The hand appears to take longer than normal to reach its next position. Neuroscientists call this chronostasis: the brain stretches the moment of looking.[1]

It is a small illusion, and a revealing one. The instrument we trust to measure time evenly is read by a mind that does not. Rêveries des Secondes begins there, with the seconds hand itself.



The dial close, on red.

The time we measure, and the time we live

> “in te, anime meus, tempora metior”

Augustine, Confessions, XI.27.36: it is in thee, my mind, that I measure times.[2]

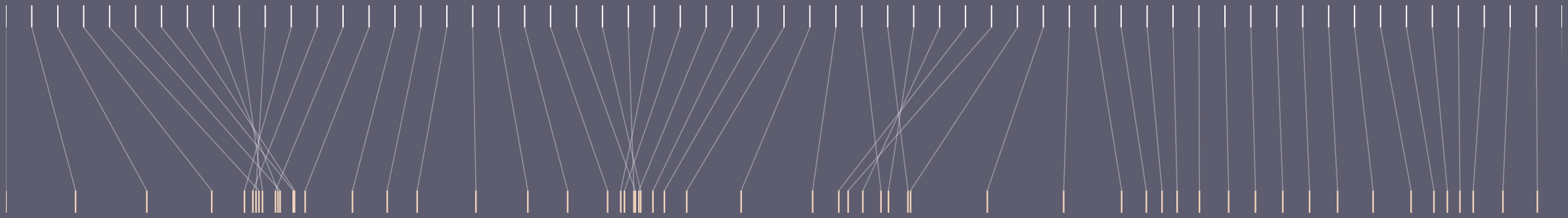
> “I do not measure duration … I merely count simultaneities.”

Henri Bergson, 1889, on following the hand of a clock.[3]

Our sense of time is not constant. Some seconds slip past unnoticed. Others stretch toward infinity. Yet every watch we wear marks each one exactly the same.

So the question behind this watch is simple. Why should a watch show only the time we measure, and never the time we live?

Sixty seconds: as measured (above), and where the hand of Étude N°1 is at each of them (below)



Four findings on felt time

The hand's own figures are design choices, not measurements. The research is the reason for them.

01

Absorption and boredom

Emotion and attention change the speed of felt time: it flies when we are absorbed and drags when we are bored.[4] Wanting something, striving for it, makes time seem to pass more quickly.[5]

02

Waiting

People left alone to wait in an empty room felt time pass more slowly as boredom grew.[6]

03

Memory

After a 31-metre free fall, people remembered their own fall as lasting 36% longer than other people's.[7]

04

Order

The brain can even reorder moments: a flash that follows an action can be felt as coming before it.[8]

Others have played with the seconds

1944

Swiss railway clock

Designed by Hans Hilfiker, its seconds hand laps in about 58 seconds and then waits at twelve.[9]

2008

Corpus Clock

By John C. Taylor in Cambridge, designed to run erratically, slowing down, speeding up, sometimes stopping, and returning to the correct time every five minutes.[10]

2020

Dubois Dépraz, Thila

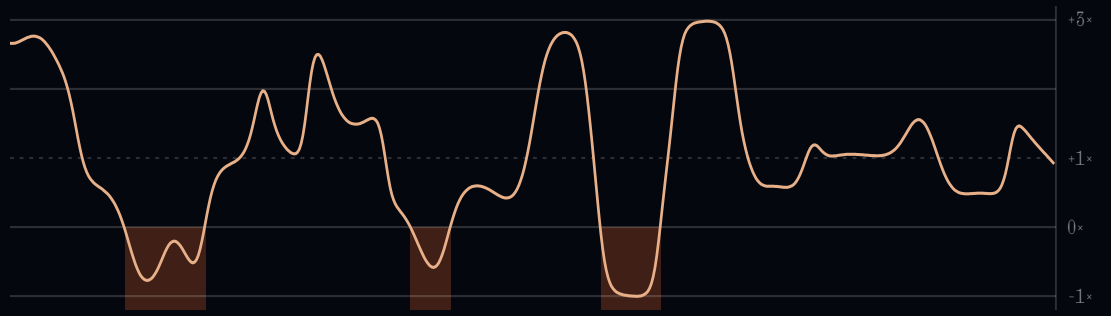
Swings a small-seconds hand like a metronome, 15 seconds one way and 15 back.[11]

Each does one part of it.

Swiss railway clock, speed of the hand over one minute



Rêveries des Secondes, the same minute (backwards shaded)





Nadim Elgarhy

Founder of Algorithme du Temps. He holds a degree in computer engineering and algorithms, and researches time perception.

He is the author of two papers: The Future of Time: Psychological, Perceptual, and Philosophical Dimensions and Their Potential Applications in Advanced Horology and Consciousness as a Fundamental Dimension: A Modern Theoretical Framework (bureauprive.org).

"Current watchmaking traditions, primarily focused on measuring standardized units of time, offer only a limited reflection of human temporal experience."

The Future of Time

"Algorithme ... relates to the very definite, predictable, logical, mathematical, while temps ... is elusive, mysterious, misunderstood, we try to control it but we can't."

On the name of the brand



The dial close, on coral and black.

It slows. It stops. It turns back. It races.

The centre seconds hand of Rêveries des Secondes never runs evenly. It slows. It stops for an instant. It runs backwards, at the pace of an ordinary seconds hand. Then it races forward, up to three times its normal speed.

Slows

below 1×

Stops

0×

Turns back

-1×

Races

up to +3×

Five minutes of the hand: speed against time, −1× to +3×, backwards shaded. The pattern then returns.



However it wanders, it arrives on time

At every full minute, the hand crosses twelve exactly on time, after running forward for at least two seconds.

19%

of the time, the hand runs backwards

46

changes of direction in five minutes

5 min

before the rhythm repeats

12

crossed exactly at every full minute

So the watch holds two kinds of time at once. The minute is measured. The seconds inside it are lived.



The centre belongs to the seconds

The hours sit on a recessed sub-dial at half past ten, the minutes on another at half past one. The centre of the dial is left to the seconds.

The seconds hand is blued steel, 13.3 mm long, and alone at the centre. Its tail ends in a hollow ring that frames the centre of each sub-dial as it passes over it.

At six o'clock, a round window 10 mm across shows the hand's rhythm being made.



Each piece has its own heartbeat

Rêveries des Secondes is a limited series of 40 pieces. Each piece receives its own pattern, made for it alone, so no two hands wander the same way.

Every one keeps the same appointment: however its hand wanders, it crosses twelve exactly at every minute.



Three-quarter view.



The crown and the domed crystal.



The closed case back, acid-etched.

904L steel. A closed, mirror-polished back.

The case is 904L steel, 38.0 × 42.1 mm and 10.53 mm thick, with the crown centred on the flank. Under a domed sapphire crystal the dial sits deep, so the watch has depth. The back is closed, mirror-polished and acid-etched with the name, the reference and the number of the piece.

Inside is an automatic Sellita SW200-1 without date, beating at 28,800 vibrations an hour.

Étude N°1. Specification sheet.

Display	
Seconds	Centre seconds of varying speed
Seconds hand	Blued steel, its tail a hollow ring that frames the sub-dial centres
Hours	Recessed sub-dial at 10:30
Minutes	Recessed sub-dial at 1:30
Aperture	Round, 10 mm, at 6 o'clock
Date	None

Function	
Speed of the hand	From -1× (backwards at normal speed) to +3×
Running backwards	19% of the time
Changes of direction	46 in 5 minutes
At twelve	Exactly at every full minute, after running forward for at least 2 s
Pattern	Repeats every 5 minutes; its own for each piece

Movement	
Base calibre	Sellita SW200-1, no date
Winding	Automatic
Frequency	28,800 vph (4 Hz)
Power reserve	38 h (base calibre)

Edition	
Series	40 pieces, numbered

Case	
Material	904L steel
Dimensions	38.0 × 42.1 mm, 10.53 mm thick
Crystal	Domed sapphire
Crown	Centred on the flank
Case back	Closed, mirror-polished, acid-etched

Floating and on black acrylic

A selection. All 101 images, at full resolution, are on the press page: www.algorithmedutemps.com/press/. For editorial use, credit “Algorithme du Temps”.



floating-01
Floating, face-on, the croc strap falling away.



floating-02
Floating, the dial close: Numéro 00 and the window at six.



floating-03
Floating, the closed case back, acid-etched.



black-acrylic-01
Face-on, on black acrylic.



black-acrylic-02
The dial from above, on black acrylic.



black-acrylic-06
Face-on, the strap laid flat.



black-acrylic-07
Three-quarter view, the strap laid flat.



black-acrylic-09
The dial close, the strap laid flat.



black-acrylic-12
In profile at the surface, the crown centred on the flank.



black-acrylic-28
The dial close: the hour and minute sub-dials, the seconds hand at the centre.



black-acrylic-33
Three-quarter view, the croc strap across the frame.



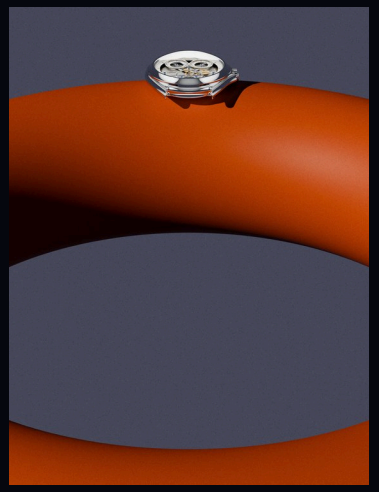
black-acrylic-37
Half sunk in black glass, rings spreading.

Abstracts

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abstract-01
On a sand drum, a black ground.



abstract-05
On an orange ring over slate.



abstract-10
Against an orange wall.



abstract-12
Before a sand disc, a dusk ground.



abstract-13
On an orange sphere.



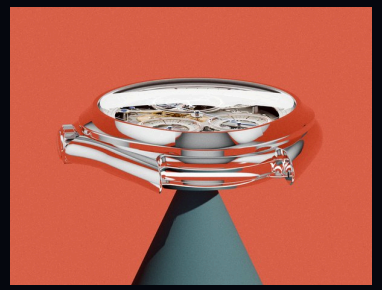
abstract-20
On a cream disc, a black ground.



abstract-22
On a navy disc, a blue ground.



abstract-24
The dial close, on teal.



abstract-36
On a slate cone, a coral ground.



abstract-42
On a red cone, a black ground.



abstract-51
The dial close, on green.



abstract-55
On an orange square, a black ground.



Algorithme du Temps

Rêveries des Secondes is presented by its designer, Nadim Elgarhy. For interviews, images or the film, write to us.

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Time doesn't flow. It dreams.

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