



IN TIME

# *Conquering time and oceans*

Celebrating the 250th anniversary of a timepiece that would help to change the destiny of entire generations, Chronométrie Ferdinand Berthoud has created a new and emblematic collection deeply rooted in the Berthoud legacy: the Chronomètre FB 2RE with a remontoir d'égalité.

*With the courtesy of © Chronométrie Ferdinand Berthoud*





### Conquering time and oceans

In days gone by the French and British Navies were engaged in a fascinating struggle: the conquest of the world's oceans. A war fought by fearless heroes in battles with smoking cannons and ferocious attacks against vessels, but also by experienced navigators who guided ships through bad weather and rational experts skilled in taking measurements with the utmost precision. Map makers would be busy tracing the boundaries of new worlds, while other technicians would be measuring the strength of the sea and the weather.

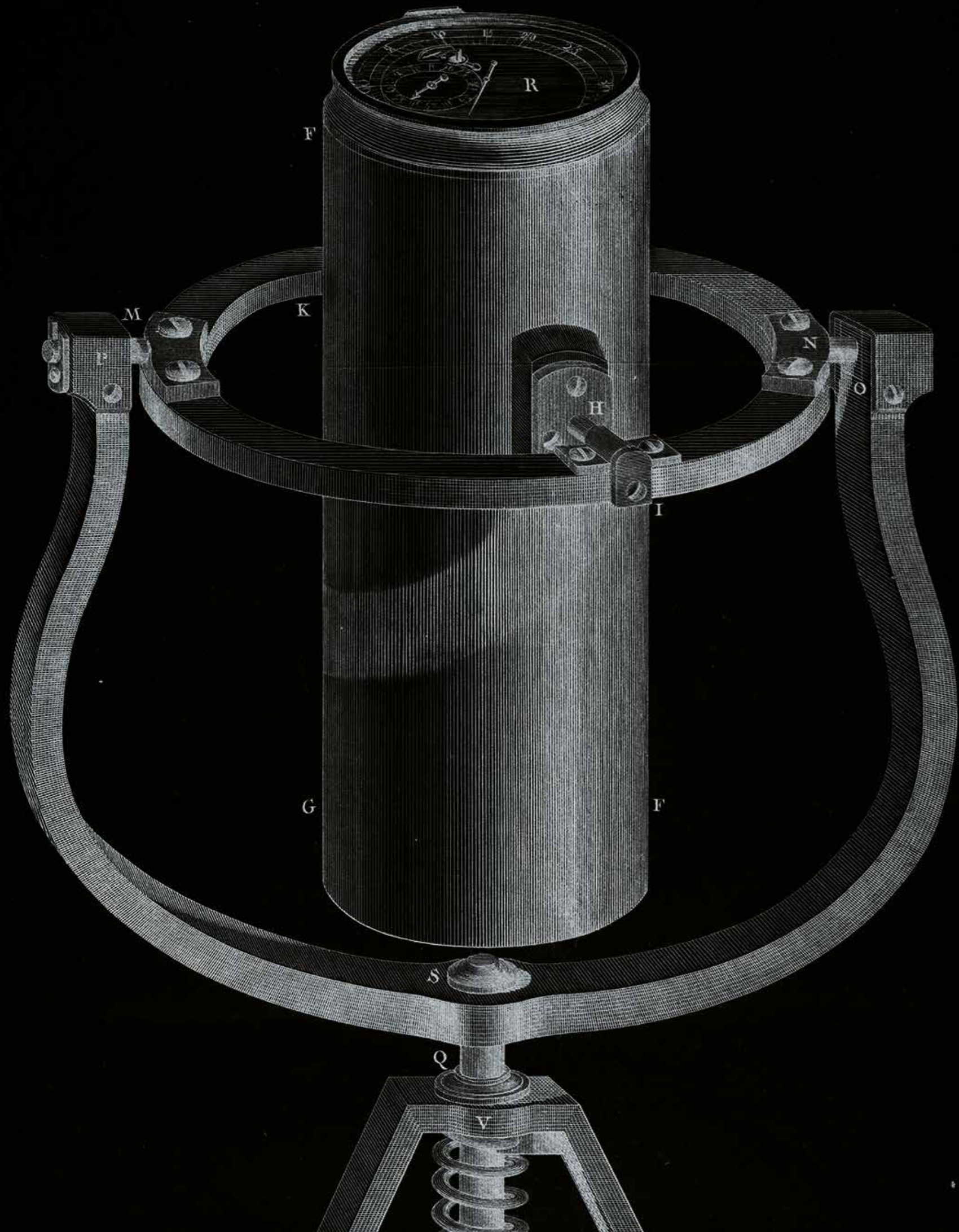
Many attempted to develop a reliable and precise instrument capable of calculating longitude during sea voyages notwithstanding the pitching and rolling of the vessel and changes in temperature. One name in particular stood out in these efforts, creating a timepiece that would help to change the destiny of entire generations. Ferdinand Berthoud was a trailblazer: in 1770 he was awarded the title of "Master Clockmaker and Mechanic by appointment to the King and the Navy" under Louis XV thanks to the success of the Horloges Marines Nr 6 and Nr 8, created in the previous two years. He also received a royal commission for 20 Marine Clocks, needed for the numerous cartographic

and hydrographic surveys planned for the late 18th century.

As a tribute to the great innovator, and celebrating the 250th anniversary of this royal recognition, which marked an important breakthrough in the history of timekeeping and resulting scientific progress, Chronométric Ferdinand Berthoud has created a new and emblematic collection deeply rooted in the Berthoud legacy: the Chronomètre FB 2RE with a remontoir d'égalité.

An exceptional contemporary wrist watch available in two 10-piece limited and numbered editions, inspired by the architecture and design of Horloge Marine Nr 6 and deploying technologies that would have been unthinkable at that time, including a brand new movement of amazing chronometric precision: the FB-RE.FC Calibre with remontoire, installed in an unusual 18-carat white gold round case 44 mm in diameter with a white enamel dial (REF. FB 2RE.1) or 18-carat white gold round case with black enamel dial (REF. FB 2RE.2), both adopting the delicate and historical grand feu technique to fully showcase the extremely refined details. The hours and minutes are indicated with the characteristic 18-carat gold dagger-type hands with a













hollowed-out design, while the seconds hand is made from extremely thin titanium weighing just 0.01 grams to lighten the burden on the remontoire mechanism. All the fine details of the dial can be seen perfectly through the domed, glare-proofed sapphire crystal. The caseback is also fitted with sapphire crystal, making it possible to admire the precision of the movement and the arrow-shaped CVD-blued 18-carat power reserve hand, used in both models, with a stopwork system limiting the reserve to 50 hours. The large panoramic “porthole” at 10 o’clock to the case-middle serves to reveal the movement’s pillar-like architecture, the barrel, emblematic fusee and chain transmission with its 790 components, and the one-second “remontoire”, a new world of mechanical precision already described in the *Treatise on Marine Clocks*, published in Paris back in 1773. On the back of the FB-RE.FC calibre we can actually view one of the rarest timepiece inventions, the one-second remontoire. It is one of the most complex torque regulations in the history of time measurement. The remontoire of the Chronomètre FB 2RE is unique due its concentric fitting of the escape-wheel, being directly con-

nected to the escapement in order to store a small quantity of energy in a secondary hairspring. This component plays a driving rather than regulating role. The hairspring delivers its force to the balance via the escapement at such short intervals that the variation in force in the hairspring is not taken into account, and whose release lasts for one second. But its surprising technical innovations do not end here. The manual winding movement has a balanced elegance, with 26 bridges supported by 10 steel pillars surrounding the mechanical parts. The new two-spoke variable-inertia balance has a low frequency of 18,000 vibrations per hour, safeguarding the power reserve and enabling slow oscillation, pleasing to the eye and resembling that of historical timepieces. The large knurled crown facilitates the winding of the movement, and a dynamometric system disengages as soon as the barrel is fully armed. To optimise precision, the Chronomètre FB 2RE features a stop-seconds device that brings the balance to a halt when the crown is pulled out to allow the wearer to synchronise the watch to the nearest second using a reference timepiece, just as watches were synchronised with marine









clocks on exploration vessels. We might imagine going on board such a craft and carrying out this operation while a storm is in full swing.

The movement is protected against the vagaries of the deep oceans by an 18-carat gold cylindrical container that is water-resistant to a depth of 30 metres. The chronometer and its movement, containing 58 rubies, consists of 1,200 perfectly manufactured components in all, and is fastened to the wrist via a hand-sewn leather strap and 18-carat gold pin buckle, held in place by a double-blade length-adjustable folding clasp.

The extreme beauty of this timepiece is the result of the extreme care taken with every detail. It has a virtuous soul, showing a strong identity and respect for man's ability to invent and perform miracles in an ever more perfect microcosm. To make its timepieces Chronométrique Ferdinand Berthoud uses gold obtained from the ethical sourcing system set up by its founder Karl-Friedrich Scheufele. The Maison thus continues to live up to the reputation of a genius of haute horlogerie, who with his creativity left an indelible mark on the history of seafaring and time measurement.

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