



PATEK PHILIPPE
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Press release

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Annual Calendar chronograph Ref. 5960P

At Patek Philippe, announcements of totally new watch models are typically years apart. But the company places all the more emphasis on keeping its existing collections up to date with continuous refinements. Because of this ongoing care, the success stories of the individual timepiece families have been particularly enduring: the Calatrava since 1932, the Golden Ellipse since 1968, the Nautilus since 1976, etc. Slight modifications, such as new dials or case materials, not only add fresh touches to collections but also limit the number of watches in a given series. Aficionados and collectors of rare timepieces appreciate the fact that their watches remain desirable rarities even if they are not part of an expressly limited edition. Thus, the new 2010 version of the Annual Calendar chronograph differs in subtle ways from its predecessors.

Launched in 2006, the Ref. 5960P Annual Calendar chronograph was endowed with the first regularly produced chronograph movement developed from the bottom up by Patek Philippe and crafted entirely in-house from the movement blank to the finished caliber. It is a very modern self-winding movement with a nearly wear-free vertical clutch. A genuine manufacture chronograph movement combined with Patek Philippe's legendary Annual Calendar was exactly what the market had been waiting for. As a matter of fact, the Annual Calendar chronograph instantly became one of the manufacture's most sought-after models. The 2006 debut platinum model with the charcoal gray dial received a sibling in 2009: a rose gold version with a dark silvery gray of the vertically satin-finished dial silvery gray face. And now, the collection is being expanded by a second platinum model with a matt blue sunburst dial.

Two popular complications united in one watch

The Ref. 5960P unites a mechanical flyback chronograph and an Annual Calendar, two of the most popular complications in timekeeping. The calendar mechanism is based on a patent granted to Patek Philippe in 1996 for the Annual Calendar – it relies on wheels and pinions rather than the more common may we replace this word by “springs”? and levers to control the calendar displays. The underlying idea is that rotary motions are more straightforward and easier to control than the reciprocating movements of levers. In actual fact, Patek Philippe's annual calendar mechanisms have a proven 15-year track record for above-average functionality and reliability. The manufacture's patented Annual Calendar is a full calendar that automatically distinguishes months with 30 and 31 days and, if kept running, only needs to be manually corrected once a year on the first day of March. It shows the day of the week, the date, and the month, and it has an am/pm indicator.

The chronograph module of the new Ref. 5960P is just as modern. It relies on the traditional column-wheel construction for controlling the start, stop, and reset commands, but instead of a lever for a horizontal wheel clutch, it actuates the clamp of a vertical disk clutch. This solution is extremely dependable and eliminates the risk of hand bounce in either direction when the chronograph is switched on, because no wheels are abruptly engaged. Since the disk clutch is virtually wear-free, the chronograph hand can be used as a running seconds hand without hesitation. This mode of operation



has no negative effect on the rate accuracy of the movement. This is why the Ref. 5960P, contrary to most chronographs, has no seconds subdial.

Cool elegance in platinum with a blue dial

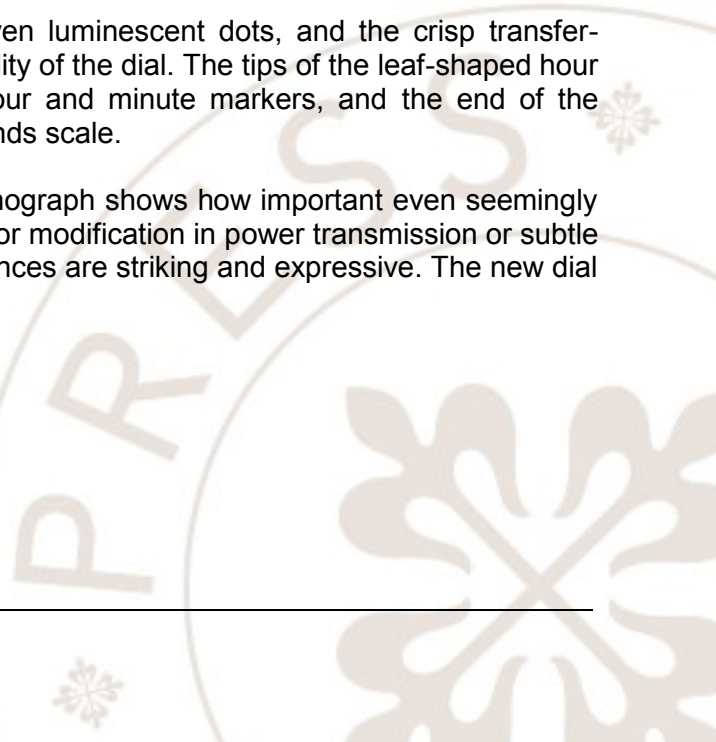
Like the first 2006 model, the new Ref. 5960P has a round case in 950 platinum with an antireflection-coated sapphire-crystal glass and a sapphire-crystal display back. The round chronograph pushers and the large easy-grip crown are located on the right-hand side of the case. The push pieces for adjusting the calendar indicators are on the opposite side. With a case diameter of 40.5 millimeters, the Ref. 5960 ranks among Patek Philippe's larger timepieces. Its stately visual presence is amplified by the tangible weight of the platinum case. These decidedly masculine attributes underscore the technical appeal of the chronograph. The watch is worn on a blue, large-scaled alligator strap with a platinum fold-over clasp.

The matt blue sunburst dial with the two-tone monocounter in blue and silver is totally new. Blue harmonizes with the cool gloss of platinum and creates a new timepiece personality with emphasis on fast and convenient readability of all indications. Unlike most other chronographs, the Ref. 5960P does not have three subsidiary dials for the running seconds as well as the minute and hour counters. Instead, it features the combined minute and hour counter on a subdial that largely occupies the bottom half of the watch face. On three concentric scales, it indicates the minutes and hours totalized by the chronograph. The two outer scales are assigned to the longer red hand that shows elapsed minutes from 0 to 30 (blue numerals) and from 30 to 60 (black numerals). The shorter white hand indicates recorded event times of up to twelve hours on the innermost scale. The day/night indicator in the small round aperture progressively changes from white (day) to dark blue (night). This function is particularly useful when the watch has stopped, making it necessary to distinguish between morning and afternoon hours when setting the time and the calendar indications.

The upper half of the dial is dominated by the Annual Calendar, which indicates the day of the week, the date, and the month in three apertures arranged along an arc between 10 and 2 o'clock. The size of the date at 12 o'clock is particularly remarkable. With its polished white gold frame, the date aperture forms a visual equilibrium with the prominent monocounter in the bottom half of the dial. The small hand of the power-reserve indicator beneath the date aperture moves from plus to minus as it shows the state of wind of the mainspring.

Eight slender applied hour markers in white gold, eleven luminescent dots, and the crisp transfer-printed scale produce the clarity needed for instant legibility of the dial. The tips of the leaf-shaped hour and minute hands extend nearly all the way to the hour and minute markers, and the end of the chronograph hand skims the fractionally graduated seconds scale.

Patek Philippe's new Ref. 5960P Annual Calendar chronograph shows how important even seemingly small details really are in haute horlogerie, be they a minor modification in power transmission or subtle color variations in dial design. Sometimes, the consequences are striking and expressive. The new dial of the Ref. 5960P is a case in point.

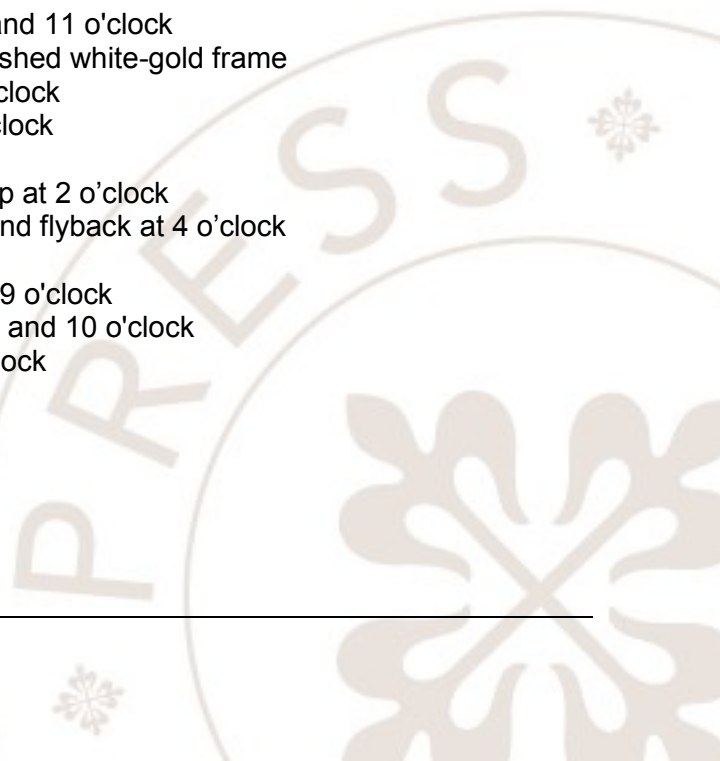




Technical data

Annual Calendar Chronograph Ref. 5960P

Movement:	Caliber CH 28-520 IRM QA 24H Self-winding mechanical movement, column wheel chronograph Annual Calendar, power-reserve indicator, 24-hour display, sweep seconds (chronograph hand)
Diameter:	33 mm
Height:	7.68 mm
Number of parts:	456
Number of jewels:	40
Power reserve:	Max. 55 hours
Winding rotor:	Central rotor in 21K gold, unidirectional winding; oil-free ball bearing with zirconium balls
Balance:	Four-arm Gyromax with four poising weights
Frequency:	28,800 semi-oscillations/hour (4 Hz)
Balance spring:	Breguet
Functions:	Two-position crown: - Pulled out: To set the time - Pushed in: To wind the watch
Displays:	Center hour and minute hands Sweep chrono/seconds hand Power-reserve indicator at 12 o'clock Combined monocounter dial at 6 o'clock with - 60-minute counter (counts the elapsed minutes on two concentric scales from 0 to 30 in blue and from 30 to 60 in black) - 12-hour counter
Display apertures:	- Day of week between 10 and 11 o'clock - Date at 12 o'clock in a polished white-gold frame - Month between 1 and 2 o'clock - Day/night indicator at 6 o'clock
Function buttons:	- Chronograph start and stop at 2 o'clock - Chronograph hand reset and flyback at 4 o'clock
Corrector push pieces:	- Day-of-week correction at 9 o'clock - Date correction between 9 and 10 o'clock - Month correction at 10 o'clock





Features

- Case:** 950 platinum, cambered sapphire-crystal glass and sapphire-crystal display back, diamond at 6 o'clock
Water-resistant to 30 meters
- Case dimensions:** Diameter: 40.5 mm
Diameter including crown: 43.25 mm
Height: 13.55 mm
Width between lugs: 21 mm
- Dial:** Two-tone: matt blue sunburst and silvery
Eight hour markers in 18K white gold
Eleven Superluminova luminescent dots
Leaf-shaped hour and minute hands in 18K white gold with Superluminova luminescent coating
Baton-style chronograph hand in rhodiumed steel with counterweight
Power-reserve indicator with baton-style hand in rhodiumed 18K white gold
- Subsidiary dial with circular guilloché pattern with a matt blue center and a silvery periphery
Baton-style hour-counter hand with counterweight, white-lacquered brass
Baton-style minute counter hand with counterweight, red-lacquered brass
- Strap:** Hand-stitched, large-scaled blue alligator strap with platinum fold-over clasp

