



PATEK PHILIPPE
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Patek Philippe *Ladies First Minute Repeater* Ref. 7000 Self-winding minute repeater of technical brilliance in an irresistibly feminine interpretation

Watches with minute repeaters have always ranked among the rarest, most precious, and most elaborate timepieces. In an extremely compact space, their intricate inner life brings together hundreds of individual parts that interact and function in harmony, or move next to each other with minimal clearances, without making contact. The objective of the effort is to strike the time displayed on the dial with the best possible acoustic sonority. And so, at 3:34 for instance, the time is indicated with a *dong-dong-dong* for the hours on a low-pitched gong, a *ding-dong, ding-dong* on both gongs for the quarter-hours, and a *ding-ding-ding-ding* for the minutes on the high-pitched gong. Technical finesse that makes time so seductively audible is bound to attract the attention of women as well. Patek Philippe decided to introduce the first minute repeater in its collection of ladies' wristwatches: the Ref. 7000.

Ordinarily, minute repeaters belong to the category of large wristwatches. But here, Patek Philippe made an exception because its self-winding caliber R 27 PS is one of the thinnest movements with a striking mechanism. It not only ranks among the few repeater movements that are self-winding but thanks to the off-center minirotor in 22K gold – fully recessed in the plate – its height is a scant 5.05 mm. These are ideal assets for a watch intended to elegantly grace a feminine wrist, despite the formidable horological degrees of difficulty that it incorporates.

Romantic by all means

With its charming case in warm rose-gold framed by a convex bezel, the new Ref. 7000 is a timepiece of great beauty. The manufacture's classic Officer's-style models also inspired the straight lugs with the screwed strap bars. In place of a hinged back-cover, however, it features a screwed sapphire-crystal back that reveals the marvel of sonorous time. The slide that activates the minute repeater is perfectly integrated into the left-hand case side, juxtaposed by the fluted crown at 3 o'clock that visually emphasizes the equilibrium of the case form. The cream-colored dial with the transfer-printed maker's signature and the seconds scale in antique rose is surrounded by the mirror-polished bezel. Nine applied Breguet numerals in 18K rose gold and dainty rose-gold pearls at the periphery of the dial are placed along the hour and minute circles, accenting the easily legible, open face of the watch. It sets a sublime stage for the "Poire Stuart" hour and minute hands and the slim baton-style counterbalanced seconds hand. All hands are crafted from 18K rose gold. It is easily to overlook the fact that this poised and feminine face conceals no fewer than 342 individual parts of a highly complex movement.

The complication is feminine

For every lover of complex watches, it is always a joy to observe the ballet of the filigreed parts of a striking mechanism in action. And it is not just men who are captivated by the complexities of haute



horlogerie. For instance, the number of hours, quarter-hours, and minutes displayed on the dial must be continuously updated by the system of intricately shaped cams, wheels, and snails so that they are in the right positions when the slide that triggers the minute repeater is actuated. This is because the toothed segments of the hour, quarter-hour, and minute racks must move into the positions that allow them to accurately control the number of hour, quarter-hour, and minute strikes. The rhythm of the strikes, in turn, is controlled by a small centrifugal governor, which assures that the gongs are struck in uniform succession rather than in a hurried sequence. Apart from many tiny parts, this also calls for the utmost in precision and patience in finishing, assembling, and adjusting them. For this reason, movements with minute repeaters are crafted in separate haute horlogerie ateliers at Patek Philippe, where one master watchmaker is responsible for the assembly, adjustment, and completion of each individual watch from start to finish. This work is entrusted only to the most talented watchmakers whose assets are sharp eyes and ears, a steady hand, infinite patience, and years of experience.

Sonority is a priority

At Patek Philippe, the last step in the inception of a minute repeater is an unusual process as well. After the fully cased watch has been subjected to a series of rigorous tests and its sonority analyzed with modern instrumentation, it must prove that it lives up to the demands of the human ear as well. At the workshops in Geneva, this takes place in the offices of presidents Thierry and Philippe Stern, who in their capacity as owners of the company assume personal responsibility for the quality of its timepieces. Accordingly, they personally assess the acoustics of each minute repeater before it is delivered to its owner. The typical Patek Philippe sound with its rich resonance is an inimitable brand element that characterizes all minute repeaters of the manufacture.

For this reason, every single Patek Philippe Ref. 7000 minute repeater embarks on a months-long journey in the hands of its maker and the acoustic appraisal by Patek Philippe's presidents before it is handed over to its delighted owner. From that moment on, she will be among the few women fortunate enough to revel in the reverberant sound of a Patek Philippe *Ladies First Minute Repeater*.

A large, faint watermark of the Patek Philippe logo is visible in the bottom right corner. It features the word "PATEK" in a large, serif font, with "PHILIPPE" written in a smaller font below it. The logo is surrounded by a circular border and includes the Calatrava cross emblem.



Technical data

Ladies First Grand Complication, Ref. 7000, 18K rose gold (4N) Ladies First Minute Repeater

Movement:	Caliber R 27 PS Self-winding mechanical movement with minute repeater
Diameter:	28 mm
Height:	5.05 mm
Number of parts:	342
Number of jewels:	39
Power reserve:	Max. 48 hours
Winding rotor:	22K gold minirotor, unidirectionally winding
Balance:	Gyromax [®]
Frequency:	21,600 semi-oscillations per hour (3 Hz)
Balance spring:	Flat
Balance spring stud:	Adjustable
Hallmark:	Patek Philippe Seal
Minute repeater:	Striking mechanism with two gongs (hours on low-pitched gong, minutes on high-pitched gong, and quarter-hours on both gongs)
Functions:	Two-position crown – Pushed in: To wind the watch – Pulled out: To set the time Slide on the left side of the case to activate the minute repeater
Displays:	Hours and minutes from the center Subsidiary seconds at 6 o'clock
Features	
Case:	18K rose gold (4N), Officer's style, cambered sapphire-crystal glass, solid 18K rose-gold back and interchangeable screwed display back with sapphire-crystal window
Case dimensions:	Diameter 33.7 mm Height: 9.50 mm Width between lugs: 14 mm Protection against splashwater and dust



Dial: Cream-colored. Transfer-printed in antique rose
Nine applied Breguet numerals in 18K rose gold
"Poire Stuart" hour and minute hands in 18K rose gold
Seconds hand in 18K rose gold

Subsidiary dial:
– Subsidiary seconds at 6 o'clock

Strap: Alligator leather with square scales, hand-stitched, matt mother-of-pearl
hue, prong buckle in 18K rose gold

