

# DE BETHUNE

L'ART HORLOGER AU XXI<sup>E</sup> SIÈCLE

*Press Release, Baselworld 2016*



## **DB28 & DB28T – Kind of Blue**

*In honour of the colour blue, a fundamental element of its identity, De Bethune presents a monochromatic range of its iconic models, DB28 and DB28T. Radical and magnetic, their colour is created by an artisanal and natural treatment of the metals.*

### **Experimental blue**

De Bethune has devoted considerable research into natural blue, because the brand considers this colour to be symbolically related to the concept of infinity and harmony. Therefore, De Bethune has dedicated two new creations to this colour, both entirely blue, and united them under the name Kind of Blue.

At De Bethune, the colour blue is imbued with a broad and deep meaning. Evoking simultaneously water, the sky and space, the colour blue is above all envisaged as a luminous vibration by David Zanetta, Curator and Co-Counder, and Denis Flageollet, Master Watchmaker and Co-Founder. At De Bethune, each colour corresponds to a different type of energy derived from the colours of which it is composed.

Blue is also associated with the notion of plenitude: within and beyond itself, and as far as this unfathomable infinity that is the universe, the source of life. So blue becomes a vector that subtly connects mankind with his physical and his spiritual environment. Seen in the context of artistic expression, the concept of blue approaches the magic of music, which is the inspiration for the name given to these creations.

### **Hand and heat**

To create its own blue, De Bethune relied exclusively on a traditional technique, and all the parts in titanium and steel used in Kind of Blue were treated in this manner. It consists of heating the material to colour its surface through oxidation and to modify its physical properties in the process. Since its invention at the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the technique has been used by watchmakers to give a new lustre to watch parts without altering their finishings. It also provides protection against corrosion. The synonym of watchmaking excellence, it requires a preliminary fine polishing, followed by a heating phase, normally by flame, to create a natural and long-lasting protective film, at the same time as it increases the hardness of the piece. Steel and iron were the only materials treated in this manner until De Bethune began its own experiments with titanium. Finalised in 2006, the technique is now applied to the purest form of this material, grade 5 titanium. Entirely done by hand, this extremely demanding treatment involves the development of a whole new repertory of steps, because titanium has proven to be a very arduous material to remodel. To give it its definitive lustre, the artisans at De Bethune have to demonstrate exceptional tenacity with each piece they work on.

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### Range of colours

The thermal treatment for Kind of Blue is applied not only to the elements of the case, but also to most of the parts of the movement. Thus, each part is studied individually, as the process has to be adapted according to its form and its mass. This preliminary phase is essential to ensure a uniform range of tones in the finished product. However, the human touch and the different typologies of the materials result in very subtle variations. These nuances are essential for De Bethune, because they create a visual resonance that affects the appearance of the finished piece. Actually, the definitive colour comes from the sum of all these variations and it is expressed by a kind of overall vibration.

### DB28 Kind of Blue

An iconic De Bethune model, the DB28 presents a case made of polished grade 5 titanium, mounted on two floating lugs to ensure superior wearing comfort. On the inside, the mechanical calibre with manual winding is fully visible and integrates several fundamental technical inventions. The patented spherical moon-phase is positioned at 6 o'clock. Made of steel and palladium, it offers precision that varies by only one lunar day every 122 years. At the heart of the watch, the high-performance escapement developed by De Bethune presents a silicon annular balance, encircled by a white gold ring and a balance-spring with a flat terminal curve that is exclusive to De Bethune. It is protected by a triple pare-chute shock-absorbing system. Power is accumulated and distributed through two self-regulating barrels, also developed by De Bethune. An indicator needle positioned between 2 and 3 o'clock indicates the level of torque that has been built up. The power reserve indicator can be read on the back of the plate, which is decorated with special concentric graining. All the finishes are done by hand with a motion work bridge in polished titanium, bridges with "Côtes De Bethune" decoration and rose-work grinding on the barrel ratchets. The hours are indicated by skeleton hands on arrow pointers made of polished steel.

### DB28T Kind of Blue

The DB28T, a technical development of the DB28, adopts the same case in polished titanium held by double floating lugs for maximum comfort. Its mechanical calibre with hand winding is equipped with a high frequency, ultra fast tourbillon, signed De Bethune. The lightest in the world with its minuscule 0.20 grammes for 63 parts, it beats at one-tenth of a second and makes a complete rotation in 30 seconds for superior chronometry. Its silicon balance wheel, just as its escape wheel, is encircled with a white gold ring. A self-regulating twin barrel developed in-house ensures constant torque in the movement. Entirely visible, the movement presents a curved delta motion work bridge in polished titanium decorated with applied microsphere stars in white gold.



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Decorated by hand, the parts present various types of high watchmaking finishes, with rose-work grinding on the barrel ratchets and on the back, a plate with "De Bethune" concentric graining. The hours are marked by arrow pointers in pink gold, and as an added touch of luxury, indicated by skeleton hands also fashioned in pink gold.

At once supreme and delicate, the Kind of Blue DB28 and DB28T emit a singular radiance from the very material from which they are made. They truly advocate in favour of a colour that casts a magical spell.

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## DB28 Kind of Blue

Technical specifications



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**DB28 Kind of Blue**  
Technical specifications

Name:	DB28 Kind of Blue
Reference:	DB28BTiBN /S
Vintage:	Production limited to 10 pieces in 2018
Functions:	Hours, Minutes, Spherical moon phase at 6 o'clock. Power reserve on case back, Performance indicator between 2 and 3 o'clock
Movement:	DB2115V4
Type:	Mechanical hand-wound movement
Adjustment:	Using the crown (2 positions) for winding, and setting the time Using a corrector for the spherical moon phase

**Technical features of calibre DB2115V4**

Number of parts:	297
Jewelling:	39 jewels
Diameter:	30 mm
Power reserve:	6 days, ensured by a self-regulating twin barrel <i>De Bethune Innovation (2004)</i>
Technical features:	<p>Titanium balance wheel with white gold inserts, optimised for temperature differences and air penetration <i>De Bethune Patent (2016)</i></p> <p>"De Bethune" balance-spring with flat terminal curve <i>De Bethune Patent (2006)</i></p> <p>Silicon escape wheel</p> <p>Spherical moon phase indicator with precision of one lunar day every 122 years – <i>De Bethune Patent (2004)</i></p> <p>Blued triple pare-chute shock-absorbing system <i>De Bethune Innovation (2005)</i></p>
Frequency:	28,800 vibrations per hour
Adornment:	<p>Handmade, blued grade 5 mirror-polished titanium motion works bridge</p> <p>Plate cover and bridge cover on the barrel in grade 5 blued titanium, adorned with "Côtes De Bethune"</p> <p>Barrels decorated with rose-work grinding</p> <p>Power reserve indicator in grade 5 titanium, hand decorated with "De Bethune" concentric graining and blued by hand</p> <p>Steel parts beveled, polished and flame-blued by hand</p>

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### **Display**

Display:	Hand-polished and flame-blued steel hands Spherical moon phase indicator in palladium and flame-blued steel with precision of one lunar day every 122 years at 6 o'clock – <i>De Bethune Patent (2004)</i> Performance indicator between 2 and 3 o'clock
Dial:	Blued grade 5 polished titanium hours ring with rose gold hour-markers Blued grade 5 satin-polished titanium minutes ring

### **Case and strap**

Case material:	Blued mirror-polished grade 5 titanium
Case diameter:	43 mm
Case thickness:	9.30 mm
Lugs:	Short or long floating lugs in blued grade 5 mirror-polished titanium – <i>De Bethune Patent (2006)</i>
Crystal:	Sapphire (1800 Vickers hardness), with double anti-reflective coating
Case back:	Screwed case back in blued grade 5 polished titanium that opens on a linear power reserve indicator in rose gold Sapphire crystal (1800 Vickers hardness) with double anti-reflective coating
Water resistance:	3 ATM
Strap:	Extra-supple alligator leather, alligator lining
Buckle:	Buckle in blued grade 5 mirror-polished titanium and ardillon in rose gold



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## DB28 Tourbillon Kind of Blue

Technical specifications





## **DB28 Tourbillon Kind of Blue**

### Technical specifications

Name:	DB28 Tourbillon Kind of Blue
Reference:	DB28TBRBN / S
Vintage:	Limited annual production of 5 pieces
Functions:	Hours, minutes, 30" indicator through the ultra-light silicon and titanium De Bethune tourbillon cage at 6 o'clock, Power reserve on case back
Movement:	DB2019
Type:	Mechanical hand-wound movement
Adjustment:	Using the crown (2 positions) for winding, and setting the time

### **Technical features of calibre DB2019**

Number of parts:	298
Jewelling:	39 jewels
Diameter:	30 mm
Power reserve:	5 days, ensured by a self-regulating twin barrel <i>De Bethune Innovation (2004)</i>
Technical features:	Silicon balance wheel encircled with a white gold ring <i>De Bethune Patent (2010)</i>  "De Bethune" balance-spring with flat terminal curve <i>De Bethune Patent (2006)</i>  Silicon escape wheel  Ultra-light 30 second De Bethune Tourbillon in silicon and titanium – <i>De Bethune Innovation (2008)</i>
Frequency:	36,000 vibrations per hour
Adornment:	Motion works bridge and cover plate in grade 5 titanium, mirror-polished and blued by hand Bridge cover on the barrel decorated in grade 5 mirror-polished and blued titanium, encrusted by hand with stars in white gold Rose-work grinding by hand on the barrels Decoration on power reserve indicator in grade 5 titanium "De Bethune" concentric graining and blued by hand Steel parts bevelled and flame-blued by hand

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### Display

Display: Hand-polished rose gold hands  
De Bethune 30" ultra-light tourbillon in silicone and titanium  
at 6 o'clock – *De Bethune Innovation (2008)*

Dial: Blued grade 5 polished titanium hours ring with rose gold  
hour-markers  
Blued grade 5 satin-polished titanium minutes ring

### Case and strap

Case material: Blued grade 5 mirror-polished titanium  
Case diameter: 42.60 mm  
Case thickness: 9.20 mm  
Lugs: Short or long floating lugs in grade 5 polished and blued  
titanium – *De Bethune Patent (2006)*  
Crystal: Sapphire (1800 Vickers hardness), with double anti-  
reflective coating  
Case back: Screwed case back in polished pink 5N gold and open on  
a linear power reserve indicator in pink 5N gold  
Sapphire crystal (1800 Vickers hardness), with double anti-  
reflective coating  
Water resistance: 3 ATM  
Strap: Extra-supple alligator leather, alligator lining  
Buckle: Folding clasp in blued titanium and rose gold

