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ROLEX

SIZING UP THE SUBMARINER



PROS:

- + Daytime legibility
- + Craftsmanship
- + Wearing comfort
- + User friendliness
- + Rate behavior

CONS:

- Poor nighttime legibility
- Rotating bezel is hard to turn



The minutes can't be read in the dark.



The second time zone is shown by a skeletonized, center-mounted hand.

TUTIMA Grand Classic Chronograph UTC

Tutima specializes in pilots' watches. Collectors appreciate this brand's historic models, and NATO pilots wear Tutima's Chronograph 798 as part of their official equipment. Langer gave good grades to the Grand Classic's case and strap. "The case is pleasantly lightweight and shaped for comfort," he said. He was also pleased to discover that the case, thanks to its fluted bezel, didn't cause unwanted glare. The supple strap fit well and the clasp stayed closed without pressing uncomfortably against the inside of his wrist. The buckle's prong is both massive and flexible.

The calibrated scales are neatly printed on the dial, but irregularities are noticeable in the luminous material on the hands. This watch was easy to read in the cockpit, Langer reported. He didn't mind the absence of indices on the seconds subdial, but noted that the minutes indices were invisible in the dark.

The Grand Classic is user-friendly with one exception: the rotating bezel is so firmly mounted that Langer couldn't turn it with just one hand. The pushers, too, required quite a bit of force, but when they trigger their functions, they emit a clicking sound that's audible above the noise in the cockpit. The crown turns smoothly between your fingers.

The watch contains the automatic ETA 7754, which is well crafted and handsomely decorated. It ran with a constant gain of nearly 4 seconds, both when fully wound and after being allowed to run for 24 hours. The rate remained unchanged, regardless of whether the chronograph was switched on or off.

The aerobatic flight slowed the movement somewhat. The caliber gained 2.9 seconds immediately after returning to earth, and the gain increased to 3.4 seconds 3 days later. The amplitude was unaffected by the aerobatic maneuvers: it was not quite 310 degrees when the watch was fully wound, and it decreased to 290 degrees after the timepiece was left running for 24 hours or when the

chronograph was on. The amplitude dipped to 265 degrees when both occurred simultaneously, i.e., the watch had been running 24 hours and the chronograph was switched on.

The Grand Classic Chronograph UTC proved its suitability for airborne duty. The daytime legibility is good, the craftsmanship is neat, and the degree of wearing comfort is high. All functions except the rotating bezel were easy to use, and the movement ran even more accurately after the flight than before.

The bezel on the Tutima is so firmly mounted that it won't always turn with just one hand.



SPECS

**TUTIMA GRAND CLASSIC
CHRONOGRAPH UTC**

Manufacturer: Tutima Uhrenfabrik GmbH

Functions: Hours, minutes, small seconds, second time zone, date, chronograph, rotating bezel

Movement: ETA 7754, automatic; diameter = 30 mm; height = 7.9 mm; 25 jewels; 28,800 vph; 46-hour power reserve; gold-plated Glucydur balance; Anachron hairspring; Incabloc shock absorber; bipartite index fine regulation; decorated with Geneva waves, circular graining and satin finishing; blued, polished screws

Case: Stainless steel with sapphire crystal front and back; water resistant to 100 meters

Strap and clasp: Leather strap with pronged buckle

Dimensions: Diameter = 43.08 mm, height = 16.4 mm, weight = 112 grams

Price: \$4,000