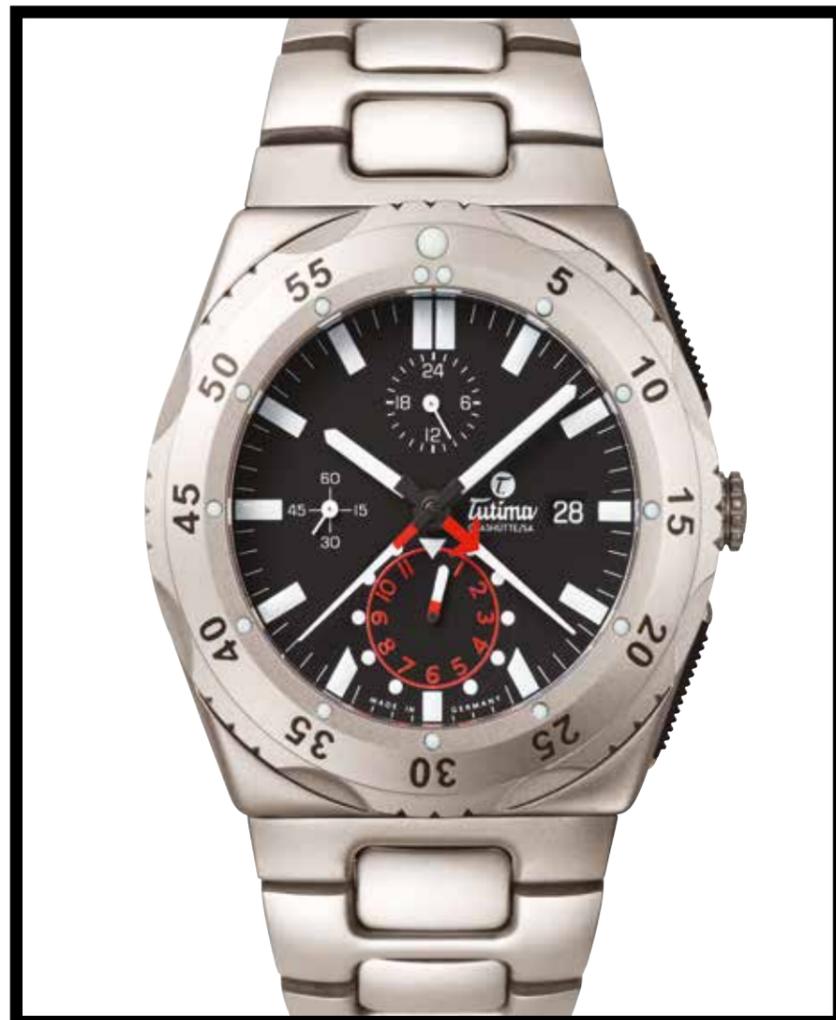


*Tutima's M2 Pioneer Chronograph marks a new era for the German brand.*

## IN FROM THE COLD



**TUTIMA**  
M2 PIONEER CHRONOGRAPH

### MOVEMENT

Tutima cal. 521 (modified ETA cal. 7750) self-winding movement; hours and minutes; small seconds; chronograph; date; tachymetric scale; 44-hour power reserve

### CASE

46mm; titanium; water-resistant to 300m

### STRAP

Titanium bracelet

Like that of so many German watch brands, Tutima's story is one bisected by history, and its watches reflect this. In the first half of the 20th century, the Glashütte-based company was known for its Flieger watches — sturdy chronographs built for Luftwaffe pilots. But after the end of World War II, with Germany divided and Glashütte's watch brands conglomerated by a communist government, Tutima relocated to the West and its watches became the choice of NATO pilots flying sorties for the other side. But a quarter century after the fall of the Berlin Wall, Tutima has moved back to its Saxon home; its M2 Pioneer chronograph reflects a new era for Germany and for the brand, while still reflecting its roots in military aviation.

Tutima was awarded a contract from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to produce aviator chronographs in the 1980s, and the watches it produced are coveted today by collectors of watches and militaria alike for their uncompromisingly functional design. The hallmarks of that now-iconic NATO chronograph are still found in the M2 Pioneer — a water- and magnetism-resistant titanium case, rotating bezel, ergonomic integrated push-pieces and a central minutes totalizer for the chronograph.

In the '80s and '90s, this latter function came courtesy of the now-legendary Lemania 5100 mechanical movement, built with military

use in mind, and sturdy, legible and simple. With this movement out of production, Tutima turned in-house and now modifies an ETA cal. 7750 to achieve the same distinctive operation. With its overlaid seconds and minute totalizer hands, readoff of elapsed time is made easy on the M2, superior to squinting at a tiny subdial on a more conventional chronograph — important when flying supersonic in a 10-million-dollar jet. A small set of wings on the minute hand distinguishes it from the seconds, while elapsed hours are displayed unambiguously on a large subdial at six o'clock.

The push-pieces that control the chronograph are carried over from the M2's predecessor and for good reason. Hardly protruding from the case's right flank, the flat buttons are activated with a satisfying click and sport rubber pads for confident tactile grip, while all but eliminating any risk of snagging on a sleeve, flight suit or otherwise.

Despite its rather imposing 46mm diameter, titanium keeps the M2's bulk manageable and corrosion resistant, and an interior cage made from mu-metal protects the movement from damaging magnetic influence. The large rotating bezel, studded, like the dial and hands, with Super-LumiNova, ensure legibility in all conditions, and the watch's healthy 300m of water resistance is more than enough in the unlikely event of a water landing.

A quarter of a century after the fall of the Berlin Wall, with Tutima building a direct descendant of the NATO chronograph in Glashütte, there may be no better proof that the Cold War is over. ★