

RM 021 TOURBILLON WRISTWATCH "Aerodyne"

Richard Mille's pioneering reputation began eight years ago with his landmark production of the RM 001 and RM 002 wristwatches. Models, as the press and public alike unanimously agreed, which set the highest limits for watchmaking both in terms of their design, mechanical inventiveness and use of materials. However, this was only a beginning, a warning shot across the bows of watchmaking so to speak. More important than their eye opening originality, those models set the groundwork for a new form of 21st century horology that would energize, open and even change the essence of the watchmaking industry. The RM 001 and RM 002 proved beyond a doubt that innovative ideas and technology could be integrated simultaneously with all that was rare, exceptional and traditional in the world of haute horology.

Now, eight years after that watershed moment, in a moment of simultaneous recollection and foresight, the RM 021 is introduced. A watch that takes its place at the center of everything 21st century watchmaking is all about. The numeric composition of this model number is not just a coincidence, it is a statement. The model number reflects those first two landmark models, as well as the number of our present century. It also marks the entrance of the theme of air, space and supersonic speed to the brand's imagery and inspiration.

RICHARD MILLE

Orthorhombic titanium aluminides are new group of alloys, developed from the main class of titanium aluminides, which possess a specific crystalline molecular structure ordered on the orthorhombic phase of Ti_2AlNb . Its use within a honeycombed geometrical pattern was originally the subject of research by NASA for application as a core material of supersonic aircraft wings, where resistance to extremely high temperatures and torsion is paramount. The alloy in this honeycombed form has unparalleled stiffness, a low thermal expansion coefficient and exceptional torsion resistance. The actual shape of the baseplate itself as seen from the dial side resembles the trench-like V-shaped profile of a flying wing aircraft where the wing tips are positioned higher than the central body of the aircraft itself. The winding barrel and the tourbillon are both placed in the central depth of this aerodynamic structure, balancing on light and airy bridges with four arms on two sides.

Available in titanium and 18-carat red or white gold, with alligator strap and matching buckle.