

Sinn

SPEZIALUHREN ZU FRANKFURT AM MAIN

103 St Ty Hd

THE CLASSIC HAND-WOUND CHRONOGRAPH.





103 St Ty Hd: green boar leather strap with red contrast stitching. Warranty 2 years. ø 41 mm (scale: 1:1)



103 St Ty Hd: black boar leather strap with decorative perforations and white contrast stitching, which merges into red at the end of the strap to create an attractive contrast. Warranty 2 years. ø 41 mm (scale: 1:1)



The watch comes in a fine case with two boar leather straps in green and black, band replacement tool, spare spring bars and a brochure.



Back view and side views. (scale: 1:1)



103 St Ty Hd – luminous design. (scale: 1:1)

Large picture on the front:

103 St Ty Hd: green boar leather strap with red contrast stitching. Warranty 2 years.

Model 103 St Ty Hd

The classic hand-wound chronograph.

Limited to 1,000 pieces

Hand-wound calibre, exquisitely decorated

Case made of stainless steel, polished

Tachymeter scale

Pilot's bezel

Shock-resistant acrylic glass

Solid back as in the historical original

Attached appliqués

Waterproof and pressure-resistant up to 20 bar

Low pressure resistant

Which watches embody the essence of our company best of all? The answer to this question is easy for connoisseurs of our brand: the timepieces from the 103 series, which have been part of our collection as classic pilot chronographs since the mid-1960s and have since become the defining ambassadors for our company. Some watch lovers will no doubt remember that in the early days – in addition to timepieces with automatic movements – individual models also featured acrylic glass and hand-wound movements. Is it the love of tradition and the art of watchmaking that made SINN watches so popular with such a movement? Or was it the more intensive connection to the phenomenon of time, coupled with the daily ritual of winding the watch? The truth is that this fascination is probably born of various different preferences and values.

With this in mind, the 103 St Ty Hd model is a contemporary tribute to its prestigious predecessors, as it is also equipped with shock-resistant acrylic glass and hand-wound movement. Furthermore, a SINN watch with a hand-wound movement from the 103 series was last officially available around 20 years ago, which makes the release of the 103 St Ty Hd model all the more special still.

The special calibre is a classic Tri-Compax chronograph dedicated to functionality: stop second from the dial centre, a 30-minute counter at 3 o'clock, 12-hour counter at 6 o'clock and small subsidiary seconds at 9 o'clock on a matt black dial. The symmetrical, V-shaped arrangement of the counters in matt-silk light yellow creates a wonderfully balanced aesthetic and creative design. In keeping with this, the stopwatch second hand and stopwatch minute display are dark red for improved emphasis and thus legibility – a specification also reflected by the stopwatch minute scale. In the interests of faster time recording, the first ten minutes are shown alternately in black and red.



The limited special edition 103 St Ty Hd is equipped with the hand-wound SW 510 M movement.

High-quality faceted attached appliqués adorn the matt black dial. In combination with the faceted hour and minute hands, the watch exudes elegance and, thanks to the elements with luminous effect, is also legible in the dark.

Another complication – the tachymeter scale on the interior bezel – satisfies the desire of watch connoisseurs for the precise, manual measurement of speeds from 60 km/h to 600 km/h.

Low pressure resistant, waterproof and pressure-resistant up to 20 bar, these additional features guarantee a high level of suitability for everyday use. All in all, this 103 is a worthy member of a long-established series of renowned SINN watches, which, not least because of its limited edition of 1,000 pieces, looks set to become a coveted collector's item.

COMMENT MR MICHELE TRIPI

Having been a permanent feature of our watch range since the 1960s, the 103 series has more than earned the right to be called a classic. The legendary timepiece has managed to delight generations of watch lovers over the years. And it's still a firm favourite with countless collectors. Its consistent success might make you wonder what it is that makes this series so special.

The early days

Michele Tripi doesn't need to wonder because he already knows. As someone with a fascination with mechanical wristwatches, he fell in love with our historical watches. And the 103 series is the one that interests him most of all. Having collected this extraordinary timepiece for many years, he has become an expert in his own right. In fact, he even shares his extensive knowledge with the world on his own website (you can find the link in the info box). He reports there that the 103 series dates all the way back to the late 1960s, just before the start of a tough time for mechanical watches. The quartz crisis was just around the corner. Looking back to those early days, it becomes clear that the design of the first-ever 103 watches, and the models that came next, was almost exactly the same as the design of the chronographs being made by other well-known manufacturers at the time. The dial, the case size, the movement with the Tri-Compax layout and the colour of the totalisers were all the same. The watches were more or less a match down to the tiniest details – except they had different logos.

Suppliers from Switzerland

This raises some interesting questions... How did this situation come about? Who came up with the design first and who copied who? "Well, actually, nobody copied anyone. And that includes SINN," explains Michele Tripi. "Back then, most manufacturers didn't actually manufacture their own watches or develop their own designs. It was more common for this kind of watch to be commissioned and made in Switzerland. It follows, then, that all the manufacturers were relying on the same suppliers for their cases, movements and dials. Like so many other companies, SINN bought in watches and added its logo or put watches together using components sourced from suppliers." This was just the way things were done in the watchmaking world at the time. And that's why the typical design of the 103 series was actually not different to the designs being released by lots of other watch manufacturers to start with. In the 55 years or so since, SINN has worked hard to make the 103 series its own. Now, there's no mistaking that this timepiece is part of the SINN collection.

A new era

In the 1980s, the evidence started to suggest that a new era was dawning for the 103 series at SINN. The sales figures were a clear indication. Even though the production run for each model had always been limited to 100, the company started seriously upping the number of 103 A and 103 B watches they were producing. "The major shift began around the end of the 1970s and the start of the 1980s. So we can say that the models from around 1988 onwards were the predecessors of the watches belonging to the 103 series now," says Michele Tripi. "By that point, they featured the Valjoux 7750 automatic calibre and Valjoux 7760 manual calibre. It had always been the Valjoux 72 and 726 before that. The watch face also changed alongside the movements. The classic Tri-Compax display was replaced with totalisers positioned at 6, 9 and 12 o'clock. This was when the series acquired its own signature style. And that signature style is still the defining design feature for many 103 watches to this day." The larger quantities could also be explained by the fact that watch components were more readily available. Not to mention that the brand had built up its reputation on the pilot scene over time and was becoming an increasingly popular insider's tip. Astronaut Reinhard Furrer wearing the 140 S model on his wrist during the legendary Spacelab D1 mission in 1985 also boosted demand.

Historical family ties

Back in the present day, it's obvious that the 103 St Ty Hd is standing on the shoulders of a giant. The style of the limited-edition 103 C with Valjoux 726 shines through in the newest member of the 103 family. Both watches have the hand-wound movement, classic Tri-Compax layout with light-coloured totalisers and tachymeter scale in common. Plus, the first ten minutes on the stopwatch minute display at 3 o'clock are shown alternately in black and red on both timepieces. So what's the verdict according to the expert Michele Tripi?

Secret to success

"The 103 St Ty Hd is a wonderful watch that will undoubtedly prove popular. A quick comparison reveals that it has close links to the original. It has the same dial and hands as the 103 C – and neither watch has a date display. SINN has managed to retain the historical spirit in its modern take on a classic. All of this is extremely interesting to collectors." According to Michele Tripi, the secret to the success of this series lies in its historical ties. It has stayed true to its deepest roots in its design and characteristic features. Changes have been reserved for the inner workings of the watch in the name of modern technology. "It's the consistency of the 103 series that really impresses watch lovers," he says. "I associate the SINN brand with these watches and I know I'm not alone in that. In that respect, the 103 St Ty Hd has been executed perfectly."



Front and back view of the historical original: the 103 C.
Photos: Michele Tripi

Profile: Michele Tripi

Michele Tripi has been fascinated by mechanical wristwatches since the 1980s. He first got to know the Sinn Spezialuhren brand through the 142 model in 1998. But it was the classic 103 model that sparked his own passion for the special vintage watches. He has been an avid collector of historical watches since 2012. As it stands, he has over 30 rare timepieces in his collection. One of those is a 103 C, which is one of just four in the world. You can find out more and look at his photos on his website: <https://vintage-sinn-collector.de>