

F.P.JOURNE  
Invenit et Fecit

  
THE HOUR GLASS

# Young Talent Competition

Awarding to the winner  
at the F.P.Journe Manufacture

March 30, 2023

Since 2015, the Young Talent Competition allows discovering the next generation of most talented young watchmakers in the world, supports them in their route to independence by identifying their achievements and putting them under the spotlight. F.P.Journe organizes the Young Talent Competition with the support of The Hour Glass, luxury watch retailer in the Asia Pacific region. Both Maisons aim to perpetuate and support the art of haute horology and cultivate the appreciation of extensive horological craftsmanship.

The selection criteria are based on technical achievement, the search for complexity in their realization, the quality of craftsmanship as well as their sense of design and aesthetics. Applicants must have independently designed and created a timepiece or an horological construction. The 2023 Young Talent Competition winner receives a diploma and a CHF 20,000.- grant from The Hour Glass and F.P.Journe, which will allow him to purchase watchmaking tools or finance an horological project.

The jury of the Young Talent Competition 2023 is composed of key personalities from the international horological scene: Philippe Dufour, Andreas Strehler, Giulio Papi, Marc Jenni, Michael Tay, Elizabeth Doerr and François-Paul Journe.

# Alexandre Hazemann

## AH.02 Signature

Age 23 - Pontarlier - France  
Graduated from Lycée Edgar Faure in Morteau, France - July 2022

### Introduction\_

For the 7<sup>th</sup> year of watchmaking studies at the Lycée Edgar Faure in Morteau, we are asked to create a school watch. The subject imposed this year was to create a watch with a striking mechanism at the passage of the hours with a display of the hour in instantaneous jump. In addition to the technical constraints, our creative approach had to answer a philosophical question: “What do we need to be happy?”. So it was natural that I turned to the theme of passion. I built the general design of the project on different axes: balance, lightness, pure watchmaking art. AH.02 Signature is inspired by a deep and sincere reflection that gave birth to a rich and sourced creative thought.

### History\_

This project was realised in collaboration with my long-time friend Victor Monnin. Over the years of studying together, we have come to understand the importance of teamwork. We share a philosophy, a “mindset” similar to that of two brothers. Moreover, our skills complemented each other perfectly. Victor is more involved in project management and organisation, as well as in the machining of components. As for me, I have more facility for the watchmaking construction, the watch-making calculations which ensue from it as well as the prototyping.

### Realisation of the project\_

This adventure took place from October 4, 2021 to June 10, 2022. Chronologically, we started by making sketches including the design of the watches from October to November. We then moved on to computer design and watchmaking calculations from December to January. Then, we manufactured all the components during 2 months, from February to the end of March. I should specify that we made all the parts except for the glass, the bracelet and the basic movement. The components were manufactured with traditional machines (milling machines, pointing machines...) but also with CNC. The movement LJP6900 was delivered in trays, with only the various pointings and millings carried out. We then had to finish cutting the bridges and the plate. The following month was reserved for prototyping and reliability. This stage was for me the most complex. The goal was to find and solve the problems one by one in order to obtain a functional watch, capable of keeping time with impeccable precision. We then made the entire stainless steel case on a traditional machine to accommodate the double complication movement. May was reserved for the finishing. I made the satin finishing of the bridge and of the faces with a cabron, the sandblasting of the plate... Finally, I had to find the suppliers to make the electroplating (Ruthenium anthracite). To end, I made the final assembly to have the watch finished and functional for the beginning of June. It took us almost 8 months and more than 1,200 hours of work to complete our project in its entirety. The pace was very fast (about 15 hours per day) without any break.

### How it works\_

A striking hour function differs significantly from a quarter repeater. Moreover, considering the synchronisation of the mechanisms, it is necessary to explain the principle of the instantaneous jumping hour.

A striking hour emits one sound per hour. We have chosen to link the jump of the hammer to the jump of the hour. To do this, we used a lever that performs 3 actions for the same cycle. The first action is to constantly stay in contact with the hour cam in the center of the movement. Then, for the jump of the hours, a finger fixed on the lever drives the star wheel when the lever falls on the cam. Finally, for the third action, the lever arms the hammer in its ascending arc and then releases it when the cam jumps to let it strike with all its inertia against the gong.

We have also developed a unidirectional time setting system which allows the rotation of the cam in one direction only, which makes it impossible to break it. A retractable pinion is installed between the timer and the first time setting gear. In the event that the user corrects the time in the wrong direction, the pinion will retract and rotate freely.

### Conclusion\_

This creation meant a lot to us and we wanted to end our 7 years of study in the most beautiful way. Through this adventure, we wanted to transform this school project into a professional project and thus make it a springboard for our career.

With my friend Victor Monnin, we decided that one day, we will create our independent workshop to produce these two striking watches. We know that the road is long and tortuous and that everything remains to be done.

### Technical specifications\_

**Diameter:** 42 mm / **Height:** 12.8 mm / **Weight:** 120 g / **Caliber:** LJP6900 re-worked / Automatic movement / Unidirectional time setting / Fully manufactured complications / Striking hour - Instantaneous jumping hour / Power reserve: 50 hours / 14.8 lines - 34 jewels - Frequency: 28,800 V/h **Case:** Stainless steel - Water-resistant to 3 ATM / Custom made sapphire crystal - Swiss made / Bespoke strap made in France: Blue alligator **Finishing:** All parts are decorated by hand, hand beveled, additional plate in nickel silver, grained and laser engraved, laser engraved and hand varnished dials, brushed case, polished bezel, laser engraved and sandblasted back.









## Interview

### Alexandre Hazemann

#### About you:

##### When and how was this passion for watchmaking born?

It is thanks to my father, a precision engineer in a watchmaking manufacture, that I was first introduced to this environment. Then, during my studies, I had the chance to discover independent watchmakers through various internships and professional experiences. It was then that I understood the true essence of traditional watchmaking. This passion is now accompanied by a dream and a goal, the one of becoming, one day, an independent watchmaker.

##### What was your first watchmaking achievement (or first watch)?

My first real watchmaking achievement is the AH.02 Signature. This watch is the result of a deep reflection where I was able to freely express myself through my technical and aesthetic choices.

#### About the watch:

##### You mention balance and lightness in your thoughts on this project. How are these notions represented in your watch?

Balance is represented by the effect of symmetry with the dials as well as with the different choices of implantation of the different components. As for lightness, I wanted to convey this feeling by abandoning visual constraints. In my opinion, the owner must be able to wander and visually understand his watch. I also wanted to show the mechanism to make this piece even more alive.

##### What was your favourite part of making this watch?

If I had to name only one, it would be the manufacture of the large rocker. This piece brings together a mix of technicality, with the spring screwed on it, and beauty, with the pallet that adds a particular elegance with its color. It is a piece that is close to my heart, because it is the link between the time and the striking.

##### What is the most striking anecdote about the conception of this piece?

The most striking anecdote of this project is also one of my best memories: it is a sleepless night spent in the workshop in order to finish our pieces within the imposed deadlines. We had only slept for 30 minutes and Victor came to wake me up and motivate me to finish this last stretch.

#### About the future:

##### Why did you decide to participate in the Young Talent Competition?

We were far from simply making our watch to meet a brief to graduate. Our intention was to design our piece with absolute attention to detail, as if we intended to market it. This competition was for us, students of the École d'Horlogerie de Morteau, a logical continuation, in addition to having been a supreme motivation during the realisation of our project. Our registration was an evidence.

##### What do you intend to do with this prize?

For my part, I must enrich my watchmaking tools as well as increase my experience and maturity. I want to do with this prize what it was intended for, that is to say, use it as a springboard in my professional life. I am one of those people who believe that our life is already written on a parchment and that we should seize every opportunity that comes our way.

##### What is your aspiration for the next five years?

My philosophy is that life is the only chance we all have to realise our dreams. My future is most certainly shaped towards watchmaking independence which is for me the ultimate Grail. However, being still a student at the CPNE (Centre de formation professionnelle neuchâtelois) in Le Locle after my DN MADe (Diplôme national des métiers d'art et du design) at the École d'Horlogerie de Morteau, I have to remain humble and pragmatic, to continue to learn this fascinating profession and to build little by little the workshop of my childhood dreams.

**[www.fpjourne.com](http://www.fpjourne.com)**

**The independent F.P.Journe Manufacture** produces around 1,000 precision mechanical watches per year with 18K rose Gold movements, the brand's exclusive signature. The label "Invenit et Fecit" engraved on all its watches, guarantees and highlights the importance of an in-house calibre entirely designed and constructed in its workshops.

F.P.Journe organizes the Young Talent Competition and brings more than 40 years of expertise in authentic haute horology. François-Paul Journe's historical knowledge has led him to show a timeless consistency in his research on precision and innovative prowess. It is a real honor for him to encourage these young talents by sharing his knowledge, his passion and his determination on a daily basis. He supports them as he was supported at their age.

**[www.thehourglass.com](http://www.thehourglass.com)**

The mission of **The Hour Glass** is to advance watch culture. They are known for their thoughtfully curated selection of brands, their passion in designing uniquely immersive retail experiences and their team of highly knowledgeable watch specialists. The Hour Glass strives to become the primary port of call for all enthusiasts and watch collectors alike. Everyday across their combined network of over 50 boutiques in the Asia Pacific region, they are poised to further the awareness and appreciation of watches and ready to guide their clients in their hunt for a superlative timepiece.

**F.P.Journe - Invenit et Fecit**

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