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L 17266 - 8 - CHF 13 - € 12 - \$ 13

Halda Watch

By Simone Riesen

Up there in the sky

From time to time, it is a good idea to look beyond one's usual frontiers. Today, let's take a glance towards Sweden and up high in the sky, where all dreams are allowed.

In August 2009, on the Nasa STS-128 mission, the Halda Space Discovery watch was worn by Swedish astronaut Christer Fuglesang. Both arrived back on earth in perfect condition and both have survived life with the renewed burden of gravity.

The history of this slightly crazy watch began in a laboratory with a simulation of use over a century, before being tested in real conditions in space, after which Christer Fuglesang was able to note the required adjustments. At the end of 2009, production was launched in a limited and numbered edition of 128 pieces, made in tribute to the STS-128 mission.

The instrument comprises a "normal" watch equipped with a mechanical Anderson movement for earthly life. For life in space, there is an electronic movement, the HS 2009-1. Halda has developed this multi-function module, which is fitted over the watch. It offers numerous functions: an accelerometer to measure G force, chronometer, UTC time, alarm, earth time, second time zone, etc. Plenty to think about while in space. The battery has a life of two years (it's always best to be err on the side of prudence...).

The Tecamax case, a material used by Nasa, resists extreme temperatures and the onslaught of chemical substances. It has a diameter of 45 mm, and with the module fitted measures 17.6 mm high, while the watch is itself 15.8 mm high.

For space, the watch is protected with Crystal – glass would not survive the bombardments from space – the earthly version is fitted with sapphire glass. However, there is no need to worry, for if you have planned a trip into space, Halda will change the glass. Mikael Sandström, the man responsible for reviving the brand, has promised to do so!

www.haldasweden.com

The Halda Watch Company

1857 – Henning Hammarlund is born.

1870 – Henning Hammarlund constructs his first watch movement made out of wood.

1880 – Henning Hammarlund graduates from Geneva Academy of Horology in Switzerland.

1889 – The first Halda pocket watch leaves the factory. The cost is the equivalent to seven month's salary at that time. It took ten months to produce and the production process covered about 3000 different steps followed by tests.

1900 – The Halda Watch Company passes the milestone of 6,000 watches manufactured.

1918 – Due to the war, the demand for exclusive pocket watches declined dramatically and the bank withdraw the loans from the Halda Watch Company and put it up for liquidation. The factory was shut down on Nov. 30th.

1920 to 2008 – The fascination for mechanical products and the innovative entrepreneurial spirit on which Henning Hammarlund once founded the Halda Watch Company, successively created a base for several other successful companies. Many of them are still active today.

2009 – The legacy of Henning Hammarlund and the Halda watches is passed on to Swedish engineer and entrepreneur Mikael Sandström.

2010 – World premiere of the first modern Halda watch, the Halda Space Discovery.



■ The Halda Space Discovery electronic Module is highly advanced technology housed in a specially designed case that makes its revolutionary functions easy to use and a pride to wear. It is constructed to meet the tough requirements for life in space in terms of precision and functionality based on a brief from the only ones actually know what it takes to make it in space – the astronauts.



■ The Mechanical Module of the modern Halda watch holds a vintage New Old Stock (NOS) movement. It is a self winding high performance mechanical movement, constructed to operate at the high frequency of 5 HZ, or 36,000 vibrations per hour (vph). The Mechanical Module movement is rhodium plated, calibrated, and adjusted to modern standards by one of the most renowned watchmakers of our time – Svend Andersen. The movement is decorated with Côtes de Genève and employs a special rotor designed by Svend Andersen, engraved with the Andersen and Halda Watch Co logotypes. Each of the mechanical Time Modules is uniquely marked with a individual number from 1 to 128.

- 1. Mikael Sandström, the man responsible for relaunching the Halda brand.
- 2. The watch and its module.



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