

MCT Sequential Two S200 Watch Hands-On

BY DAVID BREDAN

6 COMMENTS



In March of 2014 we debuted the new MCT Sequential TWO S200 watch that built on the legacy of the several year old MCT Sequential One. As one of our favorite new watches for Baselworld 2014, it is a pleasure to offer a hands-on look at this new, highly wearable, exotic luxury watch.

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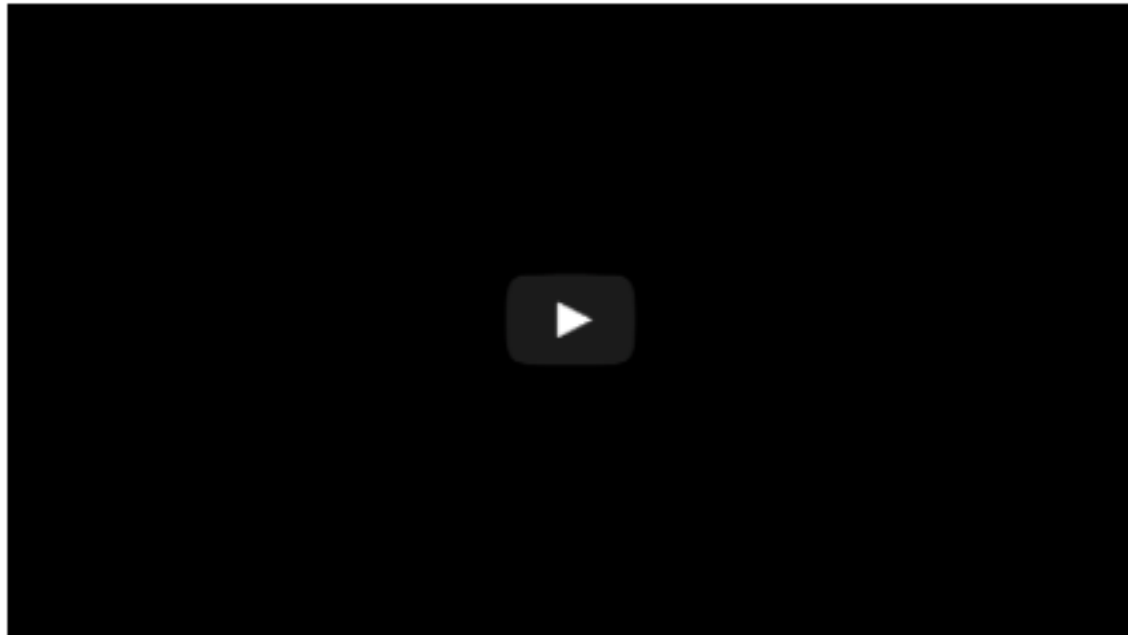
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I remember the time when the first mechanical billboards appeared in my city and how much they amazed me with their ingenious triangle-shaped louvers, allowing for the displaying of three different ads in an extremely limited space. And while this idea probably amused me more than I should admit, I remember saying to myself: "Why didn't I think of this?"



Many years later, I found myself asking the same question again, as in 2010 **MCT** (or Manufacture Contemporaine du Temps) elevated the idea of louvers to a completely different level, by placing four extremely intricate and fully mechanical sets of them into their **Sequential One S100** in an effort to display the time in a way we never saw before in a wristwatch. At Baselworld 2014, we went hands-on with the Sequential Two, the latest and most wearable reinterpretation of MCT's trademark time-telling device, and saw that it offered a number of much welcomed improvements over its predecessors.



The Sequential Two S200 operates on basically the same principle as its predecessors. It comprises a minute hand that does exactly what we would expect it to do: point to the indexes on the periphery of the dial. However, right at the moment when an hour passes the "C" shaped platform (shown on the image above bearing the company's name) quickly rotates 90 degrees in the counterclockwise direction, hence revealing the next set of louvers, displaying the correct number of the upcoming hour. What we have then is a minute hand that rotates clockwise, as per normal, while the following hour will be displayed on what we would normally call the previous louver.

To give an even more tangible example, on the image above the time is 12:23. As the minute hand reaches 60, the three-quarters arch will snap to the left. Note, that louvers are still showing "9", and will rotate to "1" as the minute hand advances towards the end of the hour. Altogether there are four sets of louvers in the movement and they carry three figures each.



As straight-forward as that sounds, it is just as challenging to realize all this at a level of micro-mechanics where every part operates reliably within in the limited space that a wristwatch offers. It is when so many pieces are to be animated throughout the day that the power reserve of the main-spring turns from an important aspect into a primary source of problems. The friction that is present everywhere where components are set into motion requires a considerably greater amount of power than does the usual going train, give or take some complications.

The efforts of MCT were nonetheless worth it, as throughout the 40 hours of power reserve, the clever louver-system, coupled with the large minute hand, ultimately create a dial that is extremely legible even after a quick glance at the dial. With that said, however, it is difficult to understand why they chose to not have any indexes at the four positions where the screws are set to hold the plate. It makes telling the exact time at those four "corners" rather difficult while carrying little to no aesthetic advantages.

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As is the case with the majority of highly complicated watches that display most of their mechanical complexities on the dial side, we are left with a relatively unassuming sight once we turn the watch around. What MCT did to make the case back side more entertaining, even for the trained eyes of the veteran watch enthusiast, is that they incorporated a solid 18k gold micro-rotor into this in-house designed caliber; a rare sight even on less complicated movements. Note that the images you see here are of a prototype version of the watch and a few bridges from the movement are not yet complete.

Furthermore, they chose not to spare exceptionally executed decorations on all components, as beautifully illustrated by the skeletonized mainspring barrel bridge and balance cock, as well as the beveled and hand-polished edges of all structural components. The result is a movement that would have nothing to be ashamed of even if it displayed the time in a traditional way.



Thankfully, the case for the Sequential Two is round, a shape that appears to suit the round movement in much greater harmony than the rectangular cases of the Sequential One S100 and S110. We feel that this more traditional shape is a superb match to the highly complicated dial, especially considering the minor–albeit important–tweaks that this initially ordinary-looking case offers. For this 2014 novelty MCT got rid of the bezel as we know it and replaced it with a sublimely domed sapphire crystal that allows for the appreciation of the louver-system even from extremely low angles.



Another peculiarity of the case which I love is the design of the lugs, soldered onto this otherwise perfectly round saucer-like carrier of the movement, oddly growing out from its periphery and disappearing underneath it. As blatant of an analogy it is, it does look like a UFO, without trying too hard to be one—and that I can appreciate.

The case is large at 44.6 millimeters in diameter, and couples that with a height of 14.5 millimeters; an acceptable figure considering the extra layer of louvers and the C-platform, stacked on top of the base movement. Any thicker would catapult this piece into the nice, yet seldom-wearable category where actual wearability is greatly sacrificed for the sake of a fancy movement. Fortunately that is not the case here, and the nicely integrated micro-rotor certainly plays a major role in that.



The Sequential Two from MCT is a clever move from the brand in that it coupled its signature—and presently only—movement design with a more wearable and more subtle case, something that tastefully balances out the complex-looking dial. Available in 18K white gold and pink gold, the former impressed us more with its vibrant red minute hand that further improves legibility; one of the key factors behind the concept of all Sequential pieces. The Sequential Two S200 will be available later this year and is priced at **\$98,500**. mctwatches.com **ABTW**