

Konstantin Chaykin's Theatre of Masks

The master introduces new characters to the Wristmons collection—the "Joker Iron Mask" and "Joker Golden Mask" watches.

Masks were invented in ancient times—one of the earliest known representations of a masked human was discovered in the Trois Frères cave in France, dating from between 17,000 and 11,000 years ago. The mask was created to conceal the wearer's true face, making irrelevant the emotional information we subconsciously read from facial expressions. Masks imparted an extraordinary appearance to their wearers, assigned special, even fantastical functions, denoted unique statuses, and conveyed significant social messages. Throughout different eras, masks were also theatrical alter egos.

Typically, masks conceal secrets—both literally and figuratively—such as the mythical "Iron Mask," a historical enigma that has puzzled researchers since the early 18th century. Konstantin Chaykin, an independent watchmaker and inventor, defying conventional perceptions of masks, has presented his unique interpretation in the "Joker Iron Mask" and "Joker Golden Mask" watches. In his concept, the mask is not for hiding but an intellectual game. It simultaneously masks the watch mechanism behind an intriguing, ever-changing mask-like dial and, through its open structure, highlights the complexity of the mechanism itself.

Chaykin creates an intriguing Wristmon image, blending avant-garde and classic styles: the avant-garde Joker indication design combined with traditional decorative techniques reminiscent of the finest pocket watches of the Enlightenment era. The mask-dial of the "Joker Iron Mask" and "Joker Golden Mask" watches has three functional elements: eyes serving as hour and minute scales and a smiling mouth indicating the days of the week. Decorative pointers include hour and minute hands with blued steel decorative rings (eye pupils), and a day-of-the-week pointer with a red rectangular tip.

All other visible elements are parts of the Joker-indication module. Some are figurative, like bridges for hour and minute wheels shaped like eyebrows and the bridge for the weekday indicator resembling a nose with a large ruby stone, reminiscent of central stones in high-end early 20th-century pocket watches. Non-figurative mechanism components create a complex microcosmic background driving the Joker indication.

Brief History of Open-Dial Wristmons

Konstantin Chaykin first envisioned a Wristmon with an open "skeleton" dial in 2020. The concept debuted in 2021 with the unique "Martian Tourbillon" watch for the Only Watch 2021 charity auction. In 2022, the skeleton dial featured in the "Joker 5," marking the fifth

anniversary of the original Joker watch. Around that time, Chaykin developed an alternate open-dial design initially named "Joker Skeleton." In 2023, he introduced the golden mask-dial design alongside a monochromatic rhodium-plated variation. The watches were renamed "Joker Iron Mask" and "Joker Golden Mask," with production finally commencing in 2025 after a delay due to Chaykin's focus on the highly complex "Stargazer" Wristmon in 2023.

Traditional Decorative Techniques for Avant-Garde Mask Dial

The unique character of the "Joker Iron Mask" and "Joker Golden Mask" dials results from combining avant-garde Wristmon design with traditional decorative methods. The plates and bridges of the Joker indication module feature traditional frosted finishes, either gold-plated or rhodium-plated with grainy texture achieved by abrasive blasting. This decoration grants the "Joker Golden Mask" its distinct golden shine reminiscent of high-quality pocket watches from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The rhodium-plated "Joker Iron Mask" offers a monochromatic metallic palette reminiscent of mid-17th-century Puritan pocket watches.

Finishing touches include high-quality finishing of steel module components—star wheels, eccentrics, levers, and flat springs—with longitudinal and circular grinding, chamfering, and polishing. Additional highlights include red and blue accents: a red-tipped weekday pointer, central ruby stone, and blued steel decorative rings.

These details embody a contemporary artistic interpretation of traditional watch mechanism decoration, achieving its peak during the Enlightenment era, as expressed in Konstantin Chaykin's "Joker Iron Mask" and "Joker Golden Mask" watches.

Technical Specifications

Caliber:

K.09-1 with automatic winding

Joker Indication Module:

Manufactured by Konstantin Chaykin

Module Finishing:

Bridges with grain-textured finishing, gold-plated ("Joker Golden Mask") or rhodium-plated ("Joker Iron Mask"); steel components with fine longitudinal grinding; chamfered and polished edges

Base Movement:

Modified La Joux-Perret G200 (Swiss-made); skeletonized rotor with Konstantin Chaykin

logo and rhodium-plated ("Joker Iron Mask") or gold-plated ("Joker Golden Mask")

Movement Dimensions:

Diameter 31.9 mm, thickness 9.35 mm (with module)

Escapement:

Anchor

Balance Frequency:

28,800 vibrations per hour

Power Reserve:

68 hours

Number of Jewels:

36 (24 in base movement, 12 in module)

Number of Module Components:

140

Functions:

Joker time indication with hour (at 10 o'clock), minute (at 2 o'clock), and day of the week sector indicator (at 6 o'clock)

Case:

Stainless steel, case back with sapphire window secured by 6 screws

Case Dimensions:

Diameter 40 mm, thickness 12.78 mm

Crystal:

Domed sapphire crystal with anti-reflective coating, diameter 33 mm; case back with flat sapphire crystal (diameter 25.5 mm; anti-reflective coating)

Number of Case Components:

41

Dial Finishing:

Open-worked dial, textured finishing with gold-plating ("Joker Golden Mask") or rhodium-plating ("Joker Iron Mask"); silvering; pad printing; bluing

Strap:

Black alligator leather

Buckle:

Classic style, manufactured by Konstantin Chaykin, stainless steel