



## The Special Models of IWC's Pilot's Watches

# Special Flight

by Jens Koch

IWC's pilot's watches are always quite special, but their exclusivity can be narrowed even further. There are versions with gold or platinum cases, which are typically released in strictly limited editions. And there are a few special models that IWC built in limited numbers for special occasions.

Sometimes the difference consists only of special printing on the dial or extra engraving on the back. This is true, for example, of the special series of 30 watches that commemorate the 30th anniversary of Patrouille Suisse, the Swiss air force's squadron of acrobatic jets. Each watch's back was engraved with the words "30 Jahre Patrouille Suisse," the name of the pilot, and the number of years that he had been part of the elite squadron. The dial is adorned with the squadron's logo.

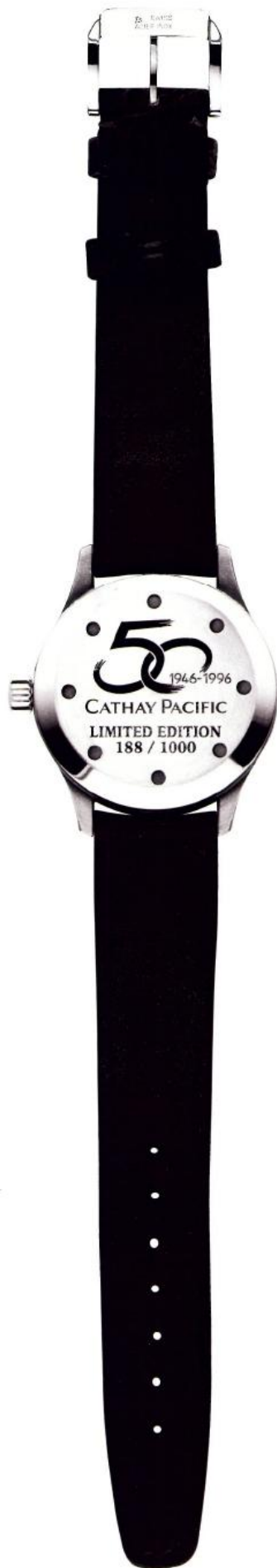
IWC changed the case's material for some special editions. For example, when Saab collaborated with the Swiss ennobler Rinspeed to create the limited-edition Mellow Yellow convertible in 1997 (each of which was yellow with titanium trim), IWC produced a matching Mark XII with a titanium case. The titanium-colored dial bears Saab's insignia. The yellow leather strap matches the color of the lacquer. Exactly 210 specimens were produced.

In one instance, an entirely new model was created; IWC released a set of 50 pilot's chronographs with perpetual calendar for Wempe Jewelers in Germany, and later for Sincere Jewelers in Singapore. Watches like these had never been available before in IWC's standard collection. The most strictly limited series consists of the 25 Mark XII watches with red hourhands that were built to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Danish business magazine *Penge & Privatøkonomi*.





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1. (Previous double page)  
Mark XII Patrouille Suisse;  
1994, 30 specimens

2. Mark XII Cathay Pacific;  
1996, 1000 specimens

3. Double chronograph  
with white dial and blue  
subdials, made for the  
Japanese market to  
commemorate the 130th  
anniversary of IWC; 1997,  
130 specimens

4. IWC Marx XII Saab,  
titanium case, 1997;  
210 specimens

5. Marx XII for a Danish  
business magazine, red  
hour-hand and red croco-  
dile-skin strap, 1997; 25  
specimens

**Special  
models bring  
color into the  
black-and-  
white daily  
life of the  
pilot's watch**



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6. IWC Mark XV Spitfire, hands and numerals in old shape from the "Special Watch for Pilots," available only in Commonwealth countries; 2000, 1,000 specimens

7. IWC Mark XV with white dial, 125th anniversary of Gadebusch Jewelers in Cologne; 2000, 50 specimens

8. Perpetual calendar chronograph, Wempe's 100th anniversary; 2002, 50 specimens

9. Spitfire perpetual calendar chronograph for Sincere; 2004; 25 with black dial, 25 with silver dial

The airplane was already a theme for special models even before the Spitfire

