

BY ELIZABETH DOERR

MAKING His Case(s)

Nicolaus Spinner has a very technical mind. This, in and of itself, should come as no surprise: Spinner is an engineer.

Spinner has also had contact with the watch industry for most of his life, despite the fact that he is located just outside of Bavaria's capital city, Munich, relatively far away from the established centers of watchmaking.

He and his brothers are the owners of a reputable factory for tools and machinery—of the large variety like CNC machines. As such, Spinner supplies most of the big names in watchmaking with his “technical solutions” for case and flat component manufacture.

No big deal

Since it is his job to solve technical problems and create solutions for a great deal of the big names in the industry, it was not long before Spinner the watch fan began to toy with the idea of making his own watches. He taught himself about watches and movements by taking them apart.

“I am a bit of a fanatic,” he admits. “As an engineer, I always want to take a look behind the scenes. Who knows—maybe I can even do it better.”

With 200 watches manufactured per year, Nicolaus Spinner takes special care in creating UTS cases...in Bavaria



UTS's Adventure is also available in steel, PVD black, or a PVD gold color with an ETA Valgranges A07.111 automatic movement.

“It’s the technical element that makes UTS different,”
— Nicolaus Spinner

This PVD stainless steel diver’s watch is water-resistant to 3,000 meters and features a second crown at 2 o’clock to lock the bezel.



The 3,000-meter diver’s watch is also available in a GMT version powered by an ETA 2824-2 caliber.

Thus, Spinner made himself a watch. This was no big deal for him: the instruments his tool company creates include CNC machinery for making cases, a technical process he is more than familiar with. From this one watch he has developed a small collection of chiefly robust diver’s watches. “When I have time to work on it, that is,” Spinner admits.

Despite Spinner’s limited availability, his little brand, which stands for “Uhren Technik Spinner” (“watch technology Spin-

ner”) is making a name for itself, especially within Germany and in the United States, the latter a country where the watch-buying public is very open to new brands.

“This success shows that I’m doing something right,” Spinner smiles.

A case for self-made

Spinner the technician loves his solid cases, which are indeed robust and well-made. Every part of them is screwed to the next part; the bezel and caseback are

screwed down. Spinner plays with finishes. He PVD-coats the individual components so that each model is practically individually designed. Spinner also makes his own crowns and buttons—easy enough since he doesn’t have to worry about ordering a certain number of parts at any one time from a supplier.

“Things like hardening steel—which other companies in the watch industry make a big deal of—are an engineer’s daily bread,” Spinner explains of the many pos-



The ETA Unitas 6497 powering the Adventure model can also be ordered in a decorated version as shown here.

Highly decorated movements can be special-ordered at UTS like this skeletonized and engraved ETA Unitas mechanism.

sibilities he has of raising the quality of his cases and making them unique.

This extends in particular to the rotating bezels of UTS's diver's watches, a component that Spinner is particularly proud of since it required a new technical solution.

"It's the technical element that makes UTS different," he explains as he demonstrates how his bezel locks using a stem, a bolt, and a ceramic ball bearing—the former two manufactured by him, naturally. Additionally, Spinner's diver's watch features a sapphire crystal that is 5 mm thick, helping make these timepieces water-resistant to

3,000 meters—or, in other words, any depth a human can reach.

"The engineer in me doesn't let go: these watches need to be perfect in every detail," Spinner adds.

Reliable movements

At the moment, Spinner is not experimenting in terms of movements. He simply uses the most reliable mechanical mechanisms available: ETA.

"Certainly I have the desire to create my own level of quality, but I am also realistic," Spinner admits. This did not stop him from creating an extremely limited edition of ten tourbillons to meet

some of his customers' wishes. Pointing out the fact that at that time there were no true diver's watches outfitted with a tourbillon movement, Spinner's clients clamored for such a creation from him—which he willingly obliged using a Progress movement created for Jacques Etoile.

This extremely sporty tourbillon is even water-resistant to 1,000 meters.

Other specialties in the UTS line include hand-wound Unitas movements skeletonized and engraved by Jochen Benzinger according to the wishes of Spinner and his clients. Though the

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UTS also offers a 42 mm chronograph (ETA Valjoux 7750) in any number of dial versions. This skeletonized dial features a decorated base plate peeking through the totalizers and time display.



Unitas is instantly recognizable as Benzinger's work, this particular example is probably his most machine-like, angular creation to date. A soberly skeletonized chronograph based on the ETA Valjoux 7750 can also be quickly personalized by the Pforzheim master engraver and skeletonizer according to Spinner's clients' wishes.

Spinner has been offering his UTS watches since 1998; his select clients around the world have come to know and love his sober, functional, and high quality style. And they should—especially if they are divers. ☺



A uniquely decorated Unitas movement in a black PVD Commander case.