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## Two of a kind - central tourbillons

Date: Dec 05, 2005, 12:24 PM - [\(view entire thread\)](#)



By: [ThomasM \(registered\)](#)  
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Many people have emailed me asking about the Omega Central Tourbillon, and how it "compares" to the Haldimann H1.

I happen to appreciate and respect both very much, but upon seeing them in person, they are in fact quite different.

It would be far too easy to dismiss the Omega Central Tourbillon as a mass produced product of an industrial conglomerate, but this would be patently unfair to Omega or their beautiful tourbillon.

This movement is reputed to be the single most expensive movement in the Swatch Group lineup to produce, and is only produced in very limited numbers by a very small group of specialists within the Omega organization.

For more information, [click here for a brief overview](#)

On the other hand, the Haldimann is essentially the product of one Master Watchmaker, who has come up with very innovative solutions to some problematic technical hurdles, including getting the escapement gear train layout to fit inside a traditional tourbillon, yet do this in an iconoclastic central position; or re-designing and creating a new pallet design for space, layout, and other considerations.

Beat also uses one of the (if not THE) largest balance wheels ever used in wristwatch form factor. Among those that feel a tourbillon actually can help in timekeeping stability, there are those that believe a large balance is a crucial technical design element.

From a design and wearability standpoint, both are beautiful and elegant, but both have vastly differing "presence."

One has more flourishes and superficial design "details" while the other is very simple, understated.

One could fairly say that one is "fancier" in design, the other more "pure."

I'll let you decide which is which.

I personally really like both, just like I love Ferraris and Lamborghinis; Porsches and MB/BMW; I appreciate both Bertone and Pininfarina.

Respectfully submitted,

TM

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**Main Post:** [Two of a kind - central tourbillons](#) ThomasM (registered) on December 5th, 2005-12:24

Stunning shots Thomas...thank you for sharing them! Paul Boutros (anonymous) on December 5th, 2005-03:15

10mm or 11mm, I forget exactly which. ThomasM (registered) on December 5th, 2005-06:18

Thanks Thomas... Paul Boutros (anonymous) on December 5th, 2005-06:18

Yes, of course... ThomasM (registered) on December 5th, 2005-06:18

Either way... Paul Boutros (anonymous) on December 5th, 2005-07:19

The balance in the Zenith 135 is, of course, 13.5mm, hence the name. I believe I read...

patekkie (registered) on December 6th, 2005-09:09

To be precise.... :-) SuitbertW (registered) on December 6th, 2005-10:10

Thanks, Suitbert. Leave it to me to ... ThomasM (registered) on December 6th, 2005-11:11

truly awesome! and the red numerals bit is VERY cool :) (nt) ei8htohms (registered) on December 5th, 2005-04:16

are you talking about the Romans on the Haldimann? i think that's just a reflection

SteveH (registered) on December 5th, 2005-05:17

shhhhhh... ThomasM (registered) on December 5th, 2005-06:18

wow, don't know how I missed that... SteveH (registered) on December 5th, 2005-07:19

Here's a past post by Thomas explaining the meaning on 178 AnthonyTsai (registered) on December 6th, 2005-08:08

Thanks, Anthony. The scary thing about the internet is that it has BOTH

ThomasM (registered) on December 6th, 2005-09:09

1 7 8 ... sweet! (nt) Paul Boutros (anonymous) on December 5th, 2005-06:18

You got eagle eyes John! AnthonyTsai (registered) on December 6th, 2005-08:08

Clarification - the red 1-7-8 dial are only in the ThomasM (registered) on December 6th, 2005-09:09

Re: Somewhat confused... stultus77 (anonymous) on December 7th, 2005-06:06

Key differences... ThomasM (registered) on December 7th, 2005-09:09

IMO the domed crystal makes the watch SteveH (registered) on December 7th, 2005-10:10

I 2nd that (nt) AnthonyTsai (registered) on December 7th, 2005-02:14

The 3-D view of the tourbilon . . . Dr No (registered) on December 7th, 2005-07:19

Re: That explains it... stultus77 (anonymous) on December 7th, 2005-07:19

Awesome photos. Cheers to you Thomas (nt) Xian Yang (anonymous) on December 6th, 2005-12:12

Thank you Thomas! Dje (registered) on December 6th, 2005-03:03

Having doubts about tourbillons in wristwatches, Doc (registered) on December 6th, 2005-07:07

Catherine Deneuve and Deborah Kerr . . . Dr No (registered) on December 6th, 2005-07:07

Awesome pics. Btw, you need to re-watermark one of your pictures AnthonyTsai (registered) on December 6th, 2005-07:07

I dont know how to spell either :P I meant S (nt) AnthonyTsai (registered) on December 6th, 2005-07:07

Oy! Thanks for catching that. I'm using a new keyboard and mouse... ThomasM (registered) on December 6th, 2005-09:09

Thanks for the pics Thomas, both are stars in their own right (nt) Zach T (anonymous) on December 6th, 2005-09:09

Thanks for the comparison, Thomas. (nt) Ronald Held (registered) on December 6th, 2005-09:09

Great pics, thanks Thomas. nt Chris Meisenzahl (registered) on December 6th, 2005-04:16

Nice comparison, and great feature on the H1 dial Thomas! nt RT (registered) on December 6th, 2005-05:17

Thomas, Please stop teasing all of us :-). Also, ASG (anonymous) on December 7th, 2005-07:19

I have a reservation on the most expensive Swatch. joshua santos (anonymous) on January 3rd, 2006-06:18