

PASTORALE II BY QIN GAN



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EXQUISITE ELEGANCE
IN THE EVERYDAY

ABOUT THE WATCH KEY SPECIFICATIONS ABOUT QIN GAN

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Qin Gan is an independent master watchmaker from Chongqing – a huge and vibrant metropolis in southwestern China – who made a remarkable appearance on the market with his debut commercial piece entitled “Pastorale”.

Before creating what has now become his most known piece, Qin Gan had accumulated over thirty years of experience in antique watch restorations and had personally crafted numerous prototype watches with complex features such as flyback, tourbillon, automaton, and repeater mechanisms. The steel-cased three-hand “Pastorale” wristwatch, originally released in 2021, made Mr. Qin somewhat of an online celebrity. The Chinese name of the watch originates from a poem written by a modern Chinese poet who chose to live a reclusive life in rural China. As Qin Gan said: “I’ve been fascinated by intricate mechanisms for years, but I eventually opted for a simple three-hand design for my brand’s first product.” In addition, the word “Pastorale” comes from the title of Beethoven’s Sixth Symphony, which is also why there were six watches in the first batch. The initial six pieces, together with their meticulous, traditional hand finish, gained him solid recognition among collectors on the web.

Fast forward three years, “Pastorale II” is now ready to launch in 2024. The new “Pastorale” features an 18K gold case, with upgraded movement finishing and a refined dial design. Cased in 38.5 mm diameter and 9.5 mm thickness, “Pastorale II” is the epitome of a modern dress watch. The dial showcases 18K gold champlevé craftsmanship, with partly laser-engraved indices and lettering filled with enamel, giving the dial a fine metallic texture. The hour, minute, and second hands are first mirror-polished and then heat-blued, after which they are hand-bevelled for a more sophisticated three-dimensional effect. The elongated lugs are chamfered, while the bezel and case back boast added axial polishing, creating refined and elegant curves. The case back engraving filled with cinnabar lacquer (also traditionally referred to as “Chinese red”) subtly conveys the product’s cultural heritage.

The in-house Cal. 1810 movement by Qin Gan consists of 143 parts, featuring a traditional lever escapement and an 18-screw balance wheel, which provide approximately 36 hours of power reserve. The main plate and gear train are entirely handcrafted, with a silky Côte de Genève, sleek inner and outer chamfering, as well as fine gold chatons. In the mountainous city of Chongqing, far from Switzerland and its watchmaking industry, master watchmaker Qin Gan redefines the boundaries of craftsmanship and aesthetics and he does so completely independently.

“Pastorale II” is available in two versions: a white gold case with a champagne dial and a rose gold case with a silver dial, priced at USD 48,300 for international orders, with 15 pieces expected to be produced each year.



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Case

- Case material: 18K white/rose gold, polished
- Diameter: 38.5 mm
- Height: 9.5 mm
- Glass: sapphire with anti-reflection coating
- Buckle: 18K gold pin buckle
- Lug to lug distance: 46 mm
- Water resistance: 30 m
- Case Maker: VSC MANUFACTURE

Dial & Hands

- Dial: champlévé enamel on gold base
- Hands: blue steel, hand bevelled

Calibre

- Dimensions: 30.5mm x 4.6mm
- Function: hour and minute, small seconds at 6 o'clock
- Components: 143
- Jewelling: 18
- Power reserve: 36 hours
- Escapement: bevelled and polished lever
- Frequency: 18,000 BPH(2.5 Hz)
- Balance spring: Nivarox™ flat spring

Pricing

- USD 48,300 (before tax)

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Qin Gan grew up in the mountainous city of Chongqing in the 1970s. Son of a well-known local watchmaker, watchmaking was very much a part of his early life. As a child, Qin Gan used his father's tools to create little clockwork gizmos.

Qin Gan studied art and graphic design and started his career as a newspaper editor. Even though he spent 30 years of his life working different jobs to make ends meet, he never gave up on his passion – exploring and experimenting with precision clockwork mechanisms. Qin Gan has always been actively participating in horological community, restoring watches and making his original timepieces. In 2012, Qin Gan was appointed head watchmaker of Poly Hong Kong, taking charge of the auction house's watches as well as antique timepieces. In 2017, Qin Gan registered his own eponymous brand and start making his first commercial model.

Although Qin Gan's work is brilliant by itself and is not made any more brilliant by his background story, it is certainly made more unique by it. His creations seem even more precious when you think about the obstacles he has had to overcome to get to where he is now.

For more watchmaker's stories: <https://www.woohootime.com/#/qin-gan-about>
Previous prototypes: <https://www.woohootime.com/#/qin-gan-prototypes>

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