

LUDWIG OECHSLIN'S ASTRONOMICAL MOON INDICATION



Ludwig Oechslin has achieved an astronomical moon indication based on just four individual components.
Intelligent minimalism and aesthetic clarity for a romantic display.

Ludwig Oechslin has already designed wristwatches featuring geocentric and heliocentric universes, planetary positions, lunar and solar time, interpretations of the earth's relationship within the solar system and tidal indications. The question is, what would be the best way of portraying just the moon, clearly and distinctly? An astronomical moon indication, but based on a brilliantly simple mechanism?

Ludwig Oechslin's latest concept watch, created for his ochs und junior brand, is the **luna mese idea**.

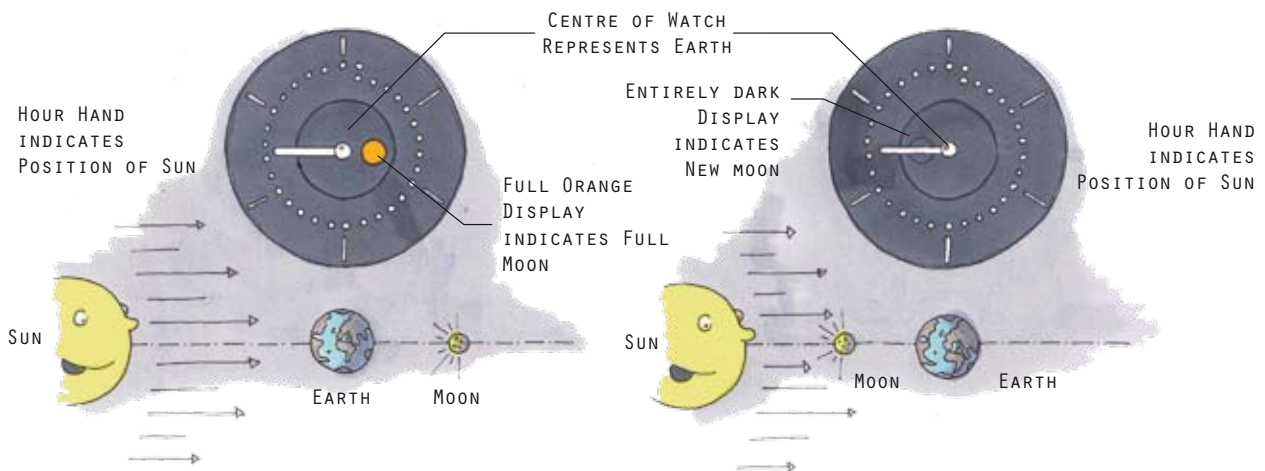
The hour hand indicates the position of the sun, while the centre of the watch represents Earth, with the moon rotating around it.

When the circular aperture in the dial is entirely filled with orange and located exactly opposite the hour hand, then it's a full moon.

When the circular aperture in the dial is entirely empty and located exactly beneath the hour hand, then it's a new moon – in other words, the sun is shining on the side of the moon that's turned away from us.

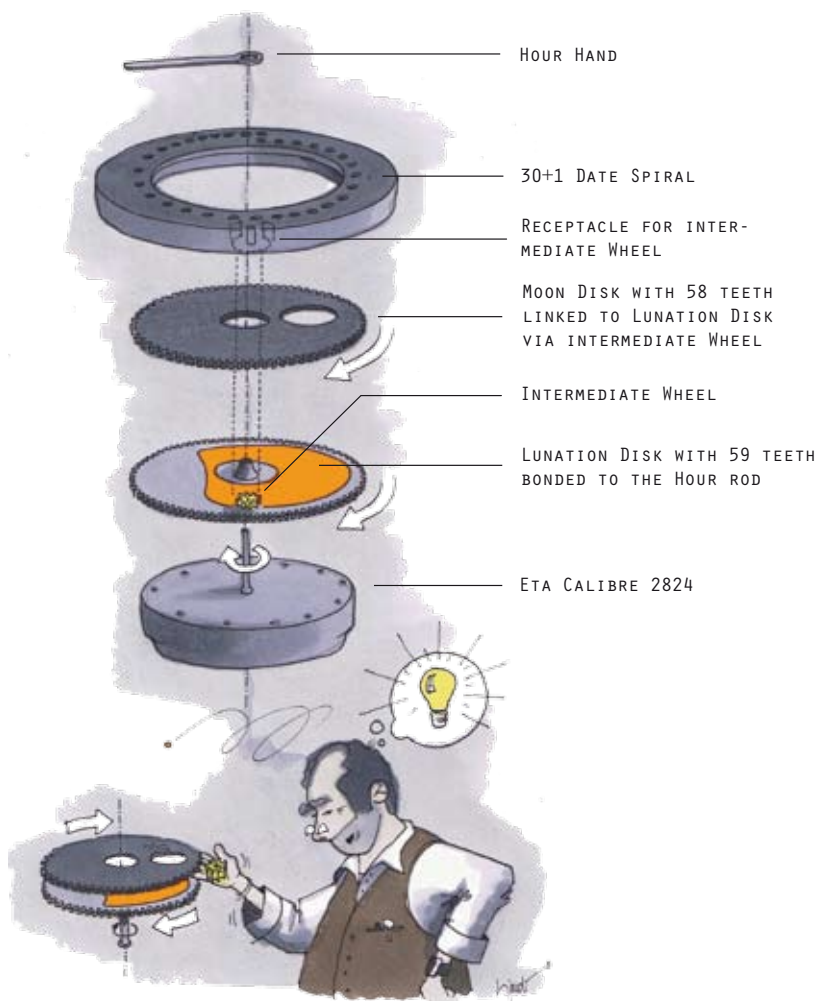
Full moon

New moon



As the moon passes through its various phases every 29.5 or so days, so the dial of the **luna mese idea** reflects these changes.

The changes are continuous, just as the moon's phases are continuous.

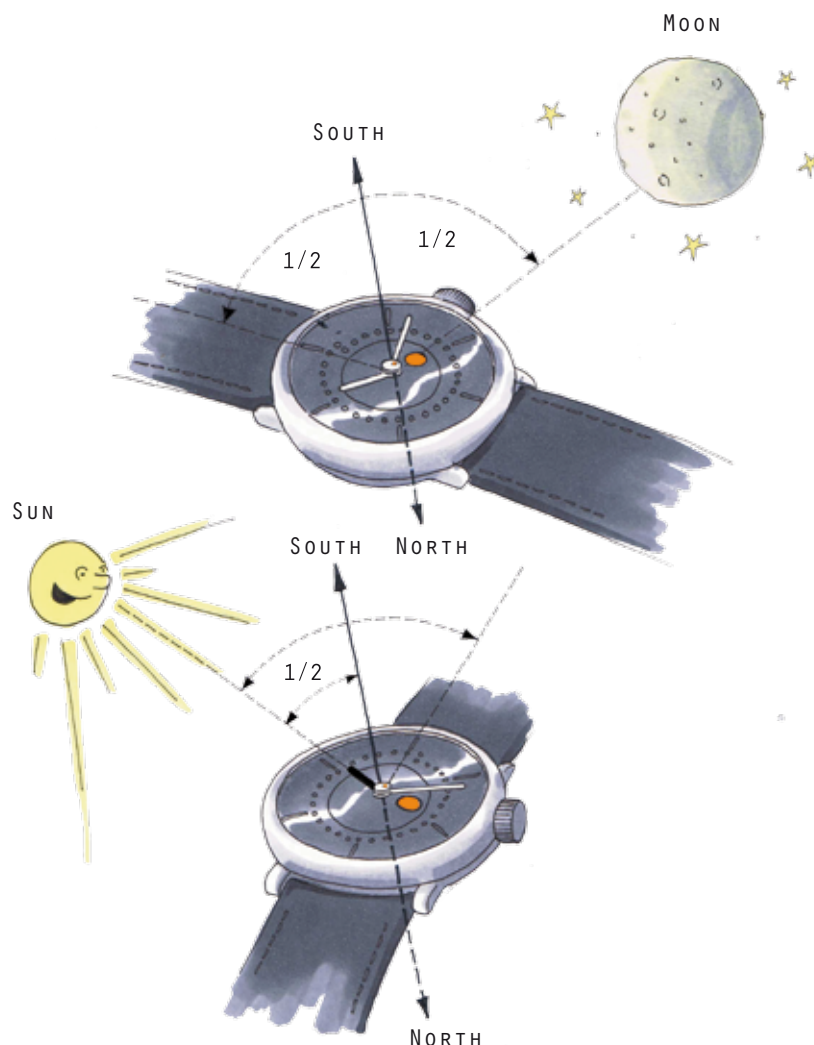


Ludwig Oechslin has managed to create this indication using just four components. True to his credo *the simpler, the better*, the mechanics that underlie the indication are easily understood.

The lunar disk with its 59 teeth is bonded to the hour wheel and thus directly linked to the correctly positioned hour hand. The moon disk with its 58 teeth rotates more slowly than the hour hand: it is linked to the lunation disk below it via a small intermediate wheel. It takes exactly 29.5 days for the lunation disk and the moon disk above it to line up precisely and indicate the full moon.

The small intermediate wheel is integrated directly within the back of the functional dial – no screw coupling is used. Four components!

How to navigate with your wristwatch



Any analogue wristwatch can be used to work out where North is using the hour hand and the position of the sun. The luna mese idea can do this even at night using the position of the moon.

luna mese idea - the details ...



The white gold dial and lunation disk are heated to 950°C, a process which creates a wonderful dark-grey patina that's different every time. Every dial is a one-off! The date disk and moon disk, both also fashioned from white gold, are left as nature intended to create an interesting contrast.

The orange-coloured seconds dot on the white gold cap at the centre of the watch rotates above the clean-lined white gold hands.

Inside the solid silver case ticks a self-winding ETA calibre 2824, which drives the moon module. Silver was chosen as it's a softer metal that acquires a patina of marks and scratches over time as its owner goes through life.

Usually, it's thought that scratches spoil a watch – not so at ochs und junior, where they are seen as expressions of experience and beauty.

As you might expect, ochs und junior uses soft, plant-tanned leather for its straps and for the wallets the watches come in.

The **luna mese idea** is accompanied by a cartoon strip illustrated by Sjoerd van Rooijen – this is bound in recycled board to create a mini work of art.

The luna mese idea and all the other timepiece innovations by ochs und junior are available exclusively from Embassy. Embassy, a family enterprise, is a major retailer of renowned watch brands and fine jewellery; it also offers a Hermès Boutique and hand-crafted chocolate courtesy of its new venture, Max Chocolatier.

ochs und junior luna mese idea **CHF 21,900** (inc. 7.6% VAT)

For more information and photographs:

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Link to the luna mese idea:
<http://www.ochsundjunior.ch/uhren/luna-mese.htm>