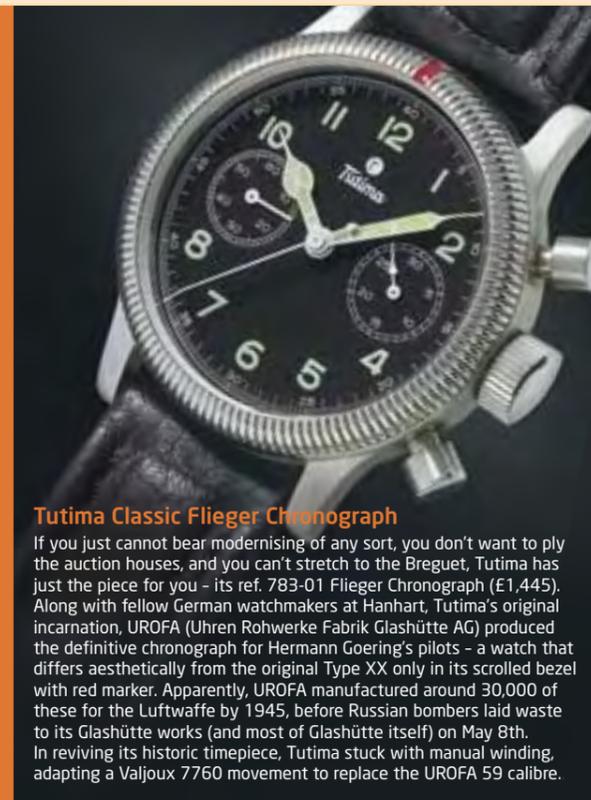




#### Technical Specs

**Model:** Ref. 3800ST/92/9W6  
**Movement:** Calibre 582; 28,800 vph; 25 jewels; self-winding  
**Functions:** Fly-back chronograph  
**Power reserve:** 48 hours  
**Case:** Steel; 39.5 mm  
**Water resistance:** 100m



#### Tutima Classic Flieger Chronograph

If you just cannot bear modernising of any sort, you don't want to ply the auction houses, and you can't stretch to the Breguet, Tutima has just the piece for you - its ref. 783-01 Flieger Chronograph (£1,445). Along with fellow German watchmakers at Hanhart, Tutima's original incarnation, UROFA (Uhren Rohwerke Fabrik Glashütte AG) produced the definitive chronograph for Hermann Goering's pilots - a watch that differs aesthetically from the original Type XX only in its scrolled bezel with red marker. Apparently, UROFA manufactured around 30,000 of these for the Luftwaffe by 1945, before Russian bombers laid waste to its Glashütte works (and most of Glashütte itself) on May 8th. In reviving its historic timepiece, Tutima stuck with manual winding, adapting a Valjoux 7760 movement to replace the UROFA 59 calibre.

#### IWC Pilot's Watch Chronograph

Conversely, you may have had your fill of the whole retro thing and might be wondering what the spiritual descendant of the Type XX would be, devoid of any embellishment? IWC has a long tradition making pilots' watches (including, incidentally, their fair share of timepieces for fat Hermann), so any IWC-dubbed 'pilot's watch' has genuine credibility. Styled to emulate the sheer legibility of the legendary Mk 11, the automatic chronograph in the Pilot's Watch range (ref. IW370603; £2,350) is a handsome, functional beauty in a 39 mm x 14.6 mm case, which means that it is almost identical in size to the Type XX. It offers day and date, it's anti-magnetic like the Mk 11, water-resistant to 60m and possesses its own inimitable cool. It is also available on a fine 'grain-of-rice' bracelet, but real men wear black leather straps.



# Modern Classics: Breguet Type XX



Seasoned enthusiasts know the difference between 'military-style' watches of negligible credibility, and those with true armed-forces provenance. Amongst the hundreds of current wristwatches with big white Arabic numerals against black backgrounds and NATO-style 'over-under' straps or mock-TE Lawrence leather wristlets, amidst the brands purporting to produce the watches of choice for genuine pilots, only a handful have genuine military DNA. And none boasts as pure or enviable a lineage as Breguet's sublime Type XX chronograph.

Ken Kessler

For openers, the mere fact that it is a Breguet elevates the Type XX to the uppermost echelons of horology. Breguet is clearly a marque of the first rank, and it is rare to find such a prestigious (and therefore costly) brand producing watches for the military. In the years following WWII, Breguet was one of a handful of manufacturers granted the license to produce the Type XX chronograph primarily for the French naval air arm and the Armée de l'Air.

First arriving in the early 1950s, the Type XX is the spiritual descendant of the two-dial, two-button chronographs made by Tutima and Hanhart for the Luftwaffe. As with those classic designs, absolute legibility and robustness were the primary considerations for these large manual-wind timepieces. What made them particularly suitable for pilots were chunky winding crowns - useable even when wearing gloves - and the fly-back facility ('retour en vol') that allowed the wearer to zero the chronograph and return straight to counting mode without having to push a button a second time.

Fashioned in steel, the Type XX was found most often with a black dial, white Arabic numerals and an oversized hand in the 15-minute counter, positioned at 3 o'clock. But that is where the commonalities stop, for variations are legion. The Type XX

was produced in small runs (usually 500 pieces or less), at various times throughout the 1950s, with the following alternatives to confuse collectors: differing hand shapes, three-counter versions, silvered dials, bronze dials, plain bezels, scrolled bezels, rotating bezels with 12-hour markers, Valjoux 22 or Lemania movements....

With Breguet's revival in the late 1980s came a trawl through the archives, concurrent with the near-universal change in fashion to large watches. Buried there was a watch just begging to challenge Panerai, IWC's Portuguese and other revived models. Breguet updated the Type XX for 'civilian' usage with three-dial versions, a new name ('Aéronavale'), a self-winding movement, a 'Transatlantique' variant with date, coloured dials, bracelets, gold cases and other 'pimp my watch' digressions.

We suggest that those searching for a taste of the unadulterated Type XX stick with the entry-level ref. 3800ST/92/9W6 (£3,725). If you must have date, the price goes up by £500. Coincidentally, these prices are in the same ball park as the original Type XXs in auction. Which begs the question: why doesn't Breguet release a replica of the manual-wind, two-dial Type XX in a sane-and-sensible limited edition for us purists? The fashionistas have been well served already. ○