

Aviator



With a top speed of Mach 2.3 and the dogfighting maneuverability of an F-16 Fighting Falcon, the Russian MIG 29 Fulcrum is a formidable aircraft in or out of combat. When put to the challenge by the SWIFTS—the Russian equivalent of the U.S. Thunderbirds—in aerial displays testing the limits of both pilot and machine, time itself can seem to stand still. However, the pilots know it doesn't. In the reality of this split-second world of aerobatic feats and stomach-churning rolls, the watch of choice for the SWIFTS is the Volmax Aviator. Steeped in Russian aviation history, this is the timepiece these world-class pilots trust when flying wingtip to wingtip at speeds pushing 1,500 miles per hour.

At the turn of the new millennium, Aviator—and parent company Volmax—grew out of the slow collapse of Russian watch giant Poljot in the late 1990s. Initially a distributor of Poljot watches abroad, and later heir apparent to the Poljot watch heritage, Volmax now owns and produces watches under the trade names Aviator, Buran, and Sturmanskie. The latter holds the distinction of being the first watch in space on the wrist of Yuri Gagarin. It's a lineage that goes back seventy-five years to 1932 when the First Moscow Watch Factory began making pocket watches for the Soviet Union Central Air Force Administration. Volmax still manufactures its watches at the same location. This company is the leader in Russian military chronographs along with aviation and space exploration-related timepieces today. This is not merely an industry for Aviator; it is a passion. Volmax company president Valentin Volodko explains that his company "builds only living watches. Only someone who loves watches can build a mechanical, and there is a piece of our heart in each and every one." This is a sentiment that permeates the watchmakers, designers, and distributors of the Aviator line of watches. The majority of the company's models comprises mechanical, manually wound chronographs, a shrinking part of the watch world as automatics become increasingly popular. Commemorating this company's history, Aviator manufactures true military watches and not just military-inspired timepieces. What better proof of this than the fact that they can be found on the wrists of the SWIFTS pilots—accompanying these aviators and their jets in each difficult maneuver.



Hi-Tech

Reference number: A-31681-2705514
Movement: manually wound, Poljot Caliber 3133; ø 31 mm, height 7.35 mm; 23 jewels; 21,600 vph; power reserve 42 hours (37 hours with running chronograph)
Functions: hours, minutes, subsidiary seconds; date; chronograph
Case: stainless steel, ø 43 mm, height 12.5 mm; mineral crystal; screwed-down mineral crystal exhibition case back; water-resistant to 30 m
Band: leather, buckle
Price: \$1,099



Hi-Tech MK 147

Movement: manually wound, Poljot Caliber 3133; ø 31 mm, height 7.35 mm; 23 jewels; 21,600 vph; power reserve 42 hours (37 hours with running chronograph)
Functions: hours, minutes, subsidiary seconds; date; chronograph
Case: black PVD-coated stainless steel, ø 43 mm, height 12.5 mm; mineral crystal; screwed-down mineral crystal exhibition case back; water-resistant to 30 m
Band: leather, buckle
Price: \$1,099



Propeller Watch

Reference number: 2824-2/2915489
Movement: automatic, ETA Caliber 2824-2; ø 28 mm, height 4.6 mm; 25 jewels; 28,800 vph; power reserve 42 hours
Functions: hours, minutes, sectoral seconds (20 seconds each displayed by three-pronged hand of differing lengths); date
Case: stainless steel, ø 42 mm, height 12.4 mm; mineral crystal; screw-down case back; water-resistant to 30 m
Band: stainless steel, buckle
Price: \$629



Hughes Aviator

Reference number: 31681/6773778B-42
Movement: manually wound, Poljot Caliber 3133; ø 31 mm, height 7.35 mm; 25 jewels; 21,600 vph; power reserve 42 hours (37 hours with running chronograph)
Functions: hours, minutes, subsidiary seconds; date; chronograph; 24-hour display
Case: stainless steel, ø 42 mm, height 13.5 mm; bezel with tachymeter scale; sapphire crystal; screwed-down case back; water-resistant to 50 m
Band: stainless steel, folding clasp
Price: \$759



45 mm Aviator

Reference number: A-3105.03-6975645
Movement: manually wound, Poljot Caliber 3105; ø 31 mm, height 5.05 mm; 19 jewels; 21,600 vph; power reserve 42 hours
Functions: hours, minutes, subsidiary seconds; date
Case: stainless steel, ø 43 mm, height 13.6 mm; mineral crystal; screwed-down case back; water-resistant to 30 m
Band: leather, buckle
Price: \$549



Day and Night

Reference number: A-3105.03-6975582
Movement: manually wound, Poljot Caliber 3105; ø 31 mm, height 5.05 mm; 19 jewels; 21,600 vph; power reserve 42 hours
Functions: hours, minutes, subsidiary seconds; date; day/night indicator
Case: stainless steel, ø 43 mm, height 13.6 mm; mineral crystal; screwed-down case back; water-resistant to 30 m
Band: leather, buckle
Price: \$549