

Aviator

With a top speed of Mach 2.3 and the dog-fighting 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 timepiece, 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.



Guards Colonel Nikolay M. Dyatel, Deputy Head of 237th Aircraft Demonstration Center



Hi-Tech
Reference number: 3133/2705965
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: \$929



Wright Brothers
Reference number: 3133/2941027
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 13.8 mm; mineral crystal; screwed-down mineral crystal exhibition case back; water-resistant to 30 m
Band: leather, buckle
Price: \$1,059



Hi-Tech
Reference number: 3133/2704542
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: \$989



Chronograph
Reference number: 31681/6773778B-42
Movement: manually wound, Poljot Caliber 31681; 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: \$729



Moon Phase
Reference number: 310579/1166548
Movement: manually wound, Poljot Caliber 310579; ø 31 mm, height 5.05 mm; 17 jewels; 21,600 vph; power reserve 42 hours
Functions: hours, minutes, subsidiary seconds; date; moon phase
Case: gold-plated (10 microns) stainless steel, ø 43 mm, height 13.6 mm; bidirectionally rotating bezel with second time zone; mineral crystal; screwed-down mineral crystal exhibition case back; water-resistant to 30 m
Band: leather, buckle
Price: \$599



Three-Hand Propeller Watch
Reference number: 2824-2/2915488
Movement: automatic, ETA Caliber 2824-2; ø 28 mm, height 4.6 mm; 25 jewels; 28,800 vph; power reserve 42 hours (37 hours with running chronograph)
Functions: hours, minutes, sweep seconds; date
Case: stainless steel, ø 42 mm, height 12.4 mm; mineral crystal; water-resistant to 30 m
Band: stainless steel, buckle
Price: \$599



Manually Wound
Reference number: 3105/1161544
Movement: manually wound, Poljot Caliber 3105; ø 31 mm, height 5.05 mm; 17 jewels; 21,600 vph; power reserve 42 hours
Functions: hours, minutes, subsidiary seconds; date
Case: stainless steel, ø 43 mm, height 13.6 mm; bidirectionally rotating bezel with second time zone; mineral crystal; screwed-down mineral crystal exhibition case back; water-resistant to 30 m
Band: leather, buckle
Price: \$599



Wings
Reference number: 31679/2806432
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: gold-plated (10 microns) stainless steel, ø 43 mm, height 13.8 mm; sapphire crystal; screwed-down sapphire crystal exhibition case back; water-resistant to 30 m
Band: leather, buckle
Remarks: chronograph buttons decorated with "wing" levers to provide convenient use when wearing gloves
Price: \$1,229