SCHOFIELD

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The Light, general purpose field watch (in two colours) by Schofield.

Schofield introduces a general purpose field watch. After 15 years making watches with the same case shape and dimensions, the Light brings a whole re-design, from the ground up. At 40 mm diameter we now have a wholly new offering with no less complexity and detail as seen in other models. Lighthouses have been Schofield's inspiration for the last 15 years and these two new watches reflect their austerity, endurance and precision. Built for legibility and reliability - a functional watch with subtle military cues. Powered by an automatic, mechanical Seiko movement with 24hr GMT. The Light comes in two colours, aptly named The Light One and The Dark One. Both limited to 150 pieces.



Price is £2190 including VAT (UK / free shipping) or £1825 excluding VAT (US, Canada, Europe ROW + shipping). Exclusively at schofieldwatchcompany.com



WHY IT IS CALLED THE LIGHT - A GENERAL PURPOSE FIELD WATCH (WITH MILITARY CUES).

The Light is not lite but plays on the fact that this is the most inexpensive watch we have ever made. However, designing it to be economical was, and is, impossible for Giles Ellis. By using a movement that although absolutely brilliant - as so many of Seiko's products are - is reasonably priced compared to say the ubiquitous ETA 2824-2, helps, but not much. Another way is to make more, which we did. But way more important and relevant is Light, as in the use of the Lighthouse - the home of Schofield - and the coast, represented by these trustworthy beacons. The Beam-of-Light logo is used in multiple places, for the first time in the crown, then on the dial and case back. General Purpose, because that helps define its reason to exist. Whether you wear it climbing to the lamp room is up to you, but you could. The Light can take it. Field Watch is a pretty broad category for watches and links with military usage. At first glance the simplicity of the dial and case work would be akin to many other field watches but in fact the complexity and refinement in the design is revealed on closer inspection. Military cues - the box sapphire crystal, high contrast (where it matters) monochrome colour ways, asymmetrical dial print, full numerical hour index and a crown at 4, matt finishing and robust strap and buckle.



THE CASE

Although field watches can be quite pedestrian, this new design is anything but. A heavy box sapphire crystal is mounted in a bezel that is vertically brushed to catch the light. The surrounding metal on the top surface is a compound curve, dropping away steeply at the bezel and sweeping towards the lugs. Like our larger model watches the strap is rebated under a lip, this creates an all-in-one integrated feel and ensures it sits comfortably on all wrist sizes. The crown at 4 o'clock is another point of difference with other Schofields and features 'wheel arches' machined into the case above and below which serve as crown protectors; the crown is fully rebated when screwed down. The case back is printed on the inside of a mineral crystal and has tiny apertures through to the movement, the lamp of the lighthouse, the horizon and some stars that twinkle as they catch the light. This artwork is also aligned 12 - 6 and the case back is a screw-in type but with no opening holes. Apart from the bezel, the whole case has a fine matt finish. The Dark One is PVD coated gunmetal grey. Both cases have further anti-fingerprint coatings applied.



DIAL & HANDS

Classic Schofield in the layout, open and uncluttered, designed for legibility, all the hours are marked including a new slash-0 at 12. The number track is raised, typical of many Schofield dials and bordered precisely to the stepped level and colour change in the lower dial. The print used on the inner section is ghosted as to not detract from the important job of telling the time. The hands are perfectly lacquered giving a 3D form, the hour and minute hands are applied with Super-LumiNova C3 with a green emission. The GMT hand colour matches the dial behind it, again to help remove any distraction for day to day time telling. A quirk of the Light is the fact that the GMT hand completes one rotation every 24 hours. But the only index is 12 hours, so a little commitment to understanding how to read the GMT is required, then it is easy.



STRAPS

Both Light colours come with the same two straps, the highly coveted and best in class India Rubber, lined with India Rubber, for smarts and water resistance and a new grey leather lined with bright red calf. These straps are branded Sugar Free. Sugar Free is a new sister company to Schofield and deals wholly with straps that are not 24mm between the lugs (all other Schofield watches). The Light straps are 22mm between the lugs and do not taper, so they fit normal Schofield buckles. The buckle for the Light is the elaborate Obscura buckle, a donation from our most expensive offering.

ABOUT SCHOFIELD

At the outset Schofield Watch Company was not a commercial venture but a personal endeavour carried out by one man who wanted to design and build a luxury watch to his own style and requirements. The Company evolved (and got quite out-of-hand) as the project grew in scale. Giles' obsession with detail ensured that the design process encompassed not only the watches but also the accessories, packaging, graphics, websites, photography, and an endless chorus of variables that go into the creation of something that is made with passion and vision. The Company prides itself on the subtle, understated and precise design behind its products. Within this field Giles has given numerous seminars and talks to universities and businesses and is currently a resident lecturer at the University of Sussex. Schofield resides next to the River Adur, a stone's throw from the sea in the bucolic Sussex countryside.

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TECHNICAL DETAILS

Movement Seiko NH34A. Hours, minutes and hacking sweep seconds and GMT

Power reserve 44 hours
Diameter 27.4mm
Height 5.32mm
Jewels 24

Frequency 21,600 VPH 4Hz

Case Stainless steel (The Dark One PVD). Anti-fingerprint coating

Diameter 40mm Crystal diameter 32mm

Bezel Brushed 12 - 6, 36mm diameter

Height including lugs 13.5mm
Width between lugs 22mm
Lug length 48mm
Weight with strap and buckle 96 grammes

Crystal Box sapphire, multiple AR coatings

Case Back Printed mineral crystal. Flush fit, orientated 12-6. Screw in with no opening holes
Crown Double o-ring screw in type with nail groove, engraved with Beam of Light

Dials Split-level, painted, lacquered

Date None

Luminescence Super-LumiNova C3 green emission

Hands Lacquered greys

Strap 2x 22mm straight cut with QR spring bars

Buckle Obscura type

Box Machined cork and Valchromat
Serial Limited to 150 watches in each colour

Water resistance 200m Warranty 2 years
