



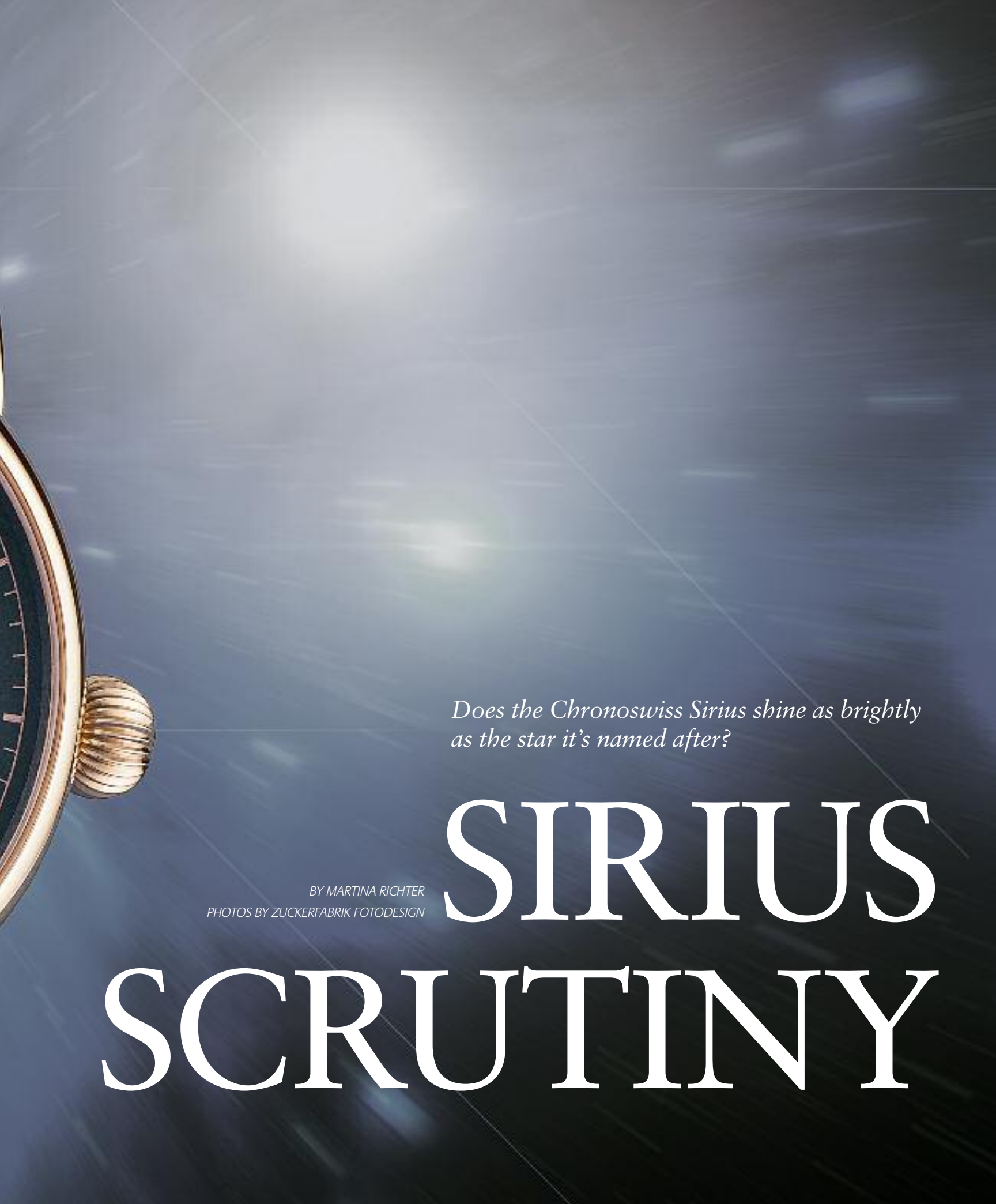
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**Pros**

- + Based on historical caliber
- + Comfortable to wear
- + Classically elegant design

**Cons**

- Precision suffers when watch is not fully wound
- No stop-seconds feature



*Does the Chronoswiss Sirius shine as brightly  
as the star it's named after?*

BY MARTINA RICHTER  
PHOTOS BY ZUCKERFABRIK FOTODESIGN

# SIRIUS SCRUTINY

# B

ack in 1993, Gerd-Rüdiger Lang, founder of Munich-based Chronoswiss, bought a batch of movements made by Marvin, a Swiss watch company that traces its history to 1850. Among those movements was the hand-wound Caliber 700, first launched in 1952. It is this movement, which was manufactured into the 1980s, that powers the Chronoswiss Sirius.

Chronoswiss has thoroughly reworked and updated the movement and renamed it Caliber C.111. It now has a large Glucydur balance, a Nivarox-1 hairspring and Incabloc shock absorption. Its frequency has been increased to 21,600 vph from the 18,000 vph of the original.

The movement's architecture calls to mind that of a pocket-watch. The C.111 is 13 lignes, or 29.3 millimeters, in diameter, and just 3.3 millimeters thick. It has a power reserve of 46 hours. Fine adjustment is via an index pointer.

The movement's rate results were less than ideal. Our electronic timing machine determined that the watch gained an average of 3.8 seconds per day with a fully wound mainspring. That's entirely acceptable, although the difference in rate between the various positions was 13.2 seconds. Fully wound, the Sirius ran fastest (+10.7 seconds) in the dial-up position and slowest (-2.5 seconds) in the crown-left position. After running for 24 hours, it showed an average deviation of +12.7 seconds, with deviations of 21.6 seconds among the individual positions and a maximum gain of 24.3 seconds in the dial-up position.

Worn on the wrist and wound once per day, the Sirius yielded better results: it gained between nine and 13 seconds. When we left the watch overnight with the dial facing up, it ran extremely fast, and the next day showed a gain of 18 to 24 seconds. These results confirmed those found on the timing ma-

*The movement is decorated with sunbursts, Geneva waves, beveled edges, settings for the jewels and brightly polished screws.*





Caliber C.111 is based on the Marvin Caliber 700.

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*The case has both polished and matte surfaces. The crown is large and easy to grasp.*



## SPECS

### CHRONOSWISS SIRIUS

**Manufacturer:** Chronoswiss Uhren GmbH, Dr.-Johann-Heitzer-Strasse 4, Karlsruhe, Germany

**Reference number:** CH 1021 R bk

**Functions:** Hours, minutes, seconds

**Movement:** Caliber C.111, based on the Marvin 700; hand-wound; 21,600 vph; 17 jewels; Glucydur balance; flat, Nivarox 1 hairspring; fine adjustment via index; Incabloc shock absorption; diameter = 29.3 mm; thickness = 3.30 mm; decorated w/ Geneva waves, circular graining and sunbursts; power reserve = 46 hours

**Case:** Rose gold, nonreflective sapphire crystal and caseback, polished and matte finishes, onion-shaped crown, water-resistant to 30 meters

**Strap and clasp:** Louisiana crocodile strap, pronged buckle

#### Rate results:

(deviation in seconds per day when fully wound/after 24 hours)

Dial up: +10.7/+24.3

Dial down: +9.9/+19.1

Crown up: +0.8/+13.8

Crown down: 0.0/+2.7

Crown left: -2.5/+3.4

Greatest deviation of rate: 13.2/21.6

Average deviation: +3.8/+12.7

Mean amplitude:

Flat positions 321°/285°

Hanging positions 273°/249°

**Dimensions:** Diameter = 39.8 mm, thickness = 7.70 mm, weight = 79 g

**Variations:** White dial, stainless steel with white or black dial (\$4,900)

**Price:** \$9,900

*Chronoswiss Sirius*

chine: only when fully wound does the watch perform with acceptable rate values. When the tension in the mainspring declines (as it periodically will in a hand-wound watch), the Sirius runs fast, and especially so if it is taken off the wrist and left lying face up. This corresponds to the dial-up position on the timing machine, where the Sirius showed its greatest rate deviations of all positions. Wearing the watch on one's wrist compensates for the greatest deviations (as do the measurements in five positions on the timing machine) and yields an average daily gain of 12.5 seconds after several weeks of wearing.

**A PANE OF TRANSPARENT** sapphire, treated with a nonreflective coating and inset into the fully threaded back, provides an unobstructed view of the movement. Circular graining adorns the C.111's base plate and pallet bridge; Geneva waves, its barrel bridge, gear-train bridge and balance cock; and sunburst finishing, its winding wheel. Other attractive features include beveled edges, settings for the jewels, polished screws and the inverted Chronoswiss logo on the wheel bridge.

Engravings on the back identify the model and specify its level of water-resistance: 30 meters. The rose-gold rim also bears a little symbol which, upon closer scrutiny, turns out to be a picture of a tiny diving helmet. It's meant to symbolize water-tightness, and seems out of place because a water-resistance level of only 30 meters is not sufficient for diving. Nor does the watch's elegant appearance suggest that it was designed for that (or any) sport.

*WITH A CASE THICKNESS  
OF JUST 7.7 MM, THE  
SIRIUS IS CHRONOSWISS'S  
THINNEST MEN'S WATCH.*

*The Sirius has a large, 40-mm case to accommodate the 29.3-mm movement.*



The Sirius is classical, elegant, and timeless and — with a case thickness of just 7.7 millimeters — also the slimmest Chronoswiss men's watch. The weighty case contributes 36.5 grams of 18-karat rose gold to the watch's total weight of 79.0 grams. The bezel, caseback and fronts of the lugs are polished while the middle part of the case and the sides of the lugs are satin-finished.

The combination of polished and matte surfaces gives this watch a distinctively Chronoswiss look, which is reaffirmed by the large, gold, onion-shaped crown (which operates perfectly) and the elegantly tapered, downwardly arcing lugs. Screws inserted through holes drilled in the ends of the lugs attach, via the patented Autobloc system, the crossbars at either end of the Louisiana crocodile-skin strap. The shape of the case and the high quality of the strap make the watch very comfortable. As is appropriate for a classic watch, the strap has a classic pronged buckle, this one made of rose gold and firmly secured by screws. A folding clasp is also available.

The watch's crystal, like its caseback, is made of sapphire and is nonreflective. Nothing on the dial distracts from its essential function of displaying the time. There are three hands, applied indices and numerals and a calibrated scale surrounding the seconds subdial. Nothing has been left to chance. For example, the small seconds hand is positioned precisely in the center of the lower half of the dial. (The watch does not have a stop-seconds function.) The disk of the guilloché-embellished subdial spans the entire area between the "6" and the dial's center. This results in both a very attractive and very easy-to-read dial. The watch's legibility is further improved by the well-proportioned seconds hand, whose tip is exactly long enough to reach the scale along the edge of the subdial. The hands and dials are



*The serial number appears at the “12” and the reference number at the “6.”*

not luminous, so at night, darkness reigns on the dial (ironic, since Sirius is the brightest star in the sky).

Chronoswiss crosses its “t’s” and dots its “i’s” with a pair of center-mounted, gold-plated, *feuille* hands. Not only are they perfectly proportioned; they’re manually finished. The tip of the minute hand curves downward, coming within a hairsbreadth of the dial. This minimizes errors due to parallax.

So, is the Sirius the star its name suggests it is? Its classic styling and high quality of workmanship say yes; only its rate results, which race toward cosmic speeds, argue differently. ○

*The minute hand curves downward at its tip to minimize parallax.*

