

INDEPENDENT ATELIER

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BY ELIZABETH DOERR

A FOURTH-GENERATION watchmaker, Daniel Malchert is intensely proud of his heritage, his birth region and the watchmaking tradition he belongs to. His great-grandfather Georg founded a watch shop in 1919 in Quedlinburg, Germany, after learning the trade in Berlin. Georg's picturesque little shop was taken over by his master watchmaker son, also named Georg.

Axel (Georg II's son) was interrupted in his goals and intentions by the East German government, which declared the little workshop a "people's trade organization." However, after German reunification, Daniel's father reopened the shop as it formerly was.

Meanwhile, Daniel Malchert continued the family profession by attending Glashütte's world-famed School of Watchmaking. Armed with his watchmaker diploma, he began working at nearby Nomos on his way to becoming a master watchmaker.

Malchert quickly worked his way up the ranks—Nomos' managing directors Roland Schwertner and Uwe Ahrendt have always been quick to recognize and support talent—soon finding himself in Thierry Albert's atelier. Albert, a gifted thinker and movement designer, was given the task of creating luxury timepieces for retailer Wempe, who was in the process of launching its own line. One of these models is the twenty-five-piece limited edition tourbillon



The transparent back of Daniel Malchert's Schlossberg model reveals a hand-finished version of Nomos Caliber alpha.

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that Albert and Malchert handmade for more than eight months.

Independence

TWO YEARS AGO MALCHERT returned to Quedlinburg to continue his family's tradition and begin a new career as an independent watchmaker. His first product, christened the Schlossberg in honor of the historical sandstone church towering over the UNESCO-awarded town, brings him a step closer to his goal.

Housed in a stainless steel 36 mm case and characterized by an extremely clean dial with individual hands, it is the only Nomos movement sold to an outside watchmaker for use in commercial watches: manually wound Caliber alpha. It has been completely hand-finished by Malchert, rendered almost unrecognizable by fine graining and a coating of gold. Naturally, the handwork will automatically limit the production numbers, but the price is a real eye-opener at €3,000 (approximately \$3,850). It can only be ordered through Daniel Malchert himself: www.malchert-uhren.de. ●



The clean look of the Schlossberg is enhanced by a very individual minute hand.



DANIEL MALCHERT was born in 1980 in Quedlinburg, Germany, and received his watchmaking certificate from the historically significant Glashütte school of watchmaking ("Makarenko"). He went on to become a gifted master watchmaker while working at Nomos for eleven years, climbing the ranks until he was side-by-side with head watchmaker Thierry Albert. Malchert's young career will have aficionados associating him thus far only with the Nomos-manufactured Wempe tourbillon of 2006, but this year's Schlossberg model (pictured above) should change that.