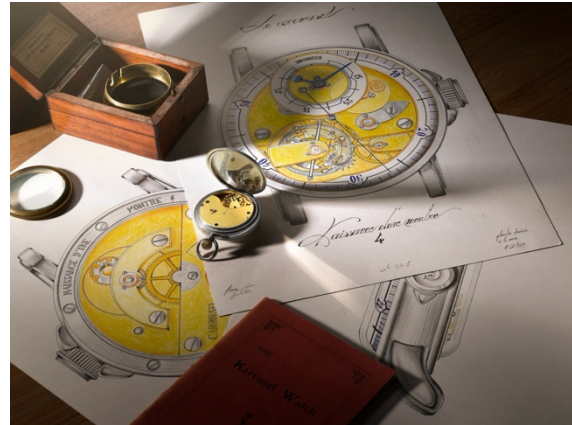


BONNIKSEN



Bonniksen, the art of the Carrousel crafted by hand

Founded in 2026 in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Bonniksen is an independent watchmaking house rooted in the legacy of the great British watchmakers. At the heart of its approach lies the Carrousel, a historic rotating regulation mechanism. Here it is reinterpreted through a contemporary, crafted-by-hand approach. Slow by nature, it completes its revolution in 30 seconds, the wheels engaged in a perpetual interplay that demonstrates controlled kinematics and energy in constant motion. A true 21st-century laboratory of watchmaking crafted by hand, the house explores a horology where contemporary technical rigor and artisanal expression meet, supported by the transmission-focused initiatives of the Time Aeon Foundation. With Naissance d'une Montre 4 – Le Carrousel, it brings this exceptional mechanism to the wristwatch, embodying a vision in which historical artisanal know-how and scientific watchmaking transcend boundaries.

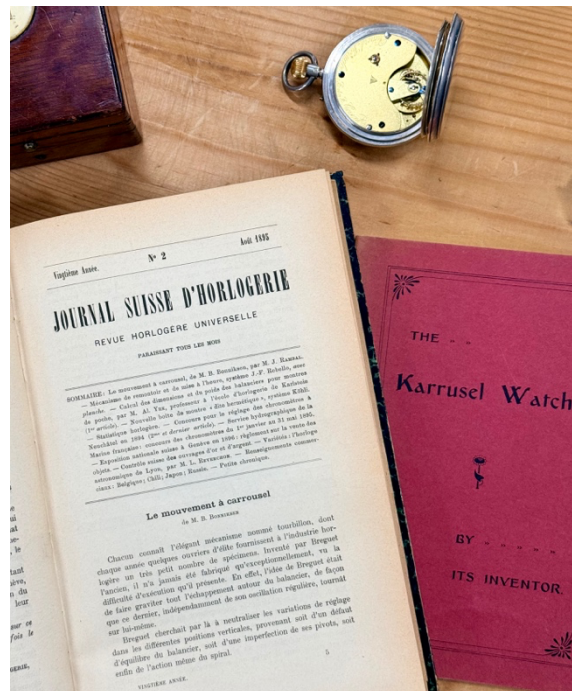


From Bonniksen's historical Carrousel watch to Naissance d'une Montre 4

Bonniksen, the revival of a major name in horological history

Under the guidance of Jason Chevrolat and Maximin Chapuis, Bonniksen is founded on a simple yet radical principle: to conceive, craft and assemble by hand each component with the utmost respect for the art of watchmaking.

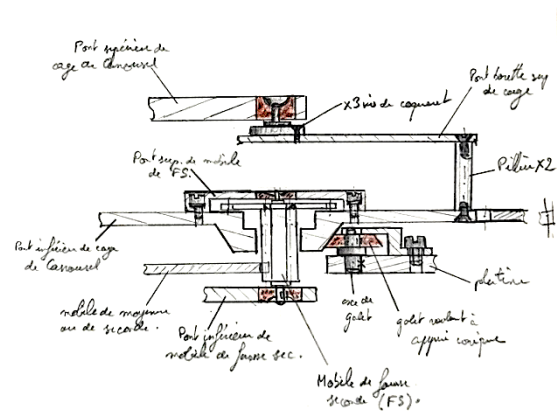
A cornerstone of their horological vision, the Carrousel is a rotating regulation mechanism that remained largely in the shadows yet is fundamental to the history of chronometry. Since 2019, over 5,500 hours of historical and technical research have been dedicated to studying and developing this mechanism, with the support of Bahne Bonniksen's descendants.



Bonniksen's article in the Journal Suisse d'Horlogerie; August 1895



This exploration draws on the golden age of English high horology (1870–1920), inspired by iconic English watchmakers such as Bonniksen, Dent, Charles Frodsham, Nicole Nielsen and Smith & Son. The two founders position themselves within a cross-border tradition, connecting British mechanical rigor with Swiss expertise from the Vallée de Joux in complex movements.



Hand sketch of a fully pivoted carousel mechanism; circa 2019.

Preserving rare know-how

At the heart of Bonniksen's ethos is the transmission of rare skills. From Naissance d'une Montre 1, initiated in 2009 and revealed in 2012, a new generation of watchmakers commits to exceptional craftsmanship emerged. Maximin Chapuis continues this legacy, driven by a desire to unite bench work, historical research, restoration and contemporary creation.



Jason and Maximin in their Workshop

Trained under Michel Boulanger, professor at the Paris Watchmaking School and a key figure in Naissance d'une Montre 1, Chapuis learns to combine technical gestures with horological knowledge. By day, he follows formal lessons; by night, he hones his craft in his own workshop in his Parisian apartment. This personal dedication finds decisive resonance in his encounter with Jason Chevrolat, entrepreneur and expert in watchmaking. Together, they found Bonniksen in 2026, guided by a shared commitment to preserving meaning and heritage within the respect of artisanal, crafted-by-hand haute horlogerie.



Pantograph Machine into BONNIKSEN Workshop

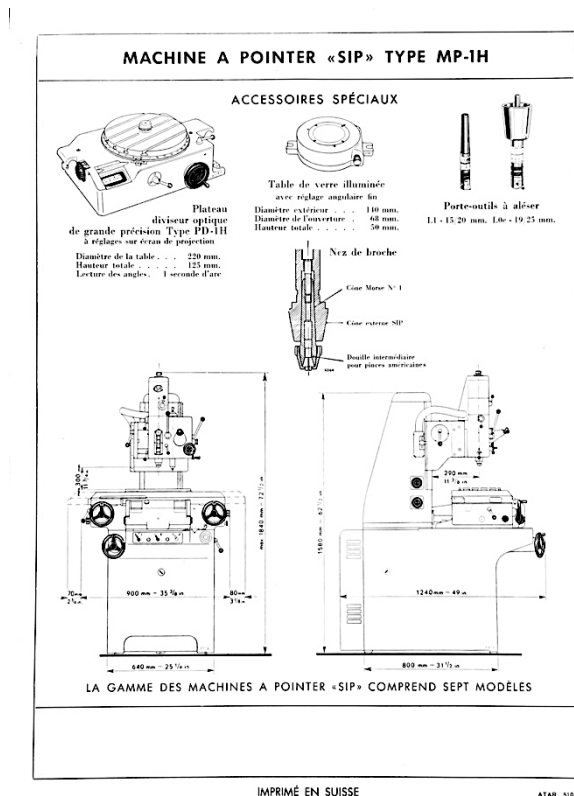


Based in La Chaux-de-Fonds, the house relies on an advanced watchmaking and micromechanics workshop, equipped with high-precision traditional machines—lathes, milling machines, precision drilling machines and pantographs from renowned makers such as Hauser, SIP, Lienhard, Mitutoyo and Aciera—alongside exceptional finishing tools for bevelling, black polishing and circular graining. Restored and upgraded, these historic instruments are complemented by Swiss, German and Japanese mechanical devices, forming a true 21st-century laboratory of watchmaking crafted by hand.

As a watchmaker, restorer, prototype maker and machinist, Maximin Chapuis combines high-level practice with knowledge transmission. His career, including teaching at WOSTEP and collaborations with Audemars Piguet heritage and the Breguet Museum, reinforces the technical and patrimonial depth of the project. He masters historic mechanisms, revives English watchmaking techniques and ensures their documented, rigorous transmission.



Old lathe and collets into BONNIKSEN Workshop



SIP Jig Boring Machine Technical Document



Set of drilling and perlage machines into BONNIKSEN workshop

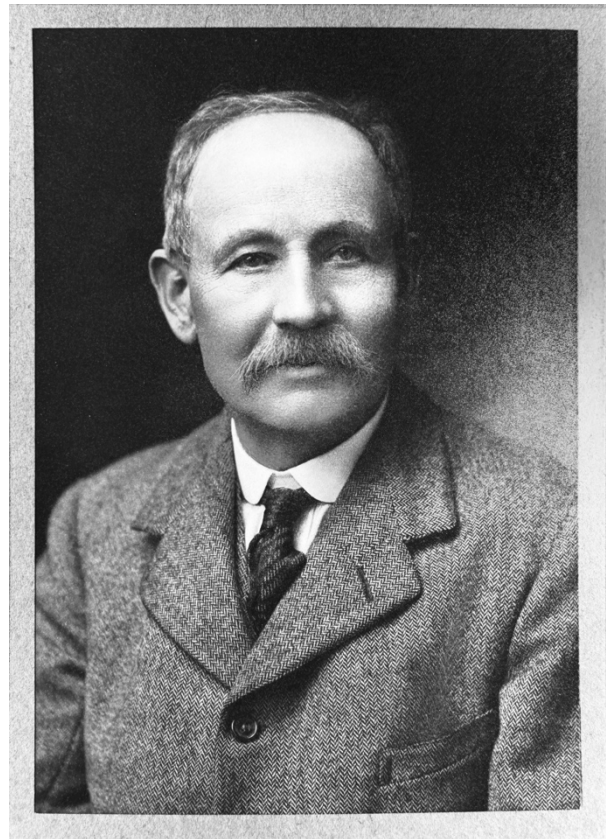


The Carrousel, a manifesto of independence

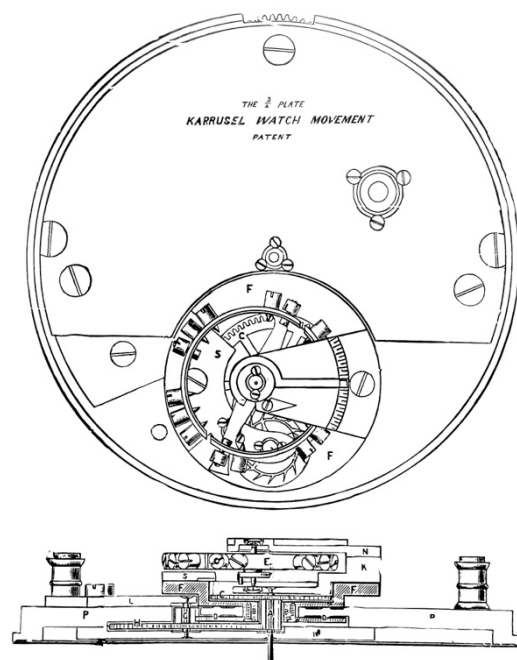
With the Naissance d'une Montre 4 project, Bonniksen revives a forgotten chapter of horological history: the Carrousel, invented by Bahne Bonniksen, a Danish watchmaker based in Coventry, England. A symbol of ingenuity and technical rigor, this mechanism left a lasting impact on the British watch industry of its era and remains a touchstone of chronometry.

A renowned chronometer maker and professor of mechanics and regulation, Bonniksen dedicates most of his career to developing and perfecting the mechanism. In 1892, he patents and releases his famous "position equalising karrusel", which he holds exclusively until the decline of the British watch industry around the turn of the 20th century. The Carrousel enjoys remarkable success at observatory trials for over two decades, adopted by leading English, Swiss and German watchmakers, who recognise it as a mechanism of rare distinction. Among them are iconic houses such as Patek Philippe, Audemars Piguet and A. Lange & Söhne. The First World War and the repurposing of mechanical industries led to its gradual disappearance, along with Bonniksen's refinements.

The Carrousel was invented to meet a fundamental challenge in chronometry: to ensure consistent timekeeping in all vertical positions. Its dynamic system features a rotating cage carrying the escapement and balance-spring assembly, compensating for positional errors caused by gravity. A train derived from traditional going train drives the cage independently, without any wheel fixed to the main plate, offering a robust alternative to the traditional tourbillon.



*Bahne Bonniksen Portrait, circa 1900;
Bonnixsen's Family*



*Historical 52,5min Carrousel from Bahne Bonniksen's
patent; 1892.*



True to the idea inaugurated by Abraham-Louis Breguet, the Carrousel averages positional errors and extends the history of high horology. Its uniqueness lies in its innovative design: unlike the tourbillon, where the seconds wheel remains fixed to the plate, the Carrousel is a carried-wheel device, fitted with a mobile seconds wheel. This configuration requires that the relative speeds of the wheels carried within the cage with respect to one another be accounted for in the equations governing the rotation – represented by the '±' of the house's emblem.

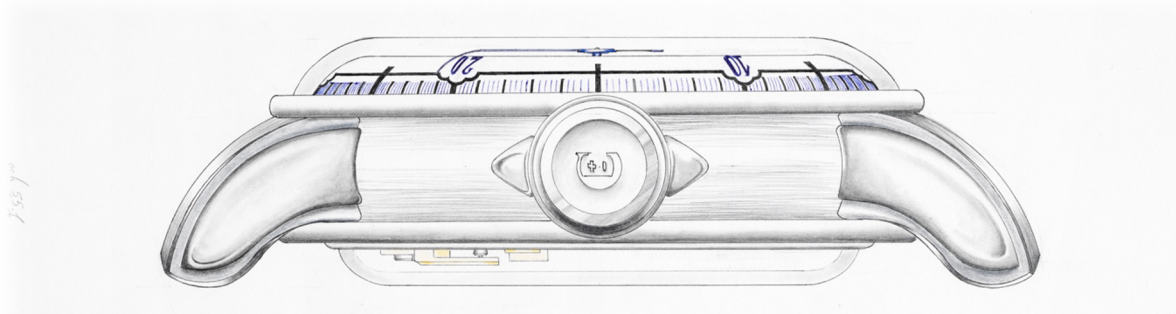
Beyond the precision it affords, this mechanism is distinguished by its exceptional robustness: no fixed wheel, no risk of set-up or butting, every component pivoting with absolute accuracy. This subtle technical balance gives the Carrousel its uniqueness and reflects the two founders' desire to preserve and revive a rare horological know-how while adapting it to contemporary watchmaking.



Model of Naissance d'une Montre 4 pivoted Carrousel

Naissance d'une Montre 4 – Le Carrousel

The independent house of Bonniksen is setting out to offer a contemporary interpretation of the great works of the British chronometer makers – historically reserved for pocket watches – expressing this cross-border horology at its summit. Naissance d'une Montre 4 – Le Carrousel will introduce the first-ever Carrousel crafted by hand in a wristwatch under 40 mm. Offering an unprecedented perspective on this exceptional mechanism, its two domed crystals will reveal the movement from every angle, creating a striking sense of depth.



Naissance d'une Montre 4 - Profile



The three-hand inverted calibre will be distinguished by its atypical three-quarter plate. The hours and minutes, off-centred at twelve o'clock on a chapter ring, will be indicated by modernised English pear-shaped hands, while a large central seconds hand will pay homage to the great scientific pocket watches. The peripheral seconds track will underline the symmetry of the movement and a subtle eccentric aperture will reveal the mechanical splendor of the fully pivoted Carrousel, completing one full rotation in 30 seconds.



Naissance d'une Montre 4 - Front



Naissance d'une Montre 4 - Back

Every technical detail will reflect the highest mechanical standards: screwed chatons, a mainspring barrel boss, six-spoke wheels, a maker's mark, black polish... The noble English codes will be upheld and enriched by contemporary materials and finishes, faithful to the spirit of haute horlogerie. The rotation of the large seconds hand in 60 seconds, that of the Carrousel in 30 seconds, and the clockwise and counter-clockwise motion of the respective trains will create a perpetual interplay, as captivating to the eye as it is effective for the precision of the movement.

Naissance d'une Montre 4 – Le Carrousel will be the first timepiece crafted by hand to incorporate the renowned regulating mechanism cherished by Bonniksen. This project continues the tradition of knowledge transmission while opening the door to the exploration of overlooked chapters in horological history. As the brand's first creation from La Chaux-de-Fonds, it lays the groundwork for future collections. Supported by the Time Aeon Foundation, the project embodies Bonniksen's vision of 21st-century watchmaking crafted by hand, where technical mastery and artisanal know-how converge to deliver both excellence and performance.



Boilerplate BONNIKSEN

Founded in 2026, Bonniksen is an independent watchmaking house expressing an advanced expression of 21st-century fine making, where artisanal tradition and scientific horology transcend borders. Inspired by the golden age of English watchmaking in the late 19th century, it places at the heart of its approach the Carrousel – the mechanism invented by Bahne Bonniksen, a symbol of ingenuity and of technical and mechanical rigor. Born of the meeting between Maximin Chapuis, a prototype watchmaker and researcher with a profound passion for horological knowledge, and Jason Chevrolat, a visionary entrepreneur committed to the international independent watchmaking ecosystem, the house perpetuates rare knowledge and forgotten techniques, ensuring the transmission of artisanal practices and historical mechanisms. Each component is conceived, crafted and finished by hand in their high horology and micromechanical workshop in La Chaux-de-Fonds. A true 21st-century laboratory of watchmaking crafted by hand, Bonniksen combines technical rigor and creative expression to bring forth timepieces at the pinnacle of contemporary artisanal watchmaking.

BONNIKSEN – CONTACT

Jason Chevrolat - j.chevrolat@bonniksen.com - +41 79 809 11 11

Ateliers Bonniksen
Avenue Léopold-Robert 96
2300 La Chaux-de-Fonds
Switzerland

La Chaux-de-Fonds, 2026

