

JEWELRY

Omega brings back Apollo 11 watch for 50th anniversary

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Omega's new limited edition. Image credit: Omega

By STAFF REPORTS

Swiss watchmaker Omega is continuing to push its relationship with the famous Moon Landing with another special edition.

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For the 50th anniversary of American astronauts landing on the Moon, Omega has created an anniversary limited edition for its namesake mission. The Speedmaster Apollo 11 50th Anniversary edition features new 18-karat gold alloy and is powered by a manual-winding Master Chronometer calibre 3861.

Watching history

Omega was titled the first watch worn on the moon, as the watchmaker had an exclusive agreement to provide timepieces to NASA.

The watch brand was known as the "pilot's choice" for timepieces, which eventually turned into the U.S. Air Force using its watches. From there, astronaut Walter Schirra wore his own Speedmaster CK2998 on the Mercury-Atlas 8 mission, orbiting the Earth six times.

This led to Omega's agreement with NASA, leading to astronauts Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong wearing the Speedmaster to the Moon Landing.

"The watch was a backup," said James Ragan, engineer at NASA, who qualified the Speedmaster in 1965 in a statement. "If the astronauts lost the capability of talking to the ground, or the capability of their digital timers on the lunar surface, then the only thing they had to rely on was the OMEGA watch they had on their wrist.

"It needed to be there for them if they had a problem," he said.



Astronaut Buzz Aldrin wearing the new edition. Image credit: Omega

Omega celebrated this feat with the original special edition, Speedmaster BA145.022, also featured in gold.

Today the essence of that watch is brought back with a new limited-edition for 2019, made in a series of only 1,014 pieces. Each piece is priced at 32,000 Swiss francs, or \$31,760 at current exchange, before taxes.

This will be one of many initiatives Omega has undertaken to celebrate its history. The brand appeared in the recent film "First Man," which depicts the story of the Moon Landing ([see story](#)).

Prior to the 50th anniversary, a 45th anniversary limited edition was created for Apollo 11 mission ([see story](#)).

Omega celebrated the 60th anniversary of the actual Speedmaster watch and its role in the Apollo moon mission in 1969 with a short documentary featuring Buzz Aldrin and brand ambassador George Clooney.

The documentary, titled "Starmen," brings the two men together to view footage of the Apollo space flight mission and talk about its effects on them and the world. Throughout the film, the two men discuss the Omega Speedmaster and its role, as the watch was worn by astronauts during the mission ([see story](#)).