

## **CX Swiss Military 20 000 Feet Diver**

Every time I think I've found the watch that can rightfully claim the title of "the world's most water resistant watch" I come across another watch company that is laying claim to the title! The last watch I wrote about was the Hublot Oceanographic 4000 which was launched in 2011 (with great fanfare - princes, mermaids and all!) as "the most pressure resistant watch in the world". As the name suggests this watch is able to withstand pressure to a depth of 4 000m. The previous holder of the title was the Rolex Deepsea Sea Dweller which was water resistant to 3 900m. Of course we know that Rolex has sent a watch (the Deepsea Challenger) to a depth of 12 000m but that was an experimental watch. We are talking about commercially available watches here.

Now I've realised that Hublot's claim is, shall we say, somewhat exaggerated! It seems the title of the deepest diving mechanical watch (and chronograph) does in fact belong to the CX Swiss Military 20 000 Feet Diver. Launched in 2009, this watch can function at an incredible 6 000m – a feat recognized as a Guinness World Record.

As I read more about this amazing watch I wouldn't be surprised if it held it a few more titles as well – perhaps something like "the world's most indestructible watch"! Go online and you will find footage of people blasting it with a shotgun, running over it with a large truck, and even setting off explosives beside it. The watch takes it all in its stride and just goes on ticking away happily. Amazing! One reviewer has even suggested that if you do manage to break this watch the manufacturers will give you a new one!

All right, so we know the watch is one tough nut (perhaps even the toughest) but it's also very highly rated in other areas such as practicality, legibility, ease of use. When you turn the bezel on this watch or push the buttons you can literally *feel* the quality. This is one smooth operator. It also looks great with its brushed titanium case and black carbon fibre dial (also available in silver, blue or yellow). Perhaps one gripe would be the thickness of the watch – it is nearly 30mm thick! Imagine a watch that sits nearly 3cm off your wrist. It is also 48mm in diameter so it is definitely one chunky beast (although, at 265 grams, it's perhaps not as heavy as you would imagine). Another possible gripe would be the curvature of the case and the glass face (the curves help with the pressure resistance). One reviewer referred to it "as a golf ball"! That's being a bit unkind but when you look at the watch side-on you kind of know what they mean. The curve of the 10mm thick sapphire glass also leads to some reflection issues but the watch's general legibility is still very good.

Other positive features include an anti-magnetic case to protect the movement, an automatic helium valve and excellent luminosity.

And then there's the price. How does all of the above sound for around \$4 000? A lot better than \$20 000 for the Hublot I reckon!