

Citizen Eco-Drive Satellite Wave

If you're ever considering getting stranded on a deserted island (or anywhere else on the planet for that matter), then make sure you are wearing this watch! No matter how long you are there for, you will always know what the time is – and we are talking the *exact time* here. You'll also know what time it is in 26 major cities around the world. That's right, thanks to Citizen's Eco-Drive technology (utilizing any light as a power source, meaning that the watch can run for a lifetime without a battery) your watch will never stop working. It will also remain as accurate as an atomic clock – and an atomic clock, for those of you who don't know, is unlikely to lose even a fraction of a second during your lifetime!

So, how can this watch stay so accurate, even when you're sitting in the middle of nowhere? The answer is in the name - "Satellite Wave". The watch checks in with a GPS satellite (controlled by an atomic clock) every 12 hours and synchronizes all its date and time information. There is an auto synch function but this will only work if the watch is exposed to direct sunlight and hasn't synched in the last 72 hours. Synching is also best done with the watch off the wrist and held away from the body so it really makes more sense to just manually "tell" the watch to synch with the satellite. But this small inconvenience is quickly forgiven as soon as you see the watch – undoubtedly one of the most "space-agey" looking watches on the planet.

The watch's appearance is apparently inspired by a space ship (tying in with the satellite theme) and has a multi-layered construction which gives the watch face amazing depth. The "spacey" feel is further enhanced by the metal ring "floating" in the glass bezel, the beautiful shiny grey ceramic and stainless steel case (heat and corrosion resistant) and the green coil flange ring (apparently suggestive of the radio waves that link the watch to the satellites in space). It also has lugs which appear detached from the case – no doubt another way of emphasizing the "floating in space" feel. With a 48mm diameter and domed "dual spherical" sapphire glass this is a big, bold, attention-grabbing watch.

Other features of the watch include water resistance to 100m, a perpetual calendar and a black rubber, push button strap.

It is also a limited edition model with only 990 made worldwide and each watch has its own unique serial number on the back. This might explain its hefty price tag (not the usual Citizen affordability here!). Some sites mentioned a price in excess of US\$3000 (recommended retail price US\$3 800) but I have seen it selling for over double that amount. So it is obviously in demand. And that might be the reason (or so the rumour goes) that Citizen will be bringing out a similar model watch (with different colour accents) sometime in the future.

The watch has also become part of the Japanese animated series Appleseed XIII. Check this out: http://www.citizenwatch-global.com/baselworld_2012/appleseed.html

And to see the watch on YouTube check out: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4vlgLrsko68>