



IWC BIG PILOT TOP GUN MIRAMAR

www.iwc.com £9750

Better-looking than Kelly McGillis, if you can get past the Maverick and Goose associations



BREITLING EMERGENCY II

www.breitling.com £12,040

You really don't want to get drunk and deploy the distress beacon in the pub. Bad things will happen



SMITHS MILITARY

www.timefactors.com £280

Amazing quality and value: a old British name with an old-school military look



CASIO G-SHOCK GW-M5610BC

www.g-shock.co.uk £175

Thirty years old this year: gone a bit 'fashion' recently, but still the choice of the genuine tough-nut

WAR HAS shaped the watch. Few other fields of human activity rely as much on timing and toughness. The First

World War popularised watches worn on the wrist, rather than in the pocket. Also, watches designed in the '30s for military divers and aviators can still be bought – with a few tweaks – today. Military connections give a watch the history and credibility collectors love, but they needn't be expensive. A secondhand 'issued' British Army CWC G10 with its NATO codes on the caseback can be had for less than £100 with a bit of Googling. Even the sought-after Omegas issued to officers in the plainly not-so-austere '50s only make around £700.

There's a bunch of new, military-inspired watches you can buy. This month's theme is inspired by the launch of the second-generation

Why watchmakers do mention the war

One of the casualties of WWI was the pocket watch. And conflict still influences wristwear today. By **Ben Oliver**

Breitling Emergency, which features a pull-out antenna that broadcasts a distress signal on two frequencies: a miracle of miniaturisation and power management. Breitling says it has been used by downed fighter pilots, but won't say what side they were on.

Not that supplying the losing side is a problem: Breitling's Iraqi Air Force watches are super-collectible, and despite being produced first for the Luftwaffe in 1940, IWC's Big Pilot is a stone-cold classic and still made today.

This 'Top Gun' version was made to celebrate the US Navy Fighter Weapons School at Miramar in California. If you can live with the Tom Cruise associations it's cool, and plainly military with its olive-drab strap, sand-coloured chapter ring and hands, lightweight ceramic-titanium case and classic military watch cues, like the triangle at 12 o'clock.

This it shares with the less expensive Smiths Military, a reissue of the standard British Army issue watch of

the late '60s. Smiths was a British watchmaker which expired in 1981, but enterprising Sheffield watch dealer Timefactors has brought the name back, here with a Swiss movement and German case. Timefactors has a range of retro military watches: the Precista range also revives a famous old name and some now very cool looking military diver designs, and the Speedbird range offers the aviator look of an IWC at a tiny fraction of the price. It also sells the one-piece canvas NATO straps essential for true military watches with their more robust fixed strap bars, but which can also give your watch a new look from just £8. You'll see plenty of these straps anchoring five-figure Rolexes.

But what do soldiers actually choose to wear now? For toughness, dependability and affordability on military pay, it's pretty hard to beat a Casio G-Shock.

WORDS BY ANTHONY FRENCH-CONSTANT

DESIGNER DOODLES

NO7 ROBERTO GIOLITO

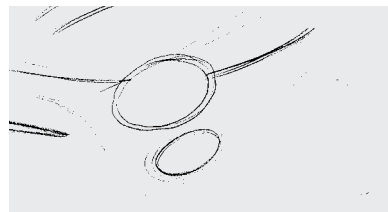
Head of Design – Fiat



We hound star designers to sketch their favourite car details

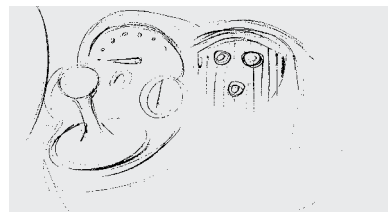
Graduating in industrial design in Rome in 1985, Giolito joined the team of one Chris Bangle at Centro Stile Fiat in 1989. Failing to

emulate the car designer's propensity to jump ship with the frequency of nits at a thrash metal concert, there he has remained.



FAVOURITE CURRENT DETAIL
Fiat 500 headlamp

Cuter than a basket of kittens, Giolito's 2004 Trepiuno concept so artfully aped Dante Giacosta's 1936 Topolino (little mouse) that a reprise of the 'whisker and logo' badging became inevitable.



IN A PAST LIFE
Fiat Multipla Mk1 gearlever

Technically, this sketch should be of someone else's work. But we'll forgive Giolito as reward for bringing a renewed sense of porpoise to the MPV and, for the first time, putting the gearlever in the right place.