

Review of the Replica Breitling Steelfish

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Last Updated Thursday, 29 November 2007

A contributor wrote this excellent article on the new replica Breitling Steelfish "Super Replica." He goes into great detail describing the flaws and points of interest with photos and text. This is an excellent read if you're into the Breitling brand as it describes some of the newer generation Breitling replicas that have hit the market with this new wave of manufacturing. Thanks again to the author for the rights to reprint.

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This is my second attempt in writing a review and although I know there are already a dozen reviews about this watch, I wanted to do one by myself.

Under the designation "aeromarine" Breitling builds watches made for highest demands in matters of robustness and reliability. These timepieces are constructed to address a wide range of customers, who - on several occasions and under the most difficult conditions - insist in high-capacity instruments.

The Breitling aeromarine Superocean

(Although most people would associate Breitling with aviation, they also produce some very high specification dive watches. The Superocean is one of those. This one has a "coral colored" dial)

It was constructed during the 1950's affected for professional and military divers, in particular special forces.

There was also a Breitling Superocean Professional made for Navy's SEALs shown here

In the following years it went more popular under non-professional scuba divers. With its helium escape valve and a pressure resistance up to 150 bars it is the older - but slightly smaller brother of the

STEELFISH.

The genuine watch withstands an outside pressure of 200 bars (2000m dive) and is also equipped with an HEV that starts balancing out pressure differences from inside and outside the case at the point of 3 bars.

(This picture shows an older model with HEV on 10 o'clock position.)

It is powered by the reliable work-horse Breitling calibre 17 - which is basically an Eta 2824:

Oversized hands and good luminosity ensure easy readability even at night or underwater.

(This picture shows the luminosity of a 1998 superocean compared to a new DOXA on the right)

There is a new version upcoming, which mainly distinguishes by its second hand:

The side of the Breitling bezel is smooth but the raised rider tabs allow easy turning, even with gloves. It was interesting for me to see the tiny Breitling B on the outside of the bezel at around the 11-12 o'clock position. This has been one of the ways to distinguish a genuine Breitling from a fake until the appearance of the better Chronomat Evolution and Steelfish replicas.

(Steelfish replica)

The Superocean Steelfish has an interesting design in that it is retained by 8 tiny screws. Once undone, the bezel can be easily removed and the ratchet ring can be adjusted to tighten or loosen the movement of the bezel. Be careful if you want to do that with your replica - the screws are held by loc tite!

Its sapphire crystal is approximately 5mm thick and glareproofed from both sides, slightly cambered and tends to obscure the dial at certain angles, as can be seen from the picture below.

(Replica Breitling Steelfish SFSO)

Genuine Technical Data:

Caliber: Breitling 17 (Eta 2824-2)

Movement: Selfwinding mechanical

Powerreserve: min. 42h

Vibration: 28.800bph

Jewel: 25 jewels

Calendar: Dail aperture
 Case: Steel
 Water resistance: 2000m (6,600ft)
 Bezel: Unidirectional, ratcheted
 Crown: screw-locked, 2 gaskets
 Caseback: Screwed in
 Crystal: 5mm thick, cambered sapphire, glareproofed both sides
 Diameter: 44mm
 Thickness: 16,10mm
 Weight: 122,50gr
 Lugsize: 22/20mm

The Replica Steelfish

It is for sure one of the most impressive watches I have owned so far.

It is available in all three dialcolors:

(black)

(white)

(blue)

(All pictures by Angus/Puretime)

It is available with a "genuine" ETA 2824-2 or with an asian clone, both with 28.800bph. This causes the same smooth hand-sweeping as on the genuine.

I purchased mine from someone who had also superlumed it with genuine Tritec C3 Superluminova. This is the lume which is used on the genuine as well, at least as far as I know. As you can see it is the blue one.

(lumeshot)

The overall impression is very good; it feels solid and nicely finished. The lines of the case are highlighted by the contrast of polished and satin-brushed surfaces. The Crown is marked with a nice Breitling "B" and takes about 3 (!) turns to screw in. The thread could be a bit larger in my opinion so the crown would not be able to ruin it if screwed in improperly — but a fine thread increases the water-resistance. It looks just like the genuine in my opinion.

The lughorns are a bit more "spiky" than the genuine ones.

It is indeed a really thick and heavy watch, with a presence I could only compare to the "old" Seawolf replica or the Omega Planet Ocean Ultimate. Bytor wrote a fantastic comparison review of it next to the SFSO, you can read it soon.

The water-resistance of this watch is stated by our dealers as at least 100 bars (1000m) which I honestly thought to be something like a joke before I got mine. I still would not dive even 500m deep with it — but for some other reason. The sapphire is really 5mm thick and when I tip on it with my fingernail it feels like tipping on bullet-proofed glass in a bank. The HEV at 9 o'clock seems to be functional as it is also viewable from the inside of the case (the seller who did the lumejob told me so), so there's a good chance for that. Some members stated it to be too large, but I really don't think so.

(FYI: DOXA introduced the first helium release valve equipped diver watch "DOXA SUB300T Conquistador" in 1969 for the mainstream. Rolex followed in 1971 and introduced the Rolex Submariner Sea Dweller, which was only available to COMEX-divers from 1967, but that's a different story.)

The replica bezel looks pretty good and has a nice solid "clicking" sound when turned (120 clicks one way round).

The indexes and numbers are milled in very nicely. Unfortunately, here are also some of the flaws to be found.

The most obvious is the pearl which is almost twice as big as the genuine sister. It is also kind of unclean or scratched on a lot of pictures of other members. I wonder why they never get the pearl right. It also does not align exactly with the 12 o'clock mark.

Second pretty glaring flaw are the sewn in numbers on the riders on "15", "30" and "45".

On the genuine watch, numbers out fill almost the whole rider. On the replica however, they don't.

Like the gen, the rider tabs on the bezel stick up and will protect the crystal somewhat. The one slight downside to the raised tabs on the Steelfish bezel is that it makes the crystal just a little more difficult to wipe clean. Something anyone

with a coated crystal will find they have to do quite often. It is a well known phenomenon with coated crystals that they are a magnet for smears and films and need to be wiped more often than non coated versions.

(Fingerprints – anyone?)

Besides that, the anti reflective coating is truly stunning. It has a real royal bluish glare and from most angles it just seems like the thick crystal is gone. It makes one want to touch the dial – like a little child.

It is one of the features I enjoy the most about this watch.

The Dial is amazing, though it is definitely not perfect. It has a wonderfully rich blue color, and the spiral relief is very nice, too. Unfortunately my camera does not have the high resolution to picture it properly. The beautiful logo is applied to it and pretty close to the gen.

(Genuine watch on the right, my rep on the left)

The large silver numbers on “6”, “9” and “12” however are in my opinion too far sticking out and they’re rounder. I believe them to be more flat on the genuine. It seems that the small “21” next to the big “9” is closer on the rep, because the dial is rising up around it.

The datewindow-box is too fat – which I find funny for I like it somehow better than the thin one on the genuine… A matter of taste I guess.

You can see that the inside of the datebox is not as clean cut as the genuine.

Note that the small “15” is too close to the datewindow, too – as almost all of them.

The index on the inner bezelring should be superlumed.

The early batch of SFSO comes with correct datefont for this model, while the asian model comes with wrong datefont for this model (Even though Breitling uses that font like in Asian SFSO in other models such as Avenger Chrono, Chronomat (Evo) and Navitimer with 6-9-12 subdial).

PLEASE NOTE: The newer batch of Swiss replica Breitling SFSO seems to have standard ETA font which is deadly wrong for this model. New Batch with wrong ETA font:

(Picture by Bytor)

Old batch with correct font:

The dialfont – even though it is indeed pretty clean – has got some flaws. The red “AUTOMATIC” is too high, but not long enough. There is not enough space between the lines. The “S” of “superocean” should be curved in the beginning.

The “1884” seems to be written in the same font-size as “BREITLING” on the rep, while it is slightly smaller on the gen.

Nevertheless it is one of the nicest rep-dials I have seen yet. Without the magnified 1:1 comparison I do not think anyone but a real Breitling pro would notice anything…

The caseback engraving is pretty good, with a very nice finish. It is even deeper than the one on the Breitling Chronomat Evolution replica, at least in my opinion.

A17390 tells us it is the caseback-number of a Superocean Steelfish. The letter "A" designates the case and bezel material, all stainless steel. "17" tells that the watch uses Breitling calibre 17. "3" tells that the watch is COSC-certified, and the two last numbers are model specific. A list which explains the different letters used for Breitling model numbering can be found here.

Genuine:

The bracelet that came with the watch is nice, even though it is from the overall quality inferior to the watch. The edges are a little to sharp, but it has a real nice satin-brushed finish. Like the genuine, the middle-link is exactly 1mm thicker than the ones on the sides.

It looks pretty sporty and with smoother edges it would be great to wear!

The clasp is constructed nicely, the safetylock’s “BREITLING” is very clean and it clicks right into spot. On the inside it is polished, but the letters are not as good.

I switched it to a genuine Breitling diverstrap from the very first day anyway. I just love the blue/blue look.

Compare to Genuine Breitling Steelfish on eBay

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require_once("ebay/ebay.php");
$cid = "Breitling Steelfish";
$keywords = $cid;

$category = "14324";
if ($keywords) {
    $ebay = new ebay();
if (isset($cid)) {
    $ebay->eb_cid = $cid;
}
$ebay->eb_frpp = "10";
$ebay->listings($keywords, $category);
echo $ebay->html;
}
{/kl_php}
```