

# Patek Philippe Naviquartz Series E 1200 Clock with Case.

The Patek Philippe Naviquartz was one of the first modern quartz-based clocks, marking the culmination of a half-century of development, and became well known for its combination of excellent timekeeping with the fine design of the iconic Swiss brand.

Michaan's Auctions is proud to offer a **Patek Philippe Naviquartz Series E 1200 Clock with Case** (\$1/1,500) for sale in our July Gallery Auction, held on Friday, July 19th.

The clock consists of an approximately eight-inch tall, five and a half inch-wide and two, and half inch deep rectangular device with an included leather-bound case. The clock face is black with white markings and



includes three hands, each in white. It features two sets of markings, with a twelve-hour measurement placed on an interior circle and second measurements marked at the exterior, each with Arabic numerals. The second measurements are labeled with Arabic numerals at

every five seconds, with subdivisions noting each second, while the hour and minutes dial at the interior is marked with numerals at every hour, with subdivisions mirroring the minute measurements. The interior circle features two small hands to express the minute and hour, while a long, thin hand indicates the measurement of seconds on the exterior circle. At the center of the clock face is the company name, Patek Philippe Geneve, and the model name Naviquartz is emblazoned below, cut from the brushed steel that comprises the body of the clock.

The Naviquartz was introduced at the Basel Fair in 1970 and was originally intended to serve as a backup timekeeping system for ships. Patek Philippe had earned a significant market share amongst commercial barges, and this clock utilized premium quartz technology developed by a consortium of

Swiss watchmakers to provide the industry with the most accurate timekeeping possible. As the market for these systems diminished in the following years, it was rebranded as a desktop clock and was quickly regarded as a significant status symbol in certain circles. Known for its powerful ticking sound and well-designed cases, the clock continues to hold its value to this day, even as desktop clocks have seen a decline in sales.

The Naviquartz was one of the first clocks to utilize a quartz movement, rather than the traditional mechanical movement that relies on a series of springs, weights and gears. In comparison, a quartz movement works by passing an electronic current through a specially cut piece of quartz. The quartz acts as a filter, eliminating all but one wave of power. When the quartz is cut to the standard size, this electronic

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wave repeats 32,768 times per second for as long as power flows through the quartz. This electronic wave is passed through a digital device that counts the waves emanating from the quartz and by this means can measure time. This system is remarkably accurate, and is today at least ten times more accurate than mechanical movements.



While quartz was first used to measure time in 1921, this invention was largely confined to laboratory settings until Longines developed the first watch movement in 1953. Throughout the 1960s semi-conductor logic gates, an

early form of computers became more widely available, and by 1966 Seiko and Longines had submitted quartz movement watches in competition. By the 1980's these watches were mass-produced and today are almost ubiquitous amongst digital items, as they are available for under a dollar. However, it was only through the significant investment of government agencies, then private companies, that this unseen yet essential component of daily life came to be.

Patek Philippe, one of the world's most prestigious watch manufacturers, began operation over 185 years ago in 1839. Named for its founders, Antoni Patek and Adrien Philippe, it is Switzerland's last family-owned independent watch manufacturer and is currently owned by the Stern family. The company quickly rose to prominence, selling a diamond

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embellished pendant watch for Queen Victoria in 1851, and the first Swiss wristwatch to the Hungarian Countess Koscowicz in 1868. Since these auspicious beginnings, the reputation of Patek Philippe has only grown. Today, the company has manufactured nine of the ten most expensive watches ever sold at auction and held the title for the most watch complications (thirty-three) until 2015. The brand remains a relevant marker of wealth, luxury, and prestige, with its products frequently being seen on the wrists and in the homes of celebrities, businessmen, and other prominent people the world over.

**A Patek Philippe Naviquartz Series E 1200 Clock with Case** (\$1/1,500) will be offered in Michaan's Auctions July Gallery Auction on Friday,

July 19th. This sale features interesting and important pieces from the Furniture & Decorations Department, works from important artists brought to you by the Fine Art Department, and a collection of well-regarded pieces from the Jewelry Department. The auction is led by a pair of candelabras in the Rococo style by French sculptor Claude Michel, a portfolio of woodcuts by the preeminent Surrealist Salvador Dali, and an impressive Rolex watch in black and gold.

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