

# A Review of the YES V7 WorldWatch

By James Sprague

As a watch consumer, and an AWCI staff member, I'm always trying to pay attention to the various brands and types of watches hitting the market, and what features and complications they might offer that I'll find intriguing and attractive, and prompt me to place said watch in my mental shopping cart for purchase.

Prior to this article, however, I can say that my own personal reviews of watches had revolved around the simplistic—how it looks, how comfortable it fits on my wrist, how easy it is to set, and whether it keeps good time—and did not delve into their size, complication functions, construction, finish and other factors that watchmakers and watch collectors alike pay strong attention to.

So, when I was presented the opportunity to review the YES WorldWatch V7, after a phone conversation with Bjorn Kartomten, the founder and president of YES Watch headquartered in San Francisco, California, I decided it was time to put some of the things I've learned while at AWCI, regarding watches, to good use with a review.



The YES V7 WorldWatch, upon receipt at AWCI headquarters for review.



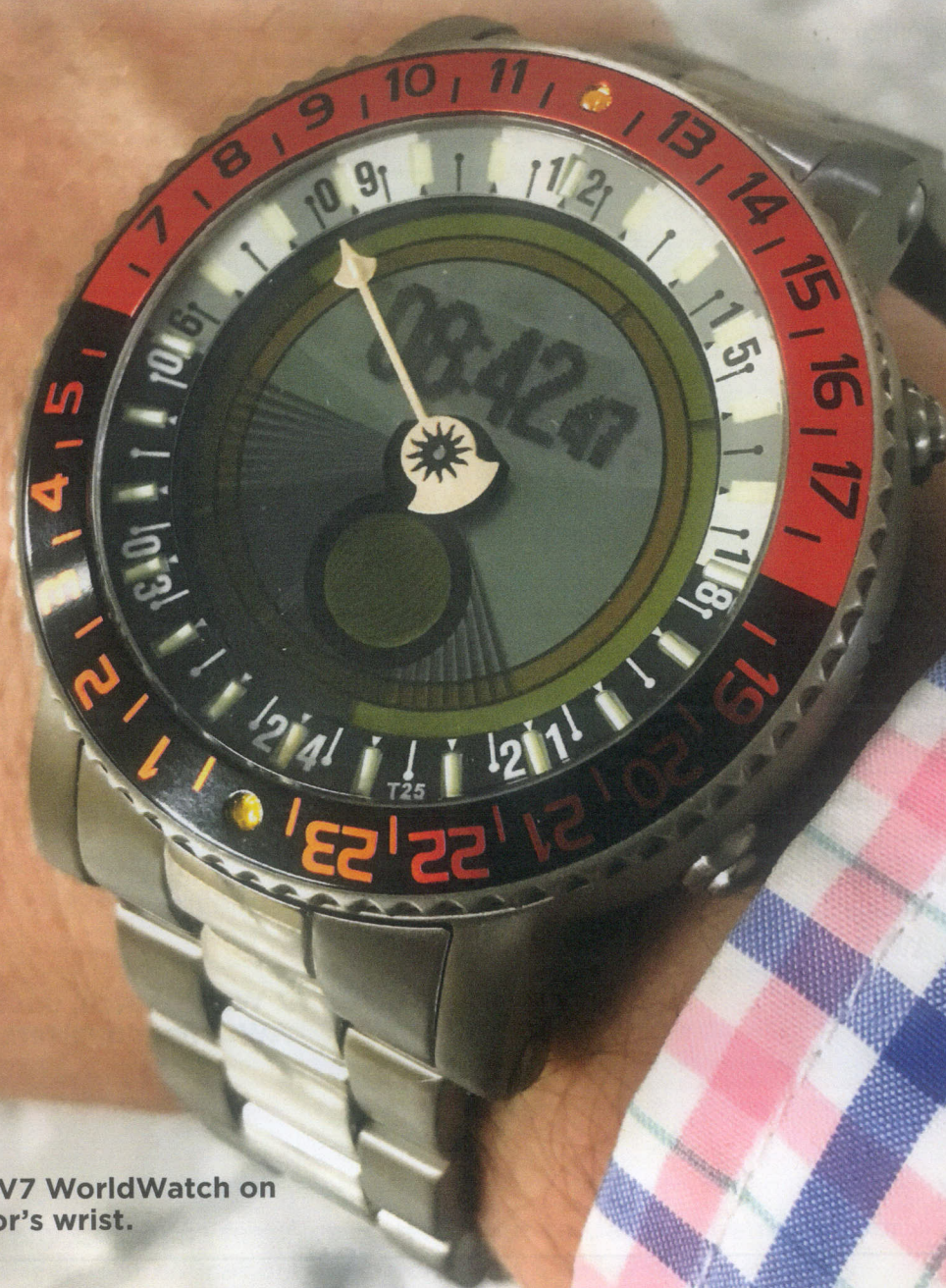
According to Kartomten, the idea for the YES WorldWatch came about in the early 1990s.

"It must have been 1993. It all started out innocently enough. I was traveling and just wanted to know when the sun would rise the next morning. Go for a beach walk at first rays. Essential time information really," he stated. "My Rolex Submariner could not tell. I checked around, no other watches could tell either. What now? I decided to make my own. [It] couldn't be that hard. It was."

Kartomten went on to form YES Watch, and in working with Hong Kong companies Alphastop and Key Time, New Jersey-headquartered Universal Display Corporation and Ronda out of Switzerland,

created the YES WorldWatch, which "offers smart-watch-level functionality combined with a traditional analog display to create a truly unique product that isn't like anything else available on the market."

Indeed, it is a unique watch that Kartomten and crew created, and one I found myself quite enjoying over the weeks I wore it after receiving it at AWCI headquarters. It came shipped in a very sturdy black display box, with gray lining, and was presented well from opening. Kartomten gave me the option of which configuration of the V7 I'd like to review, and I told him "dealer's choice," so he sent what he said was his favorite configuration—a V7 with an orange and black 24-hour bezel and full titanium bracelet, with



**The YES V7 WorldWatch on the author's wrist.**



an additional orange NATO strap in case I wanted to try that out as well.

Being one who prefers bracelets over straps—due to my fear of getting watch straps wet from washing hands, dishes, etc.—I opted to keep the bracelet on for the entirety of my wear for the review and was quite pleased with the orange and black bezel, which had the same colors as my favorite National Football League team, the Cincinnati Bengals.

Physically, the watch itself was much lighter than I expected, after first seeing it and the size of the case. It measures 46mm in diameter and is 18mm thick, and roughly 55mm from lug to lug—definitely the biggest watch I've ever placed on my wrist.

However, the use of the grade 2 titanium in the V7 construction, with a nice satin finish, made it much lighter, and more comfortable to wear than I would have expected, and after a few weeks of wear, felt quite normal on my wrist. The thickness of the case, obviously, made me cautious of what I was doing with my right hand—I wasn't trying to reach into tight places, lest I scratch up the sapphire crystal or the case itself—but, overall, it did not feel too out of place in comparison to other watches I own and wear.

Now to the watch itself, which is an intriguing combination of both digital and analog functions. Personally, I have always been an analog-only watch wearer as an adult—I believe the last digital watch I ever wore was a McDonald's-themed one I received in a Happy Meal at the age of 10—so I was quite interested in seeing how this combination would work, and how I'd respond to it, especially after perusing the instruction manual, and seeing just how many functions this watch performs.

I came to find that the V7 can perform just about every time-related function you could want, and more. From solstices to equinoxes, time in 650 pre-programmed cities across the globe, automatic adjustment for Daylight Savings Time, to various alarms, zenith, true midnight, the time for sunsets, moonrises, compass, stopwatch, latitude, longitude and more, the V7 can do it. I chose to set the digital display to 24-hour time—being former military—and found, after looking for a minute and seconds hand the first few days of wear, becoming accustomed to the single 24-hour analog hand on the dial, which is run by a Ronda quartz movement.

I found the indicators on the display of when sunrise, sunset, twilight, moonrise, etc., very interesting,

and utilized them a few times in the evenings after work at AWCI, when I had an outdoor activity planned that needed to be wrapped up before dark. They provided a nice visual of what time I needed to be done before night was upon me.

My wife, upon me telling her of the moon phase feature on the V7 display, took full advantage of that feature—asking me quite often if the watch was indicating if the moon was waxing, waning, new or full—when it came to planting in our garden (my wife has always been a student of the moon phases, to say the least).

I also found the ability to light up the display, along with the tritium tubes on the nighttime markers of the dial and the lume on the daytime markers, useful in the dead of night when I'd wake up for some reason or another. Instead of reaching for my iPhone off of my nightstand to check the time, I was just as easily able to see what time it was by grabbing the V7 and then promptly go back to sleep.

Another feature of the V7 is that it is powered primarily by a wireless charging station, which allows for three months of operation after a full night of charging, in addition to the battery-powered Ronda movement for the 24-hour analog hand.

One tweak I would suggest to Kartomten, however, would be on the wireless charging station. While the V7 display shows a battery symbol, along with its amount of charge, the wireless charging station also has a light display that lights up red when you first plug the charging station in but remains red even after the watch is fully charged. In a world where the indicator lights on most chargers will light up a different color once the item it is charging is fully charged—such as my Ryobi battery-powered tool battery chargers, which flash red when first charging and later change to green once the battery is fully charged—the V7's light indicator on the charger did not. Therefore, if you are not looking specifically at the watch's display screen to check the battery status, you might think the watch is not charged or that there is an issue with its charging. It's just a minor suggestion they could take into consideration.

Overall, I was pleased and impressed with the functions the YES V7 WorldWatch can perform. If you are one who likes going in-depth into those aspects of time, space and location, this watch is certainly one to look at and will provide you with those very specifics.