



ROLEX REF. 3335
SERIAL NUMBER 55'098
18K PINK GOLD
MOVEMENT CAL. VALJOUX 22
YEAR 1941



This document certifies the registration of the watch in the Archivio Pucci Papaleo, an independent archive dedicated to the selection and photographic documentation of highly collectible vintage watches, preserved in excellent overall condition.

January 17, 2026

ARCHIVE REGISTRATION *No. 68*

The watch accepted into the Archive is photographed in each of its individual parts, thus establishing its reference identity within the Archive. Acceptance into the Archive does not, however, certify that the watch was originally produced in this configuration.

PUCCI'S OPINION

This example combines its rare historical interest with a remarkable state of preservation. These features led us to register it in our Archive.



ARCHIVIO PUCCI PAPALEO

Recording *Excellent* Timepieces.



'THE JUMBO CHRONOGRAPH'

Rolex, Ref. 3335, Serial 55'098



Dossier

Between the 1930s and the 1940s, the Rolex chronograph evolved from two to three registers: in addition to the continuous seconds and the minute recorder, the twelve-hour counter appears on the dial. The first references to adopt this layout were the 3335 and its sister reference 3330. Both displayed 'gigantic' proportions, compared to those of the models already produced. The coin-shaped case pictured here is crowned by a wide truncated cone bezel: indeed, a wrist chronograph of great presence. Produced in various metals, the rose gold is the rarest of all variants: our research indicates that only 45 examples were made, between 1938 and 1941. The present example is dated March 1941.

Beneath “Rolex”, this custom-made dial exhibits the signature of the retailer “Monetti”. Established in 1904, this historic Neapolitan jeweller was one of the first Rolex retailers in Italy. The Geneva watch manufacturer followed the idea of bespoke dials till it remained an elite choice, and then dropped it later on as the brand grew, since a second signature on the dial meant competing for ‘space’. Running along the outer edge, we can see the tachymeter and the telemeter scales. Furthermore, it discloses a structural detail: the central register is slightly bigger than the other two recorders.



Made of 18 carat rose gold, the case sports almost 37 mm diameter, which is quite a considerable size, not only for that time. Despite its massive appeal, the case does not weigh as much as it might suggest, due to the proper distribution of the metal. In fact, gold cases follow different constructive logics compared to steel ones: steel cases are full solid blocks, whilst gold ones are domed and hollowed inside. Finally, the lugs are worked on more levels, following this structural concept. The side view is outlined by the winding crown and the square pushers.



The case is built in three parts. The wide and sloping bezel displays a truncated cone shape and appears oversized compared to the dial, representing a typical feature of this reference. As a result, the watch exhibits a strong visual presence that few chronographs of the time could match. The case back sported raised edges, in order to house the thicker mechanism equipping the additional third recorder's wheel, which further enhances the masculine appeal of this chronograph. The slender and faceted lugs recall the deconstructed curved lines of Braque's and Picasso's Cubism.



Some references of the Rolex snap-back chronographs made of precious metals were not full-solid gold blocks, but with both the caseband and the contoured lugs internally hollowed, as the present watch. This handicraft work allowed domed and protruding shapes, forms that the machinery of the time could have never milled from a single block. As a result, it exhibits a visual charm that modern monoblock cases cannot deliver back: curved lines and three-dimensional volumes that if worked from a solid block, would be impossible to obtain.





Internally, the caseback carries the engraved inscription “Rolex – 31 Victoires De Haute Précision – Genève Suisse”, recalling the victories achieved by Rolex in chronometric competitions. Moreover, it bears the gold marks, such as the carat and the fineness, the “115” punch attributable to the case maker “Favre & Perret”; finally, the “SAR” script, surmounted by a small crown. The inner surfaces retain the typical ‘perlage’ finish of the period, whilst the external side displays a light satin finish, and the engraved reference and serial numbers.



The movement is the Valjoux 22 calibre, featuring 14 lignes and 17 jewels, the same base powering the previous 2508 reference, now with the additional twelve-hour recorder. The wheel of the third register enlarged the movement and explained the size of the case. As always, Rolex powered all the manually-wound chronographs with a Valjoux base ébauche, at that time the most refined and reliable one.





Dossier 3335/55098.
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at the discretion of Pucci Papaleo and the appointed connoisseurs. Through a professional photographic survey, archiving captures the identity of the watch at the moment of its registration in the Archive, offering a stable, permanent and verifiable point of reference over time.

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