



ROLEX REF. 4099
 SERIAL NUMBER 583'079
 STAINLESS STEEL
 MOVEMENT CAL. VALJOUX 23
 YEAR 1947



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 23, 2026

ARCHIVE REGISTRATION No. 92

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.



'FLARED LUGS CHRONOGRAPH'
 Rolex, Ref. 4099, Serial 583'079



Dossier

The 4099 belongs to the mature period of Rolex chronographs, when it flanked its emerging Oyster collection with the press-fitted cases, direct heirs to the first chronographs of the 1930s. Between 1942 and 1947, 180 examples were made in steel; yet, its point of interest goes beyond the figures. A single glance shows how much the design had changed in a few years, kicking off the dial's graphic streamlining that reference after reference will lead to the Daytona, where all complexities will drop out of sight leaving space only for the minute track and the indexes. From the first wrist chronographs to that milestone there is only one concept, which strives towards sobriety, and indeed the reference 4099 already is at a very advanced stage.

The most striking feature of this reference 4099, is the perception of how large its domed dial appears. Its substantial presence is not only due to its remarkable size, but also to its aesthetic layout: every element is set towards the edge, the neat graphics are never overlapped, and the centre remains open and spacious. This design choice represents a reverse trend compared to that of the first chronographs, where every space was filled. Furthermore, it reveals a direction destined to last in time and ruled by the concept that above all a dial needs an understated design.



Made for Rolex by the master casemaker Jean Humbert & Co. of La Chaux-de-Fonds, the pressure-fit watch case diameter measures 35 millimetres and is built in three parts. Both the bezel and the case back are not screwed, but pressed onto the middle case. With this diameter and a thickness of just over eleven millimetres, the case sits well balanced on the wrist.



The lugs are the one of the most distinctive traits of the 4099: broad, faceted and splayed outwards – known by collectors as the ‘spider’ lugs. These lugs are not just a simple junction between case and strap, but rather a design element on its own, exhibiting several facets that capture the light from each angle and with flanks that open up markedly. The serial number 583079 dates the production of this example in 1947.



All surfaces of this chronograph alternate polished as well as brushed facets, revealing the elaborateness of the finishes at every angle. The right side of the profile is equipped with the winding crown and two pushers – at two o’clock for the start-stop functions, whilst at four the one for the chronographic reset. Both display the typical section of this series, crisp and squared on their flanks and bevels that refine their shape.





Internally, this press-fitted case back carries the typical Rolex engravings, such as the indication of the case material – here “Acier Inoxydable” – and the reference number. Externally, it displays the serial 583079 number pantographed, whilst on the opposite end sits the Rolex crown logo of the period.



The movement pictured here is a thirteen-ligne Valjoux calibre with seventeen jewels, the base adopted by Rolex for nearly all of its manual chronographs, chosen for its precision, reliability and finished with the customary care. This example houses the calibre 23, at the time one of the most advanced evolutions amongst that calibre family.





Dossier 4099/583079.
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CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

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