



ROLEX REF. 6234
SERIAL NUMBER 807'497
14K GOLD
MOVEMENT CALIBER 72 B
YEAR 1961



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January 27, 2026

ARCHIVE REGISTRATION *No. 120*

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.



'OYSTER CHRONOGRAPH'

Rolex, Ref. 6234, Serial 807'497



Dossier

In the history of Rolex chronographs, the 6234 marks the transition to the three-part Oyster case – bezel, caseband and back – replacing the screw-down single-piece. The steel version of this model was one of the most widespread Rolex chronographs, with 2250 examples; whereas for the version in gold the Geneva house proved to be more cautious. Cases were made in yellow gold; Our research indicates that between 1956 and 1961, only 108 examples were produced in 14-carat yellow gold, while fewer were cased in 18-carat yellow gold. And, it is precisely the 14-carat gold that tells the commercial story of this example, which left the factory in 1961: a gold fineness that Rolex destined for the North American market.

Setting this 6234 apart is its dial, which exhibits a radial silver sunburst finish. Thin beams extend outwards from the centre, changing glows of light by tilting the wrist. This elegant choice brings forward the soleil finish that will become the hallmark of the dials which would appear later on, firstly on the 6238 and then on the Daytona. The three subsidiary registers are centrally positioned and the two historic Rolex chronograph scales run along the outer rim. The black tachymeter and the blue telemeter: the latter graduated in miles – as further proof of its overseas destination. Finally, the gold indexes are applied on the dial.



With a diameter of 36 millimetres, the 14-carat yellow gold case is built in three parts, according to the waterproof Oyster system. The back and the crown are screwed to the case; the bezel is a smooth and slightly domed element, which immediately strikes for its rotundness. It is designed to pressure fit on the caseband by means of a tool, together with the acrylic crystal.



The right side of the case displays the operating elements. The Twinlock crown is screwed onto the caseband, used for winding and time setting, ensuring the water resistance; two round waterproof pushers activate the start-stop at two o'clock and the reset at four o'clock. The sturdy lugs with downwards tips complete the tonneau form that distinguished the Rolex chronographs at that time, as well as in the coming years. The serial is pantographed inbetween the lugs at six o'clock.



The gold 6234 seems to exemplify another manifestation of the modern design of the 1950s: the Gran Turismo, when mechanical precision and expression of performance began to coexist with a new idea of elegance. The dial retains the visual complexity of a technical instrument, yet the gold case softens its rigour, turning the chronograph into an object in which function and refinement reach a rare balance. The reference number is pantographed between the lugs at twelve o'clock.



The screw-down case back, tightened to ensure the Oyster case, internally bears the factory hallmarks, the metal indication stating the 14k gold fineness, with the Poinçon de Maître 136, attributable to the casemaker C.R. Spillmann & Cie. Placed beneath the logos is the reference number 6234.



The movement pictured here is a Valjoux, the ébauche adopted by Rolex on its manually-wound chronographs, chosen for its precision and reliability, and finished according to its customary standards. This example is the most up-to-date version of its day, the caliber 72 B, an evolution of the earlier calibre 72 A. Bearing seventeen jewels, an in-line lever escapement, a Rolex Microstella balance, a Breguet hairspring and a shock-absorber device. The balance bridge displays the punched "ROW", associated with movements intended for the United States, further confirming the American destination of this chronograph.





Dossier 6234/807497.
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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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