



ROLEX REF. 6265
SERIAL NUMBER 6'089'778
STAINLESS STEEL
MOVEMENT CALIBER 727
YEAR 1979



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February 12, 2026

ARCHIVE REGISTRATION *No. 172*

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.



'CREMINO BIG RED'

Rolex, Ref. 6265, Serial 6'089'778

Dossier

In the early 1970s, Rolex returned to the idea of screw-down pushers – references 6239 and 6241 featuring pump pushers were being replaced respectively by the 6262 and the 6264, both equipped with the latest calibre 727 – introducing the final iteration of the hand-wound Daytona. From September 1970, the new references 6263 and 6265, both made in gold or steel, were on display in Rolex retailers. The only difference between the two references was the bezel: black acrylic insert with a printed tachymeter scale on the former, engraved metal on the latter. The 6265 remained in the catalogue for roughly seventeen years, with just under 18,500 examples produced in stainless steel.

Despite their long production run, the dials differ from each other only in small details. The “Oyster” designation is back on the dial, whilst the red ‘Daytona’ signature – known as the “Big Red” – is always present on the steel models, though only from the 1977 five-million serial range. However, there is a rare subset of dials, which is referred to by collectors as “Cremino”, like the pictured example. The classic bright silver sunburst finish is replaced by an almost matt appearance, which softens the light rather than reflecting it back. Yet, the soleil finish is not totally missing, but simply more delicate, providing an entirely different visual effect. A further element these dials have in common is that they appear on watches with serials just above six million.



The new reference 6265 was introduced on the market unveiling several important innovations, compared to the previous watch models. Firstly, the water resistance was raised from 165 to 330 feet – from 50 to 100 metres of depth. The steel case measures 37.5 mm in diameter and is built in three parts, according to the Oyster system that features the chronograph pushers here screwed onto the caseband and the new winding crown. This system improves the water tightness, the distinguishing feature of this Cosmograph watch generation.



The waterproof pushers are the screw-down 24-R-302-0 type, whilst the winding crown is the Oyster Triplock 703. The steel bezel displays the engraved tachymeter 200-graduated scale, which identifies the 6265 and differentiates it from its twin reference 6263 that fits a metal bezel with a black acrylic insert bearing a printed scale. The serial 6'089'778 is pantographed between the lugs at six, dating the watch in 1979; the reference is pantographed between the lugs at twelve.



The 6265 seems to mirror a modernity that has reached its fully conceptual maturity, in which function and visual identity coincide. The engraved metal bezel, the screw-down pushers and the sharp contrasting registers create a technical aesthetic ensemble, made all the more recognisable by the red 'Daytona' signature. Exhibiting a more massive and assertive modernity, its design appears closely connected to the design culture of the period, increasingly drawn to metallic surfaces, structured shapes and strongly emphasised functional details.



The case back is screwed onto the case and inside bears the logos of Montres Rolex SA, the “Geneva Switzerland Patented” script and the ‘Stainless Steel’ text, with the twin reference ‘6263’ stamped beneath. This is not an anomaly. As a matter of fact, Rolex shared the same case back with both the two references and for this reason it is possible to find a 6265 matched with a case back displaying 6263, as in this case. The watch fits its steel Oyster bracelet, stamped 78350, featuring 571 end links and a deployant clasp.



Nestled inside the case, the Valjoux-based manually-wound 727 calibre with seventeen jewels. Compared to the earlier 722-1, Rolex enhanced the chronograph's operating frequency, improving precision and running stability. The replacement of the balance and hairspring, escape wheel, seconds wheel, balance bridge (also known as the cock), stud, and stud carrier required the beat rate to be increased from 18,000 to 21,600 beats per hour.

Completing the picture is a full accompanying set: the box, the original Rolex guarantee, the invoice and the booklets, all in Japanese, narrating the watch's commercial history from its very first day.





Dossier 6265/6089778.
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