

Sundials

The direct connection between the sun and time is once again made distinct. You will not just discover these small works of art but also a piece of history. All of these dials show the exact time (local time) and function according to two principles:

- by either measuring the height of the sun according to its date (medallions, rings bracelets)
- or by measuring the angle of the sun (compass dials, equator sphere)

The Peasant Ring

In the 18th century, prussian monks used this small, practical and wearable sun dial which shows the time according to the height of the sun. Turn the ring until the small hole shows the current month. Turn the small hole towards the sun. A sharp point of light will be seen on the inside of the ring. This will show the exact (local!) time : morning hours are on the left, afternoon hours are on the right.



The Equator Sphere

Open the sundial and adjust the degree of latitude with the outside ring. Turn the sphere so that the tip of the diagonal indicator is pointing to the North Pole. The shadow of the indicator will show the exact time on the inside of the ring. Within the Northern hemisphere, the sundial shows the exact (local) time within a few minutes.



The Sun Bangle

Hold the bangle with two fingers at the level of the engraved star. Turn the hole towards the sun so that the sunlight falls upon the vertical line showing the present month. Imagine a parallel line joining the closest diagonal line (mornings towards the left edge, afternoons towards the right edge). This will show you the exact time (local time).



The Saturn

Align the sundial horizontally with the letter "S" towards the south. Incline this position 45 degrees. A ray of light will show you the exact time on the time scale.



The Herdsman Dial

It is very likely that Hermann (1013-1054), known as the monk of Reichenau in the Lake of Constance, developed this type of sundial. It was very popular during the middle ages because it was sturdy and needed no compass.

Turn the horizontal arm of the cross to the present month. Turn the sundial towards the sun. The tip of the shadow will point to the next engraved curve, which shows you the exact time (mornings are right, afternoons are left).

