

A Critical and Detailed Review of the Skagen 720LTMLB



Team CSC Ivan Basso Signature Black Dialed Chronograph

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Who Am I?

My name is Boris Sheikman and collecting watches is one of my hobbies. I have no professional connection to the watch industry at this time (and probably won't ever) so I am not biased one way or another except for my own personal tastes. All of the watches I own have been purchased with my own hard earned money so I feel very free to write whatever I like about them.

I write this review with the goal of not only communicating my own limited opinions but also to learn something along the way. There's a lot I don't know about watches and exploring the design of a watch through a written analysis will hopefully force me to understand what I see versus just regurgitating it verbally.

I do have an engineering degree from San Jose State University so I will probably look at something with a bit more of an analytical eye than someone who may be more artistically inclined. For example, a group of people may gather around and gawk at each others watches.

“Wow, that's a cool watch! Look at mine!”

“Gee, thanks! I like your watch too!”

“Really? Thanks!”

Ok, fine, it's pretty. Now how well does it work? Is it tough? Does the watch make sense?

Let's answer those questions here...

Part I – Introduction and Initial Impressions

Introduction

Skagen has designed and released a series of commemorative Team CSC watches in honor of Team CSC's cycling achievements. Indeed, Team CSC is regarded as one of the strongest professional cycling teams in the world. Members of the team have won stages in every grand tour and multi-stage tour. They have also taken credit for winning single day races as well. Famous (and infamous) members of the team (past and present) include Jens Voigt, Dave Zabriskie, Stuart O'Grady, Tyler Hamilton, and, of course, Ivan Basso.

The Team CSC collection consists of six watches. All of the watches feature a Swiss made quartz movement, a date function, and water resistance of 10 ATM. Models 723XLTMLW and 723XLTMLB are white and black dialed watches. A chronograph function is added to models 721XLTMRW (white dial) and 721XLTMRB (black dial). Models 720LTMLB (black dial) and 720LTMLBY (yellow dial) are also chronograph watches but they have the distinction of being endorsed and “signed” by Ivan Basso. All of these watches were released as a limited production run. Skagen has produced 2000 units of each model except for the 720LTMLBY which was limited to 1250 units. Only 1000 units of each watch will be available in the US except for the 720LTMLBY which will only have 250 units available in US. All other units will be available in Europe.

This review will focus on the 720LTMLB model.

Doping Scandal

Ivan Basso has been implicated in a doping scandal and was not allowed to race in the 2006 edition of the Tour de France. He may never race again depending on how long the investigation goes on. Ivan maintains that he is innocent and that he has not taken any performance enhancing drugs. We must be careful that we do not act as a judge and jury and condemn him before all the evidence is presented and processed. Ivan is innocent until proved guilty. European justice and the media may say otherwise at the moment but we must allow the process to work itself through. All we can say is that the sport of cycling has taken a huge black eye with all of the athletes that are showing signs of drug abuse, past and present.

Packaging

The 720LTMLB comes in a very nice attractive leather (or some sort of synthetic leather) case. Red stitching all around the exterior gives a nice contrasting look. Notice that the case is somewhat triangular in shape. The logo and trade name is displayed on the front.



The case opens up from the bottom of the front side. It is “hinged” in the back half way up from the bottom. I was greeted to a beautiful interior with a contrasting red, white, and black color scheme. A hidden snap keeps the case secured when it is closed. A small compartment under the watch can be revealed by pulling open a small cover that holds one of the snaps. The compartment contains the documentation that comes with the watch.



Unfortunately, the documentation is not very good. I understand the need to make it generic enough to work with all of the Team CSC models but it should at least look nice. The documentation is printed on one long rectangular strip of paper that is folded unevenly several times into a square. For the price paid for this watch I would have expected something nicer. The documentation does give some background on Team CSC but anyone buying this watch probably already knows more about the team than what is printed on the documentation.

The watch is wrapped on a large white pillow that is wedged securely into the case. This is good for anyone who is having their watch shipped a long distance and wants to make sure that it won't be banged around and damaged during transit. The dial and the case cover are protected by a piece of plastic film.



You can see the inside of the case with the “watch pillow” removed in the picture below. The lower compartment is slightly visible as well. This “watch pillow” is not small.



The Watch – Dial, Hands, Markers, Crystal

The watch has a beautiful black dial and three colored subdials. From left to right and top to bottom we see the red chronograph minute subdial, the white seconds subdial, and the charcoal chronograph hour subdial. Each subdial has chrome trim which helps distinguish it from the main dial. Having each subdial a separate color with contrasting numbering helps make reading the elapsed time easy.



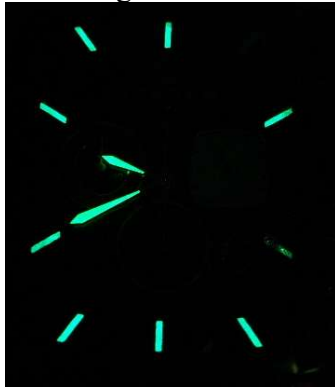
The date window is located slightly below the 4 o'clock position and it is at an angle. Personally, I never cared for having a slanted date window because it always looks awkward to me. I would have made the window straight along with the number being displayed. The date window is trimmed with chrome as well. Having the date in black on a white background makes it easy to read.

The company name and logo are displayed on top just below the 12 o'clock position. Ivan Basso's signature is slightly above the 6 o'clock position. It is tiny and I would have wished it was bigger. This was the number one reason I bought the watch! Having the signature down below and so close to the 6 o'clock marker and the chronograph hour subdial makes the display look a bit cramped. There is a lot of free room above all the subdials. I would have liked to see the spacing evened out to make a better use of the real estate available.

Each of the chronograph hands is a different color and it contrasts well against its respective subdial. The chronograph seconds hand has a red tip and it blends in a little too easily against the red chronograph minute subdial. However, I can't fault Skagen for making the chronograph seconds hand red. At some point they simply ran out of available colors that would work well with the current scheme.

I thought that the hour and minute hands are a little too short and a bit narrow.. Considering the size of the watch (almost 43mm by 40mm) I would have wanted beefier looking hands. At their current size they seem to be swallowed up by a relatively busy dial. I do appreciate the chrome trim around the central hands and the hollowed out area on the chronograph seconds hand.

The hour and minute hands along with the hour markers do have some lume on them so they will glow in the dark. Some watches glow so bright that they can almost illuminate their immediately surrounding area. This lume isn't as bright. However, it's bright enough for a quick read after coming out of a bright area into a dark one.



Interestingly enough, the lume on this particular watch is defective! Notice that there is no lume on the 1 o'clock marker and the lume on the 4 o'clock marker is pale. I set my digital camera to ISO 800 and used a 3 second shutter speed. That's plenty of time to soak in any and all light in a pitch black room. I'm guessing that the factory doesn't perform a visual check of the lume on every watch. I'll give them the benefit of the doubt and say that they must at least do a spot check (i.e. 1 out of 1000 watches, etc) and maybe this one didn't get checked.

Since I mentioned the hour markers I must mention the minute markers (or almost lack of). The minute markers are not really marked. They are actually indents in the black dial. I can understand that painting the individual markings could have made the watch more expensive, especially if the paint was luminous! However, something should have been done to make the minute designations more visible since these same designations are used by the chronograph seconds hand to read the elapsed time.

The crystal is a hardened mineral crystal. I'm not sure if it is as scratch resistance as a sapphire crystal and I certainly am not going to run any tests to find out! It doesn't look like the crystal is coated with any anti-reflective material because it looks like a perfect mirror sometimes. Initially I thought this to be somewhat poor but it does make the watch look very shiny overall and I like that. Perhaps after a couple of years the watch will still look new due to the shininess.

The Watch – Case, Crown, Buttons

Now this is where Skagen scores some major points in my book. I really like the flush chronograph buttons. There is no way these buttons can be inadvertently pressed by tilting your hand into your wrist or (as happened with me one time) during a bike crash when your hand could potentially press into the buttons. These buttons are also less likely to hurt your hands in these situations. The three red indents on the buttons are a stylish touch to these flush buttons. Both buttons give solid feedback when they are depressed.



The screw down crown has the Skagen logo painted on it. I thought that this was a nice way to sign the crown (vs. simply stamping the logo). Having a screw down crown will help the watch maintain its water resistance rating of 10 ATM.

The case is made of titanium which helps bring the weight of the entire watch down to a scant 54 grams. I'm not sure how it is finished – whether it is anodized or powder coated. This is not my specialty so I can only take a guess. The case cover is screwed into the case with 4 small Phillips head screws. It has a vertical brushed pattern on it along with a lot of text. Starting from the upper right hand corner, in a clockwise manner the text reads, “WATER RESISTANT 10 ATM” / “720LTMLB SWISS MADE SUPER” / “HARDENED MINERAL CRYSTAL” / “SKAGEN DESIGNS LTD TITANIUM”. The center of the case cover has the Skagen logo and name. Beneath that is the Team CSC name, Ivan Basso's signature, and the numbering of the watch. Mine happens to be number 780/2000.



The text is sharp and crisp and the signature stands out. I'm guessing that it was probably laser etched. Even the Team CSC name is in italics as it should be. Kudos to Skagen for the attention to details here!

The Watch – Band, Buckle

In the last picture you can see that the band is actually screwed onto the case. This should make for a very sturdy attachment. It could also simplify maintenance if the band needs to be replaced. You don't need a special tool. The band is also very flush against the case which gives the feeling that the entire watch is made of one piece. You can feel the hard material that the band attaches to. I would assume that this is not titanium. Perhaps it is some sort of hardened plastic although I wouldn't be surprised if it really turns out to be titanium. My guess is that the band is not only screwed onto the plate but also glued on as well. That would give it extra security.

The band comes out of the case at an angle that should suit most wrists. It allows the band to nicely wrap around the wrist without feeling as if you just strapped on a metal plate. Of course, if your wrists are way too small then this may feel awkward because the band would go out and then come in sharply. Likewise, if your wrists are absolutely huge then the angle may not be wide enough. For the average wrist, the angle is probably just fine.

The buckle is wide (25mm!) and it is black as well. It has the Skagen logo on one side and the word "TITANIUM" on the other. It initially felt so light that I did not think it was even made of metal until I flipped it over. The band fits perfectly inside the buckle. At the moment, the leather is still too stiff to make strapping the band very easy. This will take some time to work in and that is perfectly normal. In fact, if it was too easy I would be concerned that it was flimsy!



The Watch – Chronograph, Date, Hack Functions

The chronograph is operated by the two recessed buttons on the side of the case. Button A will start and stop the chronograph. Pressing button B while the chronograph is running will pause it. This is good for getting a lap time. The elapsed time is still being tracked by the watch. Pressing button B again will cause the chronograph to run as fast as it can so that the display will catch up to the actual elapsed time. It's actually kind of neat to watch the chronograph seconds hand to rapidly step through until it catches up. This watch makes a "tick" sound with every step movement of the seconds hands. You will definitely hear a "tr-tr-tr-tr..." sound as the chronograph seconds hand zips on through. Pressing button B while the chronograph is stopped will reset the display.

The chronograph minutes dial makes two advanced for each minute division. Each advance occurs every 30 seconds. This is nice since it makes reading the elapsed time easier. It reminds me of how my Speedmaster advances through the chronograph divisions. The chronograph hour subdial moves smoothly between divisions.

Some may complain that the precision of this chronograph is lacking. It can only record to the second while some analog chronographs claim that they can measure to the 1/6th second or 1/100th second. I think that at some point these precisions are meaningless. For example, if you time two instances of the same event and the times turns out to 19.25 seconds and 19.37 seconds then you have to wonder if the differences in times comes from the actual event being different or the reaction time of the person operating the chronograph. I'm glad Skagen chose to keep this chronograph simple and leave the precision at 1 second.

There is nothing special about the date function but I thought it should be mentioned. The date is set by pulling the crown out to the 1st outward position and rotating it. I had no problem changing the date. There was no harsh sound or resistive feedback.

The hack feature is a little different than my other quartz watches. I expected the seconds hand to reset into the 12 o'clock position. Instead, the watch simply stops where ever it happens to be, just like a mechanical watch. Pressing the crown back in causes the watch to resume it's normal operation. So you either have to wait for the seconds hand to reach the 12 o'clock position before hacking it or manually advance it forward (according to the instructions). I'm too used to hacking a mechanical watch so I simply waited for the seconds hand to reach the 12 o'clock position.

So, How Does It Wear?

I have been wearing the watch for about a week to learn its intricacies. So far, I must say that despite the relatively large size the watch is very comfortable to wear. I'm sure most of this comfort comes from it being so light! If it were very heavy then I'm sure it would have been very uncomfortable. I like to keep the band somewhat loose so it does slide and move ever so slightly up and down on my wrist. The curved band by the case also helps the watch to wrap around my wrist very comfortably. I don't get a feeling that this is a watch I would wear while cycling and I don't think it would survive a hard crash. The band would probably be shredded, if not completely destroyed, should it grind against hard asphalt for several meters.



Conclusions from an Initial Presentation

From a technical perspective, I can only find one fault and that is the poor quality of the lume. The lume on the 4 o'clock position is dim and flat out missing on the 1 o'clock position. I'm sure that that this is something that can be covered by Skagen's warranty. Considering the price paid for the watch I would have expected better.

From an aesthetic perspective, I would have done some things differently. I would have shifted the dials slightly upward to better balance out the empty space at the top of the dial. Maybe I would have moved Ivan Basso's signature to the top and reduced the size of the Skagen logo. These are just my own unique tastes and ideas. Let's remember that this watch was designed by professionals and the design was also reviewed by professionals. This watch is not the result of a collision of random ideas. The designers are not only constricted by the general dimensions of the dial but by the movement as well. For example, the chronograph gears are located in certain locations and the designers must work around that.

I think that the designers certainly paid a lot of attention to the small details and I appreciate that. The chrome trim around the dials, the indents on the chronograph buttons, and the painted/signed crown are just three good examples. These details could have eliminated to reduce cost but they were specifically added in.

I used to look upon quartz powered watches as being very plain and cheap but this watch has certainly endeared me to them. This watch has shown that a good design can stand on its own merits and does not need a mechanical movement. Of course, there are probably many other stylish quartz chronographs that cost much less and to the casual shopper this watch may not be a good deal. Would the casual shopper even know who Ivan Basso is? So many people don't even know what the Tour de France is and where it is held (go figure). However, for the watch enthusiast who is also a cyclist this is a great watch to own especially if they have seen Ivan Basso climb along side Lance Armstrong or power through the Giro d'Italia.

Yes, there is a huge doping scandal going on in the sport of cycling. At the time of this writing, Floyd Landis stands to be stripped of his 2006 Tour de France victory. Jan Ullrich has been fired by his Team. Sponsors are pulling out left and right so that their image won't be tarnished. Some would say that this watch could lose its appeal if Ivan Basso is indeed found guilty of doping. I would disagree. A good watch is a good watch regardless of whose signature is on it. Even if he is found guilty then this watch would stand as a piece of cycling history. It would represent the quick assention and the rapid fall of a cycling hero.

Price Paid: \$495.00 plus local taxes

Purchased At: Directly from Skagen in Reno, Nevada.

Website: <http://www.skagen.com>

Part II – Accuracy and Performance

A watch that doesn't tell the right time is pretty useless in my mind. Of course, we must remember that a watch is a machine and no machine is perfect. There will be some deviation in the watch's tracking of time. Factors such as internal friction, battery power, temperature, and even gravity will play a part in the watch's deviation.

Our standard will be the time reported by the National Institute of Standards and Time (NIST). The NIST runs the ever so popular website, www.time.gov. I decided to use this website instead of my radio controlled atomic clock. The radio controlled atomic clock is only updated once every 24 hours. After the update, the clock is only as good as the quartz based time circuit inside. I have found that my radio controlled atomic clock has a very poor quartz timing circuit. This clock deviates throughout the day, which for the average consumer may not matter much. After all, any accumulated deviation will simply be reset during the once-a-day synch up. However, in this case, we need a stable standard. The NIST is constantly being updated and monitored and it is powered by a very accurate time keeping system.

Watches are typically timed in several stationary positions because it allows for repeatability of the tests. These positions include “dial up”, “dial down”, “crown up”, “crown down”, “12 o'clock up”, and “12 o'clock down”. I'm sure there are a few others. The behavior of a mechanical watch can vary wildly in all these positions. It can run too fast, too slow, or just right depending on the position. Knowing the behavior of the watch in these different positions allows the owner to compensate for any deviations. For example, if you know your watch is running +10s per day fast in a “daily wearing” and if you know that it runs -5s per day slow in a “dial down” position then you can leave the watch “dial down” over night while you sleep and hope to slow down it down a bit.

I believe that the position of the watch has less of an impact if the movement is quartz based. There are fewer moving parts inside the watch that can be affected by gravity. Instead of position, the greatest factor that causes deviation is temperature and function. The temperature can cause internal electrical values (i.e. resistance, capacitance, inductance, etc) to change which would have a significant impact on the watch. Some very expensive quartz movements are “thermocompensated” so that they will run consistently within a specific temperature range.

To test the accuracy of this particular watch, I will conduct three tests. The first test will be a “daily wear” test. Some would say that this test is useless since different people will expose the watch to different environments and amounts of motion. This may be true but I would like to think that it would provide an example of the typical accuracy one could expect in normal wear. Of course, everyone's mileage may vary depending on their environment how their specific watch is tuned. The next test is “daily wear” test while running the chronograph. Running the chronograph should not have an impact on the accuracy of the watch. I will run the chronograph throughout the day for approximately two hours at a time, reset it, and restart it. At night I will let it run while I sleep and reset it in the morning. Lastly, I will lay the watch down to rest in a “dial up” position and track the accuracy. It will be subjected to a relatively cool 70 to 80 degrees fahrenheit.

I don't want to limit the duration of the test to a particular length of time. Instead, I want to run the tests until there is at least 5 seconds of accumulated deviation. By having at least five seconds of accumulated deviation I am able to reduce the error introduced by perception. Error by perception (in my mind) is the amount of error introduced into the reading by incorrectly comparing the time shown on the watch compared to the reading on the time standard. The seconds hand on this watch does not sweep. It advances from one position to the next in discrete steps. I believe it is very difficult in this case to say if the watch is, for example, 1.3 seconds off or 1.5 seconds off. If the watch is really off by 1.5 seconds and I'm guessing that is off by 1.3 seconds instead then I have an error of 0.2 seconds. That equates to an error of 13% which is rather high. However, if I am trying to guess between 5.3 and 5.5 seconds and I happen to be 0.2 seconds off from a true deviation of 5.5 seconds then my error is only 4%. Ideally, I would like to catch the watch when it is exactly 5.0 seconds off. Then I will not need to wrangle with trying to decide how many tenths of a second it is off by.

My initial guess is that the watch will run fast like my other quartz chronographs and I will guess that it will run 0.1 seconds fast per day. At that rate it should take approximately 50 days to be 5 seconds off.

Results

Daily Wear	Daily Wear w/Chronograph	Dial-Up
5 seconds	5 seconds	5 seconds
32 days	36 days	29 days
0.156 secs/day	0.139 seconds/day	0.179 seconds/day
4.688 secs/month*	4.167 seconds/month*	5.357 seconds/month*
57.031 secs/year	50.964 seconds/year	64.286 seconds/year

* one month = 30 days

Observations

Overall, I am very pleased with the general performance of this watch. Considering that there are 31,536,000 seconds in a year, being off by only about 64 of them in a worst case scenario isn't bad. This certainly beats any mechanical watch I have owned and I don't think anyone could really complain about this performance.

I can guess why the watch ran faster in a dial-up position compared to the daily wearing. The watch was cooler resting on a table top than it would be around my wrist. When worn around my wrist, the watch absorbed my body heat and probably operated in a micro-climate of 95 degrees compared to the table top temperature of 70 degrees. As the electronics warmed up, so did the internal resistance and the timing constants of the timing circuits. The crystal oscillations probably slowed down because of this.

Running the chronograph probably induced a greater load on the battery so the operating voltage was lower. This could affect the timing circuits as well and it would explain the difference between the daily wearing with and without the chronograph operating. In some ways, it was nice to have the chronograph running which made for a pseudo central seconds hand function.

The watch wore itself well during my 68 days of wearing it. Of course, the leather band got some indents from the buckle but that was expected. The leather does look a little worn. Just imagine where the band would be if you were resting your hands on a desk while typing on a keyboard. There were no signs of the watch material ever feeling or looking fatigued. The buckle operated flawlessly as well as the chronograph buttons. Neither one of the buttons ever felt “sticky”. I'm sure I could have worn this watch for another 68 days without any consequences to the durability.

Since the band is made of leather it would not be difficult to clean any minor stains. Almost any gentle leather conditioning lotion should do the trick.



Part III – Under the Hood

Now it's time to see what's hidden behind that case cover. The case cover is secured to the case by four tiny screws with philips heads. Using a small philips screwdriver, I removed the screws and tucked them away in a safe spot. I removed the case cover and I was greeted with this image.



I noticed four things.

The first thing I noticed was the text, “CHINA”. Although this isn't very surprising in today's world, it was a little disappointing. I expected this watch to be Swiss made – inside and out just like an Omega. After all, that is what the bottom of the dial says. Now I wonder how much of this watch is Swiss made.



According to the Federation of the Swiss Watch Industry, in order for a watch to bear the words, “SWISS MADE”, the movement *should* be in Switzerland and the assembly of the watch and final testing of the movement *should* also be carried out in Switzerland. Also, 50% of the components in the movement itself *should* be made in Switzerland. I have no doubt that the watch was mostly made in Switzerland with some outside sourcing. My question is, how much is sourced outside of Switzerland? I don't think it's worth ripping apart the whole watch just to find out. However, this thought may help explain the dim lume I noticed. Is the dial made in China? Was the quality as strict as it would have been if it were made in Switzerland?

The second thing I noticed was the third line of text, "TA 0604". I wondered if this was a hint to the type of titanium used for the case. A quick Google search didn't reveal much so I am guessing that this is an internal part number.

The third thing I noticed how much dirt made it's way under the case cover and stopped at the rubber gasket. It is good to know that the gasket is doing its job.

Lastly, the fourth thing I noticed was the faint finger print. Look closely at the bottom right hand side of the circular region. Although it's not critical to the operating quality of the watch, it is a little sloppy.

Moving past the cover, the next item of interest is the movement itself. The movement sits quite nicely inside the case and it is surrounded by a plastic fitting that helps to securely hold it. Looking at the case area around the movement, there is quite a lot of grime and dirt visible. It stops exactly where the rubber gasket on the case cover makes contact with the case.

The movement looks quite attractive with a bright gold appearance and matte finish. The battery strap has a little plus sign neatly cut into it to denote the visible polarity of the battery. There are three main markings of interest. Going from left to right in the picture below, the first is the jewel count, the second is the country of origin, and the third is the movement caliber.



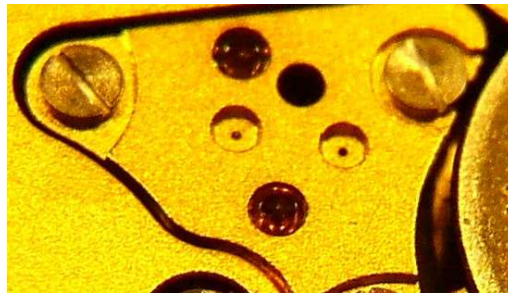
The jewel count here is 13. Many quartz watches don't have any jewels at all since the gears in the movement generally move rather slow. As you can see some jewels were not installed. There is no balance wheel or escapement here so a reduced number of jewels makes sense to me.

The country of origin of this movement is Switzerland. I have no doubts about this.

Lastly, we see that this is a Ronda 5030.D movement. This is a relatively popular movement. It can be found in watches made by Junkers, Versace, Gruen, Raymond Weil, and Victorinox Swiss Army to name a few.

A quick Google search takes you straight to Ronda's website that is filled with lots of technical information including mechanical drawings, service documentation, operation manuals, and technical specifications. It's worth checking out Ronda's site just for curiosity if nothing else. Probably of most interest to the casual user is the battery life, the claimed accuracy, and the two executions of the movement. We see that the expected battery life is reported to be 48 months long. However, the site does not mention how much chronograph operation was taken into account with this figure. The claimed accuracy is $-10/+20$ seconds per month. My own experiments show a much smaller variation from a fixed time standard but Ronda's numbers may take into account harsher temperatures and humidity levels. We also see that there is a 13 jewel execution and a 6 jewel execution of this movement. The Swiss Made execution, according to the Federation's own rules, means that the movement was assembled and inspected in Switzerland. It also means that at least 50% of the parts making up that movement come from Switzerland as well. The Swiss Parts execution, again according to the Federation's own rules, means that the blanks were made in Switzerland but assembled somewhere else.

It's interesting to see that there are two versions of the movement. The first version has the date at the 12 o'clock position and the second version has the date at the 4 o'clock position. I do wonder how the execution of the design would have proceeded if Skagen used the first version.



Looking at the general assembly, none of the screws have damaged heads. There are no loose parts and there is no excess oil floating around. Everything looked clean as well. There was no dust or dirt and there were no fingerprints on the movement. I cannot see any tooling marks or scratches from slipped tools or careless handling. There is nothing here that would make me question the quality of the movement.



Part IV – Final Conclusion

This is a very pleasing watch to wear. The layout and design of the dial is generally well planned and there was some attention paid to the finer details. There was no sign of weakness or fatigue of the materials and I was glad to see that the movement was well protected from dirt and grime. I certainly can't find any fault with the accuracy. In fact, I think the accuracy is one of the strong points of this watch besides the endorsement. Cycling fans can appreciate owning a part of their sport and wearing around with them during the day. Try doing that with a pair of cycling shorts! Ivan Basso has since moved on from Team CSC to the Discovery team. I wonder now how “collectable” this watch will be. Perhaps if Ivan has a chance to compete uninhibited then this watch will have some collectable value. Otherwise, it stands to become an oddity for Skagen.

However, this watch is not without faults. Skagen failed to pay attention to some of the finer details. Considering the price of the watch, the dial should have been perfect in broad day light and during the night. If the lume feature was not important to begin with then why bother putting it on? Seeing a finger print inside the case cover was a little disturbing. It makes me wonder how clean the assembly environment was and how well controlled it is. These flaws ruin the appeal of the watch to the collector. Imagine a fancy sports car with a dent. Despite the fact that the car can outrun anything except a supersonic jet, you will always remember that dent more than anything.

Overall, this watch is a keeper. It may be a better value if purchased on the used marketplace or on eBay.

Pros:

Accurate
Sporty Design
Durable
Light
Good Presentation

Cons:

Poor Quality Control
Useless Documentation
Price

