



# **Want a weird and wonderful vintage Omega? Check the ‘not Speedmaster’ Teutonic**

The Omega Mark V ‘Teutonic’ ref TI 345.0810 is a Speedmaster that isn't a Speedmaster – and it's a rare collectible...

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Many things have appeared on the dial of an Omega Speedmaster, from cartoon dogs to mission crests to the god Apollo and Buzz Aldrin's... rear end. But one design that rarely makes it is the moon itself, other than on the 2004 "Moon To Mars" edition. Of course, this is easily remedied with a moonphase complication and while I concede that this is hardly a technical requirement for a tool watch, there is a certain charm to watching the progress of the moon across the dial of a Speedy.

Running parallel to the classic Speedmaster Professional series were a range of Speedies referred to as the "Mark" series. Starting at Mark II in 1969, implying that the original Moonwatch was Mark I, these were considered as potential replacements but ended up as variations on a theme. Their history is a little convoluted. The Mark II and Mark IV were all considered "Professionals" despite not being "flight qualified" by Nasa, while some Mark IIIs are labelled as "Professional" depending on the variant and year of production.

The oddest of them all, however, is the Mark V, the only Mark Speedmaster to have no "Professional" status. After a long gap, in 1984 Omega revisited the Mark series and as a final flourish produced this sleek streamlined watch. As it was only available in

Germany and Switzerland it is sometimes referred to as the “Teutonic”. Adopting the sleek integrated-bracelet styling of the 1980s that would also be seen in the Seamaster Polaris collection, the Mark V is a Speedy with a look and feel like no other.

If you are looking to pile rarity upon rarity, you take the Mark V Teutonic and add a moonphase complication. That's what happened in 1986, when Omega produced the 400-piece limited-edition ref TI 345.0810, which was something of a mashup. The case, as the designation suggests, was titanium, the form was distinctly in line with the Speedmaster Mark V, the bracelet owed more to Seamaster models such as the Polaris and the movement was the calibre 866, essentially the Speedy's 861 engine with a moonphase module. The one thing that Omega did not add, however, was a Speedmaster designation, leaving this odd lookalike floating in limbo as an anonymous Seamaster chronograph.

If you like your Speedmasters weird and wonderful and are willing to extend that love to close family members, the “not Speedmaster” Teutonic moonphase chronograph is a glorious mishmash that just seems to work. Prices are not as scary as you might think for something so rare, with an example, complete with box and papers, currently on offer in Germany for £7,500. If you are comfortable with the later two-tone titanium and gold variant, you will pay even less.