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# Instore

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE AMERICAN JEWELRY STORE OWNER

SPECIAL FEATURE

## INTRODUCING THE **DESIGNERS**

FEATURING WORDS AND WORK FROM ...

FREDI BRODMANN

ELLA GAFTER

MARIA MUNIER

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SEHTI NA

JUDITH RIPKA

LOREE RODKIN

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PETER SPEAKE-MARIN

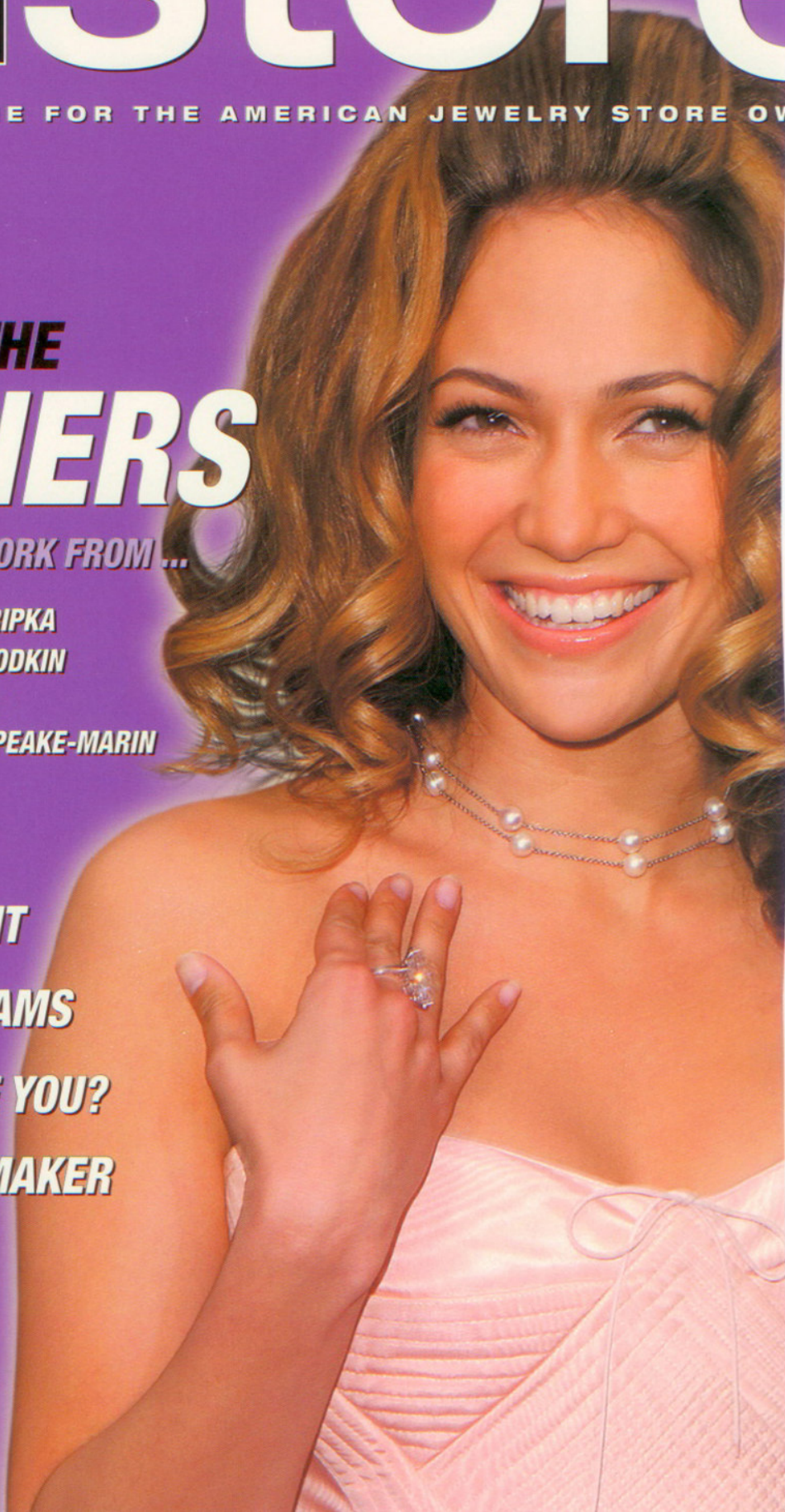
OTHER FEATURES

**DOG DAYS DONE RIGHT**

**COMMISSION PROGRAMS**

**HOW ORGANIZED ARE YOU?**

**THE STAFF TROUBLEMAKER**



# Peter Speake-Marin

He dreams of a wristwatch so perfect that he knows only he will someday be able to create it. Peter Speake-Marin is a true student — and teacher — of horology, but he's also an artist, a man who seeks a perfection in his craft so tantalizingly close he can almost taste it. Yet for all his dedication to ascending the heights of watchmaking, the British designer is not so driven that he forgets what to cherish most — his wife and family — nor, for all the detailed precision of his work, is he above splurging on such sinful delights as a Swatch.



**My first memory** of watches was being given a Steve Austin, Bionic Man red LED watch which showed the time when you pressed a button on the side. Modern technology. I was in awe.

**I started as a** watchmaker for Watches of Switzerland in Oxford, after sales service. I can't say I enjoyed the job hugely but it gave me an overview of watches from a variety of houses, from ETA to Rolex. The Lamb and Flag, the local pub, is probably my fondest memory from this time.

**I always thought** I'd be a teacher of horology because of the amount of information and experience I assimilated, and when training people my greatest pleasure was to see them learn and advance. Now as a designer and independent watchmaker I have no regrets for having never followed that path, but instead am continuing to learn myself ... which is the most exiting state.

**I met George Somlo** through chance in London. Because of the opportunity he gave me, I was able to develop a workshop and work on virtually every collectable watch — pocket and wrist — made up until around 1950. This period will always be important to me as when my real love of watchmaking originated.

**I don't want to suddenly** look around and realize that my life is nearly over and I didn't make the most of my time with my wife and child ... and secondly that I did not realize those dreams that I could have done.

**I never had a clear view** of where I was going.

**I love the pocket watch** best of my timepieces, not because of its technical or aesthetic value but because it helped me find my direction ... and confidence ... in watchmaking. With every day I worked on it I had another idea for another watch — all of which are sitting waiting to be executed.

**The last watch** I bought for myself was a Swatch Irony!

**I have an apartment** in Rolle, on Lac Lemman, near Geneva. The town's small and dates back to the 12th century. It's beautiful, with a total absence of organization on the planning front, with odd-sized houses married to each other with complete irreverence to the kind of planning permission needed in the UK. Each time you walk out of the door you notice something you hadn't seen before.

**When I design** I'm searching for a line, curve, combination or execution which clicks inside me and feels right and then fills me with a childlike excitement to make it real.

**I am flattered** by the fact that anybody, famous or not, would like to buy something I have designed.

**I was just married** and had started a new job, and I was told by my manager to calm down with my ideas and concentrate on my marriage. As if I wasn't already ...

**I've no overwhelming lust** for any one item, but I do have a craving for a wristwatch tourbillon which is in my head and doesn't exist yet, I don't even know exactly what it looks like, but I know it's there and one day I will find it.



*The Process: Instore regular watch critic Tony Riggio calls Peter Speake-Marin 'a true master in the technical sense' ... peeling away the 'skins' of his watches, we see each step as painstakingly crafted as the last.*  
 Peter Speake-Marin, [speake\\_marin@bluewin.ch](mailto:speake_marin@bluewin.ch).

*Masterpiece: The complication that put Peter on the map was this tourbillon pocket watch, a mechanical movement with double gear train, as elegantly ornate as it is accurate.*  
 Peter Speake-Marin,  
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