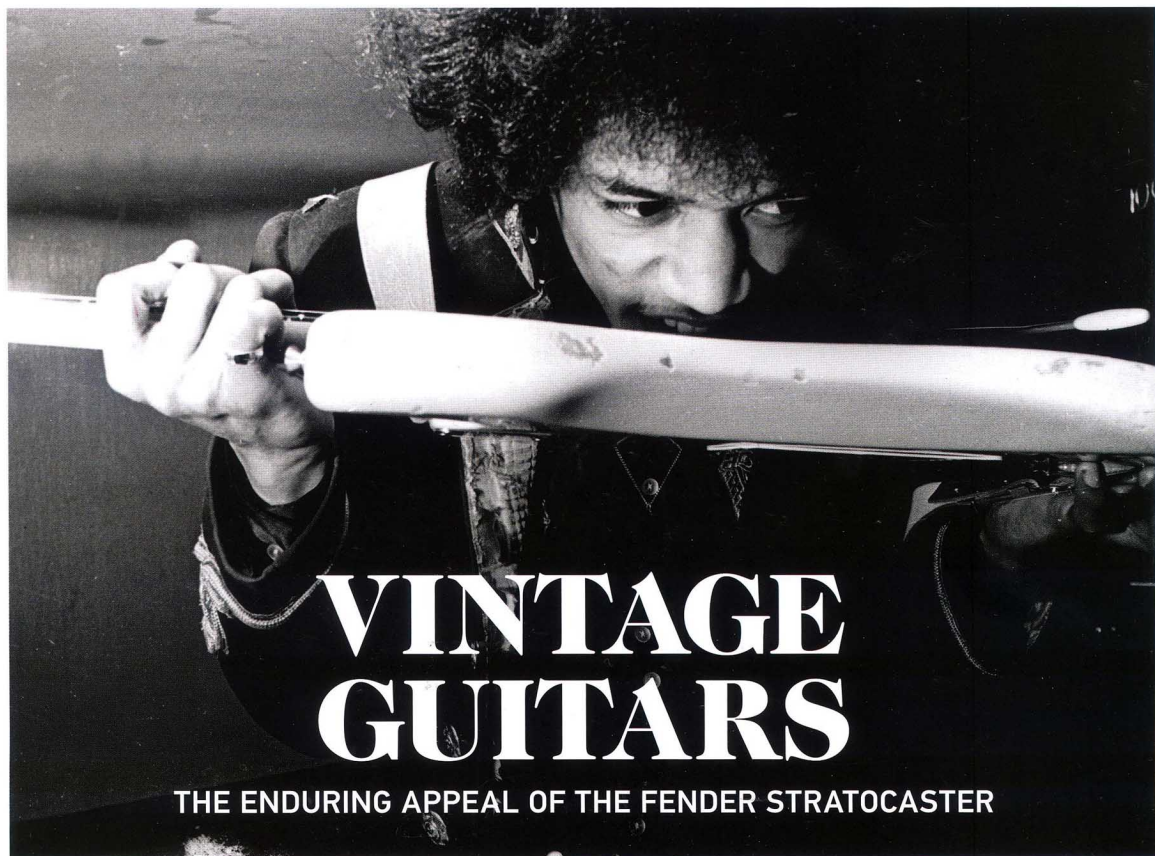


chrono

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COLLECT

YOUR GUIDE TO THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE



VINTAGE GUITARS

THE ENDURING APPEAL OF THE FENDER STRATOCASTER



SHOTGUNS

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from £1000 to £100,000



WATCHES

The ten most collectable
wristwatches ever made



AERONAUTICA

Expert advice on buying models,
propellers, ejection seats...

BREGUET

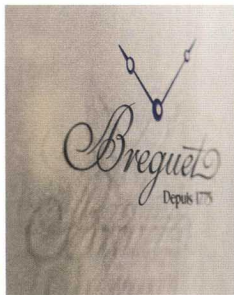
Breguet buffs up boutique

FOR SERIOUS horophiles, there are few better places to be right now than in the UK. We're enjoying a small but significant resurgence in the production of home-grown watches, while London's status as a top 'wealth' destination means it's a hotspot for covetable clockwork.

New monobrand boutiques are springing up regularly following the lead of Breguet, one of the first to open its own store back in 2002. The boutique has recently reopened, following a makeover that saw the space

doubled to 190m² spread across four floors. Walnut and leather evoke a gentleman's club atmosphere, which combines with state-of-the-art features such as a glass lift, 'privacy' viewing areas and a screening room showing virtual tours of Breguet's Swiss manufacture.

A VIP lounge boasts a Breguet library and log fires. As well as its exceptionally expert staff, the boutique also offers a selection of rare Breguet pieces. Breguet, 10A New Bond St, London W1S 3SP. +44 (0) 20 7355 1735.



EDOUARD MARTINET

New treasures from old rubbish

YOU MIGHT not realise it, but there's probably space in your life for a sculpture of a rhinoceros beetle made from a shoe tree and a bit of bicycle chain. You might even fancy a fish made from part of a trumpet and an old moped mudguard, or a red ant constructed from marbles and spoon handles.

Think such things sound like a load of old rubbish? You'd be right – and sculptor Edouard Martinet would be happy to agree with you. Yet when it comes to rubbish, the Frenchman has something of a Midas touch, turning everyday detritus into objects of such superb realism he's been called the art world's 'virtuoso insectophile'.

Martinet has made all of the above pieces plus many more (including a raven incorporating secateur springs and a motorbike light), often taking up to 17 years to source the appropriate materials for a creation from flea markets, car boot sales and junk piles. He eschews welding or soldering, preferring to screw the components together for movement and fluidity.

You could say he's turned recycling into an art form – and a lucrative one, at that. His pieces fetch up to £35,000. edouardmartinet.net
UK dealer: Sladmore Contemporary, 32 Bruton Place, London W1. sladmore.com



BONHAMS

Beagle chronometer sniffed out

ON 9 JULY, auction house Bonhams London will offer a Frodsham marine chronometer that was used aboard HMS Beagle during Charles Darwin's five-year expedition to South America and the Galapagos Islands that began in 1831.

Of the 22 chronometers taken on the trip, it is only the third to have since been re-discovered. After the Darwin voyage, it was used on the North American Boundary Expedition of 1843-1847 – which established the border between the USA and Canada – and then joined HMS Herald in 1857 for the survey of the Australian coast.

The instrument served on 15 ships prior to being sold by the Admiralty in 1911, after which it disappeared from records. The Charles Darwin Foundation, which founded a research station on the Galapagos 50 years ago, is hoping to raise enough money to acquire the historic timepiece for the central display in its visitor centre. Bonhams estimates that the marine chronometer will realise up to £50,000. bonhams.com