

'Perpetual calendar' with SBB split flap



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1. Important safety instructions

Do not open the housing and/or the individual modules. Do not touch the plates and do not allow their rotation to be obstructed. To prevent damage, place out of the reach of children. Never lubricate the components of the perpetual calendar with oil or grease. Choose a safe location for the perpetual calendar so that it cannot fall down or get wet. Protect the perpetual calendar from direct sunlight, open flames and sources of heat. The perpetual calendar must not get splashed. It is intended exclusively for indoor use. Do not place any objects in the immediate vicinity of your perpetual calendar if they might damage it. (Vessels containing liquid, lit candles, sources of heat).

2. Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the history of SBB and for purchasing a perpetual calendar. The components, in particular the four modules, are original parts from SBB split flap displays, which were used in our stations for decades. Using this calendar and its components, which are now rendered obsolete by digitalisation, means you are giving it a second life and contributing to the reuse of items which are still perfectly functional. The split flap modules of the calendar are originals and have a history of up to 40 years in our stations. Each module was originally equipped with its own motor, which has now been removed to enable manual operation. The individual, snugly fitted modules are attached to the wooden housing simply with a few screws. We are delighted that the perpetual calendar will be embarking on a second life together with you.

3. First steps

3.1. Find a suitable location

Place your perpetual calendar where you will get the most out of it. To protect the calendar from damage, place it on a flat surface. The moving parts, especially the plates, are fairly fragile. Make sure there is a space of at least 10cm in front of the calendar. Place the calendar out of the reach of children and at a safe distance from any sources of water (rain, taps, plants).

3.2. Setting it up for the first time

Unpack your calendar and check that no damage has occurred during transport. You can adjust the individual modules using the blue wheels. Gentle movements will allow you to fine-tune the individual modules from A to Z and from 0 to 9. For example, the weekday Monday can be displayed with MO and the specific date can be shown as 19.

You can vary the display as you wish.

For example:

M O M 1 TU, WE, TH, FR, SA, SU, or in French: LU, MA, ME, JE etc.
1 9 0 9

Of course, short words such as LOVE and HOME can also be displayed

L O H O
V E M E

4. Maintenance and cleaning

The dust on the plates can be carefully removed with a fine feather duster. Carefully run the feather duster over the plates to remove the dust. The individual components of the perpetual calendar do not need to be lubricated.

5. Technical specifications

Width	20.5cm	Material: The individual modules are made of blue aluminium/metal. The plates are made of blue plastic, with numbers and letters printed in white. As the modules were exposed to varying temperatures and intensities of sunlight for slight variations in the shade of blue are sometimes present. The frames are made of high quality oak veneer, applied on 16mm chipboard, mitre-cut corners, with surfaces left with their natural light brown colour or stained dark grey and then brushed.
Height	31.5cm	
Depth	10cm	
Weight	approx. 2./kg	

6. Guarantee

If the perpetual calendar should fall from its position, resulting in damage to one or more modules, these modules can be replaced. If the manual turning mechanism has been used to turn the split flap display module in the “wrong” direction, it can only be turned back in the normal direction by removing the individual module and using a 4mm or 6mm Allen key. To do so, the perpetual calendar must be sent to Reto Da Pozzo, In der Breiti 1, 8308 Illnau // BlumenHolzWerk.ch . A repair fee of CHF 20 will be charged for each individual module replaced.

'Perpetual calendar'

A piece of Swiss railway history for your home

For decades, station split flap displays followed the rhythm of thousands of trains and provided information for millions of passengers. They are therefore an important witness to the history of public transport in Switzerland. Originally developed and built by OMEGA, these displays were subsequently produced full-scale and to a high quality by a number of manufacturers. They provided loyal service for more than 40 years and are still in use today.

On hearing the characteristic sound of the unfurling flaps, we can't help but revel in times gone by. It conjures up the countless emotional stories and memories which are so tightly bound to this unmistakable sound. The split flap displays were dismantled, disassembled and turned into this perpetual calendar by Reto Da Pozzo – an SBB employee and Head International Passenger Attendant. These unique items of profound cultural significance for Switzerland are ready for a second life in your home. Limited number of items available.

