Mengenlehreuhr

(Redirected from Berlin Clock)

The **Mengenlehreuhr** (German for "Set Theory Clock") or **Berlin-Uhr** ("Berlin Clock") is the first public clock in the world that tells the time by means of illuminated, coloured fields, for which it entered the *Guinness Book of Records* upon its installation on 17 June 1975. Commissioned by the Senate of Berlin and designed by Dieter Binninger, the original full-sized Mengenlehreuhr was originally located at the Kurfürstendamm on the corner with Uhlandstraße in what was then West Berlin. After the Senate decommissioned it in 1995, the clock was relocated to a site in Budapester Straße in front of Europa-Center, where it stands today.

The *Mengenlehreuhr* displaying 10:31

Time encoding

The Mengenlehreuhr consists of 24 lights which are divided into one circular blinking yellow light on top to denote the seconds, two top rows denoting the hours and two bottom rows denoting the minutes.

The clock is read from the top row to the bottom. The top row of four red fields denote five full hours each, alongside the second row, also of four red fields, which denote one full hour each, displaying the hour value in 24-hour format. The third row consists of eleven yellow-and-red fields, which denote five full minutes each (the red ones also denoting 15, 30 and 45 minutes past), and the bottom row has another four yellow fields, which mark one full minute each. The round yellow light on top blinks to denote odd- (when lit) or even-numbered (when unlit) seconds.
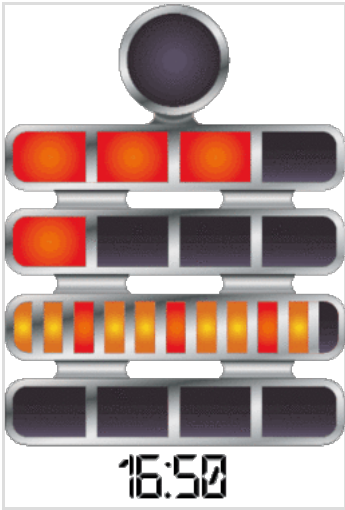
Given the photo of the clock at the top of the article as an example, two fields are lit in the first row (five hours multiplied by two, i.e. ten hours), but no fields are lit in the second row; therefore the hour value is 10. Six fields are lit in the third row (five minutes multiplied by six, i.e. thirty minutes), while the bottom row has one field on (plus one minute). Hence, the lights of the clock altogether tell the time as 10:31.

Clock displaying time from 16:50 to 17:05 (4:50 pm to 5:05 pm) in time lapse.

Kryptos

This clock may be the key to the unsolved section of *Kryptos*, a sculpture at the CIA headquarters. After revealing that part of the deciphered text of the sculpture, in positions 64-69, reads "BERLIN", the sculptor, Jim Sanborn, gave *The New York Times* another clue in November 2014, that letters 70–74 in part 4 of the sculpture's code, which read "MZFPK", will become "CLOCK" when decoded,[1] a direct reference to the Berlin Clock. Sanborn further stated that in order to solve section 4, "You'd better delve into that particular clock".[2] However, Sanborn also said that, "There are several really interesting clocks in Berlin."

References

1. "A New Clue to 'Kryptos' " (https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2014/11/21/science/new-clue-to-kryptos.html). *The New York Times*. 20 November 2014. Retrieved 21 November 2014.
2. Schwartz, John (November 20, 2014). "Sculptor Offers Another Clue in 24-Year-Old Mystery at C.I.A." (https://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/21/us/another-kryptos-clue-is-offered-in-a-24-year-old-mystery-at-the-cia.html) *The New York Times*. New York Times. Retrieved November 22, 2014.

External links

- Europa Center – Set Theory Clock (https://web.archive.org/web/20100723162117/http://www.europa-center-berlin.de/en/the-sights/set-theory-clock.html)
- Aqua Phoenix: Set Theory Clock (http://www.aquaphoenix.com/misc/settheoryclock/)
- Your local time in Berlin-Clock (https://jayasurian123.github.io/berlin-uhr/)
- The actual time in the Berlin-Clock (Flash version) (https://web.archive.org/web/20110202145446/http://berlin-uhr.com/fotos/berlin-clock.swf)
- JS and CSS realization of multiple Berlin clock time zones (https://berlin-clock.web.app/)

The clock at its original location in May 1979, displaying 17:54 (5:54pm).