

# PILATUS

## PC24

**FOLLOWING THE PC21 SHOOT THE DAY BEFORE (ON PAGE 22), IT WAS TIME TO SHOOT THE LOVELY NEW PC24 CRYSTAL CLASS JET OVER THE SWISS ALPS.**

Our subject was P02, the second flight test PC12 aircraft - HB-VXB. We took off in the Skyvan at dawn and headed towards Engelberg, then over Mt Titlus and towards the glaciers. It was majestic sitting on the edge of the Skyvan ramp with the Alps just below us. Being in the air this early there was no turbulence at all, compared to the day before, so I could really concentrate on the surroundings.

Soon the graceful lines of the sleek jet came into view, with Pilatus Test Pilots Moritz Gasser and Reto Aeschlimann clearly visible only a few metres away from me, so the hand signals we had agreed on worked well. The rise and fall relative to a formation, so noticeable in most aerial shoots was hardly evident here, the air was just so smooth. We covered the Aletch and Rhone glaciers, then headed towards Bern and Lucerne, where the PC12 would join the formation. Getting the shot of the PC24 over the old town of Bern was similar to the Brusio viaduct shoot, in that I could not see ahead. So Philip gave me a countdown from 5 to 0. We then headed out to do a formation flyover of the Pilatus plant at Buoch.

One shot that Jerome wanted was of the PC24 taking off







with its gear still down. We tried a couple of passes to get our speeds coordinated, then we positioned the Skyvan above and in front of the PC24. After Reto rotated the nose of the jet, we both climbed steeply in formation at 45 degrees until the PC24 overtook us. It was quite a nice feeling having nothing to hold on to on the flat floor at 45 degrees of climb, while the aircraft is doing its utmost to force you out into the slipstream. But I trusted my harness and we got the shots. I took about six frames and that was it, job done. I put the camera down, sat cross legged and just watched the landscape below fill my vision as we headed back to Buochs and Pilatus.

*In memory of the late Reto Aeschlimann,  
Chief Test Pilot at Pilatus.*









*Over Lake Lucerne.*





## **BEHIND** THE SCENES

*My point of view of the PC24 over the glaciers, from the open cargo ramp in the Skyvan.*