

# GUIDE TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR WATCH

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In this e-book, we reveal to you all the advice of our Master watchmakers to take care of your mechanical timepiece. You will find:

Introduction

The “10 enemies” of your watch

What to do in case of problems?

Who are we?

Our watch kits





# Introduction

A watch is mechanical when it has a manual winding or an automatic winding mechanism. It is not powered by a quartz movement, also known as a battery.

Much more than an accessory that tells the time, a mechanical watch represents an ingenious invention that has lasted for centuries. A symbol of an ancestral know-how and a rich history, a timepiece is often associated with personal values. Whether acquired as a crush or as an investment, it is handed over from generation to generation.

This is why, in this e-book, we reveal the advice of our Master Watchmakers to maintain your mechanical watch as well as their recommendations if you encounter frequent problems.

When a mechanical watch is well cared for, it is perceived as an heirloom that is given with pride. The magic of timepieces is that they last forever when properly maintained. Rest assured, there is no complicated process to take care of your watch, only good habits to adopt on a daily basis. Simple reflexes to put in place, especially if you are passionate about your watch and want it to last and be passed on.

# The “10 enemies” of your watch

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## 1. Impacts

Your watch is made up of fragile components, from the movement to the hands. A shock can damage your watch and cause its stop. Your mechanical movement contains an average of a hundred components, the exact number depends on your timepiece. Indeed, this number can vary greatly depending on the movement, especially if it has one or more complications. Thus, in the event of a shock, one of its parts may become dislodged and cause your watch to stop.

As for the hands, they are meticulously chased, which is why a sudden shock can lead to the loss of a hand requiring repair by a watchmaker.

Moreover, your case is equipped with a glass (glass allowing to read the time, located on the top) which can break during a shock, the only solution will be to replace it.

## 2. Frictions

Rubbing with certain resistant materials can scratch your case or glass. If a scratch appears on your case, we encourage you to go to a watchmaker who will polish the scratch or change the component if necessary. It is possible to polish a scratch, depending on the depth and length of the scratch. On the other hand, if a scratch appears on a part that has been treated with a galvanic treatment, it will be impossible to polish it without a new treatment afterwards, which will involve additional costs.

Glasses are usually made of mineral or sapphire. They are more easily scratched when made of minerals. However, even though sapphire is harder, it is not scratch proof. On the other hand, a scratched crystal is not polished, or very rarely, but in most cases, it must be replaced.

In addition to this, a bracelet wears out and scratches easily, especially when it comes to noble and fragile materials. This is why certain activities can damage it or even break it. In any case, your bracelet will not last as long as your watch: you will surely have to change it in the future.





### 3. Physical exercises

Physical activities should be avoided because of the indirect shocks sometimes given by rough movements. For example, during a tennis game, blows from the ball being hit by the racket can cause your watch to malfunction or even break. One of the most common repairs comes from this type of situation in which a reversal of the anchor occurs. In this case, the watch stops and a repair by a competent watchmaker is necessary.

In addition to this, physical activities are also not recommended because of the sweat generated. This can be more or less acidic from one person to another and during intense activity it can damage the bracelet. If you perspire easily, we advise you to opt for suitable materials such as fabric or rubber bracelets. And if you are into leather, there are even bi-material wristbands with rubber on the bottom and leather on top for an aesthetically pleasing and sweat-resistant combination.

### 4. Sun exposure

Your watch should not be exposed to the sun's rays for too long, as they can cause the oil to dry out and your watch to stop.

The sun can also cause the material of your strap to age and stain, especially if it is made of leather. Indeed, some materials work a lot over time and will change by themselves, so it is important to preserve them as much as possible.

### 5. Inactivity

Your watch needs to be worn regularly to prevent the oil from hardening too quickly and causing the part to stop. Indeed, when the movement is stopped for a long period of time, the oil dries and can harden the gearing, which can affect the functioning of your watch or even stop its operation. If you do not wear your watch regularly, we recommend you to wind it every 2 to 3 months in order to ensure its proper functioning.

#### Did you know?

*Many professional athletes wear watches even during their physical activities. These watches have been tested to resistance and are less sensitive to shocks and brutal movements.*



*Mechanical movement with manual winding*



## 6. Magnetic zones

It is advisable to avoid placing your watch near magnetic areas such as computer or telephone waves, as well as stereo speakers and magnets in bags or similar accessories. Indeed, magnetic areas can magnetize the balance-spring of your piece, thus creating a disturbance of your timepiece.

### *Did you know?*

*Some innovative materials have anti-magnetic properties to prevent the mechanism from becoming magnetized. This is the case of silicon for example, used for the manufacture of the balance-spring.*

## 7. Temperature variations

When the altitude or climate changes, some moisture may appear in your watch. However, this does not necessarily mean that it is not waterproof. For example, when you leave a restaurant in the mountains, it is possible that condensation forms under the glass. This phenomenon is due to the difference between the outside temperature and the inside temperature of your watch.

In this case, we recommend putting the watch upside down, on the dial, to escape the condensation without moistening the mechanism.

And above all, don't forget to pull the crown out during this time to facilitate the evacuation of the humidity. If after three days, the moisture is still present, we invite you to perform an after-sales service on your watch.

Indeed, if your watch remains wet for a long period of time, the movement may start to rust.



### *Small tip*

*We advise you not to wear your watch in the shower even if it is waterproof. The temperature variation can bring moisture inside your case.*

## 8. Chemical products

It is recommended that you avoid contact with chemicals, including perfumes or cosmetics that can attack the waterproof gasket or discolor your watch. Indeed, some products can discolor parts of your watch such as your case or bracelet.





## 9. Water

Whether we are talking about fresh or salted water, it should be avoided! Indeed, water, in a general way, causes the aging of the material of the bracelet as well as the appearance of stains, especially if it is made of leather. In addition to this, the salt present in seawater is very harmful to your timepiece. The salt attacks the seals of your watch case and reduces its water resistance. In addition to that, it also decreases the shine and longevity of your watch, so do not swim in the sea or ocean with it.

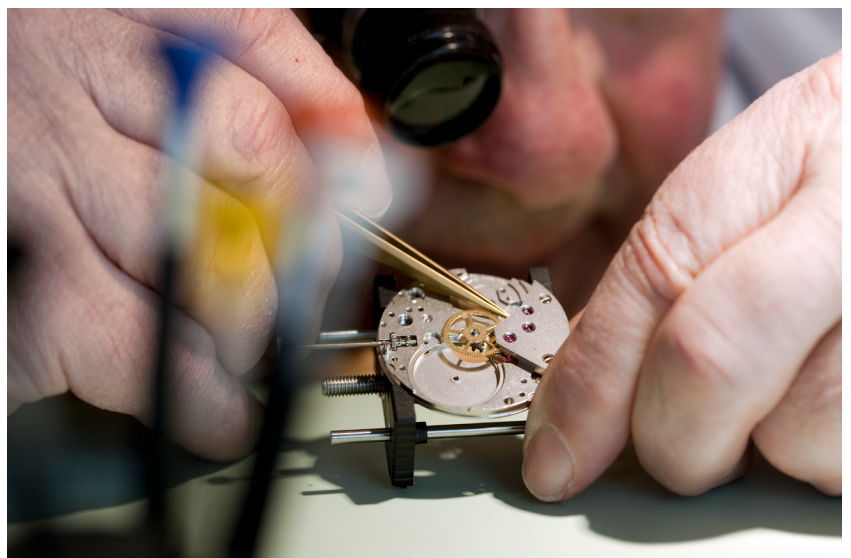
## 10. Regular service

Now you have all the keys to take care of your watch and make sure it works properly. In addition to the tips mentioned above, it is also recommended to service your watch every 5 years on average, in order to preserve a maximum its longevity. This service can be done by any competent watchmaker or sometimes by the brand that manufactured your watch.

### Did you know?

*In watchmaking, the atmosphere of a watch indicates its degree of water resistance. The reference atmospheric pressure is 1013 hectopascals, or 1 bar. A watch with a water-resistance of 10 ATM can withstand a pressure of 10 bars, or a depth of 100 meters. However, 3 ATM does not mean that the watch is waterproof.*

*The pressure exerted by a tap or a shower is equivalent to 3 ATM. Be careful to remove your watch before taking a shower or to put it back on your wrist to wash your hands!*





# What to do in case of problems?

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Even when you take great care of your timepiece, you may face some operating problems among the ones described here.

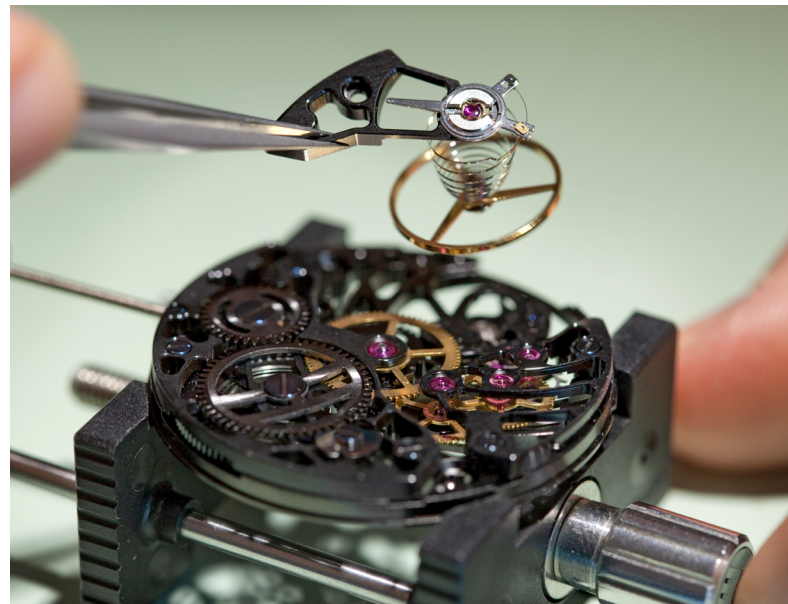


If your mechanical watch has not stopped but does not work properly, set it to the right time and then wind it up to the maximum in order to test its operation one last time before making any repairs. Indeed, a difference of a few minutes during a week can happen, it is within the tolerances.

## Did you know?

The standard tolerance is -10/+15 seconds per day, depending on the brand of your timepiece. Indeed, each company defines its own tolerance margin. If the accuracy of your watch exceeds these criteria, we invite you to contact a competent watchmaker or the company that manufactured your watch in order to schedule a repair.

In all mechanical watches, there is one or more systems that store energy. This system uses a spiral spring that compresses as the crown is wound. As the crown is turned, the energy is transmitted through several cogs and then gradually released through the anchor. With the help of an oscillating movement, the anchor regulates the force that it transmits to the balance spring to make the watch work. On a self-winding movement, it may happen that the power reserve does not recharge. In this case, we invite you to contact a competent watchmaker or the company that manufactured your watch in order to schedule a repair.



In addition to mechanical problems, you may encounter problems with your strap. Depending on the material of your bracelet, it can be damaged more or less quickly. You can easily find them in specialized stores, from the brand that made your watch or online.

You just have to pay attention to the measurement of the lugs which defines the size of the bracelet. You can change it yourself with a strap tool, at an independent watchmaker or at the brand that made your watch.





*Our workshop in Le Noirmont*



Founded in 2015 in Le Noirmont, Switzerland, Initium offers workshops allowing everyone to assemble their own Swiss mechanical watch, guided by a Master Watchmaker over the course of a day.

Initium represents the memory of a unique experience of the mechanics of time. Its vocation is to immerse you in the world of Swiss watchmaking and to allow you to discover the secrets of its ancestral know-how. Thanks to the theoretical and practical instructions given by a Master Watchmaker, everyone can learn about watchmaking in a fun way. Initium offers different courses, from a simple initiation on a mechanical movement to the assembly of your own Swiss made watch.



*Our Initium workshop in Geneva*



*Our Initium workshop in Gebertingen*

After inaugurating our first workshop in the Jura, we expanded our horizons by opening a second workshop in Geneva in 2017, then a third workshop in 2018 in Gerbertingen, near Zurich.

Now, with the goal of going even further, we are working on several international and online development projects in order to diversify our offer and transmit our passion to watch lovers around the world.

Among these are our watch kits, our online watch configurator, a course with tourbillon movement as well as online watch sales.



# Our watch kits

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If you want to know more about watchmaking and its techniques, discover our watch kits to assemble yourself at home.

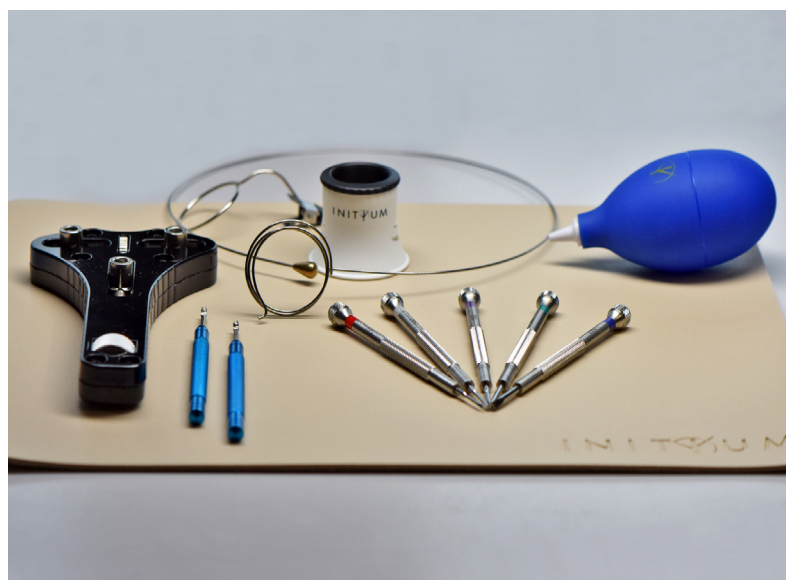
Our kits come in the form of a high-end vegan leather case containing all the watchmaking tools necessary to assemble a Swiss mechanical watch and its components. Our kits come with access to video tutorials, in which one of our Master Watchmakers accompanies the participants through technical explanations and anecdotes to immerse them in the experience. The use of an application allows one to check the precision of the newly assembled watch.



*Prototype of our kit briefcase*



*Fitting the strap with our barrette tool*



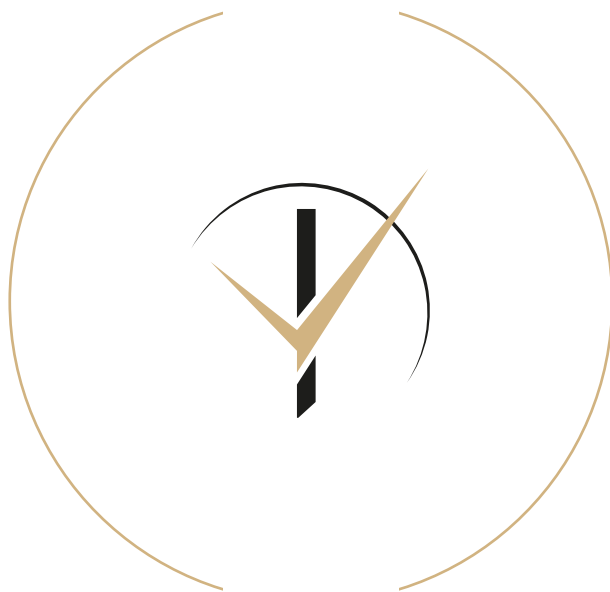
*Overview of some of the tools used in our watch kits*

With our online watch configurator, [configurateur de montres en ligne](#), it will be possible to choose the components of your future watch to be assembled in a kit, or to receive already assembled at home. Our configurator will allow anyone to define the design of their watch directly online, on our website [initium.swiss](https://initium.swiss).

After choosing the aesthetics of a unique and personalized watch, each person will be able to choose to assemble it during a class in our workshops, to order a watch kit to assemble it at home or to receive his timepiece already assembled by one of our watchmakers in Switzerland.

Discover our watch kits





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