

# BELOW THEIR SURFACE, DIVE WATCHES ARE TOUGH EVERYDAY INSTRUMENTS

**START** Dive watches speak of the temptations of the underwater world—sunken treasures, shipwrecks and tropical beaches. But many dive watches never see a drop of water, and that’s perfectly fine. Dive watches are some of the most popular watches on the market today among divers and non-divers alike. These watches are easy to recognize: the addition of special water-resistant gaskets, thicker sapphire crystals and thicker cases typically add to their size and help dive watches stand out on the wrist. And the dials are designed to be easy to read. Many people reason that, because a dive watch is subjected to tougher testing and offers greater water resistance than other watches, a dive watch makes a robust everyday watch as well, and they are right. For others, a dive watch is a symbol of a true passion or, perhaps, of the diving they want to do one day. Dive watches serve these purposes and more, and they serve them with style.

# DIVE IN

MAXIMUM DEPTH

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## STRAPS

A dive strap is a sturdy wristwatch strap made of material impervious to saltwater [e.g., rubber, nylon, specially treated leather] and sized to fit over the sleeve of a diving suit. Metal bracelets with hidden built-in extensions are versatile alternatives.

● **TWO-WAY:** A perpetual calendar that can be adjusted both backward and forward via a single crown is the standout complication of the COSC-certified automatic Caliber UN-33.

● **FRONT AND BACK:** The 45-mm titanium case has anti-reflective sapphire crystals on both sides, a clearly marked steel dive bezel and dive-ready water resistance. Production is limited to 500 pieces.

## EXAMPLE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Ulysse Nardin combines features from its Marine and Perpetual collections to produce a best-of-two-worlds limited edition, the Diver Perpetual with user-friendly perpetual calendar functions and 300 meters of water resistance. \$26,800  
561.988.8600, [ulysses-nardin.com](http://ulysses-nardin.com)





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Water that comes at a watch with force tests a watch's water-resistance features more than motionless water does. So, when swimming, surfing, snorkeling, sailing or engaging in serious surface water sports, a watch rated for 100-200 meters is definitely called for.

● **COLOR CODED:** The basically black dial is accented in blue, white, pink, green or orange. The 45-mm stainless steel case has a removable black gel cover to match its silicone strap.



**EXAMPLE OCEAN CRUISE**

TechnoMarine's new Cruise Sport chronograph is a redesigned interpretation of the earlier Cruise collection powered by a precision Citizen FS20 quartz movement. \$425  
800.822.2312, [technomarine.com](http://technomarine.com)

**ATMOSPHERE**

Abbreviated as ATM, an atmosphere is a unit of pressure used to describe the water-resistance ratings of some watches. One atmosphere is roughly equivalent to 1 bar or to 10.3 meters of water pressure.

**EXAMPLE DIVING COMPANION**

The Riviera XXL Chrono Diver by Baume & Mercier meets the challenges of diving and sailing activities with a combination of functions and 200-meter water resistance. \$3,990  
212.593.0444, [baume-and-mercier.com](http://baume-and-mercier.com)

**EXAMPLE MARINE SCENE**

An automatic Swiss movement is at the center of the Fortis B-42 Marinemaster, a seaworthy timepiece featuring day and date display. \$1,825  
570.408.1640, [fortis-watch.com](http://fortis-watch.com)

● **STREAMLINED:**

The straightforward silhouette eschews excessive embellishment, and the smooth bezel is only subtly notched. The watch is water-resistant to 200 meters.



● **FUNCTIONALITY:** Powered by an automatic ETA 7750, a chronograph and tachymeter add functionality on shore and when sailing. The rotating bezel is ideal for timing dives.

● **STURDY:** The three-part brushed steel case has a distinctive fluted rotating bezel designed for precise operation. It adjusts in half-minute steps and has a luminous primary marker.





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When scuba diving is on the agenda, it's advisable to use a watch that's rated for 300 meters of water resistance or more.

#### EXAMPLE PROPRIETARY

Panerai's own P.9000 movement is the heart of its Luminor Submersible 1950 3 Days Automatic 47-mm dive watch, which calculates immersion times by means of its ratcheting unidirectional turning bezel. \$9,600 877.PANERAI, panerai.com



● **OUTSIDE:** The device protecting the crown is a Panerai trademark, and the rubber strap is marked with the brand name and secured by a large, brushed titanium buckle.

● **INSIDE:** The movement has twin barrels, supporting the three-day power reserve, and incorporates a Glucydur balance and an Incabloc anti-shock system.

#### SAFETY

Redundant systems are vital when a situation has the potential to turn life threatening. A mechanical dive watch is a useful backup to an electronic dive computer.

● **LIMITED:** An articulated rubber bracelet is one of three options, along with a leather strap and a rubber strap. Production is limited to 1,500 pieces in all.

● **WATERTIGHT:** The size and shape of the 42-mm case contribute to the watch's 300-meter water-resistance rating. Inside, self-winding Caliber 899 quietly powers the time and date functions.



#### EXAMPLE WATER GEAR

Jaeger-LeCoultre equips divers to confront the depths with the limited edition Master Compressor Diving Automatic Navy SEALs in stainless steel with a ceramic dive bezel. \$8,600-\$10,000 800.552.8463, jaeger-lecoultre.com

● **CONSTRUCTION:** The three-part curved titanium case is sealed by a series of titanium torque screws at the circumference. The protected crown screws down to seal the watch.

#### EXAMPLE DIVE DURABILITY

Richard Mille's RM 028 offers straightforward dive-appropriate functionality and outstanding durability along with a 300-meter water-resistance rating. \$79,000 310.205.5555, richardmille.com





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Professional divers, encountering deeper or more hazardous conditions than recreational divers, look for higher water-resistance ratings and more rugged construction.

## TIMING

A rotating bezel marked with a minutes scale can facilitate timing of a dive by clearly indicating time remaining. A unidirectional bezel—one that turns only in a counter-clockwise direction—functions as a safety device. The apparent remaining time can only be decreased, never increased, by an accidental bump to the bezel.

### ● PRESSURE RESISTANT:

The bead-blasted 316L steel case with carbon black finish is designed to withstand the pressure at 500 meters below the surface. Its decompression valve equalizes pressure inside the case.

### EXAMPLE DIVING PRO

Bell & Ross watches are designed to support professionals who work in extreme conditions. Its BR 02 Instrument Chronograph 500M offers water resistance and high functionality. \$7,000 888.307.7887, bellross.com

### ● DIVE TIMER:

The two-counter chronograph function is configured for tracking short times; the subdials are scaled for 30 minutes and 60 seconds.

### ● STRONG:

The 42-mm steel case has a screw-down crown and helium escape valve. It houses an Omega Caliber 2500 with co-axial escapement and 48-hour power reserve.

### ● ROBUST:

The robust steel case-back is 3 mm thick, as is the sapphire crystal that provides a window on the dial. The extra thickness provides the strength needed to stand up to pressure at 500 meters.

### ● LOCKING:

The patent-pending bezel locking system keeps the dive bezel in the desired position; at the same time, it protects the crown against shocks.

### EXAMPLE PROFESSIONAL GRADE

The Omega Seamaster Planet Ocean Co-axial is a glamorous underwater accessory that is also a certified chronometer and a professional-grade dive watch rated for 600 meters. \$12,900 800.766.6342, omega.ch

● BEAUTIFUL: The unidirectional dive bezel is knurled for a secure grip and set with diamonds for good looks. The domed sapphire crystal is treated with anti-reflective coating on both sides.

### EXAMPLE LIFE GUARD

Luminox tackles the challenge of creating a 500-meter diver and succeeds with the Deep Dive 500M, a serious instrument that provides a vital redundant system for professional divers. \$1,750 800.858.5215, luminox.com



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Some extreme dive watches offer water resistance of 1,000 meters or more, even though divers cannot plunge to those depths. It's remarkable to realize that these delicate mechanisms can stand up to crushing deep-sea pressure and come back ticking.

● **SUBTLE STYLE:**

The black dial features monochromatic nautical pennant motifs as hour markers. Markers and hands are treated with Super-LumiNova.

**SEALED**

A screw-down crown is one that turns to tighten against an O-ring, sealing the case opening at a watch's winding stem and providing enhanced water resistance at this point.

● **STANDOUT:** A crown positioned on the left side and paired with a trademark protective device is the standout feature of the 55-mm case in grade 5 titanium.

**EXAMPLE OCEAN CLASSIC**

The Classico 1001 by U-Boat sets itself apart with 1,001 meters of water resistance and production limited to 1,001 pieces worldwide. \$6,800  
305.573.4476, u-boatwatch.com

● **LEGIBLE:** A pierced and blackened dial is superimposed over a solid dial treated with Super-LumiNova to create a legible and luminous whole.

● **BASIC BLACK:**

The automatic movement, Caliber AL-525 with 26 jewels and a black oscillating weight, can be admired through the sapphire crystal caseback. A black rubber strap completes the package.

● **RELIABLE POWER:**

A self-winding COSC-certified movement with engraved and logoed oscillating weight is the engine behind the time, day and date functions.

● **LUMINOUS:** The dive-ready unidirectional rotating bezel displays a prominent luminous triangle at 12, a luminous index for each minute through 15 minutes, and luminous numerals marking 10-minute intervals after that.

**EXAMPLE MARINE ICON**

Corum's iconic Admiral's Cup collection plumbs the depths with the limited edition Deep Hull 48 in titanium, which is water resistant to 1,000 meters. The 12-sided bezel, an Admiral's Cup hallmark, functions as a dive timer. \$7,800  
949.788.6200, corum.ch

**EXAMPLE GOING DEEP**

Alpina's Extreme Diver 1000 Meters Black Ocean takes the all-black trend to the depths with luminous treatments that offer legibility, even in dark waters. \$3,190  
877.619.2824, alpina-watches.com



EXAMPLE SEA GOD

Reactor emphasizes high performance in the new Poseidon dive watch, presented in a limited edition of 500 pieces. \$900  
800.291.6600, reactorwatch.com

● **MATERIALS:** A hardened K-1 crystal offers an optimal balance of scratch resistance and shatter resistance. The 316L stainless steel case with triple O-ring screw-down crown is water resistant to 1,000 meters.

● **EQUIPPED:**

Constructed for extreme depths, the watch has a 3-mm-thick steel caseback secured with hex screws and a 3-mm-thick anti-reflective sapphire crystal.

● **MECHANISM:** The mechanism at the heart of the watch is an ETA 2893-2 movement with Glucydur balance wheel, Incabloc shock protection and second time zone function.

EXAMPLE GERMAN SUB

Munich-based UTS presents a larger dial and a trimmed down bezel in its second-generation dive watch, the GMT 1000M Diver in stainless steel. \$2,500  
877.UTS.0123, utswatches.com

● **TIMING:**

An external ratcheting bezel paired with a second internal rotating bezel provides two timers that operate independently and simultaneously.

● **DESIGN:**

The hinged steel case rises from its titanium frame when access to the crown is needed. The design protects the crown and creates a sleek profile.

LEGIBILITY

Dive watches are designed to be extremely clear and readable underwater, which is achieved with big markers and hands and lots of luminescence. These features also aid in the watch's overall legibility on land, making it a functional tool that oozes capability and attitude.

EXAMPLE RACE TO THE DEPTHS

Porsche Design presents the P'6780 Diver, a watch capable of handling depths of up to 1,000 meters. \$10,300  
800.521.5152, porsche-design.com

● **IDENTITY:**

The muted tones of the steel and titanium combined with a black dial create the unmistakable Porsche Design look. The yellow arc of the diving scale forms a solitary color accent.

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Only deep-ocean submersible vehicles can dive to depths greater than about 300 meters. At 2,000 meters below the surface, pressure is 200 times atmospheric pressure at the surface.

● **CLARITY:** Because greater size means greater clarity underwater, the case is a generous 44 mm in diameter. High-contrast black and white aid legibility, and the yellow minutes hand matches the yellow scale of the dive bezel.

● **OPTIONS:** An innovative quick-change system makes it simple to change from a rubber strap to a steel bracelet without tools. A hook-and-loop dive strap is a third option.

● **MECHANICS:** Automatic Caliber 30110 powers the time and date displays. A stop-seconds function aids in precise time setting.

#### EXAMPLE EXTREME DEPTHS

The Aquatimer Automatic 2000 offers the highest water-resistance rating in IWC's Aquatimer family of water-ready timepieces—2,000 meters. \$4,400–\$5,400  
800.432.9330, iwc.ch



#### IN THE MARKET

Most serious makers of sports watches offer dive watches. With many to choose from, it's a good time to be in the market for a dive watch.

#### EXAMPLE DEPTH RECORD

The 20,000 Feet chronograph by CX Swiss Military is the current world record holder for water resistance in a mechanical watch. \$3,482  
20000feet.com

● **RATED:** Officially rated for 6,000 meters, the watch has succeeded in pressure tests for 7,500 meters of water resistance in order to comply with the ISO 6425 standard.

● **MASSIVE:** The COSC-certified self-winding Valjoux 7750 movement is protected by a virtually indestructible titanium case that stands 28.5 mm high on the wrist. The domed sapphire crystal is 10 mm thick.



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Nearly four miles beneath the surface, pressure is roughly equivalent to 8,700 psi. It takes a sturdy watch to stand up to those conditions.