



Tutima Saxon One Chronograph

For military personnel on land, on the sea and in the air, reaching into a vest pocket to check the time was not only impractical but potentially hazardous. Formerly derided by serious watchmakers as novelties for women, wristwatches became *de rigueur* for men almost overnight. For drivers, divers and pilots alike, the wristwatch had become a necessity.

One of the earliest true wristwatches was also likely the first pilots watch. The Cartier Dumont wristwatch was first made for aviation pioneer Alberto Santos-Dumont, in 1906. Santos-Dumont, the wealthy son of a Brazilian coffee plantation owner, was an amateur aviation enthusiast who designed, built and flew both lighter aircrafts and fixed-wing aircrafts. His first airplane flew in 1905. One of his friends was Louis Cartier, the grandson of Cartier's founder Louis-Francois. Santos-Dumont had complained to him

that a pocket watch was impractical for a pilot and Louis Cartier designed a watch for him, first sold to the public in 1906 and still produced by Cartier today.

The pilots watch has evolved to fit the needs of civilian, military and commercial aviators. Watches intended for pilots have certain elements in common. A popular complication is a chronograph measuring elapsed time — the most useful function a pilots watch can have. Some pilots watches are devoted to the simple act of telling time with the greatest possible accuracy, while others are designed to show local time. True aviator watches are built for legibility and durability above all else. Stainless steel cases and some degree of antimagnetic protection are standard. A classic example is the Tutima Saxon One Chronograph. The German firm Tutima is a longtime aviation supplier whose products have been used by NATO squadrons.

Watches made for professional racers and other auto enthusiasts historically were often chronographs. The most common addition to drivers chronographs is a tachymetric bezel. This is a scale against which the seconds hand can be read. It shows average speed over a measured distance (typically a mile or kilometer). Some drivers watches are more fanciful and creative, echoing the visual appeal of a car's body or engine. Others are designed to be read more easily when the driver's hands are on the wheel, typically through the use of an offset dial or, in more extreme cases, dials set at a 90 degree angle to the plane of the movement. And some, like Ball's Engineer Master Slide Chronograph, are designed for both ease of use and measuring speed. The Master Slide Chronograph has a sliding lever to activate the chronograph (easy to operate with gloves on) and a tachymeter scale (used to time speed over a given distance).

Continued on page 42



Above left to right: Original Seiko Astron; Tutima Patria; Ball Standard Time
Below left: Rolex Explorer

Continued from page 10

HAND-WOUND OR AUTOMATIC?

Here's another basic divide, this one purely in the realm of mechanical watches. A hand-wound watch is just as it sounds: You wind it up yourself. It's generally believed you get the best performance if you wind a watch at the same time every day. An automatic watch — also called a self-winding watch — is also mechanical and powered by a mainspring, but it has a small pivoting weight built into it that moves when you do. Swinging is transmitted to the mainspring to keep it wound. Automatic watches are convenient, and many prefer them. The daily ritual of winding your own watch can be one of life's little pleasures. Tutima's Patria is an example of a hand-wound, high-grade watch made in Tutima's workshops in Glashütte, Germany. In a similar vein is the Ball Standard Time watch, a self-winding gold watch in which — as in all self-winding watches — the wearer's movements wind the mainspring.

DRESS OR SPORT?

A watch that's right for the office isn't necessarily one you'd take swimming, wear in the shower or take with you on a camping trip. Dress watches — whether quartz or mechanical — generally are thinner, smaller in diameter and simpler. Traditionally made of precious metals, they match well with more formal attire but won't stand up to major wear and tear. (They're usually much less water-resistant than sports watches.) Sports watches generally are offered in harder-wearing (and less expensive) stainless steel and usually are more shock- and water-resistant, too. True scuba divers' watches usually are water-resistant to 200 meters in depth or more. Choose a personalized watch that'll prove to be just as dynamic as your unique lifestyle. Jaeger LeCoultre's Master Ultra Thin watches are classic examples of a thin, elegant dress watch, while Rolex's Explorer is, in its clean design and sturdy construction, an equally classic example of a sports watch.

Continued on page 14