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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. **Roger Lacouture'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.

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