

# High





# Time



*Pilots' watches go back almost as far as the Wright Brothers' first successful flight in 1903. Our timeline shows important mechanical pilots' watches and major events in aviation history, starting with the Wrights' winged victory at Kitty Hawk.*

BY MELISSA GÖSSLING

**1939**

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**1940**

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**1941**

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**1941**

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**1941**



Under its Tutima brand name, UROFA-UFAG, based in Glashütte, Germany, launched its first chronograph for pilots, the Fliegerchronograph, produced for the German Luftwaffe. Between 1941 and 1945, the company made about 30,000 of these watches.





1984

1984



## 1974

The wide-body, twin-jet-engine Airbus A300 went into service. It was the first collaborative project by aircraft makers in Germany, France, Spain and Great Britain, all of whom would merge to form the Airbus Group in 2000. More than 500 A300s were built from its debut until 2007, when production ceased.

## 1984

The German watch brand Tutima celebrated a milestone in 1984 when NATO chose Tutima's chronograph as its official pilots' watch. Originally based in Glashütte, Tutima had been re-established in Ganderkesee after World War II. (Tutima returned to Glashütte in 2011. Three years later, the company relaunched the NATO chronograph as the M2.)



## 1969

When Boeing's 747 jumbo jet flew for the first time in 1969, it was the world's largest passenger aircraft. As of 2016, more than 1,500 747s have been sold to customers around the globe.



1971 - 2000

1971 - 2000

## 1971 - 2000

Flying became an ordinary part of life during these three decades. Airplanes were no longer used only for transatlantic journeys, but became increasingly common for medium-distance and short-hop travel. During this time, the pilots' watch established itself as a genre in its own right and was worn as a fashion accessory as well as for functional reasons.