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Skip to main content Reddit and its partners use cookies and similar technologies to provide you with a better experience. By accepting all cookies, you agree to our use of cookies to deliver and maintain our services and site, improve the quality of Reddit, personalize Reddit content and advertising, and measure the effectiveness of advertising. By rejecting non-essential cookies, Reddit may still use certain cookies to ensure the proper functionality of our platform. For more information, please see our Cookie Notice and our Privacy Policy. If you are unlucky, you might encounter some problems with your automatic or mechanical watches.Depending on the severity, the steps to correct it will differ. Some of them can be severe that require a full service while some of the minor problems can be resolved by yourselves.Here, Ive listed some of the common problems with automatic watches, what causes these problems and how to solve them. Table of Content (Click the subtitle to go directly to the section): As great as they are, automatic watches are not free of problems. By having some knowledge about whatwe should and shouldnt do to it, we will be able to avoid costly repairs. (shown above is the gorgeous Seiko SARB033) 1- Automatic Watch Stopped Working While Wearing ItEver having problem with your watch stopped working while wearing it? If its a quartz watch then most probably the battery is dead but automatic watches dont have any battery and supposed to be powered by your movement right?Well you are correct but there are some reasons why a watch can go dead. There are 3 common causes of why an automatic watch can stop working: Cause 1 Not Enough Power ReserveSomething that most people dont know it the watch might not have enough power reserve even though you are wearing it regularly.But arentautomatic watches are recharged by wrist movement?The reason is because you are not active enough to wind the mainspringfully.Try this: take a watch with an exhibition caseback and shake it to see whether the self-winding rotor rotates or not. It is easy for the rotor to moves?Some watches can have a very smooth rotor that rotates lively even with a slight movement. But some watches have rotor that requires more effort for it to rotate.Due to this, just wearing your automatic watch to office might not be enough to wind it fully. Consider wearing your watch when you are jogging, swimming or going to gym (if your watch is a sports watch.Dont do this with a dress watch though. You dont want to scratch that pretty thing lol).Another method that I like and personally use is to manually wind your watch once a while. This will make sure the watch has full power reserve as just wearing it might not be able to recharge it fully.Just be careful to not over-wind it or wind it too often as you might break the delicate parts inside. A video showing how to wind an automatic watch. Shown in the video is the gorgeous Rolex SubmarinerCause 2 Magnetic fieldsExposing your watch to strong magnets such as in speakers, fridges, etc will magnetized the steels inside your watch.The result? The small steel components inside your watch will tend to stick to each other or repelling each other (depending on the pole) and reducing accuracy of the watch (the watch will run slower or faster).But for extreme case of magnetization, the watch will completely stop. Bring you watch to a watch maker to check for magnetization and then demagnetize the watch. Cause 3 Serious Problems With The MovementIf your watch still stops even though you wind it everyday and no magnetization is known, then there could be a serious issue with your watchs movement. Bring the watch to a watch maker and let him check the watch for any problem and servicing.If the watch is still under warranty, you can bring it to the seller for inspection or replacement. Bear in mind that full servicing can cost some money depending on the watch make and severity.Popular and affordable movements such as Swatch ETA, Seiko and Orient movements are easier to be serviced by just about any competent watchmaker. Costs of parts are also cheaper for these.But if you have a unique in-house movement by luxury or independent brands, then the official service center is the most recommended avenue. I certainly wont trust my $10k Rolex on any normal watch shop. you get what I mean right? =P (Read also the 10 Best Affordable Automatic Watches Under $200 who said that automatic watches need to be expensive?) 2- Automatic Watch Stopped Working After Taking It Off / Power Reserve ProblemYou wear your watch for some time, then put it off and when you want to wear it back, it is dead? How could this happen?The reasons for this to happen are exactly the same as the first problem above i.e lack of power reserve (you can refer above for itscauses and solutions). Another thing to note is the power reserve of you watch. If you are paranoid about your watchs power reserve, then get one with a power reserve indicator like this Orient Star Retrograde. As you can see, the top subdial displays its remaining power reservewhich is really handy Even though your watchs movement might have 40 or 50 hours of power reserve, the watch might stop working even before that.Why is this so?One thing that we need to know is the power reserve of any automatic is the time for the watch to stop working after its been recharged to full capacity.As Ive stated above, usually, wearing it for a day (normal 10 to 12 hours on the wrist) will not be enough to charge the watch to full.Not to mention most watches dont have power reserve indicator which can be a huge help in telling the power reserve capacity at any moment.In fact, most experience owners state that the remaining power reserve of the watch is about 2 or 3 times the last duration we wear it.So for example, if Im wearing my watch for 12 working hours today, it will tick for 24 to 36 hours after I put it down. What should we do then?For me, Ive always manual/hand-wind my auto watches before I use them. A few turns (15-20) is enough to start the movement and then I just wear it.The key is to NOT only depend on the self-winding of the movement. As mentioned above, the rotor movement might not be sufficient especially if youre working a desk job without many wrist movements.In addition, this will keep the accuracy high as the watch has more juice in it.What if Ive tried that but it didnt work!Then there could be a bigger problem in the watch. Try to handwind it for 40-50 crown rotations and lay the watch down. This will make the mainspring full of power reserve.Keep record of what elapsed hour the watch stops.If its less than the published power reserve for that movement, there could be a problem with the movement itself.At this point, we should bring it to a watchmaker for him to have a look at it. Depending on the case, we might only need a servicing, cleaning, or a change of the mainspring.CHIYODA Double Watch WinderBy the way, it might also be a good idea to invest in a watch winderwhich is agreat alternative for those that dont want to have to reset or handwind their watches before they use it.The watch winder functions by rotating the watch via a motor. Just place the watch inside the winders slot and plug it in.It will then rotate the watch, and the self-winding rotor inside it to charge the power reserve.The watch winder is a great way to ensure the power reserve is still full without us having to do anything. It also prevent from issues due to winding (which can happen to some ETA movements).By the way, did I mention the watch winders can also be a nice storage box for your watches? =) I like to also add that theSistem51 movementby Swatch boasts a 90 hours power reserve. For those that dont want to spend on a winder or just want a watch with great power reserve, you might want to check the Sistem51 watches. 3- Automatic Watch Stopped Working After Dropping ItThis cause is easier to understand. You drop the watch, it get into a sudden impact and suddenly it goes dead. Well chances are your watch might have some internal damage in it.The inside of an automatic or mechanical watch is made of hundreds of parts that work seamlessly to run the watch. These parts can be as small as 1 mm in thickness or diameter. Any sudden impact could put these parts out of place or worse, even break them.The part that are more prone to impact damage is the balance wheel. The pivot/staff of the wheel balance is a very critical part because it holds the weight of the balance wheel which is continuously moving at a high speed. This Seiko SARB017 (or Alpinist) has a built in shock resistance system developed by Seiko i.e Diashock to protect its balance wheel jewel from severe impact damage. All good outdoor or divers watches should always have this to protect it from costlyrepairs Most damages due to impact is because of broken wheel balance pivot and/or itsjewel.If your watch stopped working after dropping it, try hear if there is any sound in the watch to know whether your balance wheel is functioning or not.If your watch has exhibition caseback, you can just confirm this by looking directly at the balance wheel to spot anything wrong with it. The only solution is to bring the watch to a watch maker for a repair.Some shock protection system has been designed to protect automatic/mechanical watches from impact damage, specifically the jewel.Incabloc (from Swiss), Diashock (Seiko) and Parashock (Citizen) are some of the shock protection systems that have been devised by watch companies. All of them have some sort of spring at the jewel pivot of the balance wheel to protect it from impact force.If you are a rough person that tends to get his watches damaged this way, you might wanna check out those watches with a shock protection system in them. Balance wheel is the part inside an automatic watch which is most prone to impact damage 4- Automatic Watch Running Slow Or FastAutomatic and mechanical watches will always run slow or fast after some time. The most accuratewatches are the COSC certified chronometers that can have a -4 or +6 seconds per day accuracy.Other watches can have a lesser accuracy than this and you have to check the official numbers by your watch manufacturer. But generally the accuracy values is within +/-25 seconds a day for a low end range of automatic watches.If your watch have a lesser accuracy than this then this indicates a problem with your watch. There are 5 reasons why automatic watches will run slower or faster than acceptable accuracy: Cause 1 Not Enough Power ReserveAccuracy of a movement is tracked at maximum power reserve, after a watch has been fully wound. If a watch is not fully wound (or power starved), then the accuracy will be slightly lesser than what your watch manufacturer advertised.Try to at least wind it once a while for it to have a full power reserve. You will notice a difference with the accuracy compared to when the watch just relied on wrist movement. Cause 2 TemperatureAnother important thing that most people dont know is that your watch have different accuracy in different temperatures.Too hot (more than 38 degrees Celsius) or too cold (less than 15 degrees Celsius) will affect the metal parts inside the watch. Steel will expand at high temperature while contracting when its too cold. Coldness can also affect the lubricants inside the watch.Most of the times its the coldness that affect the accuracy since it will take a very high temperature to make a difference not all of us live in scorching hot desert.But coldness especially during winter can change how the watch behave. It will run slower a bit if exposed to cold weather and might have shorten power reserve. But the effect of coldness will not be apparent if you are wearing the watch though as our body temperature will heat the watch up. Cause 3 PositionWatch movements accuracy is highly affected by the balance wheel and escapement. These systems can be affected by the position of the watch due to gravity. Examples of watch positions is flat with dial/watch face looking up, dial down, vertical positions with different locations of crown.As you can suggest, the dial up or down is basically when you put the watch on a table/closet after wearing it during the day. The vertical positions are during wearing the watch.During each of these positions, the effect of gravity will cause the balance wheel to have a slight change in movement causing some inconsistency. Most watches are most accurate at one or two of these positions.When you put the watch at other positions, the accuracy will suffer. This is the main reason why chronometer is highly sought after they are designed and adjusted to be accurate for all positions.My suggestion is to keep track of what position your watch is most accurate and what position it isnt. You can use apps to help with this. Just search for watch accuracy in appstore/playstore.Normally these apps will have you set the watch to accurate time in the beginning and then you can record the time at intervals and it will report the accuracy in seconds per day. By doing this, you will know what position your watch is most accurate and use it consciously. Cause 4 MagnetismAs stated above, magnetism of watch can greatly reduce accuracy. Its highly recommended to avoid placing your watch next to any digital or electronic devices to avoid magnetism. Case 5 Due For ServiceJust like a car, automatic and mechanical watches also need to be serviced after some time based on manufacturers recommendation. This is one of the biggest flaw of automatic watches versus quartz watches.Because of the high number of moving parts inside it, automatic watches need to be serviced to keep the movement well oiled and also to adjust the balance wheel and escapement. Generally, 3 to 5 years are the normal service interval. Dont skip this if you want to keep that watch as heirloom for your grandson =) (Read also the 30 Best Automatic Watches Under $1,000) 5- Fogging Inside Watch Some watches especially dive watcheshas screw down crown for added protection. The dial window and caseback is easily guarded from water ingress by gasket and seals.Since the crown is used for manual winding and setting the time, it has a staff that is connected to the movement inside the watch. The small gap between the staff and the casing is the perfect place where water can get in.Screw down crown solves this problem by screwing the crown into the case, and eliminating any possible gaps between them. Shown above is the Seiko SKX009 with its crown unscrewed. Remember that screw down crownsMUST ALWAYS be screwed properly at all times even when storing the watch except when using the crown of course. But it has to be reminded that the screw down crown must always be screwed in tightly when you are using the watch for any activity especially swimming or diving. The crown must not be operated while underwater for, well.. the reason is obvious right.It is also recommended to get your dive watch to be tested for water resistance after a few years. It is worried that the gasket and seals of the watch has already worn out.If you are a serious diver, then it is very important to ensure your watch is always in perfect water resistance condition to avoid any unwanted problems. 6- Minute Hand And Second Hand Not Perfectly AlignedA common issue with automatic watches is the minute hand and second hand are not perfectly aligned.For example, when the second hand is at the 12 oclock position, the minute hand is not perfectly on top of any minute marker. An example of how not setting the time correctly can cause the minute hand not sitting directly on the minute marker when the second hand is at 12 oclock. By the way, theres no problem with the watch and this can be fixed easily. This is caused by improper setting of the time when first bringing the watch from stop.To be honest, this does not mean theres any problem with the watch. The watch is running fine but to people with a keen eye for detail, this is not acceptable.Personally, I also dont like this, but not because it doesnt look nice. For me, a watch need to be easy to tell and having a non-perfectly aligned minute hand makes the time telling unusual and weird.So what do I do to avoid this problem?Ill stop the second hand exactly at the 12 oclock position and then move the minute hand to be perfectly on top of the minute marker.While this is easy to do with a hacking movement, its a bit more difficult with a non-hacking movement (such as the 7S26 inside Seikos SKX watches).For those movements, we need to be more precise as the second hand does not stop. So the moving of the minute hand need to be on-point when the second hand passes the 12 oclock. 7- Automatic Watch Not WindingIf you feel theres a problem with the hand-winding function, try to let the watch stop on its own.Then pick it up and give it some hand-winding. The watch should start after a few turn of winding the crown. If it isnt, this means theres a problem with the movement and a visit to your watchmaker is need to resolve it. 8- Date/Day Display Dont Change At The Right TimeA common issue that Ive personally faced is the date and day indicator dont change correctly.Im sure those using analog watches with either one of this feature will experience the date/day suddenly change around noon.The only reason for this is incorrect setting of the day/date.We need to remember that automatic watch is not like an electronic watch. It does not know the current time (i.e am or pm). Which is why the day/date will simply change once the hour hand completes 2 rotations (or 24 hours).So whats the correct way of setting the day and date display?Below is the step by step guide on how I change my date/day display on my watches:When first picking up the watch, move the time until the hour hand is at 12:00. See if the day/date change or not.If the day/date change means the watch just entersAM modeIf the day/date does not change means the watch just entersPM modeFrom there, you can set the time according to your current time. For example: if you move the hour hand to 12:00 > day/date change means the watch just enters AM mode > but youre in the afternoon > move the hour hand a full rotation (12 hours) to enter PM mode > then set time and day/date. [UPDATE]Currently I dont use the method above when setting my watches and prefer another method. Below are the steps of this method:Change the date and day to ONE day before the current day. E.g if today is May 15 Sunday, then we need to change the date to 14 and the day to Saturday.Move the time needle to 12:00 and notice the change in date/day window.If there is no change, that means the watchs internal time is in PM mode. Another rotation of the watch will change it into AM time of the current day. We can adjust accordingly from here.If the day/date change, it means the watch just enter todays time in AM mode. Again, we need to adjust the watch accordingly.Watch the video about for the summary of the common problems with automatic watch End ThoughtsAutomatic/mechanical watches are a delicate piece of engineering and should always be treated delicately. Not to mention they cost way more than normal quartz watches. So Id put them as the fancy sports car expensive but have to be properly taken care off lol!Thus, it is important for all automatic watch owners to know what can be done and what cannot be done to prevent from any unwanted and costly problems to their prized watches.Do let me know if you need any assistance with the problems above. Ill try my best to help you out. I hope that you guys will find this post beneficial to you. Let me know if you have any comments or thoughts on this matter.Dont forget to share this article if you like it =)Till next time. Cheers!Isaac Having a watch run too fast or slow is very annoying when trying to see the time. It can turn into a very frustrating daily task to adjust the watch for its inaccuracy, rather than just being able to enjoy the watch fully. A watch is something that is supposed to be a tool. However, needing another tool (mobile phone) to adjust the watch kind of defeats the purpose of the actual tool (watch). Automatic watches will run approximately +/- 10 seconds per day in worst-case scenarios. The amount the watch will run too fast or slow depends on the quality and the care taken of the watch. If the watch is running more than +/- 30 seconds per day, take the watch to a professional watchmaker. When to take it to a watchmaker (which can be very costly) takes some knowledge to asses. Throughout this post, you will get a good guideline for when a service is actually needed, and when it is natural for the watch to run fast or slow. Troubleshooting an automatic watch is quite tricky when you dont have the watchmaking skills to open the watch. However, some logical approaches can help you determine the potential cause of a fast or slow running watch. If you experience your watch is running faster or slower than usual, you should seek a watchmaker/jeweler. They will open the watch and troubleshoot. If wanted, you can have them service the watch, so it becomes accurate again. There are some believes that turning your watch in a particular direction can temporarily adjust the time of the watch: Automatic watch is running very fast: Put the watch with the crown up.Automatic watch running fast: Put the watch with the crown downwards.Automatic watch running too slow: Put the watch on its case back with the dial facing upwards. The idea of putting the watch on a specific side is that it will slow down or speed up the watch, depending on how the watch lay, because of gravity. Gravity has an effect on how the watch runs, which is why the tourbillon was invented. This is also why you will see a watchmaker calibrate a watch from multiple different angles when testing the timekeeping of a timepiece. However, you will not be able to adjust for wider varieties. Whenever the watch is running more than +/- 5 seconds per day, you will have a problem controlling it with the methods mentioned above. However, you can consider what you have done wearing the watch. From the period you last knew, it was running fine to the moment it was no longer keeping time accurately. Are you worried your watch is damaged? In that case, I have made a meaty post that explains the ways you might have ruined your watch. There can be many reasons why an automatic watch runs fast or slow. One thing is for sure, an automatic watch will have deviations in either a fast or slow direction. However, unusual deviations shouldnt be accepted. Therefore, understand what you do wearing the watch can be a big helper in understanding whether the watch might be damaged or not. First is the service intervals, the most important aspect of any automatic watch. The service of a watch is what makes it a lifetime machine. If you consistently take the watch to service every 3-5 years, the watch will virtually last forever. The recommended service intervals vary a lot from watch to watch and manufacture to manufacture. High-end watches such as Omega and Rolex recommend services every 7-10 years. Whereas, lower-end watches such as Seiko recommend a service every 3 years. The service intervals are, of course, influenced by the amount of care taken for the watch. Lubrication: Besides enjoying the timepiece, one of the biggest aspects of owning an automatic watch is servicing. The main reason watches are needing servicing is due to lubrication. Most people dont need water resistance because they never use the watch near water. Furthermore, the wear and tear usually occur when the lubrication is no longer fresh. The lubrication of a watch will slowly wear out over the years. This is why there are recommended service intervals. High-end watches are using better synthetic lubricants, and lower-end watches use cheaper, less effective lubricants. The small layers of lubricant on the cogs prevent the cogs from ever actually touching. Essential, this means the cogs will never wear down if the watch is adequately lubricated and serviced. Water resistance: For any watch with water resistance, the servicing of the gaskets and lubrication of the gaskets is vital to secure the watch is tight. Water-resistance is not essential to most people as people never use their watches for diving and water activities. If a watch is not water-resistant and water or moisture would enter the watch, the watch will need a complete overhaul. Moisture will make the lubrication grimy, and depending on the amount of moisture will clog up the movement. Wear and tear: Wear and tear will happen eventually as the watch is worn. Stress is put throughout the movement, and the entire watch will, in most cases, be running from the first day you purchased it. Obviously, the wear and tear will be more significant on poorly serviced watches. A lot of areas of an automatic watch is not lubricated. This means that despite proper lubrication, some parts will inevitably wear out and need replacement. Magnetism is one of the great sinners within faulty watch movements. Watchmakers often say that magnetism is a cause of a watch not keeping time. The worst part is that magnetism can be picked up everywhere. If youre a frequent traveler, your watch is exposed to metal detectors that have quite strong magnetic fields. Fortunately, most modern watches is not or barely affected by such equipment. Omega is recommending to keep watches away from loudspeakers, refrigerators, certain handbag clasps, I-pad cases, and alike products. If you are fortunate enough to own a Master Co-Axial Chronometer movement, Omega says that the watch can be exposed to up to 15,000 gauss (a magnetic measurement unit). In contrast, a strong refrigerator magnet is 100 gauss. The best and fastest way to check if you have a magnetized watch is by hovering the watch over a compass. If the compass starts to sway, your watch is magnetized. Other professions that is often affected by magnetism is health care personal, pilots, electricians, etc. Healthcare personal who works near x-ray or MRI scanners is exposed to extreme magnetic fields. These magnetic fields can be so strong that even the modern automatic watches cant avoid being damaged. Antique or vintage watches can be destroyed by magnetism. In general, older watches should be kept far away from any magnetic equipment. Magnetism is the only issue that you can actually fix yourself without opening the watch, potentially causing more harm to the movement. Using a demagnetizer (Opens a new window to Amazon), you can actually remove the magnetism from the watch without going to the watchmaker. Dropping a watch is not an uncommon thing. Accidentally bumping the watch into something very rough is not unusual either. Whenever you drop a watch or bang it into something, you can end up dismounting cogs and springs. This can make the watch run fast or slow, but it can also make it stop until it has been fully repaired. In rare cases, you might have gotten the regulator pin moved. However, this is a highly unlikely event. If the watch just needs a regulation, the cost of the reparation might only be somewhere between $20-$50 depending on the place you live, and the time (hence the complexity) the watchmaker needs to fix the regulator. In some cases, the hairsprings (e.g., from the balance wheel or mainspring) could get entangled. The tangling of hairsprings typically happens when there is a massive jerk to the movement. Another thing that could also impact the hairsprings is a miss alignment from the drop. If the hairspring in the balance wheel is miss-aligned, the watch can end up running fast or slow. Temperature is a big influencer for how the lubricants behave in an automatic watch. Automatic watches have lubricated all moving parts to minimize the wear that happens over time. Lubricants will harden under too low temperature, and when exposed to high temperatures, they will become too liquid to lubricate the movement correctly. In essence, when the watch is exposed to low or high temperatures, the lubricants will lose their capabilities. Sooner or later, the watch will run too fast or too slow. However, you shouldnt run around hiding the watch from the sun on a summer day, and stop wearing it in the winters. Todays lubricants are synthetic. Hence the temperature changes is no longer a big problem. However, when thinking of storing the watch for a more extended period, the temperature is one of the first things you should consider. If the watch is stored in an attic, you should investigate the temperature before storing an automatic watch in such places. Attics are notoriously known to be very hot or very cold. On hot summer days, attics can be worse than a sauna, and on cold winter days, you wouldnt know the difference between being in the attic and outdoors. Omega has the recommendation of keeping the watch below 60C or 140F and above 0C, or 32F, and extreme temperature changes. Seiko recommends to keep the watch above 5C or 41F and below 35C or 95F. The extreme temperature changes often get the hot tub debate. When having been out skiing all day, and then storming into the hot tub will inevitably cause a lot of change to the lubrication in the watch. While the temperature itself might not damage the watch, it will damage the accuracy of your watch. Gravity is one of the bigger reasons that a watch will run slow or fast. However, not many know about it. The position of the watch gives it a slight rate of loss or gain, depending on which side the watch is facing. Typically it is believed that the time can be adjusted by placing the watch on either side overnight. However, in reality, it is just gravity playing with your watch. Setting the watch in a fixed position every night will not actually adjust for running fast or slow. However, what it will do is to either slow down or go faster when you are not wearing it. It is believed that if the automatic watch is running very fast, it should be put on its 9 oclock (crown facing upwards). If the automatic watch is only running slightly fast, it should be placed on its 3 oclock (crown facing downwards). Lastly, if it is running too slow, the watch should be put on its case back, having the dial watch upwards. If the watch isnt winding correctly, you will see the watch run too slow. It is a general rule of thumb that watches is most accurate when their power reserve is wound from 30% and up. There could be several reasons for the watch, not winding correctly. The first and most likely reason is a worn slip-clutch. In the debate of whether automatic watches can be overwound, the mainspring has a y-shape which is used to make a little fold that can slip freely inside the mainspring drum when the mainspring has been wound enough. If the mainspring is old, the fold might have been significantly worn down to a point where it is not able to apply the correct pressure towards the mainspring-drum wall. If the mainspring cant create friction against the wall, it might spin excessively. In essence, it spins before it has to, making it lose a lot of its power reserve before it is meant to. Another reason is the braking grease used to create friction against the drum wall. When the braking grease starts to wear out, the mainspring will start to slip before it is required. The effect is the same as the above mentioned with a worn slip-clutch. When a watch fogs up, it is caused by one thing: It is no longer tightly sealed. The gaskets that secure the watch from outside moistures will wear out with time. This is why service intervals are essential. Gaskets are lubricated with oils, and they are placed in areas that prevent moisture from entering the watch, such as the case back and the crown. However, if the gaskets are no longer adequately lubricated or aged to a point where they are not tightly sealed towards the surfaces of the watch, water can start to enter the watch. The reason the gaskets wear out and get damaged is caused by 2 things: significant temperature changes and improper lubrication. Back to the hot tub example. If youre at the ski resort and after a good time at the after-ski you want to go home in the hot tub, you could go from something like -15C or 5F to 40C or 104F. Those extreme temperature changes will cause the gaskets to decrease and afterward increase a lot in size in a short amount of time. The other reason is improper lubrication. This isnt meant as a poor watchmaker job, but rather because the watch has been used around soaps, dissolvents, perfume, etc. Remember, the gaskets is made for the water not entering the watch. This means that the liquids will actually make contact with the gaskets. If the gaskets are repeatedly exposed to soaps and dissolvents sooner or later, the lubrication will wear off, and the gaskets will start to rip apart (picture an old rubber band, it will disintegrate). Often experience your watch stops during your sleep. You might even have wound the watch before going to bed, and it still turns up to be stopped when you wake up. If this happens to your watch, it can be a combination of all the above. However, you can do some tests to see if the power reserve is damaged (mainspring). A typical day at work is 8 hours. The average person sleep between 6-8 hours. This means that during a day of work, you can experience what happens to your watch. If you have a day at the desk, or otherwise have access to look at the watch occasionally, you have an excellent opportunity to test. When you arrive at work, wind the watch manually with the crown enough times to make sure it is supposed to be fully wound. Typically you will use 20 turns to make sure it is running. However, you want it fully wound. Therefore, wind until you start feeling resistance, or about 50-60 turns. If the watch stops, you know there is something wrong with the manual winding mechanism. However, if the watch keeps going for its rated hours (typically between 30 to 70 hours), there is something else wrong. The last thing you can test yourself is the rotor, which is the automatic winding in your automatic watch. You do the same thing as before. However, instead of winding the watch manually, you now shake it for about 2-5 minutes to make sure the rotor has rotated to a point where the watch should be fully wound. If the problem persists, you should go to a watchmaker. Some gears might have been misaligned, which leads to poor winding, and you shouldnt try to fix that yourself as you can permanently damage the watch. When a watch is running too fast, your first thought will most likely be that something is wrong. While that might be true, there is actually a legitimate reason for automatic watches running both too fast or too slow. You properly know quartz watches which is characterized by their one tick per second. Even poor quality quartz watches are able to be precise within +/- 2 seconds per day. It is quite common that high-end automatic watches run about +/- 5 seconds per day, whereas lower quality automatic watches can run +/- 20 to 40 seconds per day. It is difficult to adjust an automatic watch to be more accurate than that. Whenever you have an automatic watch that runs late or slows, you should be true to yourself about the quality of the watch. Many Chinese movements are highly inaccurate, and if the watch is a replica or cost less than $200-$500, you shouldnt expect it to be more accurate than +/- 30 seconds per day. While the price of a $200-$500 price range is not a factor of actual quality, it is a good guideline to estimate when the quality changes from a lower grade to a higher grade. E.g., Seiko watches are quite accurate while being cheap. The COSC standard is a standard measuring the maximum acceptable deviation per day. Any COSC certified watch will run between -4/+6 per day. While this cant be used as a broad comparison on all watches, you will know what the acceptable rate is for a COSC certified watch. COSC certified watches are identified by the Chronometer marking on the dial. The widely popular Seiko movement caliber 6R15 is accurate within -15/+25 seconds per day. These specifications are what Seiko themselves says the watch is calibrated to run within from the factory. Obviously, it would be difficult sending a watch back because it was inaccurate being in that range. Omega, on the other hand, will have chronometer certification on some of their watches. Furthermore, Omega claim that any qualified Omega watchmaker can and will adjust the watch to be within -1/+6 per day. The difference between the Seiko and Omega standards clearly shows the quality aspects, and what can be reasonable to accept on an automatic watch. The deviation you should accept on a modern automatic watch should be about +/- 10 seconds per day. Whereas you must allow a more significant deviation for the antique watches. There are not made with the same technology and precision as modern watches. The worst-case scenario for an antique watch could be upwards of +/- 60 seconds per day. Above the 6 oclock behind the hour hand is the marking of the Chronometer certification. Its a matter of personal preference how much variation you accept. Watch enthusiasts dont allow more than a +/- 5-10 seconds variation per day. Furthermore, if the watch is more than +/- 30 seconds off per day, you should not accept it and take the watch to a watchmaker to get it fixed. Using the COSC certification is a good way of measuring how much variation you should accept on a watch. However, if the watch is not marked with a Chronometer certification, you cant use the COSC as a measurement for when the watch is too much off. Furthermore, only about 3% of the total Swiss watches are COSC certified. Skip to main content Reddit and its partners use cookies and similar technologies to provide you with a better experience. By accepting all cookies, you agree to our use of cookies to deliver and maintain our services and site, improve the quality of Reddit, personalize Reddit content and advertising, and measure the effectiveness of advertising. By rejecting non-essential cookies, Reddit may still use certain cookies to ensure the proper functionality of our platform. For more information, please see our Cookie Notice and our Privacy Policy. Joined Feb 10, 2008 Messages 4,277 Reaction score 1,643 I'm reaching out to all the watch hounds on the forum (GDL and co.). I got a Seiko automatic for X-Mas from my better half and I've noticed that it is running a bit slow. I would estimate that it is losing maybe 30 sec per day.Is this something that can be fixed and if so about how much would it cost? Like Reply Joined Feb 25, 2008 Messages 3,043 Reaction score 20 Sure. Leave the face, and get a new spankin' movement inside. Better yet, I hear there's this new fangled thing called Quartz that's rather accurate at keeping time. Just a suggestion... This diet was once commonly referred to as sex, drugs, and rock n' roll. It was the routine that kept people consistently thin up until the early 90's. But then it became popular to just say no to drugs and nicotine, rock n' roll died, and people got too fat to ********. Like Reply Joined Sep 28, 2008 Messages 151 Reaction score 0 Short answer: Yes--shouldn't be too much. Longer answer: If you're going to walk in the world of mechanical (don't discount hand-wound) watches, then you should try to develop a relationship with a watchmaker/AD. It shouldn't cost to much to have a watch regulated. Having said that, you could always try to regulate the watch yourself--see the link in wacked's post. Like Reply Joined Feb 10, 2008 Messages 4,277 Reaction score 1,643 Thanks for the replies, especially the article that Whacked linked to.Does anybody know of a good resource to find a reputable watchmaker/AD in my area (NE Ohio)? I know I could try the Yellow Pages, but that's sort of like throwing a dart at a map. Like Reply Joined Jun 29, 2009 Messages 720 Reaction score 49 Originally Posted by Biggskip Thanks for the replies, especially the article that Whacked linked to.Does anybody know of a good resource to find a reputable watchmaker/AD in my area (NE Ohio)? I know I could try the Yellow Pages, but that's sort of like throwing a dart at a map. There are several professional associations that watchmakers may belong to, and picking a member of one or more of those would be a good first step: AWI (American Watchmaker's-Clockmaker's Institute)American Watch Guild Like Reply Joined Apr 11, 2007 Messages 11,075 Reaction score 1,523 Very simple adjustments. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REGULATE IT YOURSELF! Bad, bad idea. If it's new, take it back to where you bought it, they may do it for free, or fairly cheaply. If not, find a reputable watchmaker in your area and have them do it. As I said, it should be a fairly simple thing for a trained watchmaker to do. You are neither trained, nor do you have the right tools to do this. Don't even try it on a watch you care about.JMHO. "...you may all go to hell and I will go to Texas." Davy Crockett Like Reply Joined Feb 4, 2009 Messages 34 Reaction score 0 With a Seiko, you are better off sending it back to the manufacturer for repair. Seiko movements are not quite as straightforward as classic manual and automatic movements. As a result, many highly skilled watchmakers will shy away from them because of this. I think Seiko has a service center on both coasts. AT the very least, they can probably give you an estimate. Like Reply Joined Nov 24, 2008 Messages 156 Reaction score 3 Before you send it in for service you might want to try a few things. First, wear the watch for a month or so. The movement should break-in and accuracy improve. Secondly, since the watch is running slow, it might not have enough power. Try winding the watch by hand for a few days. It will add some wear to the crown to wind it but otherwise doesn't hurt an automatic to wind by hand. If this helps, you'll know you aren't active enough to keep the watch fully wound. (This is a common problem for people who work in offices.) Thirdly, watches run slower or faster in different positions. Try changing the position of the watch when you take it off for the night. For example, leave it crown down for a few days, then crown up for a few day, then flat on its back for a few days, etc. You don't have to go through the whole cycle. When you find a position that works for you, just adopt it. Also, for a mechanical watch to be a COSC certified chronometer it must not lose more than 4 nor gain more than 6 seconds per day. Most watches are not certified. Some are not certified because of the certification cost but most watches can't meet the accuracy requirement. Since your watch will never be bang on, you should consider how much time and money you want to spend chasing a few seconds a day. You didn't mention the specific watch so this advice is fairly general. Like Reply Joined Apr 2, 2009 Messages 45 Reaction score 0 I agree with the last post. The fact is that If it is not a certified crono, 30 seconds a day is not a big deal. Like Reply Joined Jun 17, 2009 Messages 49 Reaction score 0 I agree with an earlier post. At night try letting it sit in different positions . MY JLC will lose or gain noticebly in different positions. Also there is a breaking in period. Like Reply Joined Sep 24, 2006 Messages 7,319 Reaction score 7 Originally Posted by SVS Also, for a mechanical watch to be a COSC certified chronometer it must not lose more than 4 nor gain more than 6 seconds per day. Most watches are not certified. Some are not certified because of the certification cost but most watches can't meet the accuracy requirement. Since your watch will never be bang on, you should consider how much time and money you want to spend chasing a few seconds a day. You didn't mention the specific watch so this advice is fairly general. He did, and it's a Seiko. Seiko is among the few brands that peruse their own chronometer standards instead of submitting movement to COSC. That includes Grand Seiko as well. Even though 7S26 is now used mostly in entry level Seiko automatics, the workhorse movement should do a lot better than gaining/losing 30 seconds a day. I consider countries where one can smoke indoors and bribe officials very civilized although I do wonder about the availability of German auto mechanics. That's the important thing. - LabelKing Like Reply Joined Jul 15, 2013 Messages 1 Reaction score 0 any decent jeweler watchmaker should charge no more than 15 but try self adjust first make sure its fully wound and leave dial up overnight by your bedside Like Reply Joined Jul 20, 2012 Messages 749 Reaction score 121 If the watch looses 30 seconds a day on your wrist, then there is something wrong. Like Reply Joined May 10, 2005 Messages 10,061 Reaction score 3,167 Seikos never lose time.Must be a counterfeit. Like Reply

Shell shockers unblocked 76. Shell shocker unblocked games 1147. Shell shockers unblocked 72.