

My Dude Watch

Watch Glossary

Plain-English explanations of common watch terms you'll see throughout the Buyer's Guide and My Dude Watch content. No hype. No jargon. Just what actually matters.

Applied Indices

Hour markers that are physically attached to the dial rather than printed. They add depth and light play and often feel more premium, but they are not automatically better.

Automatic (Self-Winding)

A mechanical watch powered by the movement of your wrist. It does not use a battery and requires occasional servicing.

Bezel

The ring surrounding the crystal. It may be fixed or rotating. On dive watches, it is used to track elapsed time.

Bracelet

A metal band attached to the watch. Quality varies widely and has a major impact on comfort and perceived quality.

Case

The body of the watch that houses the movement and internal components. Shape, finishing, and proportions matter more than raw size.

Caseback

The back of the watch. Solid casebacks are classic and often thinner, while exhibition casebacks display the movement.

Chronograph

A watch with stopwatch functionality using pushers and sub-dials. Chronographs are often thicker and visually busier.

Crystal

The transparent cover over the dial. Sapphire is highly scratch-resistant, mineral crystal is more affordable, and acrylic offers a vintage look.

Dial

The face of the watch. Balance, contrast, and legibility are more important than decoration.

Dial Vibe

A My Dude Watch term describing how a dial feels visually: clean (minimal), balanced (some detail), or busy (lots going on).

Dive Watch

A tool watch designed for underwater use, typically featuring a rotating bezel, strong lume, and 100–300 meters of water resistance.

Field Watch

A simple, legible watch inspired by military designs. Known for comfort and everyday usability.

GMT

A watch capable of tracking a second time zone using an additional hand or bezel.

Heritage

Refers to brands or designs rooted in long watchmaking traditions. Often includes a premium for legacy rather than specifications.

Indices

Hour markers on the dial. These may be applied or printed; clarity and contrast are more important than method.

In-House Movement

A movement designed by the brand itself. This does not automatically mean better performance and can increase service costs.

Lane (MDW Term)

A framework for buying watches based on expectations: Mainstream, Microbrand, Heritage, or Factory-Direct.

Lug-to-Lug

The distance from the top lug to the bottom lug. This measurement often matters more than case diameter for fit.

Lugs

The protruding arms of the case that secure the strap or bracelet.

Lume

Glow-in-the-dark material applied to hands and indices. Even application is more important than maximum brightness.

Manual-Wind

A mechanical watch that must be wound by hand. Often thinner and more engaging, but less convenient.

Mecha-Quartz

A hybrid movement combining quartz accuracy with a mechanical-feeling chronograph action.

Microbrand

A small, independent watch brand focused on design intent and value rather than mass production.

Power Reserve

The amount of time a mechanical watch will run when fully wound. Around 40 hours is sufficient for most wearers.

Quartz

A battery-powered movement known for accuracy, reliability, and low maintenance.

Serviceability

How easy and affordable it is to service or repair a watch over its lifetime.

Strap

Any non-metal band attached to a watch, such as leather, rubber, or fabric. Straps significantly change how a watch wears.

Tool Watch

A watch designed primarily for function and legibility, such as dive, field, or pilot watches.

Versatility

How well a watch works across different situations, outfits, and use cases.

Water Resistance

A rating indicating protection against water exposure. 50 meters is suitable for daily life, 100 meters for confidence, and 200 meters or more for tool watches.