



#### Technical Specs

**Model:** ref. 16610

**Movement:** Rolex automatic calibre 3135

**Water resistance:** 300m

**Case:** Steel, 40 mm

**Strap:** Oyster Fliplock bracelet ref. 93250, with extension links



#### Omega Seamaster

Numerous worthy Omegas have worn the 'Seamaster' name, but it took another James Bond to provide this venerable timepiece with near-Submariner credibility. After flirting with assorted watches over the decades, Pierce Brosnan's Bond turned to the Seamaster, which served him through four films. (A pox, by the way, on those who 'retired' Brosnan - the best Bond since Connery.) His wrist was graced with the current chunky Seamaster - part of a family of watches with blue or black dials, quartz or automatic movements, steel, gold or titanium cases. We like the base mechanical model containing the Omega Caliber 1120 self-winding chronometer movement with a 44-hour power reserve. It is housed in a 41.5-mm stainless steel case, resists water down to 300m, carries a domed, anti-reflective, scratch-resistant sapphire crystal and is held on by a stainless steel bracelet. Ask for the blue ref. 2531.80.00 (pictured; £1,100) or the ref. 2054.50.00 in black if your heart is pure.



#### DOXA SUB 600T

Another secret agent, another cinematic link, and genuine underwater worthiness: DOXA's SUB 600T is the current version of the SUB 300T, as worn by fictitious adventurer Dirk Pitt, from the novels by Clive Cussler. Arriving on the scene in 1967/8, the 300T is credited for introducing screamingly orange dials to diving watches, for their enhanced legibility. When Cussler put one on Pitt's wrist, he started a cult. DOXA relaunched the SUB 300T as a limited edition of 1,000, available online, selling out quickly enough to inspire variants including the Sharkhunter with black dial, and the Divingstar with yellow dial. But we can stick as close as possible to the original (a strong requirement here) thanks to the movie, *Sahara*. With Matthew McConaughey as Pitt, it will feature the orange-dialled SUB 600T, with twice the depth capability, a 44.5-mm stainless steel case and an ETA 2824 automatic movement. It is limited to 3,000 pieces, so move quickly. This is a bargain at \$1,468 - a price equivalent today to only £785. Further information: [www.doxawatches.com](http://www.doxawatches.com)

# Modern Classics: Rolex Submariner



You want famous? Try this one for size: a watch that celebrated its 50th anniversary two years ago that *still* commands a waiting list. A watch that barely depreciates in value. A watch that is resolutely mechanical, yet still found on the wrists of divers as a back-up to their computers. A watch that is, quite possibly, the most faked and counterfeited model in the world. A watch that has had a couple of massive tomes entirely devoted to it. A watch good enough for James Bond.

Ken Kessler

You need not feel sheepish for coveting or aspiring to a Rolex Submariner. We are not talking 'Used Car Salesman Chic' here. It is a functional masterpiece to rank with the Zippo lighter and the Land Rover. It is a tool with a fashionable cachet - one that even Rolex's worst efforts at 'blinging' cannot harm. And given the way Rolex pimped up the Daytona with last year's leopard-skin look, that is saying something.

Not the first waterproof watch, nor even Rolex's first waterproof watch, it has overshadowed every diving rival for a half-century. It started out as a butch version of the Rolex Oyster - a watch case design that had, by the early 1950s, already proven its imperviousness to water, dust and other destructive elements. What it added to the diving lexicon, concurrent with certain Jaegers, Blancpain's Fifty Fathoms and other pioneering sport watches, was a rotating bezel to indicate elapsed time for divers. It featured a highly legible dial, a robust bracelet and - in its earliest form - the capability to survive depths of 100m. A year later, it was waterproofed to 200m.

That early version, without 'shoulders' protecting the crown, became the so-called 'James Bond' model because it was worn by Sean Connery in the secret agent's earliest cinematic appearances.

In 1959, however, it had the shoulders added and the size was upped from 36 mm to 40 mm - the template for the model you can buy in the shops today for £2,350 (ref. 16610). Over the years, the Sub acquired date indication beneath the 'cyclops' magnifying glass (first added in 1969) and a flat sapphire glass replaced the domed Plexiglas in 1979, when the depth capability was increased to 300m.

It is absurd to force the old-vs-new debate upon current consumers. Rolex's movements have never been better and the preference for Plexiglas over sapphire is purely collector fetishism. So choices are limited to case material, though only the foolhardy would want gold instead of stainless steel for a utilitarian watch. Some of you, though, might wish to acquire the green bezel anniversary model featured on Issue 5's cover. And if you actually intend to get yours wet, you might also look at the Submariner's beefier brother, the Sea-Dweller. It goes deeper, and has a helium escape valve built into it.

To be blunt, only one detail mars the current model for the purists, and that is the overly brash rings of metal surrounding the white-dot hour markers. Other than that, it's as if time stood still. ○

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