

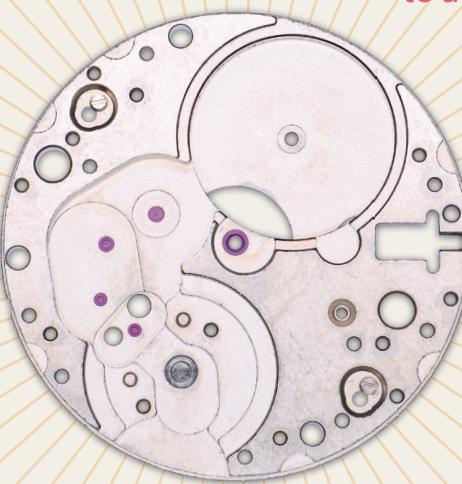
Kalle Slaap

Foreword by
The British Horological Institute

Watchmaking Explained

A Modern Multimedia Guide
to a Centuries-Old Craft

1st Edition



*Everything you need to
know as a watchmaker,
but no one is telling you.*

THIS BOOK
INCLUDES
EXCLUSIVE
VIDEOS!



Watchmaking Explained

"INTELLIGENT PEOPLE ARE FULL
OF DOUBT, WHILE THE FOOLISH ARE
OVERFLOWING WITH CONFIDENCE."

At Chronoglide, our mission is to put the ‘social’ back in social media. We don’t judge—we simply focus on horology and supporting everyone’s personal growth within the worldwide watchmaking community.

This book is written in that inclusive spirit, embracing and respecting everyone, no matter their religion, gender, politics or personal preferences.

I’m always open to feedback to help make the book better. Real progress only happens when people share constructive criticism in a respectful way.

At the end of the day, everyone has the right to take advice or leave it. That personal freedom deserves all our respect.

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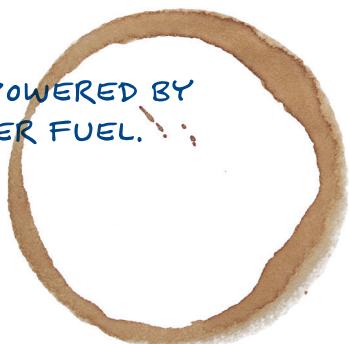
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THIS BOOK IS POWERED BY
WATCHMAKER FUEL.



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Foreword



BRITISH
HOROLOGICAL
INSTITUTE

Horology has a long and distinguished history, standing for centuries at the cutting edge of science and technology. Yet, as time moves forward, skilled horological repairers and restorers are becoming increasingly rare. Rarer still are those who can convey this complex craft in a clear and accessible way. Kalle Slaap is one of those rare talents—combining world-class technical expertise with exceptional teaching ability.

Since 1858, the British Horological Institute has been dedicated to training horologists, and we are confident in endorsing this book and the invaluable work of Kalle and his team.

Gary Williams MIET
Chairman

Preface

PLEASE REMEMBER:
AMATEURS BUILT THE ARK;
TITANIC WAS BUILT BY
PROFESSIONALS.

This book is exactly what I needed when I first started learning about watchmaking all those years ago, but it didn't exist until now. Back then, I was swamped with books about collecting watches and the theoretical side of horology. But what I really wanted was some firsthand advice from real-world experience, and those kinds of resources were near impossible to come by. The practical books I did find were dated small prints written in some academic way, and they often referenced even older texts. No fun and almost unbearable to read.

Most of the watchmakers I met when I started were highly protective of their knowledge, creating an exclusive "old boys' network" that was as welcoming as a bowling ball to a tennis match. Many of those older men were more focused on criticizing others' methods rather than guiding, supporting, and nurturing eager students to help them improve and benefit from their experience. If only those watchmakers were a bit more like actors or musicians, being able to get inspired by the performance of their fellow creative colleagues instead of a permanent state of criticism and vicious disapproval. I really do hate the looking down on less experienced watchmakers by so called professionals, especially when those same professionals are complaining that they cannot find anybody who is willing to take over their shop by the time they want to retire! That closed environment has to change in order to safeguard the future of watchmaking in general before some acquired skills are lost forever. Continuity is key and besides that, it is so much fun to inspire people and watch their knowledge, skill and confidence grow!

A traditional watchmaking school takes about three to four years of dedicated studying, after that you start working on your own and you will rapidly find out that

you lack experience in the real world of watch repair. This book will not make you a seasoned watchmaker just by reading it, but I want to make the amazing craft of watchmaking easy to grasp and to lower the threshold to start and try it for yourself.

It is my mission to share best practice solutions and explain watchmaking in the most understandable way possible. That is why I chose to write this text in an informal way. This book will point out most pitfalls that can kill your enthusiasm as an aspiring watchmaker. Step by step I talk you through the different processes and even for experienced watchmakers I'm sure there will be a wealth of information to enhance your already existing knowledge and skill.

Nobody is born a watchmaker, but it can easily be taught and as you gain confidence it is the best and most rewarding hobby or profession you can ever think of!

I sincerely hope you will enjoy watchmaking and find it as fulfilling and stimulating as much as I do. I wish you all the best in your endeavors and truly believe in your potential.



Kind regards,

Kalle Slaap
Grootschermer,
The Netherlands, 2025



Introduction

THE MORE YOU DIVE INTO
ANY SUBJECT, THE MORE
INTERESTING IT GETS.

Algorithms are everywhere and artificial intelligence is already an integral part of daily life. Who knows what the future will look like 20 years from now? Even in my wildest Star Wars, 2001 Space Oddity, or Star Trek dreams, I cannot imagine a scenario where the physical craftsmanship of a watchmaker could be surpassed by automated technology. Watchmaking is, in my opinion, the perfect balance of 50% knowledge and 50% skill. You can read every single book and watch every available video about horology, but if you cannot manage your tools a watch movement will never run perfectly. The opposite is equally true; you can be the best mechanic in the world, but if you do not truly understand the horological basics of a watch movement, there is no hope for an excellent result.

This book will help you find this perfect balance. I'll lead you through the world of watchmaking section by color coded section, starting with the theoretical bit and step by step we will dive into practical watchmaking. The text is written as if I'm explaining it to you directly, as though you're an apprentice in my workshop. I genuinely believe this approach is the most effective and hope it meets your expectations.

Next to the text you will find a QR code that will link to a video, this to make the topic more visual and to show you some handy tricks. Just a text and occasional picture is in my view too abstract for a delicate topic as a practical craft.

The videos will be regularly updated so this book is truly alive and will contain new information even if you haven't read it for a while, how cool is that!



IT TOOK ME YEARS TO BUILD UP THE COURAGE TO START THIS WRITING PROJECT, BECAUSE WATCHMAKING IS FULL OF EXCEPTIONS TO EVERY SINGLE RULE, WHICH MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO DOCUMENT ACCURATELY.

WITH SO MUCH (MIS)INFORMATION OUT THERE ON THE INTERNET, IT WAS TIME FOR A NEW KIND OF KNOWLEDGE SHARING—A COMPREHENSIVE MULTIMEDIA BOOK WITH USEFUL TEXT, PHOTOS, AND VIDEOS TO SUPPORT THE INFORMATION.

BRINGING THE CENTURIES-OLD CRAFT OF WATCHMAKING INTO THE FAST-MOVING, DIGITAL 21ST CENTURY.

KALLE SLAAP

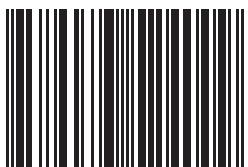


As founder of Chronoglide Watchmaking, Kalle Slaap (1972), professional watchmaker and teacher in The Netherlands, has always been passionate about preserving the art of watchmaking and inspiring a new generation to explore the craft. With this unique book, he reaches out to watch enthusiasts, beginners, and experienced watchmakers alike.

Unlike traditional academic books, *Watchmaking Explained* is written in a personal and engaging style, making it an enjoyable and accessible read.

Integrated QR codes give access to videos with in-depth technical explanations and hands-on demonstrations, as well as connect readers through the Chronoglide Forum.

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Training watch and clockmakers since 1858

The institute endorses this content as additional supporting material to assist students with their studies.