

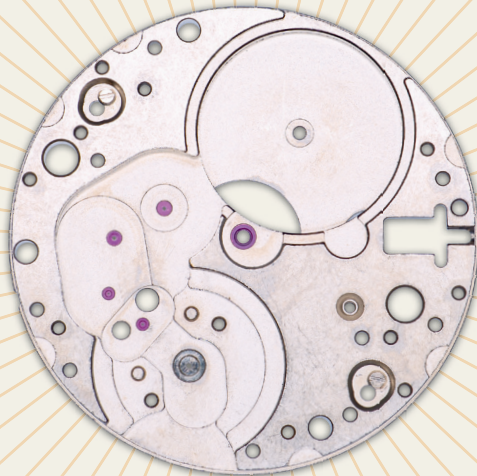
Kalle Slaap

Foreword by  
The British Horological Institute

# Watchmaking Explained

A Modern Multimedia Guide  
to a Centuries-Old Craft

1<sup>st</sup> 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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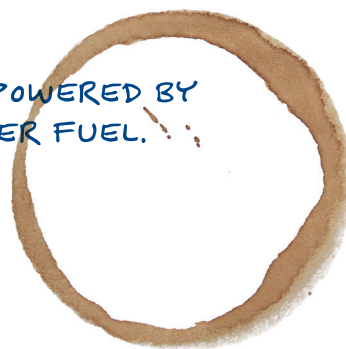
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THIS BOOK IS POWERED BY  
WATCHMAKER FUEL.



# Contents

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Contents	4
Foreword	9
Preface	10
Introduction	12
 <i>Section 1</i>	
<b>Introduction to watchmaking</b>	<b>14</b>
Approach	15
A watchmaker's Journey	17
What is a watchmaker anyway?	20
The future of watchmaking	22
Revision, repair and restoration	25
Online (mis)information	27
 <i>Section 2</i>	
<b>Understanding watches</b>	<b>30</b>
Approach	31
The basic mechanical logic	33
Complications	36
Water-resistance	38
Watch winders	42
Watch brands	45
Micro brands / independent watch brands	49
Haute Horlogerie	52
Counterfeit watches and replicas	54
The meaning of vintage in watchmaking?	57
The meaning of Swiss Made?	60
Seiko and the far-east philosophy	63
Trading in watches	66

---

### Section 3

<b>Workplace</b>	<b>74</b>
Approach	75
Controlling your body	77
Workbench basics	79
Physical layout of your workshop	86
Basic health and safety	88
Mental Health	93
Security	97
Budget	100
Basic Tools, the essentials	102
Basic Machines	114
Storing spare watch parts	122
The Swiss Space program	125
Standardized naming conventions	127
Sourcing watch parts	130

### Section 4

<b>Working on watches in general</b>	<b>134</b>
The overall process	135
Opening the watch case	137
Watch Hands	142
Watch Dial	147
Escapements	151
Crystals	154

*Section 5***Working on mechanical movements 158**

The overall process	159
Repairing: disassembly	161
Repairing: Smart assembly	164
Cleaning watch parts	170
Lubrication	174
Mechanical Timing and adjustment	178
Beat error	180
Automatic watches versus hand wound	182
Most common defects	184
How to Deal with Broken Screwheads	186
Jewels	193
Polishing pivots	196
Balance Spring adjustment	198
Escapement set-up	203

*Section 6***Working on battery powered movements 206**

Approach	207
The battery	208
Quartz movements	211
Quartz, most common defects	214
Innovation	218

---

*Section 7*

<b>Getting serious about watchmaking</b>	<b>224</b>
Your personal Watchmaking ambition	225
Schools, training and apprenticeships	227
Business to Business or	
Business to Consumer?	233
Chamber of Commerce	235
Insurance	237
Setting up shop commercially	239
Administration	242
What watches to work on	247
Not getting screwed	249
What to charge your clients	253

*Section 8*

<b>Polishing</b>	<b>256</b>
Approach	257
The basics	259
The polishing process	261
Definitions	263
Machines	270

*Section 9*

<b>Epilogue</b>	<b>274</b>
Inspiration	275
Acknowledgements	277
Online content	278





# Foreword

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## 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

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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

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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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BRITISH HOROLOGICAL  
INSTITUTE

*Training watch and clockmakers since 1858*

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