

Rolex Authentication Checklist

Ten details a real Rolex gets right

Use this checklist when examining a Rolex before you buy or borrow against one. Work through each detail and confirm it matches what you would expect on an authentic timepiece. If more than one item feels off, seek professional authentication before proceeding.

THE TEN DETAILS

LOOK FOR AUTHENTIC MARKERS

- 01 Cyclops magnification**
The date magnifies 2.5x under the cyclops lens. Numerals should fill the window with crisp edges.
- 02 Micro-etched coronet**
A tiny crown is laser-etched at 6 o'clock on the sapphire crystal. Visible only at an angle under bright light.
- 03 Rehaut engraving**
"ROLEX ROLEX ROLEX" is engraved around the inner bezel ring. Text is sharp, precise, evenly spaced.
- 04 Second hand sweep**
Movement runs at 28,800 vibrations per hour, producing a smooth eight-beat sweep, not a one-per-second tick.
- 05 Weight and feel**
Substantial weight from 904L stainless steel. A Rolex feels dense in the hand. Light equals suspect.
- 06 Triplock crown**
Screw-down crown seats flush with the case. Look for the small dots or bars beneath the crown logo indicating Triplock or Twinlock seals.
- 07 Dial printing**
Text is razor-sharp with perfect kerning. No smudging, no misspellings, no uneven ink.
- 08 Applied indices**
Hour markers are applied metal pieces, not printed. Under magnification they cast a slight shadow at the edges.
- 09 Caseback**
Modern Rolex casebacks are solid, brushed, and unengraved. Display casebacks or ornate engravings are typically counterfeit tells. Some vintage models are exceptions.
- 10 Bracelet and end-links**
Tight tolerances with no gaps. The clasp closes with a satisfying, precise click. Brushing and polishing patterns match the model specification.

PAPERWORK AND PROVENANCE

- Warranty card with matching serial number
- Original box, both inner and outer
- Purchase receipt or authorized dealer papers
- Service history documentation, if applicable

> WHEN DIY CHECKS ARE NOT ENOUGH

These ten checks catch most counterfeits. Modern superfakes are another matter. Movement inspection, parts stamping, and expert-eye detection require professional tools and training. If anything on this checklist feels uncertain, get professional authentication before you buy or borrow.

Already own a Rolex?

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