

WRIST & FIELD INSTRUMENTS

Pour la collection : montres soviétiques, militaires françaises, et instruments de terrain

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Status Working Reference
Series Provenance from On High

01 / CASE ARCHITECTURE

FIG. 1 — ANATOMY OF A DIVE CASE (VOSTOK 710 REFERENCE)

LUG WIDTH · 22mm

LUG-TO-LUG · 45mm

CASE DIAMETER · 41.6mm

DIAL

CROWN

Lug-to-lug predicts wrist presence more reliably than case diameter alone – a "40mm" watch with short lugs wears smaller than this.

CASE	L2L	DIAM.	VERDICT	NOTES
710 · Ministry	~45mm	~41mm	BEST BALANCE	Cushion shape, tapers – wears larger than spec. Top pick for size + comfort.
170	~46mm	~42mm	STRONG	"Feels huge," hugs the wrist well. Between 710 and 090.
090 · Tonneau	—	~42mm	STRONG	Rectangular tonneau shape adds visual heft.
120	~49mm	~40mm	BIGGEST L2L	Tall relative to width – can wear clunky despite huge L2L.
100	—	40mm	SOLID	12mm thick, 18mm lug. Comfortable middle ground.
420	—	~40mm	RUNS SMALL	Short lugs, no crown guards. Same dial options, less presence.
110	—	—	SKIP	Lugs don't curve down – rides high, uncomfortable.
Komandirskie std.	~37–40mm	37–38mm	DRESS SIZE	30m WR only. Look for "Komandirskie 200m / 43 case" crossover instead.

02 / COLLECTION ROSTER

FI-WATCH-001 · OWNED
VOSTOK AMPHIBIA
"Victory" 1945–1995, 44.5mm

Movement · 2409, manual
Water res. · 200m / 20ATM
Case mat. · Stainless steel
Acquired · \$68 + \$14 ship

First Soviet watch. Biggest case in the collection – confirmed by spec sheet, not estimate.

FI-WATCH-REF · CONSIDERED
AMPHIBIA KGB
420457 · 40mm, novelty dial

Movement · Automatic
Water res. · 200m
Caseback · "AMPHIBIAN, MADE IN RUSSIA"
Price seen · \$78.99 shipped

Reference pick, not yet bought – clean spec, trusted seller, no import gamble.

FI-WATCH-GOAL · SAVING
RAKETA POLAR
24-hour dial · ~\$180 target

Complication · True 24h rotation
Origin use · Arctic / polar expedition
Lineage · Different factory than Vostok
Status · Saving toward

"Research scientist" aesthetic. Matches 20 years of 24h time fluency.

FI-WATCH-ADJ · ALTERNATE LANE
ORIENT DEFENDER II
42mm · day/date/24h subdial

Movement · Automatic, in-house
Water res. · 100m
Complications · Day, date, 24h indicator
Price seen · \$195 080

Modern reliability bridge between Soviet pieces and serious complications.

02.1 / SPOTTED IN THE WILD

FI-WATCH-OBS
VOSTOK BLUE DIVER
Auto, rubber strap

Blue sunburst dial, "Восток" branding, dotted bezel insert in matching blue, rubber strap. Reference example of the cushion-case diver family in a colorway not yet covered above – worth logging for future comparison against the 710/170 case notes in Section 01.

03 / ADJACENT FIELD INSTRUMENTS

ADRIANOV COMPASS

Soviet Army wrist/pocket compass, mil-graduated dial (0–600), Bakelite or metal housing. Pairs naturally on the same wrist as a Vostok.

\$20–30 + \$9–16 ship · Verify needle settles freely

AK ARTILLERY COMPASS

Adrianov sibling with hinged mirror cover for simultaneous orientation + angle reading. Mils, not degrees – 6° per 100-mil division.

No reference photo yet · Search "AK compass Soviet"

SOVIET ANEMOMETER

Manual wind-speed meter, USSR manufacture. Genuine working examples turn up regularly – same era family as the watch collection.

eBay "Vintage Soviet Manual Anemometer"

SUN HEMMI SLIDE RULE

Bamboo-bodied Japanese pocket slide rule. Standard engineer/scientist kit before calculators – genuinely portable field instrument.

Modest, widely available secondhand

MOLNIJA 24H POCKET WATCH

Caliber suffix 23/24 denotes the rare 24-hour Molnija variant. Standard production is 3602/3603 – genuine rarity hunt.

Long-term target · scarce on open market

TYPE 20 CHRONOGRAPH

French Air Force flyback chronograph spec (Breguet, Dodane, Auricoste). Modern attainable path: Airain Type 20 Re-Edition, 60hr reserve.

Vintage: collector tier · Reissue: mid-tier aspirational

ON THIS REFERENCE

Compiled from a single extended research session, June 2026. Sized for a 6'4" frame – case and lug-to-lug figures are filtered accordingly and will not generalize to smaller wrists.

DOCTRINE

D'en haut, les choses se souviennent les unes des autres.
From above, things remember one another.

SERIES

THE ARCHIVE – object-level records
FIELD LOGS – work performed
CONTRE L'OUBLI – doctrine and philosophy
PROVENANCE FROM ON HIGH – aerial surveys