How to reset watch hands

Learn how to realign watch hands for watches with a snap-off back. Note: Only perform if the hands of the watch can't be aligned properly by turning the crown.

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INTRODUCTION

If your watch hands aren’t lining up correctly, this guide will show anybody who owns a watch with a snap-off back, how to get those hands back to the correct alignment.

TOOLS:

- Tweezers (1)
- Thin blade (1)
- Pointed tip instrument (1)
Step 1 — How to reset watch hands

- To make your watch easier to work with, start by taking off the straps.
- Pull down the strap until the lug can be accessed.
- Pull down on the lug and it should freely come out of place.

⚠️ The lugs have springs in them so when removing, be careful not to let them fly out of your work space.

Step 2

- Locate the divot on the underside of the watch.
- Carefully place your thin blade in the divot and pop the buckle off of your watch.
Step 3

- Use your tweezers to grab onto the plastic holder and gently pull it out.

Step 4

- Apply pressure with the pointed tip instrument at the spot circled; around where the stem meets the main part of the watch.

- While applying pressure, pull the stem out and it should freely come off.
Step 5

- Gently place the tweezers underneath the hands of your watch.
- To remove the hands, carefully pry upwards and all of the hands should pop off.

⚠ In order to not accidentally scratch the face of your watch, place a piece of paper under where you will be prying up the hands.
Step 6

- Using your tweezers place the hour hand in the center of the watch.
- Press down on the hand, so that the hour hand is firmly attached to the center post.
- Align the hour hand with the 3 O'clock position on your watch.

⚠️ Be careful handling the hands because they can be very fragile.
Step 7

- Using your tweezers again, place the minute hand in the center of the face.
- Align the minute hand with the 12 O'clock position.
- Press down on the hand until the minute hand is firmly in place.

Look to make sure there is a small amount of space between the hour hand and the face, as well as between the minute hand and the face.
Step 8

- Carefully pick up and place the second hand in the center of the watch.
- Press down firmly so that the second hand stays in place.

The position of the second hand is not extremely important, but to get the most accuracy; place it in line with the minute hand.

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.