

## Seiko SKX007/009: A Heritage

The quality, value, reputation and timelessness of the Japanese Seiko brand can be traced all the way back to its origins, when it was founded in 1881 as a watch and jewelry shop called under the name Seikokosha, which translates to “House of Exquisite Workmanship.” Today, the brand name continues this legacy of “exquisite” and “success” in modern watchmaking, particularly with its family of Seiko Beater divers watches. The Seiko SKX007 and 009 are no exception to the company’s [hall of fame](#).

[Diving watches have been defined](#) in Berner’s *Illustrated Professional Dictionary of Horology* as watches which are “designed to withstand immersion to a depth of at least 100m and to satisfy requirements specified in ISO standard 6425.” Over the past several decades, it’s no surprise that the wrists of most military personnel, snorkelers, divers, boat crew and water sports professionals have all worn versions of Seiko’s divers watch range. When owners talk about [forming a strong bond](#) with their favorite watch brands, you know that expectations are being exceeded, and that standards are high. These humble Seiko divers watch models are part of a lineage which traces back to 1965, when Seiko introduced their first product of this kind with the 150m resistant model 6217, and quickly followed with the 6105. Seiko also introduced the first watches using titanium in their cases.

The 007 and 009 replaced their legacy models in 1996, the former sporting an all black bezel, and the latter a blue and red bezel - giving it that [“Pepsi look.”](#) From a technical and practical perspective, both versions deliver consistently in accuracy, power, and mechanical functioning. Not only do they meet Berner’s standards for diving watches, but they surpass them, allowing for an immersion range and water resistance of over 200m.

In terms of comfort and wearability, the watches are versatile and easily adjustable in size. A true adventure watch, it weathers well against bumps and scratches, and like all Seiko’s past watch models, looks even more impressive with time and wear. As for functionality, both the 007 and 009 incorporate Seiko’s Spring Drive, a self-winding movement which both reserves power and accounts for the watches’ high accuracy levels.

They also perform well in the dark, thanks to Seiko’s lume formula, [Lumibrite](#), which is applied to the hands in what appears to be a coating of white paint. The bezel itself operates in half-minute rotations. Overall, the watch aims for a minimalist approach, and its automatic movement feature means there is no need for hand-winding. Merely flick your wrist and feel the bi-rotational rotor spin - an innovation in watchmaking which follows naturally from Seiko’s gold standard history of unique and interesting, yet

timeless and functional, products and inventions. Wearers also have the option of changing the watch bracelet, which allows you to refresh the look and feel of your gadget.

Possibly the most attractive and impressive attribute of the product for watch enthusiasts, is the price tag. The SKX007/009 just about offer the best value on the market for an automatic divers watch of such quality, starting at \$165. Considering that this brand is movie-star quality, having been sported on the wrist of Martin Sheen in *Apocalypse Now*, the affordability and brand history is exactly what makes Seiko watches so attractive and popular among watch lovers - not to mention their durability in challenging conditions. No wonder the 007 and 009 are touted as being the [“worst kept secrets”](#) in modern watchmaking!