

Time puts its best face forward

WATCHES

Make the latest timepiece trends work with your style



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Metro | Life

Konstantin Täts (aka @spentologist) is a self-professed watch hoarder who boasts over 25 timepieces in his collection — yet he still can't help checking the time on his phone every once in a while.

Digital technology has become ubiquitous these days from toasters to car engines, and while he's a fan of the innovation of the Apple Watch and newly announced partnerships from the likes of Tag Heuer and Microsoft, Täts, a Toronto-based commercial realtor, will always be in love with the mechanical

aspect of his timepieces.

"Every day I put on a watch, no matter what I'm wearing because it can be made to be both luxurious, sporty and fashionable depending on the way you dress it up or down. As well, a watch's movement has a similar beat to our hearts — it's a very natural thing to wear."

To keep up with local collectors, you can follow #Red-BarToronto on Instagram and find out about collector meet ups, where watches are laid out for all to touch, try out and enjoy.

"It's a bit of an exclusive club," says Täts, "since sometimes over two million dollars worth of glass are on the table, but if someone wants to attend and they are a watch person, then we can work things out."

We spoke to experts about five of the more interesting watch trends on the market these days, and how to make them work with your look.



3 The Swatch

Launched in the '80s, Swatch set the Swiss economy back on fire with their low price points, cheery designs and interchangeable straps and faceplates. Despite their plastic bodies, quartz movements, and a plethora of commemorative editions, the populist brand still pushes out sought-after collectable pieces, especially the recent Sistem51 (\$150), a mechanical marvel made by a robot, composed of just 51 parts. Sporting a Swatch shows that you're a fun-loving individualist who doesn't take life too seriously.

4 The Trendy Watch

Timepieces with overstated faceplates are bound to get attention and help you stand out from the crowd at the club or in the boardroom. Diesel's (\$170-\$510) monstrous and metallic shiny bodies, Michael Kors' (\$300-\$579) signature rose gold and tortoise tones and U.K. newcomer Olivia Burton's (\$120-\$230) vintage-inspired faces are snapping up customer sales. The trend is also seeing retail trend-setters like J. Crew teaming up with Timex (\$114-\$172) for vintage-inspired military watches with quartz movements to keep the look perpetually in style.



1 The Antique Pocket Watch

The owner may have received it passed down by a great-grandfather who hid it who knows where during time spent in the trenches of Gallipoli, or maybe the owner is just be an unabashed steam punk fanatic. Exude an aura of old world sophistication as you adjust your monocle and pull one out from your tweed blazer breast pocket to wind the daily movement.

2 The Mechanical Watch



Like a well-crafted Porsche, a well-maintained mechanical watch will most likely outlive its owner. Some — like the Rolex Paul Newman (starting at \$25,000) or Daytona (starting at \$10,000), may never go out of style, but for the serious collector, a "grand complication," made of a few hundred parts that takes a year to make is the ultimate get. Owners claim they create a personal bond with the watchmaker by wearing one due to the movement's fine-tuning.

5 The NATO



First introduced to the public by James Bond's Goldfinger (1964) where it was used to secure his Rolex Submariner to his wetsuit, the British military picked up the woven nylon style for their soldiers in the '70s. Today, NATOs have reached mainstream, and interchangeable straps can cost as little as \$15 and go up to hundreds as crafty independent designers like Coq Straps and AP Bands have made use of fine leathers and stainless steel components for added personal flair. That might have the watch snob in your life giving the NATO a second glance.

IT'S ALL ON THE WRIST WEARING AN APPLE WATCH FROM DAWN TO DUSK

Apple's first new product in five years — and the company's first wearable gadget — makes its debut today in nine countries, including Canada. Apple Watch (from \$449) is worn on your wrist like a regular watch, but Apple's "most personal device we've ever created" goes above and beyond merely telling the time — especially when there's a nearby iPhone 5 or later to unlock its full functionality. A glimpse at how Apple Watch could revolutionize your day. MARC SALTZMAN



7 a.m. Apple Watch's vibrating alarm wakes you — without disturbing your significant other. While getting dressed, you glance at the animated watch face which also shows the current weather and when your first appointment is.



7:45 a.m. Raise your wrist and say "Hey Siri, Workout." Select "Outdoor Run" from the list of exercises, followed by a time, calorie burn or distance goal. Bluetooth headphones let you listen to music playing on the watch. Your watch can calculate your heart rate after the run.



10:09 a.m. While at the office you feel a tap on your wrist and look at the screen: "BBQ for dinner?" While you could reply with a pre-set answer or dictate a new one, instead you send an animated thumbs-up. While you're at it, tell your watch to remind you to pick up flowers at 5 p.m.



1 p.m. Apple Watch notifies you of an upcoming appointment at a new café. You're not quite sure where it is, so you tap to open the Maps app to get turn-by-turn directions. A call comes in while walking down the street. Answer it on your watch and leave your phone in your pocket.



3:30 p.m. You've been sitting at your desk for a long while, so your wrist buzzes to tell you to stand up and move around a bit. While getting a glass of water from the cooler you check the Activity app on the watch, which shows how close you are to your daily movement goals.



8:05 p.m. Your favourite basketball team is up 20 points at half-time — something your wrist discreetly tells you while taking a walk. A couple of swipes across the screen also shows some email you need to deal with later and a reminder to check into tomorrow's flight to New York.



10:09 p.m. After a relaxing round of Trivia Crack — one of the games you can download to Apple Watch — you realize it's time to charge it up. Attach the magnetic charging "puck" to the back of the watch and plug the other end of the cable into your computer's USB port.