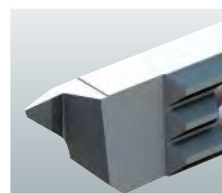
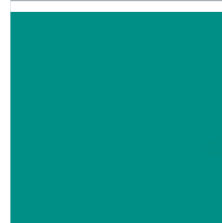
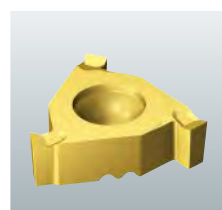
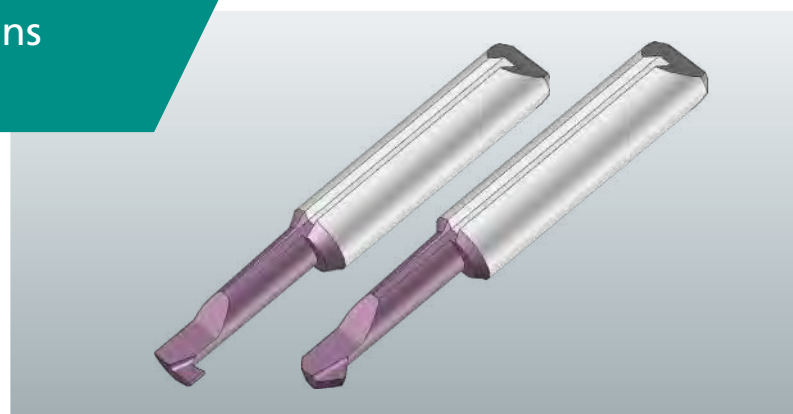


Watchmaking Industry – Solutions for the Haute Horlogerie Sector

Components, materials and applications

Tools. Next Level.



FUTURO
performance loves perfection

DC THREADING
TECHNOLOGY

IFANGER

DIXI
polytool

APPLITEC
SWISS TOOLING

magafor

SCHAUBLIN

SANDVIK
coromant

A★F

Isenr
Member IMC Group

EMUGE
FRANKEN

A★F
GOLD SHARK

REGO-FIX

WALTER
TITEX

PFERD

ETC

sylvac

Diamant **Weber**

GUHRING

NOVOSTAR

BRM
BRUNNEN
RESEARCH
MACHINERY

SWISS TOOLS



ARMAND NICOLET
TRAMELAN

AUTOMATIC

SWISS MADE

Contents

	Page
Materials and applications	4
Components for the watchmaking industry	5
Watchcase	7
Turning	8
Milling and threading	10
Drilling and reaming	12
Case back	15
Machining	16
Finishing	18
Main plate / Base plate	21
Milling	22
Drilling	24
Finishing	26
Pull-out piece / Watch crown	29
Precision-turned watch crown	30
Precision-turned pull-out piece	32
Watch strap with spring bar	35
Watch strap machining	36
Spring bar machining	40
Watch gears	43
Machining	44
Finishing	47
Decorations	48
Tool holders for micromachining machines	51
Tool holders for HSK-EZ15 micromachines	52
Accessories for HSK-EZ15 micromachines	53
HSK-E20 tool holders	53
Metrology	54
Internal measurement of the watchcase	55
Dimensional check of main plate	56
Optical measurement of external contours	58
Assembly and Service	60
Metrology – Quality control	62
Workshop equipment – Furniture	64
Devices – Machines	66
Presses	68
Hand-operated tools and tool holders	70
Chemicals/Cleaning	72
Polishing	74
Our own brands	76



Materials and applications

Various **lead-free materials** are used in the **watchmaking industry**, as it demands a high degree of precision, corrosion resistance and skin tolerability. Here are some of the most important lead-free materials:

1. Brass alloys (lead-free)

- CuZn21Si3P (EcoBrass) → High degree of corrosion resistance, often used as a substitute for lead-containing brass
- CuZn42 (CW510L) → Used for gears, cases and other precision parts

2. Stainless steel alloys

- 316L (1.4404) → Corrosion resistant, hypoallergenic, used for cases, watch straps and clasps
- 904L (1.4539) → Premium stainless steel with exceptional corrosion resistance

3. Titanium alloys

- Grade 2 & Grade 5 Titanium (Ti6Al4V) → Lightweight, biocompatible, high strength, used for cases, case backs and clasps

4. Ceramics & composite materials

- Zirconium oxide ceramic (ZrO_2) → Extremely scratch-resistant, used for cases and bezels
- Carbon fibre composites → Very light and robust, often used for sporty or limited edition models

5. Aluminium and bronze alloys (lead-free)

- Aluminium 7075 → Occasionally used for cases or light-weight components
- CuSn8 (phosphor bronze) → Used for barrels, gears and bearings



The process of **machining lead-free materials** presents several challenges, especially when compared to lead-containing alloys, which are well known for their excellent machinability. The key challenges are as follows:

1. Increased tool wear

Lead-free materials typically exhibit greater hardness and strength, resulting in accelerated tool wear. Cutting edges can wear out or chip more quickly, particularly during turning and milling processes.

2. Poor chip formation and removal

In contrast to lead-containing alloys, chips frequently fail to break into short segments and instead tend to form long, tangled strands. This can lead to issues with process reliability and surface quality.

3. Increased cutting forces and heat generation

Greater hardness requires increased cutting forces. This generates more heat, which can further reduce the tool life.

4. Poorer surface quality

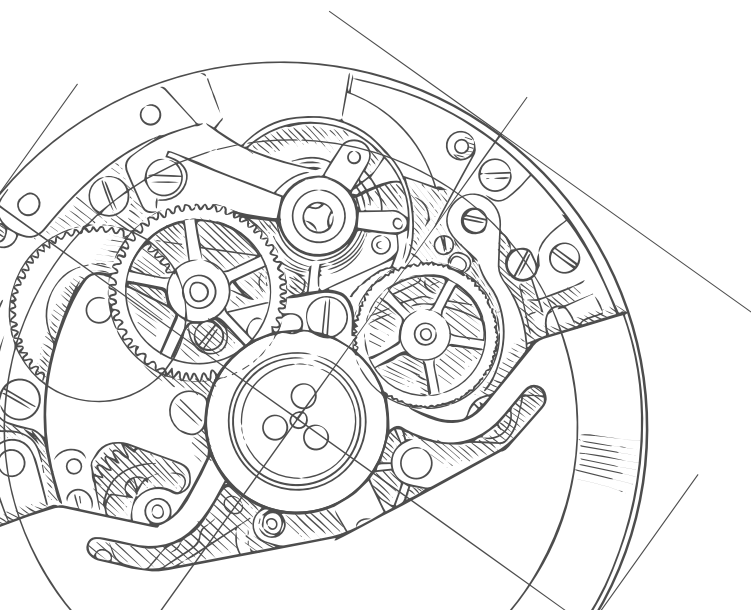
Lead-free materials frequently exhibit reduced friction properties, adversely impacting the required surface finish. Maintaining fine structures or tight tolerances can be more challenging.

5. Choosing the appropriate tools and coatings

Tools often need to be specially adapted, e.g., through coatings or modified geometries. Coatings like TiAlN and specialised polishing processes can enhance tool durability.

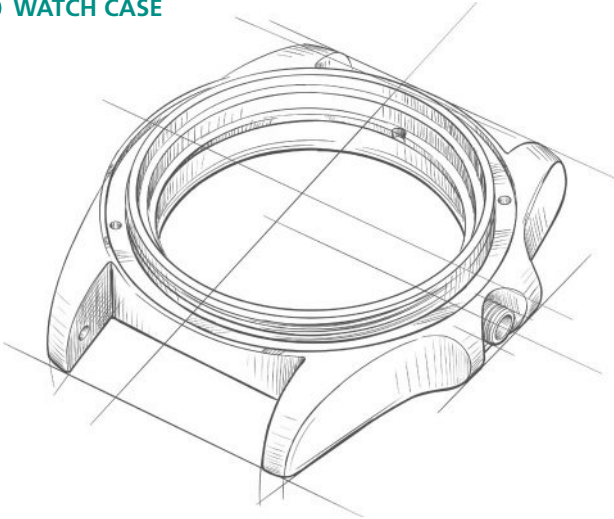
6. Optimising cutting parameters and coolant / lubrication strategy

Higher cutting speeds and reduced feeds are often necessary to minimise tool wear. Optimal cooling or lubrication (e.g., minimum quantity lubrication (MQL) or high-pressure cooling) can help to control the heat generation.



Components for the watchmaking industry

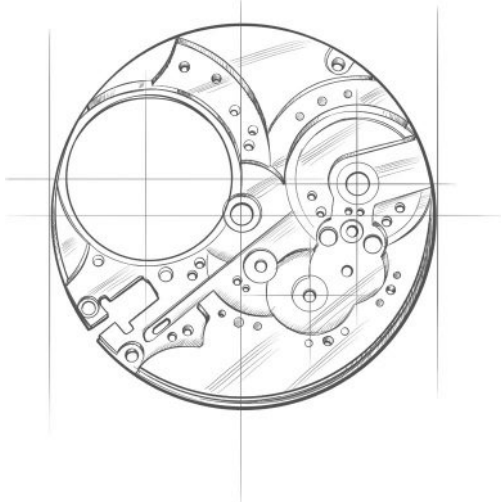
1 WATCH CASE



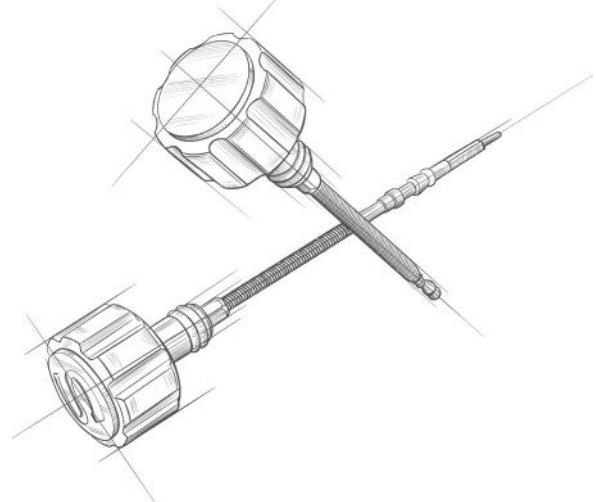
2 CASE BACK



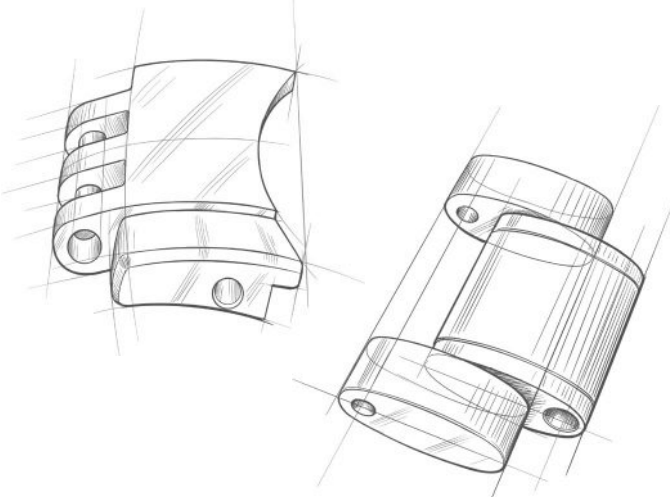
3 MAIN PLATE/BASE PLATE



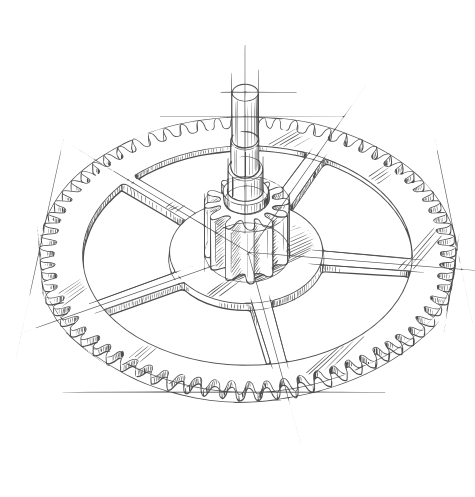
4 PULL-OUT PIECE / WATCH CROWN



5 WATCH STRAP WITH SPRING BAR



6 WATCH GEARS





Watch case

The **CNC machining of watch cases** requires stringent precision, careful material choice and optimised machining strategies. The decisive factors are as follows:

1. Choice of materials and their machinability

- Stainless steel (316L, 904L) → High degree of hardness, challenging machinability and increased tool wear
- Titanium (Grade 5, Grade 2) → Lightweight, yet susceptible to strain hardening and poor thermal conductivity
- Ceramics (zirconia, silicon nitride) → Highly brittle, requires grinding and laser processing techniques
- Brass/Bronze (CuZn42, CuSn8) → Comparatively easy to process, though attention must be paid to tarnishing and oxidation
- Platinum → Extremely tough and resistant, challenging to machine, causing significant tool wear
- Gold (yellow, white, or rose gold) → Soft and readily machinable, particularly when using diamond tools

2. Precision and tight tolerances

- Watch cases have extremely tight tolerances (often in the range of ± 0.005 mm)
- Crucial for ensuring the accurate fit of crystals, bezels, case backs, and seals

3. Tool selection and tool life

- High-performance carbide tools or PCD/CBN tools for hard materials
- Optimised tool geometries to reduce burring and thermal buildup
- Micro end mills ($\varnothing < 0.5$ mm) for engravings and fine details



4. Cutting parameters and strategy

- High spindle speeds → Necessary for fine surface finishes and small tools
- Optimal feed rates and depths of cut → Prevents tool breakage, improves surface quality
- Multi-stage machining (roughing – semi-finishing – finishing) → Guarantees precise dimensions

5. Clamping technology and vibrations

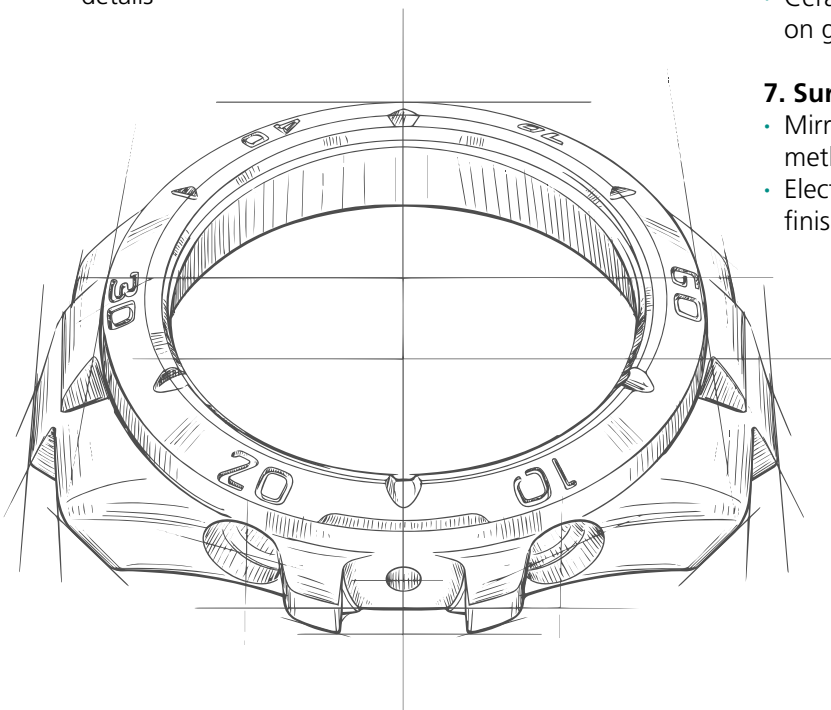
- Precision clamping systems (zero-point clamping systems, vacuum clamping)
- Minimised vibration to achieve fine surface quality

6. Cooling and lubrication

- Titanium & Stainless steel → High-pressure cooling or MQL for heat dissipation
- Brass & Bronze → Minimum quantity lubrication or dry machining
- Ceramics → Often machined without coolant, relying on grinding methods with temperature control

7. Surface quality and finishing

- Mirror polishing performed manually or via mechanical methods (e.g. tumbling and diamond finishing)
- Electrochemical plating or PVD coatings for surface finishing

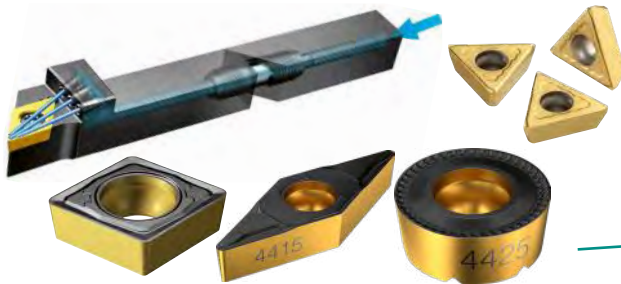


Turning

6 INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL TURNING OF THIN COMPONENTS

SANDVIK
coromant
CoroTurn 107

For internal and external turning of thin components



APPLITEC
SWISS TOOLING

ISO-Line turning system

Versatile turning programme with ISO indexable inserts for internal and external machining

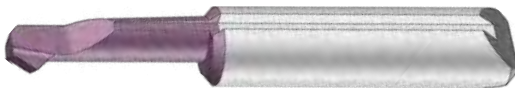


7 FACETING

IFANGER

Micro-turn faceting steel

Faceting steel MTFA available in left- or right-hand versions, with TiAlN coating



2 FACE GROOVING AND THREAD MACHINING

SANDVIK
coromant
CoroThread 254

Sharp cutting edges for high-quality grooves

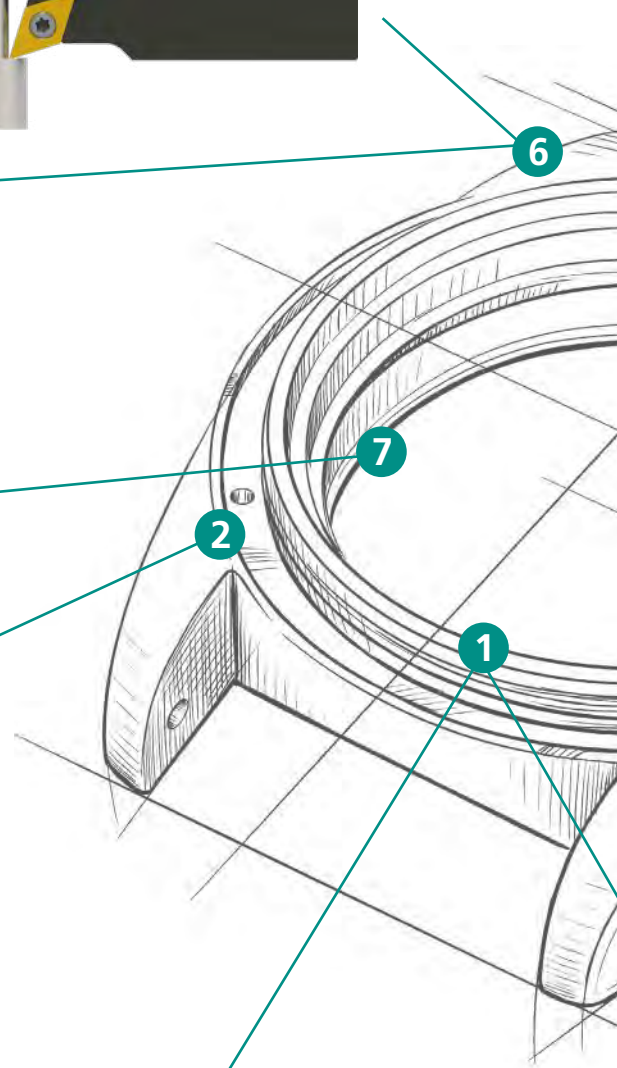


1 SERIES-COMPATIBLE MULTI-OPERATION MACHINING

ISENF
Morsen IMC Group

PICCO-MFT

Drilling, internal and external turning, facing, chamfering and 60° thread turning, from Ø 3.9 mm



4 FACE GROOVING AND THREAD MACHINING



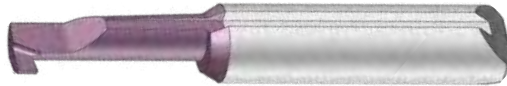
PiccoCut Grooving steel

Angled parting-off steel



Micro-Turn Grooving steel

Angled parting-off steel MTNU available in left- or right-hand versions, with TiAlN coating



3 INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL THREAD TURNING

SANDVIK

Coromant CoroThread 266

High-stability internal and external thread turning



5 PARTING OFF

SANDVIK

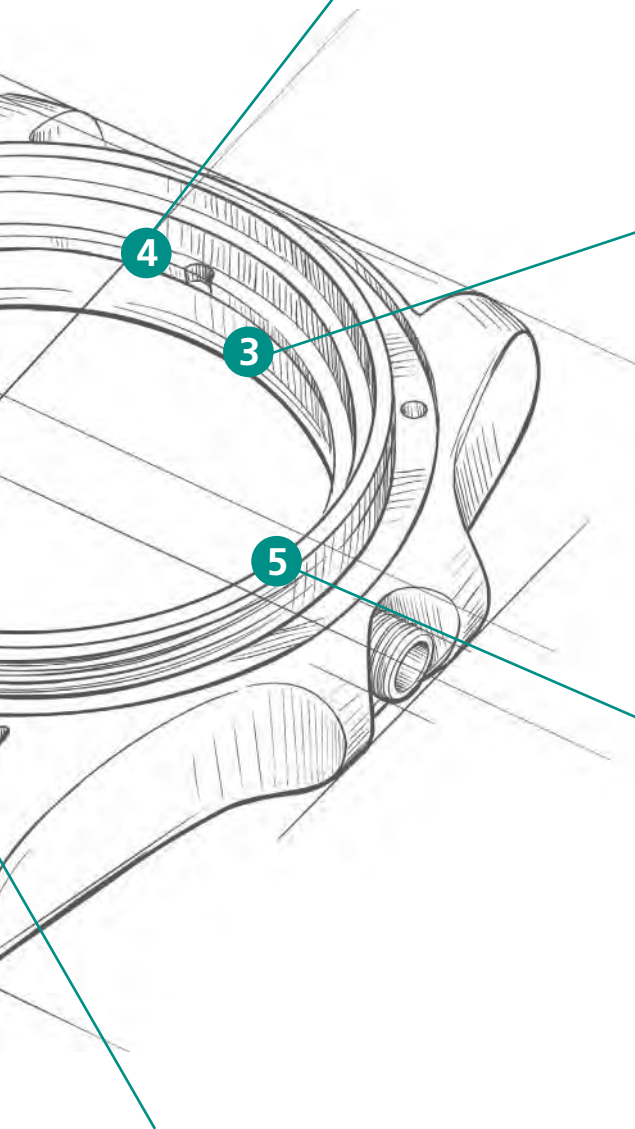
Coromant CoroCut QD

Dependable and process-safe parting-off operations



SWISS TOOLS

Precision boring head
for perfect roundness and
diameter cylindricity,
adjustable to 1 µm



Milling and threading

2 FULL-DEPTH THREAD MILLING



Thread mill GF6110VS-INT-SP
in accordance with NIHS 60-30

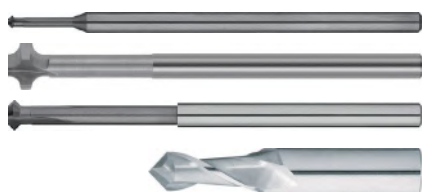


1 FACETING AND ROUNDING



Form cutters and chamfer mills

Specialised micro-tools for edge rounding starting at R 0.2 mm and faceting from Ø 0.2 mm



3 EXTERNAL CONTOUR CORNER AND GROOVE MILLS

SANDVIK
Coromant
CoroMill 316

Modular system with Coromant EH interface, corner milling, chamfer milling, profile milling and copy milling



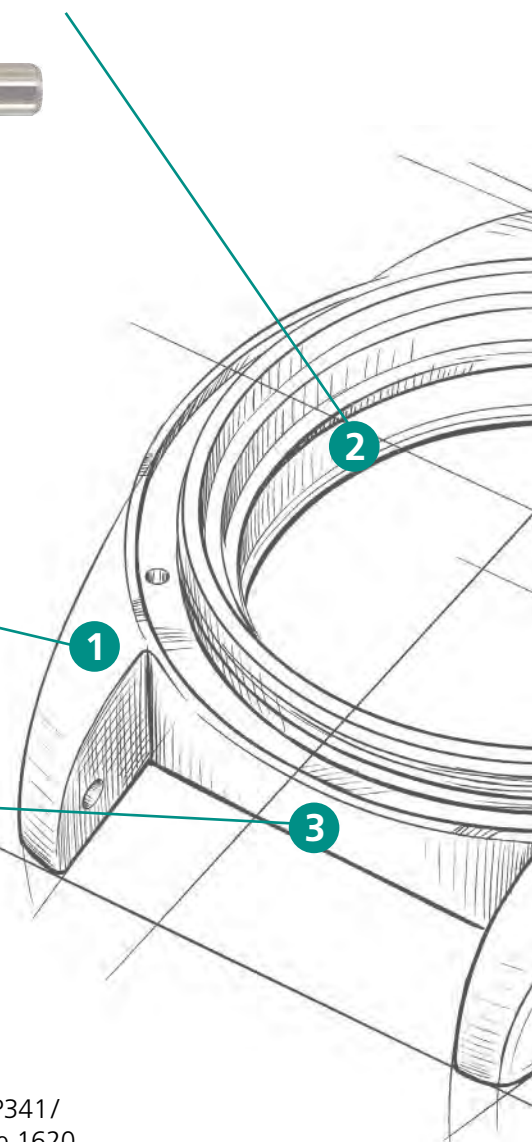
SANDVIK
Coromant
CoroMill Plura

Roughing of stainless steel, types 2P341 / Grade 1640, R216.34-BCxxB / Grade 1620



FRANKEN TOP-CUT

with TiAlN coating, from Ø 1.5–20.0 mm, the variable helix angle actively minimises vibrations



4 MICRO CORNER MILLS



Solid carbide end mill 7583

Micro high-performance end mills with reinforced shank, from Ø 0.3 mm

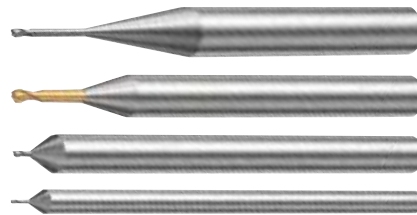


6 PROFILE MILLS

SANDVIK
Coromant

CoroMill Plura

Solid carbide Micro Ballnose Milling cutters 2P211-PC/2P212-PC, from Ø 0.5 mm



GUHRING

G-Mold 55B

Optimised for ISO M/S and ISO H, from Ø 0.5 mm



5 THREADING



Thread whirler 1737

No burr formation thanks to the full profile in accordance with NIHS 06-10



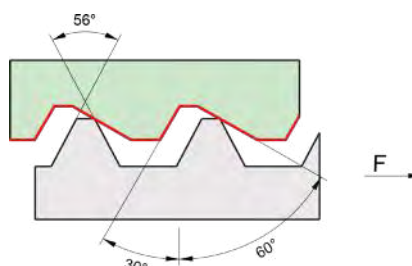
Thread whirler GW3015VS

Thread production from M0.8 using a multi-tooth double profile



Self-locking threads with Safelock system

Guaranteed resistance to impact and vibration



Drilling and reaming

4 MICRO DRILLING WITH BALL-NOSE ENTRY GEOMETRY

SANDVIK
coromant

CoroDrill 862-GM-X2BL

Optimised multi-material, external coolant, solid carbide, from Ø 0.3–3.0 mm



SANDVIK
coromant

CoroDrill 862-GM-X2BM

Optimised multi-material, internal coolant, solid carbide, from Ø 1.0–3.0 mm



5 MICRO REAMERS

 **magafor**

Magaforce 8610 Reamer

Step size of 0.005 mm for the most precise holes, from Ø 0.2 mm, with left-hand flutes



 **DIXI**
polytool

POLY 4007-TC

Solid carbide machine reamer with left-hand helix angle, from Ø 0.37 mm, featuring unequal pitch

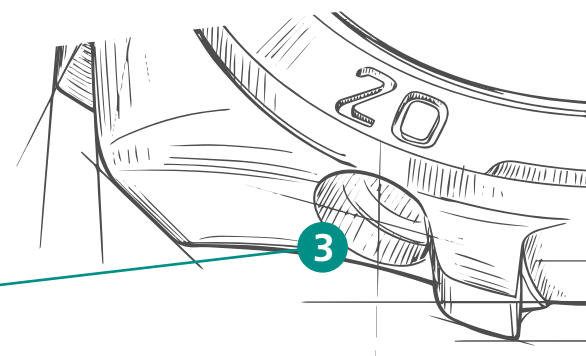
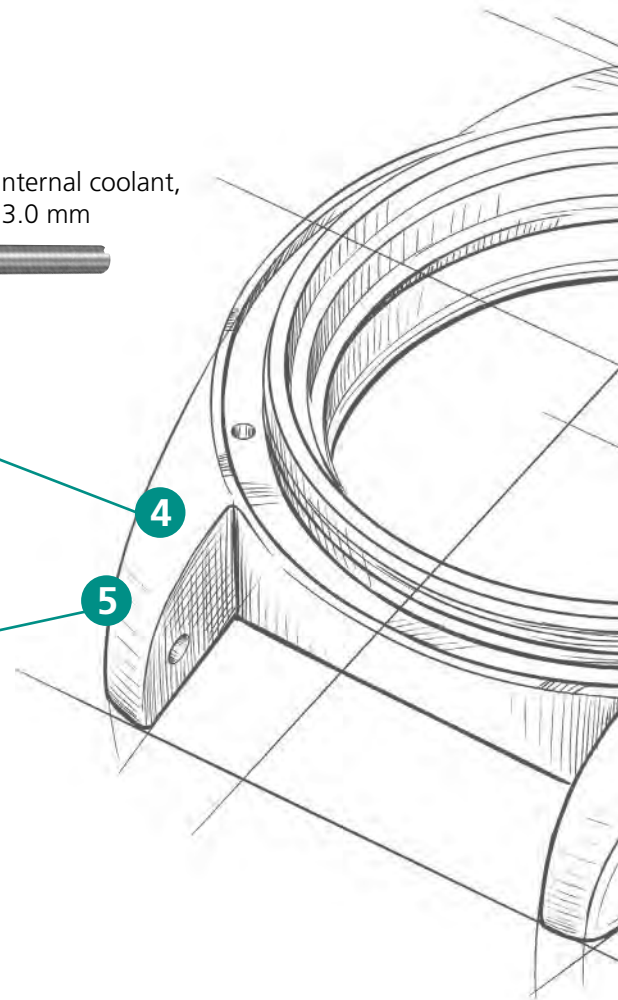


3 MICRO STEP DRILLING

SANDVIK
coromant

CoroDrill Dura 862

Micro step drill for drilling and chamfering in one step, from Ø 0.3 mm



1 MULTI-MATERIAL MICRO DRILLING



MicroForce

Solid carbide micro drills from Ø 0.1 mm



SANDVIK

Coromant

CoroDrill 462 XM- H10F

Versatile multi-material drilling with external cooling, from Ø 0.03–3.0 mm

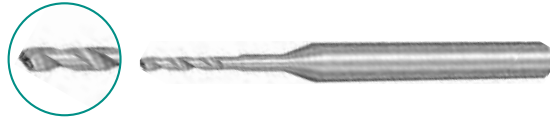


SANDVIK

Coromant

CoroDrill 862 PCD

Offers longer tool life than solid carbide drills, suitable for challenging materials such as platinum and ceramic greenware, from Ø 0.3–3.0 mm



2 SPOT DRILLING



DB131 Supreme

Solid carbide micro pilot drill with 150° point angle, from Ø 0.5–1.9 mm



Micro-Line

Solid carbide micro CNC spot drills 60°/90°, with various special coatings





Case back

The **CNC machining of case backs** requires stringent precision, surface finish and process reliability. The decisive factors are as follows:

1. Choice of materials and their machinability

- Typical materials: Stainless steel (e.g., 316L), titanium, brass, bronze or precious metals
- Machinability: Stainless steel is tough and tends to harden – requires sharp tools, proper cooling and stable processes
- Titanium is lightweight but difficult to machine (high tool wear, poor heat dissipation)
- Brass is easy to machine, ideal for high-precision work and fine details

2. Precision and tight tolerances

- Micrometre tolerances are standard (e.g., $\pm 5 \mu\text{m}$)
- Temperature compensation and machine accuracy are crucial
- Machines with glass scales and temperature stabilisation are preferred

3. Tool selection and tool life

- Coated carbide tools (TiAlN, AlCrN) for hard materials such as stainless steel or titanium
- Monocrystalline diamond tools or CBN for precious metals or the highest surface finish requirements
- Tool life heavily depends on cooling, cutting parameters and material – short, controlled machining cycles are efficient



4. Cutting parameters and strategy

- Roughing with higher feed and lower depth of cut – with a focus on material removal
- Finishing with small depths of cut and fine feeds (often $<0.05 \text{ mm/rev}$)
- Strategies like HSC (High Speed Cutting) and trochoidal machining can reduce wear and heat

5. Clamping technology and vibrations

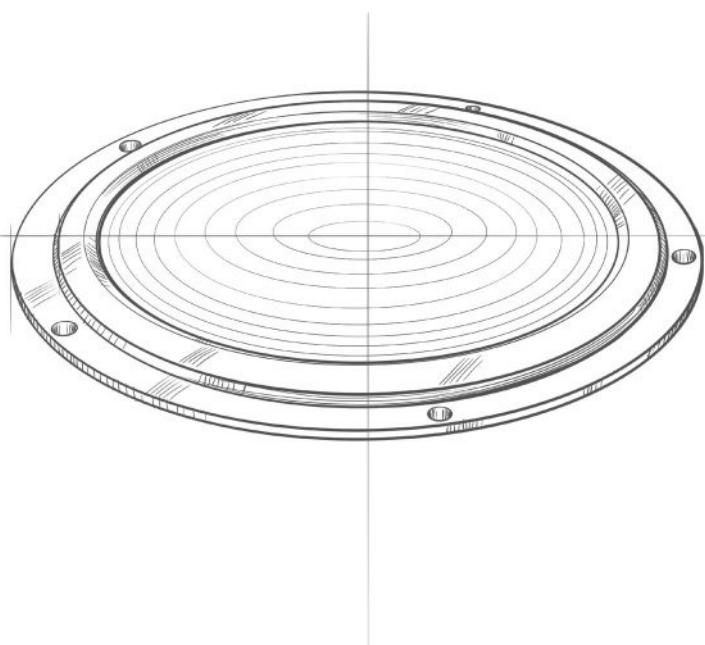
- Highly precise clamping devices (e.g., zero-point clamping systems, vacuum chucks for flat parts)
- Reduced vibration through short overhangs, rigid construction and optimal number of cutting edges
- Minimal deformations are critical – especially with thin-walled bases

6. Cooling and lubrication

- Minimum quantity lubrication (MQL) for sensitive materials and small components
- Emulsion or oil mist cooling for stainless steel to improve heat dissipation
- For titanium, targeted high-pressure cooling and heat dissipation are particularly important

7. Surface quality and finishing

- Mirror-finish surfaces ($R_a < 0.2 \mu\text{m}$) are often required
- Finishing work by polishing, laser engraving, ultrasonic cleaning or coatings (e.g. PVD)
- Strategies such as “drawing” the finish through targeted milling paths or tangential tool application



Machining

2 SEALING LATCH MACHINING

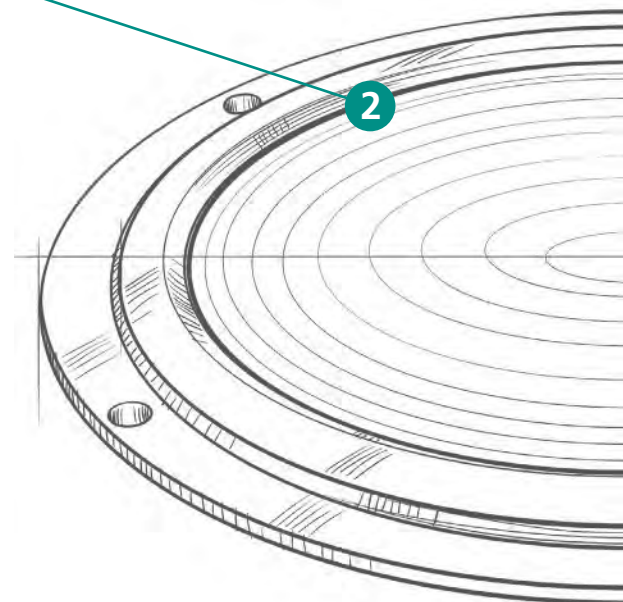
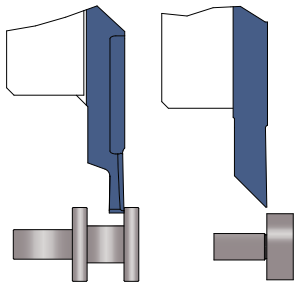
SANDVIK
Coromant
CoroCut XS

External machining in small-parts production



APPLITEC
SWISS TOOLING
TOP-Watch 742SF

Various grooving and micro-turning operations



1 HOLE FOR FASTENING SCREW: SPOT DRILLING

 **magafor**

Magaforce 819-D

Solid carbide micro CNC spot drill 90°,
from Ø 0.3–2.5 mm



 **APPLITEC**
SWISS TOOLING

Micro-Line

Solid carbide micro CNC spot drill 60°/90°,
with various special coatings



4 FULL-DEPTH THREAD MILLS



Thread mill GF6110VS-EX-SP
in accordance with NIHS 60-30



3 MICRO DRILLING IN DIFFICULT-TO-MACHINE MATERIALS



Twist drill 1137

Optimised for lead-free brass, polished clamping grooves: Improved chip evacuation, tapered core thickness from Ø 0.5 mm, reduced cutting forces, 140° tip: minimal burr formation at hole exit



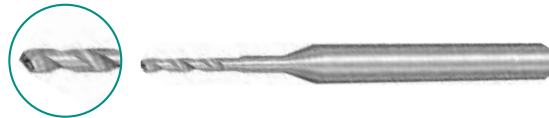
1 HOLE FOR FASTENING SCREW: MICRO-DRILLING

SANDVIK

Coromant

CoroDrill 862 PCD

Offers longer tool life than solid carbide drills, suitable for challenging materials such as platinum and ceramic greenware, from Ø 0.3–3.0 mm



SANDVIK

Coromant

CoroDrill 462 XM

Versatile multi-material drilling with external cooling, from Ø 0.03–3.0 mm



SANDVIK

Coromant

CoroDrill 862-GM-X2BL

Optimised multi-material, external coolant, solid carbide, from Ø 0.3–3.0 mm



SANDVIK

Coromant

CoroDrill 862-GM-X2BM

Optimised multi-material, internal coolant, solid carbide, from Ø 1.0–3.0 mm



1 HOLE FOR FASTENING SCREW: MICRO STEP DRILLING

SANDVIK

Coromant

CoroDrill Dura 862

Micro step drill for drilling and chamfering in one step, from Ø 0.3 mm



Finishing

3 HIGH-GLOSS ENGRAVING WITH SOLID CARBIDE

FUTURO

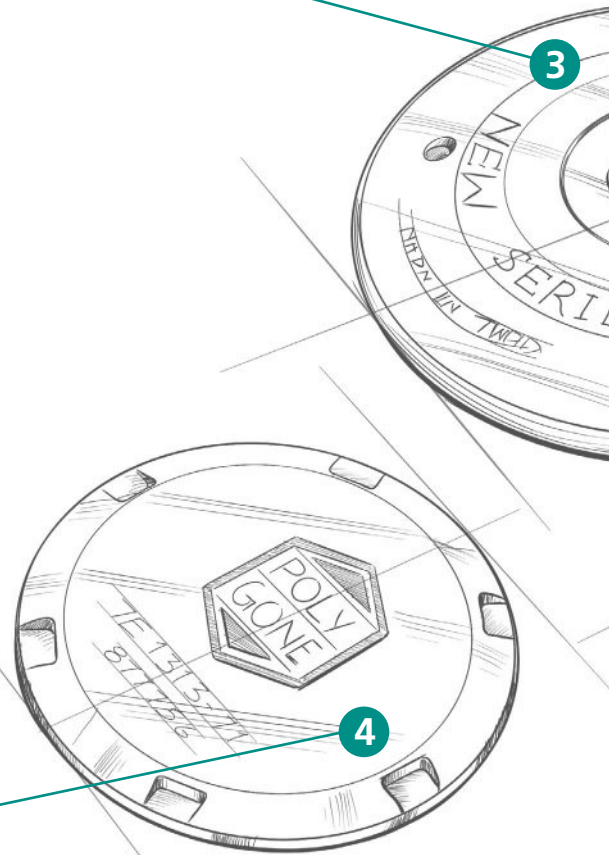
Solid carbide engraver's cutter type RSG/UMG

Reinforced solid carbide engraver's cutter
Ø 0.1 mm/Ø 0.2 mm, coated or uncoated



Micro-Line

Engraving tools for universal use, available in various designs and coatings



4 MATTE ENGRAVING WITH PCD



Engraving burin 70070-PCD

High-end PCD engraving burin, specially designed for matte engraving with $\frac{3}{4}$ geometry



Engraving burin 70170-PCD

PCD engraving burin, specially designed for matte engraving

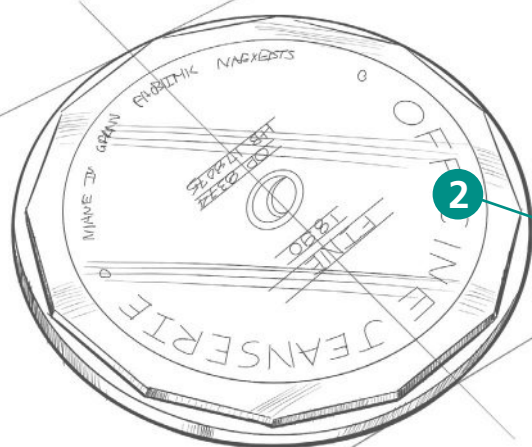
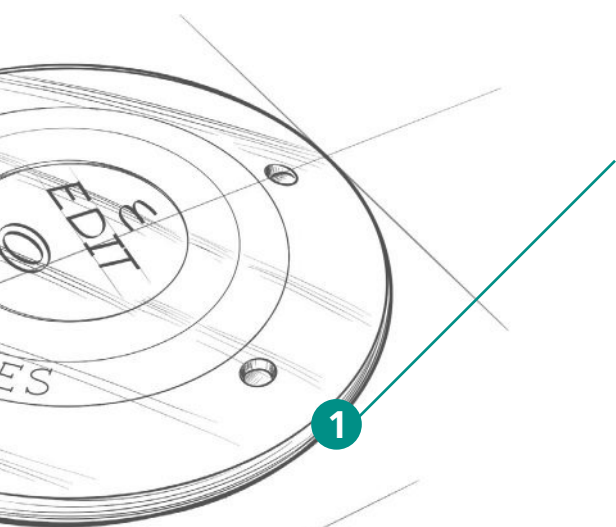


1 MULTI-OPERATION MACHINING



MAGAFOR MULTI-V

Chamfering, deburring, drilling, engraving, available in various angles 90°/40°/60°/120°, from Ø 0.1 mm



2 FINE ENGRAVING



DLC engraving burin

Special thin-film DLC coating for an extra-sharp cutting edge





Baseplate/Mainplate

Challenges in machining mainplates

Manufacturing mainplates (baseplates and bridges) is extremely demanding, as they serve as the movement's fundamental structure and require the highest precision. The key challenges are as follows:

1. Choice of materials and their machinability

Mainplates are typically made from the following materials:

- Brass (CuZn39Pb3, CuZn37) → Soft and easy to machine, but tends to scratching
- Nickel silver (CuNi12Zn24/CuNi18Zn20) → Harder than brass, but lead-free, which makes it more difficult to machine
- Titanium → Very light, but tends to work hardening and poor thermal conductivity
- Stainless steel (e.g. 316L) → Corrosion-resistant, but difficult to machine, resulting in high tool wear
- Silicon (used for high-end pallet and balance components) → Requires etching or laser processing

2. High precision and tight tolerances

- Dimensional tolerances in the range of $\pm 2\text{--}5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ → Necessary for precise fitting of gears, jewel bearings and bridges
- Parallelism and flatness → Especially important, as even the smallest deviations can affect the movement's function

3. Tool selection and tool life

- Carbide or diamond tools → Required for hard or brittle materials
- Micro-tools ($\varnothing < 0.2\text{ mm}$) → Required for fine drilling, threads and pockets
- High risk of tool breakage → Due to low cutting forces and vibrations in delicate structures



4. Complex machining strategies

- Multi-stage machining (roughing – semi-finishing – finishing) for dimensional accuracy
- Reduced cutting forces → To prevent deformation in thin areas
- Precise clamping technology (vacuum or zero-point systems) → Necessary for vibration reduction

5. Heat development and burr formation

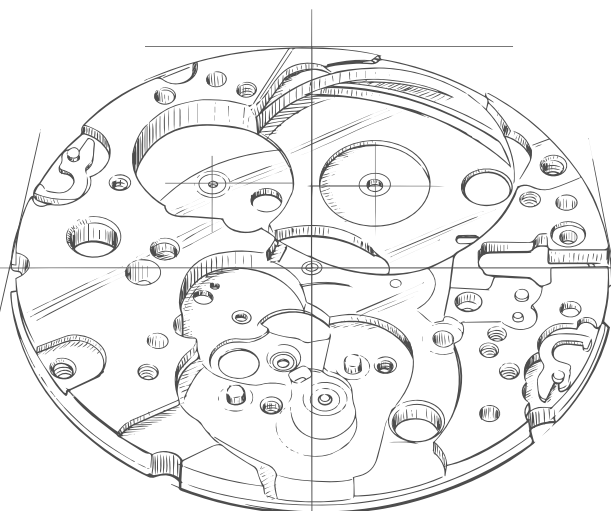
- Brass and nickel silver tend to form burrs, requiring time-consuming manual rework
- Titanium and stainless steel generate significant heat during milling, which can lead to tool wear and deviations in size
- Minimum quantity lubrication (MQL) or high-pressure cooling → Helps to control heat generation

6. Surface finishing

- Electroplating (e.g. rhodium plating, gold plating) for protection and aesthetics
- Perlage and Geneva stripes → Frequently require highly precise, manual finishing
- Edge chamfering → Very time-consuming and often handcrafted

CONCLUSION

Machining watch mainplates places high demands on CNC strategies, tool selection and clamping technology due to the delicate structures, tight tolerances and challenging materials. Burr formation, tool wear and surface finishing are particularly critical factors for successful manufacturing.



Milling

3 FACE MILLING OF VISIBLE SURFACES



MP-Series

Straight-fluted PCD finish milling cutters with straight teeth reduce burr formation, while the reinforced shank ensures perfect support of the PCD insert



Superfinisher 70630-PCD

PCD Superfinish cutters with single-flute technology for flawless machining of visible surfaces



4 MICRO-MILLING



Magaforce 8500

For ultra-fine milling work from Ø 0.05 mm

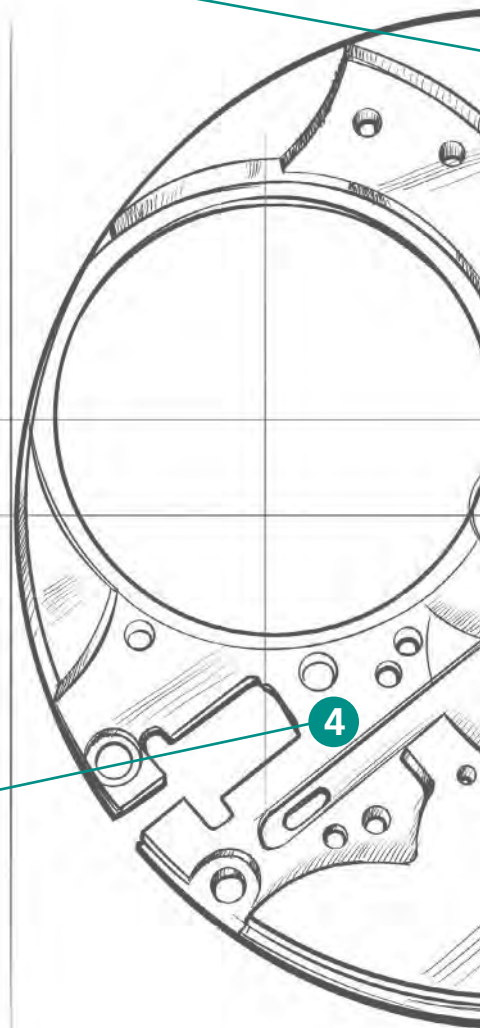


SANDVIK

Coromant

CoroMill Plura

Solid carbide micro shoulder milling cutter, Types 2P211/2P12/R216.32, Grade 1620, 1700

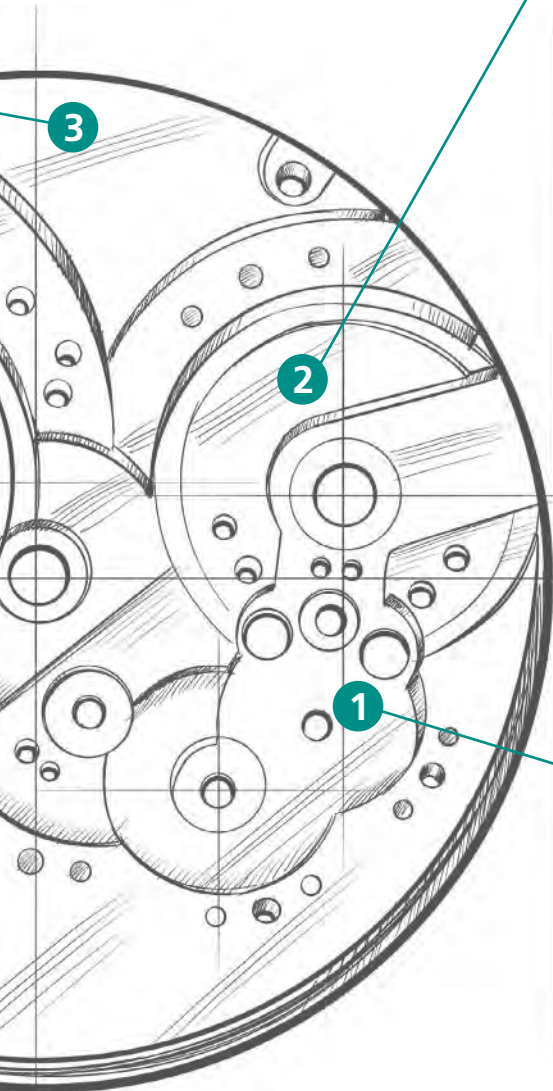


2 FINISHING MILLING



End mill 7233

Straight-fluted end mill for face milling and finishing, a highly tough grade with optimal bending strength, extreme wear resistance, polished flutes and cutting edges for perfect surfaces, two cutting edges for high feed rates, reduced burr formation thanks to straight cutting edges



1 MULTI-OPERATION MACHINING



MAGAFOR MULTI-V

Chamfering, deburring, drilling, engraving, available in various angles 90°/40°/60°/120°, from Ø 0.1 mm



Drilling

4 SPOT DRILLING



DB131 Supreme

Solid carbide micro pilot drill with 150° point angle, from Ø 0.5–1.9 mm



Micro-Line

Solid carbide micro CNC spot drills 60°/90°, with various special coatings



5 LEAD-FREE BRASS DRILLING



Twist drill 1137

Optimised for lead-free brass, polished clamping grooves: Improved chip evacuation, tapered core thickness from Ø 0.5 mm, reduced cutting forces, 140° tip: minimal burr formation at hole exit

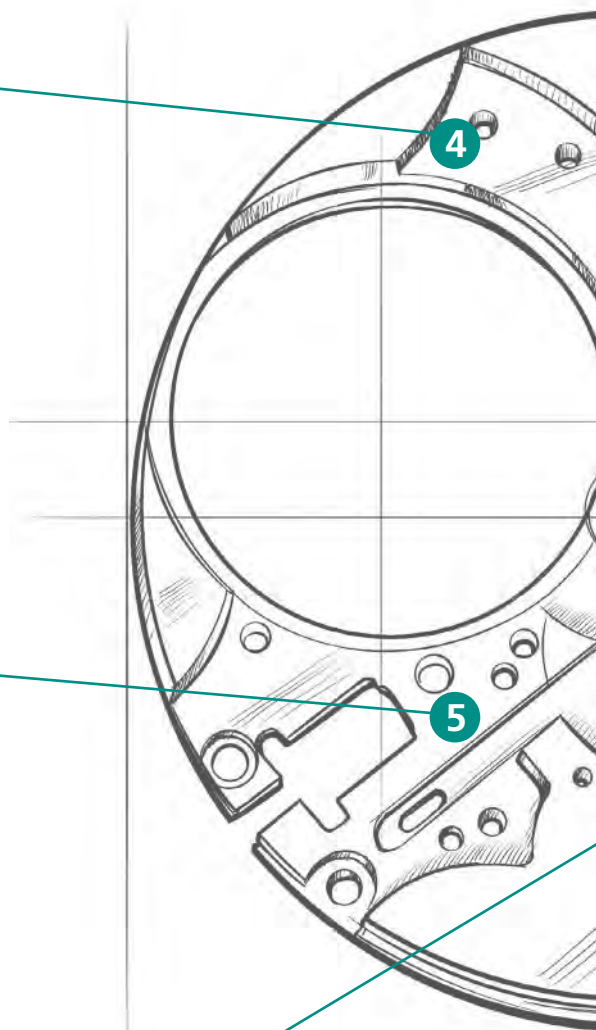


3 SPOT DRILLING



DC118 Supreme

Solid carbide spot drill with 180° cutting angle, from Ø 3.0 mm



1 DRILLING AND MICRO-DRILLING



Gun drill 1111

Highest precision with cutting edge tolerance of $\pm 1 \mu\text{m}$, no piloting required thanks to the sharp cutting edge, from $\varnothing 0.1$ – 2.0 mm



Twist drill 1345

Self-centring high-performance drill with internal cooling for series production, from $\varnothing 3.0 \text{ mm}$



SANDVIK

Coromant

CoroDrill 462 XM- X0BU

Versatile multi-material drilling with external cooling, from $\varnothing 0.03$ – 3.0 mm

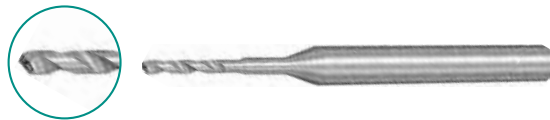


SANDVIK

Coromant

CoroDrill 862 PCD

Offers longer tool life than solid carbide drills, suitable for challenging materials such as platinum and ceramic greenware, from $\varnothing 0.3$ – 3.0 mm



Micro-drill 2020

Solid carbide drill with 130° point angle, from $\varnothing 0.1$ – 2.0 mm



2 MICRO REAMERS



Magaforce 8610

Reamers for cylindrical holes, from $\varnothing 0.2 \text{ mm}$, with left-hand flutes



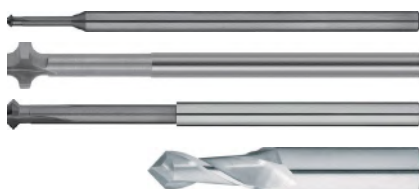
Finishing

3 FACETING AND ROUNDING



Form cutters and chamfer mills

Specialised micro-tools for edge rounding starting at R 0.2 mm and faceting from Ø 0.2 mm



1 THREADING



Polytool 1739 (Z1)

Thread whirler with partial profile, designed to reduce cutting forces for all materials, from Ø 0.21 – 1.1 mm



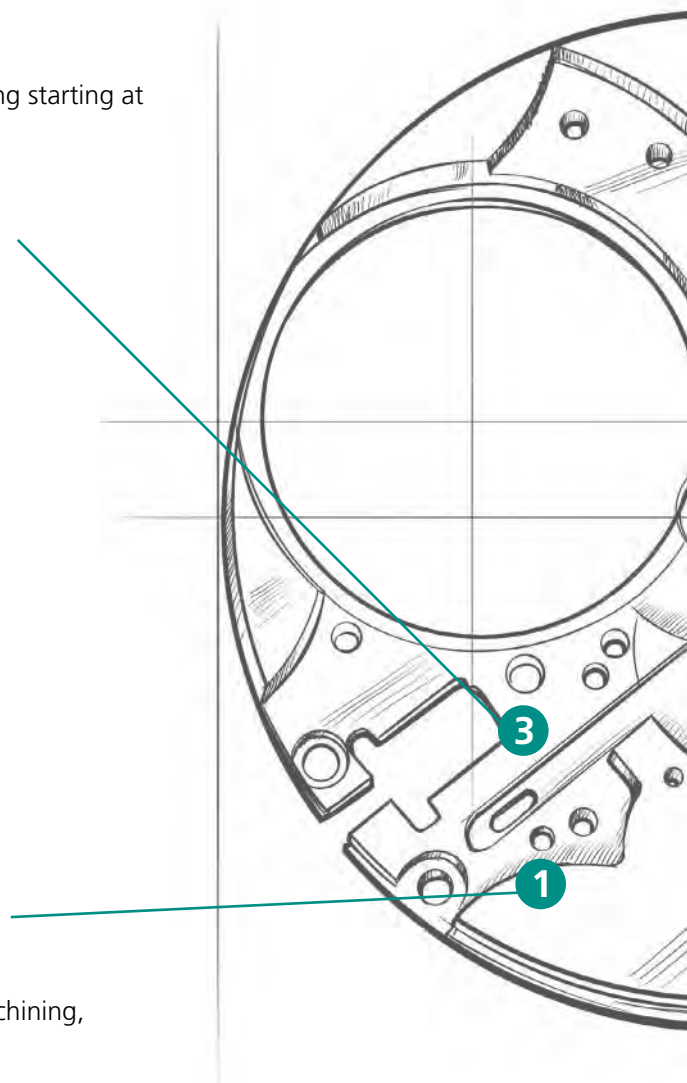
Thread whirler GW1116VS

High-performance thread whirler for mainplate machining, from Ø 0.3 – 2.6 mm, suitable for NIHS threads



Thread tap CMS50

High-performance thread tap for mainplate machining, from Ø 0.3 – 2.6 mm

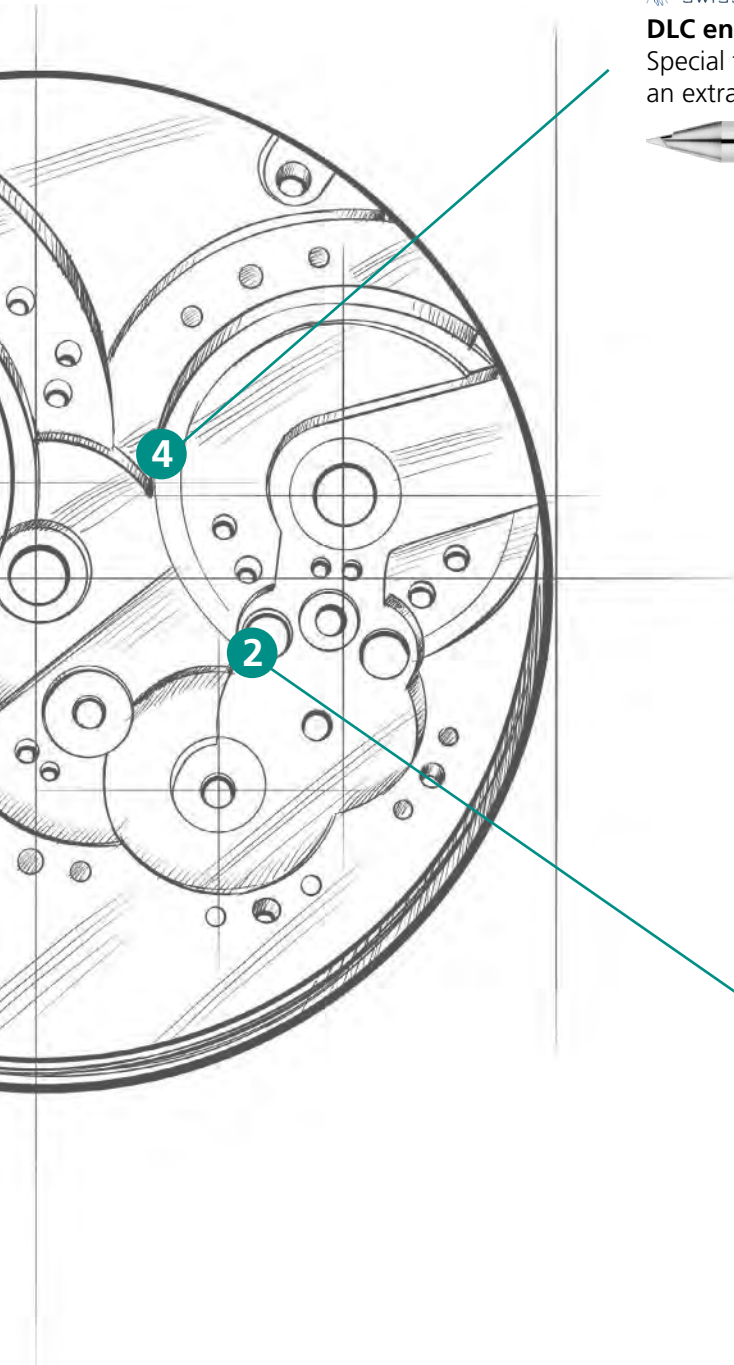


4 ENGRAVING



DLC engraving tool

Special thin-film DLC coating for an extra-sharp cutting edge



2 REAMING



Magaforce 8610 Reamer

Step size of 0.005 mm for the most precise holes, from Ø 0.2 mm, with left-hand flutes





Pull-out piece/ Watch crown

Challenges in machining pull-out pieces and watch crowns

Pull-out pieces and watch crowns are the key control elements of a watch. They must be manufactured with precision to ensure reliable function and high aesthetic quality. This involves several challenges in the machining process.

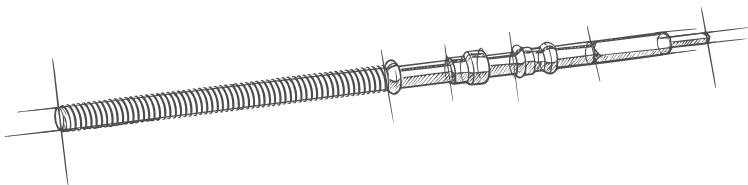
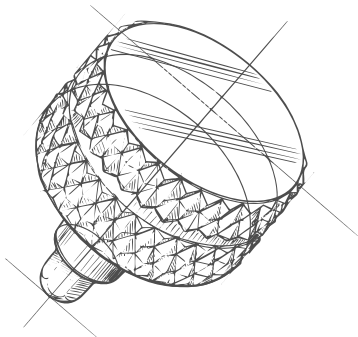
1. Choice of materials and their machinability

Pull-out pieces and crowns frequently consist of the following materials:

- Stainless steel (316L, 904L, 17-4PH) → High degree of corrosion resistance, but difficult to machine (increased tool wear)
- Titanium (Grade 2, Grade 5) → Lightweight, yet susceptible to strain hardening, requiring special cutting strategies
- Gold (18k yellow, white, or rose gold) → Soft and readily machinable, but prone to scratching
- Platinum → Extremely tough, high tool wear, difficult to polish
- Ceramics → Extremely hard, requires grinding or injection-moulding processes

2. High precision and tight tolerances

- Dimensional tolerances in the range of $\pm 2\text{--}5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ → Especially important for threads and sealing surfaces
- Run-out accuracy of the crown → Must be perfectly matched to the case
- Perfect fit of the pull-out piece → Essential for the wind- and hand-setting mechanism to function properly



Pull-out piece
Material: Ø 1.0 / 20AP steel

3. Machining techniques and challenges

a) Turning and milling (CNC)

- Fine threads (e.g., M1.2 or smaller) are difficult to manufacture
- Risk of burr formation, especially with stainless steel and titanium
- High demands on clamping technology to prevent deformation and vibrations

b) Micro machining (laser, EDM, polishing)

- Laser engraving for logos or textures → Requires utmost precision
- EDM (electrical discharge machining) for complex structures → Slow but highly precise
- Polishing gold or platinum → Very time-consuming, frequently manual

c) Surface finishing

- Electroplating (rhodium plating, gold plating) for corrosion protection and appearance
- Satin finishing or matting for premium surface aesthetics
- PVD coating for coloured crowns (e.g., black, blue)

4. Sealing and functionality

- Water resistance → Requires precise sealing surfaces and high-quality seals
- Perfect thread fit between crown and case → Avoidance of play or stiffness
- Compression and tensile stress on the pull-out piece → It must withstand stresses without bending

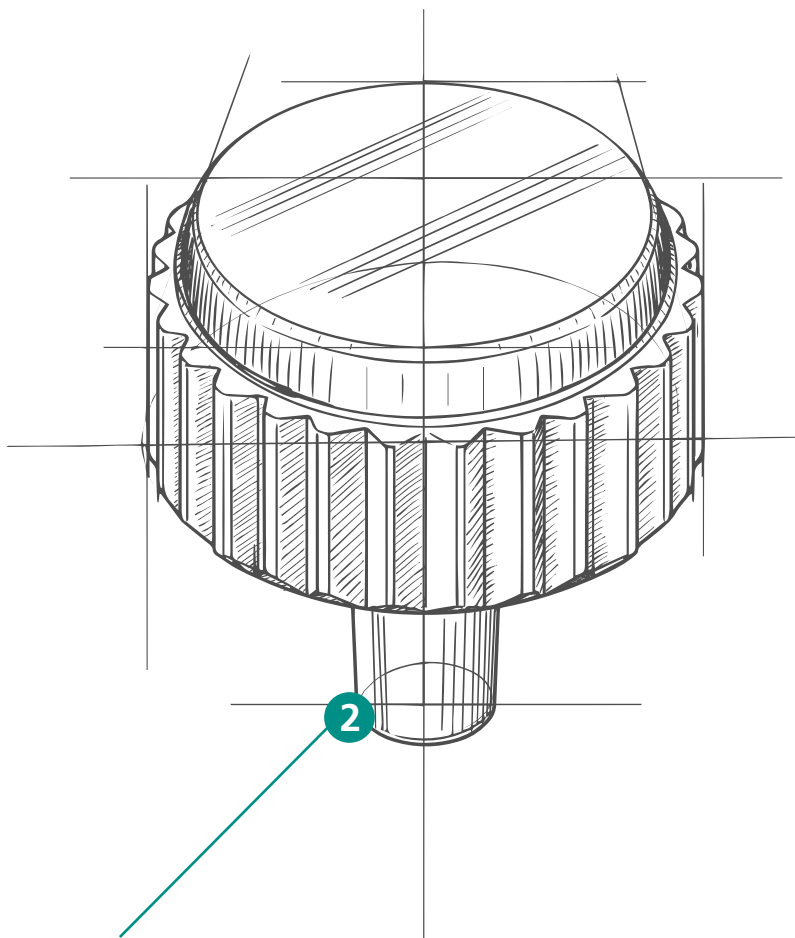
CONCLUSION

Machining pull-out pieces and watch crowns is challenging because it requires the utmost precision, fine threads, flawless surfaces and durable seals. Burr formation, tool wear and demanding finishing are particularly problematic.



Watch crown
Material: Ø 6.50 / Inox 1.4427

Precision-turned watch crown

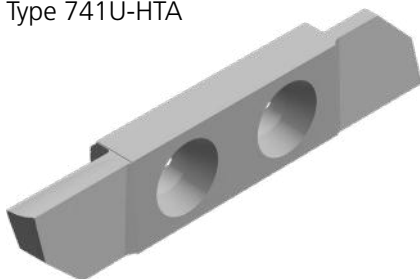


2 PARTING OFF



TOP-Line 741

Indexable inserts for parting-off with chip breaker, Type 741U-HTA

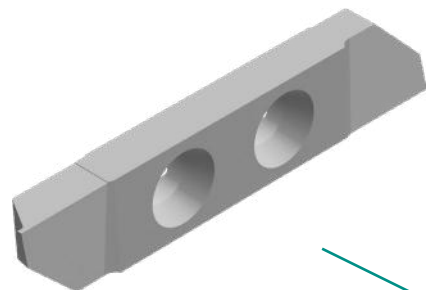


5 RADIAL GROOVING



TOP-Line 745

Indexable insert for grooving narrow widths, type 745-0202-HTA



6 INTERNAL THREAD TURNING



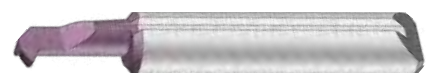
Thread steel MTGE

with 60° profile angle, TiAlN-coated



Thread steel MTGW

with 55° profile angle, TiAlN-coated

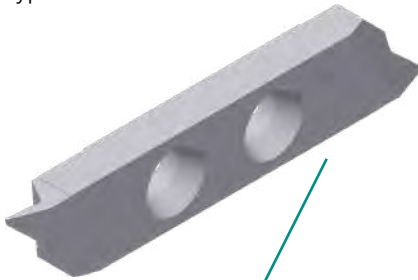


3 REVERSE PRECISION TURNING



TOP-Watch 743SF

Indexable insert for reverse precision turning,
Type 743SF-10/3-HTAF

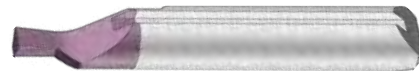


4 AXIAL GROOVING



Micro-Turn Grooving steel

Axial grooving steel MTNY available in left- or
right-hand versions, with TiAlN coating



IN-Line BBR6

Axial grooving steel, Type BBR6R-50150-FEG150X

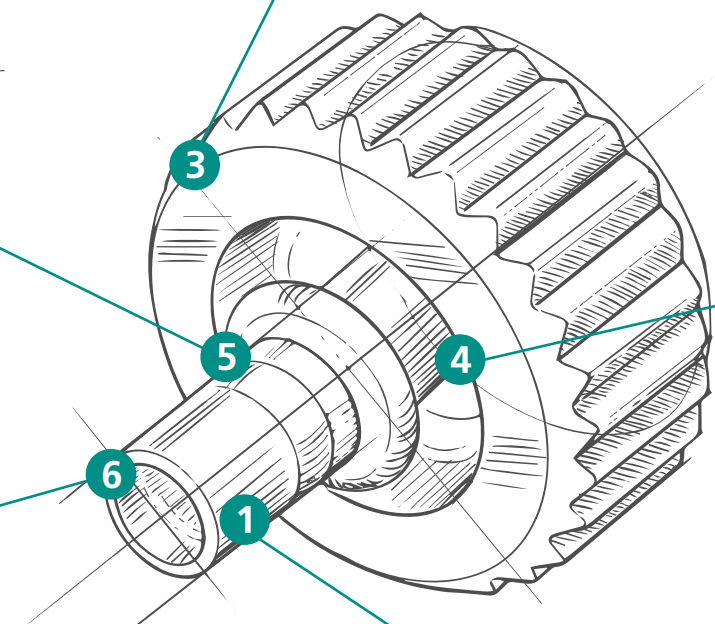
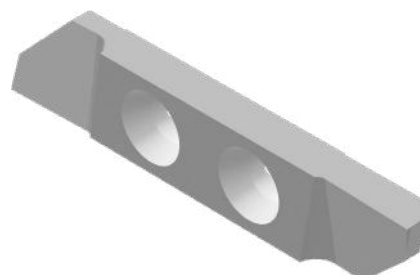


1 FORWARD TURNING



TOP-Line 732

Indexable insert for forward turning,
Type 732-2° TiAlX



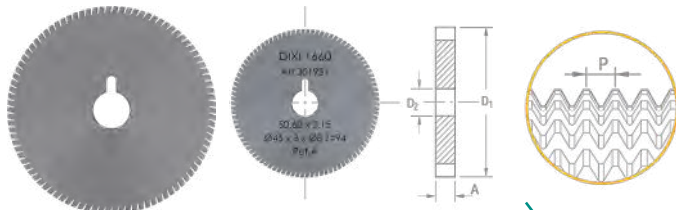
Precision-turned pull-out piece

1 MICRO-THREAD TURNING / MILLING



Hobbing cutter 1660

Hobbing cutter for miniature threads, short cycle times, perfect thread quality even under the highest demands, also available with NIHS threads



TOP-Watch SFX

Indexable insert for micro-thread turning, Type 746SFX/736SFX

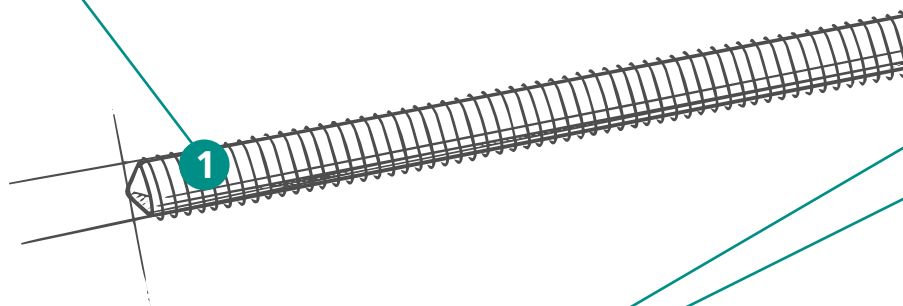
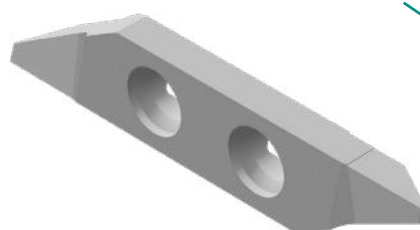


2 FORWARD TURNING



TOP-Line 712

Indexable insert for forward turning, Type 712-30-TIALN



6 GROOVING



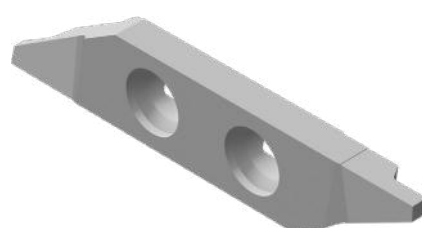
TOP-Watch 748SF

Indexable inserts for micro-grooves, Type 748SF-E03-A45°



TOP-Line 714

Indexable insert for precision turning, Type 714-0.5 TialN

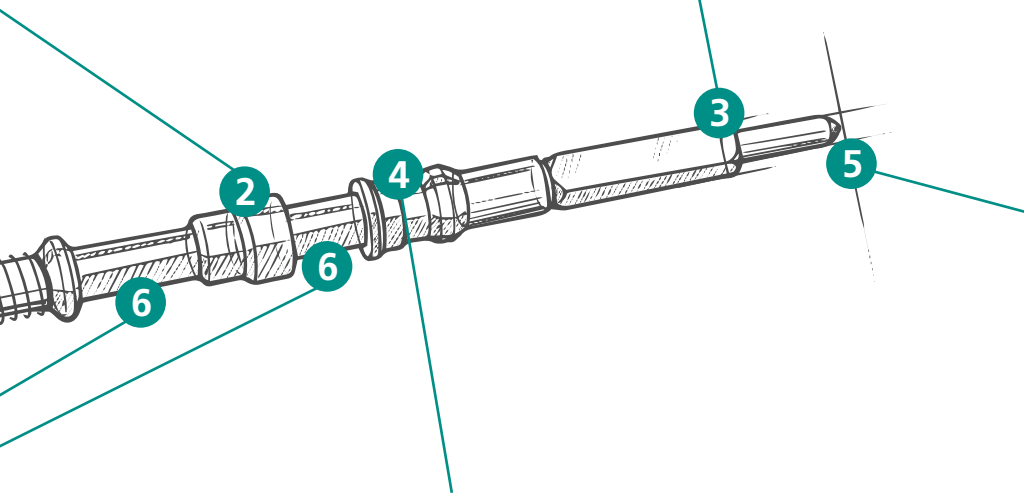


3 REVERSE FINE CONTOUR TURNING



TOP-Watch 743SF

Indexable insert for reverse precision turning,
Type 743SF-10/3-HTAF



5 PARTING OFF



TOP-Line 711

Indexable insert for parting off,
Type 711-0.5-TIALN

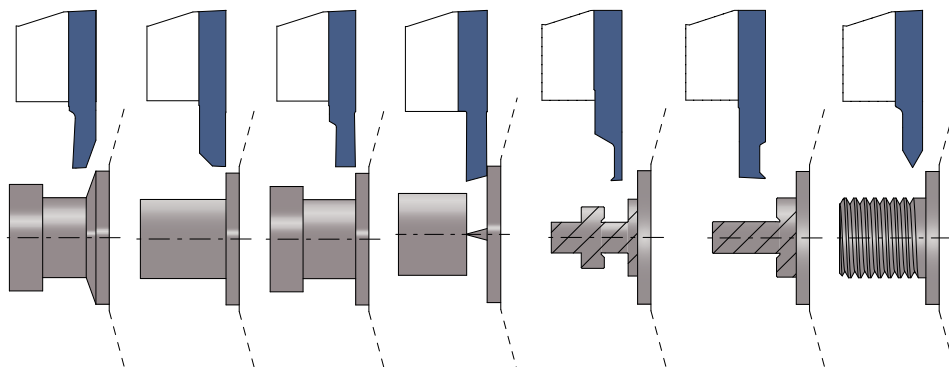


4 FORWARD FINE CONTOUR TURNING



TOP-Watch SF

Indexable inserts for precision turning in the watchmaking
industry, various geometries





Watch strap with spring bar

Challenges in machining watch straps in the watch-making industry

Watch straps for high-quality watches are made from metal, leather, rubber or ceramic. Metal watch straps in particular pose significant manufacturing challenges, as they require both high mechanical precision and flawless surface quality.

1. Choice of materials and their machinability

Watch straps are made from various materials, each presenting specific challenges:

- Stainless steel (316L, 904L, 17-4PH) → Difficult to machine, high tool wear, challenging to polish
- Titanium (Grade 2, Grade 5) → Lightweight, yet susceptible to strain hardening and difficult to polish
- Gold (18k yellow, white, or rose gold) → Soft and readily machinable, but tends to scratching
- Platinum → Extremely tough, high tool wear, complex surface finishing
- Ceramics (ZrO_2 , Si_3N_4) → Extremely hard, requires grinding or injection-moulding processes
- Rubber/silicone → Requires precise moulding, sensitive to abrasion
- Leather → Manual processing, sensitive to moisture and aging

2. Precision and tolerances

- Tight tolerances for links and hinges → Requires a perfect fit to ensure a smooth strap feel
- Consistent width and thickness → Especially important for metal and ceramic watch straps
- Perfect hinges and clasps → Must operate smoothly yet close securely



3. Machining techniques and challenges

- a) CNC milling and turning
 - Highly precise milling and turning operations necessary for links and connectors
 - Challenging machining of hard materials such as titanium or ceramics
 - Heavy burr formation with stainless steel and titanium → Requires extensive rework
- b) Grinding, polishing and satin finishing
 - Polishing effort for stainless steel, gold, and platinum → Time-consuming, often manual
 - Satin-finished or brushed surfaces → Must be perfectly uniform
 - Ceramics require diamond tools for a perfect finish
- c) Joining techniques and assembly
 - Invisible screws or snap-fit connections require the highest precision
 - Hinges must be durable and free of play
 - Water-resistant or flexible joints in certain models

4. Ergonomics and wearing comfort

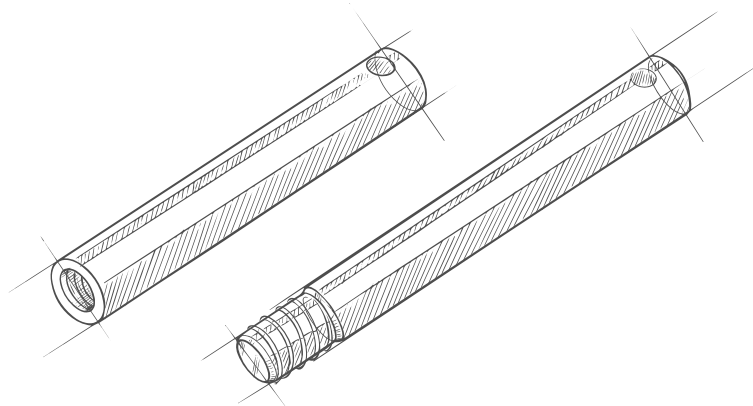
- Watch strap flexibility → Must fit the wrist comfortably
- Balanced weight → Especially important for solid gold or platinum watch straps
- Skin compatibility of materials → No allergenic potential, no sharp edges

5. Surface finishing

- Electroplating (gold-plating, rhodium plating, PVD-plating) for protection and appearance
- A combination of polished and satin-finished surfaces → Very time-consuming and often manual
- Ceramic watch straps require rework to prevent sharp edges

CONCLUSION

Machining watch straps is extremely demanding, as it requires both mechanical precision and high-quality surface finishing. Particularly challenging are high tool wear, burr formation, assembly precision and labour-intensive polishing.



Watch strap machining

3 SLOTTING



Circular saw blade 1533

Solid carbide slitting saw, Type A, fine-toothed, in accordance with DIN 1837A, from 0.2 mm thickness



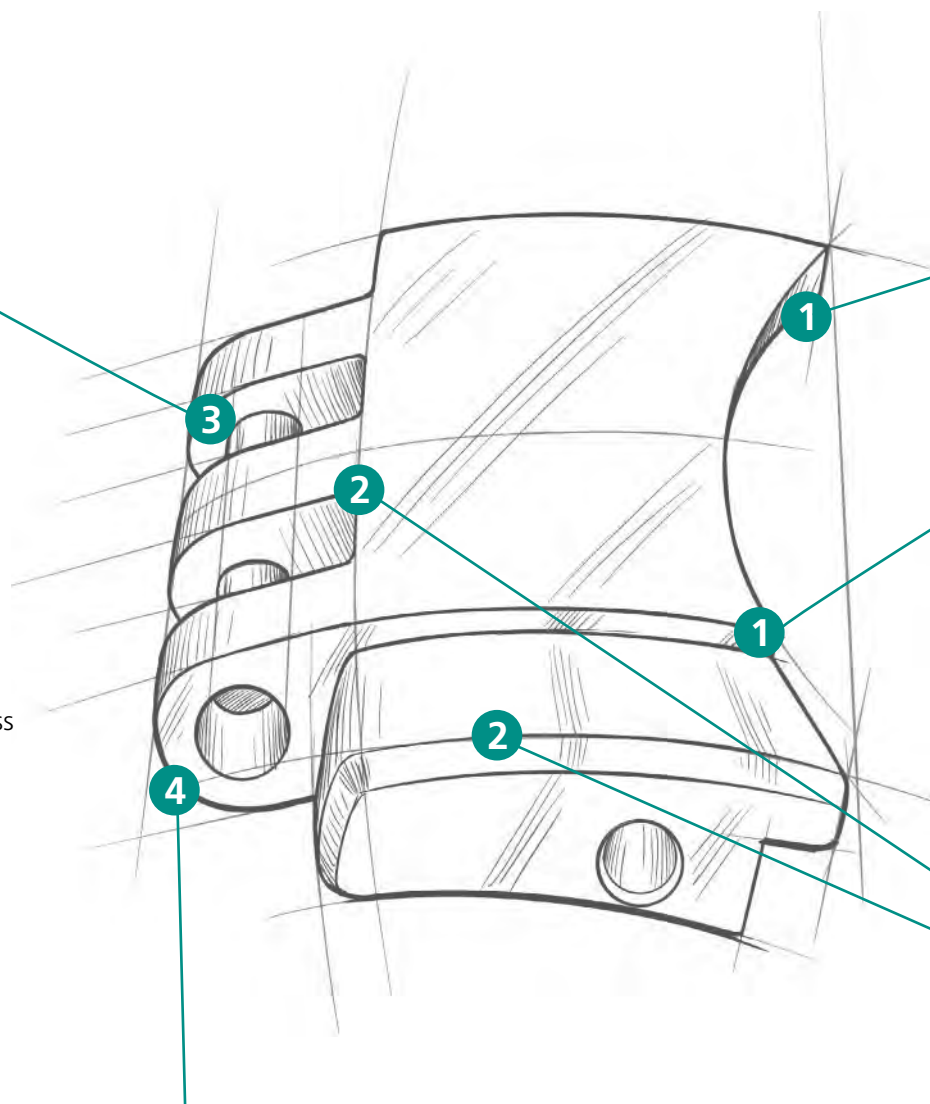
Circular saw blade 1101 / 1103

Ultrafine-toothed circular saw blades, from 0.1 mm thickness



Circular saw blade 1104

Ultrafine-toothed circular saw blades for stainless steel materials, from 0.8 mm thickness



4 SLOT-MILLING

GUHRING

G-Mold 55B

Optimised for ISO M/S and ISO H from Ø 0.5–12.0 mm



1 EXTERNAL CONTOUR MILLING**Multi-tooth milling cutter 7520**

Ideal for finishing at elevated temperatures in demanding materials, available from Ø 0.35 mm

**Multi-tooth milling cutter 7560**

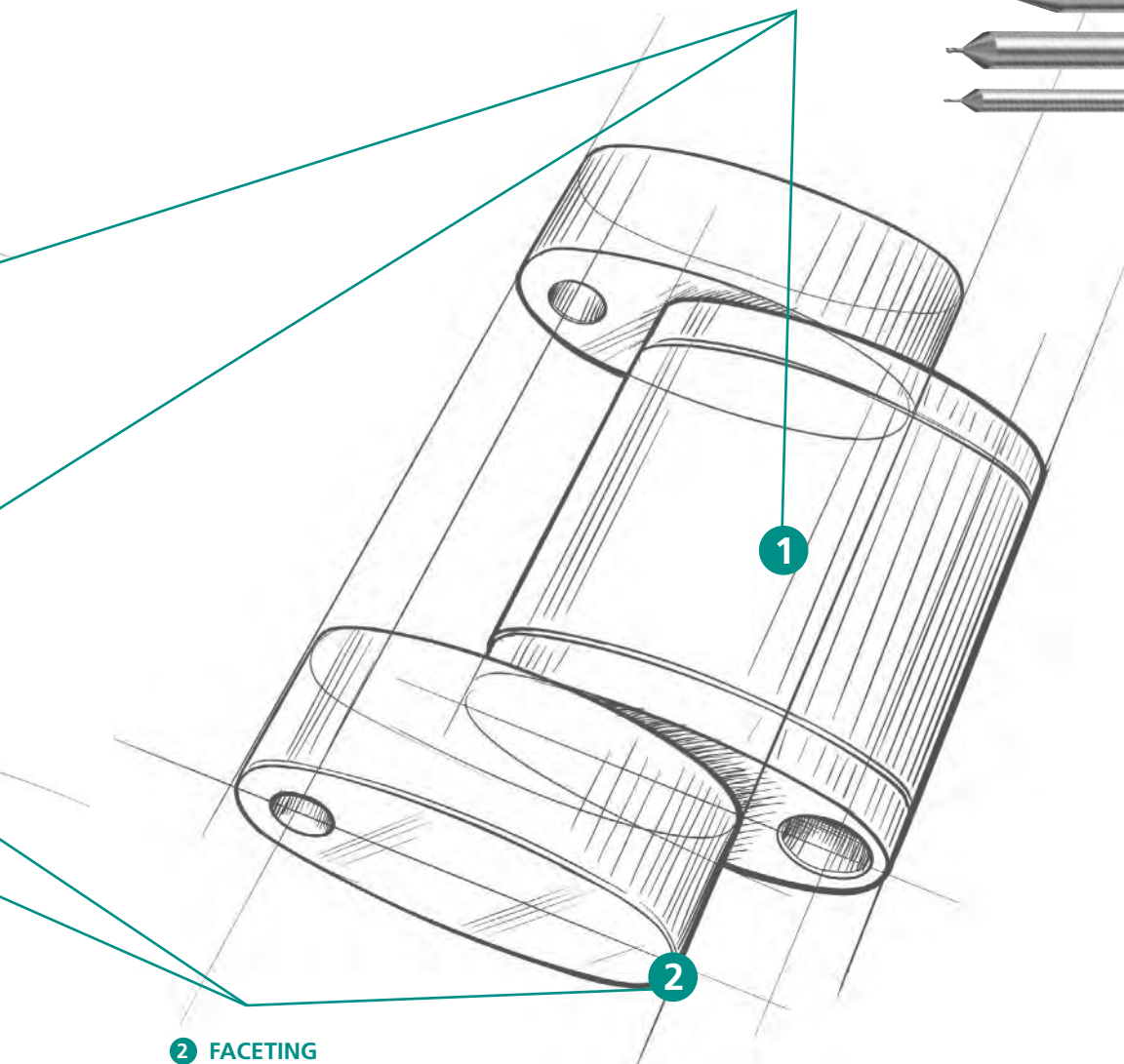
Designed for finishing stainless steels and superalloys, from Ø 0.4 mm

**CoroMill Plura HFS**

Optimised for ISO M and ISO S/Type 2P341/Grade 1640, from Ø 2.0–25.0 mm

**CoroMill Plura**

Solid carbide micro copy mills 2P211-PC/2P212-PC, from Ø 0.5 mm

**2 FACETING****Bi-FACE 845 / 846 M**

Bi-FACE chamfer cutter for faceting from Ø 0.2 mm, ideal for stainless steel and superalloys

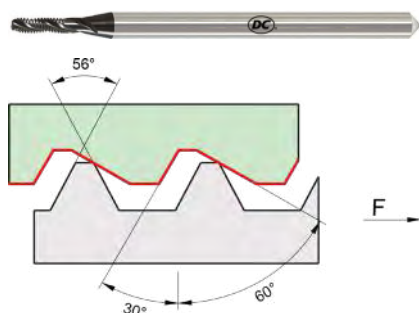


Watch strap machining

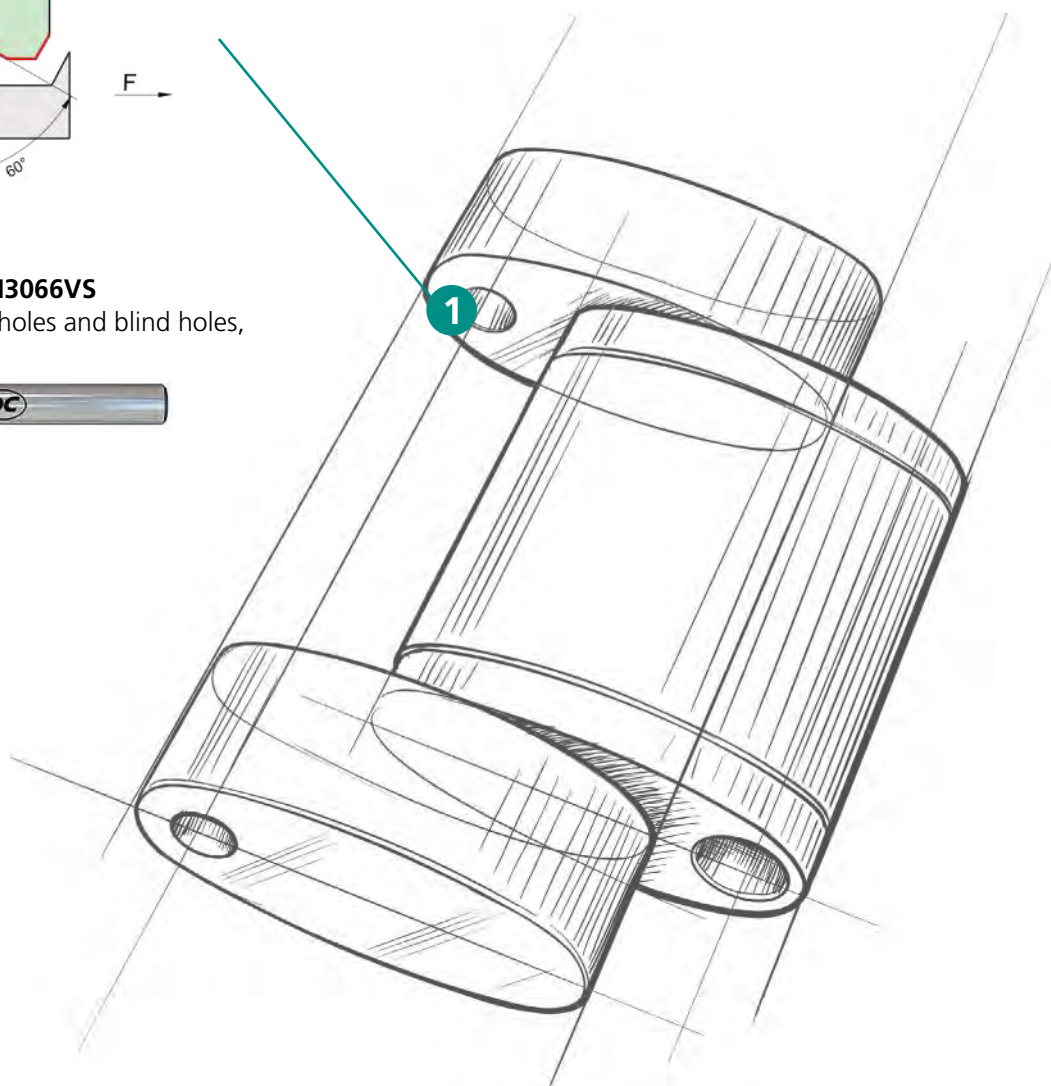
1 THREADING

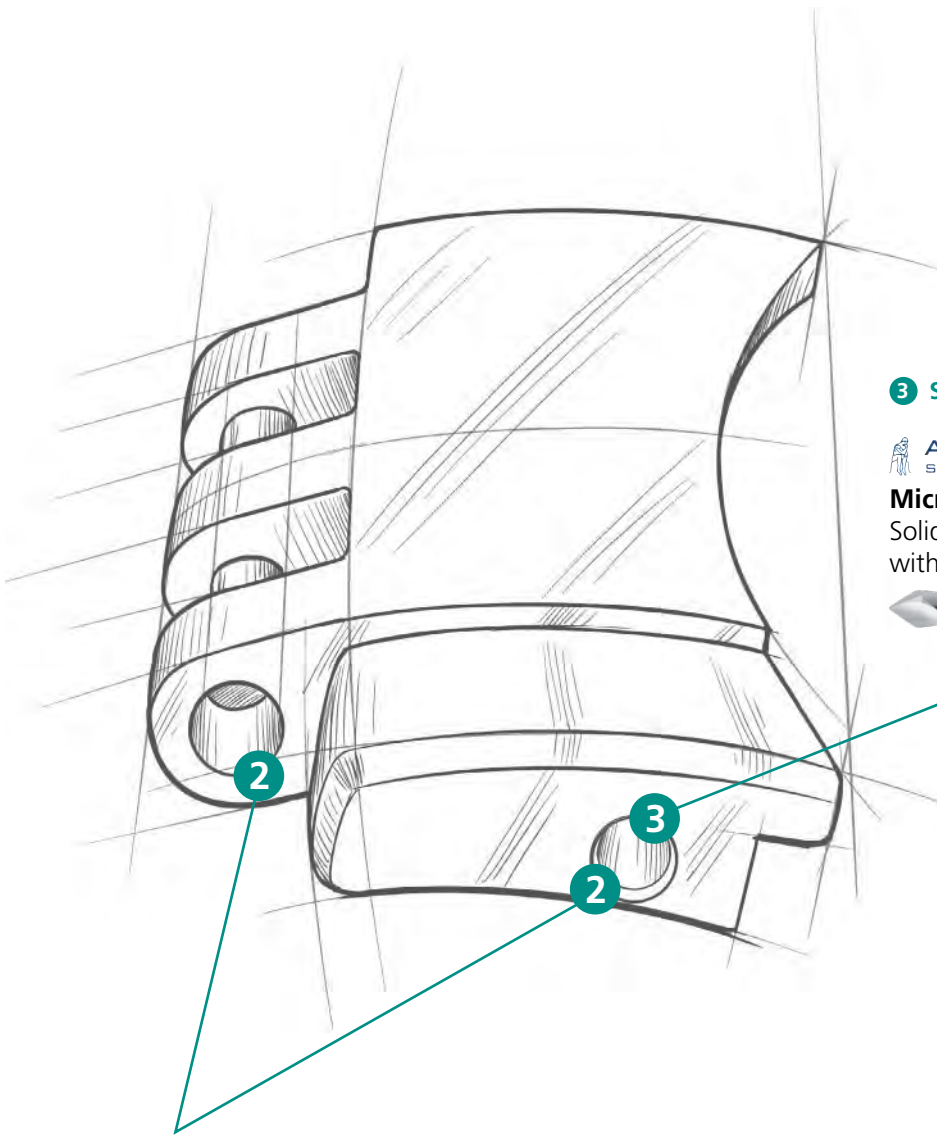


Self-locking threads with Safelock system
Guaranteed resistance to impact and vibration



Thread whirler GWI3066VS
Suitable for through-holes and blind holes,
from M 0.8 to M 8





3 SPOT DRILLING



Micro-Line

Solid carbide micro CNC spot drills 60°/90°, with various special coatings



2 HOLE FOR WATCH STRAP LINK



Magaforce 82X

Micro-drills 3xD/5xD/8xD, from Ø 0.1 mm in 0.01 mm increments



CoroDrill 462 XM- X0BU

Versatile multi-material drilling with external cooling, from Ø 0.03–3.0 mm



Micro drill 2020

Solid carbide drill with 130° point angle, from Ø 0.1–2.0 mm



Twist Drill- Solid Carbide Drill 1345

Self-centring high-performance drill with internal cooling for series production, from Ø 3.0 mm



CoroDrill 862 PCD

Offers longer tool life than solid carbide drills, suitable for challenging materials such as platinum and ceramic greenware, from Ø 0.3–3.0 mm



Spring bar machining

1 HIGH-PRECISION MACHINING



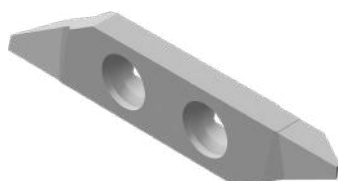
TOP-Line 711

Indexable insert for parting off,
Type 711-0.5-TIALN



TOP-Line 712

Indexable insert for forward turning,
Type 712-30-TIALN



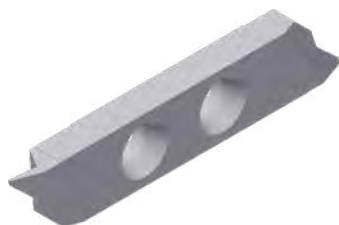
TOP-Line 714

Indexable insert for precision turning,
Type 714-0.5 TialN



TOP-Watch 743SF

Indexable insert for reverse precision
turning, Type 743SF-10/3-HTAF



TOP-Watch 748SF

Indexable inserts for micro-grooves,
Type 748SF-E03-A45°



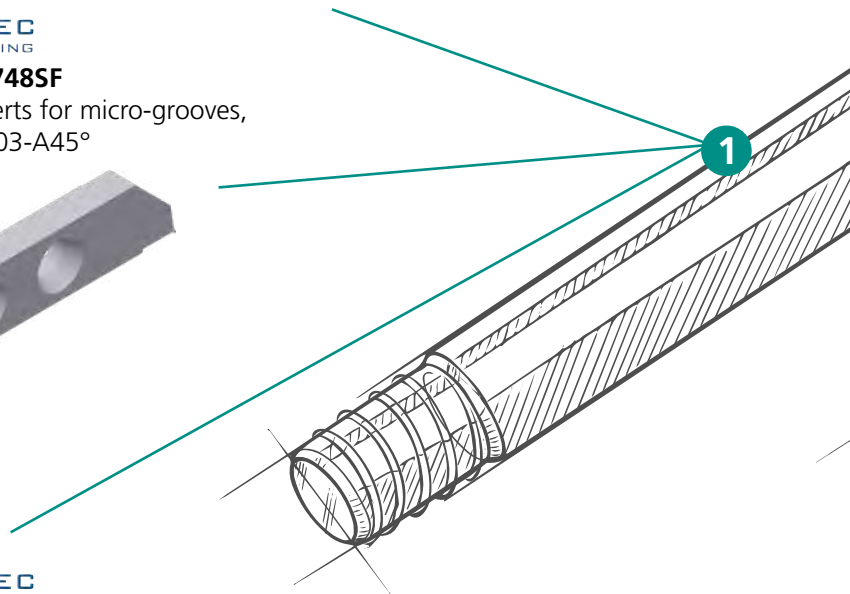
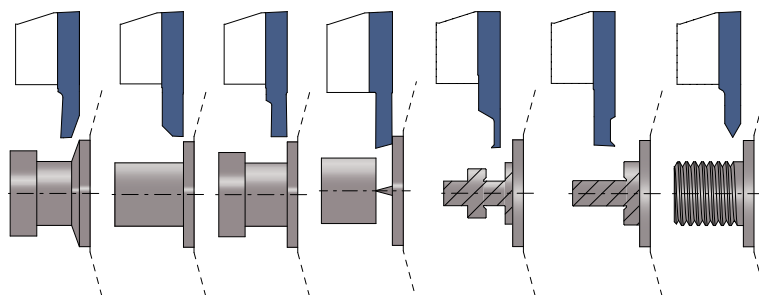
TOP-Watch SFX

Indexable insert for micro-thread
turning, Type 746SFX/736SFX



TOP-Watch SF

Indexable inserts for precision turning in the watchmaking
industry, various geometries

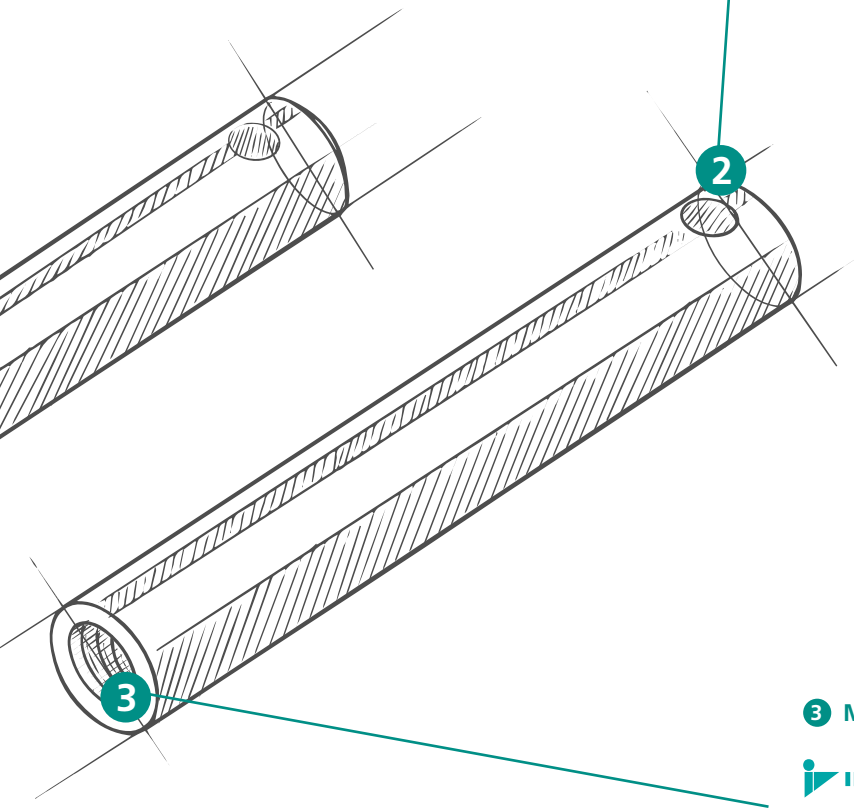
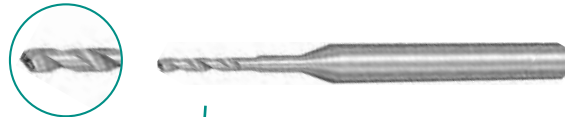


2 DRILLING ON CONVEX SURFACES**SANDVIK
COROMANT
CoroDrill 462 XM- X0BU**

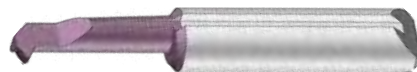
Versatile multi-material drilling with external cooling,
from Ø 0.03–3.0 mm

**SANDVIK
COROMANT
CoroDrill 862 PCD**

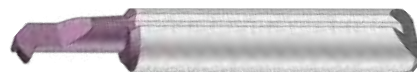
Offers longer tool life than solid carbide drills,
suitable for challenging materials such as platinum
and ceramic greenware, from Ø 0.3–3.0 mm

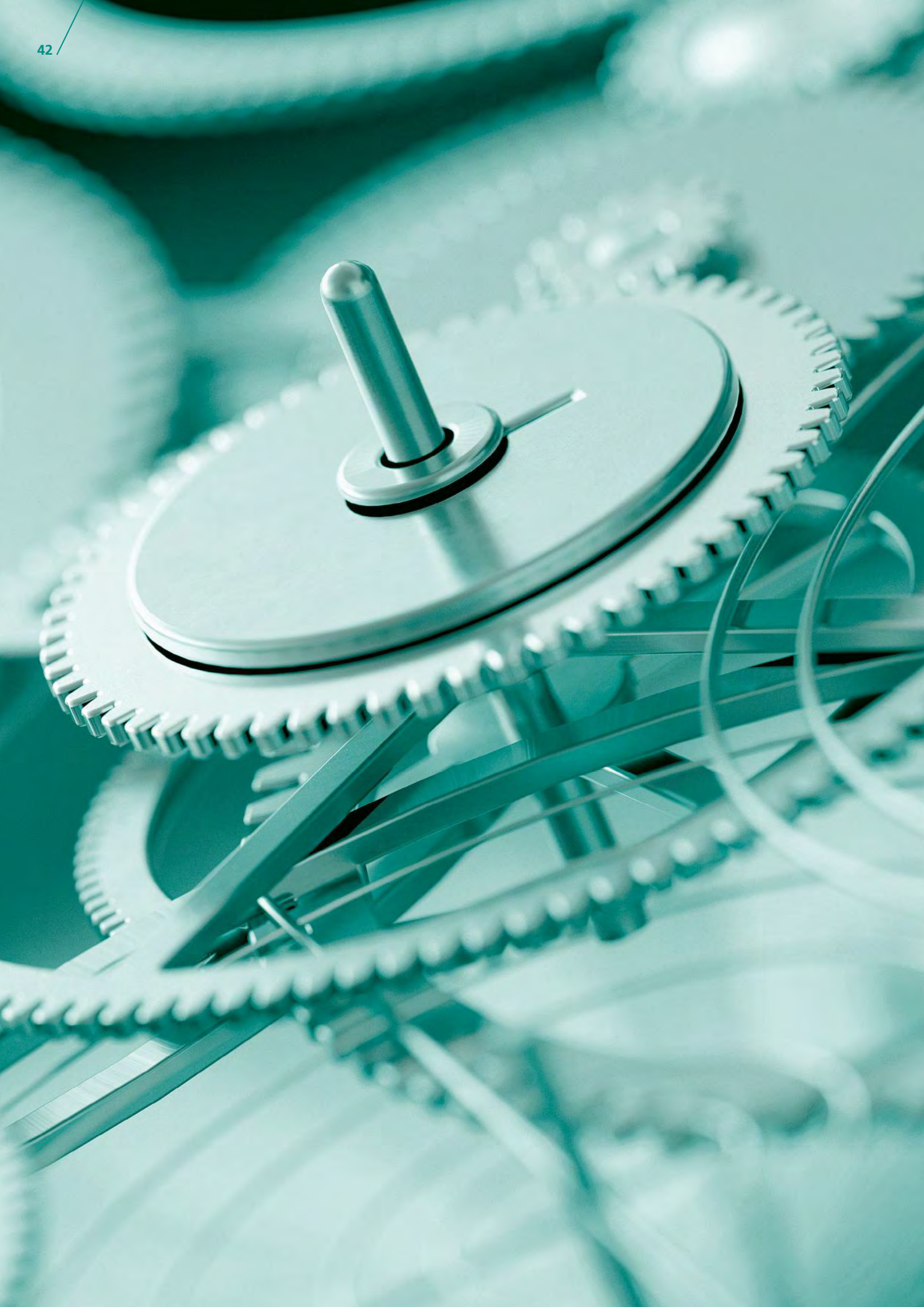
**3 MICRO THREAD TURNING****IFANGER**

Thread steel MTGE
with 60° profile angle, TiAlN-coated

**IFANGER**

Thread steel MTGW
with 55° profile angle, TiAlN-coated





Watch gears

Challenges in machining gears in the watchmaking industry

Watch gears are crucial for the precision and function of a movement. Their machining poses special challenges due to their extremely small dimensions, tight tolerances and unique material properties.

1. Choice of materials and their machinability

Watch gears are made from various materials, each presenting their own specific challenges:

- Brass (CuZn37, CuZn39Pb3) → Good machinability but soft material → high tool wear on fine structures
- Nickel silver (CuNi12Zn24/CuNi18Zn20) → Harder than brass, but poorer machinability
- Stainless steel (316L, 17-4 PH) → Corrosion-resistant, but difficult to mill and turn
- Titanium (Ti6Al4V) → Light and robust, but tends to work hardening
- Silicon → Used for ultra-precise gears in high-frequency applications (via etching or laser processes)

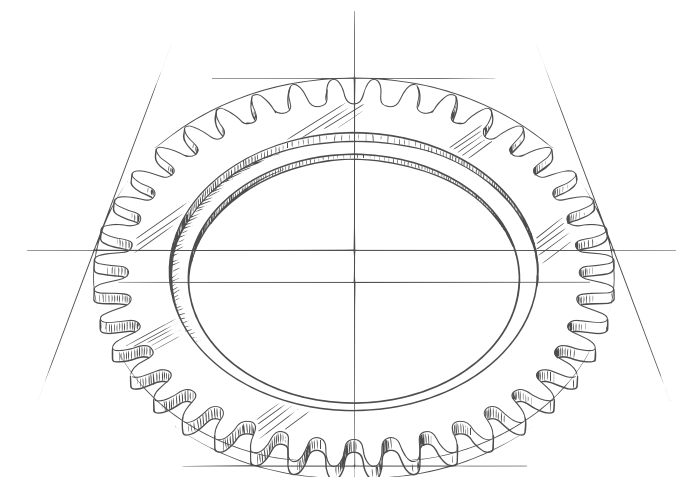
2. High precision and tight tolerances

- Tolerances in the range of $\pm 2\text{--}5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ → Even the slightest deviations affect accuracy
- Perfect tooth geometry → Essential for smooth transmission and minimal energy loss
- Coaxiality and run-out accuracy → Essential for ensuring uniform meshing with other gears

3. Machining methods and challenges

a) Milling/Hobbing/Shaping

- Rapid tool wear when machining hard materials
- Precise positioning is essential to ensure minimal deviations in tooth geometry
- High demands on clamping systems to prevent vibrations



b) Wire or sinker EDM (for high-precision gears)

- Slow process, but extremely precise → ideal for prototypes and small-scale production
- Risk of heat impact on thin teeth → can lead to dimensional deviations

c) Laser cutting/etching (for silicon gears)

- Etching is particularly suitable for fine structures (e.g., anchor escapement)
- Requires special rework to remove burrs and residual stresses

4. Tool life and wear

- Carbide or PCBN/CBN tools required for hard materials such as stainless steel or titanium
- High wear due to extremely small tools (cutters $\varnothing < 0.1\text{ mm}$ for micro gears)
- Cooling is crucial → often minimum quantity lubrication (MQL) or dry machining

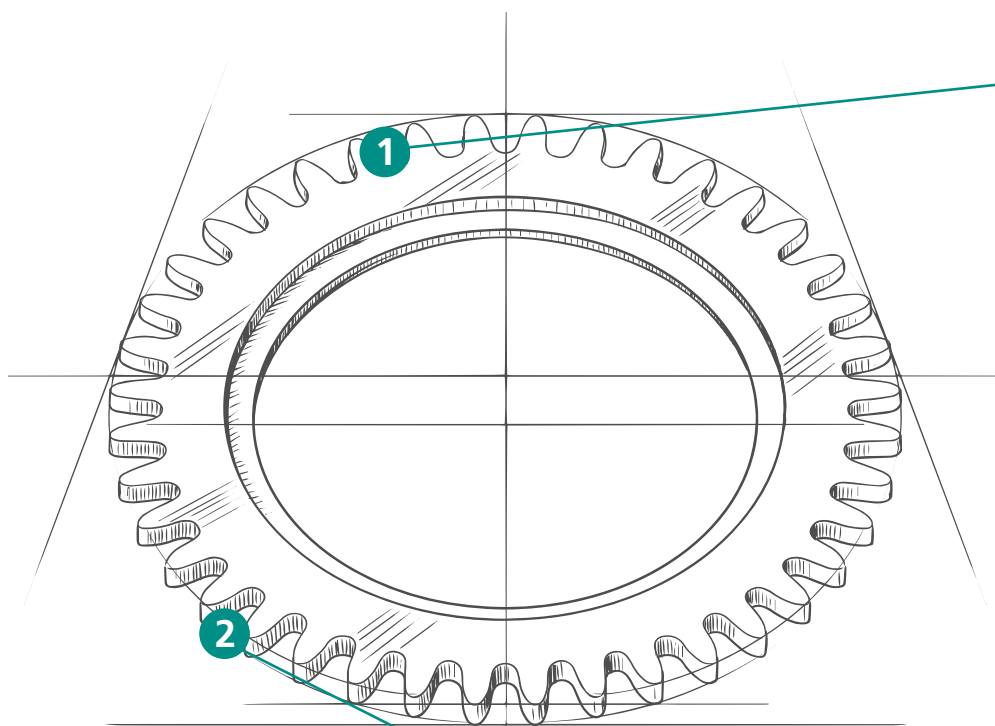
5. Surface quality and rework

- Minimal roughness required → Less friction, higher efficiency
- Honing or vibratory finishing to improve tooth flank quality
- Electroplating (gold-plating, rhodium plating, nickel-plating) for protection and reduced friction

CONCLUSION

Machining gears in the watch-making industry demands utmost precision, specially adapted manufacturing processes and high-quality materials. The challenges lie in burr formation, tool life, perfect tooth geometry and rework.

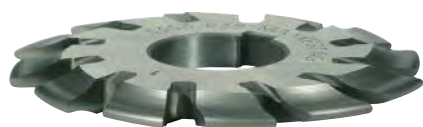
Machining



2 GEAR-MODULE MILLING

Gear cutter Type 3355

Module sizes from 0.5–3.0 mm



Hobbing cutter 1675

Hobbing cutters for cycloidal tooth profiles, designed for hobbing through the generation of pinions and gears (NIHS, EVJ, CETEHOR standards)



Monoblock hobbing cutter 1672

For cycloidal tooth profiles, used for generating small gears by hobbing (NIHS, EVJ, CETEHOR standards, etc.), including a regrindable logarithmic profile



Special adjustable hobbing cutter

Used for hobbing to create asymmetric pinions and gears, including colour wheel and wolf-tooth profile



1 MICRO BORING

FUTURO

Micro boring head with cylinder shank

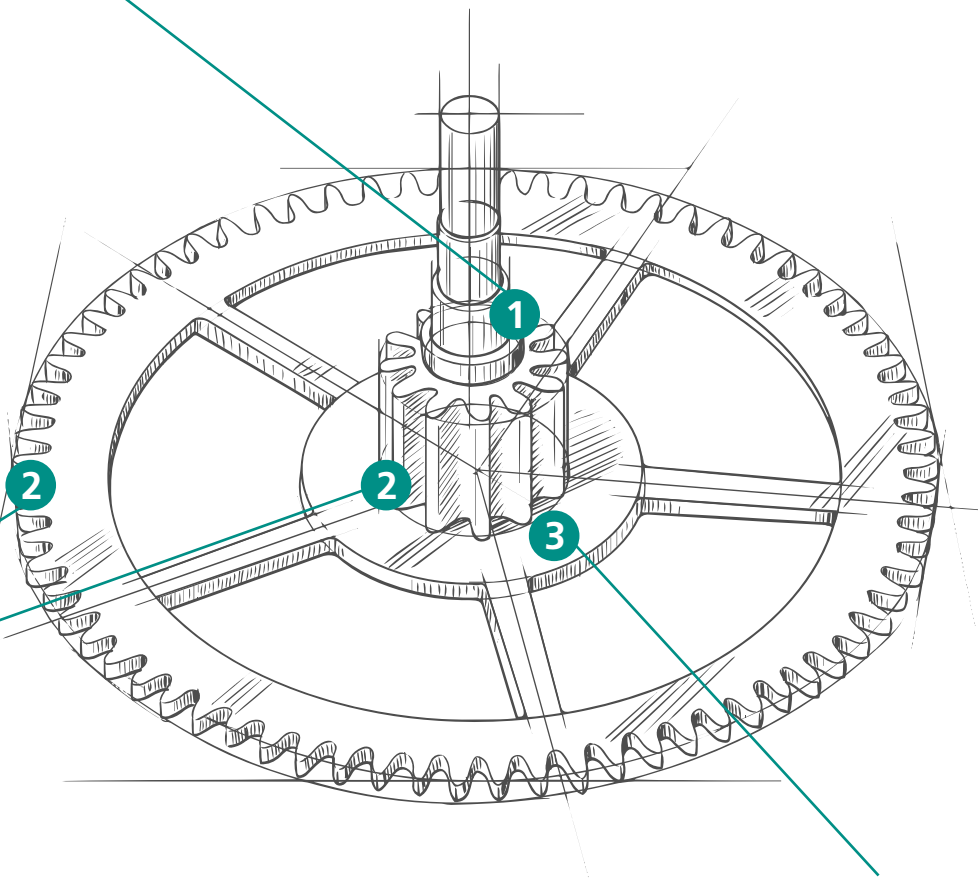
Precision boring head for perfect roundness and diameter cylindricity, adjustable to 1 µm



SWISS TOOLS

Micro boring head with HSK-EZ15 / ATC15

Precision boring head for perfect roundness and diameter cylindricity, adjustable to 1 µm



3 MICRO-REAMING OF INTERNAL ADJUSTMENT IN TOOTHED PULLEYS

magafor

Magaforce 8610 Reamer

Step size of 0.005 mm for the most precise holes, from Ø 0.2 mm, with left-hand flutes



DIXI

POLY 4007-TC

Solid carbide machine reamer with left-hand helix angle, from Ø 0.37 mm, featuring unequal pitch





Finishing

1 BRUSHING



NAMPOWER grinder head brushes



2 CLEANING

FUTURO

Automated workpiece cleaning



3 DEBURRING

FUTURO

Solid carbide tools for ISO-M and ISO-S materials



Decorations

1 CÔTES DE GENÈVE



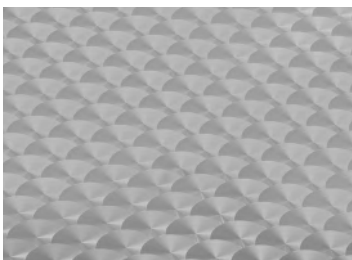
Geneva stripes are a finish widely used in haute horlogerie, also known as straight ribs or Geneva waves. It is a decorative finish on the movement of a mechanical watch, featuring wave-like lines or stripes.

2 CENTRE RULES



Centred stripes are another finish also used in haute horlogerie. This is a decorative finish, primarily applied to the base plate, created with a single-point boring tool to produce a concentric, visually appealing surface.

3 PERLAGE



A type of decoration that consists of creating circles with very fine concentric lines that intersect each other. It is also referred to as engine turning or pearling.



Straight-toothed T-slot cutter



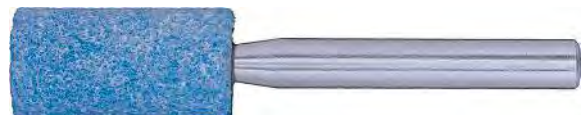
Boring head with single-point cutting tool



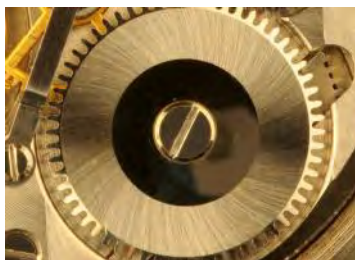
DIXI PKD-Corner and slot cutter 70600-PCD



Cylindrical Pferd grinding points (CY)



4 LE SOLEILLAGE AND COLIMAÇONNAGE



... is a type of decoration consisting of radial lines extending from the centre of the surface to its edges. It is referred to as a snail or spiral pattern when the lines are no longer straight but curved.



Special, multi-toothed decoration cutter



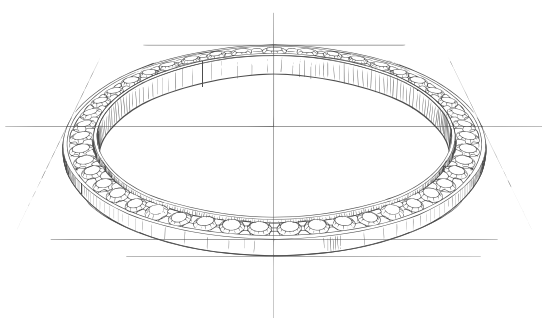
5 CRIMPING



... refers to the setting of gemstones and jewels into the bezel. A suitable recess matching the stone's cut is created using an engraving burin.



DLC-coated engraving burin



6 FLAT POLISHING



Flat polishing creates a mirror-smooth surface by gently rubbing the workpiece with diamond grinding paste in figure-eight motions.



Diamond grinding paste





Tool holders for micro-machining machines

New collet system HSK-EZ

The new collet system was developed in accordance with the HSK-E15 standards of DIN-SPEC 28999 and replaces the existing ATC-E15 products. The innovative tool holders by REGO-FIX and SCHAUBLIN enable the miniaturisation of spindles and micro-machines to meet the specific demands of the micro-industry regarding performance, reliability, precision and minimal interference contours.

Swiss precision at its finest

All variants of the HSK-EZ tool holders are manufactured with the highest Swiss precision and can operate at speeds of up to 80,000 revolutions per minute. High-speed machining of workpieces is essential, especially in micro and ultra-fine part manufacturing. The large and well-matched variety of clamping diameters, meaning the extensive range of suitable mounting diameters from 0.2 mm to 7.0 mm, makes these tools indispensable for your micro-machining applications, especially when combined with their minimal interference contours.

Design for micromachining

For the watchmaking and chip industries, this new HSK-EZ collet system offers a compact solution without having to forgo the proven hollow shank taper interface. With a run-out accuracy of less than 4 µm and a surface finish of up to Ra 0.25, these tools meet the highest demands of micro-machining. Additionally, this system offers high repeatability, silent operation and excellent rigidity for disturbance-free performance. The slim body and specially designed collet nuts or shrink-fit holders ensure the smallest possible installation space, especially when used with tool changers. Naturally, the new HSK-EZ clamping tools also reduce the risk of interference contours and their design improves chip evacuation in tight geometries.



Tool holders for HSK-EZ15 micromachines

REGO-FIX▲

Collet chuck

Clamping system: ER/SR

Clamping range: from Ø 0.2–7.0 mm



SCHAUBLIN

HydroNut System

Compatible with ER/D collets



SCHAUBLIN

Shrink-fit chuck

Clamping range: from Ø 3.0–6.0 mm



REGO-FIX▲

Collet chuck

With HSK-AZ geometry (HSK-A), featuring a special orientation notch



SWISS TOOLS

Monoblock boring head with HSK-EZ15 interface, adjustable to 1 µm



SCHAUBLIN

Collet chuck

Clamping system: ER/D

Clamping range: Ø 1.0–7.0 mm



Accessories for HSK-EZ15 micromachines

SCHAUBLIN

Run-out test mandrel

For testing the machine spindle, finely balanced



REGO-FIX▲

Spindle cone cleaner

For thorough cleaning of the HSK-EZ15 cone



REGO-FIX▲

MasterBar

High-precision run-out test mandrel for inspecting and aligning the machine spindle, cylindricity = 2 µm, run-out = 3 µm



SCHAUBLIN

Balancing mandrel

For warm-up and running warm-up programmes



HSK-E20 tool holders

SCHAUBLIN

Run-out test mandrel

For testing the machine spindle, finely balanced



SCHAUBLIN

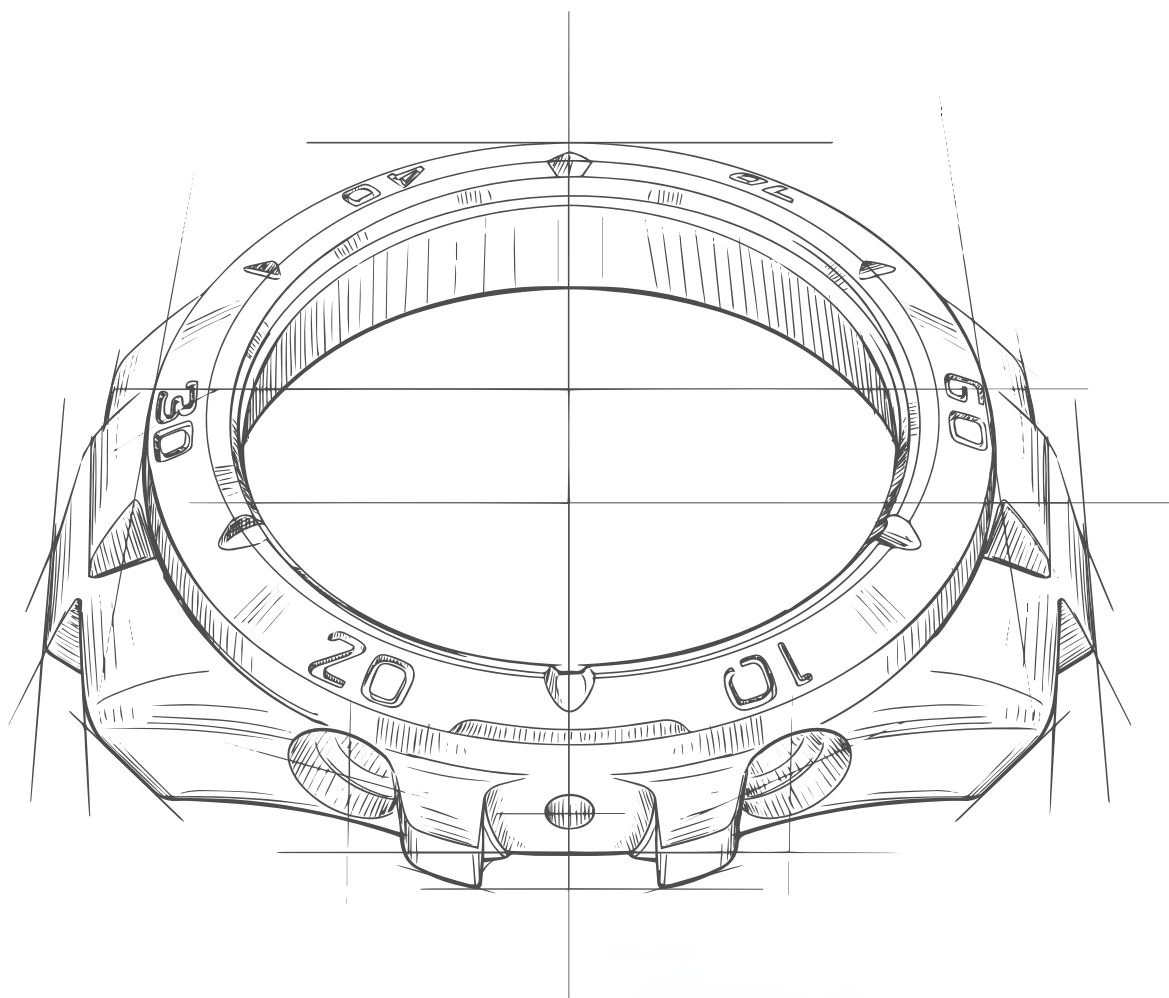
Collet chuck

Clamping system: D

Clamping range: Ø 1.0–7.0 mm



Metrology

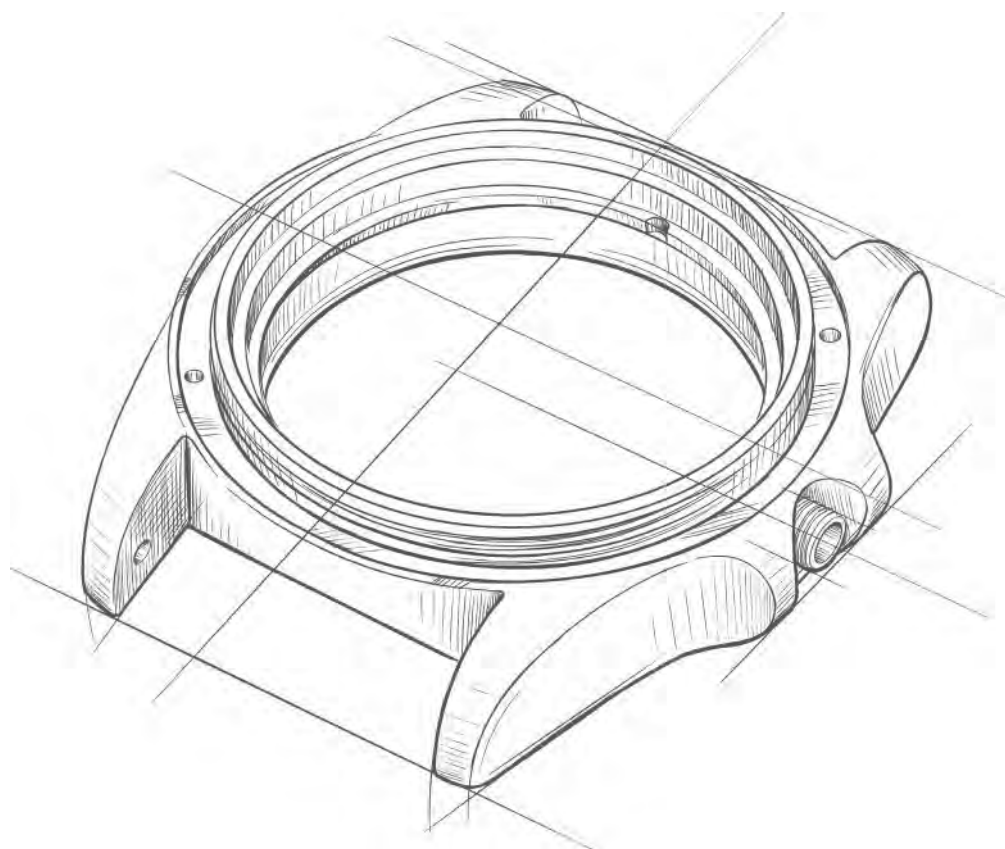


Internal measurement of the watchcase

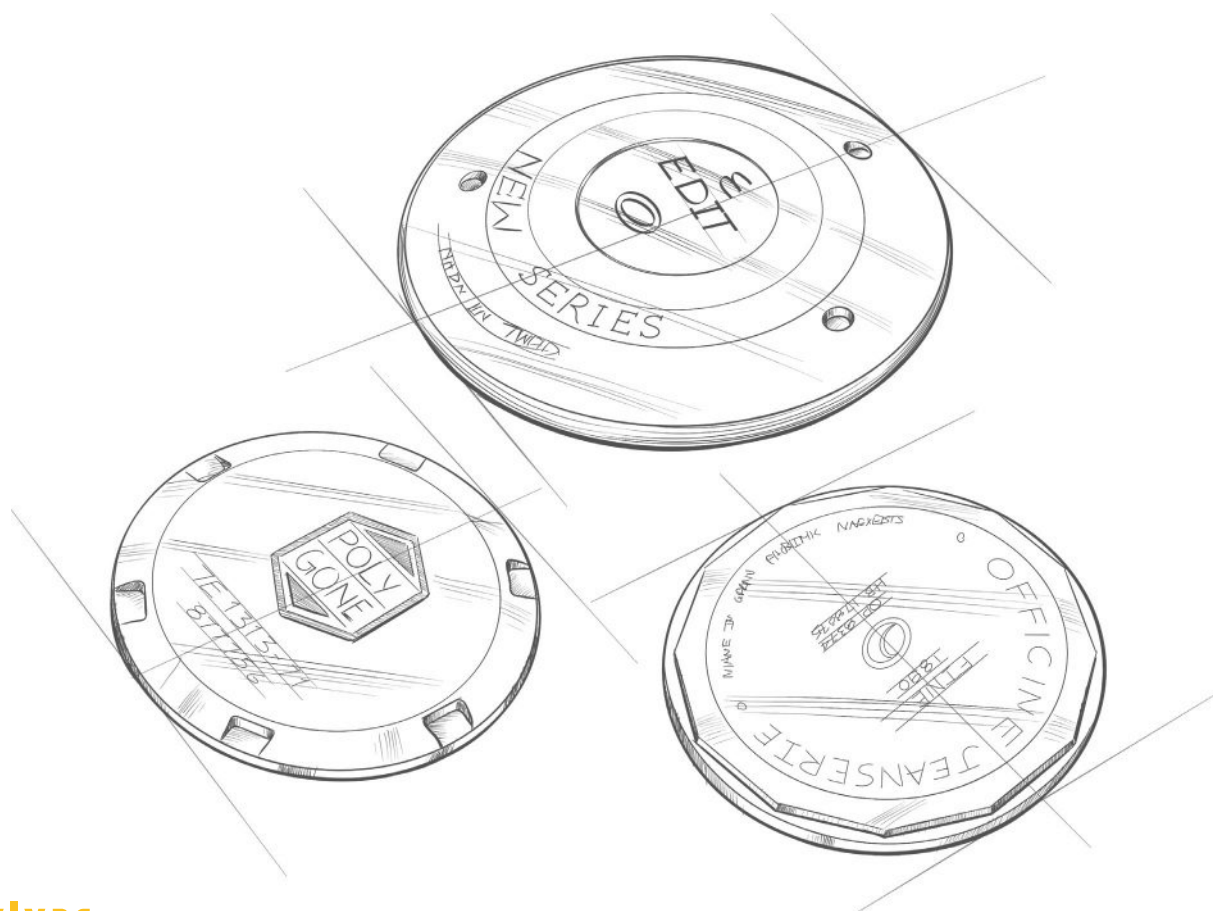


SYLVAC PS16 V2 LV Smart

Superior performance: These benches provide accurate measurement of watch cases, rings and intricate components that are otherwise difficult to handle, ensuring consistent and reliable results. With a proven track record in demanding applications within the watchmaking industry, this bench can be relied upon to deliver accurate measurements every time.



Dimensional check of main plate



SYLVAC VISIO V3

Machine series with manual or motorised zoom

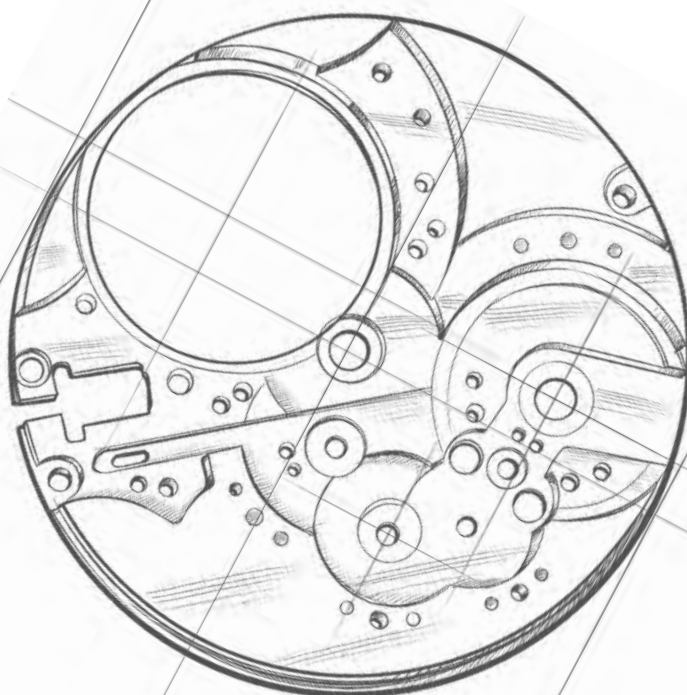
- Simple operation
- Easily accessible
- Robust and sturdy
- Areas of application such as medicine and the watchmaking industry





SYLVAC VISIO V3

- Full HD camera
- Improved image quality
- New Software design
- Video/schematic window with automatic switching
- Robust granite structure
- High-quality guidance system
- Manual measuring table with rapid displacement system
- Sylvac Vista Software with CAD comparison function
- Manual or motorised zoom
- Three programmable lighting functions
- Laser pointer for accurate positioning
- Easy handling



Optical measurement of external contours



The SYLVAC SCAN S25T

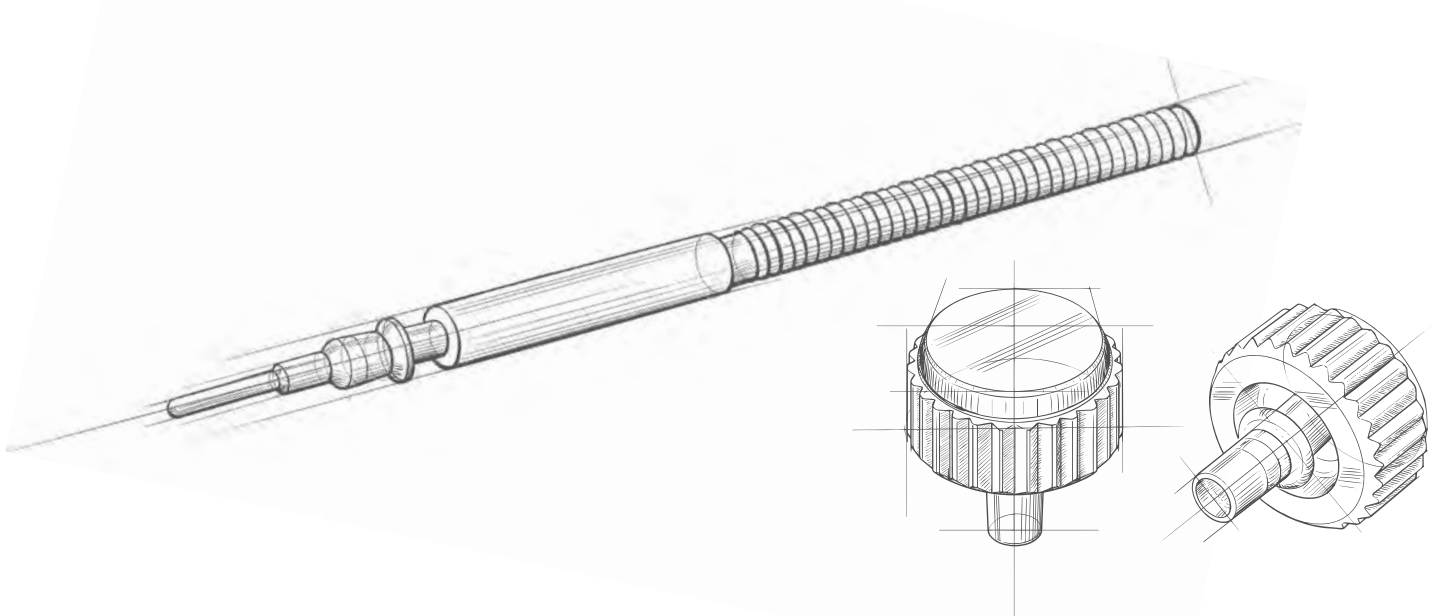
This high-resolution and highly accurate machine is ideal for measurements on small cylindrical parts up to \varnothing 26 mm and 200 mm in length, where measurement time and accuracy are of great importance.

With a complete 2D part scan that takes less than 3 seconds, inspection times are reduced, scrap is minimised and overall productivity is increased.

The completely new user touchpad enables intuitive operation directly in the workshop with automatic 1-click measurement and part recognition.

Precision and efficiency: exceptional precision with our machine's bi-telecentric optical system and the high-resolution CMOS camera

Seamless Integration: This offering includes Reflex SCAN+ software and a PC, making it easy to measure a variety of elements in an intuitive way







LOÏC CHÂTELAIN
Head of Horlogerie,
Brütsch/Rüegger Tools



Our new product range for the watch-making industry has established us as a full-service supplier for the global watch sector.



Metrology – Quality control

RUN-OUT GAUGE



TORQUE SCREWDRIVER



MICROMETERS



DISPLAY UNITS



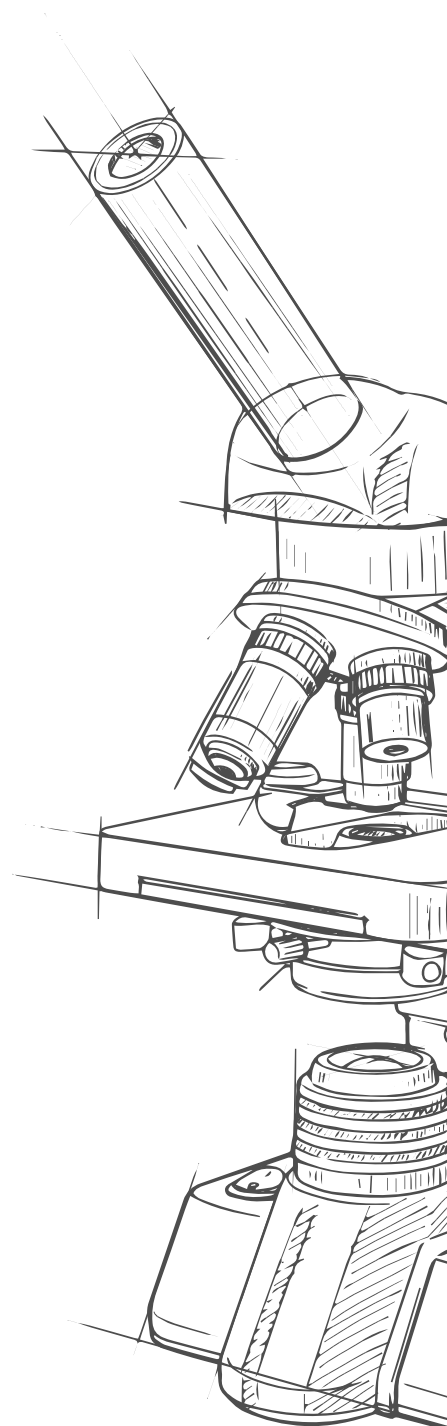
CONTROL LIGHTS



VIDEO MICROSCOPE



CONTROL TOOLS



MICROSCOPE



TORQUE METER

TESTING AND
MEASURING INSTRUMENTSHORIZONTAL LENGTH
MEASURING INSTRUMENTSMEASURING INSTRUMENTS FOR
MECHANICAL WATCHES

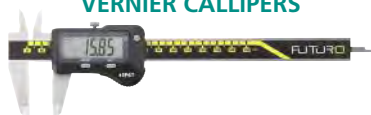
GAUGE PINS



GAUGE SLIDES



VERNIER CALLIPERS



Workshop equipment – Furniture

CHAIRS



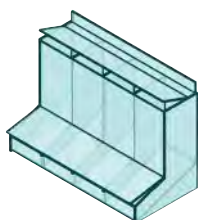
WATCHMAKER'S WORKBENCH



PNEUMATIC HANDPIECES



FINGER COT DISPENSER



WORKBENCH TOPS



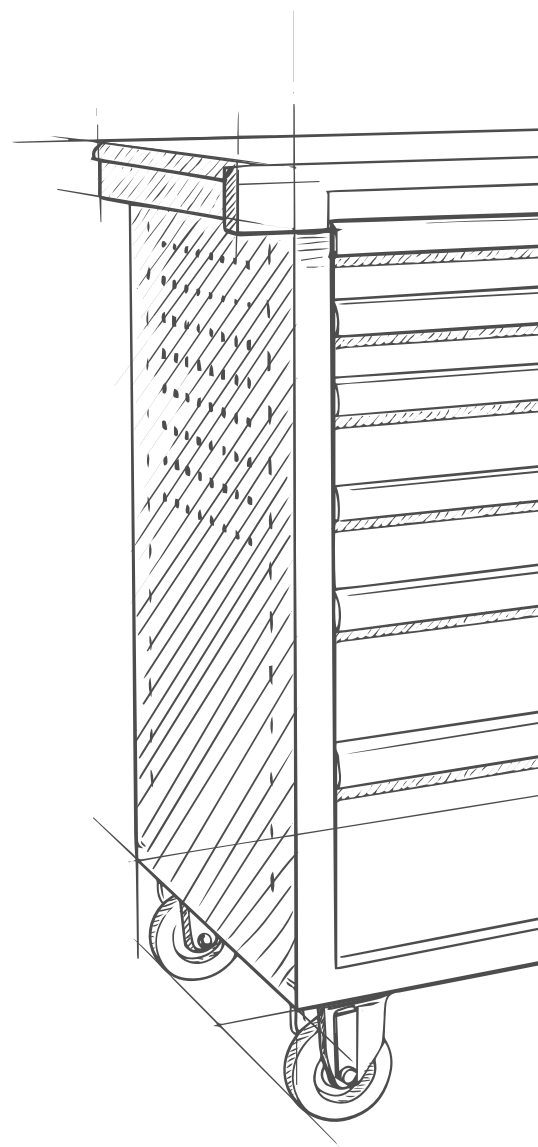
VACUUM PENS



PEEL-OFF ADHESIVE MATS



ESD PRODUCTS



CLOTHING AND PROTECTIVE GEAR



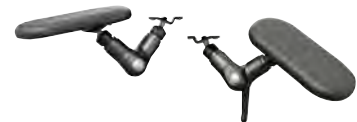
ASSEMBLY STATIONS



SAFETY WASH CONTAINERS



ARMRESTS



LAMPS



DRAWER INSERTS



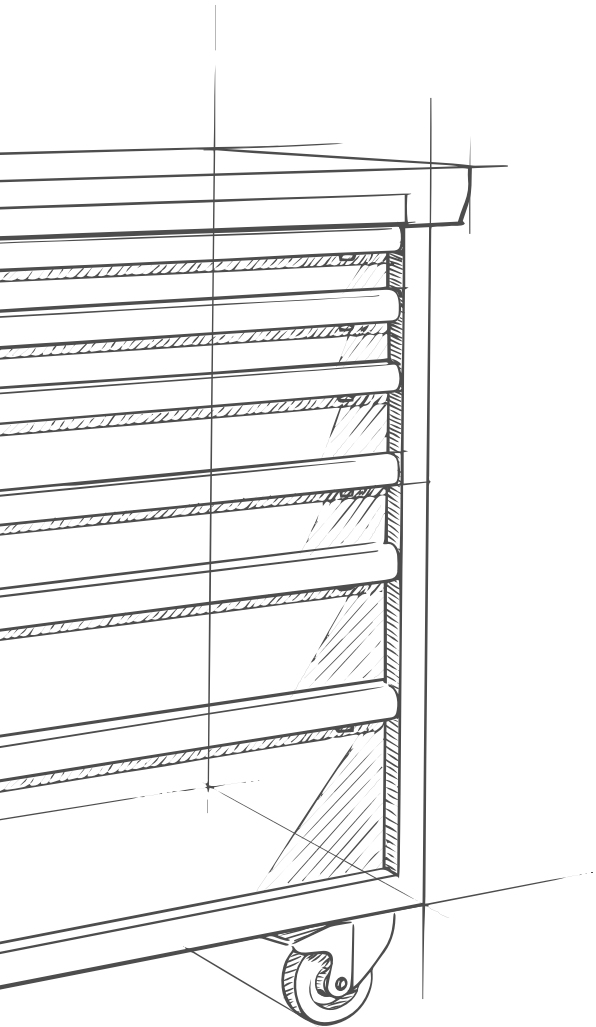
AIR-VACUUM DISTRIBUTORS



STOOLS AND STANDING AIDS



VICES FOR WATCHMAKER'S WORKBENCHES



Devices – Machines

SIMULATION CABINETS



WATCH ESCAPEMENT TESTERS



ELECTROPNEUMATIC PRESSES



MICROMOTORS AND ACCESSORIES



THERMAL PRINTERS



ULTRASONIC CLEANING DEVICES



WATCH WINDERS



DRYING DEVICES



MAGNETIC FIELD METERS



CLEANING MACHINES



LEAK-TESTING DEVICES



GRINDING MACHINES



POLISHING MACHINES



STEAM-CLEANING DEVICES



DEMAGNETISING DEVICES



LUMINESCENCE TEST DEVICES



AIR PURIFIERS



ESD PRODUCTS



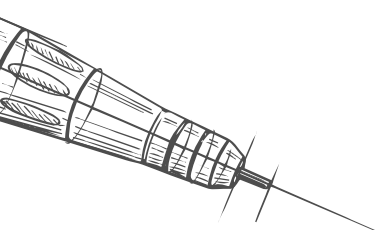
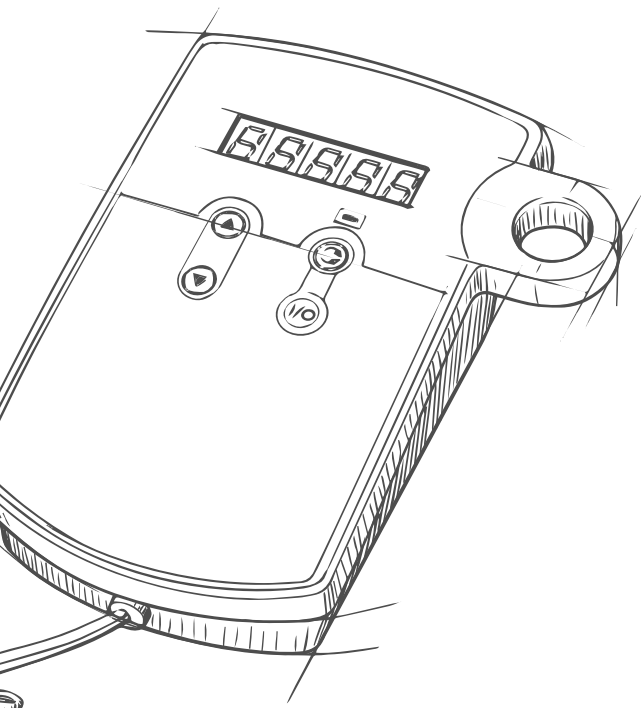
TORQUE METERS



TESTING DEVICES FOR ANALOGUE QUARTZ WATCHES



BOOSTERS



Presses

RACK PRESSES



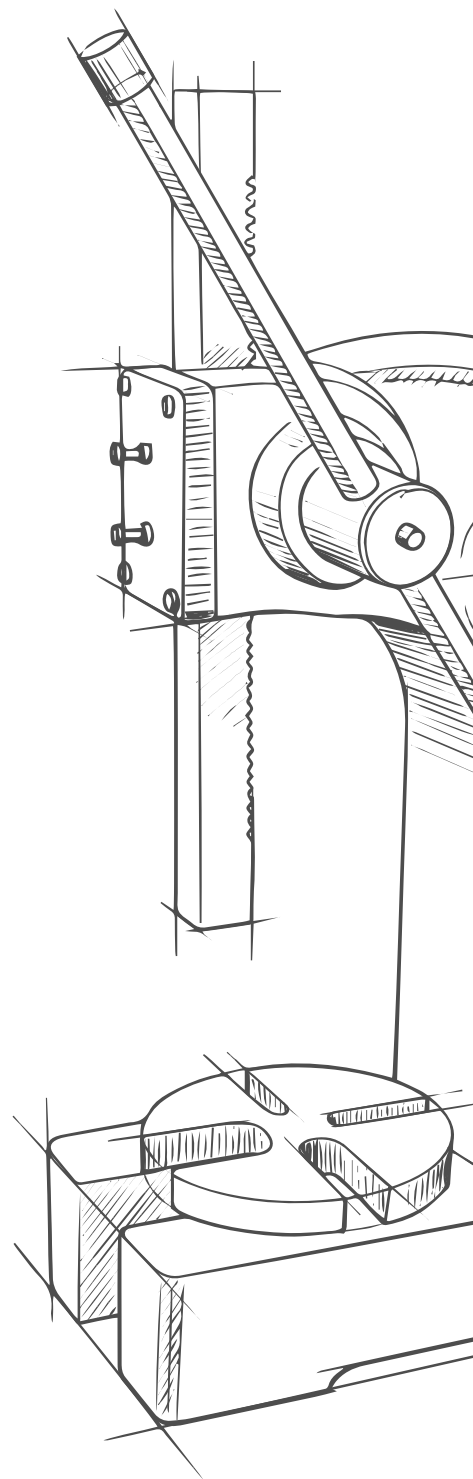
PRESSES WITH LEVER AND MICROMETER SCREW



PRESSES FOR WATCH HANDS



PRESSES WITH MICROMETER SCREW



PRESSES WITH HANDWHEEL



PRESSES FOR WATCH STRAPS



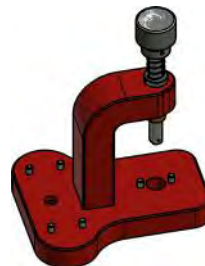
TOOLS FOR REMOVING BEZELS AND SNAP-ON CASE BACKS



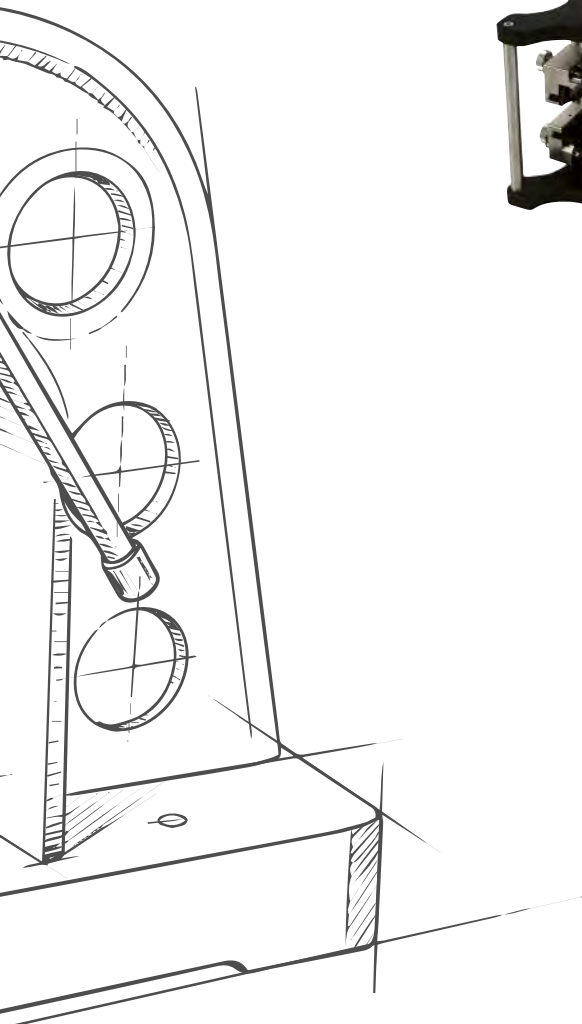
IMPACT PRESSES



PRESSES WITH LOCKING MECHANISM



HEATABLE PRESSES



Hand-operated tools and tool holders

VACUUM TWEEZERS



HAND-OPERATED REAMERS



HAND PRESSERS



MAGNIFYING GLASSES



OILERS



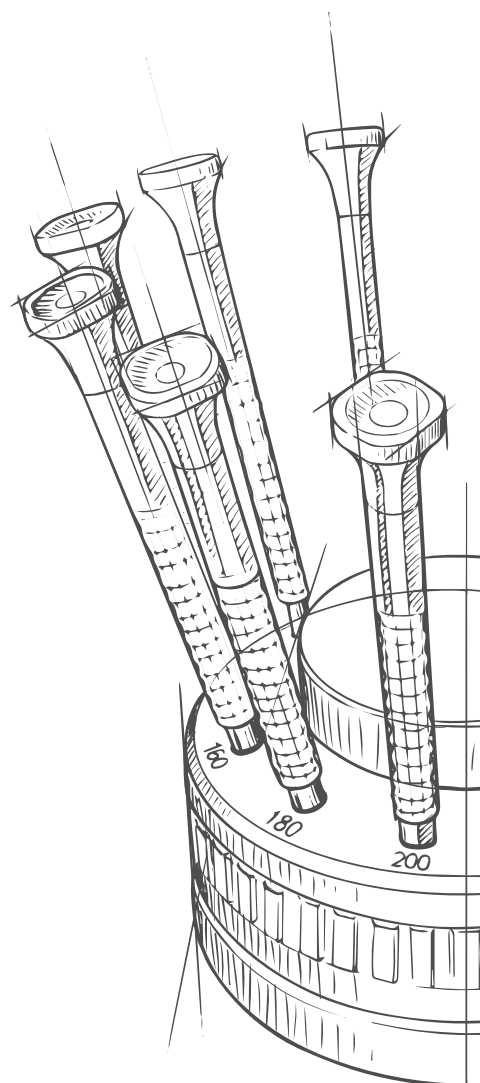
PERSPEX WORK HOLDERS WITH "SLICK"



ROUND REVERSIBLE WORK HOLDERS WITH SPLIT RING ("SLICK")



EXPANDABLE AND REVERSIBLE WORK HOLDER WITH "SLICK"



TWEEZERS



WATCHMAKER'S SCREWDRIVER SETS



NESTABLE WORK HOLDERS



TORQUE SCREWDRIVERS



PIN CLAMPS



DIAL TOOLS



MANUAL BELLOWS



WATCHMAKER'S SCREWDRIVER



ASSEMBLY CUSHIONS



Chemicals / Cleaning

OILS



CLEANING BUDS



FINGER COTS



GLOVES



EPILAME-COATING



ADHESIVES



DISPOSABLE CLEANING CLOTHS



LIQUID DISPENSERS



THERMAL PRINTING PAPER



CLEANING AND RINSING PRODUCTS



MICROFIBER CLOTHS



GREASES



Polishing

STONES



DIAMOND GRINDING PASTES



POLISHING BRUSHES



POLISHING PASTES



GRINDER HEAD BRUSHES



SHANK POLISHERS



COTTON BRUSHES



SANDPAPER



ABRASION DISCS



POLISHING DISCS



POLISHING CLOTHS



ABRASIVE BLOCKS



POLISHING STONES



POLISHING POWDERS



BRISTLE BRUSHES



GRINDER HEAD BRUSHES



WATCH-GLASS POLISH



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- Saw blades for the jewellery industry
- Hygiene and protective items



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- Monitoring of tool consumption
- Automated warehouse management



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- Display values in real time
- Defining tolerances per measuring instrument
- Reset function (Offset)



HIVE QUALITY CONTROL

- SPC Software
- Management of measurement data during the production process
- Customisable workflows for internal processes
- Progress and control reports



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