

Published based on [The IWC Aqua timer](#)

# The IWC Aqua timer

Gorgeous, isn't it? This is the IWC Aqua timer 2000, reference 3568-02. Introduced in 2009, the 3568 (the 02 suffix denotes the rubber strap version) replaces the internal-bezel 3548 model. Bolder in design, the 3568 retains the ETA-based 30110 movement (2892-A2 base), but upgrades to a sapphire-coated conventional bezel with spectacular six-layer underside. It's also available with bracelet, a white-dial version, and a limited edition with orange-on-white.

The main crystal is domed and anti-reflective on both sides, but the bezel is mirror flat and un-coated, which makes for interesting reflections and highlights. I love the idea of putting lumen on the underside of the bezel; that combined with the durability of sapphire makes a bezel that'll remain shiny new for the life of the watch. Brilliant! Even better than the non-lumed Rolex and Omega ceramic bezels. As an aside, there are a handful of other watches with lumen sapphire bezels if you like the look - Fifty Fathoms, Omega, Super marine, and I wouldn't be surprised if others went this route at Basel 2010 and beyond.

The IWC Aqua timer watches are made differently from ones made specifically for a line of watches by adding kits with their own parts so that you do not have to replace or buy a whole new watch if something gets missing. This is also done to ensure that the dive watch you purchased maintains its quality features and to make sure it can endure the same conditions the rest of the watch was made to withstand.

Great Dive Bands Two types of bands that are available through IWC which are very common dive bands: the Velcro version which is tear resistant and the metal link bracelet. Although the bracelet is susceptible to scratching easily, it is well made and comes with everything you need to make it larger or smaller by adding or removing links. Some of the versions, like the IWC Aqua timer 2000, are designed to narrow toward the clasp to minimize interference with wrist movement.

Features The features of the IWC 2000 are just about right with all the necessary components that divers need for underwater safety. The IWC Aqua timer obviously has no digital elements and is solely powered by mechanical movement and is self-winding. The date is also displayed serving as the only face feature to avoid other distractions when checking the time and bezel.

IWC Aims to Please IWC Aqua timer watches are the leaders in the dive watch industry. Satisfied customers describe them as sleek, strong and comfortable. IWC has truly met and exceeded expectations with the design and technology applied to their watches.

Luminosity is, well, amazing. It's not as bright as some Seiko's lumen, but the dual-colour scheme and glowing bezel come alive in the dark. It makes the watch seem larger at night, since you don't normally see the bezel. Since I've a new daughter, I can testify that it's visible at any hour of the day or night, and that the lumen rocks. On the minus side, the second hand is only a tiny triangle of lumen at the very tip, and is quite hard to spot. I think that this is a modern classic. Bold assertion, but the design is functional, original and confident without being too large. Adding a sapphire bezel and AR on the crystal greatly improve usability and the 2892 is a killer movement. Retail price for this version is \$4,400. Add a thousand or so for the bracelet and it goes up to a retail price of \$5,400 - which I'd look for if I were buying one today. Look around for what you can find. There are a few colour variations, and the piece is also offered in chronograph form. I have no hesitation about recommending the IWC over a Submariner or Planet Ocean. This is a fantastic watch, full stop.

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