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« THE CHESS PLAYER INVAR POCKET WATCH CONVERSION - restoring Hamilton "Thin-O-Matic" THE MICRO ROTOR LESSON »

STEM WINDING SET LEVER MAIN SPRING PROBLEMS

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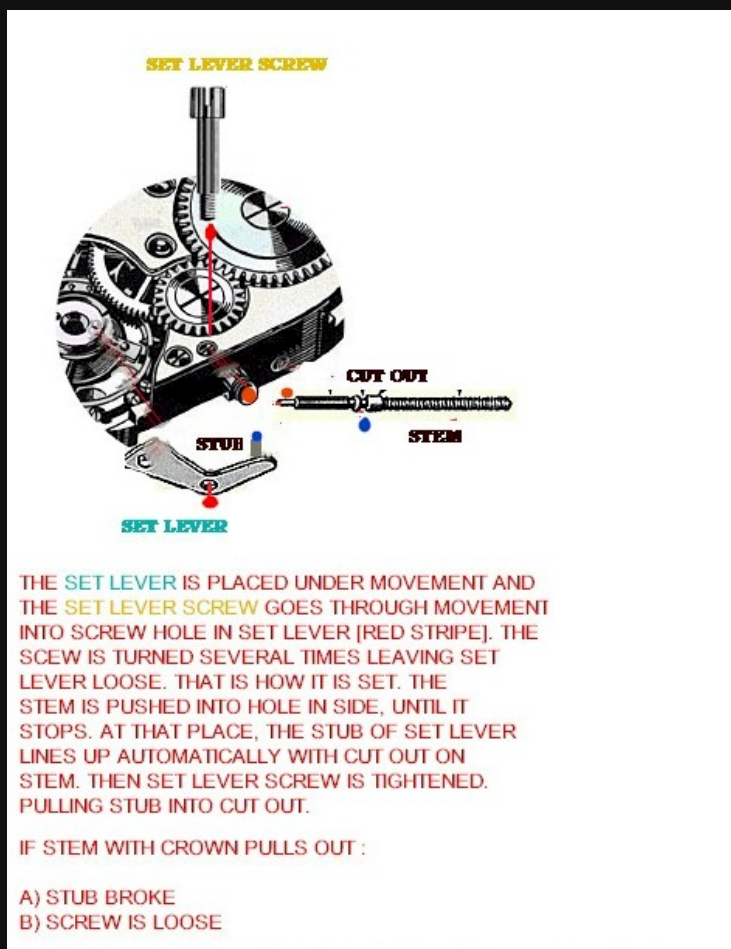
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HOW A STEM COMES LOOSE



IF PULLING ON THE CROWN RESULTED IN A CROWN AND STEM IN YOUR HAND. THEN THAT MEANS THE SET LEVER STUD FAILED. WHEN OVERHAULED, THE SET LEVER IS INSPECTED FOR IT HOLDS THE STEM IN THE MOVEMENT AND ALLOWS THE WINDING AND SETTING ACTIONS TO WORK.

GSW NEVER EVER USES A SET LEVER THAT HAS A WORN STUD.

GSW ALWAYS LOCKS THE SET LEVER DOWN AND THREE INDEPENDENT PERSONS WILL SET AND WIND THE WATCH OVER A WEEK TESTING TIME.

BEFORE THE WATCH SHIPS, DENISE WILL SET TIME AND DATE ONE FINAL TIME.

THE SET LEVER IS A PART THAT RECEIVES THE MOST AMOUNT OF USE. FOR IT HOLDS THE STEM WHEN PULLING OR PUSHING.

I INSPECT EVERY SET LEVER THREE TIMES. AND THEN AGAIN BEFORE I FINALLY CLOSED THE CASE. BUT, UNLESS IT IS COMPLETELY WORN, W3 DO NOT CHANGE THEM.

THE STEM COMING OUT?

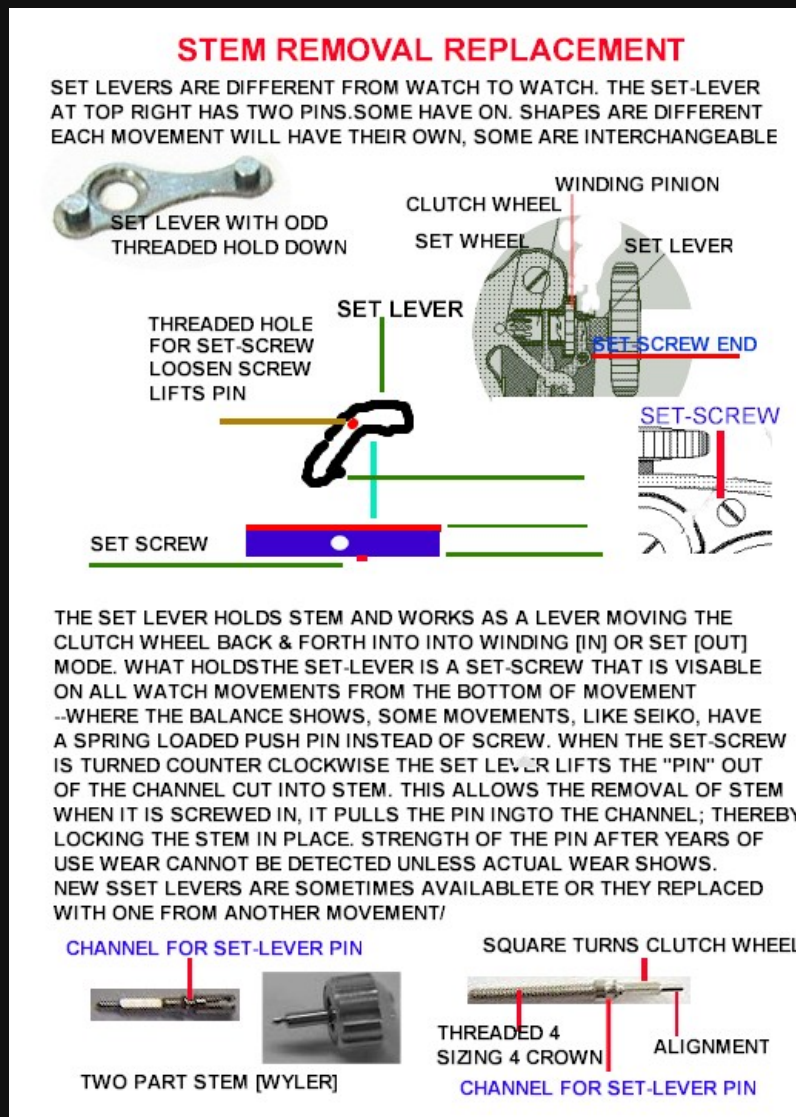
STEMS COME OUT ONLY IF THE STUD ON THE LEVER END BREAKS. THE ONLY WAY THEY BREAK IS WHEN SOMEONE NOT FAMILIAR WITH WINDING WATCHES PULLS TOO HARD AND BREAKS THE STUD.

ADDITIONALLY, NOT ALL WATCHES ARE QUICK SET. UNLESS WE SAY "QUICK SET", THE DATE IS SET BY GOING AROUND ONE TURN TILL DATE CHANGES, THEN GOING BACKWARDS TO "9" AND THE PAST "12", THEN BACK TO "9" AND PAST "12" CONTINUING TILL YOU REACH THE CORRECT DATE.

BEFORE 1970, THERE WERE QUICK SET WATCHES BUT 75% WERE THE LONG VERSION ABOVE. IF A PERSON IS NOT AWARE OF THIS THEY MAY BREAK THE STUD ON THE SET LEVER WHEN TRYING TO PULL THE CROWN TO SET DATE,

JUST READ AND LOOK AT THE DRAWINGS. THE STUB/STUD.

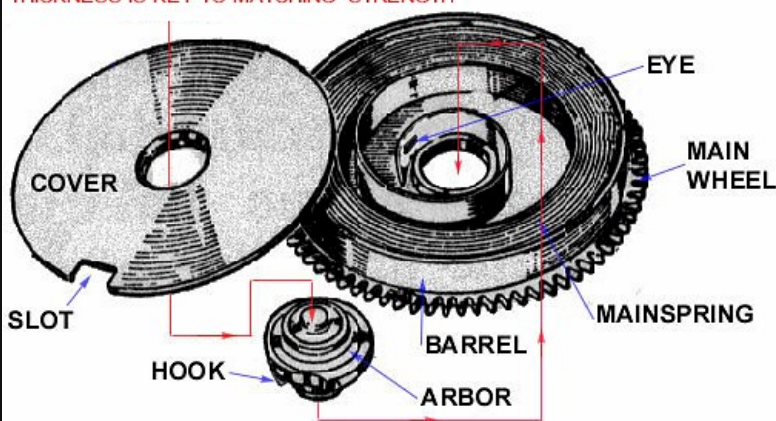
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THE MAIN SPRING AND WHY PROBLEMS CAN OCCUR

MAINSRING BARREL

THICKNESS IS KEY TO MATCHING STRENGTH



HEIGHT IS SET BY BARREL DEPTH AND ARBOR HOOK

MAIN SPRINGS ARE SIZED BY WIDTH LENGTH AND THICKNESS. MOST VINTAGE SPRINGS ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE, WE HAVE TO MATCH WITH EXISTING INVENTORY. BY THICKNESS AND LENGTH DUE TO HEIGHT BEING SET BY BARREL. LENGTH IS ALSO A PROBLEM, ONE CAN ONLY GO SO LONG OR SHORT. THE SPRING SENT TO US ORIGINALLY WAS BINDING. WE GOT A LONGER AND THINNER AND IT WORKED.

MAIN SPRINGS ARE THE POWER IN THE WATCH. IT TURNS EVERYTHING. THE BALANCE IS WHAT REGULATES THE TIMING. MOST VINTAGE MAINS ARE NO LONGER MADE SPECIFIC TO WATCH CALIBERS. THUS WE HAVE TO EXPERIMENT WITH MANY SPRINGS TO FIND ONE THAT WORKS. STRENGTH OF SPRING IS DIFFERENT AND UNIQUE TO EACH SPECIFIC WATCH. LENGTH X HEIGHT X THICKNESS [THIS IS WRITTEN FOR THE NON WATCHMAKER BECAUSE WE USE DIFFERENT WORDS.]

THUS A 10 INCH SPRING THAT IS 110 HIGH X .05 WIDTH/THICKNESS COULD BE REPLACED WITH A 9 INCH SPRING THAT IS 110 HIGH BUT .09 WIDTH THICKNESS.

THUS WE DISCOVER THAT EXPERIMENTATION DOES THE JOB. IF WHEN WINDING YOU FEEL THE SPRING "SLIP" OR CLICK, USUALLY IT MEANS IT IS BROKE, THOUGH SOMETIMES THE WATCH WILL RUN! BUT NOT LONG OR EFFICIENTLY.

YOU CANNOT OVER WIND, OFTEN WHAT OCCURS IS THE BALANCE ID DAMAGED OR A JEWEL CRACKED OR WHEEL STAFF PINION BROKE. YOU WIND THE WATCH TRILL TIT CAN NO LONGER BE WOULD. THIS IS FULLY WOUND, BUT DUE TO PROBLEMS THE MAIN SPRING BARREL CANNOT TURN THE TRAIN.. OR SERIES OF WHEELS.

THUS WHEN SOMEONE SAYS WOUND TO TIGHT OR OVERWOUND AND ALL IT NEEDS IS SERVICE IS WRONG. IT NEEDS PARTS REPLACED.

THERE HAVE BEEN ISSUES WHERE WE CHANGE MAIN AND IT GOES OUT BREAKS FREEZES. EVEN WITH TESTING OVER A WEEK, WHEN IT IS FINALLY WORN AND WOUND AND WORN, A SPRING CAN FAIL, THAT IS ON OF THE REASONS WE OFFER A WARRANTY FOR A YEAR. IN CASE SOMETHING HAPPENS WITH REPLACEMENT PARTS THAT OFTEN HAVE TO BE SUBSTITUTED DUE TO LACK OF ORIGINALS.

MORE TO COME,

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