



## AMERICAN WATCHMAKERS-CLOCKMAKERS INSTITUTE

HARRISON, OHIO

# Polishing and Refinishing

Polishing a watch today requires many skills. Complex case and bracelet designs are common in the marketplace. Standardized polishing methods were often not taught in watchmaking schools here in the U.S. until recently. Many watchmakers learned polishing by trial and error or observing the procedures of others. Today's consumer has high expectations concerning the quality of the watch repair which includes the refinishing of the case and bracelet. Knowledge is the key.

Our formal training program includes concepts and hands-on training in the following areas:

- Casing information
- Case and bracelet refinishing
- Metallurgy
- Lathe finishes
- Use of modern variable speed polishers
- Modern polishing techniques ensuring case shape integrity
- Water resistant testing

### **This course is designed to help you realize:**

- A higher quality of service
  - reduced come-backs due to moisture issues
  - faster turnaround time
  - higher customer satisfaction
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- **Prerequisites:** Must be able to stand for long periods of time. Operate machinery safely. Use a lathe.
  - **Length of Course:** 5 days Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday- 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

- **Topics and Areas of Study:**

1. Identifying metal content
2. Knowledge of the Hallmarks
3. Pre-cleaning procedures
4. Polishing procedures
5. Use of modern water resistant testers
6. Crystal / Bezel removal and principals of a case press
7. Taping and protecting the sealing surfaces
8. Texturing finishes
9. Speed and direction related issues
10. Preparation and maintenance of the polishing wheels and buffs

**More specifically:**

Knowledge of water resistant principles will be taught. Disassembly and assembly of case components and the use of a crystal press and dies will be explained. Procedures related to water testing, including the "condensation test" will be demonstrated on a wide variety of modern, currently produced testers. Techniques demonstrated during this program will crossover to many other brands.

**Important Notice:**

To provide a seamless transition from your classroom experience to your own in-store polishing program, we will be supplying Polishing Supply Kits.

**The fee for the Polishing Supply Kit is included to the class tuition!**

The Polishing Supply Kit includes the following:

1. Felt wheel
2. Buffs
3. Satin wheels
4. Set of compounds
5. Brass fixture for case back
6. Felt bezel fixture
7. Safety glasses and safety mask
8. Abrasives, emery stick, sandpaper
9. Specialty items
10. And more

# Tool List

Please bring the following tools / supplies:

1. Eyeloupe(s)
2. Polishing lab coat (dark in color)
3. Brass / bronze tweezers
4. Screwdrivers
5. Case knife
6. Razor knife
7. Casing cushion
8. New sharp high quality material cutting scissors
9. pegwood
10. Rub-off or Rodico
11. India combination stone (new preferred)
12. Micro-fiber cloth
13. Threaded case tube remover / installation tool 6.00 mm (Rolex style) If you have one.