

Rolex model numbers currently are either four or five digits. The first two or three describes the type of watch. On five digit model number the second from the last describes the type of bezel (some exceptions) and the last describes the material that the watch is made from.

Type of Watch

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Oyster Perpetual Date - 15 & 150 | Oyster Perpetual - 10 & 140 |
| Oyster PD (Older) - 65 & 66 | Oyster Perpetual Chronometer -142 |
| Oyster Prep Date Chronometer - 15 & 150 | Oyster Prep Datejust - 16 & 160 |
| Oyster quartz Datejust - 170 | Oyster PD - 18,180, 182 & 183 |
| Oyster Quartz Date - 190 | Midsized Oyster Prep DJ - 682 |
| Sea Dweller - 16 & 166 | Lady Oyster Perpetual - 67 & 671 |
| Submariner OP - 55 & 140 & 6538 | Lady OP Datejust - 65, 69, 691 & 692 |
| Thunderbird Bezel DJ - 16 & 162 | Lady OP Date - 65, 69, 691 & 692 |
| Submariner - 16, 166 & 168 | Airking - 55 & 140 |
| Daytona Manual Wind - 62 | Yacht Master - 166, 686 & 696 |
| Daytona Cosmography - 165 | Explorer - 165 |
| GMT Master - 167 | |



Type of Bezel on Case - 4th Number

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 0 Polished/Smooth | 3 Fluted | 5 Pyramid |
| 1 Finely Engine Turned | 4 Hand-Crafted | 6 Rotating Bezel |
| 2 Engine Turned | | |

Type of Material of Case - 5th Number

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 0 Stainless | 4 Stainless/White Gold | 7 14k Yellow Gold |
| 1 Yellow Gold Filled | 5 Gold Shell | 8 18k Yellow Gold |
| 2 White Gold Filled | 6 Platinum | 9 18k White Gold |
| 3 Stainless & Yellow Gold | | |

**** For example on a four digit model number ****

1601 Datejust is all steel or steel and gold or all Gold.
All three Datejusts are the same model number (1601).

**** For example on a five digit model number ****

16200 all steel, smooth bezel.
16220 is an all steel engine turned bezel
16234 is an all steel white gold fluted bezel.
16203 is a two tone 18k yellow gold smooth bezel.
16233 is a two tone 18k yellow gold fluted bezel.

Production Dates by Serial Number...

| | | |
|--------------|----------------|--|
| 28,000 1926 | 950,000 1953 | 5,959,000 1979 |
| 30,430 1927 | 999,999 1954 | 6,430,000 1980 |
| 32,960 1928 | 200,000 1955 | 6,910,000 1981 |
| 35,390 1929 | 400,000 1956 | 7,386,000 1982 |
| 37,820 1930 | 600,000 1957 | 7,862,000 1983 |
| 40,250 1931 | 800,000 1958 | 8,338,000 1984 |
| 42,680 1932 | 1,100,000 1959 | 8,814,000 1985 |
| 45,000 1934 | 1,402,000 1960 | 9,290,000 1986 |
| 63,000 1935 | 1,480,000 1961 | 9,766,000 1987 |
| 81,000 1936 | 1,558,000 1962 | 9,999,999 1987 ¹ / ₂ |
| 99,000 1937 | 1,636,000 1963 | R000,000 1987 ¹ / ₂ |
| 117,000 1938 | 1,714,000 1964 | L000,001 1989 |
| 135,000 1939 | 1,792,000 1965 | E000,001 1990 ¹ / ₂ |
| 164,600 1940 | 1,871,000 1966 | X000,001 1991 ¹ / ₂ |
| 194,200 1941 | 2,163,900 1967 | N000,001 1991 ³ / ₄ |
| 223,800 1942 | 2,426,800 1968 | C000,001 1992 ¹ / ₄ |
| 253,400 1943 | 2,689,700 1969 | S000,001 1993 ³ / ₄ |
| 283,000 1944 | 2,952,600 1970 | W000,001 1995 |
| 348,100 1945 | 3,215,500 1971 | T000,001 1995 ¹ / ₂ |
| 413,200 1946 | 3,478,400 1972 | U000,001 1997 ¹ / ₂ |
| 478,300 1947 | 3,741,300 1973 | A000,001 1999 |
| 543,400 1948 | 4,004,200 1974 | P000,001 2000 ¹ / ₂ |
| 608,500 1949 | 4,267,100 1975 | K000,001 2001 |
| 673,600 1950 | 4,539,000 1976 | Y000,001 2003 |
| 738,700 1951 | 5,006,000 1977 | F000,001 2004 |
| | | D000,001 2005 |
| 803,800 1952 | 5,482,000 1978 | Z00,001 2006 ¹ / ₂ |
| | | M00,001 2007 ³ / ₄ |

In early 1999, Rolex began using the A prefix...A000,001

- When Rolex reached the 999,999 production serial in the early 1950's...they restarted the production serial at 100,000 rather than begin a 7 digit number at 1,000,000. During this period Rolex was also putting the date code on the inside of the case backs...so confusing production serials can sometimes have their production date determined. Look for the Roman number I, II, III or IV for the quarter & two Arabic digits for the year.
- In the late 1950's, Rolex again reached the 999,999 production serial & they started their 7 digit numeric numbering system at 1,000,000 for production serials, this continued until the 1990's until production serials reached 9,999,999.
- Rather than begin an 8 digit production serial, Rolex instead began their serials with a letter prefix such as R, then L, E & X. (ROLEX without the O) N, C, & S came out during the early to mid 1990's, W, T & U a little later. The latest letter prefixes are all running concurrently...as Rolex wishes! Only Rolex knows the exact date that any watch was actually produced.
- PLEASE NOTE: In mid 1954 Rolex went back to 100,000. Not to 1,100,000 on case numbers for the Oyster watch.