WATCHMAKER

ALSO KNOWN AS: HOROLOGIST | CLOCK REPAIR | TIMEPIECE TECHNICIAN

MASTER THE INTRICATE ART OF TIMEKEEPING AS A WATCHMAKER. .

This specialised role involves the manufacture, maintenance, repair, and restoration of watches, clocks, and other timepieces. Your skills will be crucial in preserving both the functionality and historical value of a wide range of timekeeping devices.

KEY SKILLS

Skills which may benefit anyone considering a job as a watchmaker include:

- CAD software proficiency
- Micro-mechanics
- Precision assembly
- Problem solving
- Quality control awareness
- Technical proficiency

VALUES & ATTRIBUTES

Values and attributes of anyone considering a job as a watchmaker include:

- Attention to detail
- Patience
- Innovative
- Steady-handed
- High standards
- Artistic – "Creator"

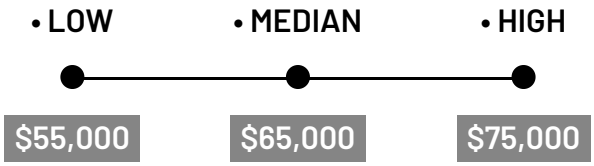
CAREER PROGRESSION

In this role, you may have the opportunity to progress to other positions. Career progression opportunities include:

- Jewellery Designer
- Jewellery Maker
- Technical Manager
- Business Manager

SALARY EXPECTATION

The expected salary for a Watchmaker can vary across different areas of manufacturing and may vary as you become more experienced.



RELATED INDUSTRIES

▸ Furniture and Other Products ▸ General Manufacturing and Engineering

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL SUBJECTS

- Fashion
- Visual Arts (7-10)
- Visual Arts in Practice

CORE SCHOOL SUBJECTS

- Essential Mathematics
- Essential English
- Design
- Visual Arts

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JOB OVERVIEW

As a Watchmaker, you'll work at the intersection of precision engineering and artisanal craftsmanship. In this role, you'll be responsible for diagnosing and repairing mechanical and electronic timepieces, ranging from antique grandfather clocks to modern luxury watches. You'll work on creating and assembling intricate mechanical and electronic timepieces, from luxury wristwatches to precision chronometers. Your work will require a deep understanding of complex mechanisms and a steady hand for manipulating tiny components.

In this role, you'll use a variety of specialised tools and equipment. You might be operating a CNC machine to produce tiny watch components with micron-level precision one day and using a traditional watchmaker's lathe for custom parts the next. You'll work with high-precision measuring instruments like micrometres and timing machines to ensure accuracy. The materials you'll handle include various metals (brass, steel, gold, titanium), synthetic rubies for jewel bearings, and specialised lubricants. You might be assembling a complex mechanical movement with hundreds of tiny parts or calibrating a high-frequency quartz oscillator for extreme accuracy. Your projects could range from producing limited edition luxury timepieces to developing innovative smartwatch mechanisms.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Your role may include duties as follows:

1. Manufacture and assemble watch movements and components
2. Design new watch mechanisms or modify existing ones
3. Calibrate and adjust timepieces for optimal accuracy
4. Implement quality control procedures in watch production
5. Integrate modern technologies with traditional watchmaking techniques

HOW TO BECOME A WATCHMAKER

While formal qualifications are not always mandatory to start in this field, many employers prefer candidates with relevant training or experience. Employers are often looking for job seekers to take on a formal apprenticeship. Here are steps you can take to become a Watchmaker:

1. Complete high school with a focus on subjects like mathematics, design and visual arts.
2. Consider undertaking a Certificate II in Engineering Pathways (MEM20422) for an introduction to manufacturing and engineering.
3. Research training and apprenticeships, including Certificate III in Watch and Clock Service and Repair (MEM31019).
4. Look for opportunities promoted by employers online.
5. Even if there are no jobs advertised but you have an interest in working with the employer, send through a letter and your resume expressing your interest to work in the industry.

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VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

An apprenticeship is the best pathway to gain employment in this role. You can undertake the following qualification as an apprenticeship:

- Certificate III in Watch and Clock Service and Repair (MEM31019)

As an apprentice you will combine work with formal training, allowing you to gain practical skills and knowledge in a specific trade while earning a salary.

Duration: Apprenticeships typically last up to 4 years for full-time participants. Part-time apprenticeships may take longer, depending on the individual's work schedule and training progress.

Work and study combination: As an apprentice, you will work either full-time or part-time while receiving formal training from a Registered Training Organisation (RTO). School-based apprenticeships may be available.

Eligibility: Generally, apprenticeships do not require any formal qualifications to enter, making them accessible to a wide range of individuals, including if you are a school leaver or someone looking to change careers. There are minimum age requirements and there may be other eligibility criteria.

Completion: On completion you will receive a nationally recognised trade qualification, showcasing your skill and experience.

Skills, qualifications, accreditations and licences

Qualifications and skills may be required to progress to supervisor or team leader positions. Specialist vocational education and training qualifications that may help you progress in this role include:

- Diploma of Jewellery and Object Design (MEM50322)
- Advanced Diploma of Jewellery and Object Design (MEM60222)

UNIVERSITY & HIGHER EDUCATION

Holding a degree in human resources, finance, economics, marketing or management can be helpful if you are considering taking a step into leadership or a business ownership position.

Undertaking higher level learning at an undergraduate or graduate level in an engineering field would support deeper learning of technical concepts and theories, and support career advancement.

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