Subject: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by afire on Wed, 28 Sep 2022 17:37:16 GMT
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With the apparent demise of IW, I've been struggling with where to get vintage style unpadded straps with the full stitching, including the lug ends. I've said this before, but it's baffling to me that this style of strap was the industry standard for a half a century and then all but disappeared without a trace. This place has them in a variety of sizes, colors and materials:
https://accurate-form.jp/

They're in Japan and not cheap, but also not prohibitively expensive if you want to complete the "look" of a nice watch vintage. I just ordered three and shipping was free. The only thing that bums me out is that 16mm is their smallest size and the size I find myself in need of the most often is 14mm.

Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by afire on Wed, 28 Sep 2022 17:46:26 GMT
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Another word about the price. The IW straps look nice and were inexpensive, but they were also poor quality. The color rubs or flakes off, edges get worn and they start looking ratty pretty quickly. I had straps for a couple of my watches custom made by a Japanese shop. This was over 10 years ago and those straps show virtually no signs of wear aside from the buckle crease. Some of the NOS vintage straps that I've used have been similarly durable. I'm hoping that these are of similar quality and if so, I think paying three times as much for one of these as I did for an IW pigskin strap will turn out to be a better value in the long run.

Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by Jenneke on Fri, 30 Sep 2022 10:27:20 GMT
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https://www.fratellowatches.com/torre-straps-how-my-search-f
or-the-ultimate-vintage-watch-strap-came-to-an-end/

I've heard that the Vietnam based Hoang Dat does good jobs and 14mm custom orders are possible. He is on facebook, insta and think this is his website:
https://www.hdstraps.com/

Not cheap, dutch, order can be emailed for other sizes (and wishes):
https://www.dstrap.com/product/vintage-1960-waxed-brown-watc h-band/

And here is a list from the dutch horlogeforum with custom made bands which might give some other options:
https://www.horlogeforum.nl/t/custom-made-horlogebanden-van- a-tot-z/136368

Or… make them yourself!

Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by afire on Fri, 30 Sep 2022 16:21:21 GMT
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Those Torre straps look amazing. I've already sent him an email.

Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by afire on Sun, 02 Oct 2022 01:25:45 GMT
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Quick update. I ordered three straps which qualified me for free shipping. I ordered on Tuesday and somehow they were delivered on Friday, three days later, from Japan. The quality is exquisite. I would highly recommend these to anyone.

Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by Gary on Sun, 02 Oct 2022 18:06:59 GMT
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With the strong dollar and the famdamly going to Toyko this winter I'll make a stop into Minamiaoyama. See if we can get a bulk order on the cheap! ;-)

Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by afire on Mon, 03 Oct 2022 17:49:39 GMT
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Good idea. Strap salesman can be your new side hustle.

Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by Gary on Sat, 22 Oct 2022 20:37:15 GMT
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Got tickets for Japan in December, yosh!

On a side note picked up some vintage JB Champion straps at the local mart this morning. They don't have the lug edge stitching but a buck for all 5...you can't pass on these! Scandia calf are the better ones in the bunch.

File Attachments

1) IMG_4993.jpg, downloaded 3551 times



2) IMG_4995.jpg, downloaded 3444 times



Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by afire on Mon, 17 Apr 2023 21:48:42 GMT
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afire wrote on Sat, 01 October 2022 20:25Quick update. I ordered three straps which qualified me for free shipping. I ordered on Tuesday and somehow they were delivered on Friday, three days later, from Japan. The quality is exquisite. I would highly recommend these to anyone.
I finally got around to putting one on a watch. It's hard to judge from a picture, but they are really nicely made, very sturdy and crisp. Probably a better value than the IW straps that cost about 1/3 as much but didn't hold up well to regular wearing. I have the feeling this strap will not need replacing in my lifetime.

Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by afire on Mon, 17 Apr 2023 21:53:34 GMT
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Jenneke wrote on Fri, 30 September 2022 05:27
https://www.fratellowatches.com/torre-straps-how-my-search-f
or-the-ultimate-vintage-watch-strap-came-to-an-end/
And I've received one strap from Torre and have another on the way. Once again, outstanding craftsmanship. I'd like to have his straps on all my watches. But my wallet will restrain me. I'll restrict myself to watches for which I can't obtain this style in a given size or length. One example being Strap 1. Nobody makes a vintage style open ended strap at a 23 mm width. I now have the strap but the watch is in the shop presently. I'll post a couple pics when it's back.

Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by Jenneke on Tue, 18 Apr 2023 17:48:13 GMT
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That sounds like a success! Great.

I still make my own. Green fish leather needs the stitching done. The pigskin is in the “just started” phase.

File Attachments

1) 7992C054-197C-4748-AB8E-909B4C8A8344.jpeg, downloaded 3437 times



Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by afire on Wed, 19 Apr 2023 14:35:53 GMT
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That green looks pretty sharp!

Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by Jenneke on Wed, 19 Apr 2023 18:36:19 GMT
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Whaha thanks. Getting the hang of it. Use a chinese leather repair kit for the edges. Most difficult part is cutting straight (and not into the ruler). bought some sort of a cutting wheel that hopefully does the trick.

Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by afire on Wed, 10 May 2023 19:40:37 GMT

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And here is my first Torre strap (thanks again Jenneke for posting about him here):

It's wasn't easy to find any 23mm open-ended strap the first time I had to get one for this watch and finding one with the fully stitched lug ends was never going to happen. Notice the incised line around the edges. It's a perfect match to what's shown in plate 23B the 1918 book.

Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by Jenneke on Wed, 10 May 2023 19:46:05 GMT
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Wow, that is a very very nice strap!

Have to find out how to make that incised line.

Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by JackW on Thu, 11 May 2023 01:18:17 GMT
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Afire, that is a nice band.

Watch looks familiar too.

Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by afire on Thu, 11 May 2023 03:43:50 GMT
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JackW wrote on Wed, 10 May 2023 20:18Afire, that is a nice band.

Watch looks familiar too.
Indeed this watch has been the beneficiary of your skills. Your service got me a few years out of it before the loose canon pinion reappeared. I truly don’t understand this issue. I feel like it should be able to be fixed with a pinch of some needle nose pliers :lol: , but obviously it’s not that simple.

Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by JackW on Thu, 11 May 2023 15:12:14 GMT
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That CP is an issue for this watch as I recall. Did you get it resolved? or is it still need fixing? You are welcome to send back to me, but I would wait until this fall. Basement is going to get remodeled this summer and need to move out of my work space soon.

Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by Jenneke on Fri, 12 May 2023 06:22:51 GMT
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afire wrote on Thu, 11 May 2023 05:43I truly don’t understand this issue. I feel like it should be able to be fixed with a pinch of some needle nose pliers :lol: , but obviously it’s not that simple.
I would expect it is that simple… There are tightening tools for it. But staking set or just a nail clippers would do.

Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by afire on Fri, 12 May 2023 16:40:52 GMT
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The canon pinion did work itself loose again. I send a bunch of watches to my regular watchmaker, including this one, and he referred to the canon pinion as being "stubborn", so I took that to mean that it probably isn't as simple as I imagine it to be. But maybe I read too much into that statement.

Back to vintage style straps, I should be posting pictures of my second Torre strap. But when I ordered it I somehow neglected to mention that it should be open ended to go with my newly reacquired green gold mystery Import. :blush: Now I have a beautifully made 14mm brown strap with no obvious watch to pair it with. In my mind brown leather pairs with green and yellow gold and black leather pairs with white and rose gold. I'll either have to hunt down a green gold watch with 14mm lugs or break my usual rules.

Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by Jenneke on Fri, 12 May 2023 18:53:16 GMT
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Whoops….

You could remove the stitching and glue and redo it on a watch. But guess that might end up uglye…

This combo looks very cool though:
https://www.coolvintagewatches.com/very-cool/vc44-ykh2c-6tzw a-9a2rl

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Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by afire on Fri, 12 May 2023 20:20:24 GMT
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Jenneke wrote on Fri, 12 May 2023 13:53This combo looks very cool though:
https://www.coolvintagewatches.com/very-cool/vc44-ykh2c-6tzw a-9a2rl
Yeah, I need to be more flexible. I think my Quadron 40 would look nice with a brown strap...

Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by afire on Sun, 14 May 2023 13:14:54 GMT
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Not a bad look. I need to be less dogmatic with my strap choices.

Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by Jenneke on Sun, 14 May 2023 19:24:59 GMT
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Fine combo!

What wild color will the next order be?

Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by JackW on Mon, 15 May 2023 00:55:13 GMT
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Nice!

Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by afire on Mon, 15 May 2023 15:12:37 GMT
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Jenneke wrote on Sun, 14 May 2023 14:24What wild color will the next order be?
Brown on white is pretty wild for me, but I'm actually considering maybe deviating from my black/brown paradigm. I need a 15mm strap, which nobody stocks in this style, so I have my excuse ready for another order.

Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by Jenneke on Mon, 15 May 2023 18:27:36 GMT
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Grey was also a Gruen sweatproof strap option… or go for the combo's shown in the Gruen

Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by afire on Mon, 15 May 2023 20:09:41 GMT
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Jenneke wrote on Mon, 15 May 2023 13:27[O]r go for the combo's shown in the Gruen guild

I was actually considering that. Other than the Strap 1, the only other watches that justify the expense of a custom strap are on the narrow side and I think it would be tough to pull off. But if the right watch and need align, I will ask him.

Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by Jenneke on Mon, 15 May 2023 21:08:52 GMT
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How narrow? If I can, he can do better for sure.

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1) 3D2B27E3-400A-40D3-87AE-A182EF52FB3B.jpeg, downloaded 3196 times



Subject: Re: Vintage Style Straps
Posted by afire on Tue, 16 May 2023 20:09:40 GMT
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14-15mm. Maybe I should reconsider.