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HANDS-ON

Everest Leather Straps For Rolex Watches Preview

| BY **ABLOGTOWATCH**

26 COMMENTS



Guest post provided by Sheldon Smith of minus4plus6.com for aBlogtoWatch

In the pursuit of building a better mousetrap, Everest looks to enhance the **Rolex** wearing experience with their latest strap collection for Rolex watches. Coming September, Everest Bands will release their Everest Leather Series bringing another element of comfort and versatility to Rolex watches. This is in addition to Everest's rubber strap series for Rolex. The Everest Leather Series watchstrap combines the comfort of quality leather with the reliability of a solid 316L stainless steel end link, topped off with a replaceable 316L stainless steel tang buckle.

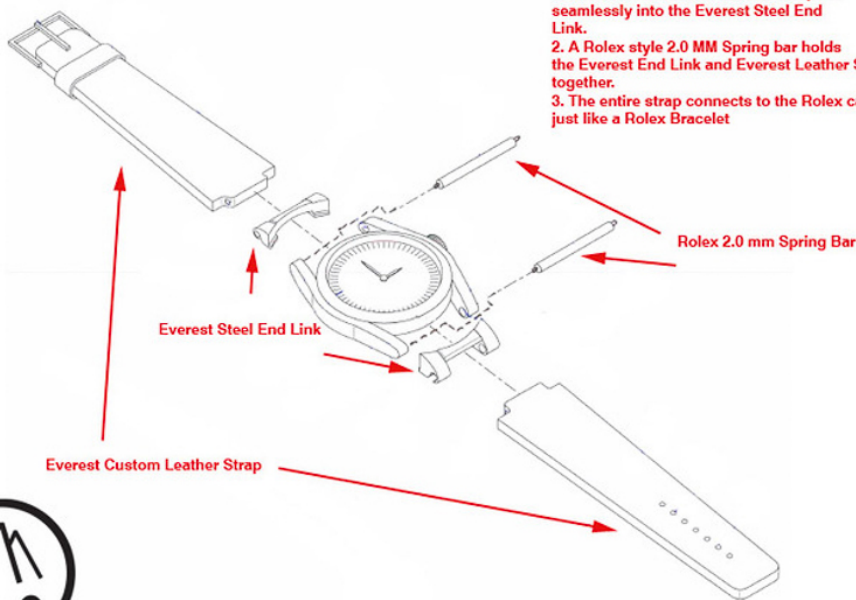
Rolex wearers have been known to use aftermarket leather straps, but the critical piece omitted from a basic leather strap setup is the solid end link that supports the spring bar. Arguably, a Rolex with a leather strap sans end-link gives the watch a very utilitarian look, but at the expense of looking polished, and at the expense of spring bar strength. A solid endlink prevents the spring bar from being bent and inadvertently popping out. Making these straps stand out is Everest's utilization of a precision-machined 316L steel end link that fits a 20mm wide lug width Rolex watch precisely with no slop between the lug and the watch case. The fit between the endlink and the watch case is just like the original Rolex end link that slides right in with no lateral movement, no rounded edges, and

fits like it is meant to be there.



How the whole System Goes together:

1. The Everest Custom Leather Straps fit seamlessly into the Everest Steel End Link.
2. A Rolex style 2.0 MM Spring bar holds the Everest End Link and Everest Leather Strap together.
3. The entire strap connects to the Rolex case just like a Rolex Bracelet.



Just as Patrick Kansa points out in aBlogtoWatch's [RubberB rubber strap for Rolex](#), there are plenty

of aftermarket options and varieties, but at quality levels that span the map. Without question, the Everest Leather Series is at a quality level complimentary to Rolex watches in materials, machining tolerances, and leather selection. In Everest's first offering, straps will be available in saddle brown, vintage brown and black calf leather, as well as in black and brown crocodile to match the watch face, bezel, and your mood. Everest plans to offer shell cordovan straps in the very near future as well.

Rather than navigating the idiosyncrasies of leather watchstrap production, Everest relies upon industry-leading watchstrap manufacturers located around the globe. Everest selected these specialty manufacturers, as they create straps for likes of Omega, Panerai, and IWC. Watch companies, like Everest, would rather focus their efforts on the endlink rather than on the peculiarities of manufacturing leather straps. Everest straps are well stitched, well proportioned, and the leather looks flawless. Finishing off the strap is a removable buckle made from the same 316L surgical stainless steel and has the same Rolex brushed finish to match Rolex's brushed lugs. The Everest buckle is removable using the same 1.6mm screwdriver used for adjusting Rolex Oyster links. The buckle tang fits into the buckle holes with little slop and without stretching the leather; it appears that the holes and buckle tang were made to be together.





Installing the strap is a relatively easy affair when using the correct tools. The best tool for removing and installing Rolex bracelets is the Bergeon 6825ff (ff for Fine Forks). Even though the tool is not at an entry-level price, it is well worth it if you see yourself switching out straps. Other standard spring bar tools work, but the 6825 prevent lug scratches because the tool's tweezer-like action compress both ends of the springbar simultaneously making it easy to lift out and reattach solid end-links to the watch.

A simple DIY for removing and installing Rolex straps is posted over at [Minus4Plus6](#). Making the Everest strap installation an easy affair are the solid endlinks that slide right onto the case. There is no stuffing a leather strap around a spring bar, or no wedging leather between a springbar and a case, as is the case with thick leather NATO straps. Slide the end link on, make sure the included springbars set into the case and your off.



The Everest End Link:
Notice A Perfect Case Fit!

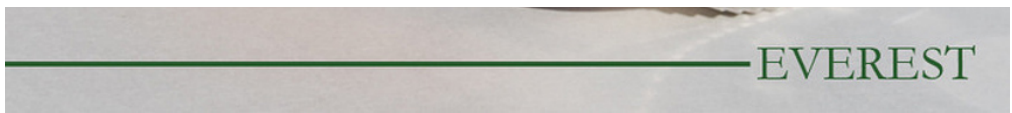
Standard Leather Strap:
Unsightly Gap Between Case and Strap!





I wore a tanned leather Everest strap affixed to a Rolex GMT 116710 BLNR (Bleu/Noir bezel) that my favorite dealer, Fourtané, let me borrow for a week. Although I have worn Rolex watches for over 25 years, it was never with a leather strap, as I felt that any non-original strap did not compliment the watch. I quickly found that is not the case with the Everest leather strap. The Everest endlink looks at home with the brushed finish. Unlike wearing a stainless or rubber strap, a leather strap conforms to your wrist. After a week of wearing the Everest leather strap, the strap was working its way to fitting like a well worn work glove. Unlike silicon straps that stretch and give, they retain their basic shape. The Everest leather strap, on the other hand, has the same feeling of strength, like the stainless steel bracelet, but the lighter weight makes it disappear from your wrist. After wearing leather on a Rolex, I see why Rolex offers a leather option on some of their watches.





After a successful Kickstarter campaign to roll out the Everest rubber strap, Everest continues the same formula for the Everest Leather Series. Until August 15th, Everest Kickstarter backers are able to receive a calf leather strap, endlinks, and buckle at **\$190**, \$88 less than the post-Kickstarter retail price. Crocodile leather starts at **\$250**, \$103 less than the planned retail offering price. There are also other quantity discounts available for early Everest Leather Series backers. Everest leather strap wearers can order additional leather straps without ordering another endlink / buckle combination in the coming future.

Without question, Everest leather straps bring a new wearing experience for Rolex wearers. Everest leather straps possess the design, fit and integrity that Rolex wearers expect, and at a price point that is less than what a factory original strap costs. The Everest Leather series is easy to install and brings a whole new look and feel to your Rolex watch. everestbands.com

[See the Everest Leather Straps for Rolex watches campaign on Kickstarter here.](#)

Rolex GMT Reference 116710 BLNR courtesy of Fourtané, Carmel California

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Twinbarrel

3 days ago

I don't think it's ugly at all but I believe the new ABP 'R' band are form-fitted, like it's supposed or expected to.

...but they are more expensive.

Like RipJJ, I simply love a leather strap. Better yet, some leather straps alongside a bracelet for one watch. It is so much fun to totally change the look of a watch by a nice strap. More bang for my buck if you will.

For my Pam's I have so many different straps and Panerai makes it easy to change as well.

Rolex straps, awesome: bring them on. Both rubber and leather.

A deployment lock is also fantastic on a strap. It prolongs the lifespan of any strap considerably.



RipJJ

4 days ago

For the record, I don't have any stake in this company. I just love timepieces as they are my only jewelry. Except my wedding band. Does that count as jewelry?



RipJJ

4 days ago

If I were to see this on a wrist, I would find it interesting and attractive. I own IWC, JLC, Pan, Patek and Omega that are on a leather strap. I suppose it's not for some. For example, I'm looking to add a Mark Carson to my collection, and showed an image of it to a few friends. They hated it. I still think the Ka La are well thought about, and unique pieces. I will definitely wear this leather strap on my ttYM and possibly some others. Some might hate it...I will enjoy it, as I do all my watches.



BIGCHRONO

4 days ago

This column works well for everyone, except Everest. It's better to be lambasted here than buy the products online, be crucified by family, friends, business associates, & the public for donning substandard goods, then returning them in disgust.



SuperStrapper

4 days ago

So they found a way to overcharge even more than with the rubber strap offering. Well done. Too bad they couldn't figure out that the end links should be 904l steel, not that pedestrian 316l junk.

Probably so expensive because they don't have the ability to actually make them for themselves, they have to outsource the work to places that already know what they're doing.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

aBlogtoWatch



The world's most popular blog about watches, with news, reviews, watch buying guides for men's and women's watches, industry information, commentary and discussion.

Established in 2007, aBlogtoWatch delivers watch reviews and timepiece buying advice to hundreds of thousands of people all over the world each month.

In a letter to readers **aBlogtoWatch reminds audience members that we work for consumers** and that the best wrist watch information is produced by passionate, trustworthy people just like themselves.

Find out more about our editorial policies →



Ulysses31

4 days ago

@SuperStrapper It wouldn't be so bad if the end pieces actually matched the colour and finish of the watch case but they even got that wrong.



Twinbarrel

4 days ago

Abp straps have done a much better design.

http://m.abpparis.com/Limited-edition-ABP-R-STRAP-a-strap-100-integrated-to-your-Rolex_a316.html

A bit pricey perhaps but it's an astonishing adaptation.



GBD

4 days ago

I quite like the idea, but I wish it were executed so that the metal end link was closer to flush with the lug ends.



Astronuts

4 days ago

Wow...One wouldn't think the concept of this strap could cause a mild stir. I did pledge, but canceled wondering if it would fit my vintage 5513. A lot of older subs came with bracelet issues - stretch, excess wear etc....I choose to give it a home on a cordovan strap, thinking if it can't be all original, a strap is really the only choice. I don't think this system is unattractive or expensive as a strap option. To each his...ah nevermind.



pinkdela

4 days ago

The beefier lug cases in the Rolex oyster makes the watch look unbalanced with a strap. Sorry I'll pass.



Dsmcastro

4 days ago

Wouldn't be easier to make a curved-end leather strap? Although, put leather on diver watches is a bit of dull.



trj66

4 days ago

This is THE worst post on ABTW ever. Yeah, it is posted as a "guest post", but my sorry eyes read this an embarrassing and just plainly horrible advert.

An advice from a reader of many years: tighten up the operation of this site - or loose your readers in sync with your credibility.



**aBlogtoWatch** moderator

4 days ago

@trj66 It really isn't an ad, at least we didn't get paid. The person who wrote it has worked with the company before and enjoys their products. We know that people like "Rolex accessories" and we haven't seen something like this in the past. Everest Bands is among the few companies doing aftermarket Rolex straps that are nice so we felt OK with it. I think it is however important that the community stay cautious and understand the difference between advertising and editorial. This is simply from a different voice than our own because we didn't have the hands-on experience with the straps. Thanks again for the comment.

**Feller87**

4 days ago

@aBlogtoWatch I would appreciate if you guys made a series of posts experiencing strap purchases, similar to the way you write stories about buying in stores.

Also maybe a guide similar to the watchbuying guide you have on the site about where the best places are for different types of straps (custom, horween cordovan shell, authorized dealers etc) and a breakdown for each brand what the best route to take is.

I know its a big undertaking :) but thats why we all frequent this site, thoroughness, honesty and loyalty to the watch enthusiast.

cheers

**trj66**

3 days ago

@aBlogtoWatch @trj66 Apologies are so much in order: my comment was in no way constructive (as "WatchWindersInt" points out) and way, way too harsh. I'm sorry about that - but I was really dumbfounded over such a biased article.

Friends again?

**aBlogtoWatch** moderator

2 days ago

@trj66 @aBlogtoWatch Always friends. My feeling is that when a reader takes the time to comment it is because something is very important to them and it is worth discussion whether that thing is good or a concern. You felt concerned and you raised your voice - that is natural and I hope people know that is a welcome practice here. I suppose something that is an issue - which I see from time to time - is people jumping to conclusions about why something is the way it is. Here in the US we have a saying that goes "assumption is the mother of all fuck ups." I think the point is often times jump to causality before they have asked all the right questions. At aBlogtoWatch we hope not only to offer good answers but that people feel comfortable to raise questions. If we are doing something that we personally might want to reconsider, we sure hope our little system of checks and balances puts it right.





WatchWindersInt

3 days ago

@trj66 's comment is THE worst comment on ABTW ever. Yeah, it is posted by "trj66", but my sorry eyes read this an embarrassing and just plainly horrible comment.

Jokes aside - the article might seem biased to you, but there are more constructive ways to critique an article than this.



trj66

3 days ago

@WatchWindersInt @trj66 Yeah, point taken and you're absolutely right. My comments came out way too harsh, but I was/am truly surprised over reading such a biased and completely positive post in this forum - especially over a product that seems mediocre at best, as other commentators already have pointed out.

Thanks for the moderating comment.



WatchWindersInt

3 days ago

@trj66 @WatchWindersInt :) Thanks for being a good sport. I didn't mean to be facetious. I take your point about the product though as well as the lopsided review. I'm probably biased myself because I have their rubber strap (and quite like it).. Cheers!



Chaz_Hen

4 days ago

A lot of people will buy this for the novelty factor and that they think their Rolex sports watch will look "cool" when changed up.

Then they'll realize that Rolex sports watches have the perfect, most iconic bracelet ever and go back to that, relegating the strap to a drawer, rarely if ever to be seen again.

That GMT "Bruiser" looks like utter crap with that strap.



TheBalanceWhl

4 days ago

So every other watch on the planet without an integrated lug has an "unsightly gap" now? That's a weak marketing pitch.



SuperStrapper

4 days ago

My thoughts exactly. 'Lets make ourselves look better by blanket insulting all of the other perfectly fine and good looking straps that came before us'.



dbaxter821

4 days ago

I think this is really cool. I am strap guy and have pretty much tried everything on the market - love the idea. Also, it is good to see that the leather is well made from both the author and

the pictures. Leather straps are usually hard to tell the quality from the pictures. We have all made the mistake of purchasing something online, get it and then been disappointed. I have had the rubber strap from Everest (sold it along with an Explorer) and do miss it, and the quality on that was on par with with my rubber Omega strap. Just picked up an older sea-dweller and this will totally dress it up.



Ulysses31

4 days ago

I think it looks worse like this. Kinda half-assed, made-at-home looking. Also reminiscent of Hublot with the needless metal between the lugs, not a look you want to copy if you can possibly avoid it. Other manufacturers can integrate the leather strap perfectly with the case and it looks just fine. This looks like it was found in a flea-market.



Ayreonaut

4 days ago

Do not want. Looks terrible. If the "unsightly gap" is really a problem, make a leather strap that is shaped to fit the case.



Chaz_Hen

4 days ago

@Ayreonaut Or go back to the styling of those "hooded" bubblebacks