

A Comprehensive Review of the Seiko 5 Automatic

Who needs a watch when you can check the time on your smartphone? Smartphones seem to have negated the importance of owning a watch. After all, isn't a watch supposed to help you keep track of time? A smartphone doesn't always cut it. It can be a distraction. Sometimes, glancing at your phone is not appropriate at all, for instance during a date or even during business meetings. Watches are a symbol of your individuality. They are the only accessory that a man can really get away with. They become part of you and without them, you feel that something is missing. They communicate a sense of seriousness. They are a good way to start a conversation and get new friends. It goes without saying that choosing a watch is a big deal. You must choose a watch that can showcase who you are. A Seiko Automatic is undoubtedly a good deal. Why not delve more into it?

Features

The Seiko has a number of impressive features:

- 23-jewel Japanese-automatic movement
- Dark blue dial
- Water resistant up to 330 feet
- Mineral hardlex crystal
- Date function
- Good weight and build quality
- Exhibition case back
- Three fold clasp (with push button release)
- 42 mm case (brushed stainless steel)
- 22 mm lug spacing
- 14 mm width

Let's delve more into the features:

1. Blue dial

The Seiko 5 Automatic has a dial that looks like rugged precision equipment. The Hardlex mineral crystal protects the dial from bangs. The dial's deep navy blue color is absolutely gorgeous. It is simply breathtaking in the sun.

2. Unidirectional bezel

The bezel has Arabic minute markers with a stylish font that is easy to read. The bezel is quite solid, rotates smoothly and has a nice click to it. The bezel cannot be shifted accidentally.

3. The metal bracelet

This strong metal bracelet keeps the dial and bezel securely in place, thanks to the solid links. Many people opt to order a NATO strap instead. A blue/gray one will complement the blue crystal and bezel colors.

4. Weight

The weight makes you feel that the Seiko is not an imitation or even a toy. It is a proper large watch, but not too big to be termed as oversize. Its size is 42 mm x 14 mm. It has a good wrist presence.

5. The Crown

The crown functions quite well. It is located at the 3 o'clock position. To set the second hand, pull the crown out and put some pressure on it.

6. Crystal

The domed crystal has a rich royal blue finish. In strong light, it radiates a bright shine. It also adds to the vintage look. The elegant shape bevels down to where the crystal meets the bezel, a detail that adds to the watch's gorgeous look.

7. The display case back

The display case back is simply irresistible. You cannot help but spare a minute to admire it before you strap your watch on. It has a lovely design of gyroscopic waves.

8. Accuracy

When compared to its rivals like Rolex, the Seiko 5 Automatic gains 2 minutes in 3 weeks (gains about 7 seconds per day). The Rolex loses around 5 to 6 minutes a month. The Seiko tells time accurately, to a large extent.

9. Details

Beautiful details like a nice light blue color on Saturday and the day date complication make the Seiko stand out among its competition. The crystal and bezel show different color shades depending on the color of the light that strikes them.

Pros

- Perfect size
- The watch is splendid. It has an attractive, magnificent design
- The sword-shaped hands have a nice blue-green lume that makes them quite bright. You can read the time even in low light.
- The bracelet is comfortable and has a nice two-tone touch. It has a nice balance on the wrist. It is also very shiny.
- Affordable
- Bilingual – This watch has an English/Arabic day wheel.
- Good power reserve – the Seiko runs at about 40-42 hour power reserve. Sometimes you don't wear it and it will still keep time.
- It does not use a battery – it uses automatic movement.
- This watch does not have any debris under the crystal

Fits well under shirt cuffs, though the sleeve should be a bit short to wear the watch comfortably

Cons

- The bracelet is what you would find on cheap watches. The good thing is that you can replace it with a NATO or leather one. Although the band is 22 mm, you could also use a 20 mm one.
- The watch is a bit on the heavier side. It weighs 5.76 ounces. It is however not too heavy that the weight is unbearable. Changing the strap will reduce the weight considerably.
- The crystal scratches easily, so you need to take care of the watch. Replacing the crystal can be quite expensive
- The Seiko does not have a screw-down crown, so it is not ideal for underwater activities. It could be pulled out accidentally when you are under water.

- The Seiko 5 Automatic has no manual wind. To wind the watch, shake it side to side to ensure that the rotor spins enough. A watch winder will come in handy.

All in All

The Seiko 5 Automatic has the features and vintage feel that you would normally find in rare, classy, more expensive watches. It has a solid build and splendid design. The blue face and bezel make it so unique that you cannot afford to leave it out of your collection. If you do not like the metallic brace, you could always go for a NATO (blue/gray will complement the blue crystal and bezel colors) or a leather one.

It keeps time accurately, even better than the more expensive types. The Seiko undoubtedly fits the bill. It is so magnificent that people can't help but notice it. Its vintage design resembles that of more expensive versions making you look classy. Better still, it is so affordable, it is a steal. This watch is a perfect gift. If you can, go for the Seiko made in Japan. The Malaysian version is still good quality, though. Seiko has once again proved itself to be a consistent manufacturer of vintage, stylish, innovative, attractive and handy dive-style automatic watches. Is it a wonder that the next watch in this series, the SNZH53J1 is referred to as the 'Fifty Five Fathom'?