REFERENCE DATASET

Replica Watch Factory Report 2026

A reference dataset on factory status, coverage and movement supply

Compiled by DK Watch Guide
Data cut-off 26 November 2026
Primary source r/RepTime "Who Makes the Best" guide, May 2026 update
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1. What this report is

This is a factual dataset, not a buying guide. It records three things: which replica watch factories were producing in 2026, which models each one led in the community's factory guide, and which movements they supplied. Every figure traces back to a dated community thread or to the May 2026 update of the r/RepTime "Who Makes the Best" spreadsheet.

The point of separating this from a buying guide is that buying advice ages badly. Factory status, coverage counts and movement supply are the parts that stay useful after a recommendation has gone stale.

> **How to read "rows led".** The community guide is a table of model rows, one per reference and movement combination. "Rows led" counts how many of those rows name the factory as the first choice. It measures breadth of coverage, not quality on every row. A factory leading 82 rows can still be the wrong pick for a specific reference, and a factory leading 8 rows can be the only right pick for one.

2. Factory status and coverage

FACTORY	STATUS (2026)	ROWS LED	SPECIALTY	NOTE
VSF	Producing	82	Rolex Submariner, Daytona, GMT, Datejust; Omega Seamaster, Aqua Terra 3235/3230/3135/3285/4130/4131 clones; integrated 8800-type	Most-named factory in the May 2026 community guide. Late-2026 constraint is supply lead time, not quality.
ZF	Producing	49	AP Royal Oak; Patek Nautilus/Aquanaut (Miyota lane); Rolex Datejust 41 4302/3120 clones; 9015 Miyota; 2824/2836 Asian	Second-busiest name. Holds the free-sprung 15500 row and most Tudor Black Bay rows.
3KF	Producing	8	Patek Nautilus, Aquanaut, Calatrava DD324 clone (first to clone it), 324 clone, 240 clone	Held the Dandong 324 exclusive until it ended; now third on the 5711 row behind DDF and BBF.
ARF	Raid reports, Jun 2026	5	Rolex five-digit Submariner, GMT 116710LN, Explorer II 226570 3135/3186/3285 clones	Reported renamed to ONE in Aug 2026; a single warehouse said to be raided, so some rows survived.
Clean*	Reported raided, Jul 2025	—	Rolex (Air-King 126900 remains as a residue row) n/a as a producer	Removed from the guide in Feb 2026. Watches still sold under the name are not the original factory.
Noob	Closed since 2021	—	Rolex Submariner (historical) n/a	"Noob v2" has no proven link to the original factory, which closed after the 2021 raids.

Status reflects community reporting through November 2026. A dash in "rows led" means the factory is not treated as a producing factory in the current guide, so it holds no first-choice rows.

3. Secondary factories

These lead individual rows rather than whole brands. They matter because a dealer quoting one of these names for the wrong reference is usually quoting stock, not suitability.

FACTORY	WHERE IT LEADS
DDF	Patek 324 clone lane (5711, 5712, 5167/5168); AP 26240
QF	Rolex Daytona free-sprung; GMT free-sprung; Day-Date 36 tungsten
BTF	Rolex Daytona 116XXX range
OMF	Omega Speedmaster 57, De Ville, Aqua Terra 2824; Patek 5968
GRF	Patek Aquanaut 5164 Travel Time, 5205, 5524
PPF	Patek Nautilus 5726/5980; Aquanaut 5067 quartz
OME	Patek Nautilus 5712 moonphase
Top Factory	AP Royal Oak 15510 blue dial; 26240 chrono
PPM	AP 15400 rose gold weighted
HRF	Omega Speedmaster Racing
BPF	Rolex vintage 16710/16750/16700

4. Movement reference

The movement inside a replica determines more about price and serviceability than the factory name does. The prefix on a clone identifies its maker: **VS** for VSF builds, **DD** for Dandong, **SH** for Shanghai, **VR** and **JH** for Jinghe.

MOVEMENT	USED IN	MAKER / PREFIX	WHAT TO KNOW
3235 clone	Rolex Submariner 126610, Datejust 36/41	Dandong / VS prefix	Three crown positions; ~70h reserve
3230 clone	Explorer 40 224270, Oyster Perpetual	Dandong	No date; two crown positions
3135 clone	Submariner 116610, Datejust 36	SH / VR prefixes	Older design; parts easier to source
3285 clone	GMT-Master II 126710	Dandong	GMT complication
3186 clone	GMT-Master II 116710; vintage 16710	Dandong	Single-colour bezel references only
4130 clone	Daytona 116XXX	Dandong	Free-sprung on QF builds
4131 clone	Daytona 126500 / gold 126XXX	Dandong	Current generation
4302 clone	AP Royal Oak 15500 / 15510	Dandong DD4302 V2	ZF offers a free-sprung variant
3120 clone	AP 15400 / 15410 / 15450	Dandong	ZF leads these rows
324 clone (DD324)	Patek Nautilus 5711, Aquanaut, Calatrava	Dandong	Clone keeps regulator arm; genuine is free-sprung
8800-type	Omega Seamaster Diver 300M	VSF integrated	26.5mm, ~4.65mm; not coaxial despite the label
9015 Miyota	Aquanaut, Nautilus jumbo, AP 15202	Miyota (Japan)	Real movement; cheap to service
7750 Asian	Speedmaster 57, Patek 5980/5968, AP Offshore chrono	Asian 7750	Thicker stack; sub-dial order differs from genuine

5. Five findings worth carrying into any purchase

1. Factory status changes faster than recommendations do.

Clean Factory led the Rolex market until the July 2025 raid and left the guide by February 2026. A recommendation without a date attached is a stale claim.

2. "Best factory" is only meaningful per reference, and sometimes per dial colour.

The AP 15510 splits: Top Factory for the blue dial, VSF for every other colour. The Patek Aquanaut lists two builds per reference, one per movement lane.

3. Weight decides gold replicas more than finishing does.

A non-weighted gold Daytona or Day-Date feels wrong immediately. On a tungsten-weighted build the difference is 40–60 grams and it is the first thing anyone notices.

4. The Speedmaster Professional has no good replica, and the reason is mechanical.

No Chinese movement matches the genuine Lemania-derived sub-dial layout. Every Speedmaster replica on the market runs a 7750 or Lemania-type base with a different stack order.

5. Movement naming is the fastest way to detect a substitution.

VS, DD, SH, VR and JH prefixes identify the movement maker. A 2824 sold as a 3235 clone fails on crown-position count before it fails on anything visible.

6. Method and limits

The dataset draws on the May 2026 update of the r/RepTime "Who Makes the Best" guide in two parts: the spreadsheet and the maintainer's posted changelog. Where the two disagree, the changelog takes precedence, because a spreadsheet does not announce its own removals.

Status changes come from dated threads: raid reports, rename reports, and supply reports from buyers. The guide's own maintainer is explicit that the community marks are “directionally correct, but there are nuances” — one factory can have the better case shape and another the better crystal for the same reference. That caution is preserved here rather than compressed into a single ranking.

What this report does not claim: it does not verify any individual watch, does not endorse any dealer, and does not guarantee a factory's current output. It records what the community documented, with the date it was documented.

Citation

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Compiled from community sources dated 2021–2026. Factory names are used descriptively; this document is not affiliated with Rolex SA, Omega SA, Audemars Piguet SA or Patek Philippe SA, and it does not deal in watches.