



OYSTERLOCK SAFETY CLASP

CROWNING SECURITY, SENSORIAL DELIGHT

No other part of a Rolex watch is subject to such regular manipulation as the clasp, a tactile bond between the watch and its wearer. It is crucial to the security of the owner's prized possession and to their comfort. The Oysterlock safety clasp reconciles the demands made on the Professional watches. With a blend of robust yet sophisticated engineering, smooth lines and simple handling, it guarantees complete security on the wrist.



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Introduced on the GMT-Master II in 2005, the latest-generation Oysterlock safety clasp developed and patented by Rolex represents state-of-the-art engineering. Its design prevents accidental opening even in the toughest conditions, and ensures both secure fastening and seamless ease of use for travellers and adventurers regardless of their environment. Offered in Oystersteel, Rolesor, 18 ct gold or 950 platinum to match the bracelet, this folding clasp with safety catch acts as a visual counterweight on the wrist to the robust cases of the Professional watches.

The Oysterlock is outwardly simple. Its curved cover espouses the shape of the inside of the wrist and, on the divers' watches, hides the Rolex Glidelock extension system and Fliplock extension link. Handling this embodiment of form and function is an exercise in simplicity, requiring just two movements. First, an effortless flick of the finger or thumb lifts up the safety catch, revealing the core of the clasp, the patented snap-fit lever; then, fingertip pressure on the lip unlatches this spring-loaded lever, releasing the elegantly machined blades of the clasp.

The “motor” of the Oysterlock is its snap-fit lever, a complex mechanism comprising no fewer than 15 components. Among them are the hook that latches onto the lug on the bottommost blade, and two tiny springs that allow the lever to be opened without putting any strain on the rest of its parts, thereby increasing longevity.

TACTILE WONDER

Fastening the clasp is an equally satisfying experience. The cover and safety catch close with two firm clicks in succession, signalling that the watch is securely fastened. Unfastening and fastening this tactile wonder is performed with the utmost precision, ease and comfort.

DROP TESTS

Accidental knocks and gestures like vigorous applause or a golf swing can subject a bracelet and clasp to the toughest of forces. The Oysterlock underwent 26 different types of drop tests during its development. The lever was also immersed in a tank of chlorine and salt water with added sand, where it was opened and closed 100,000 times – about three times the clasp's given lifecycle.

VISUAL HARMONY

Just as the clasp is simple to operate, such simplicity is extended to its appearance. As one of the most complicated external components of a watch, this is no mean feat. The Oysterlock is highly technical yet it rivals the elegance of the concealed Crownclasp or the Oysterclasp. Furthermore, its



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overall shape and proportions contribute to the robust visual impression of the Rolex Professional watches.

VISION OF THE FUTURE

When designing the Oysterlock, the engineers and designers had to take two essential parameters into consideration. On the one hand, this clasp had to include the Easylink comfort extension system, introduced five years earlier, in 2000, or the Fliplock extension blades of the Sea-Dweller and Rolex Deepsea divers' watches. On the other, it had to be able to accommodate future developments of the brand in terms of extension systems. This explains why the Oysterlock is perfectly compatible with the Rolex Glidelock bracelet fine adjustment system fitted on all Rolex divers' watches.

In the same spirit, the latest-generation Oysterlock was introduced as the clasp of choice on the leather strap of the Cosmograph Daytona, sporting a special design that elegantly conceals the strap fitting.

CROWNING DETAIL

A subtle – and symbolic – feature illustrates the meeting of minds between engineers and designers. The Rolex crown on the clasp initially responded to an aesthetic demand. It was turned into a functional advantage by being mounted low on the safety catch so that its bottom edge would form the small lip that assists the fingertip opening of the catch.

Such crowning detail in the Oysterlock safety clasp marks the alliance between form and function, technology and aesthetics that characterizes the very philosophy of Rolex.