

BEGINNER WATCHMAKING

HOW TO BUILD YOUR VERY FIRST WATCH

BY TIM SWIKE



Please Read This FIRST

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A NEW WAY TO USE SPEEDI-FIT

I used to be a little apprehensive about using Speedi-fit. It was an overall good solution for manufacturing custom movement holders, but not a perfect one. Well, that might have changed. My new technique for using Speedi-fit is so easy to do, you just might consider using it for all of your watch movement holder replacements. Let's get started.

First, scoop out two equal portions of Speedi-fit. When you buy Speedi-fit from a place like www.esslinger.com, you get two containers. The base is the orange stuff, and the catalyst is the white stuff. Mix the two scoops together for about 10 seconds. Make sure you end up with a uniform light orange ball when you are done mixing.



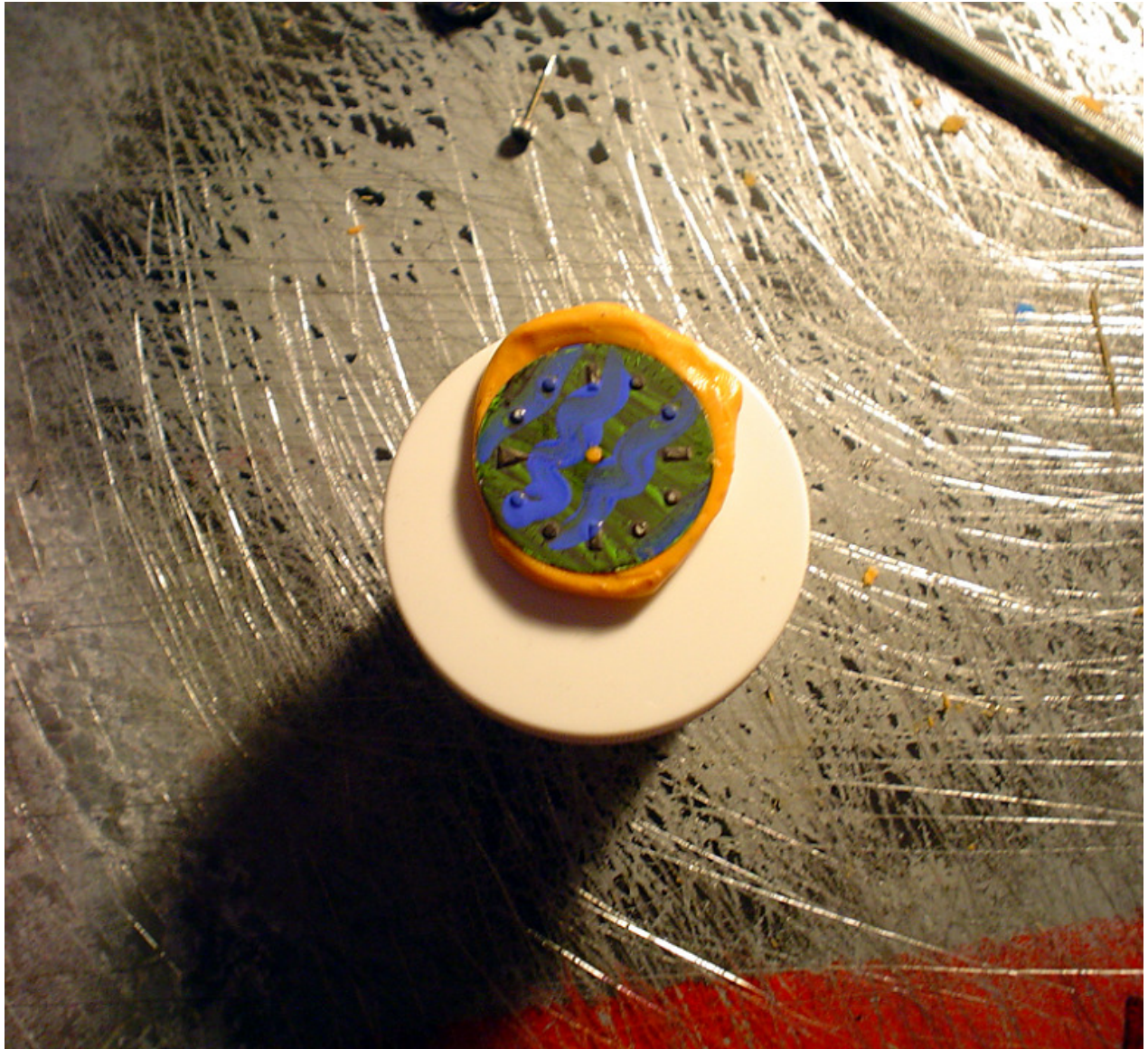
Here is the mixed Speedi-fit.



Next, place the Speedi-fit on the back of your watch dial. The dial below will be used as a template for the movement holder.



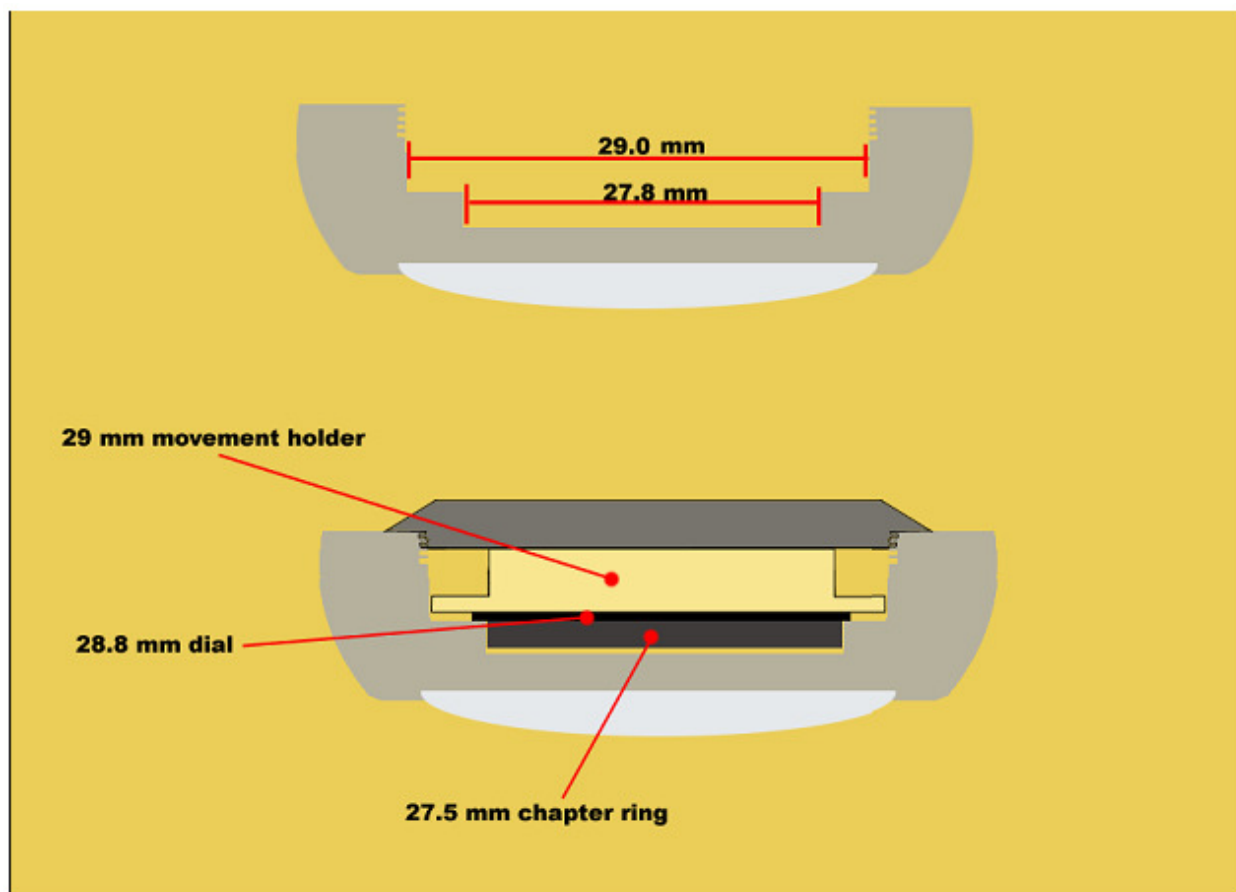
Next, turn the dial over and place the dial and putty on the Speedi-fit container lid. Press down on the dial so that the putty is around 3.7mm thick, or as thick as the stock movement holder should be.



Wait for the Speedi-fit to dry. It should take a few minutes. When it's dry, you can cut around the edges to form a perfect circle.



If your watch dial is smaller in diameter than the movement holder diameter, then you can use a larger dial as a template, or just get a compass and draw out the appropriate size circle on cardboard or wood, and then cut it out. In the example below, the 28.8mm dial is smaller than the diameter needed for the movement holder. So you would need to use a 29mm dial, or some other type of 29mm circle for the movement holder template. Basically, we are just making a circular disk out of the Speedi-fit.



Press a hole in the center of the Speedi-fit, so you can properly line up the position of the watch movement.



Just a few more steps to go.



Use your Dremel tool to smooth out the movement holder and remove putty around the edges, so that the watch case back is able to engage the case threads. You can find the Dremel Multipro kit at hardware stores for around \$45, or you could look for a used one on Ebay. This tool comes in handy for all kinds of projects. It's definitely worth looking into.





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14/50
1/50
225/2
135/4
14/50

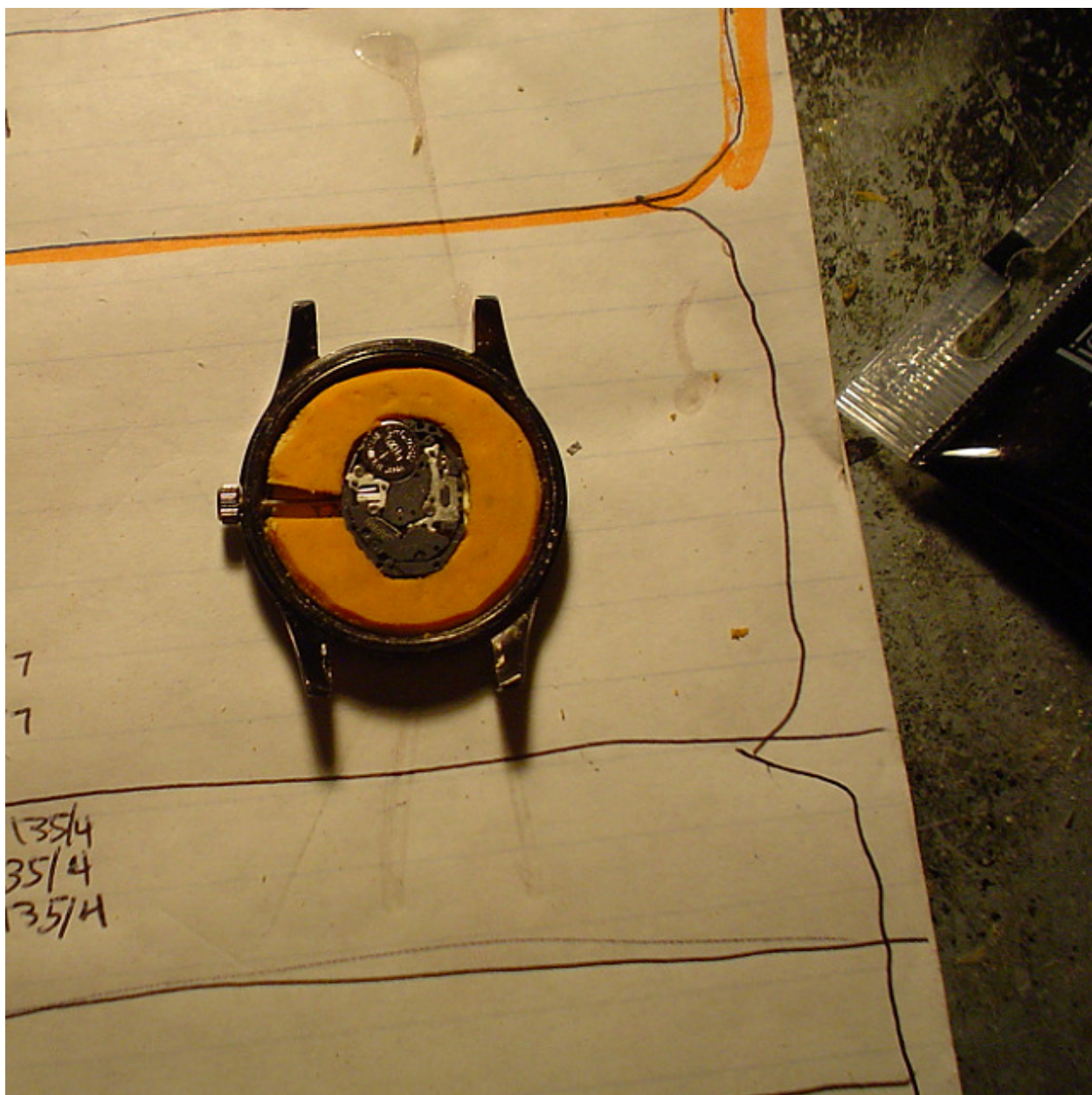
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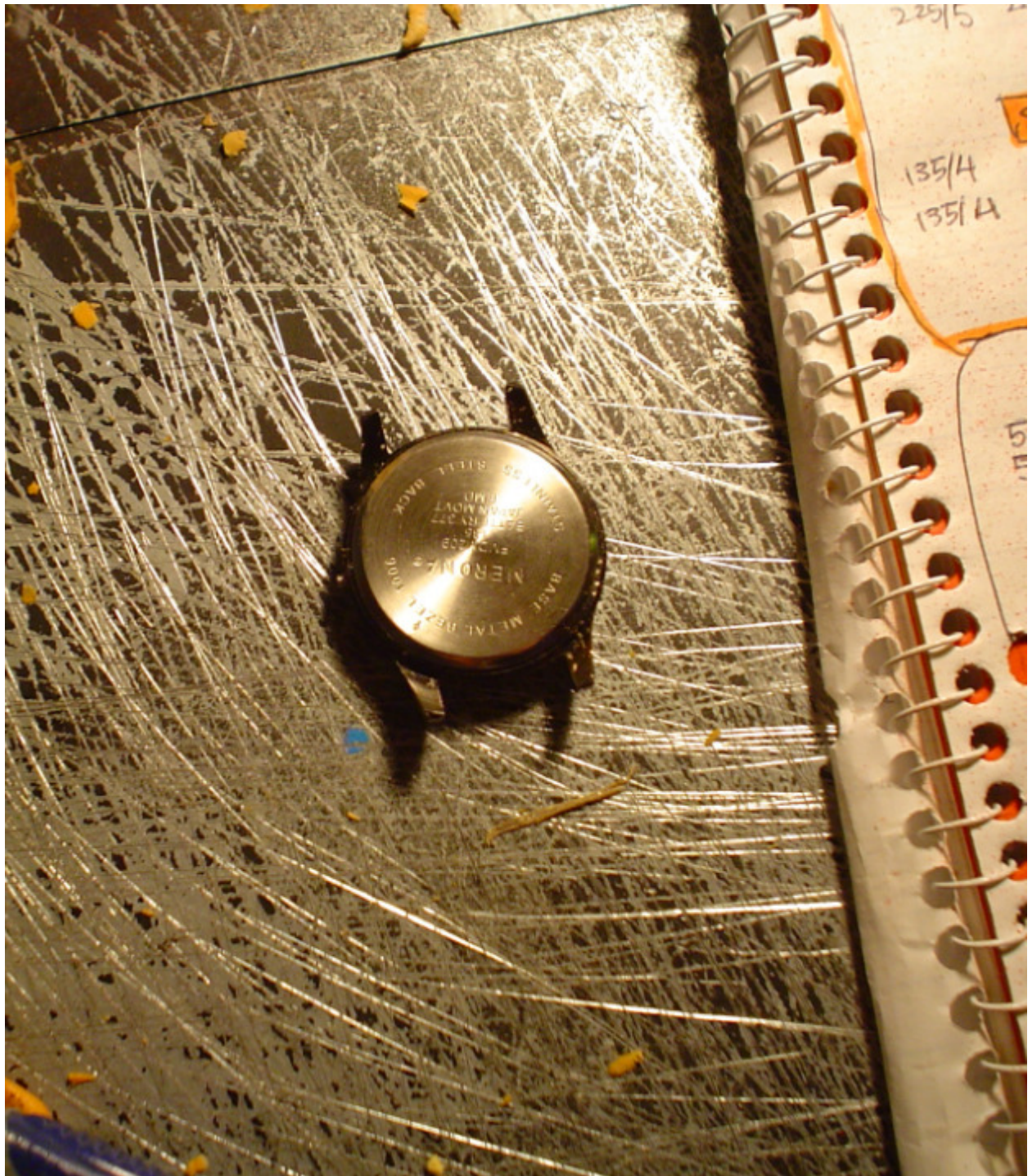
Now it's time to trace the shape of the movement you are going to use. Place the center of the watch movement (cannon pinion, seconds pinion, and hour wheel) into the hole you already made in the center of the movement holder. Trace out the shape of the movement with a marker and then cut it out.



Test it out to see if it fits. Everything looks good.







Here is an example using only measurements. Mix up some Speedi-fit and flatten it out. All you need to know is the diameter of the movement, and the diameter of the inside of the watch case.



Cut out the shape of the movement holder with a razor blade or utility knife. Use your Dremel tool to perfect the shape.

