

WATCH REVIEW: Szanto 5002 200 Meter Dive Watch

Reviewer: UKWolfeman
Watch was donated for review

Watch Being Reviewed: Szanto 5002 200m Dive Watch

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About/History (Facebook Info): "Szanto (pronounced Sahn-tow) is a new collection of vintage inspired timepieces. This American brand's essence was conceived in California, where Szanto designers were captivated by the beauty and simplicity of old military watch designs from the early 20th century. These classic watches possess so much character but are too petite by contemporary standards. Over the past few years, there has been a trend toward "vintage" that can be seen in all types of merchandise, and is very much present in the watch trade ... particularly in the expensive luxury sector. Szanto recognized an opportunity to update vintage designs of the past for today's world, with larger sizes and the addition of quartz movements for accuracy and affordability, thereby making the collection accessible to a wider audience.

Journey back in time with Szanto to the "Golden Age of Travel" - a time when craftsmen took pride in the quality of their workmanship, and a time when travel, whether by ocean liner, steam train or motor car was perceived as an adventure. Steamer trunks covered with stickers from exotic destinations like London, Cairo, Prague, Paris, Singapore, & Shanghai were common and iconic. In keeping with this tradition, each Szanto watch comes packed in its own mini travel trunk. Take the grand tour of Szanto's launch collection, featured on the following pages. "Everything Old is New Again" Szanto Time Rediscovered."

Basic Specifications:

Case material - Stainless steel
Case diameter - 47 millimeters
Band Material - Silicone
Band width - 22 millimeters
Movement - Japanese quartz
Water resistant depth - 660 Feet
Price - \$275 USD

Packaging and First Impressions: This is my first opportunity to take a closer look at a watch model from Szanto. There are several articles floating around the various medial outlets that give a good overview on the brand and the models that Szanto offers but I will focus on the 5002. If you are interested in a more comprehensive background on Szanto a google search should pull up quite a bit of information for you to browse through.

Initially, I thought the packaging was outstanding for a watch in this price category. The watch case is more of a old trunk type design which based on my research was the intent behind the packaging. The trunk style





smoothly with no play or wiggle in any position. The first position when engaging the crown sets the date complication and the outer most position adjusts the time. I really like that Szanto elected to use such an oversized crown as it is perfect in every regard against the case size and style. The non crown side of the case is unremarkable other than providing a good view of the titanium PVD finish. The lugs have some angular features rather than a simple straight design seen on so many other dive style watches. Overall, I am pleased with the quality of the case finishing and features for a watch in this price category.



packaging looks far better than most clam shell type watch cases and will still protect any Szanto model being shipped. Still the functionality is far less than say a travel roll or 2 watch zipper case for people on the go. I do believe this trunk style box though would look nice on the entry table as a place for tossing spare change and keys after arriving home from a long day at work. The watch itself looked extremely nice and large and the nice finish and dial immediately caught my eye.

Case: The case is made of 316L Stainless Steel with a dark titanium PVD finish throughout. The case measures 47mm and slightly over 51mm including the crown. The case is almost 15mm in overall thickness which is actually fairly average for a large dive style watch. The lug tip to lug tip measures around 56mm and the lug width 22mm. Combining the specifications along with a rather hefty 146 grams in overall weight the watch is going to have a good amount of wrist presence for a watch on a rubber strap. An unsigned 9mm x 5mm screw down crown is positioned at the 3 o'clock position between integrated crown guards. The crown is extremely easy to grasp and engages quite

Bezel, Crystal, Dial and Hands: The 5002 divers comes equipped with a PVD coated 90 click unidirectional bezel with 15 minute countdown. Why 90? I am not entirely certain but keep in mind that this model is more of a fashion diver than a true dive watch which was the intent of Szanto. The bezel markers are not lumed even at the pip which puts this model even more strongly into the fashion diver arena. I have to admit I was expecting a bezel with quite a bit of play, however, on this particular example it is quite solid with precise clicks and no significant play in either direction. With an actual lume pip and a 60 or 120 click bezel the watch would definitely move from the fashion diver to true diver category especially with a bezel this firm that isn't going to get knocked out of place easily. I really like the black PVD bezel as it adds some color contrast against the titanium coated case.



The watch is fitted with a mineral crystal. I am uncertain whether the model has any Anti-Reflective (AR) coating but it does seem to be fairly clear as I had little difficulty in regards to glare during photography and the video. Beneath the almost 36mm dial opening is a nice titanium colored dial which corresponds well with the good looking watch case. The dial is extremely clean and uncluttered with the typical branding above and below center dial. A fantastic feature of the 5002 diver is that all of the hour markers surrounding the dial are applied rather than painted on which is impressive considering the cost of the model. The markers are well lumed with what appears to be C1 Superluminova due to the white color and green hue when charged. A large trapezoid shaped date window is positioned at the 3 o'clock position. I really like the atypical shape as it just provides a different look than the normal rectangular date windows found on many watches. As mentioned window is quite large so no worries telling the time even for the vision impaired like me. I also really like the addition of a touch of color and flair by outlining the date window in orange which corresponds with the great looking orange handset installed on the watch. All of the hands, including the tip of the second hand, are lumed with the same compound as the hour markers. Overall, the dial is extremely attractive with great colors and also corresponds well with the case.





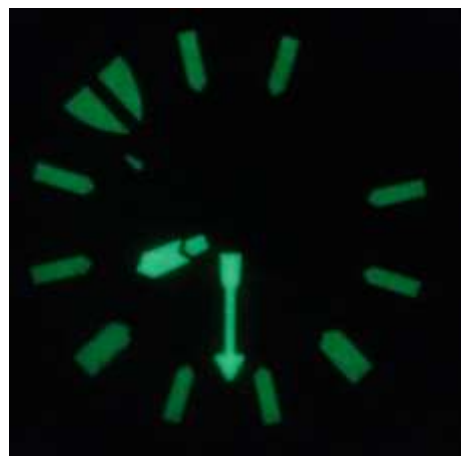
Case Back and Movement: The case back is screwed down to the case through the traditional threading design. The company logo is etched in the middle with various other specification etched under the logo and around the perimeter. Beneath the case back is a Japanese quart movement which has been as accurate as one would expect since delivery. Really overall nothing that I would change except I think this model would be even more appealing with say a Seiko NH-35 or a Miyota 9015 automatic movement. I have heard rumblings that a more true dive watch with an automatic may be in the works!



Strap: The diver comes with a soft rubber/silicon strap that measures 22/20mm in width from lug to tail and also nearly 4mm at its thickest point. The strap has round titanium PVD coated accents near the lug on both sides adding a touch of flair to the strap. The strap is finished off with an almost 4mm thick heavy duty buckle finished with the same cool looking dark titanium PVD finish as the watch case. The buckle is attached to the strap using a standard spring bar. I really like that the buckle has been machined holes which will limit marks on the underside of the buckle when removing the buckle from the strap. Keep in mind that silicon rubber straps tend to be lint magnets which in this case is no different so be prepared to wipe it down from time to time.



Lume: The lume on 5002 appears to possibly be C1 Superluminova which is applied evenly on the applied hour markers and on the hands. It really charged up well initially which was a pleasant surprise, however, as with most C1 Superluminova applications it fades rather quickly and the afterglow doesn't last as long as other lume compounds. It might get you through a long movie though. I would like to see all watch companies to move away from C1 and use either C3 or BGW9 the later still has a great white appearance but is much more intense for a longer period than C1. However, for a watch in this price category I do not believe anyone will be disappointed with the lume overall as it is.



On the Wrist: Photos on my 7 3/4 inch wrist below. The model has a real nice feel and appearance as the seamless strap to case integration really conforms to the wrist nicely. The 5002 is going to provide a ton of wrist presence as you can see but due to the size I'd be cautious if you have a wrist size under 7 inches as the lugs will probably hang over some. Overall, the 5002 is super comfortable on the wrist.



Summary: As many of you know I am always looking for bang for your buck watches on the market. There are many companies that are now offering desirable components under the \$300 price tag. I truly believe that if you are looking for a solid fashion quartz dive style watch, that will not break the bank, then the Szanto 5000 series models should receive some consideration. While I believe the model could be improved upon by adding a sapphire crystal at a minimum there are a ton of aspects to appreciate about the 5002 model. The 5002 has a really bold case and nicely applied finish, great looking dial layout and lume, applied markers, stylish comfortable strap and buckle, as well as, a screw down crown. The model would be a great option for the beach or day at the pool as it will provide the necessary water resistance to enjoy those types of activities without having to use your more costly dive watches. Great overall value that will not pinch the pocket book so again check them out. Thanks for reading and as always I look forward to your comments. Please take a moment to check out the brief video presentation below as well.





<http://www.watchfreaks.com/121-watch-review/127266-watch-review-szanto-5002-200-meter-dive-watch.html>

Watch the video on You Tube or watchfreaks.com

