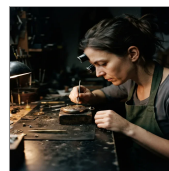


Marta Ilves

Watchmaker, mechanical watches and small clocks



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BASED Providence, Rhode Island

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Fifteen years on a bench, the last seven of them my own. Two years of formal training in Pennsylvania, eight years on a high-volume service bench in Boston doing forty watches a month under somebody else's name, and since 2019 a one-person workshop on Westminster Street in Providence taking fewer than a hundred watches a year. Vintage and modern mechanical, wrist and pocket, plus small domestic clocks. No quartz, no smart watches, no guessing.

01 AT THE BENCH

01 Watchmaker, own workshop

Mar 2019 – Present

Westminster Street, Providence · Providence, RI

A one-person bench taking work by post and by appointment. Under a hundred watches a year, every one serviced start to finish by me and returned with a written record and a timing sheet. About a third of the work is restoration - staffs, hinges, crowns and bushings made on the lathe rather than ordered.

02 Senior watchmaker

Jan 2014 – Feb 2019

A service center for four Swiss brands · Boston, MA

Forty watches a month against a service standard and a clock. Chronographs and automatics, warranty and out-of-warranty. Trained four apprentices and wrote the bench notes the workshop still uses for chronograph reassembly.

03 Watchmaker

Aug 2011 – Dec 2013

An independent repair shop · Boston, MA

Everything that came through the door: quartz, mechanical, clocks, jewelry repairs I should not have been doing. The best three years of training I have had, because nothing arrived with a manual.

04 Nothing to do with watches

2004 – 2009

A warehouse and then a bakery · Fall River, MA

Listed because people ask how anyone gets into this. I was twenty-six when my grandmother's watch stopped and four shops told me it was not worth the money.

02 TRAINING

01 **Diploma in watchmaking, WOSTEP-standard program** Sep 2009 – Jun 2011

A two-year watchmaking school · Pennsylvania

Two years full time: turning, filing, micromechanics, escapement theory, hairspring work, casing and finishing. Graduated first in a class of eleven.

02 **Clock repair, evening course** 2015 – 2016

A horological association chapter · Boston, MA

Eighteen months of Tuesday evenings on weight and spring-driven clocks, bushing, and pivot work at a scale where you can see what you are doing.

03 CERTIFICATES

01 **Certified Watchmaker of the 21st Century** 2013

American Watchmakers-Clockmakers Institute

02 **Chronograph service certification** 2016

Manufacturer training, four calibers

03 **Water resistance testing and case sealing** 2017

Manufacturer training

04 WHAT I WORK ON

Manual and automatic wristwatch movements	■■■■■	Chronographs, column wheel and cam	■■■■■
Pocket watches, key and lever set	■■■■■	Staff and pivot turning on the lathe	■■■■□
Hairspring truing and vibrating	■■■■□	Case, hinge and crown work	■■■■□
Spring and weight-driven clocks	■■■□□		

05 TEACHING AND WRITING

01 **Introduction to the bench** Twice a year since 2021

Six Saturdays, four benches, Providence

A short course for people who want to know whether they could do this. Half of them find out they cannot, which is the point and is worth the fee on its own.

02 **Bench notes** Since 2020

A letter I send when I have something to say

Not a schedule. Eleven letters in five years, each one about a single repair that taught me something I did not know.

03 **Guest instructor, escapement week** 2022, 2024

The school in Pennsylvania

One week a year on escapement adjustment with the second-year students, which is the closest thing to a debt I can repay.

English	First language	Estonian	Fluent, from my grandmother
French	Enough to read a parts catalog		
