



# PM Time Service



Vintage Pocket Watches, Wrist Watches, Accessories & Jewelry

## “How To Wear” Guide: Double Albert-Style Watch Chains

The Double Albert style pocket watch chain, like the Albert chain, is named after Prince Albert (1819-1861), husband of the UK's Queen Victoria. This style of chain features two longer "arms" and a shorter centralized "drop," to which a small object is attached, such as a charm, fob, or locket. The pocket watch is then attached to one arm of the chain, while the second arm is reserved for a large fob, such as a pocket knife, watch key, compass, cigar cutter, or fraternal symbol charm. Watches aren't usually attached to both arms of the Double Albert, except occasionally in dealer or display photos. Although available in different lengths, the chains are meant to be worn draped as opposed to pulled taught.

**Note:** although the watches in the following photos are shown half-out-of-pocket, this is merely to illustrate the attachment of the chain to the watch. Pocket watches should be worn entirely inside the pocket, ideally within a velvet or thin leather pouch for additional protection.

### Spring Rings:

The spring ring is the most straightforward means of attaching the pocket watch chain to the wearer's garment. It is a more modern form of connection than the t-bar and has a diverse set of methods for use.

Larger rings can be attached to a buttonhole (on a vest or shirt), can be clipped around the belt loop on jeans or pants or can be used to attach the chain to itself after being looped around the wearer's belt.

Some of the larger spring rings feature a "chain guard," which is a protrusion that prevents rotation of the ring in the buttonhole, or functions to keep different attachments separate on the ring.

Smaller rings, typically found on lighter weight chains, can be attached around the thread behind a button. This method of attachment emulates a t-bar style of display with the additional security found with the spring ring clasp



*Double Albert Chain w/ Spring Ring (Vest)*



*Double Albert Chain w/ Spring Ring (Shirt)*



*Double Albert Chain w/ Spring Ring (Pants)*



*Double Albert Chain w/ T-Bar (Vest)*



*Double Albert Chain w/ T-Bar (Shirt)*

### T-Bars:

The t-bar, made to be passed through a buttonhole, is the earliest form of connection between the pocket watch chain and the wearer's vest or shirt; it predated the spring ring and various clips used afterwards.

Fancy or ornate t-bars tend to be worn from the inside-out (to make visible and display the t-bars, as shown here); standard t-bars are usually worn outside-in (so they aren't visible).

### Lobster-Claw Clips & Belt Clips:

The lobster-claw style clip is a very modern form of pocket watch chain connection, as it was introduced well after the t-bar, spring ring, and other belt clips. This style of clip is most often used to attach the chain to a belt loop, attach the chain to a belt loop, as shown in the right photo.

Belt clips are also used to attach pocket watch chains. The left photo here shows a "pressure-fit" clip that was introduced in the middle of the 20th century, and will hang the chain similar to the lobster claw finding shown in the right photo.



*Detail of a Belt Clip*



*Double Albert Chain w/ Lobster-Claw Style Clip*

### Misc.:



*Swivel*

Regardless of the method used to attach the chain to the wearer's vest, shirt, or pants, the bow of the pocket watch is attached to the chain with a small swivel clasp that allows the watch to rotate and keeps the chain from twisting. These swivels are findings that are traditionally used with pocket watches on most vintage pocket watch chains. As opposed to many of the more modern styles, these do not have any small latches to pull back but rather part of the oval "clip" section depresses into the finding, allowing you to slip in your pocket watch bow or fob lanyard. Once released, it has a small internal spring that closes the oval loop back up and prevents whatever is clipped from accidentally coming out without your intervention.

A pocket watch can be worn on either side of the body depending on the preference of the wearer. For instance, many right-handed wearers may have their pocket watch on the left side of the body; this allows for winding with the right hand while holding the watch with the left. However, a right-handed wearer may instead choose to keep the watch on the right for ease-of-use when pulling and returning the watch to a pocket as well.

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