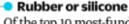


NOW

THE ULTIMATE CROWDSOURCED FRANKENWATCH

The watch industry may be troubled—sales have fallen every year since 2006—but on Kickstarter innovative watches rule, netting at least \$15 million. (One called the CST-01 goes out this month; billed as the world's thinnest personal timepiece, it raised \$1 million.) Listen up, traditionalists: Crowdfunding winners have important secrets.



Of the top 10 most-funded watches, 7 have rubber or silicone bands. Leather tends not even to be funded.

Big square face

Half of the best funded watches look suspiciously iPod Nano-like. One raised \$942,578 for letting the Nano snap atop its watch face.

Quantified-self capabilities

Four of the top 10 watches have some kind of workouttracking feature, and two are built around more generalactivity monitoring.

Interactive display

"Our expectations have been primed by the smartphone," says TrendWatching lead strategist David Mattin. Watches must follow.

Compact design

"The watch has to downplay gadgetry," Mattin says. Now it's about sleek functionality.

Water resistance

It's one way for a smartwatch to be more convenient than a smartphone.

3 to 5 available colors

Just enough for customers to find a favorite, but not too many to manufacture. Almost all successful watches fall into this range.

THE Recommender

What are you loving this month?



KEITH LAUVER

CEO, Cooksimple

BioLite Camp Stove: "This is my perfect summer companion: It boils water with twigs I scrounge rather than gas canisters I shlep, and can keep my iPhone powered for snapping more pics of backcountry adventures."

GoLite Lime Lite shoes: "I had no idea what my feet were missing until I tried these! I'm sure I actually work faster and smarter with these bad boys."

