

# Hermes Authentication Guide & Serial Codes

Every Hermes item is handmade and therefore has its own intricacies based on the craftsman and leather. Each Hermes item will be embossed with the logo stamping in the natural, gold or silver with Hermes Paris logo. Everything should be lined up - evenly and centred with the Hermes name.



Hermes leather items should have a blind stamp. In 1945 to 1970 Hermes introduced a capital letter in alphabetical order to date the bags. From 1971 to 1996, a circle shape was put around the letter and from 1997 to present, a square shape is used.

Additional numbers/letters appearing next to the blind stamp indicate the section at the atelier where the bag maker works. See below.



## Hardware

Authentic Hermes hardware, or metal accents on their handbags are usually plated in precious metal. The use of precious metals means that the metal on an authentic Hermes handbag will not tarnish. A small hallmark will appear next to the "Paris" stamping on gold plated hardware.

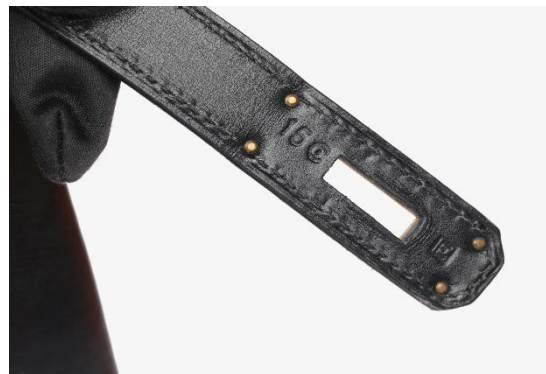
## Placement of Codes

Tags on Hermes Bags can appear in different locations on the bag between makes and models



**Under a Tab:** Some models often have their date stamps hidden under an interior or exterior tab. This placement helps preserve the stamp's integrity and readability over time.

**Birkin and Kelly Bags (Pre 2016 )** Stamp is usually behind the Strap



**Birkin and Kelly Bags (Post-2016):** Stamp is located on the left side of the interior, close to the back flap.

**Constance Bags:** Typically found on the middle interior panel.

**Vintage Models:** Stamps can be under the tab or on the underside of the straps.

## Other Codes and Symbols

### Alphabet Stamps

These single letters represent the year of manufacture. They provide a quick reference to determine the production year of the item. See chart below.

### Artisan Stamps

These stamps include additional numbers or letters indicating the craftsman or the atelier section. They provide insight into who crafted the item and sometimes the specific workshop where it was made:

Examples: Additional codes like "**123**" or "**A1**" can denote specific artisans or workshops. This adds a personal touch to the product, linking it directly to the skilled hands that created it.\

### Exotic Leather Stamps

Hermès uses unique stamps to indicate the type of exotic leather used. These stamps are usually found next to the 'Hermès Paris, Made in France' stamp and help in identifying the material, which can significantly affect the value and care requirements of the item.

**Square (□):** Alligator Mississippiensis ( US )

**Carat (^):** Crocodile Porosus ( Saltwater, usually Australia / South East Asia )

**Double Dots (..):** Crocodile Niloticus ( Nile / African )

**Dash (-):** Varanus Niloticus Lizard ( Nile / African )

**Equal Sign (=):** Varanus Salvator Lizard ( Asia )



### 2011 Double-Blind Stamp

In 2011, Hermès produced a curious anomaly where some bags featured a double-blind stamp. This consisted of the "O Square" date stamp interlinked with a "J" craftsman stamp.

### 2014 R Without Shape

Towards the end of 2014, Hermès began transitioning to their new blind stamp system. While the standard for 2014 was an "R" within a square, some bags produced in late 2014 featured an "R" without any shape. This marked the early adoption of the new system with no shape around the Alphabet letter from 2015 onwards.

## Alphabet Year Chart

Shapes around the letters were introduced to distinguish different decades, adding another layer of specificity to the date stamps:

**Letter Only:** Used from **1945** to **1970** and then again from **2014**

**Circle (O):** Used from **1971** to **1996**. This shape helps differentiate these years from other periods.

**Square (□):** Used from **1997** to **2014**. The square shape continues the distinction up to R.

### Hermes Stamp and Year Reference Guide

Letter Only	Circle around Letter	Square around Letter
1945 A	1971 A	1997 A
1946 B	1972 B	1998 B
1947 C	1973 C	1999 C
1948 D	1974 D	2000 D
1949 E	1975 E	2001 E
1950 F	1976 F	2002 F
1951 G	1977 G	2003 G
1952 H	1978 H	2004 H
1953 I	1979 I	2005 I
1954 J	1980 J	2006 J
1955 K	1981 K	2007 K
1956 L	1982 L	2008 L
1957 M	1983 M	2009 M
1958 N	1984 N	2010 N
1959 O	1985 O	2011 O*
1960 P	1986 P	2012 P
1961 Q	1987 Q	2013 Q
1962 R	1988 R	2014 R ( no square introduced )
1963 S	1989 S	2015 T (no square)
1964 T	1990 T	2016 X (no square)
1965 U	1991 U	2017 A (no square)
1966 V	1992 V	2018 C (no square)
1967 W	1993 W	2019 D (no square)
1968 X	1994 X	2020 Y (no square)
1969 Y	1995 Y	2021 Z (no square)
1970 Z	1996 Z	2022 U (no square)