

Louis Vuitton for beginners

By: Arturo Tavira

How I authenticate Louis Vuitton step by step

The first thing I do when authenticating LV is feel the material. Before I look for a date code, I scratch the leather/ canvas. I look at the symmetry in the pattern. I look at the tags and stampings. The date code can only tell you so much especially if it's an older piece or if the date code has been rubbed away with time.

We will cover: **date codes, stamps, canvas, hardware, patina , accessories etc.**

The lazy way to authenticate is to use ENTRUPY. A 3rd party website that takes microscopic pictures and utilizes AI to determine authenticity with a 99% accuracy rate. However it's pricey and they don't support all fabrics so you'll need to be aware of what to look for. We'll be going over the date codes so let's get into it

Louis Vuitton Factory Codes

France	A0, A1, A2, AA, AH, AN, AR, AS, BA, BJ, BU, CT, CV, DR, DU, ET, FI, FL, GR, LA, MB, MI, MS, NO, PT, RA, RE, RI, SA, SD, SF, SL, SN, SP, SR, TA, TH, TJ, TN, TR, TS, VI, VX, WL FJ (bag charm)
Germany	LP, OL
Italy	CE, FH, FL, FN, FO, FP, NZ, PL, RX, TH Bag Charms/Jewelry: BC, CP, CX, DI, DP, DR, EA, FJ, GA, LE, LK, OB, RM, TE, US Scarves: AO, CC, GM, MR, IL, IS, RT Shoes: AR, BA, BL, BO, BR, BM, CL, DE, DI, EL, FA, FD, GI, GO, JA, LI, MA, MS, MT, ND, NL, NQ, RE, RO, SA, SC, ST, TC, TD, VL, VS
Spain	AC, BC, BP, CA, CR, GI, JJ, LB, LM, LO, LW, UB
Switzerland	DI, FA
USA	FC, FL, FH, LA, OS, SD, TX
Belgium	Scarves: JA
United Kingdom	Hats: JH
Re-Lined	DK

This is a list of all the Louis Vuitton factories in the world. If your Louis Vuitton product has letters not on this list, it's not authentic.

How to read Louis Vuitton Date Codes



Early to Mid 1980's

Month bag was made

832

Year bag was made

Mid to Late 1980's

Year bag was made

874 SL – Factory Location

Month bag was made





Early 1990's - 2006

Month bag was made

Factory Location – **FL0041**

Year bag was made

2007 - Present

Week bag was made

Factory Location – **AH2105**

Year bag was made



Does the date code match the stamp?

- Trace the date code back to the stamp.
- For example this date code reads “TS4197”
- “TS” is a factory in France but the stamping says “made in Spain” Thats an automatic fake.





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Fake Louis Vuitton Date Codes





These are just examples. There's good fakes and bad fakes out there.

Authentic Date Code Examples

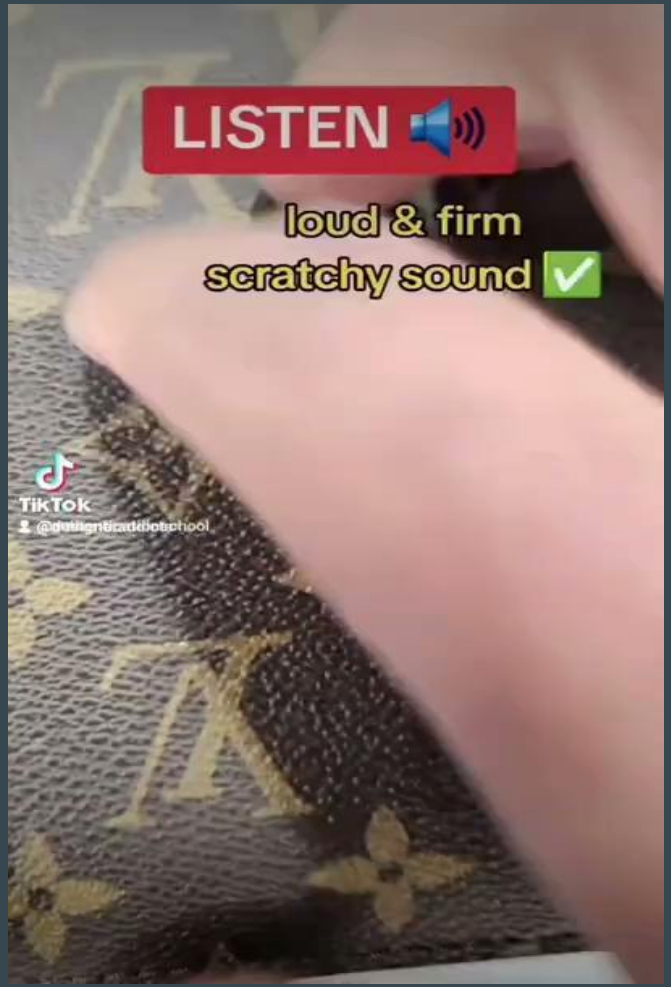






Scratch Test

- Authentic Louis Vuitton canvas sounds grainy, loud, rough, firm.
- The material should be stiff regardless if its a newer bag or a vintage bag.
- The sound shouldn't be rubbery, dull, or soft.



Fake Louis Vuitton Stamps

- Look at the font, thickness, and size of the stamp.
- Make sure the “R” is perfectly in the middle and not touching the circle.
- Fake fonts look sloppy and the letters are either too close or too spaced out.

Fake stamps











Real stamps





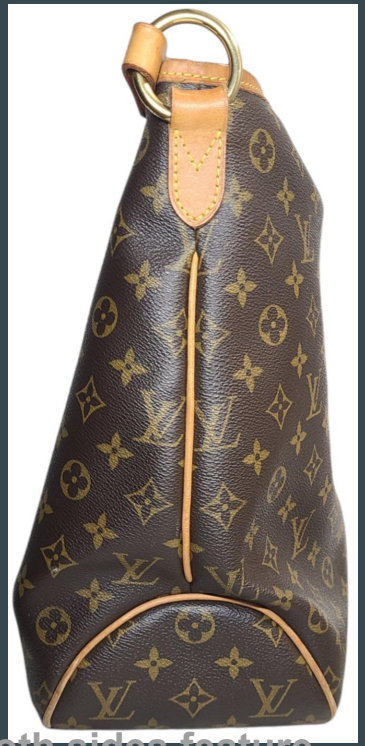






Louis Vuitton Canvas

- When LV uses one sheet of canvas there will always be one side with a backwards logo.
- The speedy will have one side with the LVs upside down and one side rightside up.
- When bags uses multiple pieces of canvas. All LVs logos will be right side up. (Neverfulls)
- Canvas is a strong fabric. It should be sturdy and keep its shape.



Both sides feature
LV logos right side up

Front



Middle



Back



Louis Vuitton Vachetta / Patina

- Most Louis Vuitton handles will be made of vachetta. Vachetta is untreated cowhide leather and it is prone to staining.

- A tiny drop of water or the natural oils our hands produce will cause it to change color over time. That process is called patina. The color turn dark over time.

- Fakes will have a pale vachetta and that's an automatic red flag.

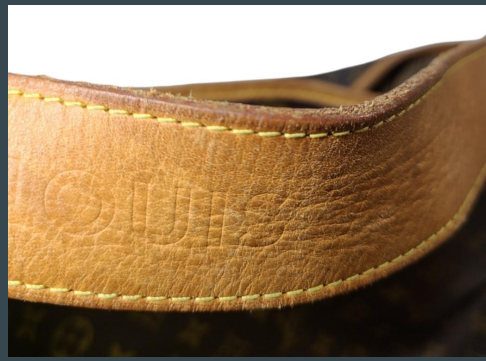
New vachetta leather (untreated leather)



With time vachetta leather will start to “patina” (honey color) can be seen on the handles, that's normal



Uneven coloring on vachetta is a good sign the bag is authentic



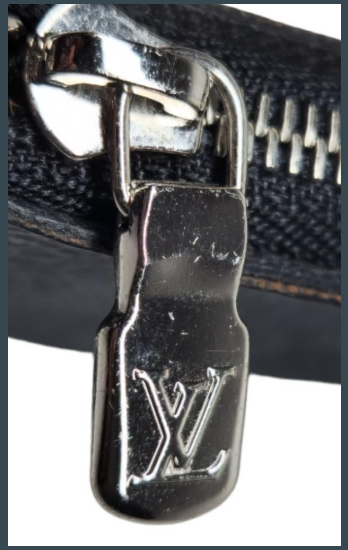
Vachetta leather is sensitive and will stain with almost anything

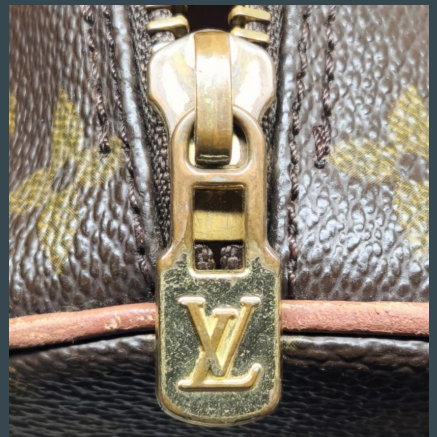


Louis Vuitton Hardware

- Most hardware is either gold colored brass or silver colored metal.
- Older pieces lose color so don't think of that as a red flag.
- Make sure the hardware is heavy and the engraving is fine.

Authentic hardware examples







Grades of Louis Vuitton Fakes

1.1 (super fakes)

AAA

AA

A

B

C

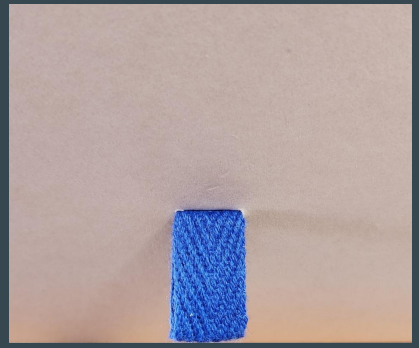
- Most fakes can be authenticated in seconds. But there are excellent fakes in the market these days.
- That's why I’m here to help. Send the pictures i request and I’ll give you my personal opinion.
- I don’t guarantee authenticity. Because the best way to authenticate is in person.

Boxes and Dust Bags

- July 2016 the boxes changed from brown to orange.

- If the items comes with a fake box or dust bag 9/10 times the item will be fake.

Authentic boxes are a pale tan/ pink inside, not yellow. The orange exterior should be vivid and you should be able to see tiny lines on the box. They're made in Vietnam. Also make sure the pull tab is long enough to pull.





Fake boxes are generally too orange and the inside of the boxes look yellow. The font will often look shiny when it should be a flat black color.





Louis Vuitton Dust Bags

- July 2016 the dust bags changed from brown to beige.
- Authentic LV dust bags should be thick like a t-shirt. The font is dark blue (almost black) and should be bold.
- Authentic dust bags will have tags







Fake dust bags







Louis Vuitton NFC / RFID tags

- As of April 2021 all Louis Vuitton leather goods discontinued the date codes and are now using chips. NFC chips can be found on fake bags as well.

- Just because it's chipped doesn't make it authentic. Be sure to check the stamps, hardware, and everything else we've covered.

- Find the chip by downloading the app “NFC tools” and scan the item until you find the chip. The chips are usually around the stamps.



NFC Tools