

A LITTLE TIME WITH BROOKLINE'S MOST PUNK ROCK WATCHMAKER

by Lloyd Mallison

Ian Schon huddles over a lathe, smoothing an ingot of steel that will become the case of a fine, handmade watch. He has lost count of the hours he has spent building an “everyday carry” heirloom. Ian hopes this timepiece will be ready to sell for Christmas.

“I think it’s important to support the local fabrication shops, and to be able to meet and shake the hands of people helping me bring my projects to life,” he says in his Kickstarter video for [The Pen Project](#); a handmade aluminium pen that began his own company, [SCHNDSGN](#).



INSIDE THE MIND AND WORKSHOP OF IAN SCHON

The 26-year-old Baltimore native works out of his Brookline Village home. He wears trendy glasses and has a competitive cyclist's build that masks his skate punk past.

“Skateboarding has a very DIY ethic, and that really rubbed off on me strongly,” Schon says. “I got really into that, the whole idea of building stuff.”

Schon says punk rock influenced his dedication to ethical, local, quality manufacturing.

“With punk rock music it’s all about local and community building, doing things the right way, and following your heart,” Schon says. “Even if it’s against the grain a little bit, pushing to do what is right.”

SCHNDSGN is Ian’s side project. It allows him to work with his hands after designing consumer products at the Central Square-based firm IDEO.

“Making things is in my blood,” he says. “I need it to stay sane.”



A light dusting of metal filings from previous watch cases cover most of the surfaces of Schon’s small Brookline Village workshop. He’s very strict about making sure that he doesn’t traipse them into the rest of the home and scratch the floors.