

# Timade User Guide version 1.0

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## Introduction

Timade is a generalized timer, stopwatch and reminder app. It has specialized modes for timer and stopwatch as well as a multi-use general mode. Notable features:

- All data is stored until deleted by the user
- Data can be searched, exported and imported
- Easy corrections and updates by dragging timestamps
- More information is available, like what time a timer will go off
- Graphical representation of durations, time progression and points in time
- Completely offline. All data is stored locally
- Does not collect or process any user data
- Handles Daylight Saving Time (DST)

Some example uses of the general mode:

- Reminders, timer and stopwatch in any combination
- Schedules with links between events
- Event countdowns
- Finding the time distance between events
- Recording scientific observations
- Long-term time counters, such as age in real time
- Scheduled timers and stopwatches
- Parallel timers and stopwatches

## Concepts

- **Stamp.** A point in time with an optional text label. May trigger notifications and sounds.
- **Timeline.** A continuously zoomable time scale on which the stamps are displayed.
- **Modes.** General, timer and stopwatch, each with a separate set of stamps.
- **Clock stamps** follow the current time.
- **Groups.** Every stamp belongs to a group. Selecting a group hides other stamps and displays durations within the group. To select a group, tap by its outer edge, or between the stamps.

- **Stamp selection.** Tapping a stamp selects it, making it movable and turning on the edit row. To deselect, tap the stamp again or use the confirm button on the edit row to clear the selection. Do not tap by the outer edge since this always selects the group rather than the stamp.
- **Expanded mode.** Clusters of nearby stamps have an expansion symbol. Tapping it starts expanded mode, displaying stamps at a fixed distance. Exit the mode by tapping the timeline away from any stamp.
- **Links.** A stamp may be linked to another stamp, meaning it will stay at the same distance. When a stamp is selected, link symbols appear by its linked stamps.
- **Date header.** At the top is a header showing either a day, a year, or a year range, complementing the information on the time scale and stamps.

## Modes

- **General** mode has buttons to create ordinary stamps and clock stamps. When a single stamp is selected, the link button can be used to create a stamp that moves with it. The grouping button to the left places selected stamps in a new group. For more information about how to use this mode, see “Using the general mode”.
- **Timer.** Preset buttons start a timer with the given number of minutes. The target can then be moved to achieve the desired length. Tapping a preset again adds another timer period at the end, or from the bottommost selected stamp. The button to the left repeats the selected timer group by copying it and starting the timer.
- **Stopwatch.** The main buttons are start, lap and stop. To the left is a countdown button which plays a five-beep, four-second countdown before starting the stopwatch. Stopwatch stamps get automatic (although editable) text tags with a position mark: << 0 >>, << 1 >> and so on.

All modes have a reset button to the right.

A yellow frame around a button serves as a reminder that a group is selected and that the action will apply to that group rather than creating a new one.

## Changing the timeline view

- Use drag and pinch gestures to move around
- At the bottom of the timeline are one button for quick zoom-out and one for switching between different zoomed-in views of the selected group or stamps
- To zoom to one segment of the time scale, tap by the left edge

## Moving, deleting and copying

- Selected stamps can be moved by dragging them vertically. Dragging past the edge scrolls the timeline
- Drag stamps left to delete. Drag until the arrow disappears and then let go
- Drag stamps right to copy. To copy to a new location, drag right and then up or down
- When copying multiple stamps to a new location, a new group is created for them
- Copying a clock stamp creates a regular stamp at the current time, not a new clock stamp
- When copying a single stamp with linked stamps, the new stamp takes over the links

In some situations, deleting and copying is not allowed:

- Running stopwatch: Only lap times can be deleted
- Running timer: Only target times can be deleted
- Stopwatch and timer modes do not allow copying
- To copy multiple stamps, they must all be either regular or clock stamps. Mixed selections cannot be copied
- Stamps linked to a clock stamp cannot be copied

## Settings

Use the settings button in the top left corner to show or hide the settings area.

- **ISO 8601:** Enables the YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm:ss format, overriding the system setting. (Example: 2025-10-24 19:25:42 for October 24, 2025, 7:25:42 PM.)
- **hh:mm:ss.sss:** Enables positional representation of duration. (Example: 12:34:56.789 for 12 hours, 34 minutes, 56 seconds and 789 milliseconds.)
- **Unit selection for durations:** Selected units will be used for durations. Additional units may be used if needed to separate steps when moving a stamp; the names of these units will remain in bold even when the unit is deselected.
- **Keep screen on:** Prevents the device from sleeping due to inactivity.
- **Snap to grid:** Restricts dragged stamps to somewhat larger grid values. The grid maxes out at 24 hours due to the irregularity of higher level units such as weeks and months.
- **Haptic feedback:** Applied when dragging stamps.
- **Timer text-to-speech:** Read timer tags aloud using text-to-speech.

- **Locale (language, region, script):** Select the locale to use in Timade. The list contains your preferred languages (from Settings/General/Language & Region), as well as a selection of additional locales.

Some preferred language options include a region, while others do not. In the latter case, the system setting is used. This affects how Timade displays date and time. For example, if your region setting is France and you have added English as a preferred language, the locale becomes en\_FR (English in France), resulting in French date and time formatting using English words. On the other hand, if you added English (United States) as a preferred language, the locale becomes en\_US, resulting in US date and time formatting.

## Functions

Use the functions button in the top right corner to show or hide the functions area.

- **Documentation.** Link to the Timade website.
- **Export and import.** Move data in CSV format (see separate section).
- **Find.** Search for text within tags, displaying matching stamps. The scope is determined by the mode and the timeline view. This function cannot be used in running timer or stopwatch mode.

## Using the general mode

In this mode, the user selects one of the following actions to be triggered by the timestamp:

- Nothing
- Silent text notification
- Countdown sound
- Soft sound
- Harsh sound
- Read tag aloud (text-to-speech)

Newly created stamps have no action. Use the edit row to select one.

Below are some step-by-step examples of how the general mode can be used for different purposes. **When starting a new measurement, first make sure no group is selected.** The reset button may be used for this.

- **Stopwatch**

1. Tap the clock to create a clock stamp
2. Drag the clock stamp to the right and let go. This starts the stopwatch by creating a stamp at the starting point
3. Tap the view switch button at the lower right corner of the timeline to start following the group
4. For lap times, drag the clock stamp right, creating stamps at the current time
5. To stop, first drag the clock stamp right to create a stop time and then left to delete it

- **Timer, set before starting**

1. Tap the clock to create a clock stamp
2. Tap the link to create a target stamp
3. **On the edit row, select the harsh sound (bell and waves) or another trigger of your choice**
4. Move the target stamp to the desired distance from now
5. To create additional targets, repeat steps 2 through 4
6. Start the timer by dragging the clock stamp right to copy it, creating a starting stamp. The starting stamp takes over the links, thus setting the target stamps
7. To stop the timer, delete the clock stamp and any remaining target stamps

- **Timer, start-and-set**

1. Tap the clock to create a clock stamp
2. Drag the clock stamp to the right to create a starting stamp
3. Deselect the clock stamp and select the starting stamp
4. Tap the link to create a target stamp. Then **select a sound** and move the stamp to the desired distance
5. To add targets, copy-and-move an existing target (drag right and then up/down)
6. To stop the timer, delete the clock stamp and any remaining target stamps

- **Reminder**

1. Zoom/scroll the timeline to the vicinity of the desired date
2. Tap the plus by the tag sign to create a stamp
3. Move the stamp to the desired date. Zoom if necessary
4. On the edit row, tap the tag and fill in the reminder text
5. On the edit row, select the soft sound (bell without waves)
6. Tap the confirm button (check symbol) to finish editing

- **Parallel stopwatches**

1. Create a clock stamp, name it, and deselect the group
2. Repeat step 1 as many times as needed
3. Expand the clock stamps, mark all or some, and drag them to the right to record a starting time, a lap time or a stopping time
4. To finish, delete the clock stamps

- **How many days old are you? Hours? Seconds?**
  1. Move the timeline to the day you were born
  2. Tap the plus to create a stamp and move it to your time of birth
  3. Tap the clock to create a clock stamp
  4. In the settings, deselect all larger units
  5. Now you see your age in real time and can set reminders to celebrate milestones like 10,000 days or a billion seconds

## Data privacy

Timade stores all data locally on the device. It never connects to the internet or shares the data in any other way. However, if you use iCloud Backup, the system will regularly back up the data to your iCloud.

As an extra privacy feature, individual text suggestions can be permanently deleted by dragging them to the left.

### Calendar, time zones and date range

Of the calendars available in iOS, Timade supports the Gregorian and the Buddhist, but not the Japanese.

Timade dates are time zone agnostic. They are displayed in the time zone currently selected on the device.

Please restart the app after changing the calendar or time zone.

The range of allowed dates is set so as to cover the (Gregorian) years of 1900 to 9999 in their entirety in all time zones (UTC-12 to UTC+14), resulting in, in internet date format:

Minimum date: 1899-12-31T10:00:00Z

Maximum date: 10000-01-01T12:00:00Z

Timade does not recognize leap seconds. **Durations will thus be off by one second when measured across a leap second.** Please consult a leap second table and adjust the measurements manually if needed.

Leap seconds are planned to be abandoned no later than 2035.

## Notifications

Timade uses local notifications to trigger actions at specific points in time. These are delivered to the app by the operating system. For full functionality, allow notifications as requested by the app the first time you create a trigger.

## Exporting data

Tapping the export (share/arrow-out) button in the functions area creates a temporary CSV text file and displays its name. Tap the share button by the file name to export it.

- If a group is selected, only that group is exported
- If no group is selected, all stamps of all modes are exported

The format of date and duration texts are determined by the selected region and format settings, including duration units.

The export also contains the timestamp in standardized formats:

- RFC 3339 (Internet date) including time zone, millisecond part discarded
- Unix time in milliseconds: Time past since 00:00:00 UTC January 1, 1970

The data format is described below in a separate section.

## Importing data

Tap the import button (arrow-in symbol) in the settings area to import Timade data. Imported stamps are added to existing ones.

Before importing data that have been modified outside of Timade, please read the data format section carefully.

Stamps are created with a unique ID. If an imported stamp has the same ID as an existing one, it means they originated in the same stamp. The imported stamp will then replace the existing.

Importing has three phases; read, add, and link. Lines are processed one by one. If an error occurs, the import stops at the offending line and aborts. The line number and phase can be helpful in finding the problem.

Imported files should contain stamps in chronological order (ascending dates). Otherwise, the import may be slow (quadratic time).

Importing into a running stopwatch or timer group is not allowed and will cause the import to fail.

Stopwatch and timer mode may each contain no more than one clock stamp. Any import breaking this rule will fail.

If a “triangle of arrows”/recycle symbol appears in the link phase, it means a circular reference (link loop) was found, which is not allowed. Timade breaks circular references by ignoring any link that completes a loop.

## Timade data format

Timade uses a text CSV format with semicolon delimiters and UTF-8 encoding. Files can thus be viewed and edited using common spreadsheet or text editing apps.

To separate lines, Timade always writes U+000A (LF, line feed) characters. When reading, it accepts any Unicode line terminator.

Semicolons may not appear anywhere in the file except as a delimiter between values.

Some columns contain long IDs which are so called UUIDs. Do not change these; if you need to create new ones, see the section below.

When exporting, the first line contains descriptive column headers. When importing, Timade accepts either the same exact header line or no headers at all.

Apart from the header line, each line represents one timestamp. In exported files, stamps appear in chronological order, with stamps referring to the same instant appearing in the order they were created or moved.

The columns are:

1. **Stamp date.** Formatted according to region and settings. Ignored when importing.
2. **Tag.** A text without semicolons and newlines.
3. **Duration.** Similar to a selected group on the app timeline, each group timestamp is followed by the distance to the next, except for the last, which is followed by the group total. Like the stamp date, the duration is formatted according to region and settings, and ignored when importing.
4. **RFC 3339 (Internet date).** A standardized date format. The date is expressed in the current time zone and excludes the millisecond part of the stamp. When importing, this value is only used if the **Unix time ms** value is empty, otherwise it is ignored.
5. **Unix time ms.** A standardized date format, counting time since 1970-01-01 00:00:00 UTC. Expressed in milliseconds. Unless empty, this value determines the date and time of the stamp.
6. **Group ID.** An ID for the group of the stamp.
7. **Mode.** A number signifying the mode the stamp belongs to:  
0 for general, 2 for stopwatch, 3 for timer.



8. **Action.** A number signifying what happens at the time of the timestamp:
- 0: Nothing
  - 1: Notification only
  - 2: Countdown
  - 3: Soft sound
  - 4: Harsh sound
  - 5: Read tag aloud
9. **Clock.** 1 if this is a clock stamp, 0 if not. In timer and stopwatch mode, there may be at most one clock stamp. It is possible to import a running timer or stopwatch provided none is running to begin with.
10. **Stamp ID.** An ID for the stamp itself. Stamps with the same ID are considered the same, so if a file contains several rows with the same stamp ID, all but the last will be ignored.
11. **Linked ID.** An ID for another stamp to keep the distance to. May be the same for many stamps.

All IDs in Timade are so called UUIDs (Universally unique identifiers), also known as GUIDs (Globally unique identifiers). These rely on being (pseudo-)randomly generated, so **avoid creating new IDs by modifying existing ones**, as the result will not be random. Either use a tool for creating UUIDs (available on the web), or just use any other identifier of no more than 30 characters, which will then be converted to a UUID during import. For example, if you want to create a file with ten timestamps divided into two groups, use the numbers 0 through 9 for stamp IDs and A and B for group IDs.

Files exported from Timade start with the special, invisible unicode character U+FEFF, the so called byte-order mark (BOM). This helps some apps, notably Google Sheets, recognize that the encoding of the file is UTF-8. When importing, Timade assumes UTF-8, so a BOM is not strictly necessary.

## A few tips and known issues

- If the duration is hidden between two tight stamps, select them, and the duration will be displayed beneath.
- To see the duration between non-adjacent stamps or stamps in different groups: For two stamps, simply select them. For more than two, use a temporary group.
- For a timer that does not start until the duration is set, please use the general mode.
- If a stamp is hidden behind its neighbors, it can be brought to the top by selecting it and then tapping the confirm button on the edit line.
- If the date description of a stamp is too long to be fully visible, please zoom in until it fits. This happens more often with large text settings.

- When zooming in far enough between two stamps, the duration may disappear. Please stay in the vicinity of a stamp to avoid this.
- For non-selected groups with no stamps visible on the current timeline, the group marking is not always displayed.

## **Uses to avoid**

Timade is not ideal for the following uses:

- Alarm. Alarms are normally relative to the local time, while Timade times are absolute.
- Accumulating stopwatch. When stopping and restarting the stopwatch in Timade, the stopped duration is included in the sum. This differs from standard stopwatch behavior.
- Any use where synchronizing between devices or easy access from anywhere is important.