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Subject: Re: Gruen watch

Posted by [Barney Green](#) on Thu, 14 Jul 2016 08:27:38 GMT

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Harold,

what Liz meant by #753 is the Master Book number of this watch. There is one "document" existing from the original Gruen times which is actually a file of photographs with a bare description, classification and numbering. This document was first published by the Ehrhardts and out of print for a couple of years. Mike "The Watchguy" Barnett purchased the manuscript, enhanced the photos and republished it as the Gruen Catalog. So your watch is a "Strap 753" in that book. This has nothing to do with the style number.

Liz: you got me. I indeed thought that this watch is the #719, so my ID is most likely wrong. Both have the 335 / 752 combination and I think there are at least two more existing with this combination. But the #719 should have been published before the #753 and I was already brave dating a style #752 watch in October 1951. This style number should point at least to a first use in 1952. So here we have another nice new puzzle.

I agree with you that this is #753, yours is #719.

The Star Supreme was introduced in October 1951, so that could probably be the first use of that style number, or it has an even lower one.

So my wild guessing would now be:

Your Strap 719 is the Star Supreme but why does it have the checkered dial?

This watch is Strap 753, but what was the sales name?

Which Strap # does the All-Star 12 have? It was always shown with smaller lugs, but I can not find this watch in the Master Book / Catalog, do I need new glasses?

Why the hell did Gruen introduce so many new and almost identical models in the early 50s? Just to confuse later generations? Damned...

Barney

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