Subject: Stainless Steel Quadron
Posted by JackW on Sun, 27 Sep 2015 19:45:55 GMT
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Model name : Unknown, possibly Quadron 118
Type : Quadron
Period/date : ~1935-ish
Gender : man's

Case Maker : Gruen shops in Cinci.
Case Material : Guildite/Stainless
Case Serial : 6025839
Case Style no : 8

Caliber : 157
Movement Maker : Gruen Guild (via Marc Fabre)
Movement Serial: 1114728

Bracelet : none

Other info : Case is plain without any engravings or decorations. There is a monogram on the back of the case.

Images...

cased...

dial...

Movement...

Case parts...

detail of inside case...

Gruen markings on outside...

Images are as it came to me. Won it last week on eBay.

Now that I have it and have looked through the information I have on Quadrons and Bruce's and Mike's books, I'm wondering if this is mash-up of two different watches. However, still factory original. Except the crown.

The case is surely the match to Quadron 118 in Bruce's book on page 22. The dial however isn't, but seems to match exactly the dial on the Quadron 57 which would presumably date to the 1920s. The book states that style is the 50th anniversary "157 with gold-plated movement". Say what???? The Quadron 157 didn't come out apparently until 1925; after the anniversary in 1924. Has anyone seen a cal 157 with gold-colored bridges? Seen the gold-bridges on the earlier 119 (or is it the 123?). A gold-bridge cal 157 is a new one to me. I digress... Now those with Bruce's book may say that the Quad 133 dial is similar, but look at the 12 and 6 indices and compare with the Quad 57. Hence, why I say the 57 dial is a better match.

The movement serial is similar to another Quadron (its only a few hundred difference) I have that came out of a trashed Quadron 70 which I'm pretty sure is from the early 1930s. I don't know the name but it appears in Vol. 1 (p.36) of Mike's ID Guide under 1930 and on page 37 of Mike's 1930 decade book under 1932. So I'm calling this date the lower date limit.

I have to admit that I look at pretty much every Quadron that runs through eBay. Many are in the spreadsheet. I've not seen this case before. I've no doubts that it is legit as being originally made by Gruen. It however looks more like the solid gold cases in its construction than any of the cases that were non-precious metal. Its case construction and marking are also similar to the watch I posted the other day... check out the serial numbers. Surely made by the same company and I would suspect that both were in-house by Gruen. If I had to guess on the date of this watch... I'd go with 1935. This late date may explain why the dial is from a different and earlier design and the shift into stainless seeming stamped out of the same molds for the solid gold cases is consistent with a struggling Gruen during the mid-1930s when they were trying to use up stock to to sell watches in a spend-thrift economy.

After I get the 705 finished, I'll get this one COA's. I love Quadrons, wish I had more of them but I am also trying to stick with the concept of buying only solid metal cases. No more goldfill with eliminates a lot of the Quadrons I could afford. I'm quite pleased to have a solid metal Quad for the cost of one of the goldfilled ones.

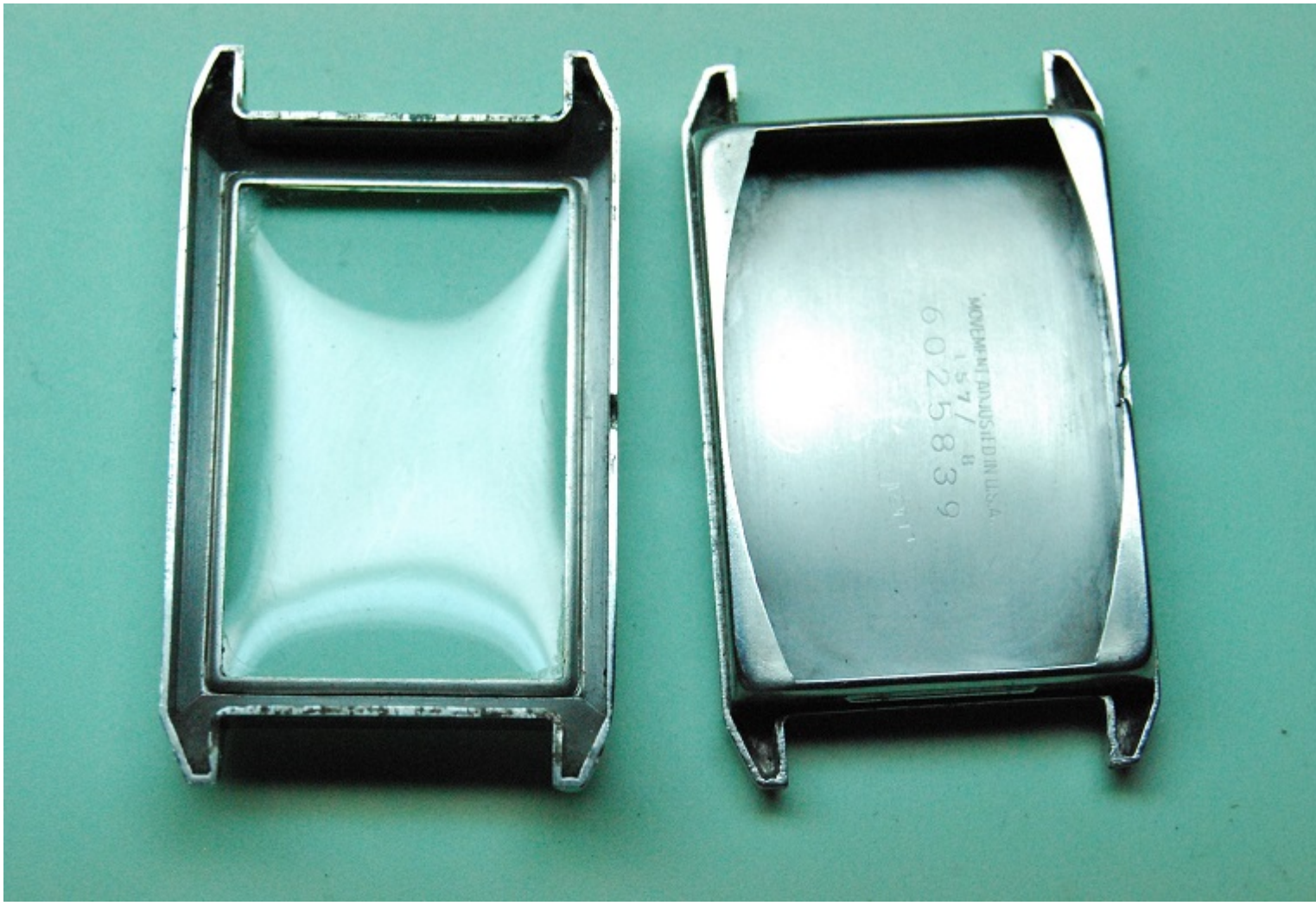
Peace!

Post script... Maybe I should repost the other Quadron I have, looks similar to this one in a white GF case (but with an engraved side)

edit - wrong link to online database. sorry.
edit 2 - now I have the link fixed. gack!

File Attachments

1) case_157.jpg, downloaded 3493 times



2) case_back_157.jpg, downloaded 3522 times



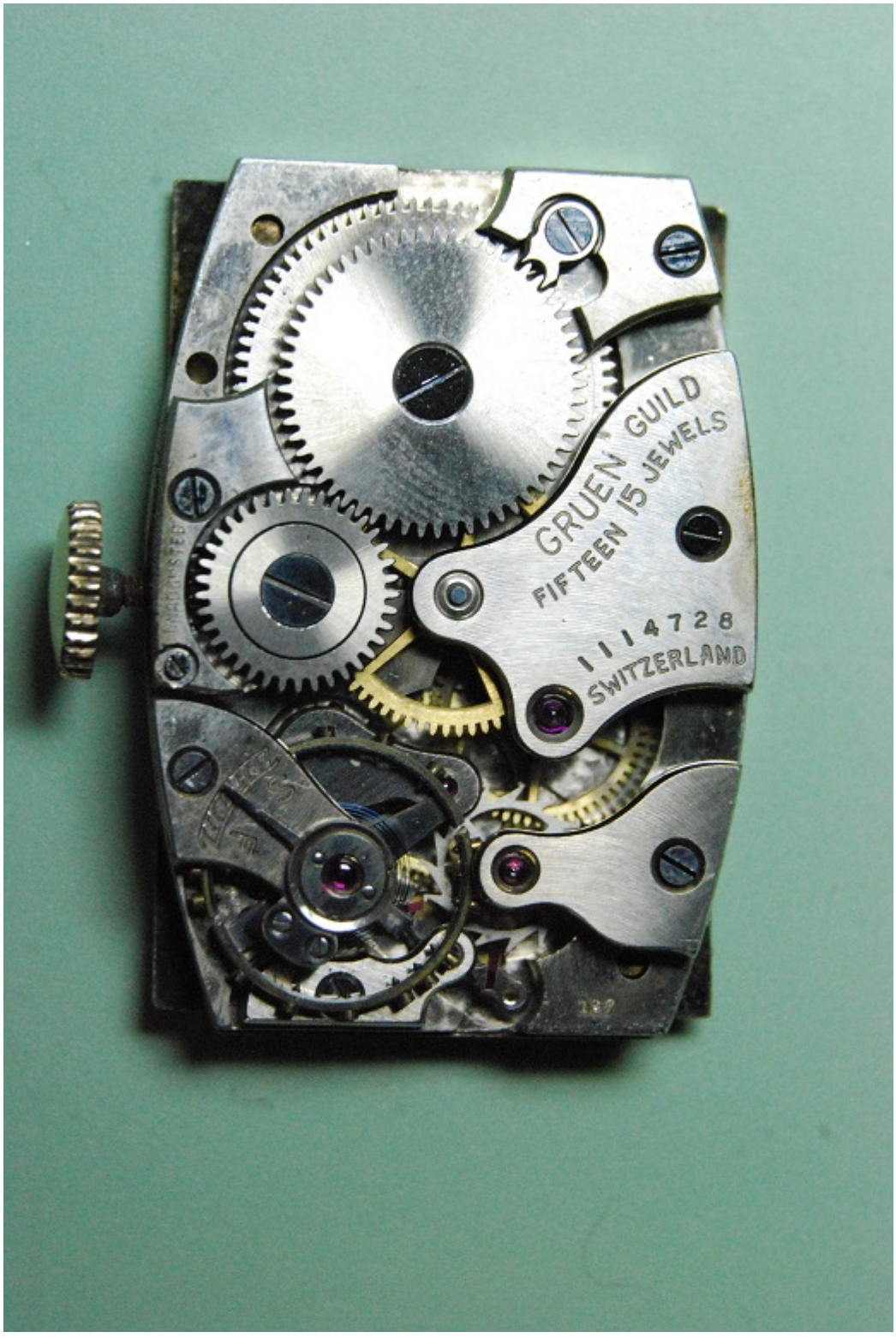
3) dial_157.jpg, downloaded 3465 times



4) inside_157.jpg, downloaded 3400 times



5) movement_157.jpg, downloaded 3373 times



6) top_cased_157.jpg, downloaded 3494 times



Subject: Re: stainless steel Quadron
Posted by Barney Green on Mon, 28 Sep 2015 09:58:47 GMT
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The date of this watch can be narrowed down a little bit further. The trademark "Guildite" was registered in April 1933 and has not been used before. The first proof of usage I have is even one and a half year later in November 1934. I expect that you are perfectly correct with your 1935 estimate.

Subject: Re: stainless steel Quadron
Posted by afire on Mon, 28 Sep 2015 15:04:09 GMT
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Jack, you SOB, you just barely beat me on this one!

But yes, the case and dial are 100% legit. I used to have the exact same watch, but different hands, though it wouldn't surprise me if your hands are original too. They were using both of these styles around this time. And I'd agree 1934-1935 is probably about right.

Subject: Re: stainless steel Quadron
Posted by JackW on Mon, 28 Sep 2015 15:28:56 GMT
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Here I thought it was thojil I might be bidding against. I figured I'd need to fight for this one.

Is the movement you show the one that came with the watch? It is an older version of the cal 157. The reduced barrel bridge design is the later model. Also your's says 'adjusted' which puts it back to 1929 or before. I ask because of the idea that Gruen was taking material on hand (or returned as unsold) and casing things to sell watches. That said I agree with what you and Barney say: this watch is surely 1935-ish. Our case serials are pretty close.

Cheers!

Subject: Re: stainless steel Quadron
Posted by afire on Mon, 28 Sep 2015 21:10:56 GMT
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Jack, I really couldn't say one way or another about the originality of my 157. It's certainly possible that it was replaced before I owned it. And it's also possible that I swapped a trashed movement for a better one, though I've never had a significant stockpile of 157s, so I kind of doubt it. I used to do that often without paying any attention to serial numbers, etc., though I'm trying to avoid that when possible nowadays. So, while it could be factory original, I wouldn't count on it.

Subject: Re: stainless steel Quadron
Posted by Gary on Tue, 29 Sep 2015 00:02:58 GMT
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afire wrote on Mon, 28 September 2015 15:04Jack, you SOB, you just barely beat me on this one! Yeah, I've resorted to buying Gruen locally to keep bidding against my friends.

Jack that is a sharp looking Quad, congrats!

Subject: Re: stainless steel Quadron
Posted by JackW on Tue, 29 Sep 2015 00:43:49 GMT
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GaryM wrote on Tue, 29 September 2015 00:02Yeah, I've resorted to buying Gruen locally to keep bidding against my friends.

Well, you seem to be doing quite well in your local market.

Subject: Re: stainless steel Quadron
Posted by afire on Tue, 29 Sep 2015 19:39:40 GMT
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JackW wrote on Mon, 28 September 2015 19:43GaryM wrote on Tue, 29 September 2015 00:02Yeah, I've resorted to buying Gruen locally to keep bidding against my friends.

Well, you seem to be doing quite well in your local market.
That's an understatement. I don't think I've ever even stumbled across a single Gruen watch here in Wisconsin.

Subject: Re: stainless steel Quadron
Posted by JackW on Mon, 16 Nov 2015 05:36:27 GMT
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Well, I gotta say thank you to Jason. He sent me a staff and I had the watch up and running. It was cased even. As it was sitting on the timing machine, there was some noise in the trace so I decided to run it through the demagnetizer. The noise stopped as did the watch. I opened it up to look and some how the staff broke. I've almost always run my watches as the last step through the demagnetizer. The flabergasting aspect is that it happened twice on this watch. The first time I chalked it up to the staff pivot was already cracked and it went. I'm not of the opinion that a) I've been lucky in the past and b) these 157 staffs are more fragile. Anyway, watch is running now. Getting good at cutting out staffs and sharpening my carbide gravers.

Also, the staffs from Borel are a wee-bit small on the diameter of the roller seat. The one Jason sent me was a spot-on fit. The one from Borel came in a envelope that was marked Bestfit. I had to do a little peening with the staking set to reduce the diameter of the hole of the roller at one end so that it would stay on. They are friction fit; just needed more friction.

Subject: Re: stainless steel Quadron
Posted by Case on Fri, 17 Sep 2021 17:55:46 GMT
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I just stumbled up on this thread. Curious that it's not marked with the 1926 patent, although clearly a Beiser process stamped case. Patent expired 1943. Makes me wonder if this was made during the litigation, or just a peculiarity of National Guildite cases

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Subject: Re: stainless steel Quadron
Posted by afire on Fri, 17 Sep 2021 18:25:07 GMT
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That's a good point. Not sure why the patent isn't on there. In fact, they are identical to the earlier 14k crown guard Quadrons, but in steel and without the crown guards. Those, of course, did have the patent stamp:

Subject: Re: stainless steel Quadron
Posted by Ephemerald on Sat, 18 Sep 2021 02:21:59 GMT
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Deleted, wrong thread

Subject: Re: stainless steel Quadron
Posted by Case on Sun, 19 Sep 2021 02:26:35 GMT
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Thanks to Ephemerald for turning me on to the lawsuit text. The case was Kay Jewelry Co. v. Gruen Natl. Watch Case Co., previously mentioned on the forum. Gruen lost the appeal on May 13 1930.

Reading through the court doc, the 1926 Beiser process patent was abolished. While not specifically mentioned in the case, the language of the court is clear enough that any future defense of the 1922 design patent would've been fruitless. So both died on May 13 1930.

Key nugget: any watch with the March 1922 (tanks) or Feb 1926 patents was made before May 1930; this watch is clearly after.