
Subject: The caliber 157

Posted by [JackW](#) on Fri, 31 May 2013 04:04:18 GMT

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This is the caliber 157 and is a 15 jewel movement that is 8-3/4 x 12 ligne or 19.4mm x 27.07mm. This is one of the Quadron movements and is the only one that is 15 jewels. These are clearly marked with a caliber number often on the pillar plate next to the escape wheel.

There are two variation: One is a 'reduced' barrel bridge design and the other is a single train-bridge without the separate 'finger' for the escape wheel. Also, these movement appear with a frequency in Alpina marked watches. These can be marked 157 but also 765. An example here of a reduced barrel bridge.

These will also appear in Gubelin marked watches, and still noted as a 157. A major difference in the Alpina and the Gruen editions of these movements is that the Gruen use a Breguet overcoiled hairspring where as the Alpina's use a flat hairspring. patent is [HERE](#)

File Attachments

1) [cal 157_1.jpg](#), downloaded 2746 times



2) [Alpina_765.jpg](#), downloaded 2731 times



Subject: Re: The caliber 157

Posted by [Case](#) on Wed, 10 Jun 2020 13:31:57 GMT

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Some trivia on 157 serial #s, related to Favre's Swiss patent CH110319 (filed Sept 12 1924, published Jun 1 1925).

-earliest 157 I've recorded has no stamped serial # on bridges (157-8, Gruen-Wads case # 990,9XX)

-sn seems to have started from 100k (already at 1009XX by G/W case # 991,2XX)

-sn 168,9XX has no visible patent related marks on front plate

-sn 170,4XX appears to have a patent pending stamp on front plate

-sn 175,9XX has "Brevet Dem." stamp

-by sn 258,9XX, Brevet stamp appears

Subject: Re: The caliber 157

Posted by [JackW](#) on Thu, 11 Jun 2020 02:06:31 GMT

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In my spread sheet, I have case and movement serials with notations on movement differences. These are the ones that had dated inscriptions on the back. Hope these data can be useful...

movement serial-----	case serial-----	date inscribed-----	other
100808	5032127	1926	marked adjusted on movement, case style 157-8
unknown	5031877	July 1, 1926	same as above; case marked patent pending
142524	5269743	Dec 25, 1928	Markings unknown; owned or sold my Tomas
1101621	1228340	June 1, 1932	14K case marked OS-67; mvt marked adjusted 4 positions
1104770	5414637	no date	case ref. 157-84; movt marked adjusted 4 positions
1104859	5328177	no date	case ref. 157-8w; adjustment marking milled off.
1106275	5329275	no date	case ref. 157-8w; no adjustment markings present
1113750	5424839	Feb 28, 1934	case ref. 157-8w; movment marked "unadj"

Interestingly.... and part of why I think Gruen was assigning serial number ranges and sometimes jumping about a bit is that the cal 179; also by M. Favre was following a similar serial scheme as the 157: The dated 179s...

155989	5239309	12-25-1928	case ref. 179-27
228884	5427611	4-16-1934	case ref. 315-3 (not a typo)
1203750	5349968	1929	case ref. 179-27

Subject: Re: The caliber 157

Posted by [Case](#) on Thu, 11 Jun 2020 03:01:14 GMT

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Awesome, Jack! Thanks very much for sharing these. I think you are correct that 157 & 179 share the same movement number series. Looking at how the low # 157s trickled out from 25- 27, I can't help but wonder if they were just very poor sellers. Gruen seems to have loaded up on movements in 1925, then spent 2 years working them off. I have a few 200k & 300k noted—very few compared to the 100k—then the jump to 1mm.

On to the Gruen-Wadsworth "patents pending" stamped cases that you showed: those are the keys to dating the 5MM Wads case # jump (planning to go there next on the case # thread). They reference not Gruen patents, but Wadsworth. Two of them, filed on the same day in September 1925. These cases were made after that. I also have Gruen/Wads case # 5,054,XXX with an 11/17/1925 patent stamp. These, along with your engravings, show the jump happened near the end of 1925.

And we can pinpoint exactly when the "patents pending" stamp stopped. Hope this is

interesting to others besides myself!

Subject: Re: The caliber 157

Posted by [afire](#) on Thu, 11 Jun 2020 22:01:52 GMT

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I don't know if this adds anything to the discussion, but I'm throwing it in here:

The only thing that jumps out at me is that it has yet another bridge layout.

Subject: Re: The caliber 157

Posted by [JackW](#) on Fri, 12 Jun 2020 02:17:33 GMT

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afire wrote on Thu, 11 June 2020 22:01 I don't know if this adds anything to the discussion, but I'm throwing it in here: 

The only thing that jumps out at me is that it has yet another bridge layout.

I did not list the changes in bridge layout in the data I showed, but I tracked that too, including when the reduced bridge like this shows up.

Nice watch! If you would post the full watch in the "guild" section, I think that would be appropriate to show there in detail. I know I want to drool over this bling.

Subject: Re: The caliber 157

Posted by [Barney Green](#) on Fri, 12 Jun 2020 12:47:17 GMT

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Cal. 157 clearly is a Marc Favre design, see their number 23:

No. 20 appears to be cal 155 / 159 / 1597,

No. 21 looks like cal. 163 / 165 / 167 / 168

Nr. 22 should be cal 153

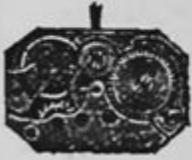
Barney

File Attachments

1) [Favre 23 cal 157.jpg](#), downloaded 2302 times

N° 42877. 21 juillet 1928, 19 h. — Ouvert. — 7 modèles. — Calibres de montres en toutes grandeurs. — Marc Favre & Co., Bienne (Suisse).

N° 20



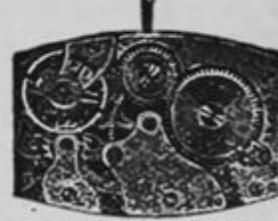
N° 21



N° 22



N° 23



Subject: Re: The caliber 157

Posted by [Case](#) on Fri, 12 Jun 2020 18:35:22 GMT

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I'm jealous, afire! But happy you threw it in. I'm with Jack—love to see more.

Forgot about the bridge change.

Subject: Re: The caliber 157

Posted by [Barney Green](#) on Fri, 12 Jun 2020 19:04:07 GMT

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Look like earlier movements had different dial fastening screw locations. Here two of mine, one an 11xxxx and the other a 14xxxx serial.

Barney

File Attachments

1) [157 14x.jpg](#), downloaded 2277 times



2) [157_11x.jpg](#), downloaded 2262 times



Subject: Re: The caliber 157
Posted by [afire](#) on Fri, 12 Jun 2020 19:59:01 GMT
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JackW wrote on Thu, 11 June 2020 21:17afire wrote on Thu, 11 June 2020 22:01I don't know if this adds anything to the discussion, but I'm throwing it in here: [/img]
The only thing that jumps out at me is that it has yet another bridge layout.
I did not list the changes in bridge layout in the data I showed, but I tracked that too, including when the reduced bridge like this shows up.
What did you find?

JackW wrote on Thu, 11 June 2020 21:17Nice watch! If you would post the full watch in the "guild" section, I think that would be appropriate to show there in detail. I know I want to drool over this bling.
Like I always say, JackW's wish is my command! But I'll wait until you respond to the above so I can narrow down the date of production.

Subject: Re: The caliber 157
Posted by [JackW](#) on Fri, 12 Jun 2020 20:21:22 GMT
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afire wrote on Fri, 12 June 2020 19:59
What did you find?
The change to the reduced barrel bridge seems to have occurred between 1105173 and 1106275. If I had to guess... 1933.

Subject: Re: The caliber 157
Posted by [Case](#) on Fri, 12 Jun 2020 22:55:14 GMT
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You've an eye for details, gentlemen! (Says the guy who posted about fonts on front plate stamps,

What is the lowest post-reset # and/or highest pre-reset? I've seen 1,100,1XX but no lower; 325,4XX but no higher.

Barney--I've never noticed this detail you mention. I found 123,8xx with the old screw; 139,7xx without. Doesn't help much, I know.

Jack--I have 1,105,976 with the new bridge (also 1st I see without an adjustment stamp). That's getting pretty tight!

Related: the Serial Number locations
1009xx: between crown & winding wheel
102xxx: I record this as top, but can't find pic
109xxx: SN definitely at top

1,105,976: small SN by click (assume Jack--yours was still top center?); no adj marks
1,108,711: highest SN I've seen by click (didn't note adj)
1,110,838: SN now on center plate; UNADJ mark top right

Subject: Re: The caliber 157

Posted by [JackW](#) on Sat, 13 Jun 2020 03:18:53 GMT

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Case wrote on Fri, 12 June 2020 22:55 1,105,976: small SN by click (assume Jack--yours was still top center?); no adj marks

I did not note the change in serial number stamping. Didn't occur to me at the time.
