Subject: Curvex Ristside Falcon aka Batwing
Posted by Thojil on Mon, 18 Sep 2017 08:43:52 GMT
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Model name : Ristside Falcon
Type : Curvex
Period/date : 1949
Gender : Male

Case Maker : APEX Watch Case Company Co.
Case Material : 10k Gold Filled
Case Serial : C27761
Case Style no : 440-641

Caliber : 440
Movement Maker : Gruen
Movement Serial: C2430

Bracelet : Original Gruen. The original strap however may have been a special strap allowing you to wear it on the side of your wrist with the buckle centrally positioned under your wrist (need confirmation).

Other info : The same case fitted with a metal stretch band was named the Fraternity. In addition to the black dial a silver dial existed as well.
The same time Gruen launched a solid gold version with a different case design named Royalty.

The launch ad from November 1949 is promoting the Ristside models as "the first major advance in watch making design since the introduction of the wristwatch". Interestingly Gruen is not capitalising on their own history by making reference to the earlier 1938-1939 models like the Lord, Envoy and Admiral which apparently were not very successful. The early models could only be worn on the side of the wrist while these new Ristside models with their flexible lugs could be worn either way. I guess Gruen did learn from their mistakes in the past...

File Attachments

1) Gruen Curvex Ristside Falcon cal.440 2.5.jpg, downloaded 4449 times

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2) Gruen Curvex Ristside Falcon cal.440 2.3.jpg, downloaded 4286 times



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3) Gruen Curvex Ristside Falcon cal.440 2.1.jpg, downloaded 4319 times

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4) Gruen Curvex Ristside Falcon cal.440 2.2.jpg, downloaded 4312 times


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5) 1949 Ristside models.JPG, downloaded 4383 times



Subject: Re: Curvex Ristside Falcon aka Batwing
Posted by kastner on Mon, 18 Sep 2017 12:57:33 GMT
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Wait, a different band changed it from a Falcon to a Fraternity? I never knew that, thanks for the great info (and for posting the nice watch too). My black dial is SN C22619 and my silver dial is SN V33492.

Subject: Re: Curvex Ristside Falcon aka Batwing
Posted by Falcon on Sun, 20 Aug 2023 08:34:41 GMT
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The Falcon doesn't have numbers all the way around the dial

Subject: Re: Curvex Ristside Falcon aka Batwing
Posted by Barney Green on Sun, 20 Aug 2023 19:34:59 GMT
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Dials are not binding at Gruen, they often randomly changed at many models.

Subject: Re: Curvex Ristside Falcon aka Batwing
Posted by Falcon on Tue, 22 Aug 2023 13:54:58 GMT
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Then what's the difference between the Fraternity and a Falcon? That's the only difference I can see between them in the factory advertisement.

Subject: Re: Curvex Ristside Falcon aka Batwing
Posted by afire on Tue, 22 Aug 2023 16:06:01 GMT
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The Falcon came with a leather strap and the Fraternity came with a gold filled bracelet. Gruen often assigned different names for the same watch based on that distinction.

Subject: Re: Curvex Ristside Falcon aka Batwing
Posted by Falcon on Tue, 22 Aug 2023 22:19:27 GMT
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Then basically they are the same watch? There aren't many around with the original band.

Subject: Re: Curvex Ristside Falcon aka Batwing
Posted by Barney Green on Wed, 23 Aug 2023 09:22:27 GMT
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Yes, the watch itself is the same.

Subject: Re: Curvex Ristside Falcon aka Batwing

Posted by Falcon on Wed, 23 Aug 2023 14:22:48 GMT
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Would you say one dial is more rare then the other? Most of the ones I seen on line have the numbers all the way around the dial but that may just be me.

Subject: Re: Curvex Ristside Falcon aka Batwing
Posted by C. Hurt on Thu, 24 Aug 2023 01:52:38 GMT
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As afire mentioned, it was Gruen's practice to use different names to indicate which type of band (leather strap or metal bracelet) the watch was sold with. But like everything else with Gruen, this doesn't occur all of the time.

The full italic dial is more commonly seen, but I don't know of any documentation that is available to establish numbers.

Subject: Re: Curvex Ristside Falcon aka Batwing
Posted by Passion on Sat, 18 Jul 2026 06:49:28 GMT
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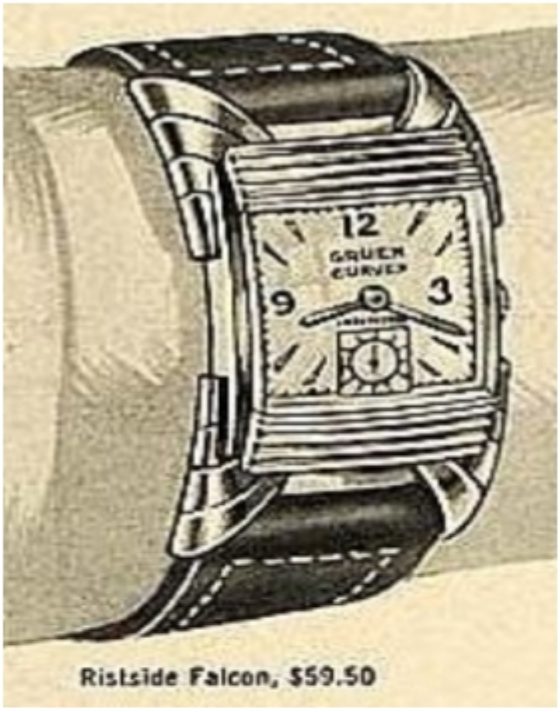
Bonjour,
Pour le fun, et bien effectuer la différence entre les 3 modèles.
;-)

Hello,
For fun, and make sure to distinguish between the 3 models.
;-)

File Attachments

1) Gruen_ristside_batwing_comparatif_EN.jpg, downloaded 618 times

Gruen Cu

Criteria	Falcon	Fraternity
Photos	 Ristside Falcon, $59.50	 Ristside Fraternity, $
List Price	$59.50	$71.50
Position in Range	Entry level	Mid range
Illustrated Bracelet	Leather	Expansion metal bracelet
Visible Numerals	12, 3, 6, 9 only	Many Arabic numerals
Dial Style	Clean and modern	More classic
Art Deco Decoration	Very pronounced	Moderate
Sub-seconds Dial	Yes	Yes
Case Design	More elaborate	More elaborate
Overall Presentation	Functional	Professional
Legibility	Excellent	Good
Visual Impact Today	Very 1930s	Very 1930s

Subject: Re: Curvex Ristside Falcon aka Batwing
Posted by JackW on Sat, 18 Jul 2026 14:43:37 GMT
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I like your graphic you've made. Very informative.

Subject: Re: Curvex Ristside Falcon aka Batwing
Posted by Gary on Sat, 18 Jul 2026 15:00:11 GMT
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Veri-nice!