Subject: Strap 393
Posted by testguy on Mon, 09 Oct 2017 21:26:14 GMT
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Model name :Strap 393
Type :
Period/date : 1940's
Gender :Gents

Case Maker :Star Watch Case Company
Case Material :10K GF
Case Serial :
Case Style no :

Caliber :401C
Movement Maker :Gruen
Movement Serial:

Bracelet :

Other info :

I picked up this Gruen today. Can anybody ID the watch and approx. date of manufacture. I'd also be interested in the movement info.
Thanks, Brian

File Attachments

1) image.jpeg, downloaded 3675 times


SWITZERLAND
CONQUEST

2) image.jpeg, downloaded 3566 times

GRUEN

3) image.jpeg, downloaded 3703 times



Subject: Re: Gruen Mens ID
Posted by Barney Green on Tue, 10 Oct 2017 07:49:02 GMT
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Hi Brian,

nice watch! I can only provide you with the catalog ID, I have never seen this watch been advertised. So all I can tell you is "Strap 393", date of manufacture approximately 1940 (plus minus one year) and that the movement is a Swiss Gruen made caliber 401C.

Barney

Subject: Re: Gruen Mens ID
Posted by testguy on Tue, 10 Oct 2017 10:57:16 GMT
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Thanks Barney

Subject: Re: Gruen Mens ID
Posted by Benjamin_Rush on Thu, 30 Jun 2022 23:21:45 GMT
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Barney Green wrote on Tue, 10 October 2017 03:49 "Strap 393", date of manufacture approximately 1940 (plus minus one year) and that the movement is a Swiss Gruen made caliber 401C.

Barney
Barney, do you know, are these style of hands luminous? If so, would that mean radium?

Subject: Re: Gruen Mens ID
Posted by JackW on Fri, 01 Jul 2022 02:39:15 GMT
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sleepyastronaut wrote on Thu, 30 June 2022 17:21 If so, would that mean radium?
The hands originally would have had radium containing luminescent material.

Subject: Re: Gruen Mens ID
Posted by Benjamin_Rush on Fri, 01 Jul 2022 05:26:51 GMT
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JackW wrote on Thu, 30 June 2022 22:39sleepyastronaut wrote on Thu, 30 June 2022 17:21 If so, would that mean radium?

The hands originally would have had radium containing luminescent material.
Thanks, Jack. Was radium used in the paint for the indexes? My tuxedo dial has something akin to a champleve design, though I don't know it to be enamel, so that may not be an appropriate term.

Subject: Re: Gruen Mens ID
Posted by Barney Green on Fri, 01 Jul 2022 08:54:04 GMT
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I disagree with Jack, in my opinion most likely the hands were not Radium filled. Here a closeup of another watch with these hands, looks like the slotted hands were not filled at all:

Barney

File Attachments
1) Non luminous.JPG, downloaded 3019 times



Subject: Re: Gruen Mens ID
Posted by JackW on Fri, 01 Jul 2022 16:26:39 GMT
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There is one easy way to find out. Shine a UV light on it. Florescence without retaining glow is a good sign of Radium. If no florescence than likely no lumed material.

Subject: Re: Gruen Mens ID
Posted by Benjamin_Rush on Fri, 01 Jul 2022 17:28:51 GMT
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JackW wrote on Fri, 01 July 2022 12:26There is one easy way to find out. Shine a UV light on it. Florescence without retaining glow is a good sign of Radium. If no florescence than likely no lumed material.
I know this test to work for tritium-based lume, but have read it isn't applicable to radium. It does work to detect my cotton undershirts. ;)

Subject: Re: Gruen Mens ID
Posted by JackW on Fri, 01 Jul 2022 20:39:53 GMT
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sleepyastronaut wrote on Fri, 01 July 2022 11:28I know this test to work for tritium-based lume, but have read it isn't applicable to radium. It does work to detect my cotton undershirts. ;)
On your cotton t-shirt, it is detecting the optical brightener that was used in the detergent. UV works on my WWI watches. Zinc Sulfide, which is the phosphor in the radium luminescent material is itself UV reactive.

Subject: Re: Gruen Mens ID
Posted by JackW on Sat, 05 Oct 2024 03:28:33 GMT
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I recently acquired a VT Greyhound that has this style hands. I suggested to the OP that the hands have radium.
Whatever it is, it is not radium or any other luminescent material.

The hands definately have a channel or groove, that is all the way through the hand and material that is infilling.

front side:

back side:

File Attachments

1) IMG_0081.jpg, downloaded 2367 times



2) IMG_0082.jpg, downloaded 2389 times



3) IMG_0083.jpg, downloaded 2290 times



Subject: Re: Gruen Mens ID
Posted by afire on Mon, 14 Oct 2024 22:02:38 GMT
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Maybe it's just black filling to complement the black and silver of the hours chapter (Am I using that word correctly?).

Subject: Re: Gruen Mens ID
Posted by JackW on Tue, 15 Oct 2024 17:27:47 GMT
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afire wrote on Mon, 14 October 2024 16:02Maybe it's just black filling to complement the black and silver of the hours chapter (Am I using that word correctly?).
Yes, I think you are correct. For contrast.

Someone posted another Gruen model with this style hand on one of the FaceBook groups in the last week or so. I asked for their assessment, but did not get a response.