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Subject: metal fake brown leather

Posted by [Jenneke](#) on Wed, 12 Feb 2020 17:07:18 GMT

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#### Description

Brown fake leather metal box hinged. Black velvet insert stamped Gruen in gold. Silk lining in the lid with text "Gruen Wrist Watch". With paperwork "How to care for your watch" (A30A).

Period : 1915-1920?

Watch type : ladies strap wrist watch

Size : L=5cm W=10.2cm H=2.1cm

Inventor : Harry J Farrington?

Patents : Patent on hinge?

Box maker : Farrington

Farrington custom packaging is founded in 1920's in Boston (Jamaica Plain sta 30). Was a manufacturer of wrapped metal shell cases f.e. jewelry boxes and eye glass cases.

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#### File Attachments

1) [image00004.jpeg](#), downloaded 1954 times

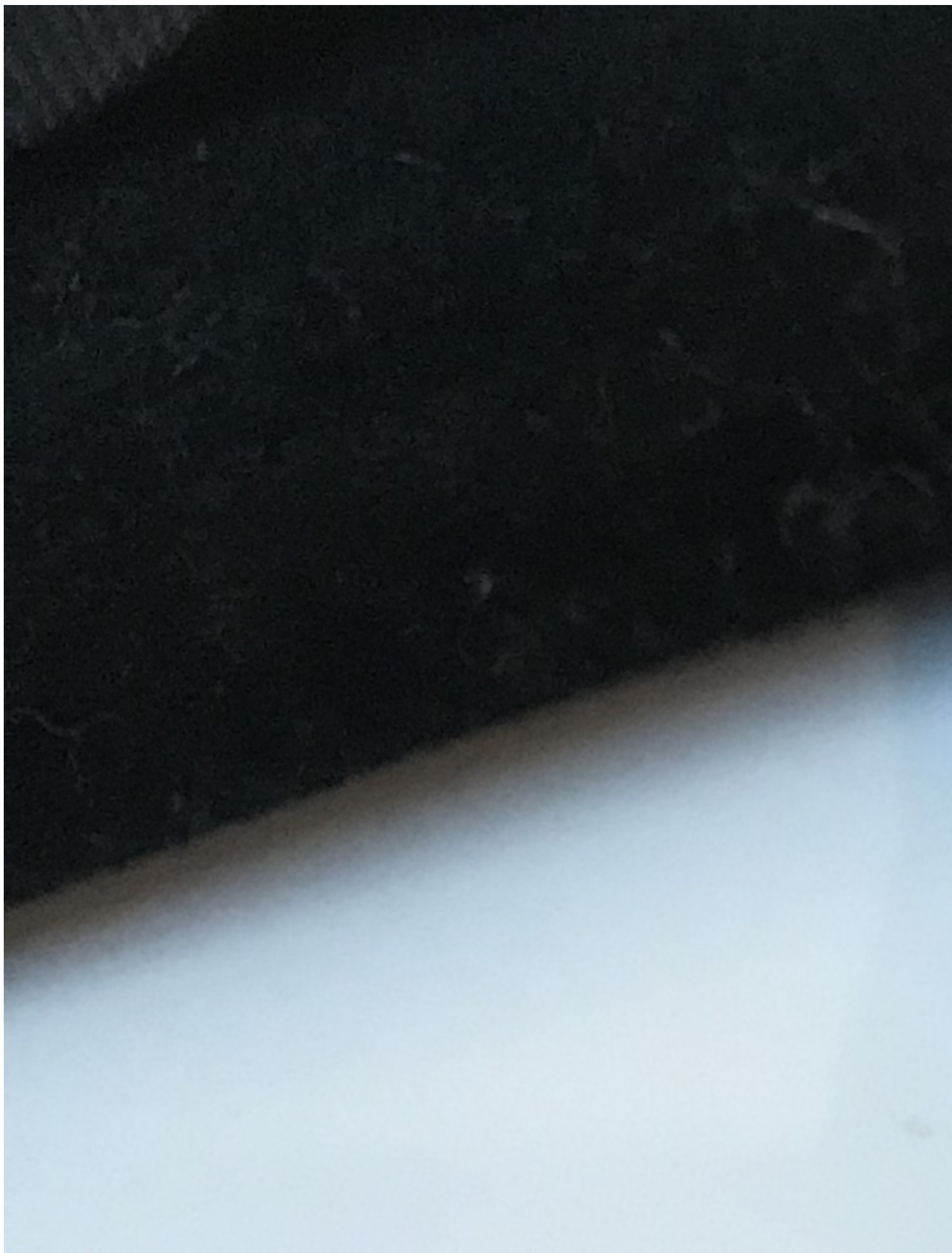
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2) [image00005.jpeg](#), downloaded 1937 times



3) [image00006.jpeg](#), downloaded 1908 times



4) [image00008.jpeg](#), downloaded 1891 times





Subject: Re: metal fake brown leather  
Posted by [Jenneke](#) on Wed, 12 Feb 2020 17:10:01 GMT  
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The letter G of Gruen can help date is. It changes over time, not sure when the switch was to a "leaner" G?

Couldn't find the patent that goes with this box (or parts of it). Others?

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Subject: Re: metal fake brown leather  
Posted by [Jenneke](#) on Mon, 19 Oct 2020 21:26:50 GMT  
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I made a mistake. The Farrington manufacturing company goes further back to 1 June 1911. Before that it was called A. W. Farrington Company. Farrington closed in the 1970s (some merger). I saw newspaper bits with the address 100 BOYLSTON STREET Boston, but that might be an office. The factory was located on Jamaica Plain in between Green Street and Williams Street.

A lot of early patents on spring hinge, spring lids and metal boxes.  
For example (1905): "This invention relates to boxes, and has particular references to metal boxes comprising two members hinged together and provided with spring devices for holding the said members in either closed or open position".

Together with the fact that this box doesn't have the service crest but Gruen Wrist Watch Stamped and an older booklet, I will date it now to 1910s.

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Subject: Re: metal fake brown leather  
Posted by [afire](#) on Tue, 20 Oct 2020 18:24:53 GMT  
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Jenneke wrote on Mon, 19 October 2020 16:26

Together with the fact that this box doesn't have the service crest...

I couldn't figure out why people were calling them "service boxes." Despite having owned a number of these boxes, I never noticed the word "service" in the crest.

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Subject: Re: metal fake brown leather  
Posted by [Jenneke](#) on Wed, 21 Oct 2020 19:17:08 GMT  
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happy I have enlightened you. :d

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