
Subject: Gruen Pan American

Posted by [cndguy82](#) on Fri, 21 May 2021 02:23:42 GMT

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Hi everyone,

Just wanted to get some opinions if I could on whether or not you guys figure this is original?

Thanks very much in advance for any opinions!

I will get a movement shot soon :)

File Attachments

1) [A21F85C7-2D6D-4108-A44F-BCB7611D08C5.jpeg](#), downloaded 2789 times



Subject: Re: Correct Pan Am?

Posted by [cndguy82](#) on Fri, 21 May 2021 02:37:46 GMT

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Some more

File Attachments

1) [E08D6FEC-C80F-4B2D-805B-338CD8F6C1AF.jpeg](#), downloaded 2401 times

Wadsworth

BASE METAL

9652346
420 534

2) [74A311A6-BA92-4E33-847C-DFE44A4D11FA.jpeg](#), downloaded 2381 times

A close-up photograph of a metal gear. The word "PATENTED" is embossed in a curved line along the top edge of the gear. The word "THIN" is embossed in a curved line along the bottom edge. A central hole is visible in the gear.

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Subject: Re: Correct Pan Am?

Posted by [cndguy82](#) on Fri, 21 May 2021 03:04:21 GMT

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Oh geez, I sure didn't use the template did I!? Missed that, sorry!

Subject: Re: Correct Pan Am?

Posted by [Gary](#) on Fri, 21 May 2021 14:28:44 GMT

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Welcome!

No template needed. ;-) I'd say this is original, nice patina on the dial.

I'll let the Pan Am experts chime in.

Subject: Re: Correct Pan Am?

Posted by [cndguy82](#) on Fri, 21 May 2021 15:07:01 GMT

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Cool, thank you

Subject: Re: Correct Pan Am?

Posted by [cndguy82](#) on Fri, 21 May 2021 16:59:26 GMT

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Interesting that the wadsworth number indicates 45/46 but the style number points to 1944. I guess that just means it was manufactured at the very end of 44 or very beginning of 45...

Subject: Re: Correct Pan Am?

Posted by [Gary](#) on Fri, 21 May 2021 17:12:03 GMT

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I would say 1945-46 based on the Wadsworth G6 prefix of your Ace. If you want to see some bling check out this thread!

<https://vintagegruen.org/vgforum/index.php?t=msg&th=647>

Edit: struck out Captain and replaced with Ace, ah heck they're all the same. :d

Subject: Re: Correct Pan Am?

Posted by [cndguy82](#) on Fri, 21 May 2021 17:28:10 GMT

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Oh ya, great read! Thank you

Subject: Re: Correct Pan Am?

Posted by [cndguy82](#) on Sat, 22 May 2021 16:27:49 GMT

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Not a very active forum... lol

Subject: Re: Correct Pan Am?

Posted by [Jenneke](#) on Sat, 22 May 2021 16:50:40 GMT

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Depends... but I am not an expert on panams. So nothing to add.

But very nice watch though! Is it a family piece?

Subject: Re: Correct Pan Am?

Posted by [Gary](#) on Sat, 22 May 2021 16:56:26 GMT

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Maybe introduce yourself in the new member forum?

No one knows your name. ;-)

Subject: Re: Correct Pan Am?

Posted by [cndguy82](#) on Sat, 22 May 2021 17:16:36 GMT

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Very true, I really should have done that ooops

My name is Sean

Subject: Re: Correct Pan Am?

Posted by [cndguy82](#) on Sat, 22 May 2021 17:18:10 GMT

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Thanks no worries

Nope just bought online

Thank you

Subject: Re: Correct Pan Am?
Posted by [Case](#) on Sat, 22 May 2021 18:01:19 GMT
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Welcome, Sean! Nice watch, certainly a candidate to become an heirloom

Subject: Re: Correct Pan Am?
Posted by [cndguy82](#) on Sat, 22 May 2021 20:22:24 GMT
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Thanks very much :)

Subject: Re: Correct Pan Am?
Posted by [thesnark17](#) on Sat, 22 May 2021 20:30:12 GMT
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My money says that's all original. Definitely a less common dial style too.

Subject: Re: Correct Pan Am?
Posted by [cndguy82](#) on Sun, 23 May 2021 02:23:42 GMT
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Yes I definitely haven't seen too many of this dial variation while looking at pics.
Thanks

Subject: Re: Correct Pan Am?
Posted by [JackW](#) on Sun, 23 May 2021 03:27:59 GMT
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Agreed... all original dial, hands and case.... Movement too, if the serial starts A-xxxxxx

Subject: Re: Correct Pan Am?
Posted by [cndguy82](#) on Sun, 23 May 2021 14:25:22 GMT
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Great news, thank you everyone. Now I have to go search for a serial on the movement :)

Subject: Re: Correct Pan Am?

Posted by [cndguy82](#) on Sun, 23 May 2021 14:28:41 GMT

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So is it rule of thumb to go by the style number or the case serial to nail down a date of manufacture?

Subject: Re: Correct Pan Am?

Posted by [thesnark17](#) on Sun, 23 May 2021 14:57:24 GMT

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Both. ;)

The style number only gives us the date of introduction for the style, it doesn't tell us when it was made. But most styles were only made for a few years (not usually more than 5). Using this rule of thumb, your watch was manufactured in 1944-49 (but keep in mind, only the beginning of the range is certain, that's why it's the only date provided in the table).

The case serial, in this case, tells us more, because we understand the Wadsworth serial system (opening two digits are a date code). G6 dates to 1945-46, as mentioned above. However, most case serial systems are not well understood, so for most Gruens, the style number is as close as you get. So the style numbers are our rule of thumb, but sometimes we can do better.

The movement serial would provide confirmation of the case date, and in so doing confirm the originality of the movement/case combination (we know all parts are factory Gruen, but "all 420ss movements look the same" to someone with a broken movement and a functional spare). We understand movement serials "well enough" to help with dating this model, but the system is not fully understood.

We know more about the Panamerican model because it's popular, so people have studied it and figured things out. Don't expect a date within a year for most other Gruens!

Subject: Re: Correct Pan Am?

Posted by [cndguy82](#) on Sun, 23 May 2021 15:08:06 GMT

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Ah ok!

That makes sense because I have always heard that Gruens are difficult to date.

Thanks a lot for the detailed response!

I'll check the movement serial and report back :)

Subject: Re: Correct Pan Am?

Posted by [cndguy82](#) on Mon, 24 May 2021 18:47:40 GMT

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Well I can't really make out a serial.
Doesn't matter, just going to enjoy this cool watch.
Thanks again for everyone's help :)
