
Subject: Why Gruen ?

Posted by [Passion](#) on Sun, 04 Oct 2026 17:27:30 GMT

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Hi,

I've been wanting to launch this post for a while, I have some time left, let's go!

A Japanese friend left me a photograph of one of his trips to the United States (San Francisco): A Gruen Autowind placed on a bedside table, in a large house from the 70s, by an American-Russian designer.

Having not worn a watch since the age of 23 (I think), here I am looking for information about this watch and the Gruen brand.

One thing led to another: I arrived on your forum, I started collecting 1, 2, 3, then several Gruen, and I don't know why, I'm "stuck" on the Gruen !

And you, why Gruen? (even if some of you like other brands)

Take turns, when the mood comes to you ;-)

File Attachments

1) [01.jpeg](#), downloaded 278 times



Subject: Re: Why Gruen ?

Posted by [ytony2876](#) on Mon, 05 Oct 2026 10:15:15 GMT

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For me, ever since I acquired a Patek Philippe, I gradually stopped playing with mainstream Swiss watches. I felt their case designs were becoming a bit too similar and uniform.

That all changed when I stumbled upon vintage American watches—I was instantly captivated by their incredible variety of case shapes and bold geometry.

My journey into American timepieces actually started with Bulova. Then one day, I came across an article about the Gruen Curvex. I was completely blown away by that radically curved case design! That single Curvex naturally led me deep into the world of Gruen.

Of course, I didn't pass on other great American names like Hamilton, Waltham, and Elgin along the way, but at the end of the day, Gruen remains my absolute favorite.

There's just something truly unique about Gruen's design heritage and charm that keeps me hooked :lol:

Subject: Re: Why Gruen ?

Posted by [afire](#) on Mon, 05 Oct 2026 22:10:19 GMT

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It started with inheriting a Gruen watch upon my grandfather's passing. In 1998 I was at an antiques mall in Houston and found a dealer with some nice vintage lighters, my first collecting interest. He also had a Gruen Quadron that I thought was really cool. This about the same time that eBay really came into its own and I was amazed by the vast array of vintage watches to choose from. Somewhat overwhelmed I started buying anything that looked cool. After a while I felt I needed to narrow things down. Remembering my grandfather's Gruen and that Quadron that got me interested in Art Deco watches, I decided that I was going to stick to 1920s and 1930s Gruens.

Subject: Re: Why Gruen ?

Posted by [Passion](#) on Tue, 06 Oct 2026 05:21:30 GMT

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This is getting interesting.

Three different entry points: The weariness of the Swiss for Ytony2876, a family legacy for Afire and a photograph for me.

In all three cases, a specific model triggered the collection (Curvex, Quadron, Autowind)

I can't wait to watch the other answers ;-)

Subject: Re: Why Gruen ?

Posted by [Gary](#) on Tue, 06 Oct 2026 13:07:46 GMT

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2011, it all started when I was browsing eBay. I saw a Gruen watch, but what hooked me was the

art deco lugs, the VT Bruce. Joined a forum and my Gruen adventure started.

Subject: Re: Why Gruen ?

Posted by [Jenneke](#) on Wed, 07 Oct 2026 18:52:20 GMT

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I thought it was in 2005 or 2006 that I bought my first Gruen. In my recollection I got my first job and thought I needed to celebrate that with my first mechanical watch. But the timeline is incorrect.... :?

So, I don't know what in fact was the reason I bought one, but I did. It all started at the beginning of 2010. I bought my first mechanical watch and it happened to be a Gruen, the Cartouche Clarendon. Gruen, not a common brand in the Netherlands... I do like the art deco period and those old American watches have style!

Anyway, my first Gruen is on this forum.

<https://vintagegruen.org/vgforum/index.php?t=msg&th=32&start=0&>

When digging for some extra information I stumbled upon the page of Paul Schliesser (pixelp.com/gruen). The mystery around Gruen and the exploration aspect made me decide to stick with Gruen. On Nov 27th 2011 I registered to the old Gruen forum and bought my first 2 Gruen books. January 2013 I had 12 Gruen watches.

One could add a zero at the end right now. Haven't counted them for a while. :roll: Collected goodies, parts and learned some watchmaking skills over the years. I only collect Gruen.

Subject: Re: Why Gruen ?

Posted by [JackW](#) on Tue, 13 Oct 2026 02:33:03 GMT

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Jenneke wrote on Wed, 07 October 2026 12:52 I only collect Gruen.
...and random Hamilton watches foisted upon you.

Collecting for me started in steps... I worked in the jewelry trade while I was earning my college degree. A pawn shop I worked for had me run the watch repairs to the watchmaker in downtown Chicago. It was from that watchmaker, an elderly gentleman and Holocaust survivor that I bought my first collectible watch, about 2001: A 14K Longines from the early 1950s. I had bought vintage watches before this, but this one was a real keeper. I was also on the hunt for finding a replacement to the watch my grandfather had given me, and thought lost in my youth*. Later jobs

deepened the interest and then I graduated. I would travel for work post graduation and one location in Ohio that I went often, there was an old family run jewelry store. They had bought estates and also defunct jewelers and watchmakers from around the area. I bought a group of watches and partials; one of which was a Gruen VT Nomad. I then became interested in learning repair; and Gruen watches and their movements were inexpensive. I did not want pocket watches, which are commonly recommended for learning repair work. That Nomad was an early success. I also sold it. But it was that watch and others that connected me to a couple well known Gruen collectors, and I went from there. The mechanics were first and then the styles captured my interest. I collect beyond Gruen.... Hamilton, Longines, Omega and others, also early men's wrist watches from the 1910 to 1920 era, with a range of Swiss and US makes. I've met some nice people in this hobby and like the intellectual and international aspects of it.

*Nearly 40 years after having thought I lost the watch it turned up in a box of stuff from my grandmother; my sister had lived at my grandparents for a while and a box she packed in 1991 on moving out and then never unpacked until 5 years ago had that long missing watch, and several others that belonged to my grandparents.