Subject: Alpina - Gruen Tecno
Posted by Passion on Sat, 24 Oct 2026 17:11:42 GMT
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Model name: Alpina-Gruen Tecno
Type: Wristwatch
Period/date: 1929-1935
Gender: Male, mais pourquoi pas également pour les femmes ! (but why not also for women!) ;-)

Case Maker: I'll let the professionals tell me...
Case Material: That I know --> 0.900 silver
Case Serial: 406483
Case Style no: Alpina Gruen

Caliber: 877S
Movement Maker: It's not shown on it, the A for Aegler ?
Movement Serial: 1867406

Bracelet: Without a bracelet, I plan to have (when I don't know) a bracelet made just like back then.

Other info:
- Of my Gruen, she's the one who makes the most noise: tick tock, tick tock.
- The gold-colored crown is not particularly attractive.
- The dial has developed significant yellowing beneath the crystal.
- In photograph number 4, the small "bear" standing on the side of the case is the official Swiss hallmark for silver watch cases of 0.875 fineness or higher, used from 1882 to 1934.
- I'm sure you'll be able to tell me many more details. ;-)

File Attachments

1) 01a.jpg, downloaded 353 times


ALPINA - GRUEN
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6) 02a.jpg, downloaded 351 times


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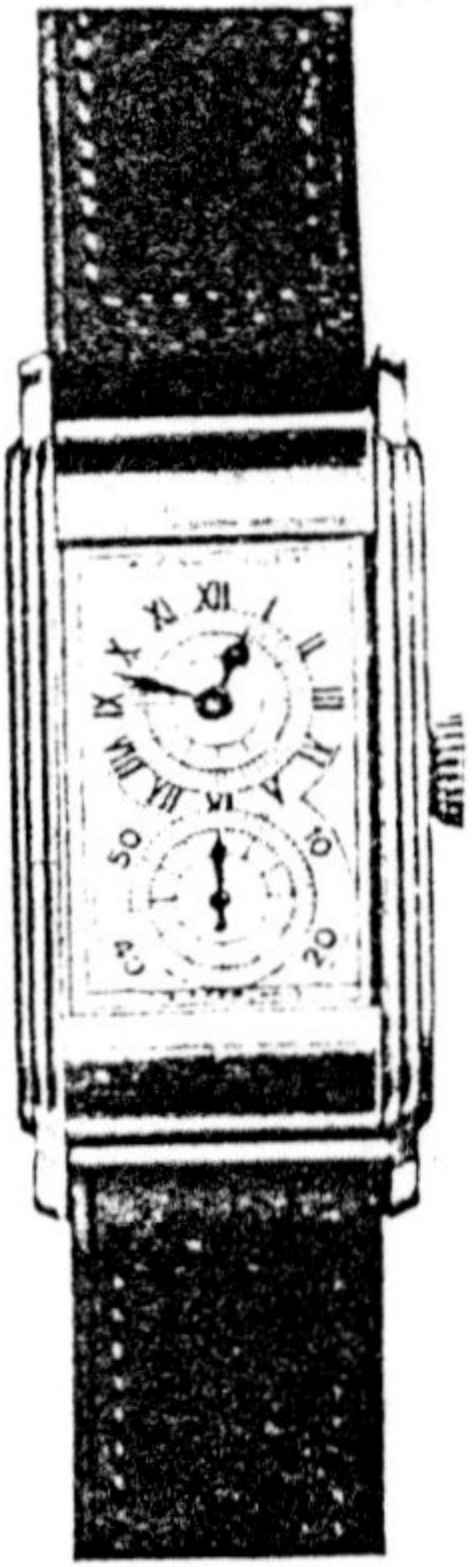

SWISS
GRUEN GUILD
FIFTEEN
15 JEWELS

9) 02d.jpg, downloaded 352 times


Alpine
GRUEN

10) Alpina+Gruen+7.jpg, downloaded 349 times

Silber
Silber verchromt



Subject: Re: Alpina - Gruen Tecno
Posted by Thojil on Sun, 25 Oct 2026 07:29:47 GMT
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Congratulations, very nice find!

The “A” stands indeed for Aegler, who were at the time part of a joint venture with Gruen, Alpine and Rolex. Rolex fitted a 17 jewels version of that very same movement into their Prince model. Unfortunately as a result, many Gruen 877 movements have been sacrificed to “restore” Rolex Prince models which are far more valuable.

Your crown, although worn, could be original or at least period correct. Unfortunately the advertisement doesn’t show your exact model, so you cannot be sure. The other crowns will be a challenge to find if you want to change.

The model name that Gruen used was TECHNI QUADRON instead of TECNO which was the Alpine model designation. Rolex also had a unique case design however not sure if Alpina had one as well? I have the impression that Gruen and Alpina shared case designs and the Alpina was just a “rebadging job”, a practice we also know from the car industrie. As a Frenchman you will know the Renault Kangoo - Mercedes Benz Cito example, a none premium brand produced car sold by a premium brand :lol:

Enjoy the watch, it is still missing in my collection. One day maybe …

Subject: Re: Alpina - Gruen Tecno
Posted by Thojil on Sun, 25 Oct 2026 07:36:19 GMT
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By the way, I think the hallmark in the case is from Weber, but I don’t have much knowledge on case manufacturers. Maybe the specialists on the forum can chime in to confirm.

Subject: Re: Alpina - Gruen Tecno
Posted by Passion on Sun, 25 Oct 2026 10:12:43 GMT
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Thank you, Thojil,
I didn't know that so many 877 movements had been sacrificed to restore Rolex Prince watches. That's a bit sad for Gruen collectors, but understandable given the difference in value.
The distinction between Tecno and Techni-Quadron is also very interesting. I'll definitely do some more research on the Alpina-Gruen relationship during that period.
And if I ever come across another one, I'll think of you, as I don't want two identical watches in my very small collection !
;-)

Subject: Re: Alpina - Gruen Tecno
Posted by JackW on Sun, 25 Oct 2026 18:45:46 GMT
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What a phenomenal acquisition, Passion. I don't have one either, so color me envious. Especially for on in a silver case. Tried to win one a few months ago thinking $1500 would be enough for the one that caught my eye and it went in the end for closer to $3000.

Adding to what thojil says, I've heard rumors that someone was taking Gruen 877 movements and then modifying the markings and finish to "replicate" the Rolex markings for re-selling. The only problem with this is the markings Gruen had on the dial side are not the same on the Rolex Prince dial side.

Again what a great addition. You've moved into the major league with this one and the Chronotimer.

Subject: Re: Alpina - Gruen Tecno
Posted by Jenneke on Sun, 25 Oct 2026 18:48:28 GMT
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Family over here:
https://vintagegruen.org/vgforum/index.php?t=msg&th=2513 &start=0&

Probably a Weber case.

Dial evenly discoloured. You could try spit on a cotton swap.no rubbing, but gentle roll.
Weird no switzerland on the dial. Could be an (old) redial.

Congrats with your acquisition. They look really nice on the wrist.

Subject: Re: Alpina - Gruen Tecno
Posted by Jenneke on Sun, 25 Oct 2026 18:58:42 GMT
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Do you think your case is “Silver verchromt”?

Subject: Re: Alpina - Gruen Tecno
Posted by JackW on Sun, 25 Oct 2026 23:20:26 GMT
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Jenneke wrote on Sun, 25 October 2026 12:58Do you think your case is “Silver verchromt”?
I'd say it looks it.

Subject: Re: Alpina - Gruen Tecno
Posted by afire on Mon, 26 Oct 2026 15:12:25 GMT
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Passion wrote on Sat, 24 October 2026 12:11
Case Maker: I'll let the professionals tell me...

An Alpina-Gruen Tecno is the Gruen apex predator (IME). Congrats. The case maker is absolutely Weber et. Cie. As far as I can tell, Weber was the only solid metal maker for Alpina-Gruen. They also imported gold filled cases from the US, but if it's solid gold, silver, or platinum, it's going to be a Weber case.

Subject: Re: Alpina - Gruen Tecno
Posted by Passion on Mon, 26 Oct 2026 18:11:34 GMT
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Jack,
You thought 1500 USD and it went for 3000 USD! I'm not surprised (even though I have a great deal to learn about watch prices).
"Major league" is too big a word for me. All of you are in the "Major League" thanks to your knowledge. Indeed, I start from the principle that "knowing" is more important than "owning". But personally, I take more pleasure in searching, taking risks and owning than in knowing...

Jenneky,
"Weird no switzerland on the dial", could be an (old) redial." :
Yes, I think so too. I won't hide from you, Jenneky, that this "switzerland" text had become an obsession for me whenever I found a Gruen. Now, much less so. I'm 56 years old, and I no longer have the abs I had at 25, but I'm still in great shape! This Gruen is running well too...
"Silver verchromt" :
0.900 = 90% silver.
84 = Russian "zolotnik" fineness mark, equal to 84/96 = 0.875 (for export to Russia).
The large bear (on the left) = Official Swiss hallmark, used from 1882 to 1934, certifying silver of 0.875 fineness or higher.
The small bear (on the right) = Smaller version of the same Swiss hallmark. A tiny letter next to the bear identifies the Swiss assay office where the case was tested.
The crescent and the crown (at the top) = German national silver mark (Halbmond und Reichskrone, silver 0.800 or higher). On a Swiss case, it was stamped in Switzerland by the case maker for cases that could be exported to Germany; it does not prove the watch was actually sold there.
I deduce that the case back and the front bezel are made of silver ! It's true that on the outside of the case back, there is something like a very thin layer of chrome that is peeling off. Well, I'm not really sure. I would need to ask my watchmaker.

Afire,
"The case maker is absolutely Weber et. Cie." Thank you very much for this clarification.

While everyone is in the mood, what do you all think I should put as a strap on this watch? I'm

not asking for your personal preferences, like “I like lizard” or “I like shark skin”.
I’m just asking for your opinions on this : back when this watch came out, what kind of strap do you think it would have had ?
Because I’ve heard that in 1915 and even in the 1920s, expanding metal bracelets were starting to appear in the United States.
And I think I saw, in an advertisement or on the forum, that Techni-Quadrons were sold in the United States with expanding metal bracelets.
15 mm lug width.

Subject: Re: Alpina - Gruen Tecno
Posted by Jenneke on Mon, 26 Oct 2026 19:36:47 GMT
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In advertisements you see mesh straps on these docters watches. And in the masterbook some have leather straps. I dont think they were on stretchy speidel straps.

With folding clasp closed it would fit on the wrist, with clasp open on the upper arm. (If you are

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Subject: Re: Alpina - Gruen Tecno
Posted by afire on Tue, 27 Oct 2026 15:50:23 GMT
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Passion wrote on Mon, 26 October 2026 13:11While everyone is in the mood, what do you all think I should put as a strap on this watch? I’m not asking for your personal preferences, like “I like lizard” or “I like shark skin”. I’m just asking for your opinions on this : back when this watch came out, what kind of strap do you think it would have had ?
Because I’ve heard that in 1915 and even in the 1920s, expanding metal bracelets were starting to appear in the United States.
And I think I saw, in an advertisement or on the forum, that Techni-Quadrons were sold in the United States with expanding metal bracelets.
15 mm lug width.
I'm a big fan of Torre straps. He's a custom maker. When I picked up a white gold Aplina-Gruen Tecno, I reached out and showed him the watch and said surprise me. This was his pick and I think it's a perfect fit.

File Attachments

1) IMG_1719.jpeg, downloaded 142 times

