

Updated Dec 26, 2013

Gruen Movement Dating using Movement Serial Number

For the 405 Family of Movements

405, 406, 410, 411, 420, 421, 425, 426

The serial number encryption for Gruen movements in the 405 410 420 & 425 families has been cracked... or so is hoped. Every few months brings new refinements.

This table is for the 405, 420 and 425 based calibers and is a guide for determining the approximate date of manufacture of a movement. It's most applicable for calibers 405, 406, 410, 411, 420, 421, 425, 426 and their sweep-seconds versions.

The latest refinement includes extending the table backwards in time to 1939.

To use these new 1939 and 1940/41 dates, the movement needs to have these two characteristics:

1. There is nothing written on the ratchet wheel
2. Veri-Thin is stamped on the "Train Bridge"

Serial number	Year
700,000	1939
900,000	1940/4

This table is the same as the previously published one in 2012, but has been refined to be more accurate.

For 405 406 410 411 420 421 425 426 calibers and their sweep versions

Serial number	Year
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010,000	1941*
400,000	1942**
750,000	1943/4 ⁺
900,000	1945
A 100,000	1945‡
1A 10,000	1945
1B 10,000	1945/6
1C 10,000	1946
A 900,000	1946
B 100,000	1947
B 900,000	1948
C 100,000	1949
C 900,000	1952

Footnotes - To simply use the tables, you need not concern yourself with these notes.

If you want to really get into the details of that data derivation then dig in!

*Some low-numbers after the reset continue to have “pre-reset” markings

**Coincident with lowest 405ss/406ss movements

+ Coincident with the lowest 420/421 (sub and SS calibers)observed.

‡Coincident with the highest 405/406 caliber and lowest of the 425/426 calibers

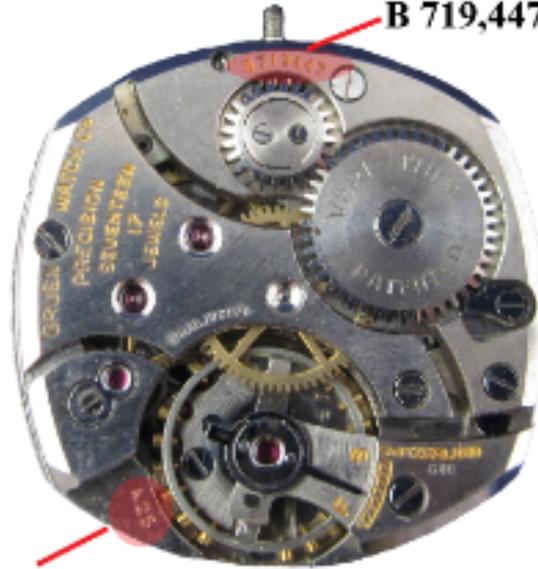
A few caveats when dating your watch, specifically when using movement serial numbers:

1 - That movements could have been made years prior to its incorporation into your watch. If this is true for your watch, the movement will render a date earlier than your watch’s age

2 - Movement swapping is a common repair method, so be aware your watch may not contain its original movement and thus the date will be incorrect

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**Serial Number
B 719,447**



Caliber 425