
Subject: Caliber 626 (& Caliber 101 disambiguation)

Posted by [Case](#) on Fri, 22 Nov 2019 14:30:53 GMT

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[Rampant edits] Had previously posted this on the sister caliber 103 thread, but I noted the 101/626 had not been documented. Thanks to Liz for help below with disambiguation of the two.

Here is an early WSC variant. 8 3/4 ligne. 16J, 3ADJ. Dial back stamped "101" (dials interchangeable). Front plate has the FHF patent, plus the lot # "17 7577". Could it be the maker was kind enough to mark the make year? "17" = 1917?

Dr. Rannft has cataloged this as the FHF Factory Robert (Gruen Factory R) 8.75" movement here [http:// www.ranfft.de/cgi-bin/bidfun-db.cgi?10&ranfft&&2 uswk&Gruen_101](http://www.ranfft.de/cgi-bin/bidfun-db.cgi?10&ranfft&&2 uswk&Gruen_101). Haven't seen any front plate marks for Factory R, to see if my example matches the style & indicates it was finished there or ebaunched to another factory. Most likely sourced directly from FHF/Factory R. Different from the 101, which was sourced as an ebauche from FHF & finished at the Gruen factory (first as regular adjusted, then ca1922 becoming a "precision" caliber)

Caliber 626

Configuration: Hunter

Example date: approx. 1917

Diameter: 8.75 ligne (approx 19.7mm)

Jewel count: 16

Adjustments: 3

Dial feet positions: 10 & 4

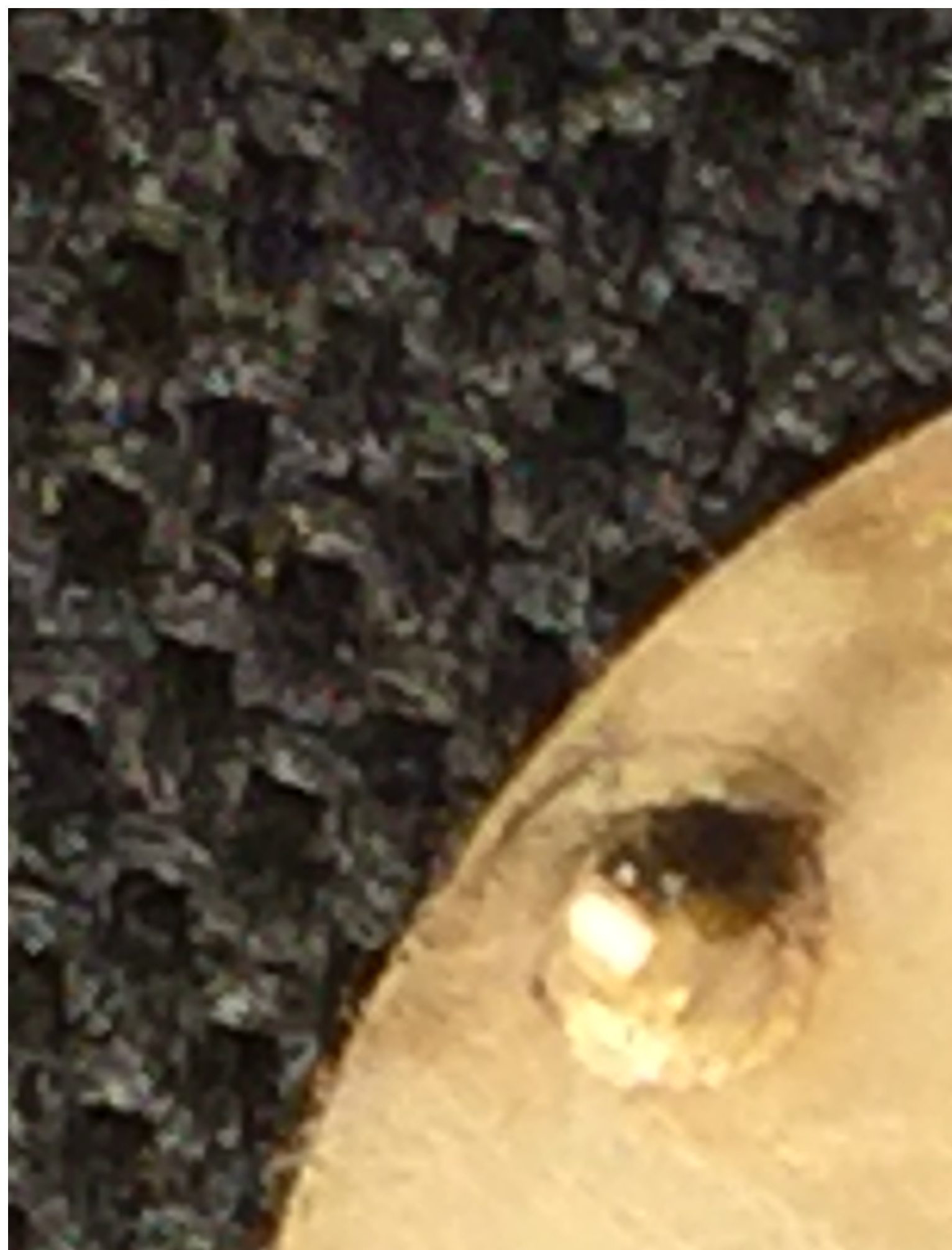
Dial release mech: release screws on back plate

File Attachments

1) [101 WSC \(back\).jpeg](#), downloaded 2052 times



2) [101 WSC \(dial back\).jpeg](#), downloaded 1953 times



3) [101 WSC \(dial front\).jpeg](#), downloaded 1968 times



4) [101 WSC \(front\).jpeg](#), downloaded 2004 times



5) [101 WSC \(lot\).jpeg](#), downloaded 1975 times



Subject: Re: Caliber 101

Posted by [timeliz](#) on Fri, 22 Nov 2019 15:05:53 GMT

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Dan,

Is "101" stamped on the movement anywhere?

I believe your movement is actually a Gruen cal 626.

It's illustrated in the 1926 standardized parts supplement B.

They are the same size and setting bits are very similar.

Noteworthy also is the dial fits both!

Link to one of my cal 101s:

[url=<https://vintagegruen.org/vgforum/index.php?t=msg&th=206&start=0&>]

<https://vintagegruen.org/vgforum/index.php?t=msg&th=206&start=0&>[/url]]

This is a pic of my other one with the a clearer 101 stamp:

This is an early example of a 626(627;620;621).

Noteworthy also here is the "101" stamped case:

https://vintagegruen.org/vgforum/index.php?t=msg&goto=7954&&srch=cal+101#msg_7954

File Attachments

1) [Gruen cal 101 mov.jpg](#), downloaded 1705 times



Subject: Re: Caliber 101

Posted by [Case](#) on Fri, 22 Nov 2019 21:49:02 GMT

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Howdy Liz! Thanks for the feedback--would appreciate your help descrambling these, so I can correct the post & can learn (even Dr. Ranfft is uncertain). No, mine isn't stamped on the movement, but then again I wouldn't expect it to be stamped until 1921/1922. I had closely studied your older post (101 vs. 626), as well as the 101 shown in the 1926 parts manual. I don't have supplement b, I'm afraid. Thanks for sharing the example of your stamped 101--would love to see a definitive image of 626.

Putting them all side by side with mine at center: the left from 1917; the middle 1917-1919 (I propose 1917); the right from 1923. First, seeing them this way now, I have to say if there's any sign of an old vs. new 101 style, your two seem the closest (both with a cutaway, bent finger bridge, bridge going over the top middle jewel vs. bubble, marked Gruen W. Co). Mine's the odd man out--so good candidate for 626. Your stamped one matches the 101 image in the 1926 parts manual, which is stamped for pre-1923 and is a redesigned bridge + new setting mechanism in any case, as old version parts are shown. I noticed the slight variance in screw locations where

I've circled, as well as the 101 dial stamp. The movements came to the US already with dials on them, although if they were the same size/layout & from same factory they could use one number/dial for either.

Now I'm more wondering if you've got two 101s and I've got the 626. What was stamped on your dial for the one at left? Was it 626?

File Attachments

1) [101 626.jpg](#), downloaded 1738 times



Subject: Re: Caliber 101

Posted by [timeliz](#) on Fri, 22 Nov 2019 23:26:35 GMT

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Dial side of early 626 & dial back with no caliber stamp.

File Attachments

1) [cal 626 dial side.jpg](#), downloaded 1626 times



Subject: Re: Caliber 101

Posted by [Case](#) on Sat, 23 Nov 2019 03:42:25 GMT

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Thanks, Liz. Well, so much for that. Any chance you have a pic of the front plate of your stamped 101, for comparison?

Also, I believe I was wrong about the date for the old style one (left, above). Would probably be later. Perhaps 1920. I was quoting pocket cases vs wrist. Faulty memory--and too many lines of Excel! Will have to edit it out in post-production :lol:

Thanks again for your help & info.

Subject: Re: Caliber 101

Posted by [timeliz](#) on Sat, 23 Nov 2019 04:03:26 GMT

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Dan,

I will definitely get a shot of the dial side.

I think I have to now. I'm very curious myself.

continuing...

This is the dial side of my cal 101 movement above & it looks the same as the others. Interesting.

back of dial with 101 stamp -

Here's the pretty side -

File Attachments

1) [cal 101 mov dial side.jpg](#), downloaded 1580 times



2) [Cal 101 dial back.jpg](#), downloaded 1570 times



3) [Gruen cal 101 unkn car.jpg](#), downloaded 1599 times



Subject: Re: Caliber 626 (& Caliber 101 disambiguation)

Posted by [Case](#) on Mon, 25 Nov 2019 14:55:58 GMT

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Updated the title.

Liz--thanks for sharing the additional pics (and GORGEOUS watch btw--love this early cushion square/semi-cartouche style). Brings lots of questions for me. Have to look into these further, as Thanksgiving timing allows.