
Subject: Caliber V7 17''' - pocket watch

Posted by [thesnark17](#) on Thu, 25 Jun 2020 02:07:05 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Type : Pocket watch

Period/date : 1922-1930

Gender : Men's

Caliber : V7

Movement Maker : Precision factory (assumed)

Movement Serial: 601k-667k with interruptions

There are two basic types: early and late. They differ in that the early models have jewelled center wheels, while the late models have cap jewels on the escape wheels. The changeover was made during a large break in production between 616k (center wheel) and 642k (escape wheel cap).

The hairspring collet and balance staff also change at some point in production, probably the same point that the hairspring stud changes. Currently this is known to be between 607k and 609k. The early stud resembles that of the earlier production V4. Apologies for the lack of a picture. The later stud is triangular.

Early model

File Attachments

1) [V7 early model 2.jpg](#), downloaded 1472 times



2) [V7 early model 1.jpg](#), downloaded 1481 times



3) [V7 late model 2.jpg](#), downloaded 1460 times



4) [V7 late model 1.jpg](#), downloaded 1472 times



Subject: Re: Caliber V7 17''' - pocket watch
Posted by [Case](#) on Thu, 25 Jun 2020 02:39:25 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Aha! "K 35" stamped on the front plate of that 605k one. :d

Thanks for posting these

File Attachments

1) [98842B08-CB46-40CB-9741-DD0D04B94CCF.jpeg](#), downloaded 1244 times



Subject: Re: Caliber V7 17''' - pocket watch
Posted by [thesnark17](#) on Thu, 25 Jun 2020 02:46:32 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Yeah, I thought you'd find that interesting.

Subject: Re: Caliber V7 17''' - pocket watch
Posted by [Case](#) on Thu, 25 Jun 2020 03:02:06 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I was involved in similar pursuits tonight. Here's what I found on a 603k. "L 17"

File Attachments

1) [43C5FE1C-5FC4-459D-A210-56214F8BFEF8.jpeg](#), downloaded 1251 times



Subject: Re: Caliber V7 17" - pocket watch
Posted by [thesnark17](#) on Thu, 25 Jun 2020 03:04:48 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

"35" on mine is the plate number. It's stamped on all the bridges. So it's some sort of numbering system. Notably, not using the SN as a numbering system --> not built in the Precision factory.

The 650k movement uses the actual SN as the plate number (last 3 digits as is typical).

Subject: Re: Caliber V7 17''' - pocket watch
Posted by [thesnark17](#) on Thu, 25 Jun 2020 03:05:51 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I should also mention that the earlier dial is stamped V7 on the back. The later one is not.

Subject: Re: Caliber V7 17''' - pocket watch
Posted by [Case](#) on Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:19:18 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

It would be Marc Favre's numbering system on the early ones. This wouldn't be the first pocket movement he'd made for Gruen, nor was it the only pocket movement he was supplying to one of the Gruen factories in '20-'21.

The Gruen #s would not necessarily match (you confirm they don't) nor even be always sequential with the front plate, since they were likely stamped at different steps in the manufacturing. The Gruen numbers could have been stamped when being finished, possibly at the Precision factory (note no stamps on the more fragile train bridges). But more likely some or all of it could've been done at Favre prior to shipment—or even possible that bridge came to Favre pre-stamped—given the strange stamps without gold leaf during transition to Adj Temps. The “pre-stamped” theory would be one more way the Gruen #s could vary so much in shipments/casing.

So we can safely say the V7 was coming from a 3rd party at launch through at least mid-1922. Wouldn't it be interesting if the Gruen serial #s replace the Favre stamps around 607k-610k—whichever coincides with May 1923, when Gruen filed his patent.

Subject: Re: Caliber V7 17''' - pocket watch
Posted by [thesnark17](#) on Fri, 26 Jun 2020 20:40:50 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

There are finishing differences between the movements as well. Take a look. The later one is nicer all around. It's even more obvious on the setting parts. Maybe I'll take some photos of those too.

Some of the countersinks for the holes are particularly crude on the early example. But most of them are great! Everything is much nicer on the late example.

File Attachments

1) [V7 early balance.jpg](#), downloaded 1236 times



2) [V7 early esc plate closeup.jpg](#), downloaded 1201 times



3) [V7 early plate small.jpg](#), downloaded 1221 times



4) [V7 early parts small.jpg](#), downloaded 1232 times

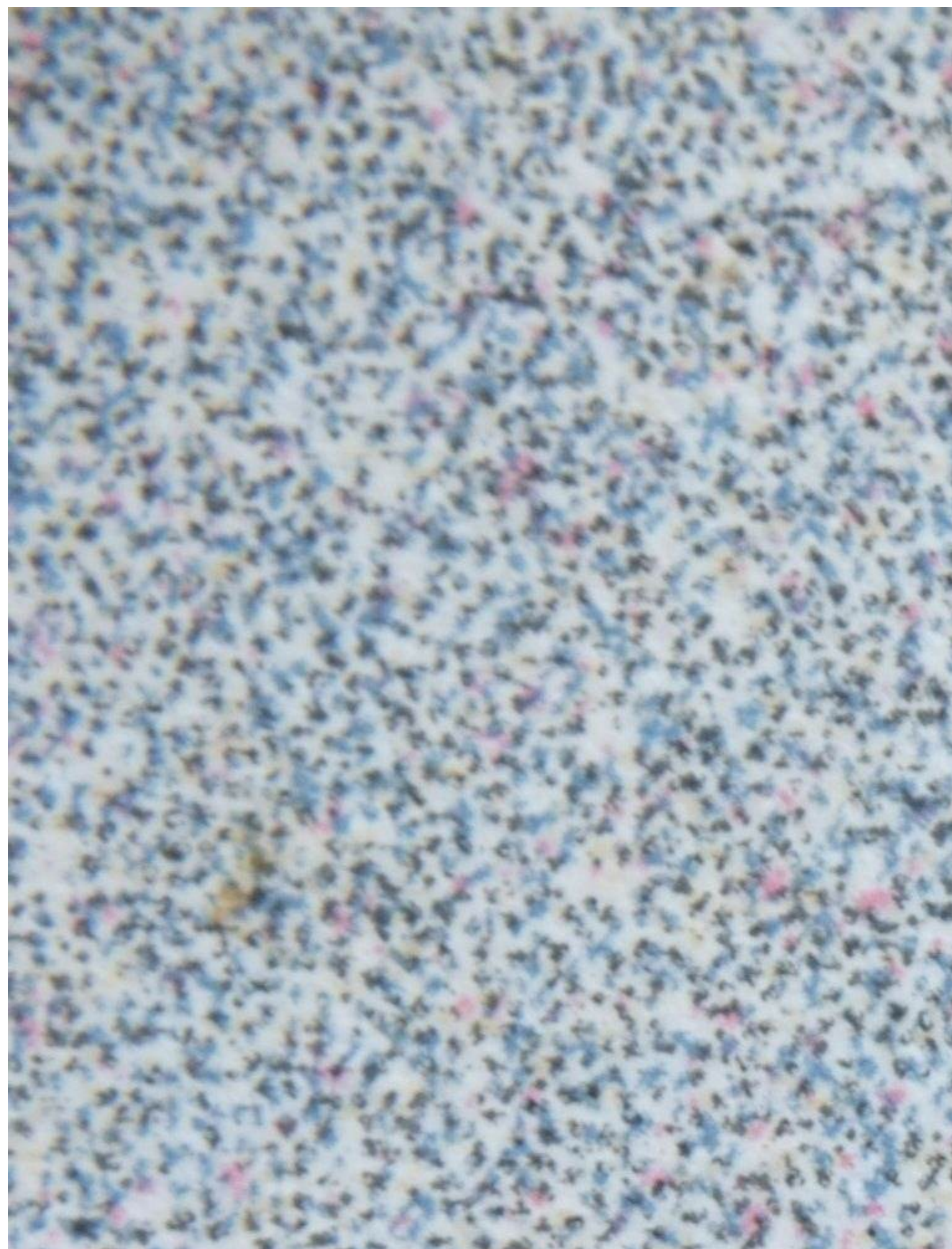
VI

Subject: Re: Caliber V7 17'" - pocket watch
Posted by [thesnark17](#) on Fri, 26 Jun 2020 20:45:07 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Here is the late version. Note the better/more consistent finish.

File Attachments

1) [V7 late parts small.jpg](#), downloaded 1171 times



2) [V7 late balance.jpg](#), downloaded 1176 times



3) [V7 late plate.jpg](#), downloaded 1160 times



4) [V7 late esc plate closeup.jpg](#), downloaded 1163 times



Subject: Re: Caliber V7 17''' - pocket watch
Posted by [thesnark17](#) on Sat, 27 Jun 2020 03:05:38 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I never thought I would see such bad finish on a Verithin watch... easy to tell which is which!

File Attachments

1) [V7 late setting.jpg](#), downloaded 1163 times



2) [V7 early setting.jpg](#), downloaded 1183 times



Subject: Re: Caliber V7 17''' - pocket watch
Posted by [Case](#) on Sat, 27 Jun 2020 04:00:18 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Wow, it is amazing the difference between the two. The later looks like a different watch, so many of the parts have been refined. The earlier looks rougher and even somehow rushed, slapdashed.

Could the specs have been that loose, or were they just learning as they went? I can only imagine what the 601s that did make it out early look like. A cheaper movement for sure! Easy to see how there could've been quality issues.

Thanks for sharing (and for doing!) this work.
