Subject: Caliber 719 (15J) - 6.5L x 11L Oval (ETA 425) Posted by Case on Thu, 02 Jul 2020 14:04:51 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Another short-lived caliber from the early 1930s. Would it be Alpina? Just a guess based on the finishing, the "Gruen" only branding (no Guild or Watch Co), and the ETA ebauche. References point to ETA 425 as the compatible caliber (can't verify beyond that too being available as 6.5L, also apparently as a 4.5L)

Seems have debuted for Gruen in 1930-1931. It was used in a limited number of models, have noted only style #s 69, 109, 123.

May have been discontinued within 1 year. Cartouches 504 & 505 are both style # 719/109, both listed in Master Book as caliber 719. But my only sightings all have 835Bs—backs still stamped 719/109 but with the correct movement slot for 835B. They have Gruen house case numbers close to the Master Book model cases (2136xxx vs 2131xxx). My highest actual 719 was case # 2126xxx. Suggestive of a hard conversion/disco.

File Attachments
1) 08211E0A-CF7E-47F4-93AF-3FD2E925AFAB.jpeg, downloaded 1487
times

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2) 81EABA4F-4D71-4405-8BE0-5ACA7A679EDE.jpeg, downloaded 1452 times

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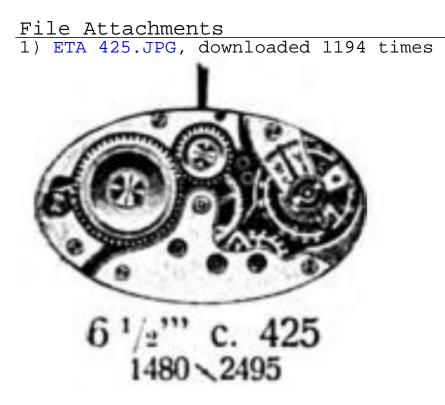


Subject: Re: Caliber 719 (15J) - 6.5L x 11L Oval (ETA 425) Posted by Barney Green on Fri, 03 Jul 2020 07:21:37 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Yes, ETA 425 can be confirmed. Here is a snippet from their 1930 portfolio, it also confirms the 6.5 ligne size.

And I found another interesting advertisement:

Looks the same, doesn't it? Two possibilities: Walker acted as distributor or was the actual manufacturer behind Schild (ETA = Schild).



2) ETA Walker.JPG, downloaded 1236 times

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Subject: Re: Caliber 719 (15J) - 6.5L x 11L Oval (ETA 425) Posted by Case on Fri, 03 Jul 2020 13:55:06 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Cool finds!

Fascinating find!

Subject: Re: Caliber 719 (15J) - 6.5L x 11L Oval (ETA 425) Posted by Barney Green on Fri, 03 Jul 2020 15:39:47 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

I've been looking a little deeper now into this Johnny Walker guy. The company has been established 1926 and filed for bankruptcy end of 1929 already. The have been in business until mid of 1930, so they are for sure not the source for our Gruen movements. It will be ETA itself. ETA was founded 1930 merging the 5 companies A. Schild, A. Michel, Aurore, Felsa and Venus. All bur Michel have been known suppliers to Gruen. So this movement may have been in the portfolio of one of the four before the merger already.

Subject: Re: Caliber 719 (15J) - 6.5L x 11L Oval (ETA 425) Posted by thesnark17 on Fri, 03 Jul 2020 16:56:58 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Clearly it was in someone's portfolio since John Walker was selling it before 1929. Schild would make sense.

Subject: Re: Caliber 719 (15J) - 6.5L x 11L Oval (ETA 425) Posted by Barney Green on Fri, 03 Jul 2020 17:23:16 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Both pictures are from the same book, the 1930 catalog of Swiss manufacturers. Schild and Aurore make the most sense to me. BTW, the guys name has been Johann, the German version of John.

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