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Subject: Caliber 515SS

Posted by [Case](#) on Thu, 16 Sep 2021 14:16:31 GMT

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Here's a later caliber, found in style number 1046 cases (1960s?). The case & movement are made in France. Imagine my surprise to see it stamped for Alpina!

### File Attachments

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1) [0753C935-0EC1-4F39-97A8-1E9734073AF9.jpeg](#), downloaded 3305 times



FRANCE

GRUENWATCHE CO.  
SEVENTEEN  
17 JEWELS

SWISS MADE

Subject: Re: Caliber 515SS  
Posted by [Gary](#) on Thu, 16 Sep 2021 15:52:26 GMT  
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That's a good discovery! We'll have to update the factory document and encompass Alpina into the 50's/60's with Gruen. This era we don't touch on too often, I assume a lot of the electric movements are from France too.

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Subject: Re: Caliber 515SS  
Posted by [afire](#) on Thu, 16 Sep 2021 16:12:46 GMT  
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Are we talking about the little triangle with a circle in it? I have no clue what Alpina was up to this late, and am not much more knowledgeable about late Gruen, for that matter. But this would be the first time I've heard of any evidence of a relationship after the dissolution of the original partnership in the 1930s.

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Subject: Re: Caliber 515SS  
Posted by [Case](#) on Thu, 16 Sep 2021 16:57:52 GMT  
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yes, that's alpina's mark. but was it the german arm, that became dugena?

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Subject: Re: Caliber 515SS  
Posted by [Ephemerald](#) on Sat, 17 Sep 2022 00:35:08 GMT  
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Missed this post but found it after czeching out some of my Gruen Industries watches bc of latest talk.

I found I have one of these 515ss from France, no Alpina mark like yours, that is curious! Was Alpina finishing these for Gruen? Also a Style 046. But I got interested in Jeambrun the ebauche maker, fascinating company, good start here.

<https://rbfc-gertrude-diffusion-prod.atolcd.com/dossier/usin-e-d-horlogerie-usine-d-ebauches-de-montre-joseph-jeambrun-pu-is-d-ebauches-de-mouvements-et-de-montres-france-ebauches/2d39fb47-903e-496a-9261-dafb7c5e21b3#doc>

They are clearly high quality watches. The case is stainless and also made in France. Man, I'd love to find out the casemaker. Any ideas?

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My serial is 30148. It fits somewhere!  
All in all it's kinda cool having an all French Gruen..Didn't realize I had one til today.

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Subject: Re: Caliber 515SS  
Posted by [Ephemerald](#) on Thu, 22 Sep 2022 17:00:24 GMT  
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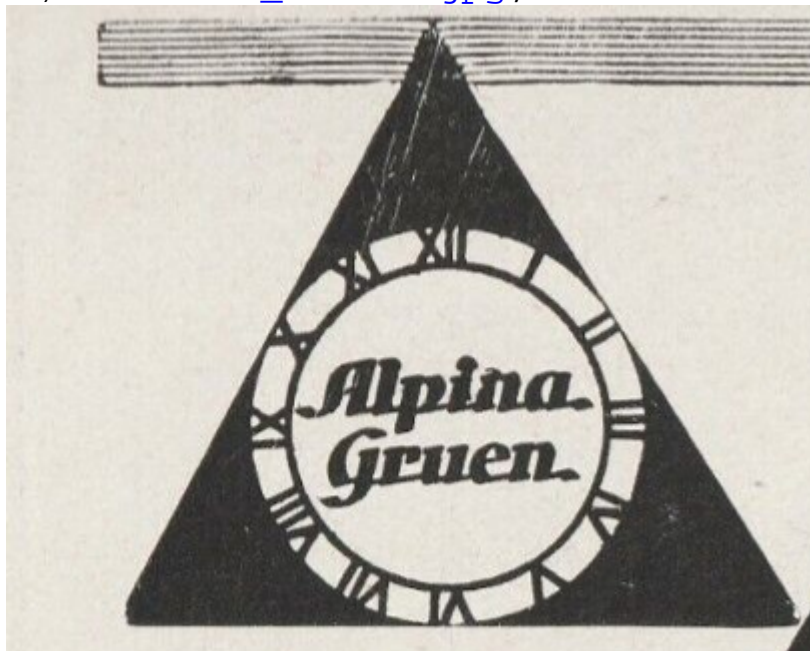
Case wrote on Thu, 16 September 2021 10:57yes, that's alpina's mark. but was it the german arm, that became dugena?

This symbol was also used for Alpina Gruen.

#### File Attachments

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1) [20220922\\_105521.jpg](#), downloaded 2698 times



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Subject: Re: Caliber 515SS  
Posted by [Barney Green](#) on Fri, 23 Sep 2022 12:20:42 GMT  
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I'd assume that the ebauche was delivered to Alpina as well and probably by accident Gruen got an already Alpina marked base plate. Also possible that Alpina had cancelled an order while

Gruen needed more movements and accepted the Alpina marked plates. At that time the two companies had long separated and did not work together at all.

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Subject: Re: Caliber 515SS

Posted by [Ephemerald](#) on Fri, 23 Sep 2022 16:58:17 GMT

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Barney Green wrote on Fri, 23 September 2022 06:20 I'd assume that the ebauche was delivered to Alpina as well and probably by accident Gruen got an already Alpina marked base plate. Also possible that Alpina had cancelled an order while Gruen needed more movements and accepted the Alpina marked plates. At that time the two companies had long separated and did not work together at all.

Hi Bernd. Would you then know the Alpina equivalent calibre number? I'd really like to take a look at it.

Ok thanks for feedback. Your theories make sense. While I understand that Alpina and Gruen were not known to be connected in this period, I thought it could be possibility...but still this movement Dan is referencing still interest me.

Check this out, upon closer inspection, in fact there does seem to be some mark on my  
was interesting too

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### File Attachments

1) [20220923\\_105152.jpg](#), downloaded 2773 times



Subject: Re: Caliber 515SS

Posted by [Ephemerald](#) on Fri, 23 Sep 2022 18:26:46 GMT

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"I'd love to find out the casemaker. Any ideas?

My serial is 30148. It fits somewhere!".

Several comments and old sales claim that these watches were made for Gruen by Yema. But I have yet to see any supporting evidence or solid proof of that.

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Subject: Re: Caliber 515SS

Posted by [Case](#) on Mon, 26 Sep 2022 12:36:27 GMT

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For reference, mine is case 17990. No other clues that I can see.

#### File Attachments

1) [070F6BC0-1D46-48F7-86F1-4A643EF36313.jpeg](#), downloaded 2686 times



Subject: Re: Caliber 515SS

Posted by [Case](#) on Mon, 26 Sep 2022 13:06:44 GMT

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Btw, possibilities for a French-made stainless case are few in the 1960s:

-Zuccolo, Rochet, Maillet & Co (Z.R.C)

-Alber Freres

-SBBM Burdet Freres — see patent FR869033. Similar?

-Frainier

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Subject: Re: Caliber 515SS

Posted by [Barney Green](#) on Mon, 26 Sep 2022 17:23:18 GMT

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Probably I should also post info about my 515SS based watch. Mine is style # 047, case serial number is 4975, so probably pretty early. It is a 1957 Super Gruen Pilot, also completely marked France on case, dial and movement. It is Strap 007, and therewith has the license to kill, most likely with the Radium lume...

No hint on the case maker at all.

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Subject: Re: Caliber 515SS

Posted by [Ephemerald](#) on Mon, 26 Sep 2022 19:39:50 GMT

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Barney, Case-

Thanks for the feedback and data. One company that I am considering is LIP montres. They have a known Gruen connection from 30's. They made stainless cases in 60's. They also used this Jeambrun ebauche 26D extensively, as D26. Other similarities as well such as outside caseback stamps.

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/203115101726>

I have yet to find the Alpina version.

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Subject: Re: Caliber 515SS

Posted by [Barney Green](#) on Mon, 26 Sep 2022 19:59:01 GMT

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"I have yet to find the Alpina version."

If it ever existed in series volumes. I was not able to find an Alpina or Dugena equivalent yet.

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Subject: Re: Caliber 515SS

Posted by [Ephemerald](#) on Sun, 18 Dec 2022 20:16:54 GMT

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I recently came across a French produced watch case with a stamp I did not recognize so with posterity and this thread in mind:

Any ideas?

#### File Attachments

1) [s-11600 - 2022-12-17T171527.762.jpg](#), downloaded 2606 times

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STAINLESS STEEL  
GRUEN WAT



513

510 RSS

MADE IN FRANCE