
Subject: Techni Quadron

Posted by [Jenneke](#) on Sat, 10 Jun 2023 18:39:17 GMT

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Model name: Techni-Quadron (import 222)

Type: wristwatch

Period/date: 1929-1935

Gender: male

Case Maker: ?

Case Material: 0.900 silver

Case Serial: 405025

Case Style no: - Alpina Gruen

Caliber: 877S

Movement Maker: Aegler

Movement Serial: 1839128

Bracelet: vintage Monopol strap with stepped clasp

File Attachments

1) [51323C77-89D2-4B91-AB0D-17B4A0116CC5.jpeg](#), downloaded 1194 times



2) [4F60AF88-FAF5-40C5-B46D-4F8A3A2BED3A.jpeg](#), downloaded 2194 times



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Subject: Re: Techni Quadron
Posted by [Jenneke](#) on Sat, 10 Jun 2023 18:45:38 GMT
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Truth has to be said, it didnt start this way.

The dial did have radium on it from first owner. Technician working in the dark?

And... the original case is this:

Case Maker: wadsworth?
Case Material: 10k gold filled
Case Serial: 2444894
Case Style no: -

The dial has a patent from Fred Gruen:

And the movement from Aegler:

File Attachments

1) [571A2741-F457-4E9E-992E-2C7B1B603A6A.jpeg](#), downloaded 1357 times



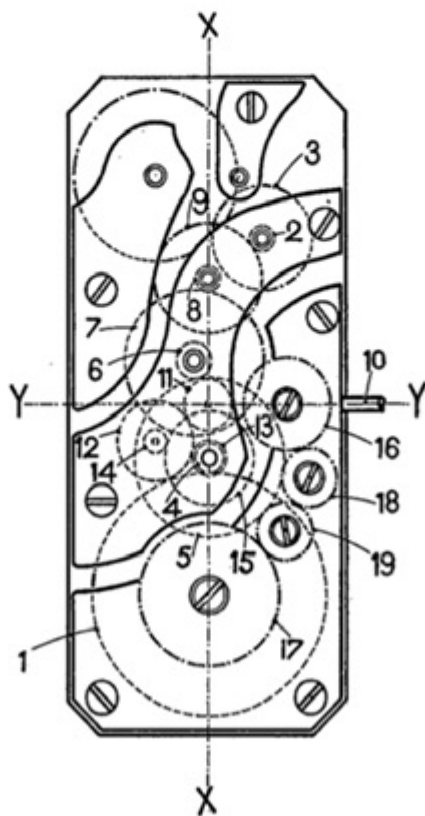
2) [47417DC5-B6F6-473A-A773-9BA2B4FC0051.jpeg](#), downloaded 1353 times



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Aug. 27, 1929.

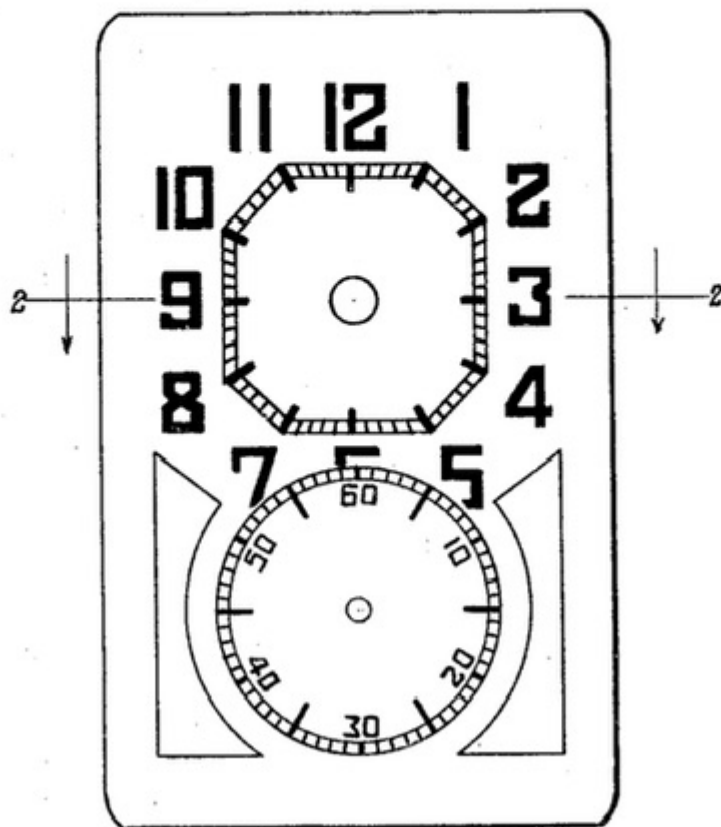
F. G. GRUEN

Des. 79,293

WATCH DIAL

Filed May 20, 1929

Fig. 1.



Subject: Re: Techni Quadron

Posted by [JackW](#) on Sun, 11 Jun 2023 19:06:08 GMT

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Jenneke wrote on Sat, 10 June 2023 12:45

Case Maker: wadsworth?

The case markings are more consistent with being made in-house with Gruen.

Subject: Re: Techni Quadron
Posted by [afire](#) on Mon, 12 Jun 2023 18:03:42 GMT
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Personally I have no doubt that this is a Weber case. The serial number suggests as much and this is a style of case that Weber definitely made. Here's the same base case (rounded shell with incised lines) but with added crown guard elements in 14k that is marked Gruen-Weber:

I'm not in a position to say anything conclusively, but I now believe that aside from the occasional American gold filled cases exported to Alpina, Weber was Alpina's sole supplier of cases for the Alpina-Gruen line of watches. If it wasn't Weber exclusively, it was darned close.

Subject: Re: Techni Quadron
Posted by [JackW](#) on Mon, 12 Jun 2023 20:03:01 GMT
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Just to be clear.... I think the goldfilled case that was "original" was Gruen made. The marking "Cased and Timed" says to me that this was a US made case.

Subject: Re: Techni Quadron
Posted by [Jenneke](#) on Mon, 12 Jun 2023 20:46:06 GMT
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Quote:Here's the same base case (rounded shell with incised lines) but with added crown guard elements in 14k that is marked Gruen-Weber:
That looks stunning. Kinda, sorta was thinking the silver one was Weber. What I dont understand is why would they put weber inside the solid gold one and not in the silver one. Is there some trend?

Subject: Re: Techni Quadron
Posted by [afire](#) on Tue, 13 Jun 2023 14:47:59 GMT
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JackW wrote on Mon, 12 June 2023 15:03Just to be clear.... I think the goldfilled case that was "original" was Gruen made. The marking "Cased and Timed" says to me that this was a US made case.
Got it. I was overlooking the original case.

Subject: Re: Techni Quadron
Posted by [afire](#) on Tue, 13 Jun 2023 15:32:03 GMT

Jenneke wrote on Mon, 12 June 2023 15:46Quote:Here's the same base case (rounded shell with incised lines) but with added crown guard elements in 14k that is marked Gruen-Weber: That looks stunning. Kinda, sorta was thinking the silver one was Weber. What I don't understand is why would they put Weber inside the solid gold one and not in the silver one. Is there some trend?

There seems to be somewhat of a pattern, but nothing that I can really nail down with any certainty. You rarely, maybe even never, see the Gruen-Weber marking on a silver Alpina-Gruen case. You often, but not always, see the Gruen-Weber marking on solid gold Alpina-Gruen cases. I have two solid gold Alpina-Gruen Techni-Quadrons, one case is marked Alpina-Gruen, the other Gruen-Weber. But why?

The closest I can get to a rational hypothesis is this. If a run of cases was intended for potential dual use as both an Alpina-Gruen model and a Gruen Import model, they would be marked Gruen-Weber. If a run of cases was expected to be used strictly as an Alpina-Gruen model, then they would be marked Alpina-Gruen. This would also be a plausible explanation for why silver cases never bear the Gruen-Weber marking. With one exception that I can think of (the brancard), Gruen didn't offer any silver Techni-Quadron models. So it would make sense that none of them have the Gruen-Weber marking if they were only used for Alpina-Gruen models.

Subject: Re: Techni Quadron
Posted by [Jenneke](#) on Wed, 14 Jun 2023 18:18:30 GMT
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Sounds plausible.

In my excel and online search all silver technoquadrons have Gruen Alpina.

Was silver less in vogue in America compared to Europe? Or... silver is OK for simple case designs, but elaborate cases need to be gold or gold filled? And taste in Europe had been more conservative.

Subject: Re: Techni Quadron
Posted by [afire](#) on Thu, 15 Jun 2023 15:40:06 GMT
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Jenneke wrote on Wed, 14 June 2023 13:18Was silver less in vogue in America compared to Europe?

I think the answer is undoubtedly yes. In the 1918 book, silver is still the usual choice for a less expensive wristwatch case. By the 1920s silver is almost entirely replaced by gold filled cases. And not just Gruen. Elgin, Hamilton, Waltham. Even Rolex in Canada. For some reason all of North America settled on gold fill while Europe continued to offer silver cases as the less expensive alternative to solid gold. What I'm unsure of is whether there is some regulatory explanation or if it was simply a matter of regional taste.
