
Subject: Parts needed for a Cal 119 Quadron.
Posted by [Dave-1066](#) on Sat, 03 Jan 2026 02:21:06 GMT
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Hello all,

New member.

I've been a watchmaker for over 25 years and recently bought a lovely Gruen Quadron 119, Style 70. Apparently somewhat rare and dating to about 1929.

Unfortunately I live in the UK where the Gruen brand never took off. This coupled with the age of the watch has made locating parts an absolute nightmare.

The previous owner (this was an eBay purchase) had likewise given up trying to find parts and hence sold it for a pittance.

I finally got round to inspecting the movement and it appears he or someone else installed a random winding pinion and possibly a random sliding pinion too (also called the clutch). The result being that the teeth of the winding pinion have sheered off and the watch will not wind any power to the mainspring due to permanent slippage.

As I intend on wearing this myself I'm determined to find the parts. Only issue is they're essentially non-existent on this side of the ocean. I've considered going through a few hundred old stock parts to find a "next best fit" but obviously this isn't remotely ideal.

I understand the base calibre is the 117.

My question is therefore whether any of your members might know where on earth I could find these two parts?

Thankfully, the rest of the movement appears to be fine and the all-important balance operates freely (phew!). Rating is abysmal but I haven't serviced it yet so that's not an issue.

Any and all help HUGELY appreciated as this is beginning to give me a stomach ulcer :)

Thanks and regards,

Dave.

PS- I made the domed crystal you can see in the photo from scratch.

edit by admin: resized picture and put inline

File Attachments

1) [IMG_0240.jpeg](#), downloaded 614 times



Subject: Re: Parts needed for a Cal 119 Quadron.
Posted by [Jenneke](#) on Mon, 05 Jan 2026 19:47:17 GMT
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Hi and welcome on this forum.

Nice Gruen watch! Do you own more vintage watches?

Living in the Netherlands I have similar challenges. I only collect Gruen watches. For parts I look in my own Gruen drawers with NOS parts and spare movements. Sorry, no 117.

Sometimes cousinsuk has parts. But generally Ebay is the biggest source. I bought parts from sellers in France and Italy in the past. In the UK there is a quadron 117 for sale on Ebay. Did you see it? <https://www.ebay.com/itm/389343256901>

Subject: Re: Parts needed for a Cal 119 Quadron.
Posted by [JackW](#) on Mon, 05 Jan 2026 21:30:32 GMT
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Hi Dave,

I have a winding pinion and a clutch that I can send you. They are not NOS but harvested from a cal 119 but will be in usable condition. I just finished overhauling a Quadron 40 the other week and know that the winding bits are especially prone to failure. Send me a PM if you wish or reply here.

Subject: Re: Parts needed for a Cal 119 Quadron.
Posted by [JackW](#) on Mon, 05 Jan 2026 21:44:06 GMT
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I think that 117 that Jenneke pointed out was from a Gubelin branded watch. The 'GR' marking is like those that were used in non-Gruen branded versions.

https://vintagegruen.org/vgforum/index.php?t=msg&th=858&goto=19480&#msg_19480

the url is not going to the indicated page... odd. The 14 page of that thread has an image about 1/2-way down that will look like the movement Jenneke pointed out.

Subject: Re: Parts needed for a Cal 119 Quadron.
Posted by [Jenneke](#) on Tue, 06 Jan 2026 09:25:13 GMT
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Working link:

https://vintagegruen.org/vgforum/index.php?t=msg&goto=19480&&srch=117+GR#msg_19480

Subject: Re: Parts needed for a Cal 119 Quadron.
Posted by [Passion](#) on Tue, 06 Jan 2026 17:28:00 GMT
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Bonsoir Dave,

Je ne pourrai pas vous aider, mais vous trouverez ici une autre aide précieuse. ;-)
Votre Gruen est superbe. Je ne savais pas que la marque n'avait pas décoller en Angleterre.
Félicitation pour la fabrication du crystal.

Laurent.

Good evening Dave,
I will not be able to help you, but you will find here another valuable help. ;-)
Your Gruen is superb. I didn't know the brand hadn't taken off in England.
Congratulations on making the crystal.
Laurent.

Subject: Re: Parts needed for a Cal 119 Quadron.
Posted by [afire](#) on Wed, 07 Jan 2026 22:04:11 GMT
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Dave-1066 wrote on Fri, 02 January 2026 20:21 Unfortunately I live in the UK where the Gruen brand never took off.
I don't think the Gruen brand was ever allowed to take off there. Maybe this is urban legend, but it seems that there was some kind of agreement between Gruen and Rolex and Gruen would limit itself to the US and Rolex would focus on the UK/Europe/Dominion. The two companies were intimately tied together for a time due to their joint ownership of the Aegler watch factory.

Subject: Re: Parts needed for a Cal 119 Quadron.
Posted by [JackW](#) on Thu, 08 Jan 2026 02:56:41 GMT
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Jenneke wrote on Tue, 06 January 2026 02:25 Working link:
https://vintagegruen.org/vgforum/index.php?t=msg&goto=19480&&srch=117+GR#msg_19480

Thank you for that.

Subject: Re: Parts needed for a Cal 119 Quadron.
Posted by [Dave-1066](#) on Thu, 08 Jan 2026 10:13:23 GMT
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Jenneke wrote on Mon, 05 January 2026 19:47 Hi and welcome on this forum.

Nice Gruen watch! Do you own more vintage watches?

Living in the Netherlands I have similar challenges. I only collect Gruen watches. For parts I look in my own Gruen drawers with NOS parts and spare movements. Sorry, no 117.

Sometimes cousinsuk has parts. But generally Ebay is the biggest source. I bought parts from sellers in France and Italy in the past. In the UK there is a quadron 117 for sale on Ebay. Did you see it? <https://www.ebay.com/itm/389343256901>

Thanks for the reply. Yes I'd seen that eBay posting. I have a couple of options to check first but otherwise I'll just have to buy that.

Pallet forks and some keyless parts are among the more interchangeable elements of watches in this period so I'll try that line of attack first as I'm a stubborn Irishman :lol:

I'll let you guys know how I get on.

Subject: Re: Parts needed for a Cal 119 Quadron.
Posted by [Dave-1066](#) on Thu, 08 Jan 2026 10:15:31 GMT
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Many thanks, Laurent!

Happy New Year! thumbup:

Subject: Re: Parts needed for a Cal 119 Quadron.
Posted by [Dave-1066](#) on Thu, 08 Jan 2026 10:21:01 GMT
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Hi Jenneke.

Thanks for the welcome!

I own roughly 200-300 vintage watches which I've collected over the years. When I'm not repairing a customer's watch I'm on eBay buying things to repair and sell...but then I become too attached to them and don't want to sell them :lol:

I've never owned a Gruen as they basically don't exist here. I'd read about them and found the story of the company interesting. I paid £25 for that watch!!

Cousins unfortunately can't help.

As I say, I'm going to try as many random winding pinions as possible. So far, I've not had any luck, but Jack from this forum says he can send me a clutch and pinion from a 119. I just sent him a PM to ask if they would be the same dimensions as the 117.

Happy New Year!

Dave.

Subject: Re: Parts needed for a Cal 119 Quadron.
Posted by [Passion](#) on Fri, 09 Jan 2026 17:36:49 GMT
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Bonjour,
Dans mon message du 06/01/25 à 18:28, je n'ai pas souhaité mes vœux...
Je vous souhaite une bonne année 2026.
Comme on dit en France : Bon, ça c'est fait. ;-)

Hello,
In my message on 06/01/25 at 18:28, I did not wish my wishes...
I wish you a happy year 2026.
As they say in France: Well, it's done. ;-)
