Subject: Pentagon
Posted by Jenneke on Wed, 27 May 2026 20:02:46 GMT
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Model name: Verithin Pentagon
Type: pocket watch
Period/date: 1923
Gender: male

Case Maker: probably wadsworth
Case Material: reinforced gold (gold fill) with enamel
Case Serial: 366411
Case Style no: none

Caliber: V4
Movement Maker:
Movement Serial: 528261

Chain: Simmons nr 3 goldfilled

File Attachments

1) IMG_9363.jpeg, downloaded 1441 times



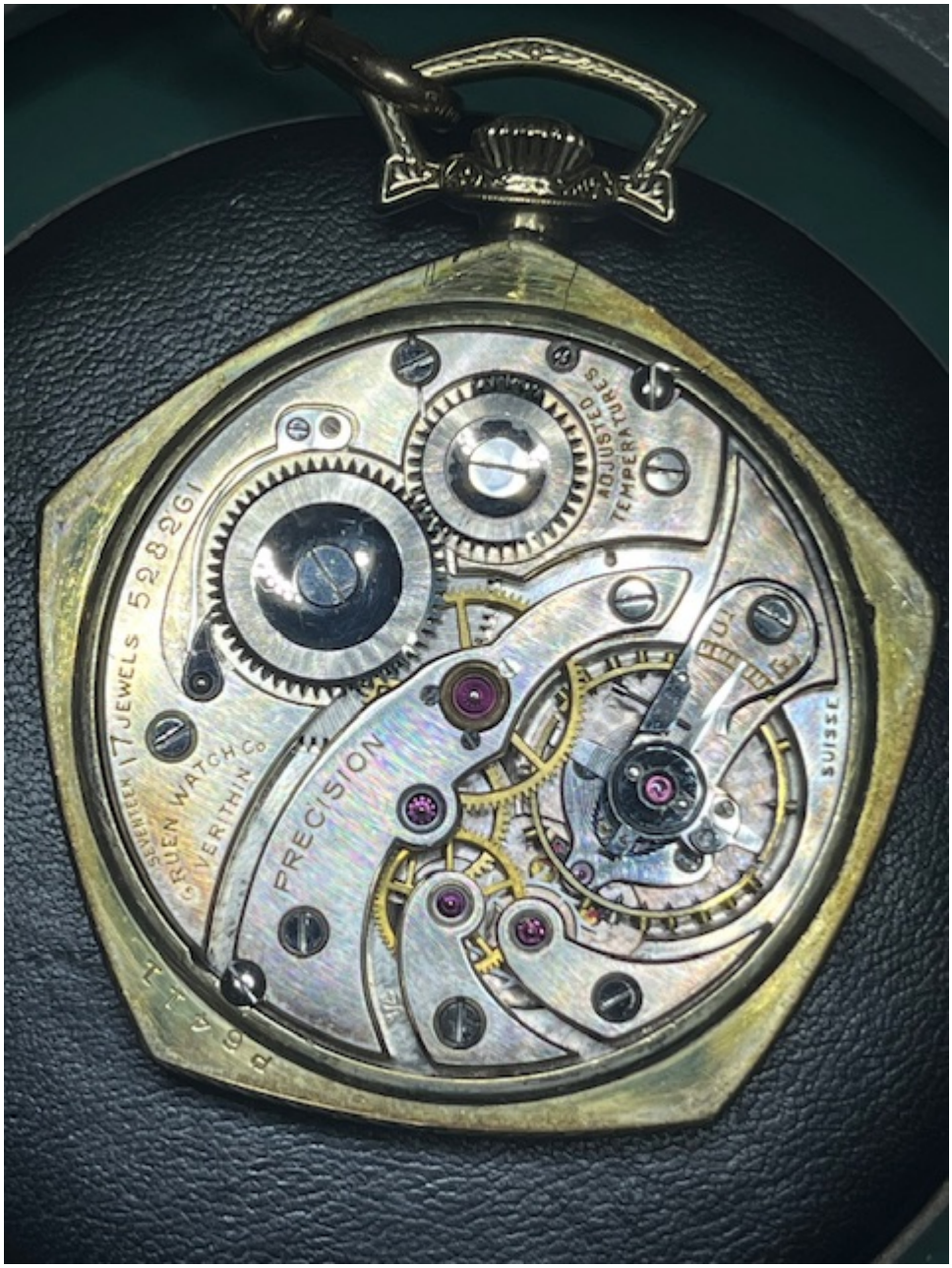
2) IMG_9366.jpeg, downloaded 1366 times



3) IMG_9368.jpeg, downloaded 1403 times



4) IMG_9367.jpeg, downloaded 1403 times



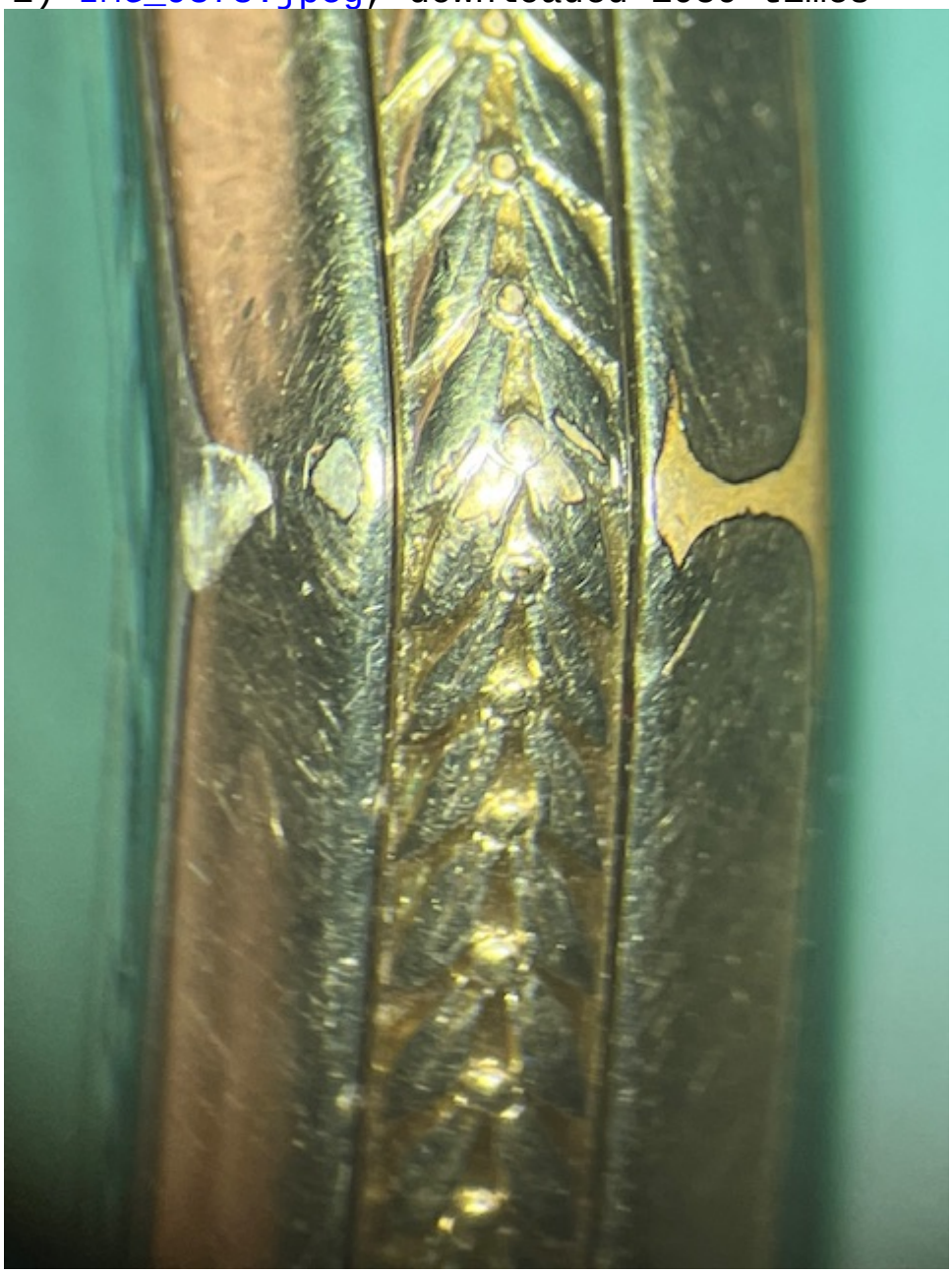
Subject: Re: Pentagon
Posted by Jenneke on Wed, 27 May 2026 20:08:02 GMT
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Weirdly the case back base metal under the gold fill differs from the middle part and bezel. Wear through show white base metal versus yellow metal.

Maybe this was common practice , but never seen (or noticed) it before.

Its not a switch, because the serials on the case parts match.

File Attachments
1) IMG_9378.jpeg, downloaded 1059 times



Subject: Re: Pentagon
Posted by JackW on Fri, 29 May 2026 17:19:36 GMT
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Interesting observation on what appears to be a variation in base metals for the gold fill. I've not seen this before. Maybe it is particular to pocket watches rather than wristwatches.

Also that dial is really nice.

Subject: Re: Pentagon
Posted by GruenWatcher on Thu, 30 Jul 2026 01:33:21 GMT
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Jenneke,
I love the way these watches have been carried and show how much someone lived with it. Those wear marks take time to develop. Just looks really good.
I am very curious to know how you dated it at 1923. I see the patent stamp in the case 3-7-22 , so it was definitely made sometime after that date.
Your movement serial number is 528261 and that comes up as 1919.
https://pocketwatchdatabase.com/search/result/gruen-watch-co /528261

So putting it all together, can you explain the timeline and how you arrived at it.

Thanks.

Subject: Re: Pentagon
Posted by Jenneke on Thu, 30 Jul 2026 19:35:28 GMT
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Thanks.

Quote: So putting it all together, can you explain the timeline and how you arrived at it.
I can, but not right now. Have written it down somewhere.

I use the research info on this forum on wadsworth case serials and V movement serials to determine the year. I dont use the pw database you shared. In the past it was rubbish on dating Gruen, dont know if it has improved.

Subject: Re: Pentagon
Posted by GruenWatcher on Fri, 31 Jul 2026 17:03:22 GMT
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Thanks for getting back to me... I've been trying to do detective work and figure out anchor point dates to the database serial numbers.
My interest now is in early Pentagons like yours above.

I used that link because I saw other people dating from it and didn't know if you were using it too. To be fair it does say +-5 years.

From my digging- It looks like thesnark17 has a database of case backs and serial numbers.
1922 serial numbers 512,XXX to 518,XXX

(In reference to movement 524030 case is 14Kt Gold Reinforced Wadsworth 365254 3-7-22 Patent Date)

thesnark17 says SN 524030, was manufactured in 1922-3, probably late in 1922. Its case was manufactured no earlier than 3/7/1922, and most probably in late 1922 or early 1923.

So, your 528262 looks like it falls a little after that. So, I can see how you date it to 1923. Probably early 1923.
What I would like to see is a Pentagon in this range with a clear dedication date engraved.

I would also like to see some Pentagons from 1921. Do they exist? Maybe thesnark17 could help us here?

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Links where I pulled the information:

(In reference to movement 524030 case is 14Kt Gold Reinforced Wadsworth 365254 3-7-22 Patent Date)

https://mb.nawcc.org/threads/gruen-verithin-pocket-watch.216 775/#post-1773201

Your watch movement, SN 524030, was manufactured in 1922-3, probably late in 1922. Its case was manufactured no earlier than 3/7/1922, and most probably in late 1922 or early 1923. This information is drawn from my serial number research on Gruen pocket watches, and relates to production, not necessarily retail.

thesnark17 message #8
https://mb.nawcc.org/threads/a-rare-16j-gruen-veri-thin-p-w. 69124/#post-1435952

In 1922, Gruen introduced its patented Pentagon case shape and positioned it at the top of its pocket watch lineup. Only one problem: by this time Gruen's "Precision" mark was a big part of its branding, but the only pocket watches bearing that mark were the Chronometer line VE/1/2/3. And Gruen was trying to make a premium watch for the masses - the Chronometer line simply would not do. What to do, what to do? And then someone had a bright idea: let's lower the definition of "Precision" a bit! Then our regular line of pocket watches will meet it, and our advertising will be a thing of beauty! So that's what they did.

The first step was to redefine the value of Precision. This was simple. Gruen started calling the V4 movement a Precision grade, and movement markings to that effect begin around 512k (early 1922, in Pentagons only) and become universal by late 518k (late 1922 production). The adjustments marking changes at the same time from 5 pos/temp to the nonsensical 8 pos/temp

Subject: Re: Pentagon
Posted by GruenWatcher on Sat, 01 Aug 2026 20:54:17 GMT
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Looks like I got lucky and found an internet sale with an anchor date of 1923. Wish I could have bought this one!
Your watch movement is less than 400 away. I know there is a lag on the retail sales, but these anchor date watches are priceless.

Your watch 528,261 Wadsworth case 366,411
Sale watch 528,650 Wadsworth case 371,860

Pictures from the internet sale follows:
(Hit your back button to return to this post when you are on the picture page)

File Attachments

1) CaseFrontDial.jpg, downloaded 503 times


11
10
9
GRUEN

2) CaseBackXMas1923.jpg, downloaded 492 times


10-29-2
:S:R:
GruenVerithin
Pentagon
SHAPE PAT. 3-7-22
SEENA TO WA
XMAS-19
REINFORCED

3) CaseMovement528,650.jpg, downloaded 502 times


526650
17 JEWELS

Subject: Re: Pentagon
Posted by GruenWatcher on Wed, 12 Aug 2026 07:24:10 GMT
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Jenneke,

Let's have some fun... Do you know the most interesting* anchor date watch for 1923? It is also priceless.
It is a 14kt gold Pentagon Gruen watch so it will use an in-house case serial number. So here you go.

Your Watch 528,261
Famous Watch 526,564

Difference 1,697 So, yours it pretty close.

Babe Ruth's 1923 World Series 14kt Gold Pentagon Gruen

Pentagon Gruen movement serial number: 526564
Pentagon Gruen Case serial number: 1060722

The 526564 movement number is independently confirmed in Heritage's Intelligent Collector publication

Quote:526564 SERIAL NUMBER on Gruen Verithin championship watch presented to Babe Ruth at the 1923 World Series.
It sold for $717,000 in February 2014.

This same watch went up for sale last year but for some reason it wasn't sold.
Interesting...

*As a side note: Getting the movement serial numbers and case numbers from other players would further cement this time frame.

pulled from this link (click file attachment below)
https://intelligentcollector.com/by-the-numbers-1956-world-s eries/

additional pictures link
https://www.atimelyperspective.com/babe-ruth-1923-world-seri
es-pocket-watch-by-gruen-sells-for-717000/

File Attachments

1) BabeRuth526564.jpg, downloaded 423 times





2) 1923AnchorDateBabeRuthCaseNumberItalicsCincinnatti1060722.jpg, downloaded 442 times



3) 1923AnchorDateBabeRuthPentagonGruenGoldPocketWatch.jpg, downloaded 431 times



4) 1923AnchorDateBabeRuthPentagonGruenGoldPocketWatchMovement526564.jpg, downloaded 446 times



Subject: Re: Pentagon
Posted by Jenneke on Fri, 14 Aug 2026 20:42:51 GMT
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Ah, the Babe Ruth one. Seen that before. I do like watches with the name of the owner on them. Makes them more personal. Do you have some of these you can share?

Fun you are having fun. Some other Gruen collectors did some big sleuthing in the past and came with reliable timelines.

Subject: Re: Pentagon

Posted by JackW on Tue, 18 Aug 2026 02:06:49 GMT
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GruenWatcher, what print sources have you checked out in this quest of yours? I recently picked up a copy of the AWI brochure that was printed in the 1980s that provides details on a a display that was from the Gruen family collection. It was the Orville Hagens Museum at the time.

Subject: Re: Pentagon
Posted by GruenWatcher on Wed, 19 Aug 2026 13:35:02 GMT
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JackW,
My current quest is focused on the earliest Gruen Pentagon watches from 1921, 1922 and 1923. (That is how I landed here on Jenneke's beautiful Gruen Pentagon example above).

I realized the best way to date these watches is to have visual pictures of anchor date watches showing movements and case numbers.

It became apparent that these watches were given as presents for Christmas. That is an almost perfect way to box in the dates.
Famous watches like those presented to Babe Ruth and his team further helps the dateline.

If you think about Christmas to Christmas then that is an amazing way to box these dates in.

I did look at your AWI reference and saw the 50th Anniversary example. That was probably from 1924. I am open to any information that fits into the outline I have described above.

I know that Art Bissell contributed heavily in the past because he collected great examples of early Pentagons. Here is where you might can be able to add some clarity to a special watch that Art owned that was a present for Christmas in 1922. This watch helps box in the 1923 timeline and also gives us the end of the 1922 era.

Art posted pictures of an 18K Gruen house case of 1036261 with an engraving date of 12-25-22. There is no picture showing the movement number that I can find. Does anyone have a picture showing the movement number? I know that Art auctioned off his Pentagons, so it was probably in those pictures too.

JackW, I don't know if you could fill in with these pictures but it would greatly cement in this wonderful anchor date watch.
Thanks for being active and joining the conversation. You might think of creating a thread that could congregate the pictures of the anchor date watches. I am new and don't have your grasp of navigating the forum. I think it would be a wonderful thread for everyone to post to and view.

Art Posted These Pictures when he was active. I know his passing was a great loss to the community.

https://mb.nawcc.org/threads/gruen-pentagon-wadsworth.65251/ #post-485646

artbissell post #7

Quote:
The patent for pentagon form cases was issued 1922. I have 18k white one with 22 patent mark and engraved as gift 1922.
This is a great anchor date watch for 1922.
When you get to the picture page, hit the back arrow button to return to this forum post.

File Attachments

1) Christmas1922AnchorDate.jpg, downloaded 391 times



2) Christmas1922AnchorDateCloseUp.jpg, downloaded 399 times



Subject: Re: Pentagon
Posted by JackW on Wed, 19 Aug 2026 20:37:22 GMT
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It’s a good quest.

I've only a small amount of photos of Art's watches. Limited to what he showed me on the occasions I met with him.

I however don't collect pocket watches (4 do not make a collection when I have over 200 wrist watches). So, if you want a thread for collation of the data, I'm not the one to do it. Sorry.

What will do is keep an eye out for things that might be of interest to this effort.

Did you get any of Art's watches when they were sold off? Several were sold via eBay and more recently an number were sold via Jones and Horan.
https://bid.jones-horan.com/ui/auctions/147749/21578769

Their site is hard to search however in past auctions.

Subject: Re: Pentagon
Posted by GruenWatcher on Thu, 20 Aug 2026 07:24:41 GMT
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JackW,
Yes, I would be interested if Art's Pentagon with the 12-25-1922 inscription watch is still available.

In the meantime, look at this Christmas 1926 Pentagon anchor date watch.

Several more watches and we are almost there... Thanks for your help.

File Attachments
1) AnchorDatePentagonChristmas1926CaseNumber1113269.jpg, downloaded 393 times


Dorothy to Fr
Dec. 25-192
PAT'D. 8-7-22
GRUEN
ULTRA-VERITHIN
14K
CINCINNATI
111269

2) AnchorDatePentagonChristmas1926Movement552282.jpg, downloaded 377 times



3) AnchorDatePentagonChristmas1926CaseAndMovement.jpg, downloaded 398 times



4) AnchorDatePentagonChristmas1926Dial.jpg, downloaded 393

times


10
11
12
ULTRA VERITHIN
GRUEN