Subject: Autowind Leader
Posted by dwillie on Sat, 15 Mar 2014 02:27:06 GMT
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Model name :Leader
Type :Autowind
Period/date :1953-1955
Gender :Gents

Case Maker :
Case Material :
Case Serial :
Case Style no :

Caliber :
Movement Maker :
Movement Serial:

Bracelet :

Other info :

Hey all.
I cantget the case back off this, and am curious about the year. The caseback is marked 69901D.

EDIT Jenneke: Rearranged pictures

File Attachments

1) gruen autowind 001.JPG, downloaded 3460 times



2) gruen autowind 002.JPG, downloaded 3352 times


GRUEN
ANTI-MAGNETIC
6990

Subject: Re: Precision autowind
Posted by C. Hurt on Sat, 15 Mar 2014 02:43:48 GMT
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Somewhere around 1950 to 1955, give or take a couple of years. Depends upon which movement it's fitted with.

Subject: Re: Precision autowind
Posted by Thojil on Sat, 15 Mar 2014 14:27:34 GMT
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Model name is "Leader"

File Attachments
1) Autowind LEADER V1.jpg, downloaded 3070 times



Subject: Re: Precision autowind
Posted by dwillie on Sat, 15 Mar 2014 15:29:58 GMT
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Thanks much for the info. The ad is a dead on match to the one I found yesterday. I didnt see that ad in my search. I wonder what year the ad was ran? Leader...
Thanks again.

Subject: Re: Precision autowind
Posted by Barney Green on Sat, 15 Mar 2014 17:05:02 GMT
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Hi,

as far as I know the Autowind Leader was introduced late 1949 and was available until late 1955. Somewhen in between the hands and the subsecond were slightly modified, your model is of the face lifted style, so I would date it 1953 to 1955...

But I am not as long with the Gruens as others in that forum so I might be corrected.

Subject: Re: Precision autowind
Posted by Thojil on Sat, 15 Mar 2014 18:38:16 GMT
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dwillie wrote on Sat, 15 March 2014 16:29Thanks much for the info. The ad is a dead on match to the one I found yesterday. I didnt see that ad in my search. I wonder what year the ad was ran? Leader..

It's a screen print of a '50s tv show. Lost the link, but maybe somebody here still recalls which show it was.

Subject: Re: Precision autowind
Posted by afire on Sat, 15 Mar 2014 18:48:52 GMT
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It was Walter Winchell's show, and it was showcased by Sterling Hayden.

Subject: Re: Precision autowind
Posted by Thojil on Sun, 16 Mar 2014 08:58:50 GMT
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afire wrote on Sat, 15 March 2014 19:48It was Walter Winchell's show, and it was showcased by Sterling Hayden.

That was the one! Do you have a year? I know Gruen ran a whole campaign around it and there was a link to the episode in a Post around this subject in the old forum.

Here is an example of a jeweler display.

File Attachments

1) Winchel Autowind display no48.jpg, downloaded 3089 times


WALTER WINCHELL says:
You can beat time...
but you can't b
GRUEN
ABC
Gruen
AUTOWIND

Subject: Re: Precision autowind
Posted by Thojil on Sun, 16 Mar 2014 09:12:14 GMT
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Barney Green wrote on Sat, 15 March 2014 18:05as far as I know the Autowind Leader was introduced late 1949 and was available until late 1955. Somewhen in between the hands and the subsecond were slightly modified, your model is of the face lifted style, so I would date it 1953 to 1955...

True, I know there were at least three of them. Here is another dial version.

and this one is I think the last variant they did. From a 1955 issue of Life Magazine.

File Attachments

1) Autowind LEADER V2.jpg, downloaded 3101 times



A. AUTOWIND LEADER.
Self-winding. 17 jewels. Guildite steel. Luminous dial. Water and shock-resistant.
$55.00

2) Autowind LEADER V3 - 1955 Mar LIFE magazine.jpg, downloaded 3056 times



Subject: Re: Precision autowind
Posted by Barney Green on Sun, 16 Mar 2014 21:42:01 GMT
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The funny thing is that in all ads the hands are different style, but never this pointy ones the watch has in reality. As I have seen another Leader of this period which has the same hands I believe in reality Gruen shipped the later ones with this hands although they were never advertized this way.

Subject: Re: Precision autowind
Posted by MikeTheWatchGuy on Mon, 17 Mar 2014 03:00:39 GMT
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In "The 1950s" Decade Book, there are a good number of ads with the exact configuration of this watch, including those very distinctive and unique Gruen hands. I see them as starting in 1952 with some overlap of the 2 hand styles. Page 164, from 1953, has a nice clear image of it.

Subject: ####
Posted by Timeticker on Wed, 19 Mar 2014 00:38:59 GMT
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Adios

Subject: Re: Precision autowind
Posted by Barney Green on Wed, 19 Mar 2014 08:56:59 GMT
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Sorry, I don't get your sense of humor just in case this was some sort of. Most likely my English skills are inadequate, my Spanish ones definitely are.

Subject: Re: Precision autowind
Posted by Thojil on Wed, 19 Mar 2014 09:19:15 GMT
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It must have been way after midnight when Tomas wrote his immortal words...

Anyway, to stay on the subject a few pics of my Autowind Leader

Subject: Re: Precision autowind
Posted by Barney Green on Wed, 19 Mar 2014 09:58:42 GMT
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Wow, that's what I would call mint condition. Looks like you purchased N.O.S., never worn. No tarnish or darkening of the dial, hands in perfect shape. What I usually purchase looks pretty much different. That might be due to the fact that my buy limit is somewhere at 20 Euro as long as there are no precious metals or small but hard stones involved...

Subject: Re: Precision autowind
Posted by mikey on Wed, 19 Mar 2014 13:04:03 GMT
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Tomas is a good person and a valued member here. He keeps things light-hearted and is just a little "off the wall" at times.

Subject: Re: Precision autowind
Posted by Barney Green on Wed, 19 Mar 2014 16:00:52 GMT
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These are exactly the vibes I don't get in English and vice versa sometimes express my own German way. Hence I apologized in advance ;-)
May be I am too much an engineer than a social being.

Tomas, if I have insulted you in any way please take my personal apologies. Same as yours my post was in no way being meant offensive.

Subject: Re: Precision autowind
Posted by MonKee on Wed, 19 Mar 2014 21:25:54 GMT
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Here is the Walter Winchell TV news show sponsored by Gruen. Your watch is featured at about 9:50.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_WoJpzh0TA

Subject: ###
Posted by Timeticker on Thu, 20 Mar 2014 00:29:39 GMT
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Adios

Subject: Re: Precision autowind
Posted by Gary on Thu, 20 Mar 2014 01:21:52 GMT
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Mucho te queremos Tomas! You are well loved by all here.

Subject: Re: Precision autowind
Posted by Barney Green on Thu, 20 Mar 2014 07:16:40 GMT
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Understood. Beeing a Gruen apprentice and a rookie in thist forum I have to find my place and have to learn about my fellow campaigners. When I read your post I simply felt offensive vibes beneath the humor this was for sure due to the mentioned plain engineering mind and insufficient knowledge of a foreign language paired with a portion of persecutory delusion.

Have fun!

Subject: ###
Posted by Timeticker on Thu, 20 Mar 2014 22:29:28 GMT
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Adios

Subject: Re: Precision autowind
Posted by Barney Green on Fri, 21 Mar 2014 07:30:16 GMT
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Tomas,

absolutely no need to apologize. I simply did not get your post and hence asked. If anyone could feel insulted than it would have been MikeTheWatchGuy, because your post was an answer to his. As he did not step in I assume he did get the humorous part of your message which I missed. I have seen him answering in a similar style, so this appears OK to me.
Be assured I am well, don't feel insulted and appreciate your style. I can learn from it so please don't change.

And now let's end this discussion as this is a thread about Autowinds and not the psychologist's couch.
If an admin finds these personal posts deserved being deleted please go ahead.

Peace, brother!
Bernd

Subject: ###
Posted by Timeticker on Fri, 21 Mar 2014 10:19:21 GMT
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Adios

Subject: Re: ###
Posted by koskid on Thu, 05 Jun 2014 22:20:23 GMT
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I recently acquired a Leader that is in pretty good shape. The movement is clean and runs great. It needs a new crystal and hands need re-lume. I have a crystal on order...do I need a crystal press to install it? Also I need an new case back gasket. Anyone know what size gasket this watch takes.

Subject: Re: ###
Posted by Thojil on Fri, 06 Jun 2014 13:26:29 GMT
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koskid wrote on Fri, 06 June 2014 00:20I have a crystal on order...do I need a crystal press to install it? Also I need an new case back gasket. Anyone know what size gasket this watch takes.

Nice clean Autowind Leader you have there. I'm wearing mine quite often and when not in use it is on a watch winder. It has been running permanently without any problems for two years now.

I recall the crystal is kept in place by a tension ring which would mean you need a crystal press, but not sure anymore. I see you have opened the case so you should be able to verify yourself if there is a chrome tension ring on the inside.

For the gasket dimension you should measure the diameter of the threaded ring of the case back. This is the inner diameter for the gasket. The outer gasket diameter should not exceed the outer diameter of the case back.

Hope this helps

Subject: Re: ###
Posted by koskid on Fri, 06 Jun 2014 15:39:23 GMT
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Thanks,

Yes there is a chrome reflector ring between the crystal and the case.

I may try to polish out the crystal rather than replace. I had great success doing that with a couple other watches with badly scratched crystals.

Measuring the gasket seat in the case it looks like about 28.5mm ID and 30.5mm OD. Maybe I'll get a couple about this size and see what fits best. I'm pretty close to Otto Frei so maybe I'll run over there today.
