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Subject: Gruen "Chrono-Timer"

Posted by [Thojil](#) on Thu, 16 May 2013 17:25:12 GMT

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Model name : Chrono-Timer

Type : Precision chronograph

Period/date : 1949

Gender : Male

Case Maker : Swiss, Gabus Frères

Case Material : 14k

Case Serial : 134591

Case Style no : na

Caliber : 450

Movement Maker : Gruen

Movement Serial: A737344

Bracelet : Leather

Other info :

Model corresponds to "import 260", Bruce Shawkey's book, page 193

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## File Attachments

1) [Img\\_3566b.jpg](#), downloaded 2230 times

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2) [Img\\_3729b.jpg](#), downloaded 2248 times



3) [Img\\_3730b.jpg](#), downloaded 2225 times





Subject: Re: Gruen "Chrono-Timer"  
Posted by [Bazzab](#) on Thu, 16 May 2013 18:35:46 GMT  
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Very Nice Watch!!!  
B

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Subject: Re: Gruen "Chrono-Timer"  
Posted by [Gary](#) on Thu, 16 May 2013 23:19:55 GMT  
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I go weak at the knees everytime I see this, has to be in my top five if not #1 on the want list.

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Subject: Re: Gruen "Chrono-Timer"  
Posted by [mikey](#) on Fri, 17 May 2013 01:57:39 GMT  
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I agree. That is one beautiful watch!

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Subject: Re: Gruen "Chrono-Timer"  
Posted by [JackW](#) on Fri, 17 May 2013 04:33:43 GMT  
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What Mike said.

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Subject: Re: Gruen "Chrono-Timer"  
Posted by [Passion](#) on Sat, 01 Nov 2025 08:23:11 GMT  
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It's not the kind of watch you see every day... it's really superb!

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Subject: Re: Gruen "Chrono-Timer"  
Posted by [Gary](#) on Sat, 01 Nov 2025 16:13:27 GMT  
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Passion wrote on Sat, 01 November 2025 08:23It's not the kind of watch you see every day... it's really superb!  
Gruen's only in-house chronometer. I've been collecting parts to build one. Getting close.

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Subject: Re: Gruen "Chrono-Timer"  
Posted by [Passion](#) on Wed, 05 Nov 2025 12:46:11 GMT  
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Hi Gary,  
OK, the only internal chronometer at Gruen !  
So, if I understand correctly, this rate is not a misunderstanding? -->  
<https://www.watchbroker24.eu/index.php?site=gabe2&start=&artID=100-935>  
Price much too high for me, I would keep it in my wildest dreams... ;-) or else, I have to sell my motorcycle !

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Subject: Re: Gruen "Chrono-Timer"  
Posted by [Gary](#) on Wed, 05 Nov 2025 13:50:03 GMT  
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That price is a little high, even for solid gold. They pop up every now an then, but if your patient, you can get one on the wrist for a 1/3 of the price.

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Subject: Re: Gruen "Chrono-Timer"  
Posted by [afire](#) on Wed, 05 Nov 2025 14:52:51 GMT  
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What Gary said. Asking prices are always high. But on the rare occasion when a Chrono-Timer shows up for auction, they tend to be relatively affordable.

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Subject: Re: Gruen "Chrono-Timer"  
Posted by [JackW](#) on Wed, 05 Nov 2025 18:43:42 GMT  
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The stainless steel/Guildite editions though are garnering \$1000 recently, so there is that. I sunk about \$600 in the first one I have and less than \$350 on the recent one that came disassembled. That one too was a movement loose and paired with a empty case.

A 14k version by my estimations should be about \$1500 to \$2k based on the gold content, at todays gold prices.

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Subject: Re: Gruen "Chrono-Timer"  
Posted by [Passion](#) on Thu, 06 Nov 2025 07:06:39 GMT  
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Hi,

Gary, Afire and JackW, thank you for this valuable information.

And if I can still steal your time, what year was this chrono-timer made in what year? I have seen different models of cases, hands, dials... but don't really see any date information apart from 1940 to 1955.

Now I have to go back to work ;-)

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Subject: Re: Gruen "Chrono-Timer"

Posted by [Passion](#) on Thu, 06 Nov 2025 07:11:14 GMT

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JackW wrote on Wed, 05 November 2025 19:43...Guildite editions...

Je vois souvent ce mot "guildite" dans les posts. Chez Gruen, qu'est ce que ce mot signifie ?  
I often see the word "guildite" in posts. For Gruen, what does this word mean?

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Subject: Re: Gruen "Chrono-Timer"

Posted by [Gary](#) on Thu, 06 Nov 2025 14:33:00 GMT

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The chrono timer was made starting in 1947. They stopped making them shortly thereafter. Probably they couldn't compete with other chrono makers. Here is a good read.

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Subject: Re: Gruen "Chrono-Timer"

Posted by [JackW](#) on Thu, 06 Nov 2025 19:42:18 GMT

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Gary wrote on Thu, 06 November 2025 07:33The chrono timer was made starting in 1947. They stopped making them shortly thereafter. Probably they couldn't compete with other chrono makers. Here is a good read.

Gruen published a series of parts catalogs that showed the movements. The cal 450 is shown in the catalog that is assumed to be from 1945. So it is possibly earlier than 1947. The first and only advertisement for the chrono-timer is from 1947. Scroll down the page and it is shown here at this link.

My personal opinion on why these were so short lived, as a production and sales item is related to the vertical clutch system to engage the chrono seconds. The design is pretty cool but having worked on a few of these now, the mechanism is susceptible to seizing should a watchmaker inadvertently lubricate the clutch. It should be dry. The lubrication will eventually gum up, especially the lubricants of the time in 1945-47 which were natural oils and greases (think whale). They degrade and become thicker. Even with synthetic oils, small amounts of dirt or even the high cohesion of oils will "lock" the clutch together and cause the chrono function to cease working and stopping the watch. My guess is that Gruen was immediately swamped by warranty service requests. Secondly, like what Gary suggested, the advent of high-quality column wheel chronos,

like the Valjoux 23 or cam shift chronos like the Venus 188 were hard to compete with for reliability. Also the 450 is small compared to these other chronograph movements. Styles were changing.

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Subject: Re: Gruen "Chrono-Timer"  
Posted by [JackW](#) on Thu, 06 Nov 2025 19:43:35 GMT  
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Passion wrote on Thu, 06 November 2025 00:11 JackW wrote on Wed, 05 November 2025 19:43...Guildite editions...

Je voie souvent ce mot "guildite" dans les posts. Chez Gruen, qu'est ce que ce mot signifie ?  
I often see the word "guildite" in posts. For Gruen, what does this word mean?

Guildite is the trade name that Gruen used for stainless steel.

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Subject: Re: Gruen "Chrono-Timer"  
Posted by [Passion](#) on Sat, 22 Nov 2025 17:10:47 GMT  
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Gary and JackW,  
I just reviewed your very specific comments. Thank you for all this information.

It's really very interesting this story about the Chrono-Timer! If I understood correctly, the Guildite Chrono-Timer (stainless steel... ;-)) was manufactured last.  
So, the Chrono-Timer, shouldn't there be a lot of products in 2 years?  
And if a Chrono-Timer is missing a part (a needle or a winder), is it complicated to find?

Laurent.

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Subject: Re: Gruen "Chrono-Timer"  
Posted by [JackW](#) on Sat, 22 Nov 2025 23:51:45 GMT  
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Parts related to the chronograph function are far and few between. There is an eBay seller that has the more difficult parts to locate but also wants \$\$\$/€€€ for them.

However, I'm a firm believer in watching out for each other. If I see something you need or have something, I'll speak up.

Hopefully Gary finishes his soon. I did have a part he was seeking but don't yet know if it worked for him.

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Subject: Re: Gruen "Chrono-Timer"

Posted by [Passion](#) on Sun, 23 Nov 2025 08:09:14 GMT

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Jack,

Thank you for this feedback.

I understood well that this Gruen "Chrono-Timer" is both:

- rare (few copies because produced for 2 or 3 years).
- can be reliable (when not in good hands).
- despite this, the parts can be found quite easily.

An avant-garde object during its release, with technology quickly outpaced by its competitors, quite rare, and of which 1 in 2 are very poorly maintained and therefore does not work...

It's the kind of concept that attracts me, because it's all that makes its beauty...

I will be curious to have Gary's feedback ;-)

Happy Sunday.

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