
Subject: Curvex Strap 541

Posted by [kastner](#) on Sat, 22 Mar 2014 01:39:54 GMT

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Model name : Strap 541, very likely the Comet

Type : Curvex, wrist

Period/date : 1946

Gender : Men's

Case Maker : Wadsworth

Case Material : 10K YGF

Case Serial : G835947

Case Style no : 544

Caliber : 440

Movement Maker : Gruen

Movement Serial: Unknown

,

File Attachments

1) [20140321_182001-1.jpg](#), downloaded 2349 times



2) [20140321_182036-1.jpg](#), downloaded 2325 times



3) [20140321_190416-1.jpg](#), downloaded 2397 times



GRUEN
CURVEX

PRECISION

Subject: Re: Curvex Strap 541

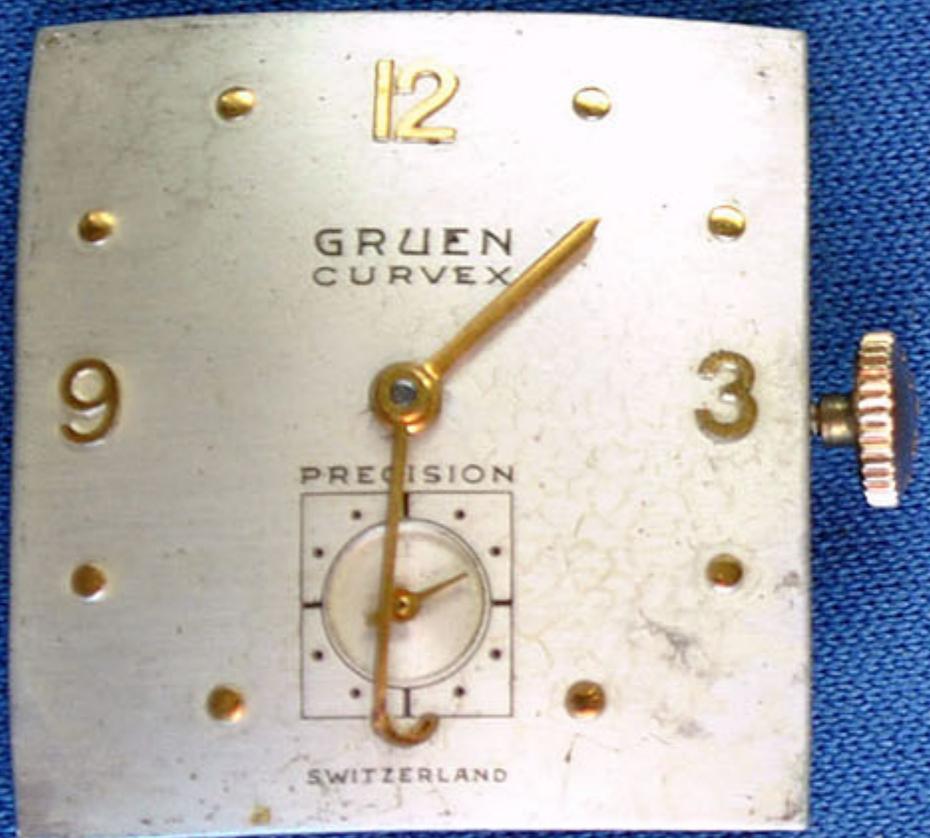
Posted by [mikey](#) on Sat, 22 Mar 2014 01:55:41 GMT

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I have one with the same numbers (440 - 544) that was previously identified as the 'Eclipse' model. But, mine has different lugs than yours does.

File Attachments

1) [Gruen 440_544 Curvex Eclipse 2.jpg](#), downloaded 2126 times



Subject: Re: Curvex Strap 541
Posted by [kastner](#) on Sat, 22 Mar 2014 02:09:54 GMT
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Not sure about that Mikey. I've uploaded a new photo that really shows off the "double" lugs and it doesn't look like either of the Eclipse models in the 1940s decade book.

Edited to add: The photos make this very interesting. I'm a novice in my knowledge, but I can't recall reading about other times where the style number and caliber are the same, but the dials and cases are different. I acquired this watch as part of a lot and there's at least one other watch from that buy that was mismatched with a case that didn't match the movement. Is it possible that this one suffers from the same issue?

Subject: Re: Curvex Strap 541
Posted by [afire](#) on Sat, 22 Mar 2014 04:29:48 GMT
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Style numbers really only ID the crystal size and shape, not the case details or dial design.

Subject: Re: Curvex Strap 541
Posted by [MikeTheWatchGuy](#) on Sat, 22 Mar 2014 16:21:44 GMT
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There are a number of Caliber - Style Number combinations that have quite a few different model names that use the same numbers.

One of the ones that fall into this category is 440 - 544. The Curvex Eclipse, Curvex Governor, Curvex Comet, and quite a few others reuse this 544 number. I believe there are 3, maybe 4 that are similar in the larger number of reuses than the others. I was reminded after this post that the Style Number Dating paper needs an appendix added that speaks to this so that these potholes are in the least identified.

There are also some numbers that have a mixture of calibers that use them. This can easily be seen in the large table in the paper, Figure 6 - Style Caliber Table. You can scan down the list of Style Numbers and find the number of time it was reused by multiple calibers. Some are from what we called "movement migrations", others are a simple reuse. The newest Style Number Dating software ver 2.1 now shows all of the calibers that use the style number so that it's easy to tell when you've hit one of these. Number 498 is a good example

498 - 335 422 430 435 440 3351

It should be noted that 335 and 3351 numbers are likely referring to the same watch model. Additionally the 440-498 combination was reused by several different models, the Curvex Captain being one of those for example.

You would think Gruen would have reused the same crystals for their watches quite often, but they described in one of their document why this isn't so. The height and angle of the hands along with the curvature of the dial dictated, at least to Gruen, that a new crystal was needed for most of

their watch models.

Thank you for the reminder that the update needs to be added. The paper does address this situation but does not go into specific Style Numbers that fall into the heavily-ish reused category.

Subject: Re: Curvex Strap 541
Posted by [kastner](#) on Sat, 22 Mar 2014 16:52:38 GMT
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Thanks for the information Mike, I had forgotten about Figure 6. And looking more closely at the pictures it seems likely that this watch is the Comet.
