Subject: Gruen 460 Auto Bumper
Posted by Timeticker on Wed, 25 Mar 2015 00:44:19 GMT
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Soooo, whilst restoring a 460 bumper, I ran in to a bit of a quandry! Posted next are the questions "bumping" me!

1.) What is the power reserve for a bumper? Meaning, being that you really can't wind it like a conventional watch in that it has a bridle to keep it from being over wound, then how long should it last?

2.) Installed new mainspring, the watch started perfectly, and keeps excellent time, but on first attempt, watch ran for 6 hours and shut down.

3.) Re-wound the watch, but it would seem to me that the auto bumper should be keeping the watch running while you're wearing it, and should keep running throughout the night when the watch is off the wrist.

4.) Any comments are more than welcome.....please feel free to pitch in your 2 cents, dollars worth, or a brick through my window.

Subject: Re: Gruen 460 Auto Bumper
Posted by Gary on Wed, 25 Mar 2015 01:44:28 GMT
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Out of the Gruen course in wristwatch repair, the New Gruen Auto-wind technical bulletin states: "The complete winding will be executed through the natural movements of the arm in 3 to 4 hours' time-". "Once thoroughly wound the watch is provided with a power reserve of approximately 32-35 hours' running time."

There are some really good testing scenarios for auto-winds in this book, too much to type out here.

Hope that helps.

Subject: Re: Gruen 460 Auto Bumper
Posted by Thojil on Wed, 25 Mar 2015 12:27:08 GMT
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I keep mine on a winder all the time, but I will take it off tonight and check for how long it will go.

Subject: Re: Gruen 460 Auto Bumper
Posted by JackW on Fri, 27 Mar 2015 19:33:10 GMT

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When you say "Installed new mainspring" did you use a vintage Gruen blued-steel spring or a new white-alloy spring? If blued, then it is possible it is also set. What size/length did you use? Could be too long and thus not fitting the barrel correctly.

Subject: Re: Gruen 460 Auto Bumper
Posted by Gary on Fri, 27 Mar 2015 20:19:51 GMT
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Just a thought, if it was the old type blued-steel did you oil it down? I use that Mobile 1 all synthetic or some Vaseline.

Subject: Re: Gruen 460 Auto Bumper
Posted by Timeticker on Sat, 28 Mar 2015 00:44:01 GMT
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I used an authentic Gruen blue steel, cleaned it and oiled it. I have been wearing the watch for a few days now, and it seems to be running very well. I'll eventually post the photo of this one. Really nice for original age. Thanks for the information, Gary!!! Greatly appreciated! I really do love this bumper.....it has now become a favorite!

Subject: Re: Gruen 460 Auto Bumper
Posted by Timeticker on Sat, 28 Mar 2015 00:45:40 GMT
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Hey Thojil,

So, what was the final reserve time you got on your bumper?

Subject: Re: Gruen 460 Auto Bumper
Posted by Thojil on Sat, 28 Mar 2015 18:00:04 GMT
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Forgot Took it of the winder today 18:30 CET.

Subject: Re: Gruen 460 Auto Bumper
Posted by Timeticker on Sat, 28 Mar 2015 22:36:24 GMT
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That's ok....give me the next run.

Subject: Re: Gruen 460 Auto Bumper
Posted by Thojil on Mon, 30 Mar 2015 18:06:33 GMT
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It stopped running after 35 hours & 50 minutes, so in line with Gruen's claimed power reserve.

Subject: Re: Gruen 460 Auto Bumper
Posted by Timeticker on Fri, 03 Apr 2015 23:17:07 GMT
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Sounds good! I actually haven't wound it now in 4 days, (wearing constantly) but will mark the time tonight, and take it off to see what happens. Thanks so very much, Thojil!!!

Subject: Re: Gruen 460 Auto Bumper
Posted by Timeticker on Tue, 07 Apr 2015 00:07:14 GMT
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I got nearly 35 hours out of mine. Will probably run a bit longer as it seats in. To be exact, I got 34 hours 50 min, out of it.