

Omega Constellation Watches 1952 – 1980: Men's Certified Chronometer Calibres

Calibre	Year	Jewels	Features
Series 300 (28.10) Certified Chronometer			
352	1949	17	Released in 1949 as a chronometer for Seamasters. Powered Constellations with full certification in 1952. Some do not have swan neck regulator and feature RG micrometer regulation. Few rather than many 352s powered Constellations. Deluxe Constellation model OT 14327, for example, featured a calibre 352 with RG micrometer. In the Omega Museum paper records, Nomenclature des calibres Omega de 1984 a aujourd' hui, calibre 352 contains a note "Premiere Constellation 1952" which suggests that the first Constellations housed calibre 352 movements. There is still much debate about whether 352 or 354 calibres powered the very first Constellations.
354	1952	17	Based on 352. Self Winding 17 jewel Bumper movement: well designed, made robust to handle the strong vibrations caused by the hammer action. Powered most early Constellations, but also some Seamasters. Over half a million of these movements were certified chronometers. They are a classic.
Series 500 (27.90) Certified Chronometer			
501/505	1955/57	19-24	Replaced bumper movements. Self-winding. Increased jewels from 19 to 20 in 1957 and then 24 in late 1957. Powered Constellations and Seamasters. Calibre 505 - 24 jewels - released also in 1957 but probably remained in inventory until 1958 while supply of 20 jewel 501s was exhausted.
503	1956	20	This calibre was used largely in Seamaster and Geneve ranges, however a number (unknown quantity) were adjusted to chronometer specifications, received certificates and were used in the Constellation range. Problematic because of the Seamaster connection. Better to opt for a 20 jewel 501.
504	1957	24	Self-winding with date. Solid gold case for the Grand Luxe model with Solid gold dial, with applied hour markers with onyx inserts and "Dauphine" gold hands. Released in stainless steel in 1959. Other models in gold, gold cap and stainless. Rarer because only 24,500 units were produced in Constellations.
551	1959/62	24	Self-winding Pie pan dial with hand-riveted gold hour markers and "Dauphine" gold hands. Released in stainless steel in 1959, also gold cap and solid gold from 1962. Case changed to 34mm featuring teardrop lugs. Some calibre 551 certified chronometer movements were also used in Seamaster Chronometres.
561	1958/65	24	Self-winding with non-quickset date with range of hour markers. Dauphine hands. Came in stainless steel, cold cap and solid gold. Base calibre was the 560, modelled on the 550.
562	1958	24	Most of the calibre 562 movements were used in Seamasters and Geneves, however an unknown number (Believed to be few) were adjusted and certified as chronometers. Some of these chronometer grade movements were used in Seamasters and according to the Omega paper records, Nomenclature des calibres Omega de 1984 a aujourd' hui, some were used in Constellations. Collecting this calibre is fraught with difficulties because of the risk of striking a Seamaster masquerading as a Constellation pie pan. This calibre Constellation with a refinished dial is best avoided. I have seen examples of 562 under the Constellation livery, but I have never seen a 562 that is complete in all respects and has the adjustment information stamped on the bridge. There is no logical reason why one would collect a 562 as in most respects a 561 is the standard.

564	1966/71	24	Produced in 1965 as an improvement on the 561, but first models with the new quickset date configuration are believed to have reached the stores in 1966. Apart from traditionally shaped cases, also released in the 'C' case in a range of stainless steel, white gold, gold and gold cap models. Also powered a limited number of Seamaster chronometers. All monocoque Constellations of the time were powered by 564.
Series 700 Chronometer			
NOTE:	The rare Calibre 700 Super flat movement came in both solid white and yellow gold with a solid gold balance and only 12,500 pieces were made of each. Some Calibre 700 was a hand wound movement and also was produced in 44mm pocketwatch Constellation models. Calibre 711 super flat came in solid gold and stainless steel cases, while the super flat 712 without second hand was available in solid yellow and white gold and stainless steel. Anton Kreuzer refers to the 712 on page 199 of his book "Omega Designs", mentioning that the certified chronometer movement was exclusive to the Constellation model. He doesn't, however, reveal that that it was not manufactured in the Omega factory but by Edward Piguet/Rayville SA-Montres Blancpain the closely knitted duet that were merged along with Omega and other brands to form the SSIH group in 1961. Stretching the point a little, it could be argued that the movement is still a 'manufacture' rather than ebauche because the SSIH conglomerate produced it.		
700	1962/72	17	Ultrathin circular lever slow 18000 beat movement, mainly limited edition watches: from a pocket watch with solid gold balance limited to 12,500 pieces to a range of ladies and gents solid gold and white gold balance, case and bracelet watches also limited to 12500 pieces. Only a couple of the watches came with leather straps instead of solid bracelets. All Constellation models were solid gold.
711	1974/75	24	At least two Constellation models were released in solid gold with solid gold bracelet and 1 model in stainless steel No central second hand. Solid gold model BA 351.0013 had a rectangular case with "rounded rectangle" dial opening, 18K solid yellow gold bracelet. Also available in 18K solid white gold.. Other solid gold models had a solid gold or maroon dial, with "index" hour markers and "stick" hands. Also available with a range of bracelets in yellow or white gold.
712	1967/78	24	Said to be exclusive to Constellation. Solid Gold (white, pink or yellow) Case, super-flat movement, sometimes with stick hands and marks on the quarter hour. Came in a range of cases: tonneau, Octagonal, round, rectangular. At least one model (157.0001) was produced in stainless steel.
751	1966/70	24	Self-winding day and date. Based on the 500 series. Both round and 'C' style cases initially. With hand-riveted solid gold hour markers and solid gold hands. Coming in stainless steel, gold cap and gold. Also powered the first cushion case and integrated bracelet models. Also powered the very rare Seamaster 18K chronometre BA 168.023
752	1978	24	Integrated SS Case and bracelet with index hour markers and luminous stick hands – 366 0857 Also 166.0252 barrel shaped case with integrated bracelet. (Official Omega Database) Museum paper records do not have Cal 752 listed as a Constellation and this model is non-COSC, judging from 3 identical examples seen that have the Constellation livery. These models were produced at the height of the Swiss mechanical watch meltdown and bizarre things were happening at the Omega factory.
Series 1000 Certified Chronometer			
1000-1002	1969		Best avoid: Design faults that include a faulty lubrication system. Later 1001 models appeared with a design very similar to the 1011.
1011	1972/77	23	Self-winding 23 jewelled movement with date. Luminous gold hour markers and luminous gold "stick" hands in the solid gold model. Came in a range of integrated and non-integrated bracelet cushion models. Also came in 'C' case with gold hour markers and hands. Available also in solid gold, gold cap and

			stainless steel, and SS with gold bezel (Rounded square dial)
1012	1977	23	As above but in 22k 40 micron gold plate C shaped case and other cases. 23 jewels.
1020	1978/80	17	Self-winding with day and date. Came in solid gold with integrated bracelet (166.02530). C-shaped model appears to be the only COSC confirmed.
1021	1972/73	23	"C" shape, stainless steel with knurled bezel. Also in 18K solid yellow gold with integrated bracelet and also gold plate. Some 1021 were COSC.
1022	1974	23	Omega data base does not record this movement as a Constellation movement, however Constellation gold plate with gold plate bracelet and octagonal case models definitely were produced with this calibre. These models were produced during the confusion of the Japanese quartz invasion. Most models were not COSC, same with some 1021 movements.
<p>Notes: This list was compiled from the Official Omega Internet Database and also from paper records held by the Omega Museum in Bienne. The Omega Internet Database currently lists 1'600 models of Omega watches but there are a lot of Constellation models that have not yet been included on the database.</p>			

OMEGA SERIAL NUMBERS BY YEAR

Consolidated Table With Beginning And Thru Dates For Serial Number Issue

SERIAL #	EARLIEST PRODUCTION YEAR ^A	PRODUCED THRU ^B	USED IN LOW PRODUCTION ^C	SPEEDMASTER ONLY ^D
1'000'000	1894	1902	1916	
2'000'000	1902	1908	1919	
3'000'000	1906	1912	1919	
4'000'000	1910	1916	1927	
5'000'000	1915	1923	1927	
6'000'000	1923	1929	1935	
7'000'000	1920	1935	1941	
8'000'000	1934	1939	1944	
9'000'000	1926	1944	1950	
10'000'000	1944	1947	1951	
11'000'000	1947	1950	1953	
12'000'000	1950	1952	1955	
13'000'000	1952	1954	1957	
14'000'000	1954	1956	1958	1957
15'000'000	1956	1958	1962	1958
16'000'000	1958	1961		1958-1959
17'000'000	1959	1961	1963	1960
18'000'000	1961	1963	1964	1961-1962
19'000'000	1962	1963		1962
20'000'000	1963	1964	1967	1963
21'000'000	1964	1965	1966	1963
22'000'000	1965	1966	1969	1964-1965
23'000'000	1966	1968		1966
24'000'000	1966	1967	1969	1967
25'000'000	1967	1969		1967
26'000'000	1968	1968	1970	1968-1969
27'000'000	1968	1969	1970	1969
28'000'000	1969	1969	1970	1970
29'000'000	1969			<i>Not Used?</i>
30'000'000	1969			1970-1971
31'000'000	1969			1972-1973
32'000'000	1970			1973-1974
33'000'000	1971			1975
34'000'000	1972			1976
35'000'000	1972			1977

36'000'000	1973			1977
37'000'000	1973			1978
38'000'000	1974			1979
39'000'000	1975			1979
40'000'000	1977			1980
41'000'000	1978			1980
42'000'000	1979			1981
43'000'000	1979			1982
44'000'000	1980			1983
45'000'000	1982			1984
46'000'000	1984			1985
47'000'000	1984			1986-1989 ^E
48'000'000	1985			1990-1999 ^E
49'000'000	1986			
50'000'000	1986			
51'000'000	1989			
52'000'000	Not Used			
53'000'000	1991			
54'000'000	1993			
55'000'000	1995			
56'000'000	1998			

TABLE PRODUCED BY RYAN ROONEY

^A Data from table published on [Omega's website](#). Earliest year in which serial numbers were issued according to Omega's historians.

^B Data from the book [Omega Designs by Anton Kreuzer](#). Serial numbers were used up to the year indicated. Data only provided through 1969.

^C Also from Kreuzer, indicates years up to which serial numbers were still used in small low-production quantities

^D Data adapted from "[Omega Speedmaster Evolution](#)" by Roman Hartmann. Data may not be accurate for Limited-Edition Speedmasters and Speedmasters with cal. 863 or 1863.

^E For Speedmasters with serial numbers >47 million refer to Roman Hartmann's original table for more specific dating.

This table is an attempt to consolidate information from several sources that have long been available on the web and elsewhere into a more convenient tool. Previously, collectors have mostly consulted the various tables and simply assumed a +/-1-2 year margin of error, but I believe that the presentation of the data in a unified manner shows that it is possible to determine a watch's age more definitively by using the data from Omega and Kreuzer as bookends. The table is still not a wholly definitive measure of how old a watch is. It does probably describe years of *movement* production with reasonable accuracy, but does not consider when watches were submitted for chronometer testing, cased, shipped, or sold, especially with regard to domestically cased "National Production" movements.

Of course, the only really precise method of determining a watch's date of manufacture remains a records extract from Omega Vintage Information, for which Omega typically charges a 50.- CHF fee.

Omega did not issue serial numbers on a strictly sequential basis, and was not always diligent in keeping numerical order. At various points, Omega was using two or more series simultaneously, and in some cases over periods of years in which other series were issued to exhaustion in the interim. So, a watch with a lower serial number is not *necessarily* older than one with a higher serial – it simply has a lower serial number. This also means that an interpolative analysis is generally unreliable, i.e. “10-million number were issued from 1944-1947, so a 10.7-million number was produced in 1946” is not necessarily correct.