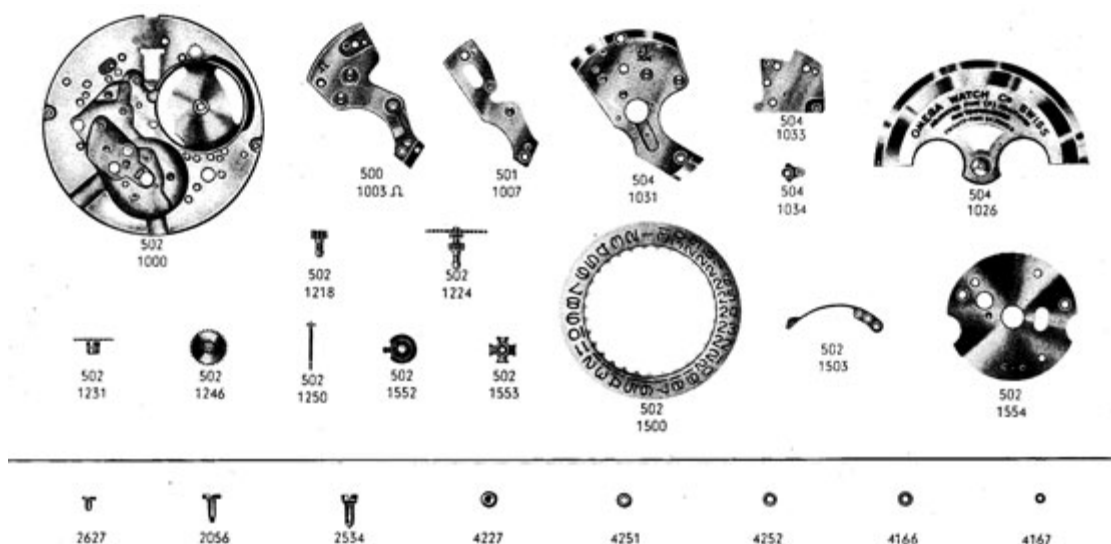


The Rare Calibre 504 Black Dial Constellation Accessorised with Pink Gold Highlights

The calibre 504 was the first Omega Constellation calibre to carry the date function. The base calibre was the calibre 500, and, in keeping with Omega's highly efficient interchangeable parts system, the calibre 504 was a confluence of parts from not only the 500 base calibre but also earlier calibres such as 240, 330, 344, 360, and 470. In fact, most of the components of the calibre 504 are sourced from the earlier calibre 470.

Omega's manufacturing ethos was typically Swiss and had its own history of logic based on the premise of maximising the initial investment in tooling and economising production processes by promoting interchangeability of parts. And let's face it, why design and create the tooling for completely new designs, when strong, robust and proven parts from earlier models could be successfully integrated into new calibres? In reviewing the list below that itemises 504 parts different to that of the base calibre 500, you will notice at first glance that it is mainly the signature parts and extra jewels that define the 504s difference to the calibre 502 calendar model.

Calibre 504 (28 RA SC PC CAL AM 24 pierres)



While many of the 504 parts came from a common manufacturing line producing other calibres of the 500 family, I am told by a watchmaker who had the privilege of observing at the time the stringent quality control processes for chronometers at Omega that higher standards of precision applied when Constellation movements came into contact with the specialists who regulated the movements to chronometer standards.

In any manufacturing process there is a variance in quality, and any parts that did not meet the stricter quality benchmarks for chronometer grade movements were replaced with ones that did. The process of 'adjustment' included balance poising to finer tolerances, hairspring adjustment, regulator adjustment, beat adjustment and ensuring that the functional finish of the parts allowed for the finer tolerances demanded to meet BO standards for a chronometer grade movement.

To use the parlance of the motor racing fraternity, the calibre 504 was a 'souped up' power plant that produced superior performance, and was as different to standard members of the 500 collection as a Gran Turismo is to a family wagon.

Our **Star of the Month** for April is a very special stainless steel calibre 504 with the case number CK 2943 delivered in August 1959. The first aspect that contributes to the rarity of this watch is the low production number of this particular model. Only 25 thousand pieces of the calibre 504 were produced, divided amongst four specific models

Adding to its rarity is the genuine black dial. Very few black dialled calibre 504s were produced. Contrary to information that is currently available on the Omega Vintage Database, the majority of the CK2943 black dialled versions that were produced incorporated rhodium baguette hour markers accessorised by matching rhodium plated hands and silver paint lettering. To encounter a black "Deluxe" dial with yellow gold markers and hands is a very rare occurrence indeed, but to see a black deluxe dial with thick faceted baguette markers in pink gold is surely a once-in-a-decade experience, if that? Our star of the month is one such example.

Featuring its original pink gold skeletonised hands with radium inserts, this watch is a beauty to behold. The dial surface has a light, even patina and the pink gold paint upper case and lower case lettering completes the richness of its visual appeal.

Because Omega produced so few black dialled earlier Constellations, it was custom, albeit not always practised, to note in production records the serial numbers of watches that sported black dials. Fortunately, this allows us to confirm with absolute certainty that this month's feature watch left the factory with pink gold dial furniture, further backed up by the pink gold observatory medallion on the case back. The extract from official Omega archives below confirms the factory authenticity of the watch.



Adding to the allure of this watch is a particularly sharp case that shows the aggressive lines of the case to the fullest extent. There is light wear to the case back but all engravings are present and the medallion shows all detail. Truly a spectacular find. Enjoy the pictures.





