

The Selmer Serial Numbers

Höfner produced a range of guitars for The Selmer Company, the UK distributors, between 1953 and 1971. These models were often similar to guitars in the standard Höfner range but usually had minor detail differences. The Selmer Company distributed the guitars not only in the UK but across the 'Commonwealth' including Australia, New Zealand, Canada and other countries.

The 'Selmer' guitars were given serial numbers, usually stamped on the back of the headstock or typed on a label that can be seen through the F hole on archtop models. Höfner standard models, distributed to Europe, the USA and elsewhere did not have serial numbers until 1976. Generally, on the older vintage guitars, if you can't find a serial number then it isn't a 'Selmer' guitar.

Occasionally Höfner dealers placed their own label on the back of the headstock and some of these seem to have had numbers on them. These are not 'Selmer' serial numbers.

Van Wow, the Dutch distributors for Höfner also employed a serial number system and this can confuse matters occasionally, particularly when a Van Wow guitar turns up in the UK.

The following tables of 'Selmer' serial numbers are not complete and not necessarily accurate. They are based on those delivery documents that survived. These may well have been inaccurate. For example the table for the 500/10 six string bass shows that 205 guitars were made. Since only 2 or 3 of this model has been seen by Höfner collectors then it suggests that perhaps rather less than 205 were ever made, or they are all hiding somewhere or they all got thrown away over the years. Nobody knows.

You can use the tables to ascertain the date of a vintage Höfner guitar, but you should also take other things into consideration such as the equipment fitted to the guitar. On those models that sold in large numbers, such as the 500/1 bass, be aware that bodies were often assembled one year but the guitar might not have been finished and shipped until the following year.

Archtops and Semi Acoustic Guitars

Year	Golden		Golden Thinline	
1957				
1958				
1959				
1960	1	47	1	16
1961				
1962				
1963				
1964				
1965				
1966				
1967				
1968				
1969				
1970				
1971				

Year	Committee		Committee Elec		Committee Thinline	
1957						
1958	2564	2950				
1959	2951	3270				
1960	3271	3677			1100	1175
1961	3721	3744	1182	1257	1176	1237
1962	3745	3792	1258	1326	1238	1305
1963	3793	3954	1327		1355	1411
1964	3965	4108			1420	1517
1965	4109	4177	1617		1518	1653
1966	4178	4189				
1967	4190	4247				
1968	4248	4258				
1969	4259	4264				
1970						
1971						

Year	President		President Thinline		President 66		President 66 Thin	
1957								
1958	3480	5100						
1959	5101	6319						
1960	6320	7967	600	681				
1961	7968	8002						
1962	8003	8125	682	787				
1963	8126	8308	788	962				
1964	8355	8727	963	1059				
1965	8728	8976	1135				1	143
1966	8977	8986					144	273
1967	8987	8996			1	124	274	360
1968	8997	8999			125	280		
1969	9000	9002						
1970	9003	9026						
1971	9027							

Year	Ambassador	
1957		
1958		
1959		
1960		
1961		
1962		
1963		
1964		
1965	50	177
1966	178	273
1967	274	360
1968		
1969		
1970		
1971		

Year	Senator		Senator Thinline		Senator 66		Senator 66 Thin	
1957								
1958	4404	7800						
1959	7801	9301						
1960	9302	11400		1088				
1961	11401	11702	1089	1227				
1962	11703	12079	1228	1309				
1963	12080	12680	1310	1404				
1964	12726	13516						
1965	13517	13674			100	194	1	90
1966	13675	13768	1660		195	325	91	151
1967					326	405	152	189
1968					406	459	190	191
1969					460	468	192	
1970					469	485		
1971					486	569	193	

Year	Congress	
1957		
1958	5809	7800
1959	7801	8800
1960	8801	9917
1961	9918	10958
1962	10959	12278
1963	12279	13371
1964	13422	14331
1965	14332	14891
1966	14892	15141
1967	15142	15366
1968	15367	15456
1969	15457	15471
1970	15472	15517
1971	15518	15523

Year	Club 40		Club 50		Club 60		Club 70	
1957								
1958	255	420	479	650	1	180		
1959	421	820	651	1158	181	588		
1960	821	1534	1159	1779	589	1296		
1961	1535	1674	1780		1297	1607		
1962	1675				1608			
1963								
1964								
1965								
1966								
1967							1	147
1968							148	
1969							149	154
1970								
1971								

Year	Violin Guitar 459	
1957		
1958		
1959		
1960		
1961		
1962		
1963		
1964		
1965		
1966	1	170
1967	171	200
1968		
1969		
1970		
1971		

Year	Verithin		Verithin 66	
1957				
1958				
1959				
1960		350		
1961	351	699		
1962	700	1238		
1963	1239	2223		
1964	2260	3313		
1965	3314		1000	1190
1966			1191	1293
1967			1294	1388
1968			1389	1398
1969			1399	1404
1970			1405	1408
1971			1409	1411

Solid Body Guitars

Year	Galaxie		Super (173)	
1957				
1958				
1959				
1960				
1961				
1962				
1963		3147	824	1156
1964	3318	4437	1157	1348
1965	4438	4537	1349	
1966	4538	4637		
1967	4638	4737		
1968	4738	4759		
1969	4760	4858		
1970	4859			
1971				

Year	V2		V3	
1957				
1958				
1959				
1960				
1961				
1962				
1963			2039	
1964				
1965				
1966				
1967				
1968				
1969				
1970				
1971				

Year	Colorama I		Colorama II	
1957				
1958				
1959				
1960				
1961		499		891
1962	1154	1299	892	1700
1963	1300		2154	2902
1964	944	963	2953	3638
1965	964	979	3639	
1966	980	1001		
1967	1002	1012		
1968				
1969				
1970				
1971				

Year	Super Solid II		Super Solid III	
1957				
1958				
1959				
1960				
1961		650		1209
1962	651	773	1210	1838
1963	774		1839	
1964				
1965				
1966				
1967				
1968				
1969				
1970				
1971				

Bass Guitars

Year	Committee Bass		President Bass		Senator Bass		Verithin Bass	
1957								
1958								
1959					1	199		
1960					200	601		
1961					602	643		
1962					644	822		
1963		272		168	823	947		256
1964	281	321	179	430	968	1868	309	540
1965	322	353	431	514	1869	2058	541	658
1966			515	538	2059	2294	659	664
1967					2295	2351	665	670
1968					2352	2375	671	672
1969					2376	2388	673	674
1970					2389	2397	675	679
1971							680	681

Year	500/1		500/2	
1957				
1958				
1959				
1960				1020
1961				
1962			1021	
1963		311		
1964	352	1830		
1965	1831	2511		
1966	2512	3064		
1967	3065	3170		
1968	3171	3263		
1969	3264	3347		
1970	3348	3429		
1971	3430	3463		

Year	Bass 6 500/10	
1957		
1958		
1959		
1960	1	204
1961	205	
1962		
1963		
1964		
1965		
1966		
1967		
1968		
1969		
1970		
1971		

Year	Artist Bass		Solid Bass	
1957				
1958				
1959				
1960				
1961				
1962	329	1160	231	617
1963	1161	1949	618	
1964	1950	2250		
1965	2251	2275		
1966	2276	2301		
1967	2302	2306		
1968	2307	2309		
1969	2310	2311		
1970	2312	2313		
1971				