

## Dating Your Hofner

**Special note: This page came from Hofner World website which no longer exists. From here on is the original page from that site. - Cooperweb**

The information below can help you identify the year your Hofner was created. The chart and pictures are straight from my sources. Even though the information on the chart is incomplete because some information does not exist.

### THE NEXT TABLE HAS INFORMATION PERTAINING EXCLUSIVELY TO 500/1s AND 5000/1s:

This information came from [Bob Belloff](#) with a few bits added by me.

500/1 and 5000/1 Info	
Year	Comments
1956-59	Black single coil Strat-type pickups. Control panel diamond shaped arrangement-solid top.
1960-61	Diamond pickups close together at top of body as in 1956-59. Vertical "flowery" Hofner logo. Long tailpiece. Narrow control panel. Early rounded neck heel design with pearloid trim piece at bottom of joint. Flat back. No neck binding yet. Small pickup surrounds with setscrews to adjust pickup height. Carved top in some cases, laminated in others.
1962-63	Staple pole pickups spaced further apart on body. Hofner horizontal script logo (decal, commonly referred to as "transfer logo"). The Sir McCartney spec bass. Small pickup surrounds attached to pickup with four setscrews to adjust height. Rounded back. Laminated top.
1964	Transition year. Bound neck and raised plastic Hofner logo phased in, as well as larger Gibson-style pickup surrounds.
1965	Wider control panel phased in. Shorter tailpiece phased in in this period as well.
1967	Blade type pickups phased in along with square, flush to body neck heel. Black selector switches phased in 1967-68. Smaller Hofner transfer logo phased in to replace raised logo. Enclosed tuners are individual with humped gear cover.
1970 and up	Metal tuning buttons replace plastic. Hofner decal on pickguard. Narrow black switches replace wide switches. Pickguards generally less pearloid; more solid white than pearl. Hofner logo disappears from pickups by 1980 or so. Knobs change from teacup style white knobs to black with pointer.
Additional Comments by Bob	This is just a brief guideline. Some parts vary. I have seen early style neck heels and logos on a 1971 Hofner. I have seen a lot of variation. The control panel can be removed and the pots used to get an approximate date. The pots are coded. The first two digits are the week, the next digit the year. A code beginning 258 would be the 25th week of 1968, 78, or 88. Use other visual clues to help determine the decade.

### REMAINING MATERIAL PERTAINS TO ALL HOFNERS

#### PICKUP TYPE:

- 1) Fuma-made, six 'star-slot' polepieces. -----> c1953-59
- 2) Black, white, or brown plastic, plain top. Oval or square ends. -----> c1957-60
- 3) Rectangular metal case, four black metal slits in top. Hofner 'diamond' logo. -----> c1960-61
- 4) Rectangular metal case, six slot-screw OR six rectangular polepieces. Hofner 'diamond' logo on many. -----> c1961-63
- 5) Rectangular metal case, six slot-screw PLUS six rectangular polepieces. -----> c1963-67
- 6) Rectangular metal case, single central bar-magnet plus six small slot-screw polepieces. -----> c1967-78

From the late sixties onward, Hofner issued many pickup designs based on those already used by Fender and Gibson, and began using pickups from standard pickup manufacturers including Di Marzio, Schaller, and Shadow. These pickups will NOT help you in dating.

**Control Panel Layout:**

- 1) Circular panel, body-mounted, with two or four rotary controls. Body-mounted selector toggle-switches where appropriate. -----> c1957-59
- 2) Rectangular panel, body or scratchplate-mounted, with one or two rotary controls plus three selector slide-switches. Additional selector switches where appropriate. -----> c1959-62
- 3) Rotary controls, body or scratchplate-mounted. Selector switches as appropriate. -----> c1962-on

**Serial Numbers:**

Serial Numbers														
Model	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
President	3840-5100	----- ---	-7967	7968-	----- -	8126-8308	8355-	8728-8976	----- --	----- --	----- --	-9002	----- --	-9027
President Thin	----- --	----- ---	-681	----- -	682-	-962	----- -	1135-	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --
President Flor	----- --	----- ---	----- --	----- -	----- -	----- -	----- -	----- -	----- --	----- --	-280	----- --	----- --	----- --
Senator	4404-7800	----- ---	- 11400	11401-11702	11703-	12080-12680	12726-	13517-13674	- 13768	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --
Senator Thin	----- --	----- ---	-1088	1089-	1228-	-1404	----- -	1660-	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --
Senator Bass 1PU	----- --	-199	200-601	602-	644-	----- -	----- -	----- -	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --
Senator Bass 2PU	----- --	----- ---	-1020	----- -	1021-	----- -	----- -	----- -	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --
Congress	5809-7800	----- ---	-9917	9918-10958	10959-12278	12279-13371	13922-	14322-14891	- 15141	- 15366	- 15456	- 15471	- 15517	- 15523
Club 40	255-420	----- ---	-1534	1535-	1675-	----- -	----- -	----- -	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --
Club 50	479-650	----- ---	-1779	1780-	----- -	----- -	----- -	----- -	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --
Club 60	-180	----- ---	-1296	1297-	1608-	----- -	----- -	----- -	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --
Committee	2564-2950	----- ---	-3677	3721-	3745-	3793-3954	3965-	4109-4177	-4189	-4247	-4258	-4264	----- --	----- --
Committee Thin	----- --	----- ---	-1175	1176-	-1305	1355-1411	1420-	1518-1653	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --
Verithin	----- --	----- ---	-350	351-	700-1238	1239-2223	2260-	3314	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --
Golden Hofner	----- --	----- ---	-47	----- -	----- -	----- -	----- -	----- -	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --
Golden Thin	----- --	----- ---	-16	----- -	----- -	----- -	----- -	----- -	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --	----- --
Vienna	468-700	----- ---	-849	850-	981-	1189-1556	----- -	1763-2014	-2289	-2414	----- --	----- --	-2424	----- --
Flamenco	4527-5100	----- ---	-5433	5434-5688	5689-6270	6271-7074	7111-	7567-7888	-8338	-8463	-8511	-8556	-8571	-8575

I must warn you that this table is not 100% accurate, but it can be great help in dating your Hofner. For some reason, Hofner didn't keep production records in 1959 except for the 1PU Senator Bass. Go figure.

**Miscellaneous:**

Adjustable truss-rod in neck. -----> c1960-on

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