



THE EXPERIENCE REAL COLLECTORS TRUST.™



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01 INTRODUCTION

Established in 1998, SGC is one of the most trusted grading and authentication firms for sports memorabilia collectors worldwide. Our team is comprised of experienced and respected graders and authenticators, who have continuously set the industry standard with the consistency, integrity, and quality of our services.

Customer satisfaction is at the heart of everything we do, and we are committed to strengthening the hobby and promoting the culture of collecting through superior service offerings and constant technological innovation. SGC customers enjoy an array of unique collector support and security features, including an interactive submission platform with order tracking, grader notes, a rich database of all items ever graded by SGC, and much more.

Above all, SGC is known for its collector-centric approach to business, which creates long-lasting relationships with customers. Because for us, collecting isn't just our job —**it is our way of life.**



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MEET THE AUTHENTICATOR

Dave Grob is considered to be the leading authority on vintage baseball uniforms with an expansive knowledge base and meticulous research methods. With his added expertise, SGC is proud to offer vintage baseball uniform authentication.

An avid collector and researcher in his own right, Grob has written hundreds of informative and innovative articles on the subject. In 2016, he co-authored “Game-Worn” (Smithsonian Publishing) which was named a finalist for the 2016 Casey Award.

Grob has revolutionized his field through the introduction of standardized processes that define and leverage objective data for characteristics such as sizing and tagging. He has pioneered the application of imagery analysis techniques and the use of technology to assess fabric weave, quality, grade of a manufacturer's product, and the detection of alterations in baseball uniforms.

Grob's research and findings have enabled collectors to recover hundreds of thousands of dollars on previously purchased and wrongfully authenticated uniforms. When it comes to uniforms, collectors throughout the hobby value Grob's opinion above all others.



**C1928-1930 BABE RUTH
NEW YORK YANKEES
ROAD JERSEY**

02 SIZE

The jersey is tagged as and measures as a size 46. This was confirmed through measurement across the chest. A size 46 is also appropriate and consistent with period sizing data for Babe Ruth from the contemporary reference *“Who’s Who in Baseball”* (1928-1930 editions as on hand period sources). A size 46 is also consistent with period exemplar Ruth jerseys in my data base. As such, I would consider this to be an appropriate sized garment for Babe Ruth at this point in his career.



PERIOD SIZING DATA

Contemporary Sizing References:

1927 *Who's Who in Baseball*: 6', 2"; 210lbs

1928 *Who's Who in Baseball*: 6', 2"; 210lbs

1929 *Who's Who in Baseball*: 6', 2"; 210lbs

Static References:

Baseball Reference.com: 6', 2"; 215 lbs

Period Jersey Data

Base References:

1920 Road, Spalding: est 46-48

- **c1928-30 Road, Spalding: size 46**

1932 Road, Spalding: est 46-48

1938 Home, Spalding: size 46

1938 Road, Spalding: size 46



Offered Jersey

03 MANUFACTURERS TAGGING

The jersey features a style of Spalding manufacturer's tag typically found from the period of c1915-1930, and this tag is located in the collar. Supplemental tagging can be found in the collar for player identification in the form of the name "RUTH" which is done in chain stitch embroidery. Both the Spalding tag and the embroidery of "RUTH" have been sewn through only the first layer of material in the collar. The collar area was examined in great detail with both UV lighting and lighted magnification to ensure and confirm that these tagging facets were not added after the fabric panels were originally closed. The lower front tail/placket area contains supplemental tagging of "46" also done in chain stitch embroidery to denote the size of the garment. The lower front tail/placket area was also examined in great detail with both UV lighting and lighted magnification to ensure and confirm that this tagging was not added post manufacture. Additionally, use of UV lighting indicates that the materials used for the thread employed in the embroidery process are indicative of threads composed predominately or in total of natural fibers, as opposed to man made fibers you would find in thread manufactured and used much later than the time is jersey is purported and represented to having been manufactured.

MANUFACTURERS TAGGING



Offered Jersey



Period Base Exemplar with Size Annotation



Offered Jersey



1927 Yankees Home Jersey

MANUFACTURERS TAGGING

All of this tagging was assessed as being original to the garment at the time of manufacture. In addition, the manner of application was also found to be consistent with New York Yankee Spalding provided home and road jerseys from the general period of 1928-1930. Although supplemental tagging for size was not a common practice for all teams and all major league uniform suppliers at the time, other examples of New York Yankees home and road uniforms from this same general period have surfaced in the hobby/industry over the years.

These have included:

- Lou Gehrig: size 46
- Waite Hoyt: size 44
- Mark Koenig: 44
- Pat Collins: size 38

When all of this information is considered in aggregate, I would offer that this is both an appropriately tagged garment for the period and that all the tagging is original to the jersey without any apparent signs or indications of alteration or contrived application.

04 CONSTRUCTION/STYLE

The body of the garment appears to have been made from a pearl gray finest quality pre-shrunk 8oz wool athletic flannel. The relative quality of the fabric can be assessed by examining the fibers and weave of the fabric with a digital microscope and then comparing it to both period on hand major league products as well as corresponding manufacturer's fabric sample catalogs.



c1928-1930 BABE RUTH NEW YORK YANKEES ROAD JERSEY



Babe Ruth - 15 May, 1929

c1928-1930 BABE RUTH NEW YORK YANKEES ROAD JERSEY



Offered Jersey

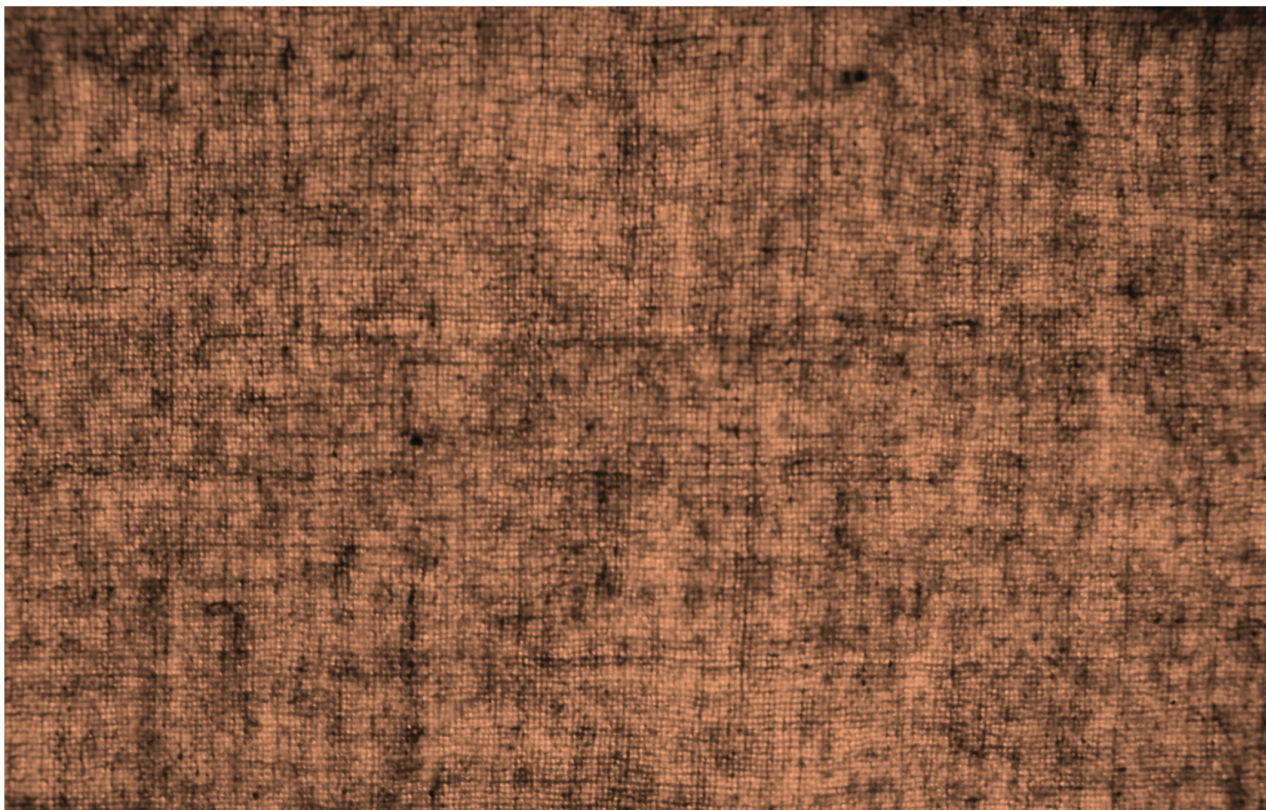


Babe Ruth - 15 May, 1929

CONSTRUCTION/STYLE

While I have period on-hand period Spalding major league products to work from, my catalog comparisons were made from other period major league uniform suppliers (Wilson-1930 and Goldsmith -1934). All comparisons were made with a wide range of fabrics and by quality. This offered jersey compared favorably without exception with respect fiber construction and weave to the highest or major league quality fabrics and uniforms of the period. The jersey features a seven button, button-down front with ventilated underarm gussets. The ventilated underarm gusset is something Spalding introduced in 1912. The jersey also features 8" set-in sleeves. The tail of the garment also features an original and intact tie-down or "fat strap" as well as the two corresponding hemmed fabric openings (these are no button holes) at the bottom of the jersey. The lettering of YANKEES is done in dark blue athletic felt (also checked with both UV lighting and magnification); the letters each being approximately 2 5/8" in height. When the rear of the jersey was examined with enhanced lighting, magnification, and on a light table, trace evidence in the form of open stitch holes indicate that a diamond point font numeral "3" was once applied to the jersey. I found no evidence or anything to suggest or indicate that any number other than "3" had ever been applied to the jersey.

c1928-1930 BABE RUTH NEW YORK YANKEES ROAD JERSEY



Light Table Photography Showing Outline Of Once Applied Diamond Point Font Numeral 3

05 USE/WEAR

The jersey shows signs of moderate to heavy use and wear. All seven buttons remain firmly affixed with the 3rd and 4th buttons from the top having apparently been reinforced at some point. All buttons are however assessed as being original applications. The garment is free of any appreciably significant soiling or staining that would detract from the visual appeal of the jersey or lead me to conclude the garment should undergo some form of conservation cleaning. All of the anchor stitching that joins the various fabric panels together remains strong and intact. The dark blue athletic felt used for the YANKEES ornamentation/naming convention across the front remains in superior condition with respect to both color, condition, and stability. This is not always the case when compared to other New York Yankee road jerseys of the same style and period. This lettering is equally assessed as being original to the garment as to the time of original manufacture. The presence of an original, complete, and intact tie down or “fat strap” is a rare occurrence. I say rare for a couple of reasons; first of all, you will not find this device on all jerseys manufactured, by any supplier, for any or all teams at this point in time as it is considered a player preferred customization. Secondly, when and if they were originally applied, they are most frequently found to have been removed. The one and only structural issue associated with this jersey is that the one-time present diamond point font numeral “3” has been removed from the back of the jersey. As stated previously, I found nothing to suggest or indicate that any other number(s) have ever applied to this jersey.

LIGHT TABLE PHOTOGRAPHY



Lettering Assessed
As Original

c1928-1930 BABE RUTH NEW YORK YANKEES ROAD JERSEY



Original Tie Down or “Fat Strap”

07 OPINION

In my opinion this jersey possesses all the characteristics you would expect to see in jersey supplied by Spalding during the period of c1928-1930 for road use and wear by Babe Ruth. The jersey is largely all original (missing/removed rear numeral 3) and compares favorably with period images and period on hand Spalding major league products and contemporary major league quality fabric samples. It is assessed as being without any apparent signs of alteration or contrived use and wear.

With respect to uniform grading, SGC defines a SUPERIOR example as one that is completely all original and shows optimal use/wear given the period, player, games played, and position. If there are any alterations, they must be consistent with documented player preference characteristics such as shorted/cut sleeves or tails. Minor fabric repairs are acceptable when they are assessed as being period to the uniform or part of a professional conservation effort for a much older jersey. No amount of restoration can bring any jersey into the superior category regardless of the quality of the effort or the materials or techniques used. That being said, the jersey cannot be graded as a stand-alone SUPERIOR example.



08 FINAL GRADE

However, the SGC grading criteria also recognizes that jerseys are complex to assess, evaluate, and grade and that a uniform can be assessed as having the characteristics of two neighboring categories. When this happens, as is certainly the case for the c1928-1930 Babe Ruth New York Yankees road jersey, we will identify it using both notations, but leading with the dominant category. This jersey is thus categorized as a **SUPERIOR/EXCELLENT** example. The jersey clearly possesses more characteristics and traits of a **SUPERIOR** jersey than it does an **EXCELLENT** one.

One of the things that must be considered with respect to this particular jersey is that the missing/removed number is something that a comparable jersey by the same team/same player/same manufacturer from the same relative period of 1927-1928 would not be assessed for or “penalized” for if it were assessed as being all original. This is because player’s number on the back of the jersey would not have been present to begin with in 1927-1928. It is my opinion that when the jersey is assessed for what it is and when it’s from, anything other than a **SUPERIOR/EXCELLENT** rating would not be a fair or accurate categorization of the jersey nor would anything other than a reflect **SUPERIOR/EXCELLENT** rating reflect the true nature, purpose, and intent of the SGC non-numeric grading scale.



09 UNIFORM GRADING SCALE

TERMS, CRITERIA & CONDITIONS FOR CATEGORIZATION

Superior (S): The Superior jersey is completely all original and show optimal use/wear given the period, player, games played, and position. If there are any alterations, they must be consistent with documented player preference characteristics such as shorted/cut sleeves or tails. Minor fabric repairs are acceptable when they are assessed as being period to the uniform or part of a professional conservation effort for a much older jersey. No amount of restoration can bring any jersey into the superior category regardless of the quality of the effort or the materials or techniques used.

Excellent (E): The Excellent jersey is predominately all original and features consistent, even, and discernible use/wear given the period, player, games played, and position. If there are any alterations, they must be consistent with documented player preference characteristics such as shorted sleeves or tails. Minor fabric repairs are acceptable when they are assessed as being period to the uniform or well executed legitimate conservation efforts. Soiling and staining may be present, but not to point where it has a significant impact on the jersey from an aesthetic standpoint and or is inconsistent with the overall use and wear of the body of the garment (condition issues associated with poor storage; foxing, fading due to exposure to light, glue residue from framing, etc).

The same can be said for minor structural issues associated with normal use and wear/care such as broken stitching, fabric separations, and similar effects on applications (numbering, lettering, or trim).



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Minimal conservation and restoration efforts, especially when done and documented as being executed with period correct components (patches, buttons, zippers) are acceptable for an excellent jersey. There can be no doubt about the attribution of the use and wear to the single player in question. This last point precludes uniforms that have been reissued to another player from being considered an Excellent example in all but the most extreme cases. These would include when it can be documented that a player was initially provided a previously issued jersey for their own use and wear as well as when secondary use and wear appears insignificant with respect to the current appearance. Another thing that keeps a jersey from being considered a strictly Excellent example is if it is incomplete in a meaningful and significant manner (tagging, patches, numbers, lettering, etc)

Very Good (VG): The Very Good jersey must be largely original and assessed as featuring less than optimal use/wear given the period, player, games played, and position (too little-too much) given the totality of the circumstances. The jersey may show alterations to accommodate extended organizational use such as name, number change, patch removal or application, but certainly not multiples of these. The attribution to the player in question is not in doubt and the jersey may feature restorations using non-period fabrics for lettering, numbering, and other applications (piping, soutach) and the work is well executed. The VG jersey also likely features some lack of completeness that is noticeable such as multiple replaced buttons (these are expected to be at least be uniform and matching).

Fabric repairs are acceptable and soiling and staining is likely present and noticeable in natural lighting from a typical viewing distance. There may be an element of incompleteness to the VG jersey such as a missing patch, number, buttons, tagging, small portion of an application, but certainly not multiples of all of these. VG jersey cannot feature condition issues that could be assessed as damage or disfiguration. When jersey is assessed as being “damaged” or “disfigured”, this must be clearly explained in the body of the supporting work. With professional and documented conservation and restoration efforts using period materials and skill, it is possible for a Very Good example to become an Excellent example because it is now complete, as long as it otherwise meets the criteria and conditions of an Excellent example for use and wear. The period materials and skill, it is possible for a Very Good example to become an Excellent example because it is now complete, as long as it otherwise meets the criteria and conditions of an Excellent example for use and wear.

Good (G): The Good example differs from the Very Good example largely based on multiples or the magnitude of the issues mentioned for the VG example. The Good example also typically features some element of damage or disfigurement not associated with a VG example. One such example is finding a uniform with portions of fabric cut away in order to provide material to patch other garments. Others include noticeable moth damage, burns, atypical staining or other forms of damage.



Fair (F): With the Fair example, we clearly begin to see issues of use and wear that can be categorized on our continuum as being atypically light for an era, player, position, or assessed as damaged. This damage is readily apparent and has either been left unaddressed or addressed in less than professional manner. With documented and professional restorations, even using non-period materials, it is possible to for a Fair example to become a Good example. It is also possible that the Fair example has value as a donor jersey for future conservation efforts.

Poor (P): With the Poor example we clearly see issues with use and wear that can be categorized on our continuum as not likely or present for an era, player, position, or assessed as being obviously damaged. In either case, this is discernible through non-technical means. There are likely significant issues with the uniforms completeness and or the attempts at restoration/repair/conservation have been poorly executed and are discernible through non-technical means. A Poor example may also feature significant issues with completeness. The Poor example may be suitable and have value as a “display piece” or “donor” uniform. In some cases based on rarity of style and or player, the Poor example may be a likely candidate for conservation and restoration efforts that could take it into the Fair or Good categories.

NOTE: There will be occasions when a jersey has characteristics and qualities than span categories. In instances such as this, the identification will reflect both categories with the predominate one coming first. An example is an otherwise Excellent jersey that does have issues more common with the categorization of Very Good. In this case the jersey will be identified as EX/VG.

STABILIZATIONS, RESTORATIONS & COSMETIC EFFORTS

A **stabilization** effort is one that involves reinforcing or strengthening some facet of the jersey when completeness is not an issue. At the lower end, these efforts include reinforcing the stitching on an original lose button to keep it from falling off or minor stitch work on portions of lettering or numbering to more securely fasten them to the jersey. More complex and involved stabilization efforts may require actual repairs and the use of additional fabrics or mesh to help the uniform regain/retain structural integrity.

Since the goal of stabilization is to prevent or stop further deterioration, it may also include light/professional conservation cleaning for older uniforms constructed largely of natural fibers. Stabilization efforts are almost always recommended since the primary purpose is preservation.

A **restoration** effort is one that involves addressing some aspect of incompleteness on the jersey or other related efforts to return to the jersey to as close as its original condition as possible. These can range from simple things like replacing a missing patch or buttons to more complex and involved cases that require both a removal and a replacement (reversing a vintage name or number change). Since the goal is “as close as its original condition as possible”, proper materials, techniques, and craftsmanship are essential. Restoration efforts are often recommended, but only when they are accomplished in a professional manner and well documented. In many instances, a poor restoration is much worse than no restoration at all.



A good example of this is with patch restorations. Uniform patches are collectable in their own right, and a patch may at times have a value that exceeds the uniform itself. As a result of this, 20th century major league uniform patches have been commercially reproduced and are often found applied to uniforms as part of disclosed or non-disclosed restoration efforts. We do not recommend placing a reproduction patch on a vintage uniform.

A **cosmetic** effort is one that involves addressing some aspect of aesthetics on the uniform. These typically involve removing stains that are assessed as damage or autographs/inscriptions that a collector does not have a preference for. Cosmetic efforts are seldom recommended. When they are executed, great care must be taken to ensure they don't do more harm than good.



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