

There is a note on the list indicating that these are approximate dates of manufacture and not necessarily dates of sale.

Bausch & Lomb

Serial Number	Year of Manufacture	Serial Number	Year of Manufacture	Serial Number	Year of Manufacture
1	1876	32000	1900	170000	1924
150	1877	33000	1901	175000	1924
350	1878	35000	1902	180000	1925
800	1879	40000	1903	185000	1926
1100	1880	45000	1904	190000	1926
1450	1881	52000	1905	195000	1927
1750	1882	57000	1906	200000	1928
2000	1883	63000	1907	205000	1929
2500	1884	69000	1907	215000	1929
3000	1885	76000	1909	225000	1930
3800	1886	82000	1910	230000	1931
4500	1887	86000	1911	235000	1932
5300	1888	89000	1912	240000	1934
6375	1889	95000	1913	244000	1935
7600	1890	98000	1914	247000	1935
9200	1891	104000	1915	250000	1936
10000	1892	110000	1916	260000	1937
11700	1893	120000	1917	270000	1938
13900	1894	129000	1918	280000	1939
17000	1895	135000	1919	290000	1940
20000	1896	140000	1920	300000	1940
25000	1897	148000	1921	310000	1941
28000	1898	155000	1922	320000	1942
30000	1899	160000	1923		

In 1941 it became a bit more complicated when B & L went from a numeric to a two letter designation. The first letter represented the year of manufacture and the second letter was the class designation. Class designation is the number used in the official B & L price list for roughly similar equipment. See the table below.

First Letter

Letter	Year	Letter	Year	Letter	Year	Letter	Year
A	1941	G	1963	N	1962	V	1944
B	1945	H	1959	P	1958	W	1948
C	1949	J	1955	R	1954	X	1952
D	1953	K	1951	S	1950	Y	1956
E	1957	L	1947	T	1946	Z	1960
F	1961	M	1943	U	1942		

Second Letter

Letter	Class	Letter	Class	Letter	Class	Letter	Class
A	51 & 53	G	61 & 91	P	31 & 33 - Objectives only (3/17/53)	W	61 & 91
B	31 & 33	H	71	R	41 & 42	Y	41 & 42
C	21	K	31 & 33	S	51 & 53	Z	51 & 53
D	31 & 33	L	31 & 33	T	61 & 91		
E	41 & 42	M	31 & 33 - Gratings only (1/2/53)	U	61 & 91		
F	51 & 53	N	31 & 33 - Micro	V	61 & 91		

Class Designation

21	??
31	Microscopes, microtomes, accessories
33	Colorimeters, refractometers, saccharimeters, spectrosopes, spectrometers
41	Balopticons (projectors)
42	Photomicrographic equipment, micro-projectors, accessories
51	Photographic lenses
53	??
61	Binoculars, spotting telescopes
71	??
81	Magnifiers
91	??