

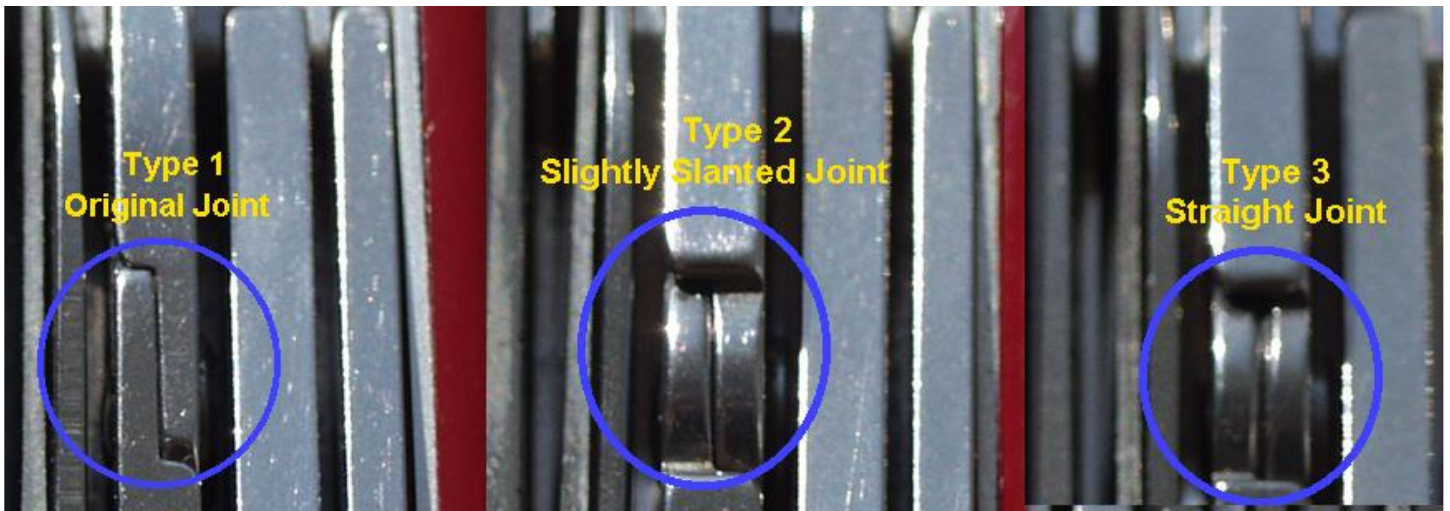
Evolution of the Victorinox Swiss Champ (7 Layer)

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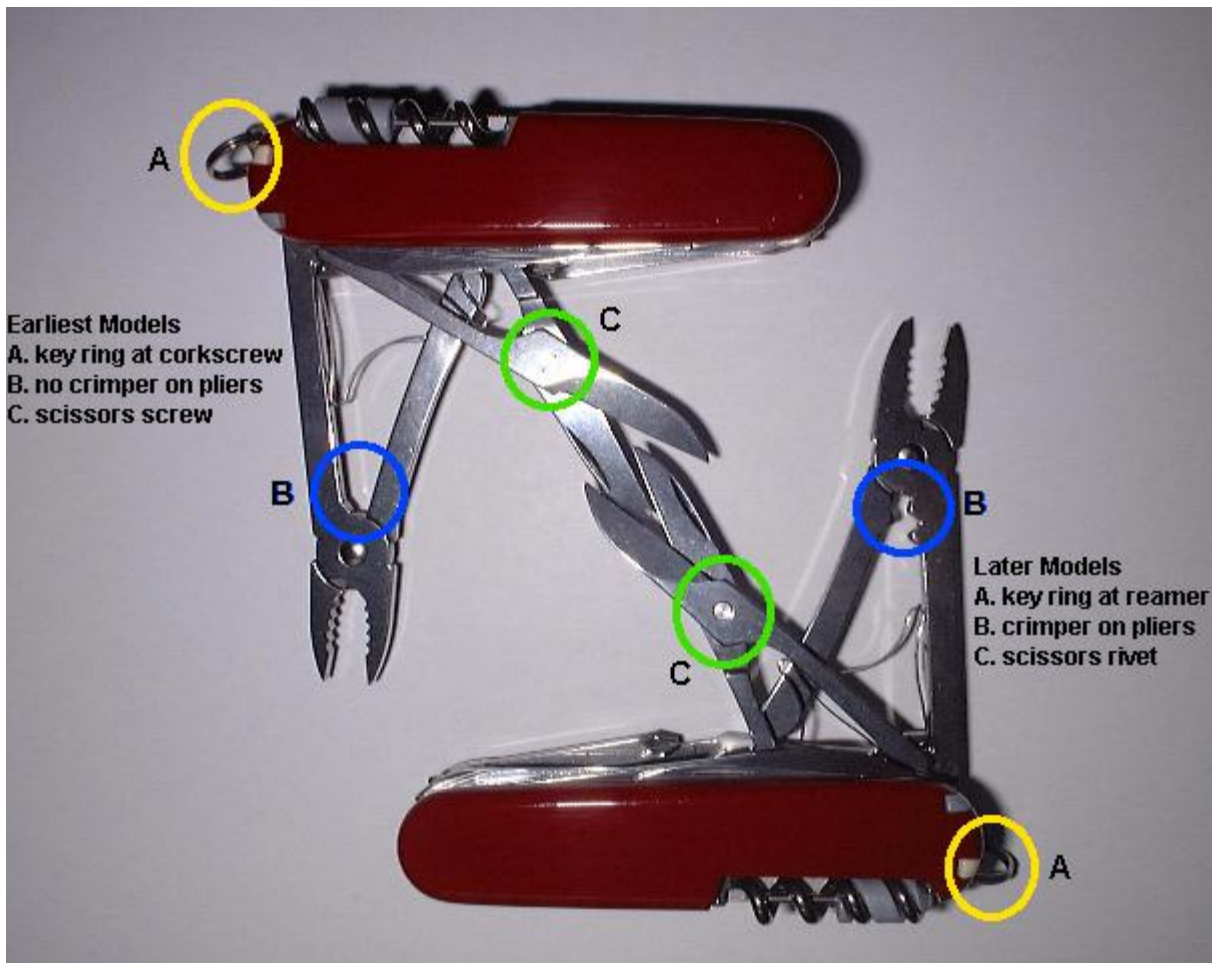
Pictured above are the Original 7 Layer Swiss Champs with the three styles of pliers' joints.

The photograph below pictures enlarged views showing the subtle variations in the joints.



There have been many changes over the years from the first Swiss Champs released to present. The most subtle change is the focus of the photographs above. Other changes are described in the following information representing what appear to be five major versions of the Swiss Champ.

However, there seem to be many sub-versions or variations during change-over periods. For example, presently there are a couple of "hybrids" on the market, one having the old tang variation and new magnifier and the other having the new tang variation and old magnifier. These came in the last shipment to a vendor well known among Swiss Army Knife circles, who ordered a re-supply of the Swiss Champ with "exotic" handles such as Stag, Buffalo Horn, Mother-Of-Pearl, Hardwood and Rosewood. So right now buying a Swiss Champ is "hit or miss" with particular features especially with the exotic scaled knives. More than likely any new red cellidor models purchased from a recent supply from Victorinox will have all new features including the newly designed file. However, with a little perseverance, new-old stock knives with pre 2005 features can still be found if that is what is desired.



The above photograph shows other notable changes in the Swiss Champ series.

Introduction:

1985 - 1986 // The Swiss Champ was announced to the various worldwide distributors such as Forschner Group, initial orders are accepted - production starts - the first Swiss Champs have 7 layer and 15 blades. The original has a scissors with a screw, grooved (fluted) corkscrew, narrow pliers without the crimper (2.5 mm vs. 3 mm), no hook, no pin and the key ring on the corkscrew side - the same knife as the Champion that was in production at that time including the then new reamer/awl with sewing eye, wood chisel and fine screwdriver - the Swiss Champ added the pliers and mini-screwdriver - the Swiss Champ is placed into the retail pipeline.

Variation 1:

1987 // The 1987 catalog shows the Swiss Champ - from the January 19, 1987 price list, Swiss Champs with red (5069), black (5070) and white (5071) scales at a retail cost of \$66.20.

Variation 2:

1988 - 1991 // 7 layer and 15 blades, scissors with a screw, grooved (fluted) corkscrew, pliers are "beefed up" to 3 mm - still without the crimper, no hook, no pin, key ring on the corkscrew side.

Variation 3:

1991 -1995 // 7 layer and 16 blades, scissors with a stud, plain corkscrew, pliers without the crimper, the pin and multi-purpose hook are introduced, key ring on the awl side.

Variation 4:

1995 - 2005 // 7 layer and 16 blades, scissors with a stud, plain corkscrew, pliers with crimper, pin, multi-purpose hook, key ring awl side.

Variation 5:

2005 To Present // 7 layer and 16 blades, scissors with a stud, plain corkscrew, pliers with crimper, pin, multi-purpose hook, key ring awl side, thinner tang, single row grooved metal file and clear sided plastic magnifier.