

Pilot-Cosmonaut Badge, 1st class, Type 2, circa 1980s.

Brass, enamels; measures 34.3 mm in height, 47.4 mm in width; weighs 13.4 g. Very nicely made. The numeral shield for the class is a separate superimposed piece attached by rivets. The reverse shows raised round mint mark of the Moscow Mint.

In excellent, near mint condition. The enamels are perfect. The gilt finish is nicely preserved and bright on both sides, shows only light patina without blemishes or oxidation spots.

The first class was the highest qualification level for Soviet cosmonauts. These wings were usually issued for completing no less than three space flights (after 1983, the requirement was raised to five completed missions). In some cases, a higher grade badge could be also awarded for completing especially difficult assignments in space or flights of exceptionally long duration.

/Avers 8, p. 457, fig. 2145 /.

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