

Soviet Merchant Fleet Sailor Hat Badge or Breast / Lapel Badge, Larger Version, circa 1940s - early 1950s.

Extremely well-made, in magnetic steel with nickel finish and high-quality "hot-baked" red enamel. Measures 32.3 mm in width; the flagpole is 29.5 mm tall.

Excellent condition. The enamel shows beautiful luster and has only a couple of minuscule surface flakes practically unnoticeable to the naked eye, no scratches, rubbing or other significant wear. The screw post is slightly over 7 mm long, full or near full length. Comes with original screw plate in nickel- and bronze-plated steel maker-marked "PRPK Stamping Factory".

Although designed as a lapel or breast badge, this piece was primarily worn on a visor hat, typically in combination with an embroidered wreath. It was reportedly used by Soviet merchant ship crewmen, especially those that were allowed to travel to foreign ports. The badge was to be worn on lapel by ununiformed crewmen onshore at all times so that they could be easily identified as Soviet citizens. Of course, the idea was to keep the sailors under close watch and make a defection more difficult!

Please note, the penny in our photo is for size reference.

Item# 38429

\$125.00





