

THE MAUSER MONTHLY  
The newsletter for fans of Mauser rifles - the REAL "Riflemen's Rifle!"  
Editor/Publisher - Ward M. Clark, Aurora, Colorado, USA

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Reader's comments

Ward, 2 items for the Maser Monthly:

1. What are accepted methods to do a speedlock conversion for a M 98 and/or U.S. M1903? How much improvement has been possible? If after market parts aren't around, I'd appreciate a source of instructions for the machine work. Looking for varmint hunting accuracy.

2. Recently bought a Steyr 1912 at Big 5. Caliber 7x57, most numbers match, condition probably VG but that's a subjective call. The metal is more VG+, nice surfaces quite a bit of blue, crisp corners and tempering colors on action parts. Wood is more like VG- with numerous dents and weathered color, though inlets are very clean cut and sharp cornered. Chilean crest and serial no. stamps are sharp. It even had an original, but near fossilized stiff, original sling and quick release loop. Shooting Hansen soft points or Venezuelan surplus FMJ gave 2 1/4" to 2 1/2" groups at 90 yds - quite acceptable using open sights off a Workmate bench. The zero was way high for close range, however. A nice rifle and I'm glad to have it. They also had refinished .308 conversions that looked OK but I rather have the original finish and caliber.

Best regards, Bob Sacher (rfsacher@class.org)

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Odds and Ends  
by: Leyteno@aol.com

Alas, I have left Michigan and those enterprising hand loaders Aimo and Delbert along with some of their hunting buddies. If they have the habit of mixing odd bits of leftover and unknown powders they also can mix up the best braised venison stew I have ever tasted. Left a little food for thought with them which may eliminate stories about them but may increase their life span, Seems I picked up a rather nice Oberndorf 94 carbine # 3xxx made in 1895 in rather nice shape and had headspace checked. Was told she was as tight as a new rifle which should have rang a few alarm bells as the bore, while quite serviceable, does not show signs of TLC. Gave the gunsmith his \$15.00 and left for PRDC (Peoples' Democratic Republic of California) the next day. Several weeks later my son and I went to the range with a bunch of rifles and a sack full of ammo. We started with the scoped 38/41 and had a helluva time getting on the paper at 100 yards. Found a loose screw on scope base and finally started printing 2 « in groups. Ironsighted 1942 Husqvarna printed a bit closer to 3" at 200 which rather surprised me. After 8 rounds or so my eyes were watering so badly that I lost

interest for a while  
and decided to pay back the doofus to my left who kept dinging me with hot cases  
from his  
Mini-14. Figured the carbine would wake him up. Went to load up and could not  
chamber a  
round. Tried chambering an empty and had to really put some muscle into it to close  
and reopen  
the bolt. When the empty was extracted, lo and behold, the first 1/4" of the case  
neck was neatly  
chamfered as if from a die. Very close examination of the chamber using a very  
powerful light  
showed  
what appeared to be an "O" ring in the free bore area just in front of the chamber.  
It appears to be  
a small ring from a case that apparently separated at the neck. If the round had  
chambered I think  
I might have had a problem on firing. This thing is going to a local gunsmith as  
soon as finances  
permit. Lesson: Always use your regular gunsmith and when something doesn't sound  
right... it  
ain't! Also found out that me Chileno M95 is really a Chileno M93 of which there  
were not too  
many. Shoots like a dream and seems to be zeroed at a bit over 300 yds. This I can't  
figure. It is  
also much milder in report and perceived recoil than the Swedes. Another guy at the  
range with  
the nicest 95 also was bang on at about 300 yds and was getting 3 « " groups at 2  
o'clock approx. 7" from point of aim. Wish those sights were windage adjustable!  
\*\*\*\*\*Subj: Contribution to June Mauser Monthly

Surprise Mauser  
by: mortalis@ix.netcom.com

My Pa is an estate auctioneer and he was recently retained to auction off the estate  
of a retired  
hardware store owner from our hometown. This fellow had owned the town hardware  
store  
when I was a kid, and myself, my father, and my grandfather had all purchased guns  
or ammo  
from him. Over the years, he had developed quite a gun collection and we had high  
hopes that the  
collection would be consigned to my Pa along with the other chattel. Unfortunately,  
such was not  
the case - one of the heirs elected to purchase the guns from the estate at 90% of  
appraised value.

At any rate, my Pa advised me that one of the guns in the collection was "some kind  
of old  
Mauser." Well, of course I was interested in at least knowing what it was, right?  
So I had my Pa  
deliver a message to the heir who purchased the collection that I might be  
interested in buying any  
of the old military weapons from the collection because of the sentimental value to  
me of owning  
one of this fellow's guns. The heir said that he would sell the Mauser because his  
father had  
bought two of them and he already had the other one.

It turned out that the Mauser was one of those Czech vz.24 rifles that was reworked  
by  
Yugoslavia post-WWII - designated M24/47. You can just barely see the remains of  
what was  
probably a Czech crest on the front receiver ring. It is all matching - 77XX, has a  
mirror bright

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bore, and a used but not a bit abused stock. The gun is a pre-68 import and was still cosmic'd up. The "Preduceze 44" (however that is spelled) is in Cyrillic rather than the English that I've also seen. I'm not too good at estimating percents of finish, but this gun would be easily classified as Very Good by SOG, Navy, or Century. All in all, its a good solid example of a rifle with an interesting history. I'm proud to have it as part of my collection even if I did have to give a little more (\$150) than its probably worth.

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Wooden it be nice...  
By: Leyteno@aol.com

Your surplus Mauser has just been unpacked and you are in the process of de-gunking it when you notice the absolutely beautiful grain pattern in the stock. You suddenly start spouting invective at the@#\$\$ &^%\$ who would permit such a lovely piece of walnut get so dinged and gouged up. Happens every time, doesn't it? Happily, many of the dents and nicks can be fixed with a minimum of filling. One of my Swedes, a 1942 M38/41 short rifle came w/perfect metal, bright shiny bore. Even the buttplate wasn't too scratched up. Underneath eleventeen layers of cosmo crud a nice grain pattern showed dimly through. After degreasing w/solvent and thoroughly scrubbing down w/Ajax liquid I found wood that would easily qualify as Extra-Fancy under pre-1960 standards. Dents, there were aplenty and alas, a few nicks and three really nasty abrasions. For the lesser dents, a brief session with a teakettle managed to remove them. For some of the major dings, I soaked a patch in degreaser and let it really soak in the wood, then steaming ; repeating the process until the dent was raised. Please note that if the wood has been chipped or gouged out, no amount of steaming will repair or restore .I was amazed at some blemishes that I thought were beyond removal. Plenty of steam and hot water will work wonders given time. I did notice that for the steaming to remove major dent, thorough degreasing is necessary. Also, I noticed that area that have been raised will slurp up the stain and leave you with a unwanted dark spot. The really bad ones I repair with filler, glue and the odd shaving taken from inside the action/bbl channel. I've had good luck with Formby's low gloss tung oil finish. Some stocks will have blemishes than probably should remain as a token of the rifles age, service, and durability. The tung oil gives a finish much superior to the old linspeed method with much less effort. For a really fine piece of wood I would, of course, finish w/600 grit and then "mud" the tung oil into the wood,

To continue on the cleaning up of really cruddy military wood: To remove the big chunks I use a small piece of square cut window glass to remove grease, cosmo crud etc. and then follow up

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with paint thinner or mineral spirits until the wood shows through. This is followed up with a real soaking in high octane wood alcohol until a clean rag doesn't show much crud. Then wrap the wood in paper towels while still damp from the alky, taking care to have the absorbent towels in close contact with the wood. Then wrap the lot up in old bath towels or sheets and place in the sun. If you have a cold frame in your yard for early tomatoes-great. The idea is to literally cook the grease out of the wood without overdoing it. Yes, you can use an electric oven with a WARM setting on the dial but keep an eye on it. My oven isn't big enough for much more than hand guards.

OK. The stock is degreased. Now fire up the teakettle and direct steam on dings dents and blemishes. If there is residual grease in the dents it will take a bit longer to raise them. For really stubborn dents, a wet rag and judicious use of a soldering iron will usually do the trick. Careful use of a cut piece of window glass will scrape away some scratches and will smooth out the stock surface considerably. Be cautious about removing too much wood, especially where the barrel bands fit. Swab down now and then with an old diaper wet with alcohol until the rag does not stain anymore. Using 0000 steel wool, and rubbing with the grain smooth out wood to your satisfaction. Suggest using garden gloves to keep oil from hands off naked wood. I have found water soluble stains more to my taste than oil but take your choice. I have had very good results with maple 60% and red Mahogany 40% mixed to bring out the figure in my Swedes, but to each his own. Wet stock thoroughly with water, pat dry and quickly apply the stain of your choice and put aside for a day or two to thoroughly dry. Of course you have just raised the grain again. Take 0000 steel wool and wet with tung oil and gently begin working oil into stock. A "mud" will start forming on the wood which is what you want. When satisfied with smoothness of wood and oil has dried up, hang the stock up for a day or so to thoroughly dry. It will look terrible. Again using steel wool and tung oil continue the process but this time gently wipe stock off with soft cloth and let dry. Keep this up, smoothing now and then with steel wool-gently until you have a beautiful sheen on your wood or become sick unto death from the smell of tung oil, The purpose of "mudding" is to fill all those#\$\$%^&\* pores in the wood w/o it being too obvious. Results will vary according to humidity and temperature. Your stock looks great but has retained the honorable wear and patina of a well kept weapon. This same technique works on new wood with considerably less effort. I wish I could remember the name of the chap who taught me this but it has been too many years. By the way, after a week or two of "curing" a couple of coats of hard wax will really put an elegant shine on the stock. I found a can of "Blue Coral" in

the garage and used that on a '95 carbine stock. Wow! Haven't heard much from Delbert and Aimo lately. Was told they are converting old Spanish Destroyer carbines to their new wildcat, the 346 Super Yewper Magnum. Will try to keep our reloader friends up to date on the progress of their efforts. Almost forgot something. If you want a really deep gloss on your wood, after mudding the stock and letting it dry, lightly go over it with 0000 steel wool -dry and burnish it with a rib bone (try to get most of the meat off first) This is very time consuming but can be done while watching TV in the house as no noxious chemicals are involved. When burnished to a high gloss, continue rubbing stock with tung oil. Just thought I'd pass along a hint or two for others to try. Electrical contact degreaser works like a charm on small grease filled spots and I love those spray cans. Happy shooting.  
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Publisher's comments  
by: Ward M. Clark (WClark@aol.com)

I'll start off by apologizing for the lateness of this issue... Work constraints, (not work on guns but rather the other work I do to pay for the guns!) family obligations and the purchase of a new 4X4 took up a lot of my time the last two weeks or so. Also, summer months are kind of lean on contributions. I would like to welcome back our regular contributor and friend Leyteno@aol.com, who has been out of touch moving the last few months. I look forward to more amusing stories of Aimo and Delberts' handloading exploits!

I must confess here that most of the shooting I have done in the last month has been non-Mausers (blush.) I've been working up loads for a 340 Savage .222 that I received as a gift some years back, which is a handy little coyote rifle, and function testing a WWII vintage Remington 11 I picked up as Father's Day gift for my Dad.

A promise for next month - A couple of weeks ago I came into a different sort of Mauser than the usual military surplus or military actioned sporters we usually discuss. My new Mauser is a Model 107, a Oberndorf-built .22LR sporter. The little .22 came with a military-style tangent sight calibrated out to 200 meters, and somewhat resembles the Aschutz sporters with the European styling. The action locks up very tight, I have it on good authority that the rifle is EXTREMELY accurate... I have mounted a 4-12X Bushnell scope and I will start range work next week. A shooting review will appear in the July issue.

Until then, keep the shooting stories and tech tips coming!

Good Shooting!

Ward