

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

The Swedish and Persian Mausers that I own have been well preserved by a light brown/tan preservative grease. The characteristics of this grease are:

- 1. Low odor level AND IS NOT COSMOLINE
- 2. Appears to be a wax and grease blend or a wax based grease. Reminds me a little of Sherwin Williams Flax Soap.
- 3. The stuff protected metal excellently.
- 4. Unlike other greases it does not soak into the stock. It is not absorbed by the wood so that it does not stain or saturate.

I would really like to know what this grease is and where I can get it. I would like to preserve my Mausers for another 100 years in mint condition. I am so impressed by this stuff (called ear wax grease by one guy) that I think all lovers of old rifles would want to have some.

Thanks in advance,
Maintainer of Mausers,
Ed Gilland (Ireload@aol.com)

As long as we're discussing the 7.62x51mm CETME cartridge, I'd like to know whether any of you fellows have ballistic specs (bullet weight and velocity) for some of the other military loadings for this chambering that produce reduced pressure and recoil. The Japanese, I understand, used a loading similar to the CETME known as 'Violet Tip' from its appearance for their 7.62x51mm Howa assault rifle, and there are supposed to be a number of subsonic loadings around for use with suppressed 7.62x51mm rifles.

So far I haven't found the particulars for any of the 'reduced' class, beyond the CETME data Kyrie gave me. "Assault Weapons" 4th ed. by Jack Lewis mentions the velocity of the Japanese 'Violet Tip' ammo, but not the bullet weight; there are several references to subsonic 7.62x51mm loadings in sniping contexts in Jane's Internal Security volumes, but usually the exact velocity isn't given.

Any ideas?
- Dave DeLaurant (dlaurant@sjvls.lib.ca.us)

Finally made it through all the back issues. I am a military rifle collector, world wide 1880 - 1950. Not much interested in shooting or rebuilding. I still find the newsletter interesting and informative. Serious

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collectors like me start to get the shakes when they hear about someone with an all matching rifle in original condition wanting to sporterize it, or drill and tap for a scope or bend the bolt. I am not talking about the current batch of K98 imports. Most of these are refinished and have mismatched parts. About the only thing they are good for is to be a filler for a code you are missing. If any of your readers are thing about changing an original rifle, PLEASE Email me. I will pay your gunsmithing and new parts cost (engraving, scopes and special stocks not included) and even throw in a similar barreled action. Look forward to the next issue. Al Castle (Maxeyglass@aol.com)

(Editor's note: You all know by now that I am fond of Mauser sporters, and have described several of my own in these pages. I will state here for the record that I have not, nor will I ever, cut up a decent original gun for a sporter - all mine have started off as disembodied actions or already modified shooters. Please, please, please, don't cut up an original - I like those, too...)

Several years ago I bought a mint (except for the crest!) Model 91 Argentine Mauser. I eventually took it to the range with some starting loads of 39 and 40 grains of AA 2495 and the Hornady 174 grain RN (dia. .312). I took another M91 so I could shoot both rifles. I started shooting the older rifle and the loads sooted the brass, they were so light. I then tried the new gun and it blew a primer on the 2nd shot with 39 grains. I tried 39 and 40 in the old gun again and they both sooted the brass again. The first 40 grain round in the new gun blew another primer. I suspected something unusual with the new gun since the old gun functioned ok. I know the ammo was not over loaded because I check the level of each charge with a flash light. (These were the first blown primers in 28 years of reloading. I do not hot rod Mausers) Upon examination of the new gun I found that I had neglected to remove the grease from the mainspring and interior of the bolt. The firing pin was noticeably slow. I removed most of the grease at the range and fired some other ammo loaded with H4895 without incident. During subsequent trips to the range I have fired up to 43 grains of AA 2495 in the new gun with no problem! I know this sounds like sloppy reloading but to possibly save an unreplaceable old Mauser I would recommend that the interior of the bolt be cleaned of grease before shooting. Ed Gilland (Ireload@aol.com)

A friend of mine found in her attic an old bayonet complete with leather scabbard in absolutely pristine condition. From what I can figure, it looks like it would fit only an Argentine 1909 Mauser. Do you know anything about them? My source book, Mauser Military Rifles of the World by Robert Ball, has a fair bit on them but nothing about the bayonet. Are 1909's readily

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available? I've heard they are pretty good shooters. Any info you have would be most appreciated!
Thanks,
Terry (tsmith@cet.com)

Ward, a must have "new" book (as far as I know) "Original Oberndorf Sporting Rifles" from Collector Grade Publications in Canada. Invaluable info, much apparently new to the general public about Paul Mauser and the factory in Oberndorf, Great stuff!

A "for what its worth" note. I picked up 5 K98k actions from a importer-distributor the other day. I asked for pre-1940 only, all were Israeli re-works all were 1937-1939 actions none matched to the bolts, but all the bolts matched to themselves, with correct firing pin protrusions, etc actions were used but no pitting, one action a 237 1939 code was the oldest recorded serial number for that year of production, based on Law's book "Backbone of the Wermacht". I'm sure someone will find one earlier. Sad to hear the Richard Law had passed away last September, his passion will be missed. Thanks for your continuing work on the newsletter, good shooting. Yours in accuracy and great engineering,
Arg09@aol.com

Gun show adventures
by: Ward M. Clark (WClark@aol.com)

Being fortunate enough to live in a metro area that has a gun show almost every weekend of the year has its advantages.

I've always enjoyed gun shows - I generally have a few orphans to sell, and frequently a couple of very nice completed sporters to sell or otherwise barter into whatever catches my eye at the moment - although an affordable 10 gauge repeater (Colorado has some great goose hunting) continues to elude me. I also have one advantage over many of the dealers present; Guns are not my bread and butter. I deflect a lot of questions about why I do not earn my living in the firearms industry... My stock response being, mostly, that if I did it for a living, it would become a job and stop being fun.

So the profit motive is not big with me. My wife and I sit at our table, passing the time of day with other shooters, making the odd deal or two, and swapping Mauser trivia (A few of you readers have stopped to chat at the Mauser Man's table!)

In the meantime, you can imagine I run into a lot of "Characters."

Last show a gentleman stopped briefly in front of my table to inform me that "All those Mausers ain't nothing but junk. I'll take my Winchester 70 any day." I couldn't resist asking him if he knew which

design his Winchester was based on. He didn't know. Didn't take too kindly to the answer...

Springfield '03 fans are always fun to talk to. Most of them recognize the Mauser pattern as the inspiration for the Springfield, and I've passed some time in friendly arguments over the merits of each... And I've had a Springfield or two on the table myself from time to time.

And I always seem to see an oddball or two along the way. Last weekend a Mauser Monthly reader showed me the first 1904 Mauser-Vergeiro sporter I'd ever happened across, for example. I was tempted by a M1910 Mexican action with a #2 contour barrel chambered in the .257 Ackley Improved. What an antelope rifle that would make! Didn't make up my mind in time, and the bearer of the Mex disappeared into the crowd.

Gun shows in many areas are now under fire (pun intended) by city and county governments who find guns and the shooting sports distasteful, and have restricted the show organizers to the point where it is impossible to do business. Thankfully Denver has not got to that point. Hopefully, "The Mauser Man" table will continue to be a fixture at the Denver shows for some time to come.

Publisher's comments
by: Ward M. Clark (WClark@aol.com)

Summer drags on, with the hunting season still hovering on the far horizon...

Recently a challenge to take a plains antelope (in Wyoming this year) with my peep-sighted '91 Argentine 7X57 mm sporter, developed into a small wager. I'll be squaring off against a hunting buddy with a Thompson-Center Renegade .54 caliber black-powder rifle, also peep-sighted. The wager involves who can make the first shot at 100 yards or less. A small sum of soft green folding money is at stake. I'll let you all know how it turn out - the excursion is scheduled for the last weekend in September. Personally I'll bet on a Mauser over any front-stuffer, any time.

The September bear season's approach has me warming up my .30-06 Mark X, also. No wagers involved in that hunt.

On that note - Any of you who are hunters - as the coming seasons develop, be sure to remember your fellow Mauser fans when you are adventuring afield with your Mausers. Hunting stories make great reading, and practical application is the best test of any rifle.

Also, if you have a new rifle, or a favorite rifle, or a funny story, tell us about it! The Monthly has done it's normal summer shrink - everyone is vacationing, and out on the range, and touring the gun shows. I'm sure there are a thousand good stories out there, and I hope to see the fall issues of this newsletter

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full of them!

Until next month -

Good shooting!

Ward