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Reader's comments

My computer loves the new RTF format, and so do I. It translates more easily and quickly and the page comes out looking better. Please stay with this new format.

BTW, I wrote last summer about a VZ-24 with a barrel extension and the dirtiest barrel I've ever come across. After I cleaned it daily for 2 weeks with Hoppe's, Sweet's, JB Bore Cleaner and anything else I could think of, I finally shot it and found that whatever rifling it once enjoyed had long since vanished and been replaced by layers of crud, in much the same way that minerals replace the original wood in petrified trees. It wouldn't even hold a group on paper at 50 yards, so I returned it for a refund. I believe, like Col. Townsend Whelen, that the only interesting rifle is an accurate rifle (like both of my Swedes).

I recently ordered one of the Yugoslav VZ-24s from Springfield Sporters and am looking forward to a shootable rifle that is also, by the Colonel's definition, "interesting."

Good shooting.

Joel Friedman
hoojy@aol.com

I recently came across a dandy M96 with a #1 barrel and outstanding figure in the stock. This little gem rivals commercial products I have seen listed as "fancy" grade stock wood. I have proceeded to refinish it following an article in Petersen's Rifle Shooter magazine. I deviated from the instructions slightly in that I chose not to apply any tinted stain: I used clear satin finish polyurethane and I have obtained excellent results. The article doesn't mention it, but I advise people to steam out as many of the dents as possible. I used a dampened cloth and the family steam iron set just hot enough to throw steam. This has worked very well and results in a smoother finished product. Of course this should be done before the application of the polyurethane.

The article recommends polishing the bolt, marking disk, etc. on a buffing wheel. Well I do not have access to one so I tried a metal polish I had recently heard about by the brand name of Flitz. This stuff is excellent! I got a heck of a shine on the bolt, buttplate, etc. I could scarcely believe my eyes. Just some Flitz, old T-shirt material and really only a modicum of elbow grease yielded a superb polish. At least where I live this Flitz is a bit difficult to come by and is expensive, but it works so well it is worth it to check around. I was able to find a small tube for about \$3.00. Some places only carry the larger \$8.00 tube. The small tube is sufficient for several guns because this stuff works so well. I am so impressed with this polish I had to share this with my fellow Mauser buddies.

Tight Groups,

Dan (yarnfly@aol.com)

That VZ-24 I recently wrote you about is finally cleaned of all the goop and gunk - a truly massive job. The metalwork is all beautiful - strong blue, strong rifling, even the barrel bands and swivels look good.

Only one concern: The safety does not want to go "on" unless I use the leverage of a pliers! Once in the "straight up" it will easily turn to the right and then back to "fire," but I can't move it off "fire" with just my fingers.

I tried replacing only the safety lever, then only the cocking piece, then finally only the bolt sleeve (using parts from my 98k's bolt). No difference with the new safety or cocking piece, but with the new bolt sleeve and all the other original parts....voila! the safety moved easily.

So.....is this a common problem and is there an easy solution (i.e. polishing something) ? Or do I have to order another bolt sleeve from Gun Parts or one of the other parts houses? And if I change bolt sleeves, will that change any other critical dimension?

I can't wait to shoot the thing (yes, I'll write you a review!!), but I don't want to take it out without a working safety. Any thoughts?

Joel Friedman
hoojy@aol.com

After looking at Southern Ohio Guns Nov flier, I decided to order a FN30 Mauser. These were listed as very good and I spent the extra \$10.00 for hand picked.

It arrived in about 2 1/2 weeks. With the mid Dec holiday rush on I figured this wasn't too bad.

Here is the result of the order. The gun was what I would consider poor condition. I checked, it did say hand picked on the order form. It honestly looked like a parts gun. The upper forearm piece was probably from another Mauser. It was cut down and was from another stock. The area around the rear sight had been recut and hadn't been done right. The action seemed to be good. The inside of the barrel looked ok. The front sight area looked like the two main tools the last armorer had were a screwdriver and hammer. The wood was rough to the touch and had lots of dent and dings.

It had the bottom half of the Greek crest on the receiver. It had either been ground or buffed and was fairly faint. The top half of the crest was not visible.

I had the gun sent back. There was no problems with SOG on the return. I was very pleased with the Enfield #4 mk1 I got from them last year and I am not complaining about SOG. I was just disappointed with the FN30.

I have one of the 7mm Argentine Mausers they have advertised on the way to replace it. I still think this is a Brazilian Mauser from the crest they show in the advertisement and we will hopefully get it shortly.

William B Boyle (ronin@ksu.edu)

(Editor's Note - I called SOG on this issue some time ago - the Mausers they are advertising as 1908 Argentines are in fact 1908 Brazilians - and SOG inexplicably has not corrected their ad copy six months later. Go figure. - Ward)

Gentlemen,

I found the following on the Gun Parts Corp. home page at: www.gunpartscorp.com under "Specials". Please note that these are not for, and will not fit, standard C96's or Bolos. I've ordered one each and would normally wait until they had come in to report on them, but I don't know that these will wait that long.

Kyrie

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M96 MAUSER COMPLETE UPPERS

(For Detachable Magazine Models): Beautiful, clean, rebarreled, reconditioned and reblued Mauser 712 (Schnellfeuer) complete uppers in 9MM Caliber. These beauties feature a chrome lined bore for years of trouble free shooting. If you own a 712 or the rare 1930 model with detachable magazine, referred to as the 711, you can easily convert either one to 9MM with one of these fine uppers, The entire unit is complete which includes bolt assembly and rear sight assembly which graduates from 50-1000 meters. These are some of the nicest specimens we've seen and quantities are limited so don't wait until it's too late.

#FP \$202.45

Also available. MAUSER MODEL 712 MAGAZINES

(Schnellfeuer): These relatively rare 7.63 Cal. magazines were sold to us as original 10 & 20 round 712 magazines. They appear to be new and are far sturdier than most reproductions. Aside from the 712 model they can also be used on the removable magazine model 1930 (unofficially referred to as the 711). Quantities are limited and they are sure to go fast. Specify 10 or 20 round, when ordering.

#FP - 10 round \$61.65

#FP - 20 round \$67.45

[Kyrieellis@aol.com](mailto:Kyrieellis@aol.com)

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**The Mauser-Vergueiro - A Mauser Hybrid**

*Forwarded By: Lee Scroggins (goobr2@ptd.net)*

I have attached a forwarded letter from Dave Tomlinson of Canadian NFA re the Portuguese Mauser Bolt assembly.

Thought it might be of interest to the list.

Lee Scroggins (goobr2@ptd.net)

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From: "David A. Tomlinson, NFA"

Subject: &%!!&*+?!\$#!!! Portuguese!?

THE MAUSER-VERGUEIRO RIFLE:

In 1904, the Portuguese army adopted a new, 6.5mm rifle -- the Mauser-Vergueiro. My first introduction to this rather nice rifle was traumatic. A friend brought me a Mauser-Vergueiro bolt -- in pieces. He had found it easy to take apart -- and impossible to reassemble. At first, the problem seemed simple. It was obvious how the parts went together -- but I soon learned that it was VERY difficult to put them together so they would STAY together. I eventually did it -- but I had to make several small tools to do it.

At first glance, this rifle looks much like a standard German Mauser 1898 of WW II length -- but then you notice that it has several unfamiliar features. First, it has a blade front sight, protected by heavy "ears" on

each side. The rear sight is a square "U" shape -- MUCH nicer than the Mauser. The bolt handle is at the midpoint of the bolt -- like a Mannlicher -- rather than at the rear end, like a Mauser. The safety, ejector -- and removal of the bolt by swinging the ejector housing outward -- are all identical to the Mauser.

The magazine floorplate is hinged like a good sporter, with the release lever actuated by a lever from inside the trigger guard.

Pull out the ejector housing, and remove the bolt. It cocks on opening, just like a Mauser -- and has two heavy locking lugs at the front end of the bolt -- but that's the end of the resemblances. The bolt head is detachable, and has two "false lugs" that are not used for locking -- like a Mannlicher. The left hand one is slotted for the ejector (as is the "true lug" on the bolt body behind it), and the right one is very small and seems to have no obvious function. The extractor is a large, spring-steel claw mounted on the bolt head -- with a "stem" that disappears into the bolt body.

Disassembly and reassembly are not particularly difficult -- and require NO tools other than a tabletop or something similar for steps 7 and 8 of reassembly -- BUT they are very difficult to do if you do not know the steps -- because all of the connecting and disconnecting is going on inside the bolt and COMPLETELY OUT OF SIGHT. Things connect and disconnect -- BUT YOU CANNOT SEE HOW.

BOLT DISASSEMBLY:

1. Take the bolt out of the rifle with the safety in the "OFF" position. (You cannot take it out with the safety in the "ON" position like a Mauser.) The slotted lugs -- one on the bolt body and one on the bolt head -- are aligned with each other.
2. Hook your trigger finger around the safety to control forward movement under HEAVY spring pressure, and rotate the bolt knob 90 degrees to the left, to UNCOCK it. It will move forward about 3/8"/10mm. The bolt head will rotate 90 degrees with it, and the bolt head stops pointing AWAY from the bolt handle.
3. Rotate the bolt head 90 degrees MORE, lining the slotted lug up with the unslotted lug on the bolt body. That movement disconnects the firing pin from the bolt knob. Pull the bolt knob off. The safety comes with it, is loose, and can easily be removed -- or fall off and be LOST. Be CAREFUL!
4. Prepare to hold the bolt head IN against very strong spring pressure. Rotate it BACK 180 degrees, to align the two slotted lugs again. Then rotate it BACK a FURTHER 90 degrees. As the slotted lug comes to the position where it lines up with the bolt handle, the bolt head will come out -- bringing the firing pin and firing pin spring with it -- at high speed, if you are not ready for it!
5. Pull the bolt head off the firing pin, and the firing pin and its spring out of the bolt body. Note the "key" on the firing pin flat -- it will only mate with the bolt head in ONE way. Remove the spring from the firing pin. Bolt disassembly is now complete.

BOLT REASSEMBLY:

1. Insert the firing pin into the firing pin spring, and into the bolt head. The firing pin will only go into the bolt head one way, so no error is possible.
2. Insert the assembly into the bolt body, and line up the slotted lug with the bolt handle. Compress the spring to insert the bolt head all the way into the bolt body.
3. Rotate the bolt head 90 degrees to line up the bolt head and bolt body slotted lugs, then rotate it a FURTHER 180 degrees to line up with the UNSLOTTED lug.
4. Rotate the safety to the "OFF" position, and push the bolt knob back onto the rear end of the bolt, and hold it in that position.

5. Rotate the bolt head 90 degrees so its slotted lug is pointing AWAY from the bolt handle. Now comes the tricky bit!
6. Grasp the bolt head in your LEFT hand, and the bolt knob in your RIGHT hand, with the bolt handle pointing DOWN.
7. Go to the table, and move your WRISTS so that the bolt handle is sticking out to your FRONT. Hook the bolt knob on the edge of the table.
8. In this step, the bolt knob will be sliding up a steep ramp toward becoming cocked, so considerable force is required. PREVENTING the bolt body from rotating by holding the bolt knob in its position on the table, rotate BOTH the bolt head and bolt knob 90 degrees by moving your wrists toward the table. SNAP!
9. The bolt is now cocked -- with the slotted lugs lined up with each other -- and ready to reinsert into the rifle.

The Mauser-Vergueiro lacks the Mauser 98's sophisticated handling of gas from a blown cartridge case. Gas is vented from the left side of the receiver through a small hole in the locking lug area. The two bolt lugs are backed up by the bolt handle locking against a vertical wall that is part of the action -- the bolt can only back up minutely before coming up against this massive lug, which is reinforced by a long lug running forward from the bolt handle.

Unlike Mauser 98s, Mauser-Vergueiros are usually found with all-matching serial numbers. Many have been imported into Canada -- some in the original 6.5mm calibre, some converted to 8X57mmJS (German 1898-1945 service cartridge).

Mine is marked "ESPIGUARDA PORTUGUEZA 6.5 MOD. 1904" on the top line and "DEUTSCHE WAFEN- UND MUNITIONSFABRIKEN BERLIN" on the bottom line on the left side of the receiver. It has the royal cipher, a "C" and an "I" interlaced below a crown, on top of the receiver. That indicates Carlos I, king until 1908, so my 8X57mmJS rifle was made between 1904 and 1908.

Dave Tomlinson, NFA

Aimo and Delbert Update: The .223/.50

By: *Leyteno@aol.com*

Some time ago someone inquired about some "brown stuff like wax" which had been slathered on a rifle he had bought. He said that it cleaned up w/o all the labor required of Cosmocrap. I think I know what it is. Found a bottle of Herter's PROTEGER in some of my dad's stuff and used it to protect my 94 carbine. Was a bit too liberal with the stuff, I guess since it pretty well fits the statement of the other fellow, on what is left of the label it states that the stuff far exceeds the Milspecs of the Belgian, Norwegian etc governments. This bottle has to date from about 1964. I think Herter's is long out of business so perhaps we'll have to find another source. This stuff IS good so I will put out some feelers here and there.

Aimo and Delbert send you their best and asked me to get your opinion on their latest Wildcat load. Aimo's uncle has an old Boyes' AT rifle dating from the late 1930's and has had it rebarreled with a HB stainless 32" bbl in .223. The bbl is from a solid billet of SS and is 1 3/4" o.d. They reamed out the chamber for 50 BMG necked down to .223. Powder weight was easy-they figured that if the powder in the case was good enough to push a 750 gr slug downrange at 2770 it ought to do just as well for the 55 gr pill.

There have been a few problems with the accuracy testing and results are unclear. At 50 yds each round produces a ragged 2" hole and at 100 yds there is only a light grey dusting with occasional flakes of copper on the paper. Velocity is hard to ascertain as the machine pops off the scale every time. Muzzle blast is interesting but the boys have never believed in ear protection and claim it hardly bothers them. They haven't come up with a name for the load yet-although the neighbors have. Some of them quite colorful.

They figure it might be a good varmint round at 50 feet or so. They tried it out on a Peterbilt Pressed Possum that Delbert found near the truck stop. Aimo's wife said that there was a godawful bang and bits of fur and less savory items raining down on her newly washed clothes. I had to get on home then as she had them re doing the wash. They would really like some feedback to find out if the rifle and round would be popular enough to market. Since it takes a while to neck down the cases to 223 they figure that ammo would be somewhere about US\$ 11.00/rd.

I'm off to the local for a few. Every time I visit with these guys I develop a terrible thirst.

Leyteno@aol.com

The Saga Continues - More Info on Pre-98 Strength

By: *Mats Persson* (m95perm@mtek.chalmers.se)

I have read the articles about the strength of Mauser actions, and though I have no personal opinion I have some observations.

I read Mr. Ellis very informative article about the strength of Mauser actions.

I have no experience of Swedish Mausers in any other calibre than 6,5x55.

I can not see any reason why anybody would like to rebarrel a Swedish Mauser to any other calibre than 6,5x55, and I am not saying that one should do so, nor that it is safe.

But still.....

1. Between 1927 and 1945 Husqvarna made hunting rifles in 6,5x55, 9,3x57 and 9,3x62 (most of them in 9,3x57 and just a few in 9,3x62) using the m/94 action. After WWII they used the m/38 action for rifles in 6,5x55 , 8x57JS and 9,3x62.
2. Some ten years ago a Swedish company "Stiga Vapen" sold quite a few reworked m/96 rifles in 30-06. And five years later another company "Varnamo Vapen" sold m/96 rifles reworked to 308W.
3. Since the early sixties the Swedish Army have used the G6 (6,5x55) and G7 (308W) target rifles, both built on m/94 or m/96 actions. They mostly used civilian ammunition (Norma) for these rifles. The civilian name of this rifle is CG 63, and even if the 6,5x55 was much more popular the 308W was also available.
4. According to a friend of my brother who recently visited Norma, Norma uses m/96 actions for the test firing of all kind of ammunition that will fit in a m/96 action.

Regards (and a Happy New Year)

Mats Persson (m95perm@mtek.chalmers.se)

Publisher's Comments

By: *Ward M. Clark* (wclark1046@aol.com)

The holidays are always busy, aren't they? I really, really intended to get this issue out on New Year's Day, but as a friend of mine says, "Man plans and God laughs." Anyway, I hope everybody had a joyous holiday season.

My thanks to everyone who contributed this issue! Some great subjects this month. I examined a Mauser-Vergueiro a few months ago at a show, which had been rebarreled to a .308 Win (so stamped on the chamber) and fitted with an attractive walnut stock. Nice rifle, although I'm not sure about the strength of this action - being ignorant of pressure capacity would make me leery of firing it with .308 Win factory rounds.

Interesting that the pre-98 pressure issue keeps surfacing... This has been a hot topic lately on America On Line's Gun Talk "Mausers" folder and the rec.guns newsgroup. So far the majority of opinions (although by no means all) are counseling prudence; that is, don't rebarrel for anything of higher pressure than the original. Good advice at all times, not just for Mausers.

The search for a new Clark homestead proceeds - agricultural land where you can place a 200-yard rifle range is getting scarce, even 40 miles east of metro Denver. Oh, the sacrifices we make for our shooting... I COULD join a gun club, but the drive to the club would cut into my shooting time. Not having to make the drive to a range should enable me to get another 40-50 rounds off, taking me closer to my goal of being the Best Rifle Shot in the Rocky Mountain West.

A final note: Next month marks the beginning of the third year of the Mauser Monthly! Personally I'm very pleased - two years ago when I placed an exploratory blurb in rec.guns to see if there would be any interest at all in a Mauser newsletter, I got a rush of responses - and new subscribers keep coming on board, a bit over 400 now. I'm glad everyone is enjoying the Monthly! Starting next month, I'll be using a different file name convention - where previously the electronic file name has listed the Edition first and the Volume second, as in "Ed12Vol12" I will now list the Volume first, as in "Vol12Ed12." This do to a suggestion that it would ease file retrieval to have the files listed chronologically - my original format didn't work out that way.

Until next month - Good Shooting!

Ward