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Reader's comments

I have been read a number of posts lately stating that Fajen stockworks is going out of business. If so, it would be a shame.

Lee Scroggins (goobr2@ptd.net)

(Editor's note – To say the least! Anyone got any info on this?)

(In response to Joe's question regarding Spanish Mausers, last issue – Ward)

Hi Joe,

Spanish Mausers have gotten something of a bad rap, mostly undeservedly so. In general, Spanish steel tends to be somewhat softer than the steel used by the German and Czech arms makers. This is either a mixed curse or a mixed blessing, depending on one's point of view. The softer Spanish steel means the actions will have a somewhat lower yield strength than a similar German or Czech action, and will have a somewhat shorter useful life. On the other hand, they will have a somewhat higher ultimate strength and be somewhat less likely to fail ultimately than would a German or Czech action if fired with a defective or grossly over loaded cartridge.

Spanish firearms tend to more commonly have problems with inadequate surface hardness than do German or Czech firearms. In practical terms, this means we must pay special attention to the sear, cocking piece, safety, bolt shroud, and locking lugs.

I suggest you treat your M43 Spanish Mauser like any other military surplus Mauser. Have it checked over by a gunsmith who knows Mausers and if he gives it a clean bill of health by all means shoot it.

Military surplus ammunition is a different, albeit related, subject. Governments are not charitable organizations -they seldom dispose of recent manufacture, high quality ammunition. Most ammunition sold on the surplus market has been sold because it was condemned as over-age, unreliable, damaged, or non-specification. While it is possible to find good deals on perfectly serviceable military surplus ammunition, it is also possible to find milsurp ammunition offered for sale that is unserviceable and even down right dangerous. My best advice is to treat milsurp ammunition with same care one treats milsurp firearms. Know its origin, inspect it carefully, and use it only after determining it is safe to do so.

Hope this helps.

Best regards,
Kyrie (Kyrieellis@aol.com)

Mauser shooters/fans/reloaders/etc. might be interested in this site - Tad Marko has some good stuff on the Swede Mausers, but is seeking info, esp. for reloading, on 7x57 and 8x57as well as 260 Remington and other rifle and pistol rounds.

The site's server has changed its name, and the new URL is <http://dusaria.com/tad/shooting.html>. All are invited to visit.

Carl Anderson (candersox@aol.com)

Hi Ward,
Recently I notice a company by the name Sporting Arms manufacturing sporterized Mauser rifle based on 98 action and in 6.5x55 caliber. I would like to know if any of our club member has any experience with this particular rifle and manufacturer. Thanks.
Howard Nguyen (howard.k.nguyen1@jsc.nasa.gov)

Ward,
I'm looking for a cleaning rod for a GEW 98 Mauser (DWM 1909) that I recently bought.. I've been told that its 15 9/16 inches long. Would you post this in your next edition of the Mauser Monthly.
Thanks.
Steve (shohen@aol.com)

I have a few things that might be of interest at my <http://arizona.rifleshooting.com/> page.
Thanks,
Bill Poole (bill@poole.com)

The Further Handloading Adventures of Aimo and Delbert

By: Leyteno@aol.com

In the Sept issue I noted that Sarco is selling them (M94 Swede barrels) again, albeit at twice what I paid for them 3 years ago. I think I sent an article about a year or so ago with the measurements of the bbl contours and my suspicion that they were cut down rifle bbls. I recently had to have my 94 rebarreled due to a case neck literally brazed in the chamber throat of the original bbl. It upset me a bit as the bbl was otherwise in excellent condition and was a 1895 Mauserwerke #3xxx. I paid a Salinas gunsmith \$100 for installation including removing and reinstalling the sights, and polishing and bluing. Headspacing was of course done. A little steep but I have no facilities to do it myself. The bbls that I got were 2x 23.4 for short rifle and 2x17.45 for M94. All were in the white and highly finished except for a few "rub marks" that came out with a touch of rouge. They were coated inside and out with a waxy preservative and could have been decrudded and blued as is. I had a little shipping problem with SARCO in that 2 of the bbls were not shipped although invoiced. They took my word for it that the order was only half filled and shipped me the other two. Needless to say I was very pleased with their conduct as opposed to some other junk vendors we could all name.

Concerning Aimo and Delbert's latest project -a .308 Mag conversion in a 1916 Spanish. Aimo doesn't write much English but from what I gathered "Wenn tree finga Del he get out of hospital we try do another test .First gun not shoot good any more cas bolt losing bumps in front." I think something is wrong with the locking lugs but am not quite sure what he is getting at. Never heard Delbert called tree finga before-usually it was just Del or DumbDel.

Seriously, I have a friend who has a plain grade Cogswell & Harrison double rifle in .470 (about 3".) I'd like to get it but don't have any idea of its fair value. It comes with a case, which is pretty rough. The piece itself is about 80% overall.

I am no ballistician but I take exception with those who would rechamber pre-98's with modern cartridges. Assuming that the piece itself will handle the pressures is risky but possible. Gas vents and lug /extractor designs bother me. What happens if one of those hot mamas pops a primer? I think the shooter is gonna have a major gas problem that Bean-o won't solve. I feel that my 7x57 will do all that a .308 will do with a lot less fuss and feathers and pressure. If that deer is 50 yds past a clean kill then it walks and I have canned stew for chow. I think a .308 is a cartridge about equal to the 7x57 with a lot more noise and felt recoil-not to mention an extra 8to 10kpsi. I prefer the 30-06 if my 7 won't do the job. I think my 6.5x55 will take deer at 250 cleanly although many of the Magnum enthusiasts disagree. Having fired a few of those Magnums-albeit on the range only-I cannot attest to the claim that you never notice it in the field. Perhaps so, but I sure as hell noticed it the next couple of days both in my right shoulder and both ears.<

Anyway when Delbert is all healed up he says he's going right back to the science of ballistics. Some of think he might do well to go back to 8th grade science. Gotta hand it to the guy, though, for being game. Here he is minus two fingers and sporting what looks like New Guinea tribal tattoo patterns on his face and is hot to get back to his 264 Super Youper Magnum. He got hold of some .470x3 1/4 Nitro brass (at 5.25 a pop!) which he is necking down to 6.5mm. He will stick with the 90 grs of Cordite load usually associated with the standard 470 load. "Don't want to overdo it", he says. I guess he has learned a bit since his accident-which he blames on cheap furrin made steel. He reckons to get 4000fps from the load although Aimo has his doubts. Delbert isn't too happy about the cordite as he says "How in hell can you measure this black spaghetti in a teaspoon?" His nephew borrowed his scales to use in his "herbal medicine" business." Aimo says the kid was always pretty useless but seems to be doing good in business selling smelly plants in little plastic bags for lots of money. Aimo says "The little bastard was pretty stupid but I guess his customers are even dumber. Kid has people driving up all day and night just to buy these herbs. Got him a new F250 the other day and I'm still stuck with my 79 Chevy. Just ain't fair". Course I Goth stuff must be OK cause I swiped some and made tea for my mother-in-law who has the rheumatism so bad. Said it tasted like weasel pee but was feeling right frisky for most of the day. The old bat was actually giggling. Haven't seen that since I fell in the septic tank back in 1974.

The Spanish Mauser been giving Aimo a hard time. Recoil pretty bad he says and the scope didn't cost all that much but he is annoyed that the objective lens has popped out on firing twice now. \$29.95 ain't gonna get you a Kahles but for a Famous Name Brand to be so fragile with a little recoil and muzzle blast makes you wonder. Last time I buy a Bill Clinton scope-famous name brand or not, it is a piece of junk. Delbert took the old Lancaster double rifle he inherited and sawed the barrels off to 18 inches so he could carry it on the tractor. Has a bunch of ..577 cases that he just fills up with Fffg powder seats a big old lead slug in it. He got a coyote last month on the lower meadow-or maybe it was a 'coon, or a possum. Kinda hard to tell from what was left. Sure makes a racket. Thing is a bear to clean so Aimo shopped around for some cheap smokeless and found a couple of big cans of 2400. He reckons he ought to get 2400 fps out of the old double rifle with about 2 teaspoons of the stuff and a light 500 gr lead slug. With Delbert out of commission, the neighborhood has been kinda quiet but I'm sure he'll be back at work soon. Aimo's eldest boy(a little slow) has made himself a mortar out of some old drain pipe and has been terrorizing the hog pasture, lobbing in sand filled beer cans Aimo's had to buy two young pigs already that suffered direct hits and has been threatened by several neighbors with violence unless he curbs that kid. Hey we think we got trouble with our kids! More about "Tree finga Del" when he gets home, You bet, eh??

Converting a Siamese Mauser

Submitted by Ed Gilland (ireload@aol.com)

First give your action a good once over with a critical eye. The action I used was picked from 4 rifles. It from a very good condition rifle but it had a slightly pitted bolt face. Most of the SMs that I have examined had a somewhat loose extractor to bolt fit. The extractor on mine was a snug fit typical of 98 Mausers. When viewed from the side when cocked, the cocking piece was wedged upward at a slight angle due to the clearances between the firing pin and cocking piece. Check yours for this. If you find it objectionable make a replacement firing pin out of drill rod. I threaded a stub and faced the flange off of the front of the receiver ring. Since the old lathe that I was using did not have a steady rest small enough to use on the bolt I cut the bolt knob off and opened the bolt face up to about .008 or .010 larger than .45/70 brass. I also made a skim cut on the bolt face to remove the shallow pitting. I would recommend a steady rest if you have one that will work on a bolt because it will insure the bolt face stays square to the bolt centerline. It took me a while in a 4 jaw to get mine straight with no runout. After cutting the bolt face a little of the bolt face rim opposite the extractor had to be trimmed because it extended a bit too far under the case rim. I removed that material with a 1/4 square India stone. You might wait on the India stone until you get the barrel fitted. I stoned a few internal edges also. I found that a Redfield one piece base would fit if I trimmed the stripper clip hump down a little. Since the SM has an unusual contour on the receiver bridge I trimmed the hump down as little as possible and then radiused the front edge to make it look a little nicer (to me at least). Then I drilled and tapped it on a Bridgeport. Make sure you drill it far enough forward so the rear hole does not cut the locking surface. The dust cover ribs on the outside of the receiver were carefully removed with a file and were contoured flush to the rest of the receiver profile. I deburred everything and since the safety fit was a little loose like the firing pin fit I found a Hitler made safety and installed it. I took it to a gunsmith and had the barrel installed since I did not have a reamer. You might take a close look at the profile of the receiver threads. They probably don't look like any threads you have ever seen. I don't care for the SM threads but the gunsmith just cut a good snug 60 degree 14 tpi barrel shank and fitted it to the receiver. The Siamese requires an extractor slot cut in the rear face of the barrel. This is due to the need to headspace the case rim on the barrel face. The slot edges and corners need to be broken to prevent the case mouth from hanging up and causing feeding problems. Also the edge of the chamber needs about a .015 to .020 radius to prevent feeding problems. I told the gunsmith to let me work on the feed rails. Initially the rails were too narrow at the front of the receiver. I opened the slightly about .010 per side I guess and it acted like it was going to feed but the cases hung up on the extractor. I worked the extractor back with a Dremel tool (careful). Cut very little and try the feeding out. You may have to remove a little on the extractor and then a little more on the feed rails. Some bullet lengths and profiles fed better than others did but it eventually fed about 90% of the time. I broke the SM follower spring trying to bend it to keep the rounds from level. One end was popping out or they were nose-diving. I put a 03-A3 follower spring in it and eventually bent it enough to make it work. At the time I did this work Remington cases had nearly a full radius on the rim edge and cases would fall out of the bolt face. This was because the large edge radius of the rim was not gripped by the bolt face opposite the extractor. (the support lugs opposite the extractor are shallower due to the need to the rimmed cases headspacing method). WW cases worked fine.

I put it in a Fajen stock and shot it some with the stubby bolt handle. The original throat was not as smooth as I liked so I took it to a different gunsmith who cut it a little deeper. (It is easy to get chatter cutting a 6-groove barrel with a 6 flute chambering reamer.) I also had the 2nd gunsmith weld on a new bolt handle. I shot it this way a while but the thing strung out shots on a 45 degree diagonal. Because of that and fear of breaking the stock I epoxy bedded the recoil lug and the rear 2 inches of the barrel. It shot nice round groups after that. Accuracy ran about 1.5 to 2 inches when I didn't flinch.

Publisher's Comments

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

As I write these words, I've got 5 days and a wake-up to wait until elk season – and there is a 6X6 out there with my name on it!

My thanks to Leyteno and Ed Gilland for the contributions for this month's issue. I always get a kick out of the exploits of Aimo and Delbert – I think there's a couple of guys like that in every community. The Siamese Mauser info was enlightening as well – on e day I'm going to find a deal I can't resist on one of these conversions. I think a .45-70 would be a great addition to the rack.

Negotiations are underway right now on a 80% original finish Model 71 rifle – I wonder if cases are still available for the old 11mm Mauser cartridge.

This month I finally test fired the kar98 mystery rifle I described some time ago. Recoil with the steel buttplate was uncomfortable but controllable – actually a bit more felt recoil than Thunder Speaker, it's amazing how a muzzle porting job and the right stock can tame that .338 Mag.

The new toy shot well, however – 3" 100 yard groups with factory Sellior & Bellot ammo. A set of loading dies are on order, and we'll see then what the old girl can do, once I duplicate the original German load. A full report will of course appear on these pages.

Keep the shooting stories and tips coming, everyone, and good luck to everyone going afield after deer, elk, and other game this season!

Until next month -

Good Shooting!

- Ward