

Mauser Pocket Pistols of the 1910 design

Mauser pocket pistols are a scaled down version of an earlier design prototype. Between 1907 and 1909 a prototype in 9mm was introduced. This early pistol, very similar to the 6.35mm 'Sidelatch', was not commercially successful and production was short run. The first 6.35mm pistol, the 'Sidelatch', was introduced in 1910 and was very successful. 61,000 were produced during the first 3 years. Mauser continued to experiment with the design in larger calibers. Another 9mm prototype known as the model 1912/14 was produced but again the production was a short run. The prototype in 7.65mm was successful and the early version is known as the 'Humpback'. Improvements in the design and methods of manufacturing discovered between 1910 and 1913 were applied to the 6.35mm pistols. In 1914 the 7.65mm and the revised 6.35mm were introduced and production continued till 1940 when the introduction of the Hammer Self Cocking 'HSC' model and WWII ended manufacturing of the design. Close to a million 6.35mm and 7.65mm pistols were produced so even in today's market some variations are common, some are rare and some are very rare.

Model variations of 6.35mm and 7.65mm Mauser Pocket Pistols of the 1910 design

Because Mauser did not officially designate model names for these pistols they are commonly referred to as 1910 model Mausers regardless of caliber. Authors, researchers and collectors further derived model designations based on the earliest year of significant change in appearance. The initial derived model designations were 1914 model for pistols in .32 cal and 1934 model for the re-designed curved back grip. When Roy G. Pender III, in 1971 published *Mauser Pocket Pistols 1910-1946*, it was necessary to derive new name designations to describe the variations he encountered. These derived model designations could be endless if one were determined for every use marking, time period or unique feature. I have found the following designations, which include a date and serial number ranges along with a description of features to be sufficient for general identification.

6.35mm models



1910 Sidelatch, Manufactured from 1910 to 1913, serial number range 1-61000 (latch in side plate earliest had a smaller diameter safety release, 2 address styles)



1910/14 transitional, Manufactured from 1914 to 1921, serial number range 61000-221800 (no latch in side plate, 9 slide serrations)



1910/14, Manufactured from 1921 to 1928, serial number range 221800-345000 (7 slide serrations) The 1910/14 is the most commonly found model.



1910/34 transitional, Manufactured from 1928 to 1936, serial number range 345000-403300 (Mauser Werke address, straight grip, finish: cold blue w/small parts nitrate blue or hot dip)



1910/34, Manufactured from 1936 to 1941, serial number range 403300-429000 (curved grip, all except slide serial number concealed, later have slide serial number in slot)

7.65mm models



Humpback, Manufactured from 1912 to 1913, serial number range 1-2800 (barrel length, front sight location, short extractor, long extractor, frame and side plate with and without 1/8 x 1 1/4" cut out, early have a 3 line address, late have a 2 line address). Humpbacks have several differences which seem to be evidence of an evolving design during early development for marketing and/or manufacturing reasons and could be considered prototypes, all are rare.



1914 early production, Manufactured from 1913 to 1914, serial number range 2801 -13500 (early 2 line address).



1914 WWI era, Manufactured from 1914 to 1923, serial number range 13500 - 296000 (1 line address, "Mauser 7.65" stamping added on right side of slide around serial number 1625000, milled panel on right frame discontinued around serial number 277000, most examples in the high end of the serial number range will not have the Mauser Banner on the side plate)



1914 post war, Manufactured from 1923 to 1929, serial number range 277000 - 460000 (late 2 line address). The 1914 post war is the most commonly found model.



1914/34 transitional, Manufactured from 1929 to 1933, serial number range 460000 - 526000 (Mauser Werke address, straight grip, finish changed from cold blue w/small parts nitrate blue to hot dip, later have slide serial number in slot)



1934, Manufactured from 1933 to 1941, serial number range 498250 - 617000 (Mauser Werke address, curved grip, finish hot dip blue)

Note 1: Within the above models there are sub-variations with minor differences.

Note 2: All 6.35 and 7.65 models could have either a wood or plastic grip. The earlier plastic grip bares the WM monogram and the Mauser banner is on the late curved back grip.

Note 3: Manufactured date and serial number ranges are derived from John LaCroix's AutoMag articles and are approximate. I have deciphered the data as best as I could but in some cases the serial number ranges overlap. I think this can be explained by production clean up runs or continued production to complete existing orders or contracts. The factory would continue to assemble pistols using up existing parts at the same time pistols were being assembled with newer features. This is not confirmed but conjecture in an attempt to explain observed examples.

Factory marking variations

The style of the address changed through out production and during some of the model variations.

The style of Mauser banner stamped on the side plate changed through out production and was omitted on some variations.

The proof mark on nearly all is the crown U. This was changed to the eagle N in early 1940 shortly before the end of production.

Use markings

Use markings define the greatest number of variants as these pistols were exported all over the world and markings include acceptance, property or inventory by a number of agencies. Some markings indicate export/Import, contract or military acceptance/inventory. The "Germany", "Made in Germany (in Chinese)" and Portuguese contract mark (circle triangle) appear to be factory applied (under the finish). Other markings like intertwined SK, intertwined WM, intertwined HD on the rear of the frame may also have been factory applied. The commercial proof marks of other Countries such as British proofs, Austrian commercial proofs and Czech commercial proofs were stamped during importation. German military acceptance marks were stamped at the factory by government personnel. Agency property or inventory numbers as well as some import markings were engraved or stamped after the pistols left the factory. There are a good number of 1914 models that were used and marked by German police units. Examples stamped '1920' were so marked during the post WW1 era to identify it as property of the German government.

Mauser Pocket Pistols 1910-1946 by Roy G. Pender III is the best published reference of models, variations and use markings to date. It was published in 1971 and also covers the HSC, WTP and the model 1912/14.

Axis Pistols by Jan Stills is an excellent reference to WWII military and police markings.

The most extensive research to date on these pistols is by Mr. John LaCroix. His copyrighted data chart with S/N by year data, in AutoMag Issue 1, Volume XXX, on page. 5 (4/97). He also authored an extensive variation/sub-variation breakdown that was published in AutoMag Issue 3, Volume XXXII, pages. 54-56 (6/99). AutoMag is the monthly publication of the National Automatic Pistol Collectors Association.

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