Historic & Heritage Handguns 2013

Mauser AG

Founded 1874 as

Mauser Brothers and Company

Peter Paul Mauser, often referred to as Paul Mauser, was born on June 27, 1838, in Oberndorf am Neckar, in Württemberg. His brother Wilhelm was four years older. Their father, Franz Andreas Mauser, was a gunsmith at the Württemberg Royal Armoury, which was established by King Frederick I on July 31, 1811. The factory was built in an Augustine cloister, chosen because it was very stoutly built and ideal for arms production. Franz Andreas Mauser married a woman from Oberndorf in 1819, and they had 13 children. Another son, Franz Mauser, travelled to America in 1853 with his sister and worked at E. Remington & Sons. Peter Paul was conscripted in 1859 and became an artilleryman at the Ludwigsburg arsenal, where he worked as a gunsmith. Based on the Dreyse needle gun (Zündnadelgewehr), he developed a rifle with a turn-bolt mechanism that cocked the gun as it was manipulated by the user. The rifle initially used a firing needle, but a later version used a firing pin and a rear-ignition cartridge. The bolt action rifle was shown to several governments, but only after the Austrian War Ministry showed it to Samuel Norris of E. Remington & Sons did anyone show serious interest in it. Norris believed the design could be adapted to convert Chassepot needle guns to fire metallic cartridges. Shortly thereafter, a partnership was formed in Oberndorf, Germany between Norris and the Mauser brothers. The partners went to Liege, Belgium in 1867, but when the French government showed no interest in a Chassepot conversion, the partnership was dissolved. Paul Mauser returned to Oberndorf in December 1869, and Wilhelm arrived in April, 1870.

Paul (b.1838) and Wilhelm (b.1834) Mauser

Peter Paul and Wilhelm Mauser continued working on developing their new rifle in Paul's father-in-law's home. The Mauser rifle was accepted by the Prussian government on December 2, 1871, but was not accepted for service until February 14, 1872. The delay was caused by the Prussian government requesting a design change to the safety lock. Actual production of the rifle was given to government arsenals and large firms, though the Mauser brothers received an order for 3,000 rifle sights. The Xaver Jauch house was used as a factory starting May 1, 1872 to produce the sights, but after an order for 100,000 rifle sights was received from the Bavarian Rifle Factory at Amberg, the Mauser brothers began negotiations to purchase the Württemberg Royal Armoury. A delay in the sale forced them to buy real estate overlooking the Neckar River Valley, where the Upper Works was built that same year. A floor of a house in Oberndorf was also rented to

construct the Bavarian sight order. The Württemberg Armoury was finally acquired on May 23, 1874, after an agreement between the Württemberg government and the Mausers to produce 100,000 Model-71 rifles. The partnership of Mauser Brothers and Company was formed between the Württemberg Vereinsbank of Stuttgart, Paul and Wilhelm Mauser on February 5, 1874. By May 23, 1874, the Mauser partnership had 3 factories in Oberndorf.

Death of Wilhelm Mauser,
Wilhelm Mauser suffered from health problems throughout his life, which were aggravated by his frequent business travels. A combination of these led to his death on January 13, 1882. The partnership became a stock company with the name of Waffenfabrik Mauser on April 1, 1884. The shares held by the Württemberg Vereinsbank and Paul Mauser were sold to Ludwig Löwe & Company on December 28, 1887, and Paul Mauser stayed as the technical leader. Ludwig Löwe & Company was 50% owner of Fabrique Nationale d'Armes de Guerre, a company formed in 1889 to manufacture Mauser rifles for the Belgian government. Deutsche Waffen und Munitionsfabriken A.G. (DWM) was formed on November 7, 1896, as a merger of Ludwig Löwe & Company A.G., Deutsche Metallpatronenfabrik A.G., Rheinisch-Westfälischen Powder Company and Rottweil-Hamburg Powder Company. The same year the famous C96 semi-auto pistol was introduced. Mauser A.G. was formed on April 23, 1897. After World War II, DWM was renamed Industrie-Werke Karlsruhe A.G. (IWK).

Death of Paul Mauser, First World War breaks out.
In the later years of his life, Paul Mauser is awarded numerous honours. In 1898, he is elected in the Reichstag as Royal Commerce Councillor. In 1912, he receives the Grashof Commemorative Medal of the Association of German Engineers, although he has never been an engineer. In the same year, he is ennobled with the Grand Cross of the Royal Württemberg Order. Paul Mauser dies May 29, 1914 at the age of 76 of an embolism. The outbreak of the First World War in 1914 quickly leads to increased production of the "98 Rifle"; research takes a back seat. By the end of 1916, employee numbers have risen to approx. 7,000.

Destruction of the weapons factories.
Mauser continues to produce hunting rifles until 1944 despite the disorder and confusion that war brings. At the end of the Second World War, the Mauser factories in Oberndorf, Berlin and Karlsruhe are hit by the strategic bombing campaign and the remains dismantled by the occupation forces
Walter Röll, the last manager of the hunting rifles department, continues to build Mauser rifles from residual stocks on his allotment garden under French supervision. The quality of his work is appreciated by French, British and American officers alike.

Reconstruction and marketing of rifle makes.
After rearrangement and reconstruction of the company in 1954, developments in the weapons sector get up and running again. Along with hunting and sport guns, anti-aircraft guns and aircraft weaponry is also produced. The civilian production segment incorporates measuring machinery, tool-making machinery and special apprenticeship programs. Munitions test instruments and gas pressure measuring instruments are built according to the most modern technological know-how and receive international recognition, from NATO forces, among others.

Historic & Heritage Handguns 2013

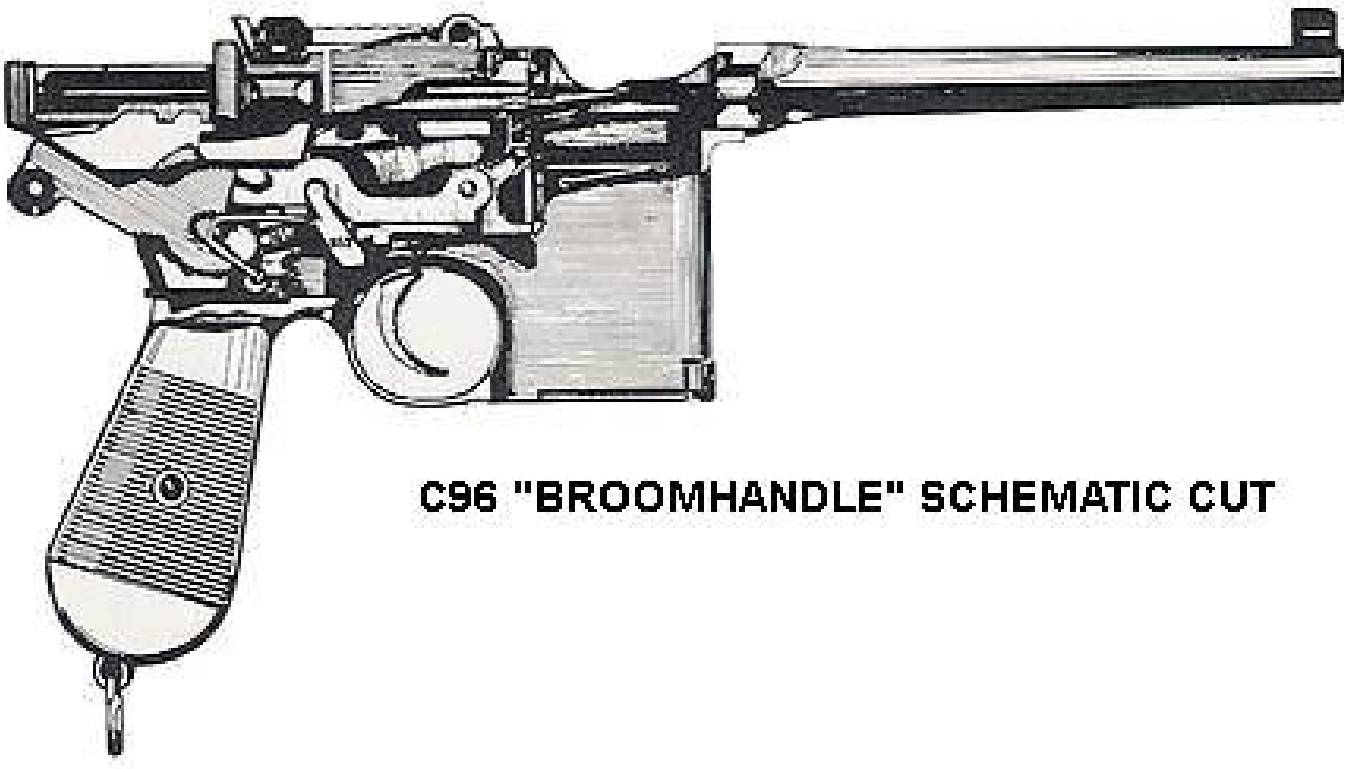
Mauser Firearms that are known to qualify for Section 7.3:

Although mainly known for their excellent rifles and for providing the world with one of the best bolt activated actions ever made, Mauser produced some memorable handguns for the military and civilian markets.
The first was exceptional:

Mauser Model C-96 semi auto pistol

The development of the C-96 began in 1893 or 1894. Most work had been done by the Federle brothers, who worked for the Mauser company. Final design appeared early in 1895 and had been patented by Paul Mauser. Production began in 1896. The C-96 had been offered for the German Military but failed. However, C-96 has a long and successful story on the civilian market - being offered as a pistol-carbine, it outperformed in effective range most of contemporary pistols and revolvers, being especially popular with travellers and hunters in the areas where big animals are rare or absent at all.

The C-96 first saw military action during the Boer war in South Africa (1899-1902). During the First World War C-96 had been acquired by the German Army due to the lack of the standard issue Luger P-08 pistols. It also had been used during the World War Two, by some second line troops of the Reichswehr (German Army). The C-96 also had been widely exported - in the 1920s Soviet Russia purchased large quantities of the short-barrelled (99 mm barrels) C-96s in 7.63mm, giving



C96 "BROOMHANDLE" SCHEMATIC CUT

the name "Bolo-Mauser" (from Bolsheviks' Mauser) to all short-barrelled C-96s. In 1930s China also purchased lots of the C-96s in 7.63mm, and also manufactured copies of the C-96 but chambered

for .45ACP cartridge. Surprisingly, these copies were of quite good quality. Many C-96 clones were manufactured in Spain, mostly without any license, and mostly by Astra Unceta y Cía. In the early 1930s Mauser engineers developed a select-fire version of the C-96, which had been used in limited numbers during WW2.

Technically, the C-96 is a recoil operated, locked breech, semi-automatic pistol. It uses short recoiling barrel with bolt, located inside the large barrel extension. The bolt and barrel are locked by the vertically tilting locking piece with two lugs, which locked into the recesses on the bottom of the bolt. The gun is hammer fired. Early guns had hammers with large, round shaped hammerheads with coned sides. The safety is located at the left side of the hammer and locks the hammer when engaged. The most recognisable feature of C-96 is a non-removable, fixed box magazine, located ahead of the trigger guard. Early models were made with 20, 10 or 6 round magazines, but soon 20 and 6 round models were dropped, and since 1905 or so only 10 round models were manufactured. The C-96 can be loaded with single rounds or from 10-rounds stripper clips. The only way to unload the magazine was to work the slide all the way back and forward for each cartridge in the magazine.

Two other notable features were the distinguishable shaped handle (which give the name "broom-handle" to all C-96s) and removable wooden shoulder stock/holster. Finally, most of the C-96's were fitted with adjustable rear sights, graduated up to 1000 meters. This, obviously, was more of marketing feature, since at 1000 meters distance the average bullets spread was about 4 meters, but, due to high velocity ammunition (the 7.63mm Mauser round produced muzzle velocities of about 440 meters per second, or 1450 feet per second), the effective range was about 150 or 200 meters, especially with shoulder stock attached.

The C-96 took its final shape in 1912, when new type of safety (marked NS - "Neue Sicherung") was adopted, along with shorter and wider extractor and smaller and lighter hammer.
In 1915, due to World War, German Army purchased from Mauser some 150,000 C-96s, chambered for the army standard issue 9x19mm Luger/Parabellum round. These guns were marked with large red "9" digits on the both sides of the grip. In the 1931-32 Mauser engineers developed two latest versions of the C-96 - models 711 and 712. The main difference of these models was the adoption of the removable box magazines for 10 or 20 rounds. The Model 712 also featured a fire selector mechanism with the fire mode switch on the left side of the frame. Due to the high rate of fire in full auto (1000 rounds/minute) and light barrel, the full auto could be used with any practical effect only for short time and only with shoulder stock attached. These guns were used in limited quantities by German Army in Second World War.

C-96 with Shoulder Stock (WW1 finish)

Historic & Heritage Handguns 2013

C-96 Production Record

	Pre-war Commercial	Wartime Commercial	Red 9	Post-war Bolo	M-30
APPROX PRODUCTION DATES	1905? - 1912/14	1912/14 - 1918	1916 - 1918	early '20s - 1930	1930 - 1937
APPROX QTY MADE	~ 240,000	~ 144,000	~ 135,000	~ 345,000	~ 120,000
APPROX SERIAL NOS.	40,000 - 275,000	280,000 - 434,000	1 - 135,000	445,000 - 790,000	800,000 - 920,000
CALIBRE	7.63 mm	7.63 mm	9x19 mm	7.63 mm	7.63 mm
BARREL LENGTH	5.5" (140 mm)	5.5" (140 mm)	5.5" (140 mm)	3.9" (99.0 mm)	5.25", later 5.5"
REAR SIGHT	50-1000 m Type a, b, or c	50-1000 m Type c	50-500 m	50-1000 m Type c	50-1000 m Type c, d, or e
GRIP SIZE	full size (step frame)	full size (step frame)	full size (step frame)	small (step frame)	full size
WALNUT GRIP PANELS	30-34 grooves	30-34 grooves	24 grooves, red 9	22 grooves	12 grooves
LANYARD PIVOT	fore & aft	fore & aft	fore & aft	side-to-side	side-to-side
HAMMER	early small ring	early small ring, "NS"	early small ring, "NS"	early small ring, "NS"	late small ring
SAFETY	second type	"New Safety"	"New Safety"	"New Safety"	"Universal Safety"
SAFETY LEVER KNOB	through hole	solid	solid	solid	through hole

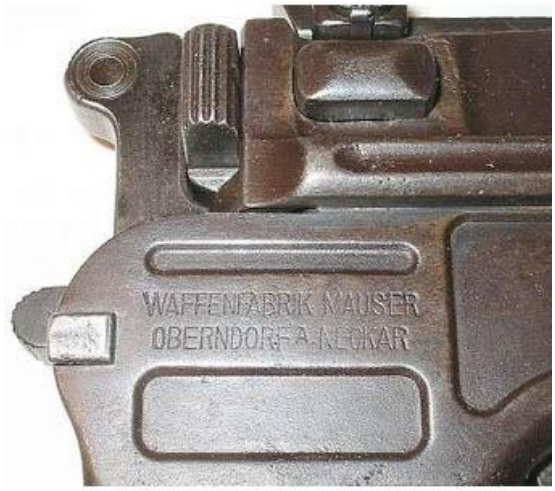
NOTE - The *approx serial nos.* data are highly suspect. Therefore, the *approx qty made* data are also highly suspect, as they are derived from the serial number data. Basically taken from *System Mauser*. Entirely different numbers can be found in *The Mauser Self-Loading Pistol*. It is considered that *System Mauser* is more reliable, but still not 100% accurate.

Historic & Heritage Handguns 2013

Barrel - This is almost always marked

WAFFENFABRIK
MAUSER
OBERNDORF A/N

A few specimens have a Mauser banner trademark instead of the factory name and address.



Frame - The right side is marked

WAFFENFABRIK
MAUSER
OBERNDORF A.
NECKAR

or

WAFFENFABRIK
MAUSER
OBERNDORF A.
NECKAR
D.R.P.u.A.P.

Identification of Different Models

Superficially, similar guns were made by several Spanish and Chinese factories, and there are some Chinese backyard blacksmith specials around too. There are also many dummy guns, theatrical props, and AirSoft guns bearing a likeness to the C-96. The genuine Mauser-made article is not too hard to spot. There was some variation in markings in the early days, but some ninety-five percent of C-96s - those made after production settled down - have Mauser markings on the top of the barrel (directly over the chamber) and on the right side of the frame.

NOTE - Chinese copies, complete down to the Mauser address and trademarks, are not unknown, and can be difficult to distinguish from the real thing, but most Mauser copies did not go that far.

Historic & Heritage Handguns 2013

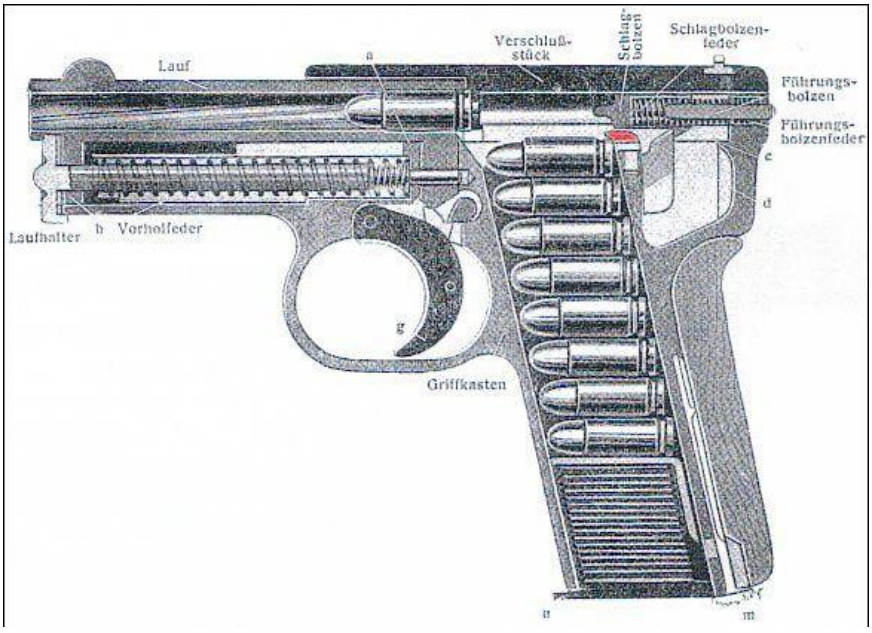
Mauser Model 1910 Semi Automatic Pistol

The second pistol in the Mauser stable was the Model 1910. As a company Mauser could not afford to miss a chance to dominate any sector of the firearms market. Whilst they were well represented in the Military and Hunting Rifle circles and the C-96 was also selling to the Military, the growing Police and personal protection market was devoid of a Mauser semi automatic option.
Josef Nickl, a young talented engineer that was working for Mauser since 1904 was tasked to come up with a design that could used to fire a range of calibres from .25acp to 9 mm Parabellum.
After much design and redesign it was decided that the blowback action chosen was not strong enough to handle the 9 mm Parabellum or the 7.65mm Mauser cartridge. However, all was not lost because rather than scrap the whole project it was decided to continue with the smaller calibres to which the action was well suited and the Model 1910 was born.

Factory drawing of the Model 1909 in 9mm Parabellum calibre

After the extraordinary success of the Model 1910 in 6.35mm, Mauser continued to improve the basic design in order to upgrade it to other larger calibres. Among them was the Browning 7.65mm (.32 ACP) cartridge that of course could no be overlooked in this category of pistols. If the initial intent was to simply scale up the Model 1910, quite naturally, during the development process of the 7.65mm model, many improvements were brought internally and externally to the gun.

These improvements, quite logically, were progressively incorporated into the 6.35 model production.
This gun was renamed the Model 1910 - 14



Mauser Model 1910 in 6.35 mm cal

Historic & Heritage Handguns 2013

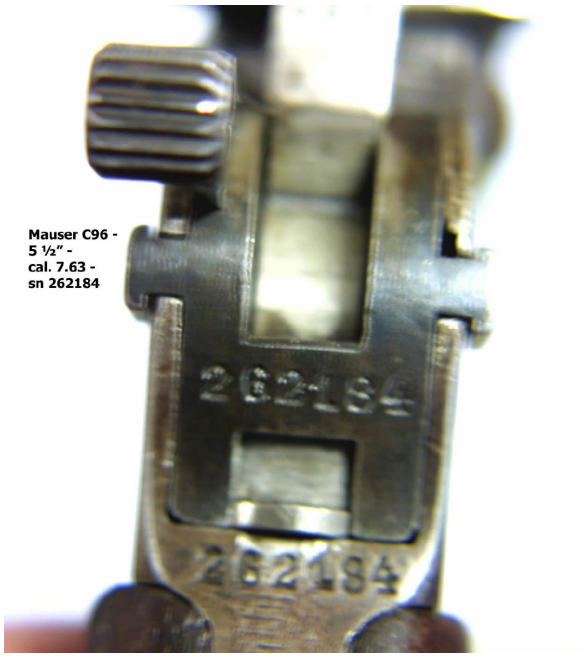
Examples of Mauser Models 1910 and 1910 - 14 held under Section 7.3

Model	1910 - 14		Date of Manufacture	1914
Barrel Length	3.3”		Weight Unloaded	21.16 ounces
Calibre	7.65 x 17 mm (.32acp)		Length	5.98 “
Manufacturer	Mauser		Serial Number	185413

Historic & Heritage Handguns 2013

Example of Mauser C96 held under Section 7.3

Mauser C96 "Broom-Handle"



Model:	C96
Barrel Length:	5½"
Calibre:	7.63mm
Manufacturer:	Mauser
Manufactured:	1911 - 1915
Serial Number:	262184

Historic & Heritage Handguns 2013

The 7.63 x 25 Mauser round is worth examining in slightly more detail.
It is the original round designed specifically for the C-96 and at the time was the most powerful handgun round in the world, a position it held until the introduction of the .357 Magnum in 1934. Based on the 7.65×25mm Borchardt cartridge of 1893, the only successful automatic pistol cartridge in production at the time. The 7.63 mm Mauser is sometimes confused with the later 7.65×21mm Parabellum (.30 Luger), also a bottlenecked pistol cartridge.

7.63×25mm Mauser (.30 Mauser Automatic)

The 7.63 mm Mauser cartridge was the basis for the 7.62×25mm Tokarev round adopted by the Soviet Union. Although the case dimensions of the two cartridges are nearly identical, the 7.62 mm Tokarev has a stronger powder charge and is not suited for use in C96 pistols or other firearms chambered for 7.63 mm Mauser. However, the 7.63 mm Mauser could be used in firearms chambered for the 7.62 mm Tokarev: something that became important later during WWII on the Eastern Front when the Germans began using captured 7.62x25mm weapons, notably the PPSh-41 and fed them with 7.63 mm Mauser rounds.