

## Steyr-Mannlicher M1905 Cutaway

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The story of the Steyr-Mannlicher 1901/1905 pistol has been told at length elsewhere (see Buffalo, below). In a nutshell, it is a delayed blowback fixed magazine pistol that became part of the Argentinian armamentarium in the early years of the last century. In March 1905 their first purchase was made. In total, it is estimated that Argentina purchased some 6,000 of these weapons out of a total production of around 10,000. The actual number that entered Argentine service is subject to some debate. The pistols that were part of this purchase had the Argentinian Coat of Arms stamped on the right side of the frame:



The interesting thing (my entire family rolls their eyes and looks for an escape route when I start a sentence that way) about these pistols is that when Argentina sold them off, they did not simply sell them. No, they ground the crest off in the most crude way possible. I have examined a number of these "decommissioned" pistols and they are all the same. It looks, for all the world, as if someone used a grinding wheel in a Dremel tool to perform the operation.



After the removal, the bare metal was reblued with, seemingly, a cold blue solution. The entire operation might be described as crude.

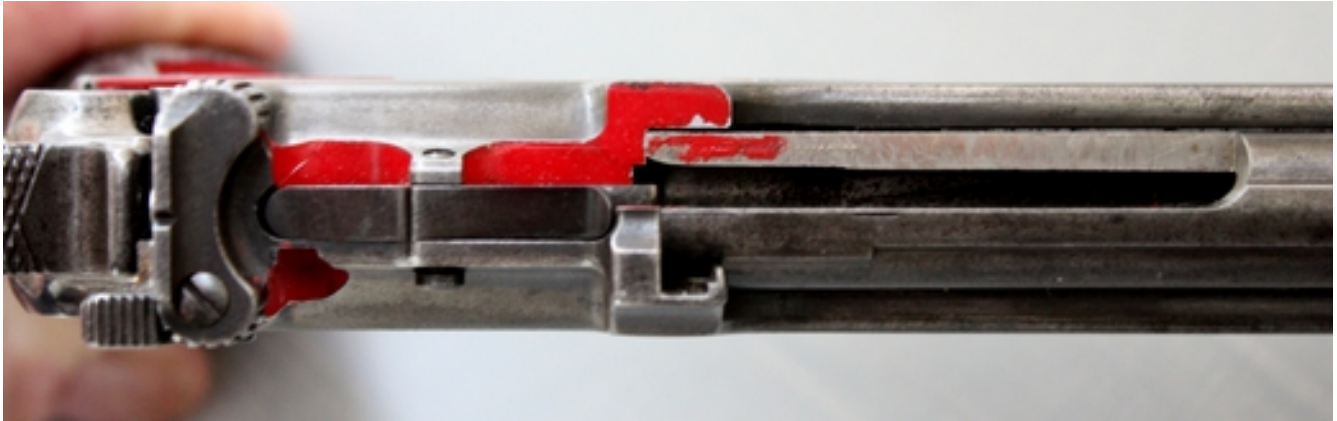
Very few pistols escaped this treatment. I have, personally, only seen one "in the wild" so to speak. They exist but they are somewhat rare.

Recently, I was fortunate to come across a Steyr 1905 Cutaway. I bought it for a couple of reasons. Foremost was the fact that I had been successfully avoiding the Cutaway Rabbit Hole for some time and I, truth be told, was looking for an excuse to fall into sin. I had never seen a cutaway of a pistol this old AND it retained the Argentine

crest!!

I heard my sainted mother whispering in my ear "Buy it, Son. I didn't raise a fool". I elbowed the old girl out of the way (you cannot trust anyone at a Gun Show), plunked down the lucre and was the proud owner.





The picture of the crest, above, is actually a composite image from the crest on this gun.

This example had seen some use, the finish is quite worn. Clearly it had been issued prior to it's conversion though all visible serial numbers (5) match. It occurs to me that a somewhat worn, Argentinian marked pistol would be unlikely to have been turned into a demonstrator at the factory in Europe. It seems most supportable, therefore, to assume that the work was done at an arsenal in Argentina.

The table contains the beginning of a data base of these pistols.

As always, please let me know if you would care to contribute.

<b>Serial Number</b>	<b>Crest</b>
2080	Intact
2841	Scrubbed
3219	Intact
3361	Intact
4331	Scrubbed
4366	Scrubbed
4638	Intact
4980	Intact
5078	Scrubbed
5196	Intact
5386	Intact
5390	Scrubbed
5544	Scrubbed
5624	Scrubbed
5664	Scrubbed
5708	Scrubbed
5878	Scrubbed

## References

Ed Buffaloe provides an excellent summary.

<https://unblinkingeye.com/Guns/SM1900/sm1900.html>

Wiki has some historical context.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mannlicher\\_M1905](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mannlicher_M1905)

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