

A Mauser C96 Cutaway

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Companies in a wide variety of areas produce skeletonized or cutaway versions of their products to aid sales people in their descriptions and to show how these items actually work. It has evolved to something far beyond a mere sales tool as the minimalist skeletonization look is now a way of advancing a brand's presence.



This presentation of a product was particularly useful for firearms, given the complex inner workings which were not (and are not) terribly amenable to verbal description. A picture is worth etc. etc.

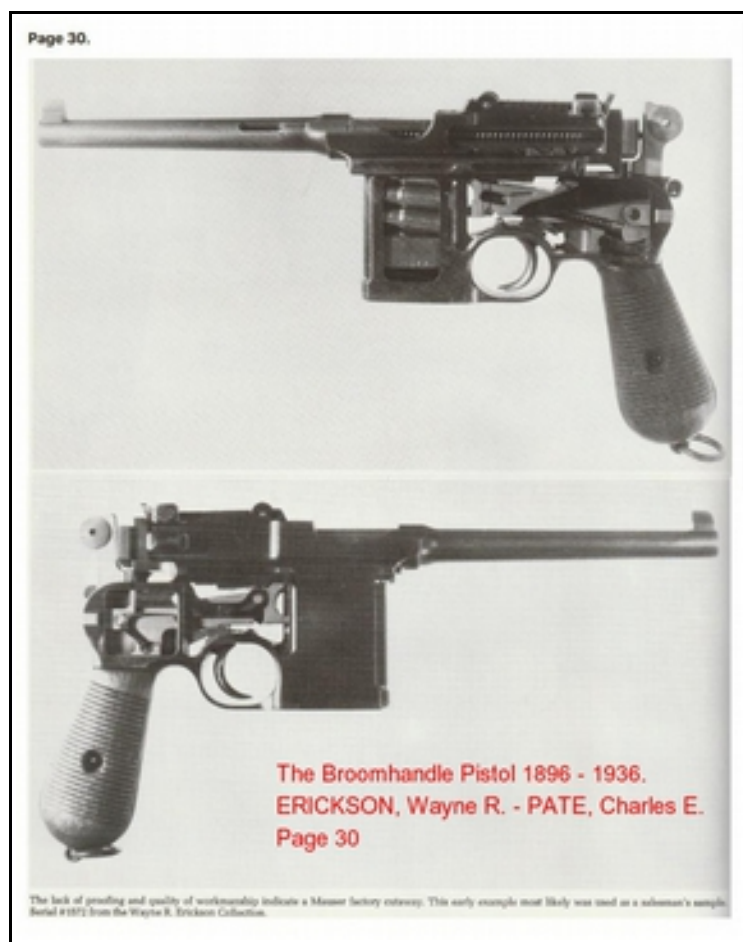
This has resulted in a small but active niche collecting specialty. I had described a

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cutaway Steyr 1905 pistol (Dittus 2025) a while back and since then I have been fortunate to have secured an important example that uses a Mauser C96. I will describe my "find" and then report on other examples of C96 cutaways that I have found.

Mauser C96 Serial Number 1572

I found this at a show here in Florida. It attracted my attention for a couple of reasons. First, it is in quite good original condition, as it was when it left the factory. It is, doubtless, a factory product which is a plus. It came with it's matching stock. Another factor is the fact that it was illustrated in *The Broomhandle Mauser* (p.30 1976), which is a primary reference for collectors.



It is an early Broomhandle, serial number 1546.



The pistol is entirely functional and appears to have 7 cuts. In the book, it is described as a factory production because of the quality of the cuts and the lack of proof marks. The idea being, presumably, that if one were cutting up a firearm for demonstration purposes, the time and expense spent on proofing would be unnecessary. One might even use parts that were not acceptable in a finished product.



All that said, there is at least one proof mark to be found on this example. Depicted is the bottom of the bolt. I suggest that the approach to making this cutaway was that the parts were assembled opportunistically, generally unproofed. But if one needed a bolt, let's say, and one were sitting there, it might well find it's way into the product. Purity of purpose and practicality are often at odds in a business setting.

As can be seen, there is no evidence of the use of parts that might be described as "seconds".





The stock serial is marked on the hinge which is correct for these early examples.

NOTE: Early stocks were numbered on the lid hinge plate.



The picture on the left is the serial on another early example.

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The stock, curiously, is missing the metal attaching hardware. Close examination of the wood does not present evidence of any hardware having been installed. The screw holes, for example, do not show wear, which would have necessarily occurred in a screw had been introduced to secure the hardware.



All in all, it is an early production C96 that seems to have been factory sectioned. Presumably as a salesman's sample.

References

Belford, J. N. and Dunlap, J. (1969) **The Mauser Self-Loading Pistol**. Bordon Publishing Company, Alhambra, California (p. 100)

Breathed, J. W. and Schroeder, J. J. (1967) **System Mauser**. Handgun Press, Chicago, Illinois (PP. 36-37, 108-109)

Dittus, Ed (2023) **A Steyr 1905 Cutaway**. *Automag*, 56, 8, pp.176-178

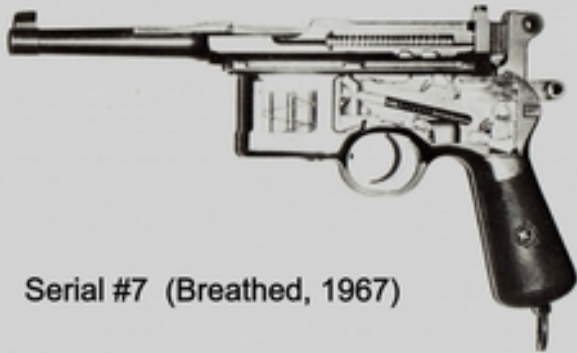
Erickson, W. R. and Pate, C. E. (2000) **The Broomhandle Pistol**. Privately Printed (pp. 23, 30, 47)

Weaver, W. D. et al. (2008) **Mauser Pistolen**. Collector Grade Publications, Ontario, Canada

Observed Examples

	Serial	Where	URL
1	7	System Mauser Breathed p. 108-109 Mauser Self Loading Pistol Belford & Dunlop p.100	
2	23	Poulen 11/4/2022	https://bid.poulinauctions.com/INCREDIBLE-MAUSER-C96-SYSTEM-MAUSER-STEP-BARREL_j46597521
3	25	Broomhandle Pistol Erickson P. 23	
4	630	System Mauser Breathed p. 36-37	
5	1572	Broomhandle Mauser p. 30.	
6	7082	Collectors Source Canada	https://collectorssource.ca/product/mauser-1896-broomhandle-pistol-cutaway/
7	10114	Poulen 6/7/2024	https://bid.poulinauctions.com/IMPRESSIVE-MAUSER-C96-CONEHAMMER-CUTAWAY-PISTOL_j52742085
8	67088	Aiolfi	https://www.aiolfi.com/vente/686-armees-alliees-et-de-laxe-du-xixeme-au-xxeme-siecle/693-larmement-du-xixeme-et-du-xxeme-siecle/860-pistolets-allemand/pistolet-mauser-c96-didactique/
9	100587	Legacy Collectibles	https://www.legacy-collectibles.com/mauser%20c96%20cutaway.html
10	135445	RIA	https://www.rockislandauction.com/detail/1036/4705/mauser-model-1896-broomhandle-cutaway-semiautomatic-pistol
11	842135	RIA	https://www.rockislandauction.com/detail/1015/729/mauser-1930-pistol-763-mm-mauser
12	?	Andora museum	https://all-andorra.com/mauser-c96/
13	08??	Renata Pass Auctions	https://reatapassauctions.hibid.com/lot/167347401/mauser-c96-cutaway-pistol?ref=catalog
14	12???	RIA	https://www.rockislandauction.com/detail/5026/434/cutaway-german-mauser-c96-broomhandle-pistol-with-stock-holster
15	NSN	Broomhandle Pistol Erickson P. 47	

Some Examples from the Database



Serial #7 (Breathed, 1967)



Serial # 08??? (Renata Pass Auctions 9/25/2023)



Serial Number 12??? (RIA 1/11/2026)



Serial # 25 (Broomhandle, p. 23)



Serial # 67088 (Aiolfi.com)



Serial # 7082 (Collectors Source, Canada)

Some Examples from the Database



Serial # 135445 (RIA 2/5/2021)



Serial # 842135 (RIA 6/26/2010)



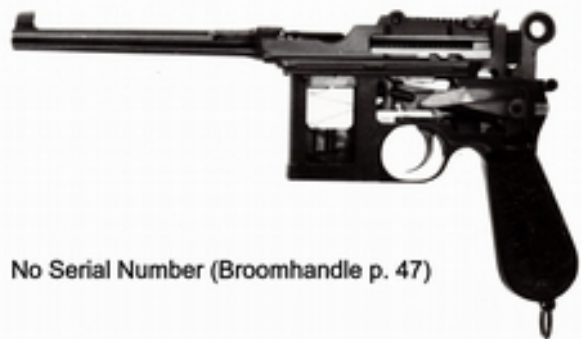
Serial # 100587 (Legacy Collectables)



Serial #630 (Breathed, 1967)



Andorra SN ?



No Serial Number (Broomhandle p. 47)