

Police Magazines

Magazines of all kinds are found issued with police lugers, some were obtained from pre-WW1 stock, of those, some were refurbished while others were new old stock. The new made by Weimar DWM and Simson then in the mid 1930's Third Reich Krieghoff and Mauser. Wood and aluminum bases are found variously installed in early rolled-and-crimped, tinned, nickered, and lastly blued steel tubes.

The vast majority of police magazines are identifiable by the numbers denoting their primary (1) or spare (2) status. There are examples of Police magazines numbered 3 and 4, indicating more than two magazines issued with these particular pistols and were usually marked at the individual armory and not at the factory; thus you see many styles and sizes of numbering. Most original magazines were serial-numbered to match their pistol. Although usually marked with a 1 or 2, in addition, magazines used in Saxony frequently have Roman numeral designations. Newly-manufactured magazines (or usually on the base) display a Police inspection mark but WW1 made models will sometimes have their original army designations while late Mauser magazines will only display army acceptance markings. As you can see, with police magazines there are many variables to consider.



Magazines courtesy of David Zimmerman, James Kelley and the authors

The first Police magazines were WW1 Erfurt and DWM Army-issue magazines which came along with their guns, or were in storage in Army arms depots. These were the standard rolled-steel bodies with wooden bases marked with some combination of Imperial inspector stamps, the pistol's serial number, and a + if to designate the spare magazine. Weimar and later produced magazines will usually be found with a 1 or 2 numeral stamping, designating the magazine as the primary and spare.

During the Weimar period, new magazines continued to be manufactured with wooden bases. In 1925 the Reichswehr issued a directive that new magazines would henceforth be made with aluminum bases

although a slightly later directive stipulated that army stores of wooden magazine bases available for repairs were to be used up before these aluminum bases would be issued.

Types of magazines and construction

Prior to the 1930's, magazines were made of sheet metal, crimped construction with the edges folded and then crimped along the seam to form solid joints. You will find these in a tin or nickel plated sheet metal variation. From 1920-1933 two primary types of magazines were issued with the military and the police. Wood bases at first, then after 1928 aluminum bases (Simson almost universally had aluminum from 1925 on, but sometimes wood bases were used). Note; it is felt by some collectors that bases were frequently changed when needed (email correspondence with Don Hallock, Sept 2010).

There were three sources for the police to receive new magazines during the Weimar years.

1. DWM continued to produce non-military specification Parabellum pistols and unmarked magazines for the police. These wooden-base, folded steel magazines are often found to accompany police pistols procured from the DWM commercial supply and converted for police use, and later correspondingly marked.
2. Simson manufactured aluminum-base, rolled steel magazines early in the Weimar period. These are found with the eagle 6 and sometimes eagle 46 marks of the Army inspectors at Simson's factory.
3. Sometime in the mid-1930s the Haenel-Schmeisser company in Suhl developed a new magazine for the P08. This was a mandrel-formed and welded tube with an aluminum base, much stronger and more reliable than the original rolled-steel construction. This was patented in 1938, and became the standard magazine for the P08 throughout Germany; Haenel was the sole supplier for the police during the late 1930's until end of production during the DDR (these DDR magazines were made either under contract for Haenel or by Haenel itself).
4. In 1932 an instruction was issued by the Prussian Interior Ministry requiring Police magazines to be stamped with their corresponding weapon numbers *{Görtz & Bryans}*. This instruction does not appear to have been assiduously followed as reports of Police magazines so marked are extremely rare. Pistols of the Hessische Polizei (H.P) are consistently unit marked on the spines of their magazines.
5. After September 5th 1935 Police magazines were procured from C.G. Haenel, the exclusive P08 magazine contractor to the government. {Need 2-3 paragraphs here, along with illustrations, describing the evolution of Haenel magazines—chrome formed-and-machined with flat button, early extruded type (if they really are extruded, I think this deserves some research) chromed and marked C.G. Haenel Patent, and extruded blued military style.

From Jan C. Still, *Third Reich Lugers and Don Hallock and Joop van de kant, Mauser lugers*;

Type 1

Chrome plated with a flat follower, marked Haenel on the spine and a sunburst K or dove marking

Type 2

Chrome plated with a side marking of Haenel Schmeisser Patent and a dove on the base

Type 3

Chrome, side marked as above, but with nazi eagle acceptance markings

Type 4

Blued, marked on side Haenel, with the improved zig-zag spring and the bottom is cut square; acceptance marked eagle L, K, C, F and D but you almost never find suffixes (see exceptions below).

In 1940 and later by Mauser, you will find that the police acquired pistols and they were in the army style, found with and without the suffix. The 1940 with the 42 toggle and the early 41 byf will have the 122 code on the side and two Straight Eagle (SE) 37 acceptance markings.

Banner police will have either no acceptance markings (blank base, or will have army acceptance markings), being marked FXO, P.08 and SE37 accepted on one side. They are blued, extruded with the concave base with a center pin and Haenel on the side.

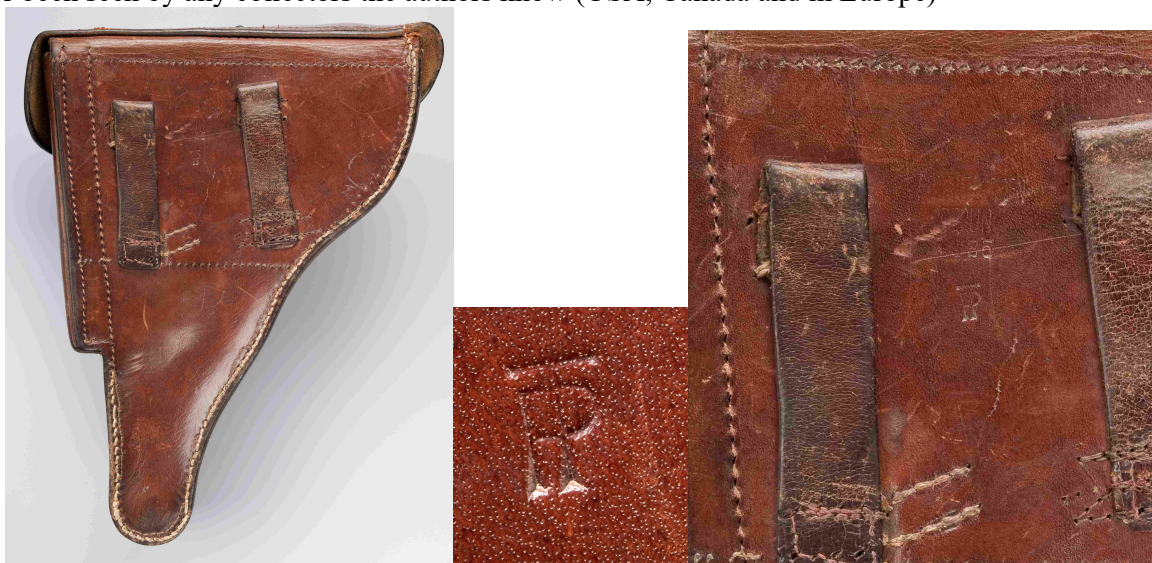
Acceptance markings

Most magazines procured by the German Police bear Police inspector markings although you will find them with serial numbers and the 1, 2 or 3 (on very rare occasions, a number 4 has been seen, the authors have never owned one).

Acceptance markings are usually found in these configurations and produced / accepted in the order shown, except for unmarked, then you must figure out the type of body and base to determine year manufactured;

1. Serial number and a 1, 2 or 3 but with a blank or non accepted marking
2. Serial number and a 1, 2, or 3 and with a "Dove" acceptance marking
3. Serial number and a 1, 2, or 3 and with a Sunburst S or Sunburst K
4. Serial number and a 1, 2, or 3 and with a "X" sunburst acceptance marking
5. Serial number and a 1, 2, or 3 and with a nazi era, which has been seen as a Eagle C or Eagle D (no eagle F's have been observed on magazines)
6. You will also find luger magazines with only the serial number and the number 1, 2 or 3 with no acceptance markings.
7. Serial number and a 1, 2, or 3 and possibly with an eagle 655 or S/42 (both of these acceptance marking were replacement or what is commonly called armorer magazines)

In addition to those marks, collectors will come across TPV or TP marked lugers and although not rare, they are not common on holsters that are known, but NO TPV or TP marked magazines have ever been seen by any collectors the authors know (USA, Canada and in Europe)



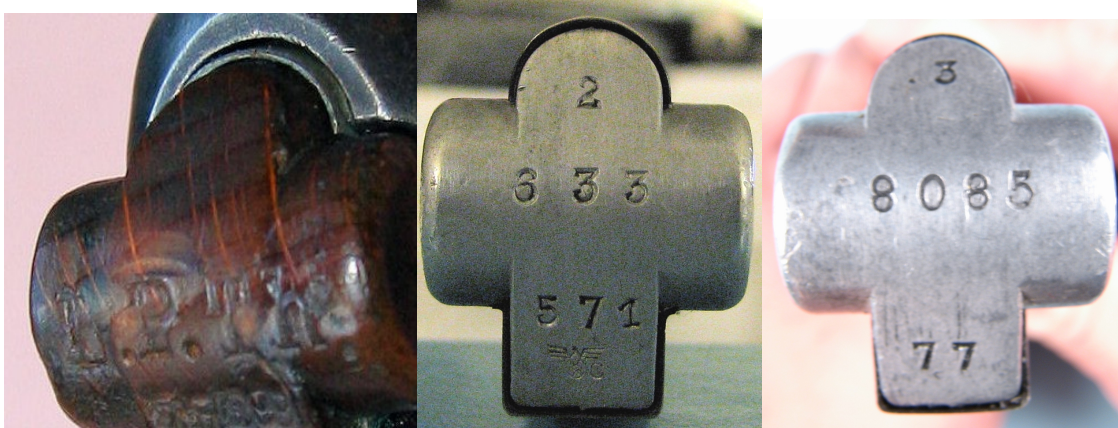
At times, unit markings have been observed on the base or spine of magazines.



James Kelley collection



Tom Austin collection

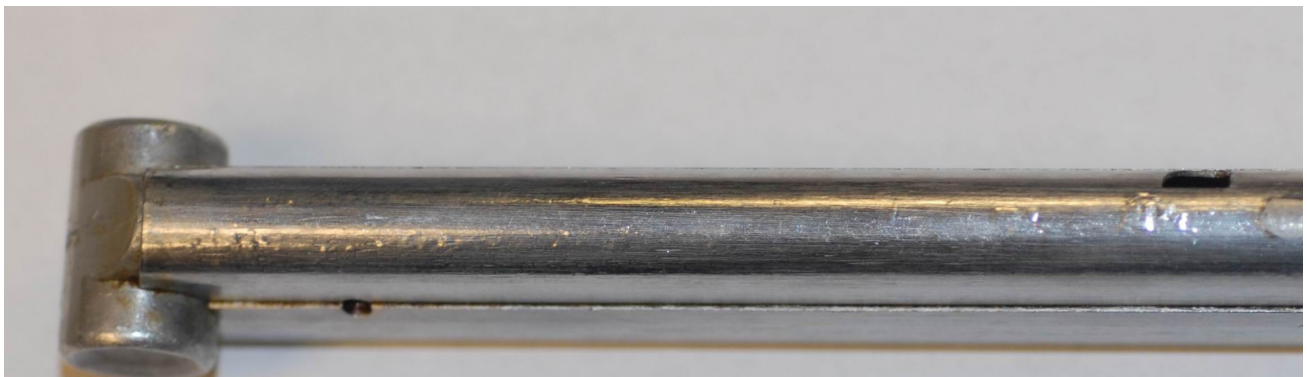
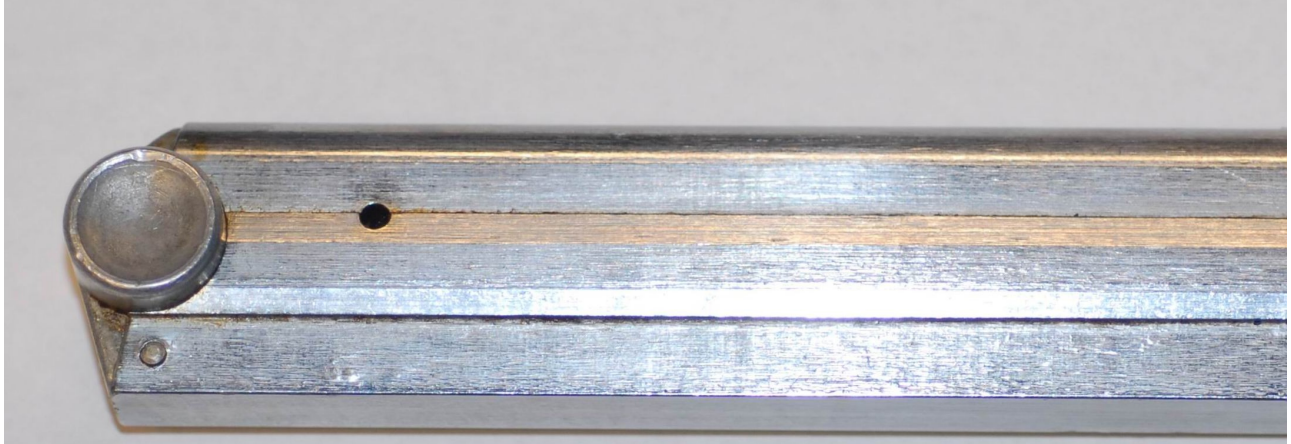


This is the one I sold and Dwight shipped for me / so what was his name
633 is unusual; you don't usually find Nazi marked with a weapons number
#8085 is a 1929 DWM with a matching magazine with the weapons number on the base



S.H. marked spine, Edward Tinker collection

We have always been fascinated by the very shiny, aluminum type that is seen below and some collectors believe that they are stainless steel because the metal is so shiny and does not appear plated.

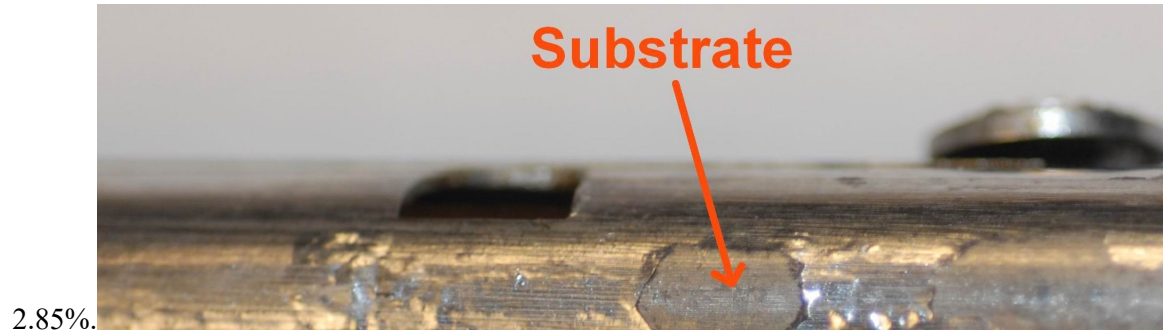


In September of 2008 this magazine was sent to the St. Louis Testing Laboratory, where it was tested to definitively determine its composition. The lab reported that:

“The base metal appears to be a steel alloy (not a stainless steel alloy). With the non-destructive instrument that we used, we could not identify the exact alloy. If you would like we could determine the exact composition of the base metal, however this would require us to destroy the magazine. Additionally, the coating on the steel substrate likely consisted of two separate plating layers. One of these layers (the outer most layer) consisted of chromium while the second layer (sub-layer) consisted of nickel. Thickness measurements of these separate plating layers would require destruction of the magazine.”

We had been prepared from the beginning to sacrifice a nice magazine for this testing, so the magazine underwent the necessary destructive process, and was dissected and then subjected to X-ray spectrographic analysis. The results proved that the magazine body (exterior layer) was made of Cr (chromium) 97.15% and Ni (nickel) of 2.85%. The chrome to adhere required a very thin layer of nickel to stick to the surface. was dismantled by cutting into and through the body and the metals tested. Testing of substrate metals showed that they consisted of Fe (iron) 96.63%, Ni (nickel) 2.69% and Cr (chromium) 0.68%; while the outside again was confirmed to consist of Cr (chromium)

97.15% and Ni (nickel)



2.85%.

First layer taken off revealing substrate, dissection by cutting in half was then accomplished

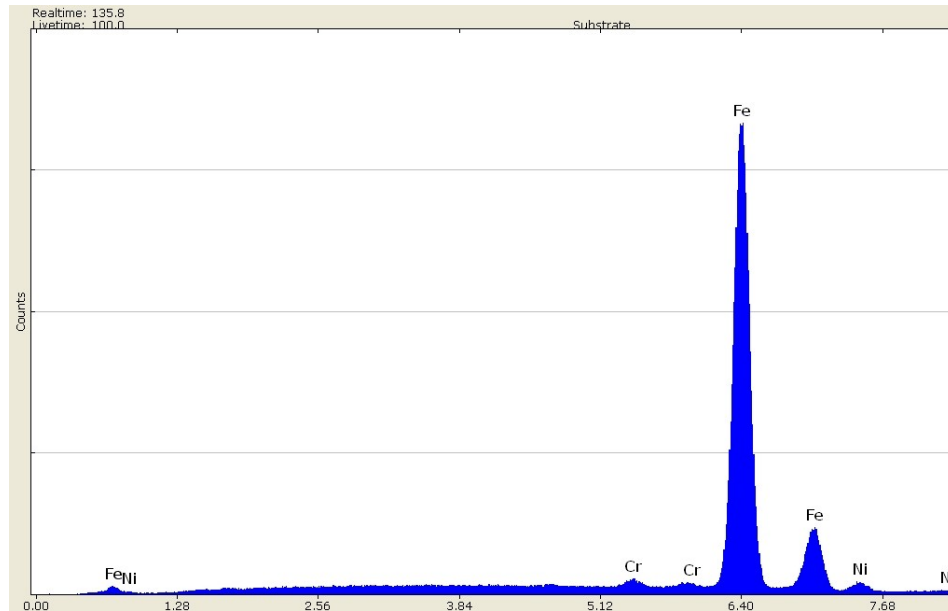


Illustration: X-ray spectrographic analysis of Haenel test magazine body composition (by weight):
Fe (iron) 96.63% Ni (nickel) 2.69% Cr (chromium) 0.68%

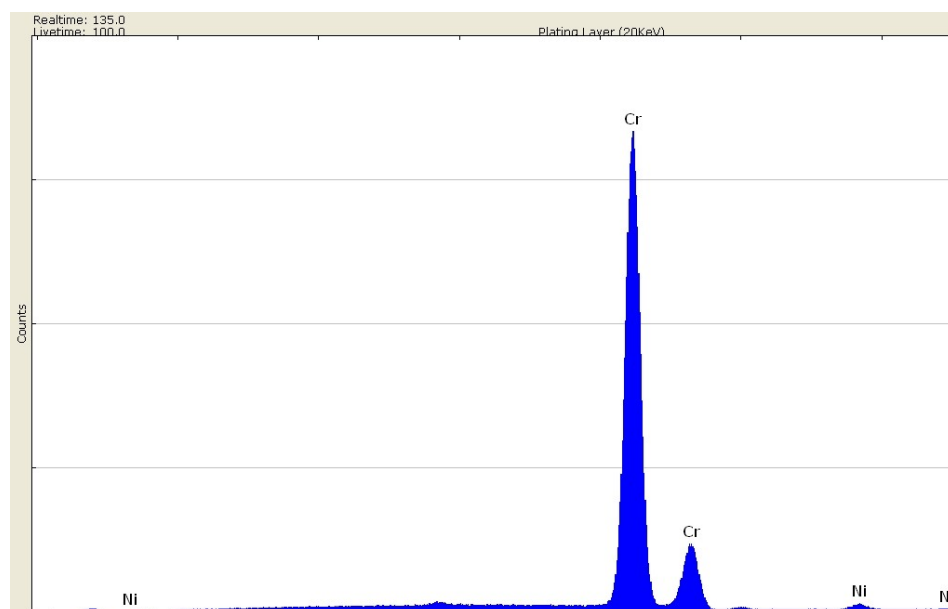


Illustration: X-ray spectrographic analysis of Haenel test magazine plating layer, by weight:

Cr (chromium) = 97.15%

Ni (nickel) = 2.85%



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Chemical, Metallurgical, Mechanical, Nondestructive, Environmental Testing, Analyses and Field Service.

REPORT OF ANALYSIS

MATERIAL: 1 Ea. Pre-WW2 Magazine

SUBJECT: Plating Type

PROCEDURE AND RESULTS:

The as-received appearance of the submitted sample is shown in Figures 1, 2, and 3.

Visual examination disclosed a localized region in which the plating layer appears to have debonded from the metal substrate. The typical appearance of this location is shown in Figure 4.

The following analysis was conducted using an energy-dispersive spectrometer (EDS) equipped scanning electron microscope. The EDS is capable of qualitative and semi-quantitative chemical analysis of elements atomic numbers 6 through 94. The detected elements are normalized to total 100%. The nominal detection limit for most elements is 0.5%.

EDS analysis of the debonded plating layer revealed the presence of primarily chromium with lesser concentrations of nickel (see the enclosed spectrum printouts). The greater percentage of nickel when analyzed with 30 KeV would indicate the presence of a chromium-plating layer with a nickel sublayer.

EDS analysis of the metal substrate revealed the presence of primarily iron (see the enclosed spectrum printout). Further examination revealed that the magazine was ferromagnetic. These conditions would indicate that the metal substrate was composed of an iron-based material (likely steel)

A cross section was removed from the submitted sample, encapsulated, ground, and polished for micro-examination in accordance with ASTM E 3-01. The cross section was examined in the unetched and etched condition. Etching was in accordance with ASTM E 407-07, Table II, Composition 74a.

Microscopic examination of the cross section disclosed that the plating layers present on the surface of the magazine exhibited a combined thickness of 0.00030". Unfortunately, no discernable line of demarcation was observed at the interface of the plating layers. The typical appearance of the plating present on the external surface of the magazine is shown in Figure 5 (400X). Additionally, no evidence of a plating layer was observed on the internal surface of the magazine.



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Further microscopic examination of the etched cross section disclosed the presence of a linear seam weld, which was located on the back (flat) surface of the magazine. It was noted that the weld had extended from the base (closed end) to the top (open end) of the magazine. The typical etched appearance of the weld is shown in Figure 6 (50X).

CONCLUSION:

This analysis would indicate that the main body of the magazine consisted of a chromium plating layer and a nickel sublayer over a steel substrate.

The plating layers present on the surface of the magazine exhibited a combined thickness of 0.00030". Unfortunately, no discernable line of demarcation was observed at the interface of the plating layers. However, the EDS analysis indicates that the nickel sub-layer exhibited a significantly greater thickness than that of the chromium plating layer. Additionally, no evidence of a copper flash was observed between the steel substrate and the nickel sub-layer.

The magazine exhibited a longitudinal seam weld, which had extended from the base (closed end) to the top (open end) of the magazine.

A fully quantitative chemical analysis was conducted on the steel substrate. It was noted that the steel substrate exhibited a chemical composition, which was consistent with 1026 steel.

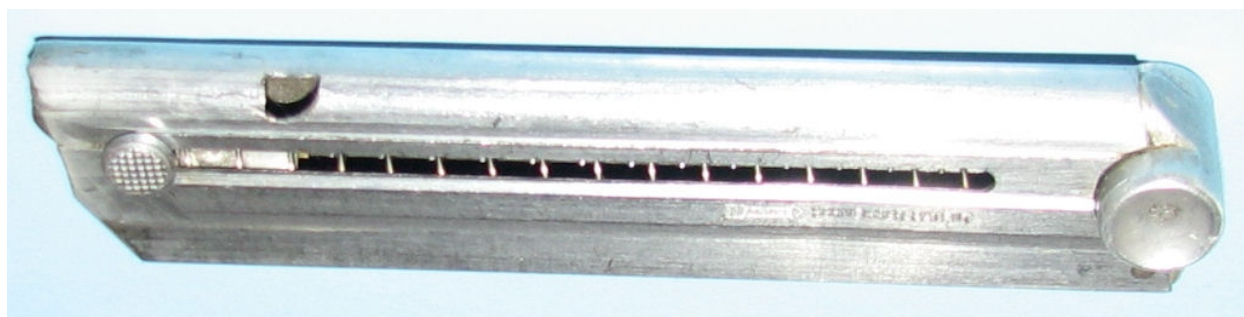
TMB/jap



Tim Bollinger, Manager
Metallurgical Testing

Markings from the Weimar era to the Nazi era; were Weimar “Dove”, Sunburst S or K, then the “X” sunburst and finally the Nazi era Swastika and eagle C, eagle L or rarely the eagler D.

One reason that it is felt that the dove is an early marking is the commercial police magazine I own. A serial number of 56741. Research shows that the serial range is from the 1906 model era. It has to be assumed using logical reasoning, one of two things; That this is a replacement magazine for a gun in police service that was a much earlier gun (1906-1909 era) or that it belongs to a gun that was renumbered to fit the units desires. The first conclusion is the most logical in this author’s opinion.



5-digit commercial replacement magazine, notice the side inscription Haenel

Examples of markings

Dove was first, then sunburst (sometimes called sunburst by some people), then the X and finally the Nazi markings. Keeping in mind that there are many non-accepted magazines and earlier magazines from the WW1 era.

Dove acceptance markings



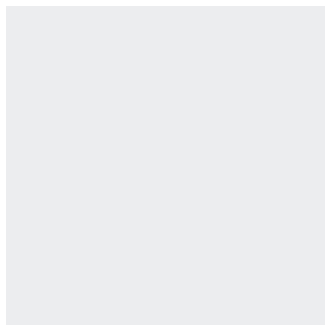
Sunburst acceptance markings



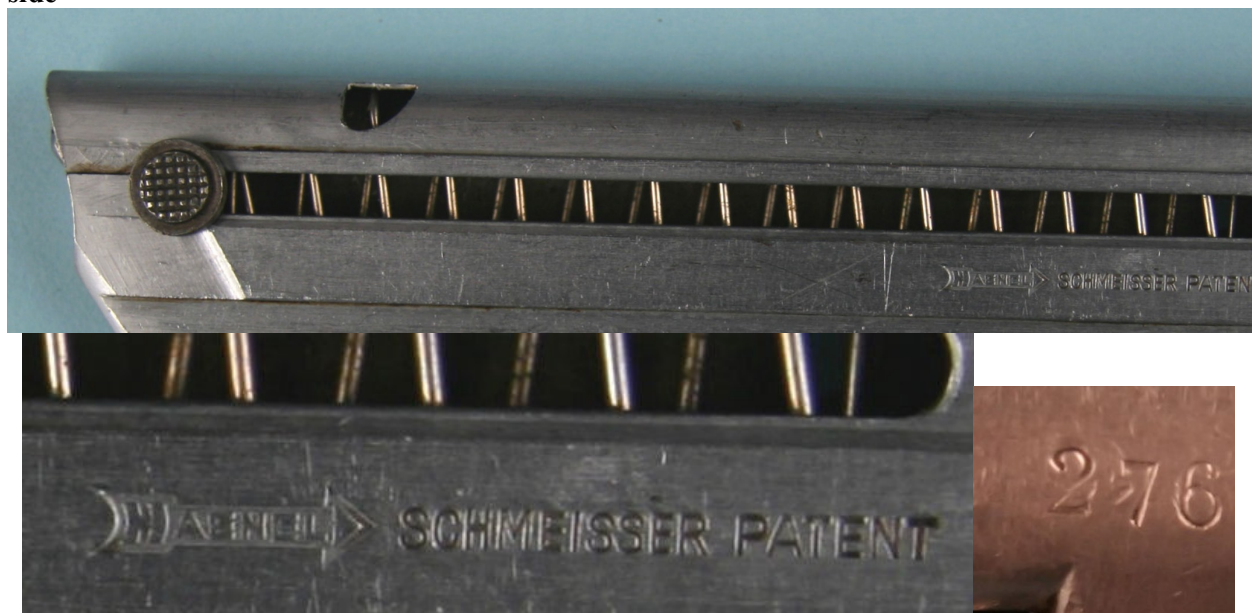
“X” sunburst acceptance markings



Nazi acceptance markings



Sometimes Nazi magazines do not always have acceptance markings on the base, but only on the side



Examples of numbering on bases



See the shaved area around the number. Most fakes are poorly done, primarily because it is difficult to shave without destroying the acceptance marking and number.



Examples of each variation

1. *Imperial era markings, usually but not always with a 1, 2 or 3 added {this particular one has a Weimar added eagle H, eagle H have been seen on police}*



2. *Weimar era "Dove" acceptance markings*



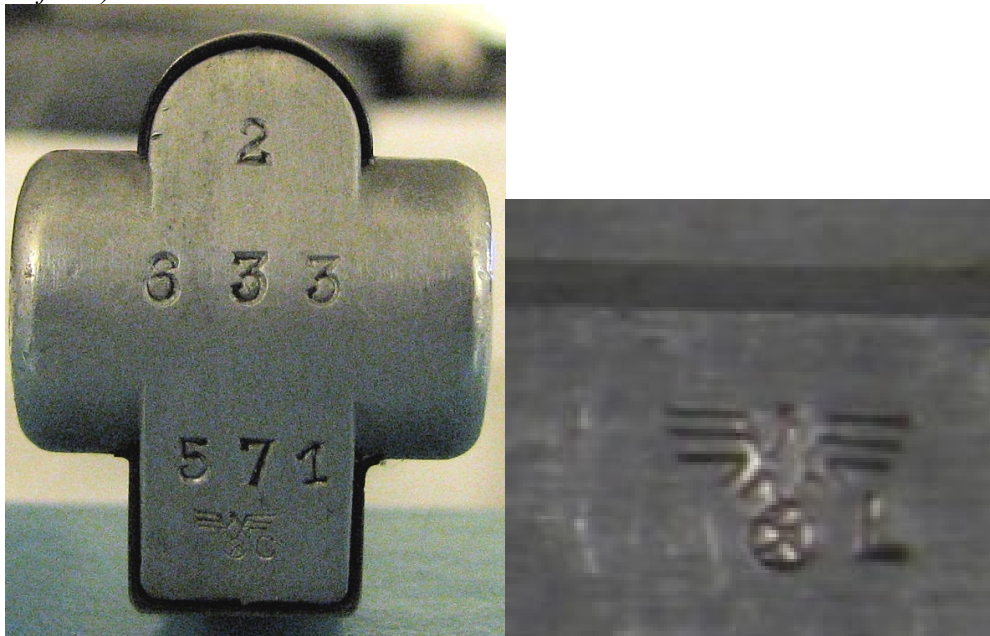
3. *Weimar era Sunburst K or Sunburst S (sometimes referred to as starburst)*



4. Weimar era "X" with sunburst markings



5. 3rd Reich era Swastika eagle C or eagle L and rarely seen the eagle D (some folks believe these are fakes)



6. You will also find luger magazines with only the serial number and the number 1, 2 or 3 with no acceptance markings.



Notes:

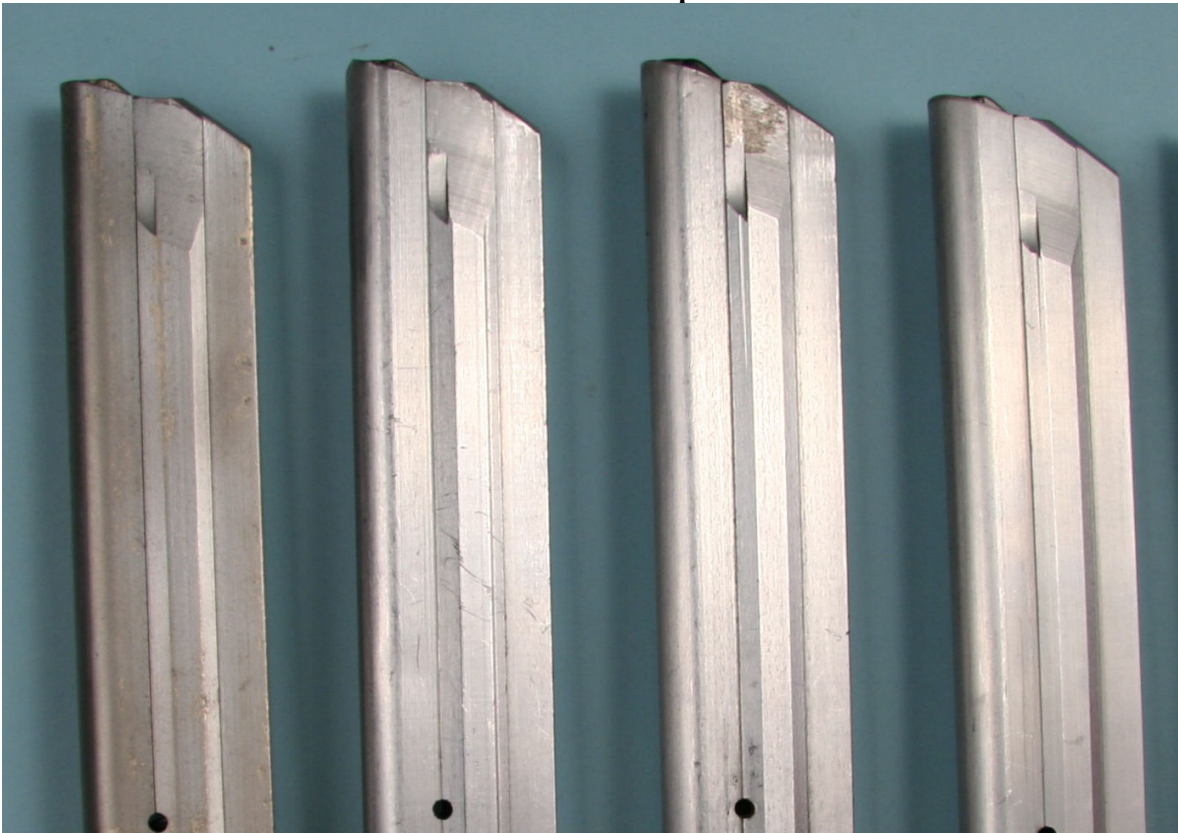
- a) *There are Sunburst "K", "B", "D" and "S". "K" is known to be made by Inspector Krause and "S" was Inspector Schmidt, the "B and "D" inspector names are unknown. Unit markings are sometimes (rarely) found on the spine or base of the magazine, with examples such as L.P.Th (Thuringia) and H.P. (Hessian Police) encountered.*
- d) *September 6, 1935 Haenel started marking their logo in an arrow on the spine.*
- e) *Mauser was directed to issue two matching military accepted magazines with the advent of the 1939 S/42 and then is also seen with the 41 byf (in other years there are no records of the police buying directly from Mauser). These are the*

Full left and right views of each variation

Dove marked magazines



Rear of Dove accepted



“X” sunburst accepted magazines

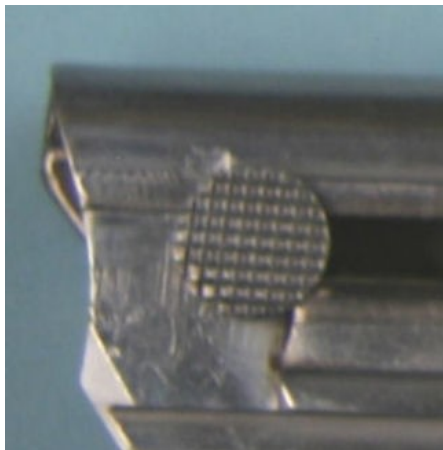


These are interesting and not found very often, but they possess a “flat” button, notice no Haenel on the side, only on the spine.



Flat button follower with “X” sunburst accepted

The flat button follower is found on some Sunburst marked magazines



Sunburst marking magazine



First four (L to R) are X on base; last two are both sunburst; 5th one is *S w/ X on spine (sn 2748); while 6th is *K only on spine (sn 3535)

Rear of the same magazines



The Haenel arrow is marked in two locations over the years, with the side marked magazines made earlier than the spine marked magazines



On the follower side



On the spine after Sept 1935.

Haenel Schmeisser

Haenel had made many parts and weapons over the years, but in specifically talking about magazines, they were made for all of the major companies, DWM and Mauser and it is believed they made parts or complete magazines for Simson from the Weimar period on.