

## Instruction on Marking the Pistol 08 with an Attached Drawing.

This instruction was written and drawn by the Prussian Infanterie Konstruktionsbureau at Spandau in 1910, probably preparatory to the commencement of pistol production in the Erfurt Rifle Factory, or in conjunction with the initial Erfurt tooling up for production. Evidently, marking of pistols procured from private industry (i.e. from DWM) followed the instruction only loosely, whereas it was scrupulously followed at Erfurt and in very much the same way by the inspectors of Simpson made pistols post-WWI. A similar observation may be made when Gew.98 rifles of different manufacturers in private industry and the State Factories are compared (DWM, Mauser, Danzig, Amberg etc.). The P.08 marking instruction, of which a copy exists in the Bavarian War Archives (BKA File ASV 73/13) is little more than a derivative from the relevant instructions concerned with the marking of rifles (Gew.88, Gew.98, Gew.88/05 etc.). Occasionally, an alteration of one of the latter might have resulted in the issue of an amendment to the former.

The P.08 instruction of 1910 was indeed amended several times by means of Deckblätter after its first printing. A typical example of the necessity to alter the instruction was the adoption of the hold-open device in 1913. As the new parts drawings were normally pasted over the old ones in the Bavarian copy, it is difficult if not impossible to recover the earlier instructions but exceptions are indicated below. In general, the text and drawing presented represent the state of affairs in 1914, just before the outbreak of World War One. No further amendments can be documented.

For the pistol 08, the Instruction listed crowned inspector's letter stamps (acceptance marks) in three different sizes:

Medium acceptance mark, 4.2 mm high.

Small acceptance mark, 3.2 mm high.

Smallest acceptance mark, 2 mm high.

The sizes (heights) were identical with the inspector's marks listed in contemporary rifle instructions, although in the latter additional stamps of larger sizes were also included. Punches for numerals were utilized in two sizes: 2.1 mm and 1.5 mm high. Again, identical punches (and some larger ones) were also used in the marking of rifles, rifle parts and accessories.

As "Manufacturer's Logo and General Marks", were struck: Heraldic eagle (the pressure proof symbol), 3.2 mm high and 2.9 wide Name of the factory («DWM» or «ERFURT»). Year date, 3.2 mm high and 9 mm wide. Chisel mark for correct positioning of front sight to barrel, 3 to 4 mm high. Exact gauged calibre, 1.5 mm high.

In this list, the consecutive numbers in the first column identify the

manufacturing and assembly process at which the inspection/ acceptance, proof and serial number mark(s) specified in the third column were stamped on the component listed. The prescribed location for each mark was indicated on the Drawing attached to the Instruction.

**Pistol as piece parts:**

<b>Inspection Step.</b>	<b>Part Name &amp; Stage of Manufacture</b>	<b>Type &amp; Size of Stamp</b>
1.	barrel, finished	small acceptance mark
2.	front sight, milled	smallest acceptance mark
3.	receiver, hardened	small acceptance mark
4.	ejector, hardened	smallest acceptance mark
5.	sear bar, hardened	smallest acceptance mark
6.	breech-block, hardened	small acceptance mark
7.	extractor, hardened «GELADEN» on left side	smallest acceptance mark, plus
8.	firing pin, hardened	smallest acceptance mark
9.	firing pin spring guide, hardened	smallest acceptance mark
10.	front link, hardened the manufacturer's logo	small acceptance mark, plus
11.	rear link, hardened	small acceptance mark
12.	coupling link, hardened	smallest acceptance mark
13.	main spring lever, hardened	smallest acceptance mark
14.	main spring guide	smallest acceptance mark
15.	frame, hardened «GESICHERT» on left side	small acceptance mark, plus
15a.	hold-open latch	smallest acceptance mark
16.	locking bolt, hardened	smallest acceptance mark
17.	trigger, hardened	smallest acceptance mark
18.	trigger lever, hardened	smallest acceptance mark
19.	side plate, milled	small acceptance mark
20.	magazine release, hardened	smallest acceptance mark
21.	magazine, finished	small acceptance mark
21a.	magazine fitted	smallest acceptance mark
21b.	magazine, bottom piece	small acceptance mark
22.	safety bar, hardened	smallest acceptance mark
23.	safety lever, hardened	smallest acceptance mark
24.	grips, finished	medium acceptance mark
25.	grip screws, hardened	smallest acceptance mark

**Pistol ready for pressure proof and test-firing:**

26a. barrel	full pistol number, 2.1 mm high
receiver	small acceptance mark, full pistol number
2.1 mm high	
breech-block	last two digits of pistol number, 2.1 mm high
extractor	last two digits of pistol number, 1.5 mm high
firing pin	last two digits of pistol number, 1.5 mm high
front toggle link	last two digits of pistol number, 2.1 mm high
rear toggle link	last two digits of pistol number, 2.1 mm high
hold-open latch	last two digits of pistol number, 1.5 mm high
trigger	last two digits of pistol number, 2.1 mm high
side plate	last two digits of pistol number, 2.1 mm high
trigger lever	last two digits of pistol number, 1.5 mm high
safety bar	last two digits of pistol number, 1.5 mm high
safety lever	last two digits of pistol number, 1.5 mm high
grips	last two digits of pistol number, 2.1 mm high
barrel and front sight	after sight adjustment, a chisel mark, 3 to 4
mm long, of equal length on both parts	
barrel and receiver	after sight adjustment, a chisel mark, 3 to 4
mm long, of equal length on both parts	

**Pistol after pressure proof:**

26b. barrel	a heraldic eagle, 3.2 mm high and 2.9 mm wide
receiver	a heraldic eagle, 3.2 mm high and 2.9 mm wide
breech-block	a heraldic eagle, 3.2 mm high and 2.9 mm wide

**Pistol after accuracy firing:**

26c. receiver	small acceptance mark
barrel	the caliber (in mm), in 1.5 mm high numerals

**Accessories:**

27. cleaning rod	small acceptance mark
28. screw driver	small acceptance mark
29. spare magazine	see 21, 21a, 21b, and Notes 3

**Gauges:**

30. steel cartridge, max. length	smallest acceptance mark, plus acceptance mark of the Revisionskommission 2 mm high, plus letter «G» 2.5 mm high	31.
steel cartridge, min. length	smallest acceptance mark, plus acceptance mark of the Revisionskommission 2 mm high, plus letter «N» 2.5 mm high	
32. gauge for the protrusion	small acceptance mark, plus of the firing pin tip acceptance mark of the Revisionskommission 3.2 mm high, plus designation P.08, with letter P 2.5 mm high and numerals «08» 2.1 mm high	

**33. bore reject cylinder      smallest acceptance mark, plus acceptance mark of the Revisionskommission 2 mm high, plus dia. 8,88 2 mm high**

**(\*EN: The letter «G» was abbreviation of German «Grösstmass» for maximum size, while the letter «N» stood for «Normalmass», standard size.)**

**Notes:**

**1.) It is left to the Rifle factories to apply worker's stamps. However, such stamps are to be applied to hidden surfaces and must only utilize Latin letters from B to Z of the following sizes: 2 mm for very small parts, 3.2 mm for large parts. The letter A, as well as numerals, is to be excluded by all means.**

**2.) To identify the sequence of any 10,000 pistols, small Latin letters (cursive handwriting type) of 2 mm height will be struck below the centre of the pistol number on the frame and on the magazine, starting with "a" in the second batch of the 10,000, and so on the end of the year.**

**(EN: For reasons unknown, but in keeping with their non-adherence to this Instruction, pistols of DWM manufacture display the «letter suffix» also below the serial number under the barrel. The term «small Latin letters» suggest that the letter «j» should not have been utilized because it did not exist in the original Latin alphabet, though it is found in practice during WWI. The so-called «nu» or «nv» suffix, w, which has caused confusion to collectors, is nothing but the cursive handwritten rendition of the lower-case letter «w» in Roman script, as derived from cursive German Fraktur.)**

**3.) To identify the spare magazine, a 2 mm high «+» symbol will be struck on the magazine base below the pistol number or the letter symbol.**

**(EN: Early DWM (first contract) P.08s had the principal magazine marked with a dot or point after the number, and the spare unmarked, rather than bearing the «+», but no earlier version of the regulations which may have authorised this is known. Since this marking is easily, missed, damaged or misinterpreted this is probably why it was changed. The point stamp was internal DWM marking originally used on Borchardt pistols.**

**Following the change in regulation brought about by this Instruction, DWM also thereafter applied the new «+» marking. No documentation exist to cover the marking of two spare magazines as issued together with long Pistol 08 by the Army during the first part of WWI; since, however, genuine IP.08 «rigs» with three matching numbered magazines do exist, with both spare magazines marked with the "+", it must be assumed that the same marking was used for the two spares. Later in WWI, however, un-serial numbered magazines were**

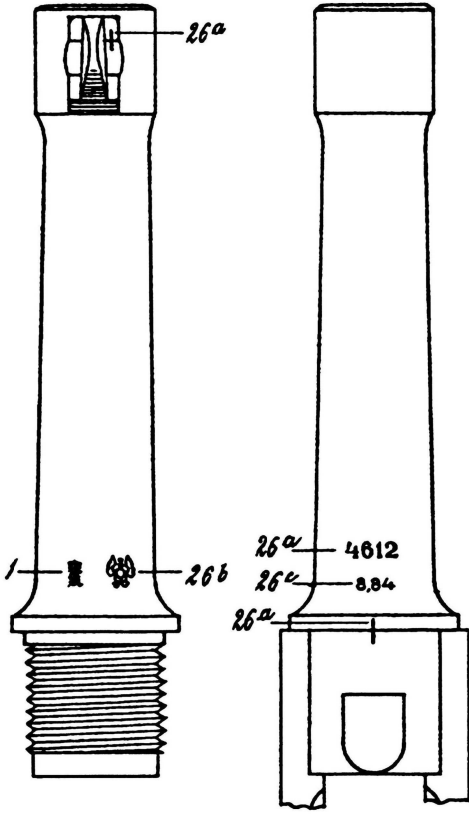
issued in large numbers for the IP.08 as a trench assault weapon to supplement the use of the T.M.08 drum magazine.)

4.) Receivers from reserve stocks, where the year of manufacture does not correspond with the year of completion of the weapon, will receive a 2.1 mm high correction for the year of completion after the manufacture-year in fractional form, e.g. 1909<sup>13</sup>.

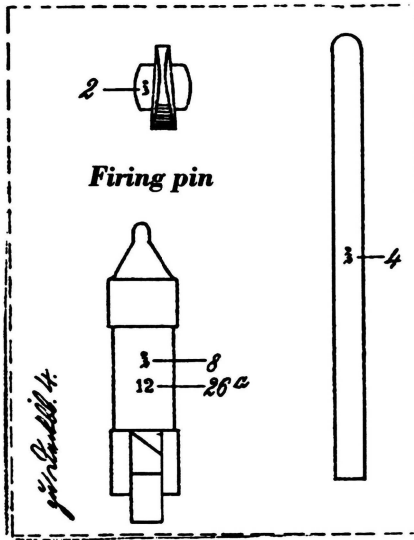
Receivers newly installed in issued weapons receive this correction according to the manufacturing year of the old components, e.g. 1913

<sup>09</sup>

**Barrel**

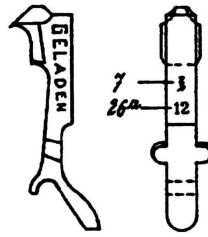


**Front sight**

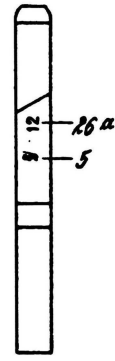


**Ejector**

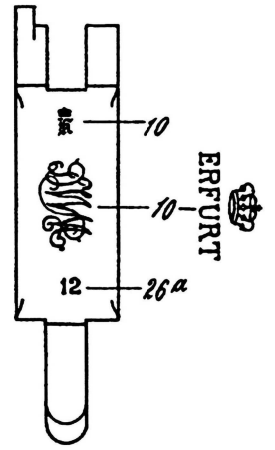
**Extractor**



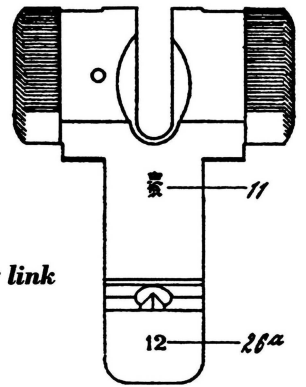
**Sear bar**



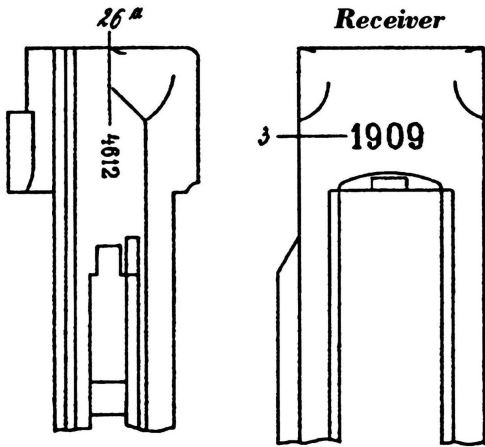
**Front toggle link**



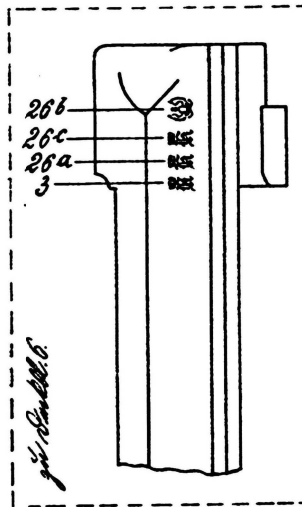
**Rear toggle link**



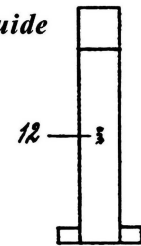
**Receiver**



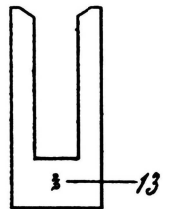
**Main spring guide**



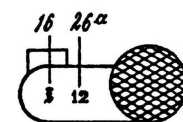
**Coupling link**



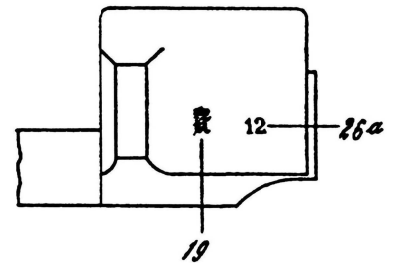
**Recoil lever**



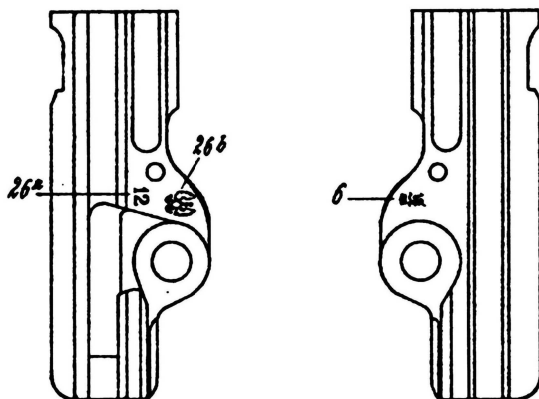
**Locking bolt**



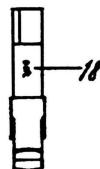
**Side plate**



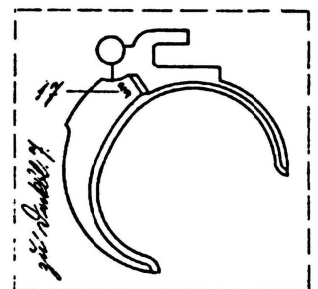
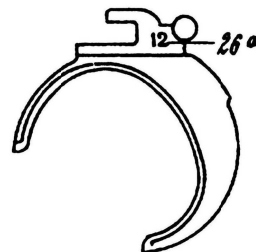
**Breech block**

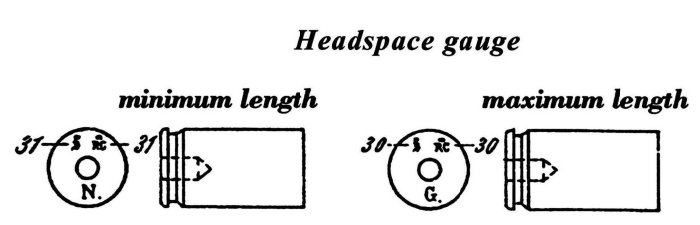
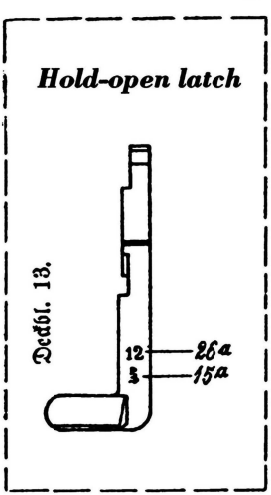
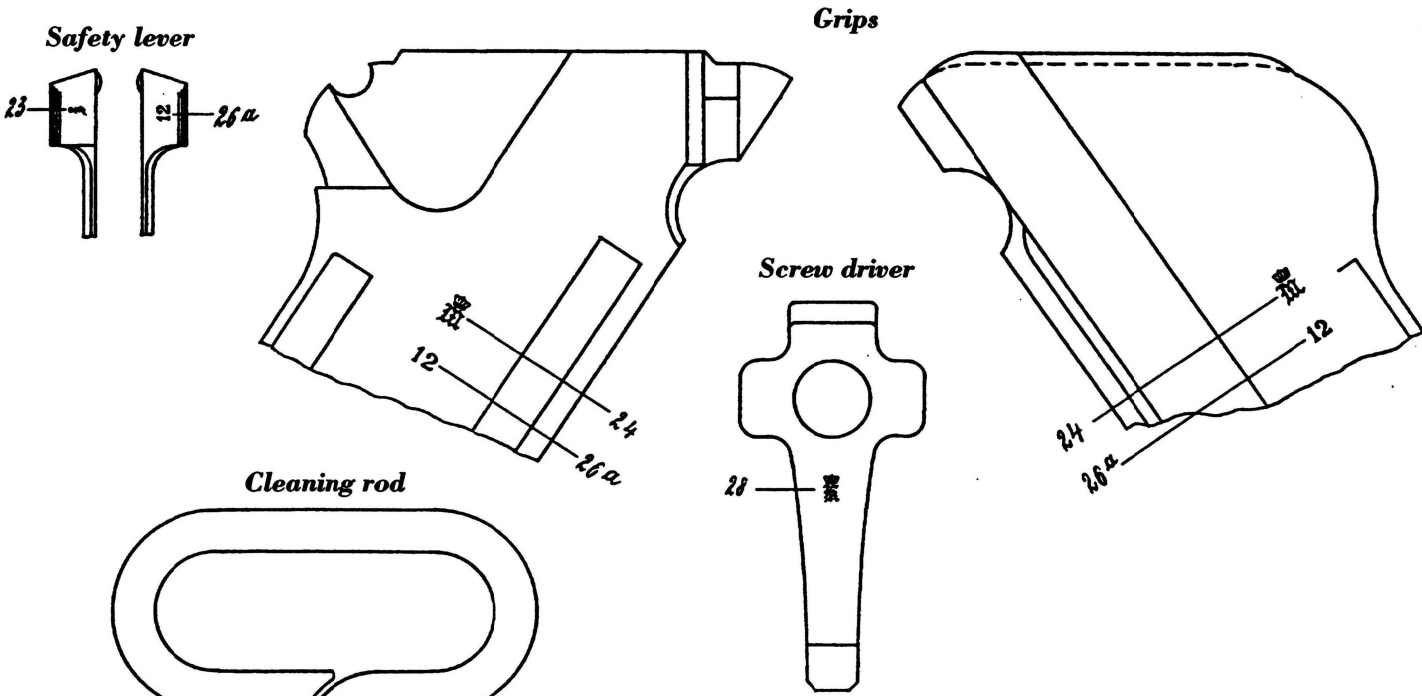
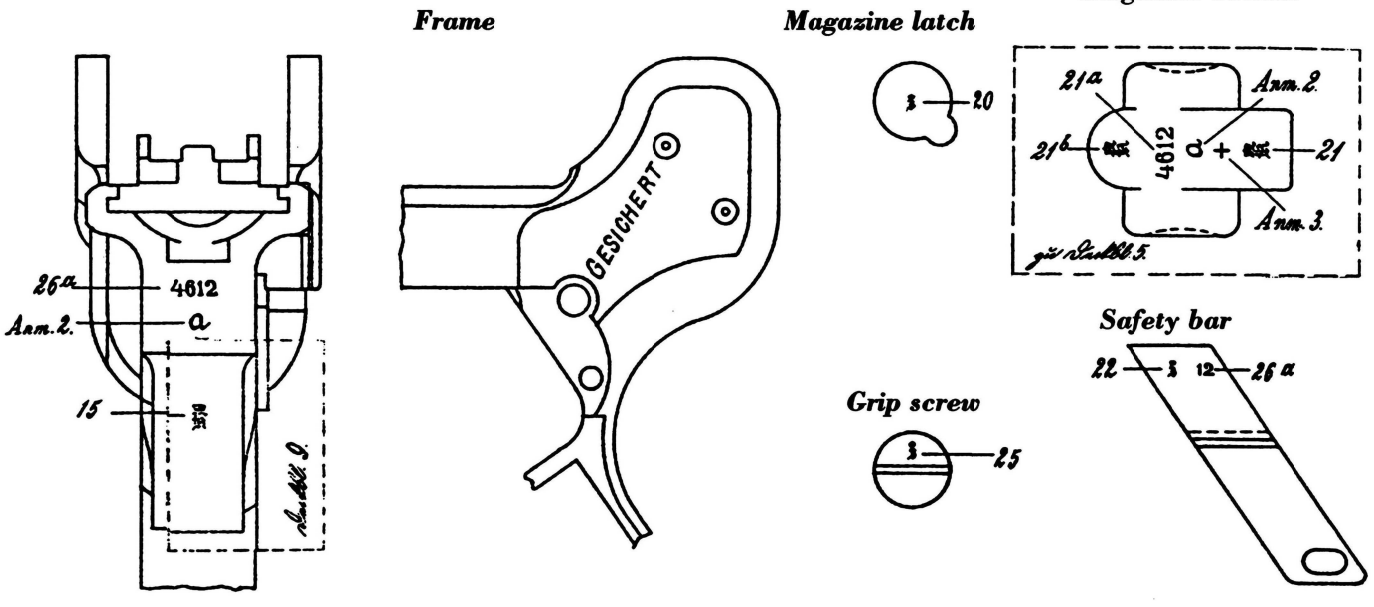


**Trigger lever**

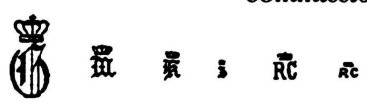


**Trigger**





1. Acceptance stamps  
with crown of the revision  
commission

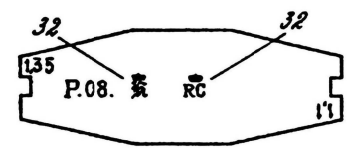


2. Serial number  
4612 12

3. Factory logo and general markings



Firing pin protrusion gauge



Reject barrel gauge

