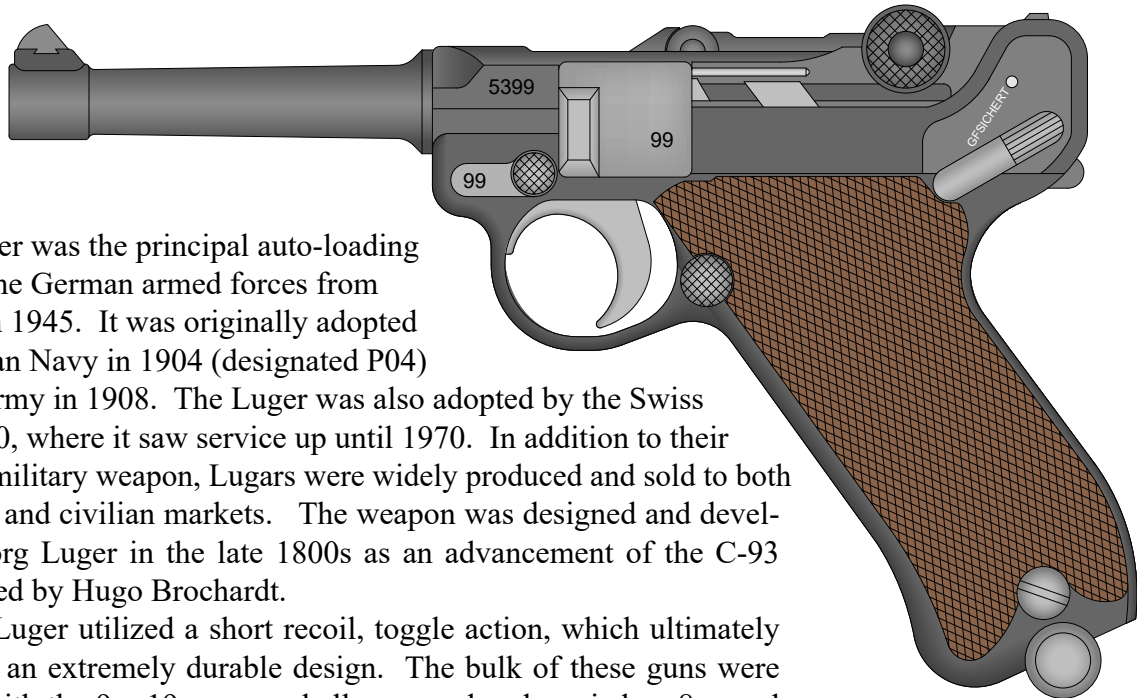


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P08 Luger Pistol

by Brian S. Elliott



The P08 Luger was the principal auto-loading handgun of the German armed forces from 1908 through 1945. It was originally adopted by the German Navy in 1904 (designated P04) and by the Army in 1908. The Luger was also adopted by the Swiss Army in 1900, where it saw service up until 1970. In addition to their success as a military weapon, Lugers were widely produced and sold to both police forces and civilian markets. The weapon was designed and developed by Georg Luger in the late 1800s as an advancement of the C-93 pistol designed by Hugo Brochardt.

The P08 Luger utilized a short recoil, toggle action, which ultimately proved to be an extremely durable design. The bulk of these guns were chambered with the 9 x 19 mm parabellum round and carried an 8-round box magazine, which was inserted in the grip of the pistol.

Specifications

Country of Origin:	Germany
Caliber:	7.65 x 21 mm & 9 x 19 mm
Muzzle Velocity:	350-400 m/s (9 mm)
Overall Length:	222 mm
Barrel Length:	100 mm
Weight:	871 Grams
Action:	Short Recoil, Toggle Breach
Capacity:	8-Round Box Magazine
Service:	1904 - 1945
Variations:	Pistole 04 & Lange Pistole 08
Designer:	Goerg J. Luger
Manufacturers:	DMW, Mauser, Others

The Luger did have one significant drawback. It was a particularly precise and complicated design. Because of this, it was expensive to manufacture and prone to malfunction when it got dirty in harsh battlefield conditions. Additionally, it was not a particularly simple weapon to field strip and clean. To address these drawbacks, in 1940 the German Army adopted the Walther P38. Although not as fine a pistol as the P08, the P38 was a superior battlefield weapon and, to many, the best military handgun of WWII.

Today, Lugers garner a great deal of collector interest and there are a number of companies that still manufacture these guns. It's generally thought that the enduring appeal for these weapons stems from their general appearance. The P08 Luger is widely considered, by many, to be one of the most handsome auto-loading handguns ever produced.

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