


Luger P08 pistol

Luger P08 (Parabellum)



P08 of the German Reichsmarine

Type	Service pistol
Place of origin	 German Empire
Service history	
In service	Germany (1908 – 1945) Switzerland (1908 – 1945) Militia use(1908-present)
Used by	See <i>Users</i>
Wars	World War I, Spanish Civil War, World War II, Chinese Civil War
Production history	
Designer	Georg J. Luger
Manufacturer	Deutsche Waffen und Munitionsfabriken, Imperial Arsenal of Erfurt and Spandau, Simson, Krieghoff, Mauser, Vickers, Waffenfabrick Bern
Produced	1908 – 1945
Specifications	
Weight	1.92 lbs. (871 grams)
Length	8.75 in. (222 mm)
Barrel length	98 mm–203 mm (3.9 in–8.02 in.)
Cartridge	7.65x22mm Parabellum 9x19mm Parabellum
Action	Toggle-locked, short recoil
Rate of fire	Semi-automatic
Muzzle velocity	350-400 m/s (9mm, 4 inch barrel)
Effective range	50 m (9mm, 4 inch barrel; short barrel)
Feed system	8-round detachable box magazine, 32-round detachable drum
Sights	Iron sights

The **Pistole Parabellum 1908** or **Parabellum-Pistole (Pistol Parabellum)**, popularly^[1] known as the **Luger**, is a toggle-locked recoil-operated semi-automatic pistol. The design was patented by Georg J. Luger in 1898 and produced by German arms manufacturer Deutsche Waffen- und Munitionsfabriken (DWM) starting in 1900; it was an evolution of the 1893 Hugo Borchardt designed C-93.

The Luger was made popular by its use by Germany during World War I and World War II. Although the Luger pistol was first introduced in 7.65x22mm Parabellum, it is notable for being the pistol for which the 9x19mm Parabellum (also known as the 9mm Luger) cartridge was developed.

Design details

The Luger uses a toggle-lock action, which uses a jointed arm to lock, as opposed to the slide actions of almost every other semi-automatic pistol. After a round is fired, the barrel and toggle assembly (both locked together at this point) travel rearward due to recoil. After moving roughly one-half inch (13 mm) rearward, the toggle strikes a cam built into the frame, causing the knee joint to hinge and the toggle and breech assembly to unlock. At this point the barrel stops its rearward movement (it impacts the frame), but the toggle and breech assembly continue moving (bending the knee joint) due to momentum, extracting the spent casing from the chamber and ejecting it. The toggle and breech assembly subsequently travel forward (under spring tension) and the next round from the magazine is loaded into the chamber. The entire sequence occurs in a fraction of a second. This mechanism worked well for higher pressure cartridges, but cartridges loaded to a lower pressure could cause the pistol to malfunction because they did not generate enough recoil to work the action fully. This resulted in either the breechblock not clearing the top cartridge of the magazine, or becoming jammed open on the cartridge's base.^[2]

In World War I, as submachine guns were found to be effective in trench warfare, experiments with converting various types of pistols to machine pistols (*Reihenfeuerpistolen*, literally "row-fire pistols" or "consecutive fire pistols") were conducted. Among those the Luger pistol (German Army designation **Pistole 08**) was examined; however, unlike the Mauser C96, which was converted in great numbers to *Reihenfeuerpistolen*, the Luger proved to have an excessive rate of fire in full-automatic mode.

The Luger pistol was manufactured to exacting standards and has a long service life. William "Bill" Ruger praised the Luger's 55 degree grip angle and duplicated it in his .22 LR pistol.

Service

The Swiss Army evaluated the Luger pistol in 7.65x21mm Parabellum (.30 Luger in North America) and adopted it in 1900 as its standard side arm, designated **Ordonnanzpistole 00** or **OP00**, in 1900.

The Luger pistol was accepted by the German Navy in 1904. The **Navy** model had a 6 inch barrel and a two position (100/200 metre) rear sight.

In 1908 the German Army adopted the Luger to replace the Reichsrevolver in front-line service. The **Pistole 08** (or *P.08*) had a 4-inch barrel and was chambered in 9x19mm Parabellum. The *P.08* was the usual side arm for German Army personnel in both world wars, though it was being replaced by the Walther P38 starting in 1938. In 1930, Mauser took over manufacture of the P.08 (until 1943).^[3]

The **Lange Pistole 08** (German > "Long Pistol Model of 1908") or **Artillery Luger** was a pistol carbine for use by German Army artillerymen as a sort of early Personal Defense Weapon. It had an 8 inch barrel, an 8-position tangent rear sight (calibrated to 800 metres) and a shoulder stock with holster. It was sometimes used with a 32-round drum magazine (**Trommelmagazin 08**). It was also available in various carbine versions with yet longer barrels.

The firm Armeria Belga of Santiago Chile, manufactured the Benke Thiemann retractable stock that could fold out from the grip section^[4]
[5] [6]

The United States evaluated several semi-automatic pistols in the late 1800s, including the Colt M1900, Steyr Mannlicher M1894, and an entry from Mauser. In 1900 the US purchased 1000 7.65 mm Lugers for field trials. Later, a small number were sampled in the then-new, more powerful 9 mm round. Field experience with .38 caliber revolvers in the Philippines and ballistic tests would result in a requirement for still-larger rounds.

In 1906 and 1907, the US Army held trials for a large-caliber semi-automatic. DWM provided two samples chambered in .45 ACP for testing. One of these two pistols is exhibited at the Norton Gallery, in Shreveport, Louisiana. After initial trials, DWM, Savage, and Colt were asked to provide further samples for evaluation. DWM withdrew for reasons that are still debated, though the Army did place an order for 200 more samples.

Usage today

Although outdated, the Luger is still sought after by collectors both for its sleek design, accuracy, and by its connection to Imperial and Nazi Germany. Limited production of the P.08 by its original manufacturer resumed when Mauser refurbished a quantity of them in 1999 for the pistol's centenary. More recently, Krieghoff announced^[7] the continuation of its Parabellum Model 08 line with 200 examples at \$17,545.00 apiece. The Luger was prized by Allied soldiers during both of the World Wars. Thousands were taken home during both wars, and are still in circulation today.^[8]

Users

-  Finland^[9]
-  Germany^[10]
-  Switzerland^[9]
-  Nazi Germany^[11]
-  German Empire^[11]
-  Weimar Republic^[11]



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See also

- Borchartd C-93

External links

- The Borchartd-Luger History - origins of the Parabellum ^[12]
- Luger Artillery and Mauser Parabellum ^[13]
- Luger 08 ^[14] in parts
- Modern Firearms ^[15]
- Bulgarian Luger 08 on GunsTribune ^[16]

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