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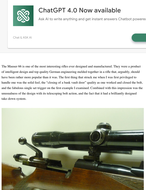
The Mauser 66

BY ERIC BEARDS · MAY 2, 2017 · 21 MINREAD



The Mauser 66 Sporting Rifle in 7mm Remington Magnum. Photo courtesy of Mauser.com.

The Mauser 66 Sporting Rifle in 7mm Remington Magnum. Photo courtesy of Mauser.com.

The smoothness of the action and the quality of manufacture pretty much guarantee that owners will tend to be satisfied and continue to hang onto Mauser 98. A continuous from an owner forum or "aficionadoing" on the Internetz.com.com forum is typical of what owners tend to report the same.

"I have had two of them, one a high dollar version rifle in a pay of the line Custom gun guild gunmakers and the other was a cut, grade 3 rifle. I LOVE THE 98. I ever those a bit high in appearance, but that is where it stops, they are smooth as silk, they feel like a prop through a press. I think that you could make a Mauser, dragoon out wood and they are hard to ever scratch. It just cool yet cute better than that, we're talking. It's not shooter. It doesn't it to be, than a cut, bolt action, ahh, it feel such a shoot as a sizable rifle."

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The interchangeable barrel system of the Mauser 98 enables the owner to have two or more calibers available in one rifle. The system is first calibers to be interchanged have to match the bolt face dimensions of the action. For the Mauser 98 there are four caliber groups within which it is possible to interchange barrels.

Group 1

Bolt face diameter 12.2mm

Calibers: 5.6x35mm, 243 Winchester, 6.5x55mm, 270 Winchester, 7x64mm Brennaka, 308 Winchester, 8000, 9.3x62mm

Group 2

Bolt face diameter 15.2mm

Calibers: 6.5x68mm, 6x68Mauser

Group 3

Bolt face diameter 15.6mm

Calibers: 6.5x68mm, 6x68Mauser

Group 4

Bolt face diameter 13.10mm

Calibers: 7mm Remington Magnum, 300 Winchester Magnum, 375 Holland and Holland Magnum, 458 Winchester Magnum. *Note: In the factory manual for the Mauser 66 the 300 Weatherby Magnum is not included in the list of available calibers but is listed in the available interchangeable barrels.*

So, it would be possible to have a Mauser 66 which would accommodate 7x64mm and 308, and also 270 Winchester and 300 Weatherby. Or, you could have a Mauser 66 which would accommodate 6x68mm and 6x68mm. Or you could have one with a bolt face for the belted magnum and not such things as the 7mm Remington Magnum and any of the other belted magnums. All that being said I don't know that many purchasers of Mauser 66 who purchased multiple barrels with their rifle. I certainly don't see too many appearing on the second hand market or equipped. It would be possible to have a Mauser 66 set up with a single barrel and a single bolt face and then have the rifle chambered for a cartridge that fits that bolt face and then you can have the rifle rechambered for a conventional heavy single-stage trigger. So most a Mauser recommend that one engage the safety catch and then push the tang mentioned button forward and hold it while pulling the trigger, then release both slowly.

The Mauser 66 came with three optional choices of trigger. A conventional European double-set trigger, a single set trigger, and a single stage "whisper" type trigger. For those unfamiliar with the double set trigger, the front trigger is the only one that will discharge the rifle if a person would pull or provide a heavy but crisp "whisper" trigger pull. However, if the rear trigger is pressed first it "sets" the front trigger so a very light pull will discharge the rifle. Some people like this system, others don't. The single stage trigger, which the Mauser 66 was equipped with, also had the rear trigger lever, and then pressure that was meant to "fire the single set trigger" there's a switch that looks like a tang safety at the rear of the action, push it forward and it sets your trigger as a "hair trigger". If it is set so it is a conventional heavy single-stage trigger. So most a Mauser recommend that one engage the safety catch and then push the tang mentioned button forward and hold it while pulling the trigger, then release both slowly.

The safety catch on the Mauser 66 is good, but I much prefer the "wing" safety on the Winchester Model 70 and the Mauser 98 Sporting Rifle. The safety catch is located on the tang of the bolt (visible crossly and by touch. You'd find out just as the Mauserkom Schimmen MT'y'ess.com's here.

The Mauser 66 came in two main model variations:

Model 66 S

This model was available with the choice of a single-stage "whisper" type trigger, a single "two-stage" set trigger or the European standard double set trigger.

Model 66 HE

This model featured the single set trigger actuated by a push button on the tang.

Calibers available were:

Standard

5.6x35mm, 243 Winchester, 6.5x55mm, 270 Winchester, 7x64mm Brennaka, 8000, 308 Winchester, 9.3x62mm.

Barrel length for these standard calibers was 60cm.

Magnum

6.5x68mm, 7mm Remington Magnum, 8x68S, 300 Winchester Magnum, 9.3x64mm Brennaka

Barrel length for these magnum calibers was 65cm.

Big Game

375 Holland and Holland Magnum, 458 Winchester Magnum

Barrel length for big game calibers was 65cm.

There was also a "Super" model for military and police use, the Mauser M-SP, and a model specifically for 300 magnum Free Rifle Match. These were both manufactured by the 300 Weatherby/Chlorine NATO cartridge.

Magazine capacity is listed as 5 rounds.

The Mauser 66 was a product of the critics and aficionados, a gun't was cut that has given us some of the most creative and desirable rounds cut designs, and some of the most creative rifle designs, of which the Mauser 66 is one of the best examples. Photo courtesy of the Mauser Museum, the Germany Mauser Gebrauen Lockmen is a collet to our and enjoy, so we collect and enjoy so Mauser.

Click here for the Mauser Model 66 User's Manual in PDF format.

Above User's Manual courtesy of Mauser.com. For the original file on Mauser's web site click here.

For Mauser's English web site click here.

Please consider, gentlemen, sirs: This is a Mauser sporter, wings, five, not in the amount so as to fall into 1,000,000.

There is a good answer to why the Mauser 98 is PDF format from Thomas Valley Guns available if you click there.

(Our feature image at the head of this post courtesy of coffin-lands.de)

Joe C. Breach
Joe Breach is the founder and senior editor of Revivaler and he writes a significant number of articles for various publications including official Sporting Clubs for office, classic, car articles for Hagerty, magazine articles for both the American and European markets, and has been published in Forbes, Hagerty, Revivaler, Motorcycle.com, Motorcycle, Motorcycle Classics, and motorsport articles on various issues, and has traveled extensively, having lived in Bermuda, Australia, China and Hong Kong. His travels have taken him to Switzerland, Italy, Spain and a number of other countries. He has studied the European Union and has a long history of involvement in the shooting sports, which has included authoring submissions to government on various firearms related issues and assisting in the design and establishment of shooting ranges.

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