




















PROOF MARKS

The proof marks shown below will assist in determining nationality of manufacturers when no other markings are evident. Since the U.S. has no proofing houses (as in England, France, Germany and other European countries), most U.S. manufacturers voluntarily proof their firearms with a specified style of proofmark (i.e. the interlocked ©WP^a synonymous with the Winchester trademark can be fired using modern smokeless powder) shells. Pre-1850 European firearms oftentimes do not exhibit any commercial proof marks and, with the exception of an occasional barrel address, they represent the single hardest category of firearms one can research properly. Captured weapons from major wars occasionally show two different nationalities of proof marks. This is acceptable since the gun was proofed in a national proof house after original manufacture and again when the gun was exported to a different country as a military acquisition. Please refer to the References section in this text for proof mark source information.









AUSTRIAN PROOF MARKS

| PROOF MARK | CIRCA | PROOF HOUSE | TYPE OF PROOF AND GUN |
|---|------------|-------------|--|
|  | since 1891 | Vienna | provisional proof for multi barrel guns |
|  | since 1891 | Ferlach | provisional proof for multi barrel guns |
|  | 1892-1918 | Prague | provisional proof for rifles |
|  | 1892-1918 | Ferlach | black powder proof for rifles |
|  | 1892-1918 | Prague | black powder proof for rifles |
|  | 1892-1918 | Weipert | black powder proof for rifles |
|  | 1892-1918 | Vienna | black powder proof for rifles |
|  | 1918-1938 | Ferlach | black powder proof for rifles |
|  | 1918-1938 | Vienna | black powder proof for rifles |
|  | 1938-1940 | Ferlach | black powder proof for rifles |
|  | 1938-1940 | Vienna | black powder proof for rifles |
|  | since 1945 | Vienna | black powder proof for multi barrel guns |
|  | since 1945 | Ferlach | black powder proof for multi barrel guns |
|  | since 1891 | Bundesheer | preliminary proof for multi barrel guns |

2404 PROOF MARKS: AUSTRIAN PROOF MARKS, cont.

| PROOF MARK | CIRCA | PROOF HOUSE | TYPE OF PROOF AND GUN |
|---|------------|-------------|---|
|  | 1891-1928 | Budapest | smokeless powder proof for parabellum pistols |
|  | Since 1981 | Ferlach | smokeless powder proof for parabellum pistols |
|  | 1891-1931 | Ferlach | smokeless powder proof for parabellum pistols |
|  | since 1891 | Vienna | smokeless powder proof for parabellum pistols |
|  | 1891-1931 | Weipert | smokeless powder proof for parabellum pistols |


















BELGIAN PROOF MARKS

| PROOF MARK | CIRCA | PROOF HOUSE | TYPE OF PROOF AND GUN |
|---|------------|-------------|---|
|  | since 1852 | Liege | provisional black powder proof for breech loading guns and rifled barrels |
|  | - | Liege- | double proof marking for unfurnished barrels |
|  | - | Liege- | triple proof provisional marking for unfurnished barrels |
|  | since 1893 | -Liege | definitive black powder proof for breech loading guns, small bore guns and handguns |
|  | since 1853 | Liege | View stamp and inspectors mark for firearms "Perron" |
|  | since 1924 | -Liege | Nitro proof for rifled barrel and parabellum pistols |
|  | since 1852 | -Liege | rifled arms defense for smokeless proof parabellum pistols |
|  | - | -Liege | Superior nitro proof |

BRITISH PROOF MARKS

| PROOF MARK | CIRCA | PROOF HOUSE | TYPE OF PROOF AND GUN |
|---|------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
|  | since 1856 | London | provisional proof for barrels |







PROOF MARKS: BRITISH PROOF MARKS - ENGLAND, cont. 2405

| PROOF MARK | CIRCA | PROOF HOUSE | TYPE OF PROOF AND GUN |
|---|------------|-------------|---|
|  | since 1856 | Birmingham | provisional proof for barrels |
|  | since 1637 | London | definitive black powder proof for shotguns, muzzle loader barrels |
|  | 1811-1892 | Liege | black powder proof for rifles |
|  | 1897-1923 | Liege | black powder proof for rifles |
|  | 1891-1968 | Liege | type EC. smokeless powder proof for rifles |
|  | 1898-1968 | Liege | type Pt. smokeless powder proof for rifles |
|  | 1898-1968 | Liege | smokeless powder proof for rifles |
|  | since 1968 | Liege | smokeless powder proof for rifles |
|  | since 1904 | London | definitive nitro proof for all guns - parabellum pistols |
|  | since 1954 | Birmingham | definitive nitro proof for barrel and action |
|  | since 1904 | Birmingham | black powder proof only for parabellum pistols |
|  | 1868-1925 | London | definitive special super power proof for parabellum pistols |
|  | 1868-1925 | Birmingham | voluntary special black powder proof |
|  | 1868-1925 | London | reproof marking for black powder rifles |
|  | 1868-1925 | Birmingham | reproof marking for black powder rifles |
|  | 1868-1925 | Birmingham | definitive black powder proof for shotguns |
|  | since 1904 | Birmingham | definitive nitro proof for all guns |
|  | since 1670 | London | view mark |
|  | since 1904 | Birmingham | view mark |

2406 PROOF MARKS: FRENCH PROOF MARKS
















FRENCH PROOF MARKS

| PARIS HOUSE | ST ETIENNE HOUSE | CIRCA | TYPE OF PROOF AND GUN |
|---|--|------------|--|
|  |  | since 1897 | provisional proof unfinished short barreled guns |
|  |  | 1897 | standard proof for finished guns |
|  |  | 1897 | double proof finished and joined barrels |
|  |  | 1897 | single barrel proof for non-assembled guns |
|  |  | 1897 | finished black powder guns |
| |  | since 1962 | black powder proof for rifles |
| R | | 1962-1972 | final black powder proof for rifles |
| |  | 1926-1962 | final black powder proof for rifles |
| |  | since 1962 | final black powder proof for rifles |
| |  | since 1900 | smokeless powder proof for rifles |
|  | | 1896-1926 | smokeless powder proof for rifles |
|  | | 1896-1926 | smokeless powder proof for rifles |
|  | | 1896-1926 | smokeless powder proof for rifles |
|  | | 1900-1972 | smokeless powder proof for rifles |
|  | | 1926-1972 | smokeless powder proof for rifles |
|  | | 1962-1972 | final smokeless powder proof for rifles |
|  | | since 1962 | final smokeless powder proof for rifles |
|  | | since 1982 | final smokeless powder proof for rifles |





| | | | |
|---|---|-------|---------------------------------|
| PARIS HOUSE | ST ETIENNE HOUSE | CIRCA | TYPE OF PROOF AND GUN |
|  |  | 1897 | special proof for finished guns |
|  |  | 1897 | ordinary smokeless powder proof |
|  |  | 1897 | superior smokeless powder proof |

GERMAN PROOF MARKS






Research continues for the inclusion of Pre-1950 German Proofmarks.

| PROOF MARK | CIRCA | PROOF HOUSE | TYPE OF PROOF AND GUN |
|---|------------|---------------------|--|
|  | since 1952 | Ulm | |
|  | since 1968 | Hannover | |
|  | since 1968 | Kiel (W. German) | |
|  | since 1968 | Munich | |
|  | since 1968 | Cologne (W. German) | |
|  | since 1968 | Berlin (W. German) | |
|  | since 1952 | Ulm | voluntary proof for hand/long guns |
|  | since 1952 | Ulm | repair proof for major gun parts |
|  | since 1952 | Ulm | provisional black powder for shotgun & multi barreled rifles |
|  | since 1952 | Ulm | definitive nitro proof for all guns |
|  | since 1952 | Ulm | definitive black powder for smokeless ammo guns |
|  | since 1952 | Ulm | Flobert for special purpose guns signal, flare, gas, & stun guns |
|  | since 1945 | E. German, Suhl | smokeless powder proof |
|  | since 1950 | E. German, Suhl | 1st black powder proof for rifled barrels |
|  | since 1950 | E. German, Suhl | nitro powder proof |








2408 PROOF MARKS: GERMAN PROOF MARKS, cont.

| PROOF MARK | CIRCA | PROOF HOUSE | TYPE OF PROOF AND GUN |
|---|------------|-----------------|---|
|  | since 1950 | E. German, Suhl | repair proof |
|  | since 1950 | E. German, Suhl | 1st black powder proof for smooth bored barrels |
|  | since 1950 | E. German, Suhl | inspection mark |
|  | since 1950 | E. German, Suhl | choke-bore barrel mark |


ITALIAN PROOF MARKS

| PROOF MARK | CIRCA | PROOF HOUSE | TYPE OF PROOF AND GUN |
|---|------------|-------------------|---|
|  | since 1951 | Brescia | provisional proof for all guns |
|  | since 1951 | Gardone | provisional proof for all guns |
|  | since 1951 | Gardone & Brescia | definitive proof for guns with smokeless powder |
|  | since 1951 | Gardone & Brescia | finish proof for firearms ready for sale |
|  | since 1951 | Gardone & Brescia | 1st black powder proof |

SPANISH PROOF MARKS

| PROOF MARK | CIRCA | PROOF HOUSE | TYPE OF PROOF AND GUN |
|--|------------|-------------|---|
|  | since 1910 | Eibar | provisional black powder proof for shotguns |
|  | since 1910 | Eibar | temporary black powder proof for shotguns |
|  | since 1910 | Eibar | final black powder proof for breech loading shotguns |
|  | since 1910 | Eibar | final smokeless powder proof for breech loading shotguns |
|  | since 1910 | Eibar | reinforced smokeless powder proof for breech loading shotguns |
|  | since 1910 | Eibar | provisional proof for shotguns |
|  | since 1910 | Eibar | final black powder proof for breech loading shotgun |

PROOF MARKS: SPANISH PROOF MARKS, cont. 2409

| PROOF MARK | CIRCA | PROOF HOUSE | TYPE OF PROOF AND GUN |
|---|------------|-------------|---|
|  | since 1923 | Eibar | final and single black powder proof for double barreled muzzle loading shotgun |
|  | since 1923 | Eibar | final and single black powder proof for single barrel smooth bored breechloading guns |
|  | since 1923 | Eibar | final black powder proof for double barreled breechloading rifles |
|  | since 1923 | Eibar | final black powder proof for single proof breechloading rifles |
|  | since 1923 | Eibar | reinforced voluntary proof for single and double barrel shotguns |
|  | since 1923 | Eibar | final proof of military-style rifle |
|  | since 1923 | Eibar | single and final proof of non-self loading pistols |
|  | since 1923 | Eibar | single and final proof for self loading pistols and revolvers |
|  | since 1929 | Eibar | admission proof for guns with old marks |
|  | since 1929 | Eibar | proof used in Barcelona for guns with old marks |
|  | since 1929 | Eibar | final proof for revolver |
|  | since 1929 | Eibar | proof for semiautomatic pistols |
|  | since 1929 | Eibar | special manufacturer's mark for guns made for foreign sales |
|  | since 1929 | Eibar | smokeless proof for shotgun barrels |
|  | since 1929 | Eibar | reinforced smokeless proof for shotgun barrels |