

PRODUCT REVIEW

MAUSER 1898

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BOLT ACTION SERVICE RIFLE



Karabiner 98k with laminated wood stock

Paul Mauser's Model 1898 (c. 1898) is the seminal bolt action rifle design, bringing together in one rifle the ideal blend of strength, reliability, accuracy and safety.

It is still in use today by soldiers and sporting shooters around the world, and was the most prolific service rifle prior to the introduction of the self-loading AK-47.

It uses two front locking lugs at the front with a third safety lug at the rear, and has a gas shield to protect a user's eyes in case of a burst primer or case-head separation, as do the oblong holes in the bottom of the bolt body sleeve that vent gases.

The firing pin rests on flanges that limit its forward movement when the safety is disengaged to prevent a discharge on loading, and is locked when the safety is engaged so it cannot move forward if dropped.

The awkward safety lever on the original 98 travels in a 180-degree arc (left to right), which interferes with a low mounted scope, so needs to be replaced with a side-swing or low-swing safety to allow a scope to be mounted lower to facilitate snap shooting and precision aiming.

Sporting 98s are often fitted with a more user friendly sliding tab safety that locks the trigger, but they do not have the firing pin locking feature of the original, thus many people prefer to use a modified military safety catch like the Timney M98 LPS.

The 98s controlled-feed action ensures that a round from the magazine is securely guided into the chamber when the bolt is operated, thanks to a massive extractor that grips the base of the top round in the 5-shot magazine, which has unsurpassed extracting ability.

Rounds should be placed into the magazine rather than directly into the chamber as the large extractor is stressed if it has to snap over the top of a chambered round's rim, which could cause a problem if repeated too many times.

The WWII era Kar 98k is considered to be the ultimate development of the Mauser service rifle, millions of which were made during the Second World War

They were chambered for the 7.92x57mm round, which is called the 8mm Mauser when sold for sporting use.

The 98 has been chambered for a many rounds, but the original 7.92mm round is what it was originally designed for and works best with.

Accuracy can be increased by glass bedding the action and free floating the barrel, though this is only of practical use if it is fitted with a lighter trigger and a telescopic sight.

LEUPOLD FX-II 2.5X20MM ULTRALIGHT RIFLE SCOPE



This lightweight 6.5 ounce telescopic sight is superb for general purpose use and will not unduly affect the balance and handling characteristics of the Kar 98k.

We recommend the version with the Matt finish and Wide Duplex reticle, and Leupold's water shedding Alumina Raincote Kit.

We also recommend Warne's Maxima 2-Piece Steel Bases and Quick Detach 1" rings (matt finish).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The 1898 Mauser has an unmatched combination of reliability, ruggedness, safety and simplicity in a bolt rifle, thus ideal for militia use where self-loading rifles are unavailable.

ACCESSORIES

Tactical Sling

Giles Tactical Sling, AR15/M16 Fixed Rear Stock/ Wrap Around Front (Olive Drab). [Wilderness Tactical Products]

Low Swing Safety

Timney M98 Low Profile Safety. [Timney Manufacturing, Inc.]

Adjustable Trigger

Mauser 98K Sportsman Trigger. [Timney Manufacturing, Inc.]

Scope Base/Rings

Warne Maxima 2-Piece Steel Bases (M902/832) and QD 1" Rings (Low .250"). [Warne]

Scope Cover

Bikini Scope Cover. [Butler Creek]

Stripper Clips

Five round stripper clips. [most gun stores]

Dry Fire Rounds

Pachmayr Dry Fire Dummy Rounds. [Pachmayr]

HOT TIP

Do not load rounds directly into the chamber as this will stress the extractor.

BEST PRODUCERS

CZ Brno (Czech Republic)
FN (Belgium)
Mauser (Germany)