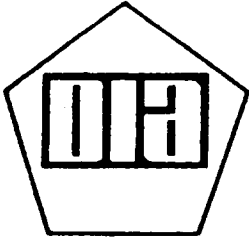


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**DEFENSE
INTELLIGENCE
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**SMALL-CALIBER
AMMUNITION
IDENTIFICATION GUIDE (U)
VOLUME 1
SMALL-ARMS CARTRIDGES
UP TO 15 mm (U)**

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SMALL-CALIBER AMMUNITION IDENTIFICATION GUIDE (U)

Volume 1
Small-Arms Cartridges Up to 15 mm (U)

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41. World War II--Germany

a. Headstamp Marking Practice.

(1) From the mid-1930s to the end of the war in 1945, military cartridges produced either in Germany, in occupied countries, or for German military use in other countries, normally utilized an unsegmented four-element layout; rarely, a two-element design is also reported. Headstamps included a producer code designed to conceal the identity and thus location of the producing factory; until 1940, with few exceptions, this code consisted of the letter P, either alone or more usually, followed by two or three digits. From 1940 on, this code was generally replaced by an alphabetic code consisting predominantly of three lower-case letters, less frequently of two letters, and in rare instances, a single letter (k or y). The normal four-element headstamp has the producer code at 12 o'clock. A code at 3 o'clock indicates the case material: St or St + indicates a steel case, either plated or lacquered; a combination of a Roman numeral, a lower-case letter, and an Arabic numeral (for example, VIII b1) identifies a copper-plated steel case; and * or S* indicates a brass case. An arc, or curved line, between the producer code and material code indicates that the Berdan primer pocket has just one flash hole rather than two. A lot number appears at 6 o'clock, and a two-digit year code at 9 o'clock.

(2) Well over a hundred letter-type producer codes are known; many of these are reported to reflect production outside of Germany proper. In addition, three-letter codes of wartime German style have been used by Czechoslovakia since the close of the war. In the interest of brevity, the complete listing of World War II codes is not presented here; instead, table XXVIII contains only those letter codes reported to have been used on small-arms ammunition produced in occupied countries or under foreign contract during World War II, or used by Czechoslovakia on postwar production. All codes other than those listed here represent wartime production in Germany.

b. Cartridge Type Identification. Cartridges are identified as to functional type by the presence or absence of a colored primer annulus, bullet tip color, or other feature. The color coding for the principal service cartridges is summarized in table XXVIII. Cartridges packed for use in tropical areas are further identified by a band at the case mouth of the same color as the primer annulus, as well as by the abbreviation (trop) in cartridge nomenclature on package labels.

Table XXVII. World War II and Postwar Letter-Type Manufacturers' Codes

Code	Country	Use
ak	Czechoslovakia	World War II occupation
am	Austria	World War II occupation
auu	Czechoslovakia	World War II occupation
aym	Czechoslovakia	Postwar; 1952-1968
bd	Czechoslovakia	World War II occupation
be	Austria	World War II occupation
bg	Austria	World War II occupation
bxn	Czechoslovakia	Postwar 1953-1964
ch	Belgium	World War II occupation
czo	Czechoslovakia	Postwar; 1956
dou	Czechoslovakia	World War II occupation
dtp	Czechoslovakia	Postwar; 1955
dye	Austria	World War II occupation
eeo	Poland	World War II occupation
jtb	Switzerland	Reported World War II contract production
kam	Poland	World War II occupation
kfg	Yugoslavia	World War II occupation
ksb	France	World War II occupation
kye	Romania	World War II production
kyn	Romania	World War II production
kyp	Romania	World War II production
lkm	Czechoslovakia	World War II occupation
mpr	Switzerland	World War II production
mrb	Czechoslovakia	World War II occupation
ndn	Yugoslavia	World War II production
nfx	Czechoslovakia	World War II occupation
oyj	France	World War II occupation
pjj	Denmark	World War II occupation
wf	Poland	World War II occupation
y	Hungary	World war II production

Table XXVIII. World War II German Small-Arms Ammunition Color Codes and Designators

Primer annulus color	Bullet tip color	Other feature	Bullet type	Designator	Calibers
Green	-	-	Heavy ball	L.S.	7.92x33, 7.92x57
Blue	-	-	Heavy ball (mild steel core)	S.m.E	7.92x33, 7.92x57
Red	-	Black bullet	AP (hard-core)	S.m.K (h)	7.92x33, 7.92x57
Red	Black	-	AP-T	S.m.K L'spur	7.92x33, 7.92x57
Red	-	-	AP	S.m.K	7.92x33, 7.92x57
White	-	-	AP	S.m.K	7.92x57
Black	-	Black bullet	Incendiary	S.P.R	7.92x33, 7.92x57
Black	-	-	API	P.m.K	7.92x33, 7.92x57
-	-	Green stripe on cartridge base	Ball (practice)	L.S.	7.92x33, 7.92x57
-	Black	Green stripe on cartridge base	Tracer (practice)	L.S. L'spur	7.92x57
Black	Chrome	-	Observation	B	7.92x57
Black	-	Rear half of bullet blackened	Observation	B	7.92x57 early manufacturer
Black	-	Not significant	Ball	'08	9x19
Green	-	Green cartridge case	Ball (low velocity)	'08 S	9x19
Green	-	Green cartridge case	Ball (low velocity)	Nah	7.92x57

c. Packaging. Cartridges are packed in cardboard cartons that bear a printed paper label indicating contents. The color of the paper label indicates the functional type: For 7.92x57 cartridges a white label indicates ball and AP cartridges; a yellow label, tracer cartridges; a green label, API; white with a black stripe at the top, explosive cartridges; white with a vertical green stripe, light practice tracer cartridges; divided diagonally in red and white, AP (hard-core); and red-mauve, blank cartridges. An overprint indicates a special pack or restricted use, i.e., cartridges in clips or restricted to use in machine-guns. Cartons may be packed in heavy tagboard intermediate packs or in sealed metal liners. External packing is a hinged wooden box carrying a similar but larger label.

d. Glossary. See table XXIX.

Table XXIX. World War II and Postwar
Abbreviations and Terms on German
Small-Arms Ammunition Packaging

Abbreviation	German	English
	Beobachtungspatrone	Observation cartridge
	Brand	Incendiary
Gesch.	Geschoss	Bullet
Gl'spur	Glimmspur	Dim ignition tracer (WW II)
	Hartkern	Hard core (WC alloy)
KB	Kurzbahn	Short range
L.	Ladestreifen	Charger (clip)
	lang	Long
L'spur	Leuchtspur	Tracer
	Manoeverpatrone	Blank cartridge
m.E.	mit Eisenkern	Mild steel core bullet (WW II)
MG	Maschinengewehr	Machinegun
MP	Maschinenpistole	Submachinegun
NZ	Nitrozellulose	Single-base propellant
Patr.	Patrone	Cartridge
Patrh.	Patronenhulse	Cartridge case
	Pistole	Pistol
P.m.K.	Phosphorgeschoß mit Kern	API (WW II)
PP	Pistolenpatrone	Pistol cartridge
S.	Spitzgeschoss	Light pointed bullet (WW II)
S.m.E.	Spitzgeschoss mit Eisenkern	Pointed bullet with iron core (WW II)
S.m.K.	Spitzgeschoss mit Stahlkern	AP bullet with steel core (WW II)
S.m.K.(H)	Spitzgeschoss mit Stahlkern (gehartet)	AP bullet with hardened steel core (WW II)
S.m.K.(H)	Spitzgeschoss mit Stahlkern (gehartet)	Pointed bullet with hardened steel core (WW II)
StbP	Stabchenpulver	Single-perforated grain propellant
StG	Sturmgewehr	Assault Rifle (WW II)
s.S.	schweres Spitzgeschoss	Heavy pointed ball bullet (WW II)
	Treibladung	Propellant
Ub	Ubung	Practice
Zdh.	Zundhutchchen	Primer