

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 bracket of firearms one can research properly. Captured weapons from major wars occasionally show two different nationalities of proofmarks. 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 proofmark 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
	1829-1958	Vienna	black powder proof for multi barrel guns
	1829-1958	Ferlach	black powder proof for multi barrel guns
	since 1891	Bundesheer	preliminary proof for multi barrel guns
	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	Belgium	provisional black powder proof for breech loading guns and rifled barrels
	-	-	double proof marking for unfurnished barrels
	-	-	triple proof provisional marking for unfurnished barrels
	since 1893	-	definitive black powder proof for breech loading guns, small bore guns and handguns
	since 1853	Perron	View stamp and inspectors mark for parabellum pistols
	since 1924	-	Nitro proof for rifled barrel and parabellum pistols
	since 1852	-	rifled arms defense for smokeless proof parabellum pistols
	-	-	Superior nitro proof

BRITISH PROOF MARKS

PROOF MARK	CIRCA	PROOF HOUSE	TYPE OF PROOF AND GUN
	since 1856	London	provisional proof for barrels
	since 1856	Birmingham	provisional proof for barrels
	since 1637	London	definitive black powder proof for shotguns,muzzle loader barrels
	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

1986 PROOF MARKS: BRITISH PROOF MARKS - ENGLAND, cont.

PROOF MARK	CIRCA	PROOF HOUSE	TYPE OF PROOF AND GUN
	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

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
		1897	special proof for finished guns
		1897	ordinary smokeless powder proof
		1897	superior smokeless powder proof

GERMAN PROOF MARKS

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	W. German	voluntary proof for Flobert rifle
	since 1952	W. German	repair proof for major gun parts
	since 1952	W. German	provisional black powder for shotgun & multi barreled rifles
	since 1952	W. German	definitive nitro proof for all guns
	since 1952	W. German	definitive black powder for smokeless ammo guns
	since 1952	W. German	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
	since 1950	E. German, Suhl	repair proof
	since 1950	E. German, Suhl	1st black powder proof for smooth bored barrels

1988 PROOF MARKS: GERMAN PROOF MARKS, cont.

PROOF MARK	CIRCA	PROOF HOUSE	TYPE OF PROOF AND GUN
	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	re-enforced 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. 1989

PROOF MARK	CIRCA	PROOF HOUSE	TYPE OF PROOF AND GUN
	since 1923	Eibar	final and single black powder proof for double barreled muzzle loading shotun
	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 barrel breechloading rifles
	since 1923	Eibar	reinforced voluntary proof for single 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