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The G29 (O)

by Bob Jensen edited by Peter kuck 06/12/2002

Little is known about the Austrian Model 29-bolt action rifle prior to its adoption by the German military after the incorporation of Austria (the Anschluss) into the greater German Reich in March of 1938.

We know of no examples of the Model 29 made before the German takeover in any collections. We are not sure if the rifles were made for the Austrian Police or Army or if they were intended strictly for export. It has been suggested that they were purely commercial hunting and target rifles and that the German authorities added the bayonet lug and cleaning rod when the rifle was adopted as a German military weapon. Bob Ball in Mauser Military rifles of the World (pg. 140) suggests that the G29 (O) may have started out as the M29 short rifle made for Columbia.

It is presumed, (without documentary proof) that the Germans assigned the designation G.29 (O) to the rifle even though this designation does not appear on the rifle. In the designation the letter "G" is for Gewehr (rifle) and the "O" for Osterreich (the German name for Austria).

The only two known variations of this rifle are based on the production date of either 1938 or 1939. All known examples have the Luftwaffe issue markings, Eagle over "L", on the right side rear of the stock. All stocks and hand guards are of solid wood construction. The wood used varies in color from a light blond to a very dark brown. All metal parts are milled except the distinctively formed sheet metal front barrel band. All Waffenamts are "WaA623" the same as found on all Steyr produced rifles. The rifles used the same standards as the K98k and the proofing is found in the same locations on the rifles as is found on K98k rifles produced in the same year. The G.29 (O) is a high quality rifle.



The known serial number range for the 1938 dated G29 (O) is from 833 to 5995a, with an estimated production run of 20,000 rifles. The known serial number range for the 1939 dated rifles is from 48 to 7754b, with an estimated production run of 30,000 rifles. We can assume based on the serial number data we have is that approximately 50,000 G.29 (O) rifles were manufactured over their two year production history. G29 (O) production ended in late 1939 when Steyr began making K98k rifles.



The G.29 (O) has a distinctive 'pointed' pointed pistol grip, stock grasping grooves, a full-length hand guard, bottom mounted sling Swivels (there are also side swivels on the left side), an ID disc in place of the usual bolt takedown washer, a wrap-around buttplate, and a distinctive front band. Both bands are retained by sheet metal screws rather than band springs.

G.29-O

The German G29 (O) was produced in Austria for the German Luftwaffe after the Anschluss of 1938. At the time of the German take over these rifles were being produced at Steyr works for export to Columbia. Steyr produced them in 1938 & 1939 before changing over to the standard K98k configuration. Total estimated production was 50,000 rifles.

The G.29 (O) differs from the K98k as follows.

“Pointed” pistol grip on stock.	Id disc on right side of stock.
Full length hand guard.	Sling attachment hardware.
Front & rear barrel bands with screws.	Indented recoil lug (for fp take down).
Wrap around buttplate.	meter scale one side of rear sight only

Proofing & serial numbers

Receiver code **660** receiver proofs waf WaA623 (3 on side)

Side rail **blank**

Serial number 4 digits possible alpha suffix (s/n **59**__)

Upper band s/n & waf WaA623

Lower band s/n & waf WaA623

Trigger guard s/n & waf WaA623 (2) milled with lock screws

Bolt ribbed & blued

Root bottom waf WaA623 (2) top s/n

Gas shield waf WaA623 (2) & s/n

Safety waf WaA623 (1) & s/n

Cocking piece waf WaA623 (2) & s/n

Extractor waf WaA623 (1) & 2 digit s/n

Extractor collar waf WaA623

Front sight No hood waf WaA623

Rear sight meter scale one side only s/n

Rear sight base waf WaA623

Stock Walnut

Stock Markings (external reported only)

Side waf WaA623 (2) waf eagle L (Luftwaffe)

Pistol grip Waf WaA623 (2)

Spine s/n

Bayonet lug waf WaA623 s/n (2 digits only)

Floor Plater waf WaA623 s/n (4 digits)

Magazine follower waf WaA623 s/n (4 digits)

G.29-O

The G.29 (0) differs from the K98k as follows.

“Pointed” pistol grip on stock.	Id disc on right side of stock.
Full length hand guard.	Sling attachment hardware.
Front & rear barrel bands with screws.	Indented recoil lug (for fp take down).
Wrap around buttplate.	meter scale one side of rear sight only

Proofing & serial numbers

Receiver code	660	receiver proofs	waf WaA623 (3 on side)
Side rail	blank		
Serial number	4 digits possible alpha suffix	(s/n 20__)	
Upper band	s/n & waf WaA623		
lower band	s/n & waf WaA623		
Trigger guard	s/n & waf WaA623 (2)	milled with lock screws	
Bolt	ribbed & blued		
Root	bottom waf WaA623 (2)	top s/n	
Gas shield	waf WaA623 (2) & s/n		
Safety	waf WaA623 (1) & s/n		
Cocking piece	waf WaA623 (2) & s/n		
Extractor	waf WaA623 (1) & 2 digit s/n		
Extractor collar	waf WaA623		
Front sight	No hood	waf WaA623	
Rear sight	meter scale one side only	s/n on slider	
Rear sight base	waf WaA623		
Stock	Walnut		
Stock Markings (external reported only)			
Side	waf WaA623 (2)	waf eagle L (Luftwaffe)	
Pistol grip		Waf WaA623 (2)	
Spine	s/n 2037	Waf WaA623 (2)	
Bayonet lug	waf WaA623	s/n (2 digits only)	
Magazine follower	waf WaA623	s/n (4 digits)	
Floor Plate	waf WaA623	s/n (4 digits)	