

German Nazi Manufacturers' Codes for the K98k

These are the manufacturers codes as applied to **Mauser K98k** rifles. The list is unlikely to be complete and we would welcome additions.

A pretty comprehensive explanation of codes and other markings may be found in Richard D Law, *Backbone of the Wehrmacht*, published by Collector Grade books on the K98k rifle. Volume 1 is on the development and general issue rifle. Volume 2 is on the Sniper Variations. The many contracts are illustrated with detail of dating, and other inspection marks, and an indication of quantities for the various contracts for production of the K98k rifle.

Also, although less easily obtained but thoroughly well researched and comprehensive as far as records allow, is: *Das System Adelbert Der K98k* by Albrecht Wacker, Adelbert being the name given to the manufacturers' coding.

The manufacturer's code was established to cover-up the manufacture of military arms in Germany, something forbidden under the terms of the Versailles Peace Treaty and inspected by the Inter-Allies Control Commission. At a time when Hitler and the new Nazi administration in Germany were breaking the re-armament limitations of the Versailles Treaty, the codes were a means of disguising their resources.

Initially the code was a letter plus 2 or 3 numbers, e.g. S/42 for Mauser. Early K98k production was a combination of letter/number with a date letter: e.g. S/42K for Mauser 1934 And S/147/G for Sauer in 1935, the S suffix was dropped from 1938, e.g. 147 for J P Sauer in 1938. The scripts are normally plain, although italicised examples are, infrequently, seen.

In 1940, it was changed to a letter coding, although confusingly, letter codes had been used from 1937, with BSW. ERMA changed their name in 1940 to Feinmechanische Werke GmbH, Erfurt, although they continued to use the S/27 code right to the end of their production of K98k rifles in 1942.

Examples of double coded rifles appear from 1941, for example ax/ar for a Feinmechanische Werke GmbH, Erfurt (ERMA) joint production with Mauser Werke AG, Borsigwalde.

Code	Makers Name	Note
S/27	ERMA – Erfurter Maschinenfabrik	From 1936.
S/42	Mauser Werke AG, Oberndorf a/N	
S/147	J P Sauer und Sohn Gewehrfabrik, Suhl	
S/237	Berlin-Lubecker Maschinenfabrik, Lubeck	
S/243	Mauser Werke AG, Borsigwalde	
337	Berliner-Suhler-Waffen/Gustloff Werke	1939
337	Gustloffwerke, Weimar	1940
660	Steyr-Daimler-Puch AG, Steyr	From 1939
945	Waffenwerke Brunn (Brno)	
a	Nahmatig, Nahmaschinenteile AG, Dresden	Parts
ar	Mauser Werke AG, Borsigwalde	
avk	Ruhrstahl AG, Presswerk Brackwede b Bielefeld	Parts
awz	Wille, Eduard, Werkzeugfabrik, Hammerwerke Wuppertal-Cronenberg	Parts
ax	Feinmechanische Werke GmbH, Erfurt (ERMA)	
ayf	H Geipal GmbH Waffenfabrik, Erfurt (ERMA) Zeitenstrasse 54	Parts
bcd	Gustloffwerke, Weimar	
bnz	Steyr-Daimler-Puch AG, Steyr	
bpr	Johannes Grossfuss Metall- und Lackierwarenfabrik, Dobeln	Parts
brg	HW Schmidt Metallwarenfabrik, Dobeln	Parts
BSW	Berliner-Suhler-Waffen und Fahrzeugwerke	From 1937
byf	Mauser Werke AG, Oberndorf a/N	
bys	Ruhrstahl AG, Gussstahlwerk itten/Ruhr	Parts
ce	J P Sauer und Sohn Gewehrfabrik, Suhl	Italicised style letters and vertical (1942)
ch	FN Herstal (DWM Werk Luttich)	Parts
crv	Fritz Werner AG Maschinen-und Werkzeugfabrik, Werk II Berlin	parts
cyw	Sachische Gussstahlwerk Dohlen AG, Stahlwerk Freital/Sachsen	parts
dhs	Schoniger Maschinenfabrik GmbH Schonigen	parts
dlv	Deutsches Edelstahlwerke AG, Werke Remscheid	parts
dot	WaffenWerke Brunn AG, Brunn (Brno)	
dou	WaffenWerke Brunn AG, Bystrica	
duv	Berlin-Lubecker Maschinenfabrik, Lubeck	
dwc	Bome &Co, Werksleitung Ludenscheid	Parts
e	Hermann Kohler AG Maschinenfabrik, Altenburg, Thul	parts
fxo	C G Haelel Waffen-und Fahrradfabrik, Suhl	parts

Code	Makers Name	Note
gba	Adolf von Braucke AG, Gussstahl-Drahl-u Seilwrke, Ihmerterback bei Westig, Westphalen	parts
Geco	Gustav Genshow & Co., Berlin	parts
ghn	Carl Ullrich & Co. Metallwarenfabrik, Obershonau, Thul	parts
gqm	Lock & Hartenberger Metalwarenfabrik, Idar- Oberstein	parts
guo	NV Nederlandse Maschinenfabrik Artillerie Inrichtingen, Werk, Hembrug-Zandaam	parts
i	Elite Diamantenwerk AG, Siegmars-Schonau b Chemnitz	parts
jwh	Staatliche Waffenfabrik, Chateaufort	parts
K	Luck & Wagner, Suhl	parts
I	Astrawerk AG, Chemnitz	parts
LU	unknown	parts
lrx	Dianawerk Mayer & Gammelspacher, Rastatt, Baden	parts
m	Limbacher Maschinenfabrik, Bach u Winter, Limbach, Sachsen	parts
n	Elsterwerdaer Fahrradfabrik E W Reichenbach GmbH, Elsterwerda – Biehla	parts
o	Madix Nahmaschinenteilfabrik, Alfred Keller & Co. KG, Dresden	parts
q	Julius Kohler, Limbach, Sachsen	parts
qnr	unknown	parts
swp	WaffenWerke Brunn AG, Brunn	
svw	Mauser Werke AG, Oberndorf a/N	
unk	H Menzel, Grossrohrsorf	Parts
unk	Seidel & Naumann, Dresden	Parts