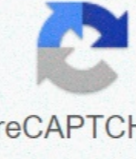


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How to identify a mauser 98

Mauser Actions 1) Small Ring M-1893-1896 1.30 in diameter are 8.50 in length. Straight side walled receiver with screw spacing of 7.620. Small ring have a threaded shank diameter of .980 in. With 12 threads per inch. These include M-1893 by Spain, M-1894/1896/1938 bySweden, 1893/1995 by Germany. Spanish M-93 bolts have flat bottom, DWM M-95 bolt faces are round. Swedish bolts M-38/94/96 will fit only Swedish. Receiver stripped weight 13.0 Oz. Note stright side of receiver front to rear.Oval Gas release cut on left side of receiver 2) M1910, M1936 Mexicans by FN and Mexico, 1.30 diameter. receiver ring, 8.50 in length, with screw spacing of 7.620. Barrel Shank .980 Small ring have a threaded shank diameter of .980 in. With 12 threads per inch The barrel is a 4-groove with a twist rate of 1:9 Receiver is slightly different from other Small Ring. Mauser (Bolts will not interchange with any other type Mauser). Receiver stripped weight 15.2 oz. Note stright side of receiver front to rear 3) WWI German KAR98A, 1.30 diameter. receiver ring, 8.750 in length, with screw spacing, of 7.835 (7 7/8)"(Long action, Small ring). Has a threaded shank diameter of 1.100 in. With 12 threads per inch. WWI German Carbine, Also Polish 98az Uses a standard M-98 Bolt. 4) Intermediate Large Ring M-98 (Large ring, Short action) 1.410 diameter. receiver ring, 8.50 in length, with screw spacing of 7.620 Intermediate Large ring have a threaded shank diameter of 1.10 in. With 12 threads per inch. Mexicans by FN and Belgium, the M24, M47, M48 by FN and Yugoslavia. A large number of M48 Yugoslavian large-ring M98 Mauser have recently been dropped on the market. This M-98 short is considered an intermediate action, and WILL NOT fit a Standard 98 Mauser stocks and standard bolts will not interchange. Receiver stripped weight 15.0 oz. 5) Large Ring M-98 1.410 diameter receiver ring, 8.750 in length, with screw spacing of 7.835. Barrel Shank of 1.100 Large ring have a threaded shank diameter of 1.10 in. With 12 threads per inch. Including M-98's from WWI and WW2, GEW-98, M-98k, CZ-24, VZ-24, Spanish M-43/44. Chilean M1912, Steyr Brazilian M1908/34, Brno 98/22, 98/29, DWM / Argentine. M1909, M24/30 Venezuelan, FN M1935 Peruvian, FN Standard Model, Mauser Oberndorf. Receiver stripped weight 15.5 oz. 6) M-33-40 Small Ring, 1.30 diameter. receiver ring, 8.50 in length with screw spacing of 7.835. Small Ring Long action. Lighting cuts on sides of receiver. Have a threaded shank diameter of .98 in. With 12 threads per inch. Also Brno Vz-33, CZ-33/40. Receiver stripped weight 13.4 Oz 6) Mauser Magnums Commercial factory 1.50 in diameter., 9.240 in length, have a hole spacing of 8.207. Barrel Shank 1.141 Brexex Magnum. Rare and Pricey. 7) Turkish Mausers there were in many different sizes and configurations. Thereare Intermediate as well as Long actions. Most receivers are large ring but with, small diameter treads, M-1938 Large Ring Same as #5 above, except with a small barrel shank diameter of .98 M-1903 Large Ring Intermediate Same as # 4 above but with Tall clip charger guide, and small barrel shank of .98 M-1893 Small Ring Same as #1 above 8) Argentine 1891 9) Siamese Mauser 1.410 diameter. receiver ring, 8.50 receiver length with screw spacing of 7.60 Threaded shank diameter of .515" long. .990" in diameter, with 14 threads per inch 10) Kurtz (true Short Action) 1.30" Diameter recevier ring, 8.25 Action Length. Hole spacing of 6.60. Very rare, made in Germany pre WW2, 11) Interarms Mini Mauser 1.195 diameter receiver ring, 7.25 Receiver length, with screw spacing of 6.25" Barrel Configuration Large Ring Mauser 1.10 diameter. x 12 TPI, 625 length. Kar/Gew 98, VZ/CZ-24, FN etc. Small Ring Mauser 980 diameter. x 12 TPI, 645 length. M-93 thru M-95. Swedish Mauser. 980 diameter. x 12 TPI, 645 length. M-38-94-96 M-91 Argentine .980 diameter. x 12 TPI, 715 Length. 1) Small Ring (Spanish) Notice straight sides 2) Mexican 1910 /1936 Notice straight sides 3) Mauser KAR98 Carbine Coming soon 4) Mauser Intermediate (FN Mexican Model 24) 5) Mauser Largo Ring 98 (German WW2) 6) Mauser 33-40 Coming Soon (have to find one) 7) Mauser Turkish Variosus Versions 1890 Carbine and Rifle 1893 Carbine and Rifle 1898/22 Long Rifle 1903 Rifle 1938 Carbine and Rifle Photos Coming . 8) Argentine 1891 9) Siamese Mauser 1) Mauser M-98 (Gew98, 98k, kar98, 1909, 33-40, VZ-24 and others) 7.37 total length, Front 1.984, Rear 5.353 2) Mauser M-48 Yugo Also M-24 Mexican 7.24 total length, Front 2.015, Rear 5.225 3) Mauser M-1910/36 Mexican 7.036 total length, Front 1.730, Rear 5.306 4) Mauser M-1893/95 6.826 total length, Front 1.682, Rear 5.144 5) Mauser M-96 Swede 7.185 total length, Front 1.742, Rear 5.443 6) Mauser Argentine M-91 Need Photo 7) Mauser Magnum (True Magnum) 7.60 total length, Front 2.170, Rear 5.353 Need Photo Model 48 Yugo conversion from M-98 Yep More Pictures coming soon 1) Mauser M-98 (Gew98, 98k, kar98, 1909, 33-40, VZ-24 and others) 4.1/4" long, 7/16" wide, side area with groove, 5/16". groove width 7/32" 2) Mauser M-48 Yugo Same As M-98 above, slightly different radius to bevel 3) Mauser M-1910/36 Mexican 4.1/2" long, 13/32" wide, side area with groove, 1/4". groove width 3/16" 4) Mauser M-1893/95 4.3/16" long, 13/32" wide, side area with groove, 7/32". groove width 3/32" 5) Mauser Argentine M-91 6) Mauser M-96 Swede 4.1/8" long, 13/32" wide, side area with groove, 7/32". groove width 1/16" 7) Mauser Magnum (True Magnum) MISC pictures of extractors . Mauser M-91 Argentine Mauser M-93 Mauser M-95 Same as the M-93 except has a rounded bottom on bolt face. Mauser M-94 / 38 Swedish Mauser M-96 Swedish Mauser M-98 straight bolt Body Mauser 98k WW 2 Bolt Body 6.25" long Mauser M-1908 Bolt Mauser 33-40 note dished out bolt handle. Mauser 98 Intermediate Bolt Body 6" long Mauser M-98a carbine Bolt has a 90% tun and a handle that is flat and checkered on the bottom. Mexican M-1910, Straight handle M-1936, has a sight 30% turn down on bolt handle Mauser Siamese For the hard to find Siamese Mauser floor plate use a Japanese M-38 floorplate modification can be done easily. Check out the link. Siamese floor plate Page Please help with any corrections or additions to this page. Last up date May 2021 Great Book for Mauser info \$ 49.95 (out of Print) Check our Selection of Mauser parts at Mauser Parts. So I went to a gun show last weekend to find a good deal on a Beretta. Instead I happily pick up two historic bolt action rifles. A Japanese training rifle and a Mauser. The owner wasn't sure which one and to be honest I'm not sure either. At first I thought it was a 98k but looking at the bolt I'm thinking it might not be. Of course the only marking not worn off is the serial number. Any ideas anybody? 5 Likes I read, Identify as a Mauser 5 Likes Can I identify as a Mosin then? Haw! I'll stop. 6 Likes I'll drink to that 6 Likes Also a pic of the sight may help 4 Likes Was told it's a 8mm haven't verified the caliber. 3 Likes The two mausers I had were 7mm 5 Likes Should have said front and rear sights 4 Likes Belt-Fed: The two mausers I had were 7mm I have 5 Two 8mm Mausers (7.92 X 57) Two Swede Mausers (6.5 X 55) Arisaka Type 99 (7.7 X 58) (It is a Mauser action after all Japanese style) Regardless it is a 98 action of some type (Third Lug) There were a god awful lot of Mausers put out in all kinds of versions. 4 Likes Huh go figure. Well I guess when it's good food the market with it lol. Guy gave me Greek made 7.92 Mauser rounds thinking give those a try after I clean her up a bit. 6 Likes So it is a greek contract rifle. These were made by FN and are rather well made. Known as the Model 30. This is essentially a VZ-24 Mauser. It looks like your missing the handguard also which are often broken. They are available though. Too bad they wiped all the crests and markings from it. That would lead me to believe it was a Capture rifle from one of Greece's many wars. Good shooter however and have fun with it. 2 Likes One more thing about the Arisaka. Ammo isn't cheap and it is hard to find as well. Outdoorlimited had the best RECENT price. (I just got two boxes). Cant wait to try it out. As for the 7.92 X 57 stuff. Stay away from of the surplus Romanian ammo. See Romanian 8mm issues? 3 Likes Oh! That explains why I had a hard time identifying her. Definitely appreciate Grenz. How you find this out by the way? Not surprised with the arisaka. From what I was told this one is a training rifle that would have been sent to schools as a training aid never meant to shoot. 3 Likes I'm good at research and have researched all my firearms. Dates made and history with them as much as I can anyway. Sort of a History nut case you may say. And I am a Mauser Fan for sure. I have 5 if you count the Arisaka. I also have a Romanian Contract VZ-24 (1 of 5000 made). I shoot them ALL too. There is just something about shooting an old war horse that is just flat out COOL!!! I let others shoot them too at the range if they like. As for the Training Arisaka it will have a cast pot-metal receiver if it is. But will chamber a fire round and then blow up from. You don't... Cant tell from the picture though. There are also Last Ditch Rifles that look crude but are shootable. The rear sight is very crude as well. Pictures tell all though. Need better closeups to tell. 5 Likes Inspector marks are difficult which is what the bolt marking is. The post has many images that appear to not have uploaded. VZ24 variants are chambered in several rounds when exported so you do also to verify what you have there. Clean up that Arisaka and lets see what you got there. 1 Like Sorry it took so long. Tried the Mauser last weekend with the rounds I got with it. Two bad primers didn't feel like testing the other 98 rounds lol. So thank God for girlfriend's brother, got to use his 30-30 Winchester. Ahhh that feels better! 1 Like Here's the arisaka taken apart. A little cleaning other than that good wall hanger. 3 Likes The receiver looks like a sand casting. Definitely a training only rifle. I bet the bore is smooth as well. Put a round it that and eat the breach. They were designed for blanks at best, but I wouldn't even shoot those. It is these type rifles that gave the Arisaka a bad name after the war. Too many GI's tried to shoot real ammo in them and bleye. Real Arisakas are marked like this: And no doubt the receiver is a milled piece of steel. I was hoping to shoot this one on Friday but we will rained out. The weather Gods just frowned on our group this week. next page - There are many variants of this weapon, and it has been widely copied. K98k is a bolt-action rifle chambered for the 7.92x57mm Mauser cartridge. It remained the primary German service rifle until the end of the war in 1945. Millions were captured by the Soviets at the conclusion of World War II and were widely distributed as military aid. The Karabiner 98k therefore continues to appear in conflicts across the world as they are taken out of storage during times of strife. A number of non-European nations used the Mauser Karabiner 98k rifle as well as a few guerrilla organizations to help establish new nation-states. One example was Israel who used the Mauser Karabiner 98k rifle from the late 1940s until the 1970s. During the 1990s, the Yugoslavian Karabiner 98k rifles and the Yugoslavian M48 and M48A rifles were used alongside modern automatic and semi-automatic rifles by all the warring factions of the Yugoslav wars. I bought this yesterday from a neighbor. I do not know much about Mausers. In the early 1970s, I owned a La Coruña made Mauser carbine and that is it for me. From discussing this new one with folks here and my own reading, it appears to be a Polish K98 which had the Receiver wiped clean of identifying marks and info. This suggests Spain from the time of their civil war. Poland, as you may know, shipped in these parts to the loyalist republican side. This may have been one of them. The only import mark is "8mm" up near the front sight. "K98" is stamped on the left side near the four digit serial number followed by the letter "U". I am interested in any thoughts others might have as to where it came from. I have not shot it yet as ammo for this rifle in these parts, well, you better forget about it. So, I am ordering 197 grain SP and FMJs on line. I read these shorter barreled guns shoot better with the heavier bullet of mil-spec weight rather than the modern 170 grain loads. Bore appears to be very good from using a bore light and not a scope. Could use a cleaning, of course. Again, if it is stamped K98, it IS Polish, they are the only ones to use that nomenclature. Polish K98 scrubbed for the Spanish Civil War... you will find all sorts of SCW guns, Russian, French, German, Polish, etc... Again, if it is stamped K98, it IS Polish, they are the only ones to use that nomenclature. Polish K98 scrubbed for the Spanish Civil War... you will find all sorts of SCW guns, Russian, French, German, Polish, etc... So true! Most of Europe and some citizens of the USA were present for that conflict. I am thinking about buying the mauser 98 action, but I do not know where to identify what type it is or where it is from. I plan to use this action to build a rifle. A close family friend who has built numerous custom rifles based off of the 98 mauser action will help me through the build, but before I purchase the action I would like to be able to identify it, just in case parts scarcity could be an issue before we start the build. Prairie Dog50, Some things to look for are cock-on-opening, action screw spacing, help whether or not it's thumb-notched and has a stripper clip guide on the front of the receiver bridge. If it does, it's a 99% probability that it's military. In my opinion, I would stay away from the WW I actions, and any of the German WW II actions dated 1944 or later. Yugo 48's are good large ring 98 actions, but they're shorter than the std length large ring. The commercial FN actions and the commercial Zastava Yugoslav actions are good ones too. Most are standard length and the rest are magnum length. The Remington 798 is a Yugo action, and would be a good choice too, but I don't know if it's std length or 48 length. The military actions will need quite a bit of work on them to make a scoped sporter rifle. The commercials don't need much at all. Small rings are O.K. for lower pressure 7 x 57 size cartridges, 45,000 psi max. (also my opinion). I think the best of them are the Swedes, even the old '96's, but they are shorter than the std 98 and all of them I've seen are cock-on-closing. I recommend that you check out the link rscott posted. I'm going to. Mausers can be difficult to sort out. There are so many different versions, makers, etc. Be careful. Good luck. Tom Did a little research and found that the action is from the city of BRNO of Czechoslovakia, I also found that it was for a model vz 24 mauser rifle. It said this rifle is a shorter than normal rifle, the though process behind this design was to build balistically and it would allow for easier handling. The mauser 7mm and the 7x57 were both chambered for this rifle. With all that said will this action be compatible for most mauser 98 parts? For example the claw extractor does not have the piece that attaches it to the bolt body, so I will need to buy a new one, will any mauser 98 part fit on it? PD, I just now saw your post. It's late here and I going out of town for a few days. Will check out the VZ 24 action length and bolt diameter when I get back. I believe that any 98 extractor collar will work, and I also think that they are standard length actions, but need to check to be sure. I know where there's a VZ 24 rifle that I can measure. If you need to know quickly, PM shortgates and ask him. He'll know off the top of his head. Later, Tom The VZ-24 is the Czech equivalent of the German 98K. It is of standard 98 action length and compatible with standard 98 parts. Handguards are different from the 98K, but that is about the only difference that I am aware of. The VZ24 is a great action for building a custom on the 98 Mauser platform - I have four of them myself (6.5-06A1, 338WM, 22-250Rem, and one bare action waiting on a 22-6mm barre) I built the 22-250 myself, and just finished a 7X57 on a small-ring Kar98a action. Be careful - it gets addictive! The VZ24 is a standard large-ring 98 action so you'll have no problems going forward with your project. Aftermarket stocks, triggers, safeties, and bottom metal are all readily available, as are prethreaded, short-chambered barrels. As another poster mentioned, they'll require some work to turn into a sporter. The bolt handle will either need to be forged down or replaced (preferred) to clear the scope objective, and the action will need to be drilled and tapped. Be sure that the front ring is D&T'd in the proper location - Kimber ruined a lot of actions by drilling too far back... Many builders will also true the primary and secondary torque shoulders, lap the lugs in, and lap the bolt face (if needed). For your first build, I'd recommend also getting Jerry Kuhnhausen's book on Mausers - it'll help identify some common issues/pitfalls and also does a great job of walking you through the steps involved in sporterizing one of these fine old actions. Have fun with your build! Brian Outfary: The particular caliber I'm thinking of using for the build will be the .22-250 Rem, mainly because I would love to have a bad *** prairie dog gun. My dad had his friend, a very qualified and experienced custom rifle builder, help him with his which was built around a Yugo 48. The Yugo 48 is a short action which to the best of knowledge makes it a great candidate for a short action caliber like the .22-250 Rem. Because the VZ 24 is a standard length action will I be able to get it to shoot like my dad's yugo, which consistently shoots .4 inch groups or smaller? While the Yugo 48 action is shorter than the VZ24 action, it is nowhere near actually being a short action. That said, I have a 22-250 that I built on a BRNO 98/22 action (the immediate predecessor to the VZ24). With a cheap A&B barrel, I have tuned my handloads to produce pretty consistent sub .6" groups at 100 yards. With a better barrel, who knows what kind of accuracy potential my rifle would have? The 22-250 works just fine in the full length mauser action. I haven't even bothered with putting in a mag block or changing the follower. You should have no problem building an accurate 22-250 on your VZ24 action. I think that you will be very pleased with how your rifle performs when you have finished your build. +1 The 48 is what is known as an intermediate action, and is only a little shorter than the standard 98 footprint. The Yugos are safety breached, and use a different bolt as a result. The action length difference won't matter in making them shoot. I've used an aftermarket trigger guard with an insert and shorter follower in my .22-250 Rem on the VZ-24 and it feeds like butter. Having said that, though, I didn't have any trouble getting that round to feed from the standard length mag. I just didn't like all that extra space in there I go, too, built mine using the Adams & Bennett prethreaded, short chambered barrel from Midway in an F34 contour. This is heavier than sporter, so it makes a nice walking varmintar at 24" long. The only down side of this barrel is its slow twist (1-14"), so it won't stabilize some 55 gr bullets. But, the lighter bullets shoot fine, and if wind's an issue, I go to more gun anyway, so it doesn't bother me at all. The barrel is what makes a good shooter, along with chambering, threading, etc. concentric w/ bore. For the money, I'm very pleased with the A&B barrels. Plus, you can usually get them right away instead of waiting 3-6 months for Shilen...but Shilen will shoot at least as good if not better, and will clean up easier. Have fun with your build, and enjoy! Brian +1 I, too, built mine using the Adams & Bennett prethreaded, short chambered barrel from Midway in an F34 contour. This is heavier than sporter, so it makes a nice walking varmintar at 24" long. The only down side of this barrel is its slow twist (1-14"), so it won't stabilize some 55 gr bullets. But, the lighter bullets shoot fine, and if wind's an issue, I go to more gun anyway, so it doesn't bother me at all. The barrel is what makes a good shooter, along with chambering, threading, etc. concentric w/ bore. For the money, I'm very pleased with the A&B barrels. Plus, you can usually get them right away instead of waiting 3-6 months for Shilen...but Shilen will shoot at least as good if not better, and will clean up easier. Have fun with your build, and enjoy! Brian Yup, the F34 is what I have as well. I have been very satisfied with its price/performance ratio. Incidentally, I have fired 55 gr factory loads with Berger and Sierra Blitzking bullets as well as handloads with the 60 gr Hornady Spire Point bullets in my rifle. All of those bullets stabilized with no problem. They didn't produce the kind of accuracy that I was looking for, but they did stabilize. I am getting my best accuracy with 52 gr AMAX and 50 gr VMAX bullets. I also have a free-threaded short-chambered 26" Shilen #4 contour 1:12 twist barrel waiting in the wings for when I have shot my A&B out. That may be awhile, but I will be ready with another barrel when the time comes. For now, I really like the way my '98 mauser in 22-250 shoots 1:14 twist A&B barrel and all. Since were on the topic of my first build and I have a pretty good idea that alot of you guys have ample experience on these types of builds, I would like to ask several more questions. 1. If there was an order as to what to do first and so on and so forth from there...what would it be??? Or does this really matter? 2. Are there any common pitfalls that a new builder might run into? 3. Were should I not sacrifice quality for price or vice versa when it comes to this build (I want a rifle that will hold 1/2 moa out to 500 yds, and I would like to keep the overall price under \$1200) Should I invest more money in a great scope, or more money into the best trigger, barrel, muzzle brake and stock that I can get my hands on for the price I'm willing to pay? The Mauser 98 excels in many areas although I think your 1/2 MOA expectation is attainable, but optimistic. If that kind of accuracy is high on your list, you should possibly look at other actions to build on such as a Savage. As for the scope, there's no doubt that optics are crucial as you increase precision and distance. However, it's much easier to replace/upgrade a scope than it is to replace the barrel. And, it's much easier to replace the barrel and/or stock than the action. So, start with a solid foundation and work up - good financing -good action -blueprinted (receiver and bolt) -good barrel w/ proper twist - chambered and true with the action - good stock - bedded and barrel floated - good 20 MOA picatinny rail mounted without stress - good scope and rings lapped in - good bi-pod or shooting rest - ground up barrel breakin, proper cleaning regime, and load development IMO - It's easier to decrease accuracy by cutting one or two corners than it is to increase accuracy. -- richard ...and, I should've mentioned good reloading equipment, components, and methods of procedure. But, that's a whole other forum. As for the guys that buy a \$300 rifle and \$19 box of ammo and consistently shoot 1/2 MOA, they should be playing the lottery. It never happens like that for me. -- richard Page 2 First, there will be different opinions on what and how things need to be done, but these are things that I have done. Buy a truing mandrell or fixture from Brownell's, or make one. I like the mandrell, and have made several out of old barrels. Take a light truing cut (or cuts) on the receiver face. Usually takes me about .006" - .008" to get one (Mauser) like I want it. Flat, square, and with a wider face for better make-up. I don't try to true the inner shoulder, because I want the outer to make up first.Most of the books say to make up on the inner shoulder first, but I cut the tenon .001" short so the outer face will make up first. Once the barrel breech abuts the inner shoulder, make-up rotation stops cold, and I prefer that the outer shoulder be made up just before that happens. Forge, or cut and weld the bolt handle to clear a scope. If you haven't done this, have someone you really trust to do it the way you want it. A good bolt can be screwed up if it's not done right. Next, drill and tap the receiver for scope bases. (I like 2 pc bases). Same precaution. I've seen too many receivers screwed up by off-center, off-spaced, out of line holes. Not a job for a hobbyist. If you use the military bolt shroud, you'll need a scope safety. Buehler used to make them. If you find one of the nice commercial shrouds, they need a trigger with a side safety. As for where to spend money, go for a high quality barrel first. A Lilja stainless barrel is my favorite. Next, you need a good stock. For the money, a plain laminate stock from Stocky's is the best deal going. It will need to be pillar blocked and SteelBedded. If they make them for large ring 98's, Bell and Carlson Medalist stocks are also good for the money, but for maximum accuracy, they need to be bedded also. The standard military trigger can be modified to a clean, 3 - 4 lb, single stage let-off, but if you haven't seen one or done one, I don't recommend trying it. Get a cheap adjustable Timney for about \$100. It's a good buy, and is available with a side safety. Scopes are the hardest to pick, and can be the single biggest expense on a build if you do the labor yourself. If you have to have the rifle built, the labor will cost more than a decent scope will. Don't expect much from a \$100 Chinese scope, no matter what the brand name is. At around \$250 you can start to get a pretty good scope. Watch for a Leopold or Nikon in that price range. I also think the SWFA Super Sniper at \$300 is a good scope. It's a fixed power scope. You have all the pieces in hand or ordered, and know what they are going to cost, you can decide if you want to Parkerize or rustblue the action and floormetal. Parkerize (the dark manganese phosphate) looks good on a working gun. A nice rustblue is prettier though. If you're patient, and can do the sm'ishing yourself, you can build a fine 1/2 moa rifle for \$1200. Good luck, Tom Since were on the topic of my first build and I have a pretty good idea that alot of you guys have ample experience on these types of builds, I would like to ask several more questions. 1. If there was an order as to what to do first and so on and so forth from there...what would it be??? Or does this really matter? 2. Are there any common pitfalls that a new builder might run into? 3. Were should I not sacrifice quality for price or vice versa when it comes to this build (I want a rifle that will hold 1/2 moa out to 500 yds, and I would like to keep the overall price under \$1200) Should I invest more money in a great scope, or more money into the best trigger, barrel, muzzle brake and stock that I can get my hands on for the price I'm willing to pay? My response to your post is very lengthy. I apologize if I went too far in trying to answer your questions. So, here goes: You have already defined your performance goal (which is both reasonable and achievable) and selected the action to be used as your build platform (VZ-24). Let's call that step one. Before you go any further, I strongly recommend doing some reading on the subject. The previously mentioned book by Jerry Kuhnhausen is an excellent place to start. Take the time to inspect your action (the Kuhnhausen book will walk you through this) and get firmly in mind how you intend to modify it to reach your performance goal. Next, honestly evaluate your skills, interest, and available resources. If you are a skilled machinist and welder (or have a willing accomplice that is) and have access to the necessary tooling, you can do the entire build yourself. If not, you will need to farm some of the work out and must plan your budget accordingly. You should also consider how many mauser rifles you plan to build. If you plan to build several rifles, it may be worthwhile to acquire the tooling necessary to do more of the work yourself. If this is a one shot deal for you, it may be more budget friendly to have a gunsmith do most of the work for you. Your level of interest in this project and your motive for wanting to do it should also be carefully considered. If you are doing this to save money, you would be best served to simply buy a rifle off-the-shelf. If you are doing this to learn something and have the personal satisfaction that comes from building and shooting your own rifle, by all means, press onward. Available resources that deserve to be considered include available tooling and workspace and the knowledge base that you have access to (such as willing friends with technical know-how and/or equipment). Once the logistical side of this has been examined, you can begin to consider parts and materials. To sporterize a mauser, you will need at minimum: barrel, stock, trigger, safety, bolt handle, scope, rings, and mounts. Depending on what you choose to do yourself, you will also need to consider materials for metal finish, action bedding, and stock finish (if you choose to use a wood or laminate stock). Now for the basic gunsmithing involved. Regardless of who does the work, most of the things that need to be done to sporterize a mauser are best done after the original barrel has been removed and before the new one is installed. Examples of this include truing the action/barrel mating surfaces, truing the bolt face, lapping the bolt lugs (a controversial subject when it comes to dilsurp mausers), and drill and tap the receiver for scope mounts. Before the drill and tap operation is done, the stripper clip boss should be removed, if desired. This would also be a good time to have the new bolt handle welded on and a new safety fitted. Once the action work is done and the new barrel has been fitted, the desired metal finish should be applied. There are a host of options here, each one requiring different preparation, different methods of application, and different tooling. Whatever choice is made here, make sure that the metal finish has been applied before doing any bedding or inletting work. Regardless of which stock you choose for your mauser, you should expect to do some inletting work to achieve a good fit. This takes a few simple tools and a lot of patience. Personally, I have succeeded in getting my barreled actions to fit and have a barrel that is free-floated. However, I suck at making my inletting good good. I am still trying to get better at this. If you are a perfectionist in terms of appearance, I encourage you to either have the inletting done by a true professional or have someone who really knows what they are doing guide you through the process. Once the inletting is completed, the appropriate stock finish should be applied if you are using a wood or laminate stock. Be advised that if you choose a stock that is inletted for a commercial mauser action (such as a Bell & Carlson Medalist w/aluminum bedding block, Charles Daly, or something intended for a Remington 798) you will also need to obtain bottom metal for a commercial action. The next step is bedding the barreled action. Your method of bedding will be highly dependent on what stock you have chosen. There are many options in technique and materials and a lot has been written about this elsewhere, so I won't detail the process here. Once the action work has been completed, the barrel fitted, all finishes applied, the stock has been fitted, and the action has been bedded into the stock, it is time to install the scope mount(s), rings, and scope. Boreight the scope, if desired. With the rifle assembled, the final steps involve barrel break-in and load development. In general, my mausers have cost me about \$700-\$850 in parts and labor to build, including the cost of the action (which was far below what they are going for now) I am not a skilled welder or machinist, so I had to pay to have the barrel fitted and the bolt handle welded on. The other things I tackled myself, with satisfactory results. I am not including optics or tooling. Plan to include features. I am not an advocate of spending a lot of your money on a scope right out of the gate for the following reasons: A good, serviceable scope can be had for \$300 or less. You can always upgrade your scope when your skill level and budget can justify doing so. Optics technology advances more rapidly than anything else in the shooting sports. Undue emphasis placed on a high dollar scope now will result in dollars being spent on technology that will be obsolete in a short time in comparison to money spent on a better barrel, good machine work, or practice ammo. The best scope in the world will not make a so-so barrel shoot like a top grade match barrel. In summary, my priorities, in terms of what to spend my money on, would look something like this: 1. quality barrel 2. quality machine work 3. trigger 4. stock/bedding 5. optics and mounts Another thing worth considering, if you have not already purchased an action, is to base your build on a commercial mauser action. The commercial action will cost more to purchase, but the additional cost will be offset by reduced gunsmithing and parts costs. You will also get more modern steel in the bargain, reducing the risk of a failed build resulting from problems with heat treating of the older steels. An additional benefit is the better bottom metal that comes with a commercial action. So far, my build on a Zastava commercial action is the most accurate among my stable of mausers. This concludes my shotgun blast style attempt to answer your questions. I hope that I provided some information that proves to be useful to you. There is alot of good advice in the above posts. The only thing I did not read though was firing pins. I replace all of my 98's / VZ24's with Superior Shooting Systems firing pins and springs, a must!!

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