

German Maschinenpistole 40 (Machine Pistol 40 / MP 40)

The *MP 40* descended from its predecessor the MP 38, which was in turn based on the MP 36, a prototype made of machined steel. The MP 36 was developed independently by Erma Werke's Berthold Geipel with funding from the German Army. It took design elements from Heinrich Vollmer's VPM 1930 and EMP. Vollmer then worked on Berthold Geipel's MP 36 and in 1938 submitted a prototype to answer a request from the *Heereswaffenamt* (Army Weapons Office) for a new submachine gun, which was adopted as MP 38. The MP 38 was a simplification of the MP 36, and the MP 40 was a further simplification of the MP 38, with certain cost-saving alterations, most notably in the more extensive use of stamped steel rather than machined parts.

The MP 40 was often called the "Schmeisser" by the Allies, after the weapon designer Hugo Schmeisser. Schmeisser had designed the MP 18, which was the first mass-produced submachine gun. He did not, however, have anything to do with the design or development of the MP 40, although he held a patent on the magazine

The MP 40 submachine guns are open-bolt, blowback-operated automatic arms. The only mode of fire was fully automatic, but the relatively low rate of fire enabled single shots with controlled trigger pulls. The bolt features a telescoping return spring guide which serves as a pneumatic recoil buffer. The cocking handle was permanently attached to the bolt on early MP 38s, but on late production MP 38s and MP 40s, the bolt handle was made as a separate part. It also served as a safety by pushing the head of the handle into one of two separate notches above the main opening; this action locked the bolt either in the cocked (rear) or uncocked (forward) position. The absence of this feature on early MP 38s resulted in field expedients such as leather harnesses with a small loop that were used to hold the bolt in the forward position.

The MP 38 receiver was made of machined steel, but this was a time-consuming and expensive process. To save time and materials, and thus increase production, construction of the MP 40 receiver was simplified by using stamped steel and electro-spot welding as much as possible. The MP 38 also features longitudinal grooving on the receiver and bolt, as well as a circular opening on the magazine housing. These features were eliminated on the MP 40.

One unique feature found on most MP 38 and MP 40 submachine guns was an aluminum, steel, or Bakelite resting bar or support under the barrel. This was used to steady the weapon when firing over the side of open-top armored personnel carriers such as the Sd.Kfz. 251 half-track. A hand guard, made of a synthetic material derived from Bakelite, was located between the magazine housing and the pistol grip. The barrel lacked any form of insulation, which often resulted in burns on the supporting hand if it was incorrectly positioned. The MP 40 also had a forward-folding metal stock, the first for a submachine gun, resulting in a shorter overall weapon when folded. However, this stock design was at times insufficiently durable for hard combat use.

Cartridge	9×19mm Parabellum
Effective firing range:	100–200 m
Maximum firing range:	250 m
Rate of fire:	500–550 rounds/min
Place of origin:	Nazi Germany
Barrel length:	251 mm (9.9 in)
Overall length	833 mm (32.8 in) stock extended, 630 mm (24.8 inches) stock folded
Weight	3.97 kg (8.75 lb)
Unit cost:	57 RM (1940); 230 EUR current equivalent
Designer:	Heinrich Vollmer; Berthold Geipel
Produced	1940–1945
No. built	1,100,000 (estimated)
Manufacturer	Steyr-Mannlicher Erma Werke Haenel
Variants	MP 36 MP 38 MP 40 MP 40/1 MP 41

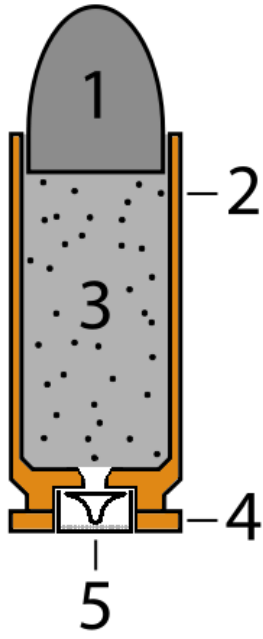




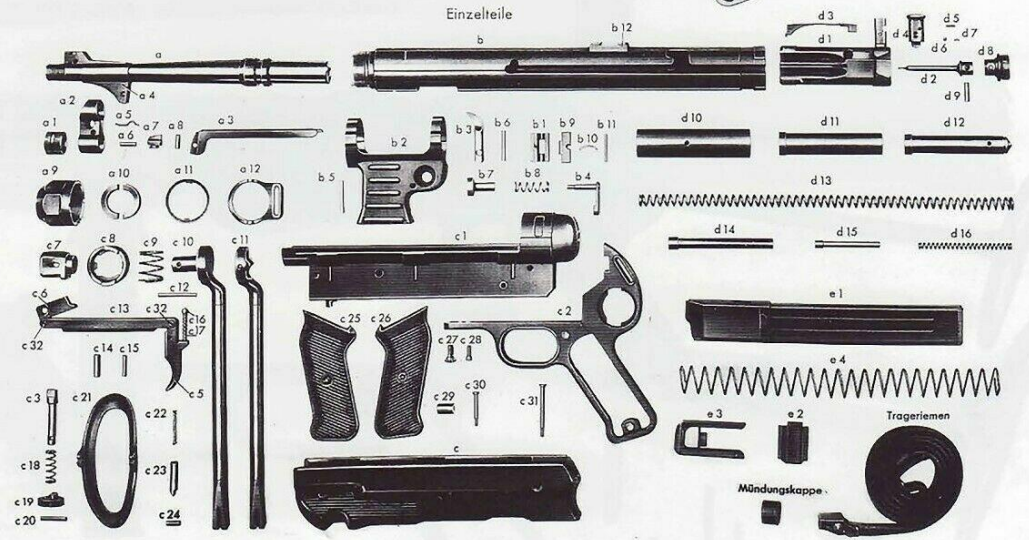
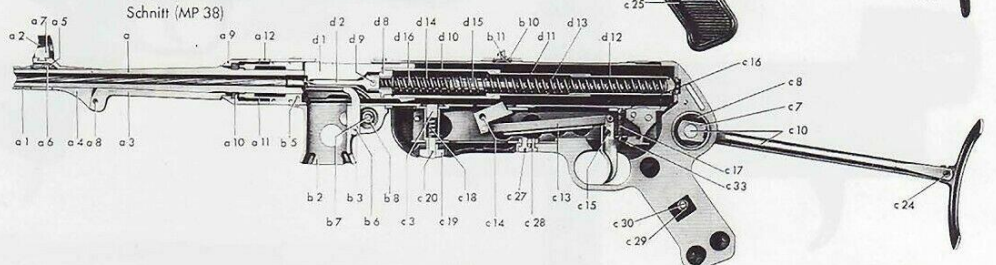
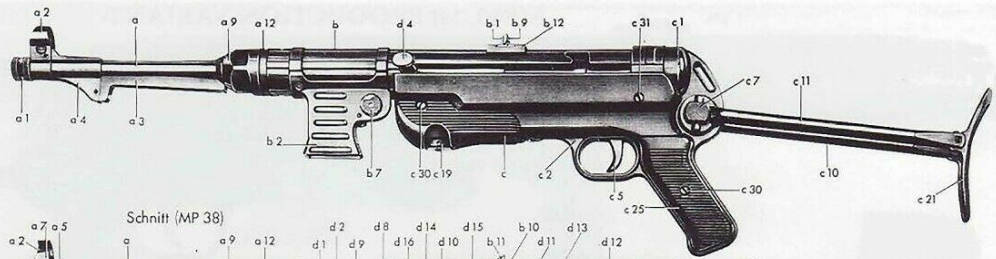
Magazine pouches, magazines and loading tool

A modern round consists of the following:

1. **bullet**, as the projectile;
2. **cartridge case**, which holds all parts together;
3. **propellant**, for example gunpowder or cordite;
4. **rim**, which provides the extractor on the firearm a place to grip the casing to remove it from the chamber once fired;
5. **primer**, which ignites the propellant.



Part of a German training chart (dated November 15, 1942) showing an MP40 and section view of an MP38.



- a Barrel
- a1 Bushing
- a2 Front sight protector
- a3 Barrel bar
- a4 Front sight base
- a5 Bushing spring
- a6 Front sight base pin
- a7 Front sight
- a8 Barrel bar pin
- a9 Barrel nut
- a10 Ring (two halves)
- a11 Barrel nut safety ring
- a12 Ring for sling
- b Receiver housing, complete
- b1 Back sight, complete
- b2 Magazine housing
- b3 Ejector
- b4 Magazine catch
- b5 Magazine housing pin
- b6 Ejector pin
- b7 Magazine release knob
- b8 Magazine catch spring
- b9 Back sight flap
- b10 Back sight flap spring
- b11 Back sight pin
- b12 Back sight base
- c1 Lower receiver
- c2 Grip, complete
- c3 Lower receiver lock screw
- c5 Trigger
- c6 Sear
- c7 Stock release button
- c8 Stock bushing
- c9 Stock spring
- c9 Stock release button spring
- c10 Stock arm, right
- c11 Stock arm, left
- c12 Stock release button pin
- c13 Trigger mechanism
- c14 Sear pin
- c15 Trigger pin
- c16 Shaft for trigger spring
- c17 Trigger spring
- c18 Receiver lock screw spring

- c19 Receiver lock screw button
- c20 Receiver lock screw pin
- c21 Shoulder piece
- c22 Shoulder piece spring
- c23 Shoulder piece shaft w/notch
- c24 Shoulder piece pin
- c25 Grip plate, left
- c26 Grip plate, right
- c27 Grip screw
- c28 Grip locking screw
- c29 Grip plate bushing
- c30 Grip plate screw

- c31 Grip plate screw
- c32 Trigger bar pin
- c33 Safety wire
- d1 Bolt
- d2 Firing pin
- d3 Extractor
- d4 Retracting handle
- d5 Retracting handle pin
- d6 Retracting handle ball bearing
- d7 Retracting handle spring
- d8 Firing pin bushing
- d9 Firing pin spindle
- d10 Front recoil spring tube

- d11 Center recoil spring tube
- d12 Recoil spring tube w/buffer
- d13 Recoil spring
- d14 Recoil spring guide
- d15 Recoil guide
- d16 Internal firing pin spring
- e1 Magazine housing, complete
- e2 Magazine floorplate, complete
- e3 Magazine follower, complete
- e4 Magazine spring