

military pistol holsters did not normally have any housing for carrying a cleaning rod. (This issue is discussed in more detail above in relation to P.08 holsters.)

1475 (right). P.08 cleaning rods.

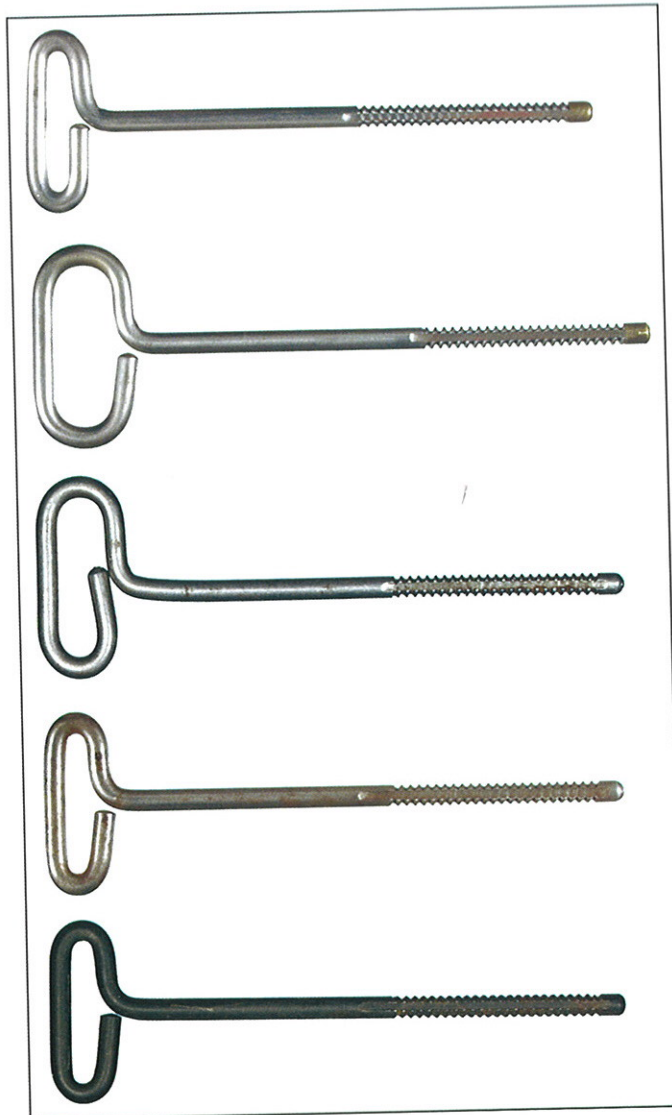
Top: the first, pre-July 1914 pattern, with small flattened loop handle and brass tip. Note for identification that it is the shortest type.

Second: the longer July, 1914 modified pattern, with larger loop handle and brass tip.

Third: the same post-1914 pattern with larger loop handle but steel tip, as produced during WWI.

Fourth: the postwar pattern, with steel tip, very similar to the first pre-war type, but with slightly increased length, which probably commenced manufacture during WWI and continued in production for the German forces until 1935.

Below: the last all-steel type, produced at the end of Mauser production to be supplied with the Portuguese M/943 pistols, with matt-black phosphated finish.



Cleaning Rods for the *lange Pistole 08*

The prototype all-enclosing wood holster-stock for the limited number of LP.08s made for trials in 1913 had a housing for a ring-ended cleaning rod machined into the body over the pistol housing, the circular ring handle of 31mm diameter lying in a close-fitting recess split between the body and lid of the stock. The maximum shaft length which can be accommodated is 210mm. The carrying scabbard for this stock also has an internal pocket for a cleaning rod, which will accommodate a standard LP.08 barrel-handled rod. Similar uncertainty over the carriage of the screwdriver, due to the experimental nature of this stock, is displayed in the provision of both a spring-steel clip inside the lid and a pocket in the scabbard for this implement.

Apart from the shaft length, which is 235mm, the standard LP.08 rods closely follow the pattern of the later steel shaft/threaded end Naval rods, initially using brass washers/distance piece for the rotating



1476. Closeup of the internal loop-handle cleaning rod housing in the 1913 prototype troop trials holster-stock for the LP.08.

The rod shown is not known to be original, but suits the pocket length and loop handle cut-out dimensions exactly.