


FAQ Question	Answer	Detail	Notes
<p>What is a "VoPo", "Russian Capture" or "RC" Luger?</p>	<p>During World War II, battles that were won in Russia, the eastern European war theater and Eastern Germany yielded a large number of weapons to the Russian victors that occupied large areas.</p> <p>The firearms, including the Lugers that they captured were gathered up, transported to Russian operated arsenals and initially stored. Some of these Lugers were later refurbished by the East German VolksPolezei (VoPo) and some by the Russians (Russian Capture, or "RC") for use within the Soviet Union.</p> <p>Most Russian refurbished Lugers and a minority (about 25%) of VoPo Lugers were marked with a large "X" symbol on the receiver, frame, toggle train or other area. The X is approximately 3/16 high, and very distinctive. The appearance of the "X" varies slightly on RC and VoPo Lugers.</p> <p>The meaning of this "X" is unknown today, as is the timing of when it was placed on the Luger. This information is lost, or will be found in the future in Russian or VoPo refurbishment procedure documentation.</p> <p>It may have been a property mark like the "1920" applied by the Weimar German government after WW-I to their Lugers. It may indicate that refurbishment procedures were complete and the gun was ready for storage and subsequent issue.</p> <p>As arms were needed by Russia and the police and military agencies in their occupied territories, these captured Lugers and other guns were inspected. Some were rebuilt and refinished. Most, but not all, RC or VoPo Lugers have import marks. When rebuilt, they generally kept all matched serviceable parts together.</p>	<p>Mixes of parts from DWM, Erfurt, Simson and Mauser are commonly found. Some complete and matching guns are found, as are complete matching receiver canons mated to differently numbered complete matching frames.</p> <p>The refinishing process was quick, efficient, effective and not particularly attractive. The process is called "Dip Refinished".</p> <p>"RC" or Russian Capture Lugers that were assigned to East German police units and refurbished by the East Germans are sometimes referred to as "VoPo" or "Volkespolizei" Lugers.</p> <p>It is possible that, prior to refurbishment, Lugers were stored in oil to preserve them. This could have destroyed wooden grips, and may account for the distinctive plastic grips that are found on RC and VoPo Lugers.</p> <p>While many Russian Capture Lugers retain original wooden grips, many have distinctive ribbed plastic grips.</p> <p>"VoPo" Lugers are found with plastic replacement grips with a "bullseye" pattern molded into the diamond grip field (shown in the photo at right).</p> <p>The Eastern Block manufactured new parts for Luger refurbishment, and even manufactured a small number of complete pistols at the Simson successor, VEB Ernst Thalmann works (Suhl, East Germany).</p>	<p>Some Russian Capture or VoPo guns were re-inspected, re-proofed before being put into service. A number of matching guns that were never issued to VoPo forces have even been found.</p> <p>Many of these guns were sold by the Russian, Ukraine and East German governments to US importers when replaced with newer guns. They have been imported periodically from the 1960's through current dates.</p> <p>VoPo Crown/U Proof:</p>  <p>Matching Crown/U proofed VoPo Luger:</p> 