STOEGER LUGER .22 By DENNIS RIORDAN

THE Luger pistol has enjoyed a long colorful history. Named after Georg Luger, its German designer, this famous handgun was developed in the late 1890's, and was produced by DWM (Deutsche Waffen und Munitionsfabriken; German Arms and Ammunition Co.), Berlin, Germany. Later, it was also produced in large quantity by Mauser and several other firms for various governments and commercial sales.

Many Lugers were imported into the U.S. chiefly by Stoeger Arms Corp. These pistols were in calibers 9 mm. Luger and 7.65 mm. Luger, both center-fire rounds. The supply of these commercial pistols was cut off by World War II, and the Luger was discontinued. Popularity of the Luger has increased since the war, however, and in 1969 Stoeger introduced a U.S.-made version of this pistol chambered for the highly-popular .22 long rifle rimfire cartridge. The new pistol was developed by gun designer Gary Wilhelm.

Possessing the same general appearance as the German Army Model 1908 Luger pistol, the Stoeger Luger fires regular or high-velocity .22 long rifle ammunition. Barrel length of the Stoeger pistol is 4½", 9/16" greater than that of the Model 1908. Weight is 30¼ ozs., or only ¾ oz. less than the Model 1908. Magazine capacity is 11 rounds.

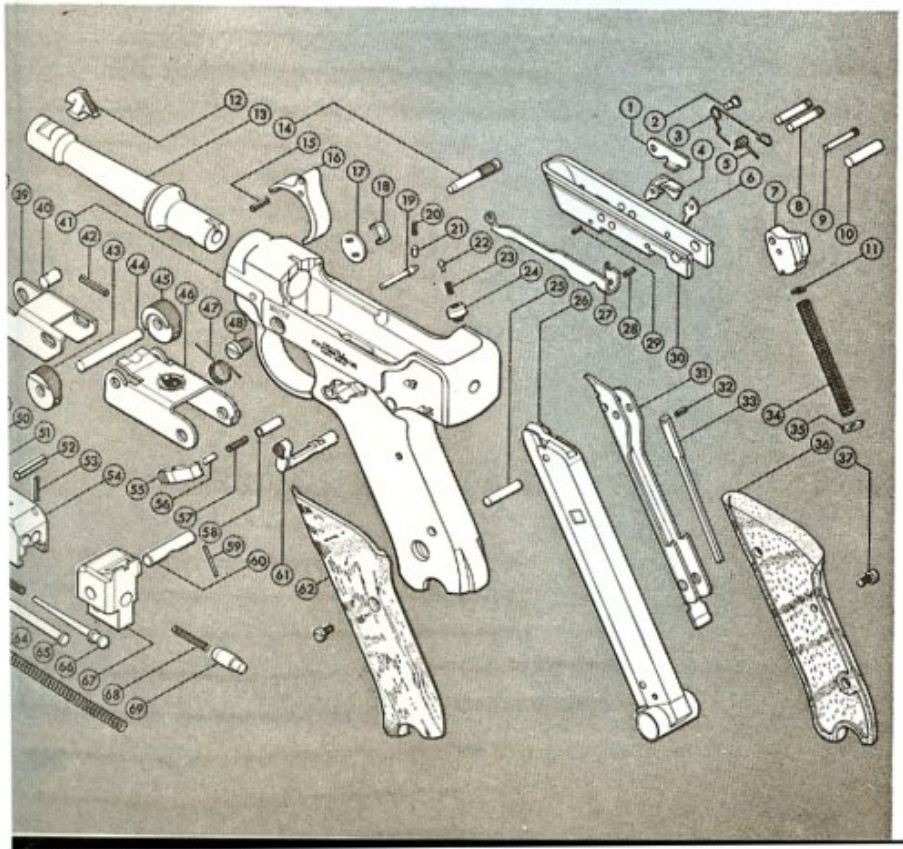
Mechanical design of the Stoeger Luger differs considerably from the center-fire models. While the Stoeger Luger has a toggle-joint breech system resembling that of the center-fire models, the barrel is fixed in the frame and does not recoil. The action is of retarded-blowback design since opening of the breech is retarded to some extent by the toggle mechanism.

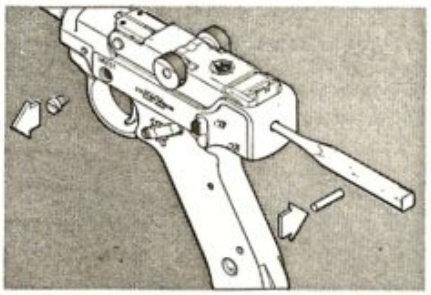
Unlike center-fire Lugers, the lock mechanism has a pivoting hammer powered by a coil spring in the handle. The recoil spring, also of coil type, is in the breechbolt. As in center-fire models, the safety is on the left of the frame. The pistol is optionally available at no extra cost with the safety on the right of the frame for left-handed users.

Materials in the Stoeger Luger are in

PARTS LEGEND

1. Bolt stop
2. Bolt stop pin
3. Bolt stop spring
4. Sear
5. Sear spring
6. Safety shoe
7. Hammer
8. Magazine guide pin (2)
9. Sear pin
10. Boltways block pin
11. Hammer spring washer
12. Front sight
13. Barrel
14. Barrel pin
15. Trigger pull pin
16. Trigger
17. Magazine catch anchor plate
18. Magazine catch anchor
19. Trigger pin
20. Trigger pin plunger spring
21. Trigger pin plunger
22. Safety detent plunger
23. Safety spring
24. Safety spring housing
25. Main frame pin
26. Magazine
27. Sear bar
28. Sear bar pin
29. Sear bar guide pin
30. Boltways
31. Magazine guide
32. Hammer strut pin
33. Hammer strut
34. Hammer spring
35. Hammer strut anchor plate
36. Right grip
37. Grip screw (2)
38. Front toggle pin, left hand
39. Front toggle
40. Front toggle pin, right hand
41. Frame
42. Toggle grip pin (2)
43. Toggle grip, left hand
44. Toggle link pin
45. Toggle grip, right hand
46. Rear toggle
47. Rear toggle spring
48. Sear bar retaining screw
49. Extractor
50. Extractor spring
51. Front toggle pin retaining pin (2)
52. Extractor pin
53. Firing pin retaining pin
54. Bolt
55. Magazine catch
56. Magazine catch plunger
57. Magazine catch spring
58. Magazine catch plunger guide
59. Magazine catch pin
60. Rear toggle pivot pin
61. Safety lever
62. Left grip
63. Firing pin spring
64. Drive spring
65. Drive spring guide
66. Firing pin
67. Boltways block
68. Takedown plunger spring
69. Takedown plunger





1 Disassemble pistol on a clean, well-lighted bench. Depress magazine catch (55) and remove magazine (26), checking that it is empty. Grasp toggle grips (43, 45) and pull back and up on toggle fully to clear chamber. Release toggle and replace magazine. Move safety lever (61) to fire position, and leave action cocked. Unscrew sear bar retaining screw (48) and grip screws (37). Remove grips (36, 62). Use pin punch to push out main frame pin (25). Then, depress takedown plunger (69). Action will rise slightly as takedown plunger clears frame (41).

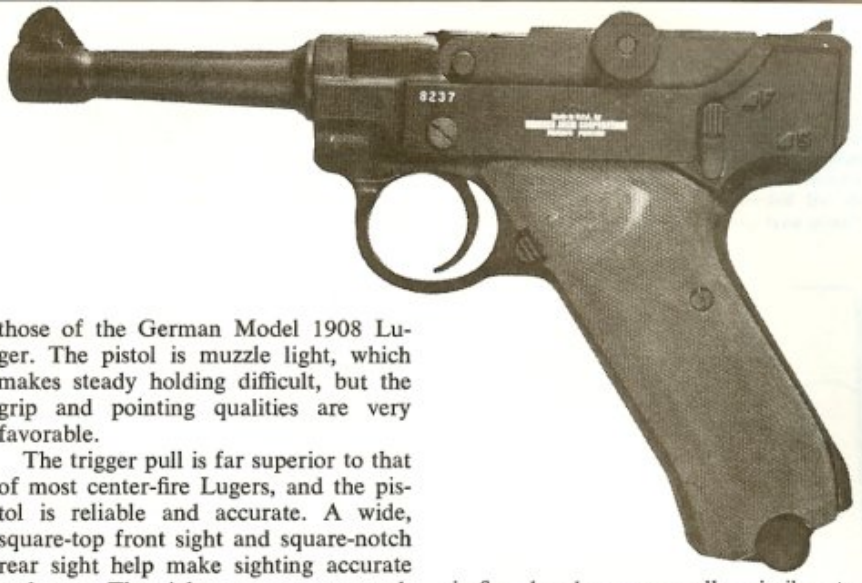
keeping with the current trend in gun construction. The frame is forged aluminum alloy instead of steel, and some parts are fabricated from sheet steel. There are also several plastic parts. The barrel, breechbolt, and other parts subject to great wear and stress are steel. Resin-impregnated checkered wood grips were used at first. These had the appearance of plastic, and this resulted in a change to epoxy-finished uncheckered walnut grips. The current-production Stoeger Luger also has an improved safety detent plunger and bolt stop pin

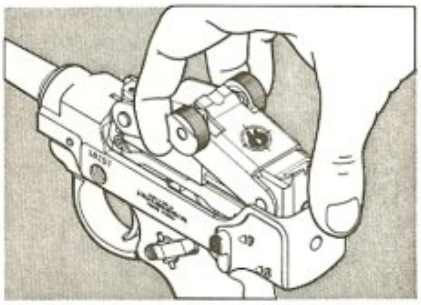
A highly-desirable feature is that most of the mechanism can be easily removed as a unit from the frame for cleaning and lubrication. After the mechanism is removed, the bore is accessible for cleaning from the breech end.

Handling qualities are similar to those of the German Model 1908 Luger. The pistol is muzzle light, which makes steady holding difficult, but the grip and pointing qualities are very favorable.

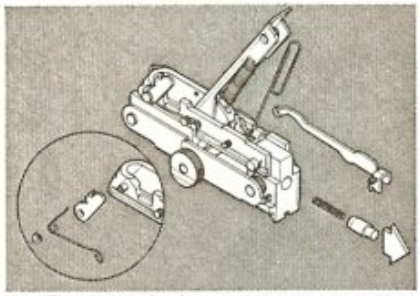
The trigger pull is far superior to that of most center-fire Lugers, and the pistol is reliable and accurate. A wide, square-top front sight and square-notch rear sight help make sighting accurate and easy. The sights are not screw-adjustable. However, the front sight can be driven laterally.

This pistol meets the need for a .22 rimfire handgun generally similar to center-fire Lugers in size, weight, and handling qualities, and is well suited for informal target shooting.

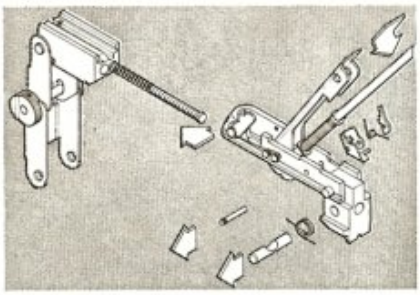




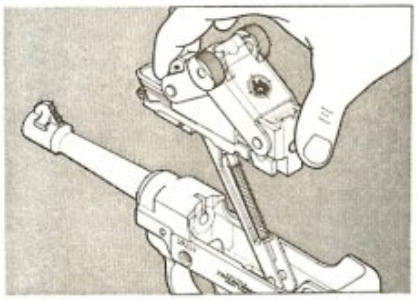
2 Remove magazine and lift out action assembly by pulling straight upward on toggle grips. Rest thumb over rear of frame to catch the spring-loaded takedown plunger as it emerges. Sear bar (27) may not release from trigger pull pin (15). If resistance is felt, move action laterally to free sear bar.



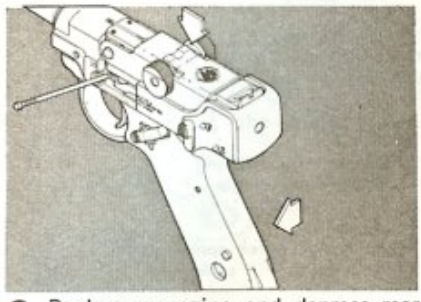
3 Remove takedown plunger and spring (68) so that they are not lost. No further disassembly is required for normal cleaning. If sear bar becomes separated from action assembly, place horseshoe shaped section of the bar in its notch on underside of boltways (30). Bend a small hook in a wire and use to lever the rearward arm of sear spring (5) around and over the sear bar pin (28). On older models, the bolt stop (1) and spring (3) were secured by a separate retainer. Should these parts become displaced, reassemble them over their pin in the order shown (inset).



4 To disassemble action, turn assembly upside down and unhook arm of rear toggle spring (47) from boltways block pin (10). Push bolt (54) fully to the rear, in contact with boltways block (67). Push out rear toggle pivot pin (60) with punch. Swing toggle assembly downward and remove rear toggle spring. Ease bolt forward, holding drive spring (64) in alignment so that it is not kinked. Unhook sear spring and remove sear bar. Then, lower hammer (7) cautiously with thumb. Place cleaning rod section or other tube over tip of hammer strut (33), compress hammer spring (34), and pivot assembly clear of magazine guide (31). Drift out swaged pins traversing boltways so that their serrated ends emerge first. Assemble action group in reverse. Longest arms of rear toggle and sear springs bear on boltways block and sear bar pins respectively. Reset both springs with wire hook.



5 To reassemble the field-stripped pistol, first replace takedown plunger and spring. Notch in rear toggle pin must align with takedown plunger. Turn exposed ends of rear toggle pin if necessary. Grasp action between fingers and thumb, compressing drive and takedown plunger springs. Insert tail of magazine guide at rear of magazine well and ease assembly down into place. When fully seated, takedown plunger will snap into its frame recess. Ease toggle closed.



6 Replace magazine and depress rear toggle (46) to align main frame pin holes. Insert frame pin so that it protrudes equally through both sides of frame. Hold trigger (16) fully forward and seat sear bar over trigger pull pin, working through frame hole with the point of a nail. Replace sear bar screw and draw up snugly. Do not use force. Test function of safety and bolt stop. If satisfactory, replace grips and grip screws.