Polish Lucznik P-83 Wanad

Semi-Automatic Pistol

Instruction, Safety User's Guide and Manual

Made in Poland

Updated: 26 APRIL 2016

By Peter S. Van Gorp

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Disclaimer

WARNING: DO NOT FIRE OR OTHERWISE OPERATE THE FIREARM UNTIL YOU HAVE READ THIS ENTIRE INSTRUCTION GUIDE

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This manual is designed to warn you about the dangers and responsibilities associated with handling firearms. Do not attempt to load, unload or handle this firearm until you have read and understand the contents of this manual. The warnings in this manual must be followed for your safety as well as for the safety of bystanders. If after reading these instructions, you still do not understand the firearm entirely, please consult with a firearms instructor for further instructions.

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General Safety Guidelines

IMPORTANT:

Firearms can be very dangerous if misused. When purchasing a firearm, you assume a great responsibility in its use, storage and transportation. Even though you may be familiar or have had experience with other firearms; each firearm is different. In order to understand the basics of the pistol, this manual should be read in its entirety. Enrollment in an NRA-approved firearms safety course is encouraged if you are unfamiliar with firearms. Failure to heed the warnings in this booklet may result in serious injury to you or others, as well as damage to the firearm or other property. Listed below are some guidelines which should be strictly observed.

1. Handle all firearms as if they are loaded.
2. Be thoroughly familiar with the firearms before firing.
3. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction away from people and animals, so if accidental discharge should occur only minor property damage would result.
4. Keep your finger off the trigger until you are on target and have decided to fire.
5. Be sure of your target and what is beyond it, including the backstop. Make certain shots fired present no safety hazard for yourself or others.
6. Never allow anyone to use your firearm that is not completely familiar with its operation.
7. Whenever the firearm is not actually in use, make certain it is unloaded.
8. Secure all firearms and ammunition from access by unauthorized persons, including children.
9. Always use eye and hearing protection when shooting any firearm or when near firearms being fired.
10. In the event of a misfire or hangfire (cartridge which does not immediately fire), keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. Wait approximately 30 seconds before opening the action. Discard the faulty cartridge and inspect the bolt, chamber, and bore for damage or obstruction before firing is resumed.
11. In the event of a failure-to-eject “stove-pipe” or failure-to-feed or double-feed, remove the magazine, firmly hold the firearm’s grip or frame, pull and hold or lock the slide fully rearward, and remove all cartridges and casings. Inspect the bolt, chamber, and bore for damage or obstruction before firing is resumed.
12. Clean the area after a shooting session. Do not leave spent casings, empty cartridge boxes, bullet ridden targets or the like behind. These too could cause injury to a person or damage to property.
13. Clean and oil your firearm(s) and related equipment or accessories after each shooting session. More information about maintenance is on pages 24 through 26 titled “Maintenance”, or see the Table of Contents.

Firearm Warnings

This Firearm is Used

While the Polish P-83 pistols are, as a general rule, reliable, well-constructed quality weapons, they are nonetheless pre-owned, used and out of production firearms. Initial manufacture began in the 1970s, and any pistol purchased today must be viewed as not having been examined by a qualified professional for some time. As with any firearm, certain precautions must be exercised before putting the pistol back into service.

1. Thoroughly clean the firearm and have it inspected by a reputable gunsmith before firing.
2. Make certain there are no obstructions in the bore.
3. Be completely familiar with the proper operation of your firearms, especially the safety features.
4. Use only clean ammunition of the correct type, caliber and loading. For instance, newly manufactured 9mm by 18mm Makarov, 95 grain FMJ ammunition cartridges from a major vendor and brand are a good choice. Do not use hand loaded or re-loaded ammunition.
5. Do not fire any previously owned weapon without first having it examined by a competent professional.

Firearms are not all alike

Many makes and models of firearms might LOOK nearly the same. However, they differ widely in design, operation, and the location and function of various controls. Study this manual thoroughly. Educate yourself on the characteristics and operation of your particular firearm before attempting to handle it. Do not permit others to handle it, unless they also have done so. You should have an instruction manual for every firearm you own. If you do not, try to contact the manufacturer or affiliated distributor and obtain a manual when possible. Most manufacturers may send you one free or at a small cost. If for any reason a manual is not available, visit your public library. Many books have been published which contain detailed information on obsolete or discontinued firearms. Your knowledge can prevent injuries.

Forward

Political and economic forces brought the once powerful United Soviet Socialist Republic to a dramatic, if not dignified, end. However, in wake of the USSR's passage, some remarkable things did happen to the world of firearms. Many firearms once only known to serious collectors, or fortunate war veterans, are now not uncommon at gun shops and gun shows throughout the United States. Aficionados should enjoy this relative abundance while it lasts. The forces of anti-gun politics and limited numbers will bring an end to ready and inexpensive availability all too soon.

Background

Poland has designed and manufactured many fine military weapons. The Polish forces desired a change and a series of prototype service pistols were made: P-70, P-75, P-78A, P-78B, etc. In the late 1970s, the P-83 (a production version of the P-78B) was adopted to replace the P-64. The P-64 saw well over 20 years of service as the Polish standard sidearm. Some of both P-64 and P-83 are still in use by Polish military and police forces. The pistol is no longer manufactured.

The P-83 Wanad (pl. Vanadium) is a blowback operated Polish semi-automatic pistol, chambered for the 9x18mm Makarov cartridge and designed by Ryszard Chełmicki and Marian Gryszkiewicz of the state research institute Ośrodek Badawczo-Rozwojowy in Radom, Poland. The P-83 succeeded the P-64 as the sidearm for the Polish Army and police. Both frame and slide are made by stamping, forming and welding from steel sheet parts to minimize production costs. The P-83 is still in limited use by both the Polish police and the Polish military but it has been almost completely replaced by Glock 19 and Walther P99 pistols (9x19mm) in Police service and partially by the indigenous WIST-94 pistol in the Polish military.

Construction on the new P-83 gun series was started in the second half of the 1970-ies and parallel study was conducted on two prototypes. The first of these, designated P-78A "TUL", developed in the Military Institute of Armament Technology (WITU or OMNIA) in Zielonka . TUL is equipped with a self-adjusting [safety lever], control trigger and a 12-cartridge magazine. The second named VANADIUM (P-78B) was established in the center of Research and Development of Metal Works "Archer" in Radom. After testing prototypes, taking into account the amendments and the proposed changes, the production gun was P-78B. There were two variants of the gun. The first prototype used an external [safety lever]. The second prototype was devoid of an external safety lever. The prototypes had only internal firing security, especially self-locking needle-release by pressure on the trigger. P-83 was adopted to arm the Polish Army, the Civil Militia, Police, and National Security Service. It also sold on civilian arms market.

Small quantities of P-83's were exported to the USA. These as well as the newly manufactured civilian guns have different markings on the slide: a Polish eagle followed by "RADOM wz. P-83 9×18 POLAND Z.M. LUCZNIK". Name of the importing company is stamped on the left side of the frame. Guns used by Polish military and police are marked "9mm P-83".

There were several variants of the P-83. These include the following:
P-83G: tear-gas pistol caliber 9 mm P.A.
P-83M: version with synthetic frame (prototype?).
P-93: Heavily modified version with internal firing pin safety, frame mounted de-cocker, longer barrel, high-visibility night sights and squared trigger guard.

Background

Excerpt from "Archer" Radom Arms Factory LLC website:
Czak and Wanad: The Postwar Radom Pistols

After the Tokarev pistol production ceased in 1956, several new military side-arms chambered for the new 9 mm x 18 Soviet round were proposed. The Radom design team (headed by R. Białostocki and R. Chełmicki) designed the 'wz.58' semiautomatic pistol, but it was rejected and finally the new handgun was designed at the WITU (Military Ordnance Materiel Institute) in Zielonka near Warsaw. This pistol, called the 'CZAK', after initials of the designers' names (W. Czepukajtis, R. Zimny, M. Adamczyk i H. Adamczyk, S. Kaczmarski i K. Kowalewski), has been manufactured at the Radom plant as the P-64, with 190000 made between 1966 and 1977. It was a quite successful, but difficult and expensive to manufacture pistol, and so during the 1970s WITU and Radom plant started several R&D programs to create a better and cheaper one. These programs have spawned the aluminum-framed P-70, polymer-framed P-75, and finally, Project 'Wanad' pistols P-76 and P-78 with sheet-metal press-formed and spot-welded frames. The Radom's P-78 was designed by M. Gryszkiewicz in two variants: the P-78A with automatic firing pin lock and P-78B with classic mechanical safety. The military have chosen the P-78B, later known as P-81, and finally accepted into the inventory of the Polish Army and Ministry of Internal Affairs in 1984 as the '9 mm pistolet wz.1983 (P-83)'. The P-83 was manufactured until year 2000, but the final numbers are still secret. Besides the military model, a civilian P-83G gas blank model, chambered for the 9 mm PA ammunition was manufactured and sold in 1990s.

At the same time a modernized version of the P-83 was proposed, the P-93, with slightly longer barrel and trigger mechanism of the rejected P-78A and P-81E – with automatic firing pin lock and no mechanical, external, safety. Lack of interest by the state services combined with restricted civilian market spelled the doom for this interesting pistol, finally abandoned in 1995.

Then, in mid-1990s M. Gryszkiewicz have designed MAG-95, a completely new 'Wonder-Nine' style pistol – with high capacity magazine for 9 mm x 19 Luger (Parabellum) cartridges. Three years later an aluminum-framed variant followed, the MAG-98. It was a good pistol, but once again, lack of military contracts combined with restrictions on civilian market have spelled doom on it, and the MAG pistol demised with the ZM Łucznik SA in 2000. After several years, the MAG briefly resurrected in 2008 as the modernized MAG-08, fitted with light mounting rail under the frame dust-cover.

In 2002 Polish Police have introduced an ultra-modern P-99 polymer-framed semiautomatic pistol designed by the renowned German company of Carl Walther Waffenfabrik of Ulm. One of the conditions set out in the contract was the license-manufacturing in Poland, and so begun the co-operation between Radom and Walther. The P-99p was initially only assembled at the resurrected FB Radom from 100% imported parts, but gradually the FB took over manufacturing of all metal parts for the pistol and only the polymer frame is still German-made. So far the Police have taken over more than 50000 of these pistols, which gradually phases-out all older handguns from the Police – both Radom-manufactured and imported. Recently (2008) another Walther pistol has been offered by the FB Radom for the undercover police, the sub-compact PPS, successfully blending compact size with potent 9 mm x 19 Luger chambering.

Features, Implications and Thoughts

It has an eight round box magazine, a two round improvement over the smaller P-64. The magazine release is located on the bottom of the grip of the pistol, and pressing the release drops the magazine quite smartly out of the pistol, unlike most other such releases, making it easy to quickly reload without having to grab the empty magazine to get it out of the way. The hammer has a large curved spur, making cocking into single action simple as compared to the small hammer on the P64. The sights are small but functional, fixed at 25 meters of accuracy. The pistol features an external slide stop catch to facilitate faster magazine change and a double-action / single-action trigger with slide-mounted de-cocking safety and external hammer provide necessary safety and handling features.

The barrel has four grooves, turning in a clockwise motion, with a pitch of 9.92 inch (252 mm). When firing the pistol in double-action mode, the trigger requires a force of approximately 50 N (Newton Meters), or 36.9 ft lbf (foot pounds), or 11 lb (pounds). This is about just less than half of the required trigger force when compared to the P-64 pistol. After firing the last bullet, the slide is locked in the rear position. Setting the safety lever in the on position immobilizes the hammer from being drawn rearward. P-83 pistol in a protected, safety on, state can be reloaded. The standard holster is very similar to that used with P-64: leather flap holster with a pocket for a spare magazine and cleaning rod.

P-83 is available in 9mm Makarov and 9mm Short (9x17mm), same as .380 ACP. The manufacturer can also made P-83's in 9mm Police, and 7.65mm Browning (.32 ACP). The 7.65mm variant holds 9 rounds in the magazine. P-83s recently made for export and the private market have larger slide serrations, high profile sights and hammers with round spur (identical to that in P-93).

Operation of the safety lever follows more closely the U.S. convention rather than the European one. The lever points forward and is down for Fire and up for Safe. There is no option for carrying Condition One, aka "Cocked-n-Locked," with the P83. Like its Makarov.

Disassembly of the P-83 is easier than most, and certainly easier than the P-64. The process is similar, of course. Like most handguns in the general lineage of Walther's PPK, the slide is unlocked from the frame by a mechanism at, on, or just in front of the trigger guard, the slide then is drawn completely back, the rear pulled up, and then slid forward again off of the frame. The P64, all Makarov PM variants and even the CZ-82 achieve this by pulling down or pivoting down the trigger guard. Not so with the P-83. Reminiscent of the latch on the modern Ruger SR22 handgun, there is a latch/bar just inside the trigger guard under the frame. That is pulled down and it stays down with no further effort. If you have a CZ-82, this will feel similar to you. This is a great improvement over the P64 which suffers from a vulnerability of having the trigger guard (latch) snap shut while you are manipulating the gun trying to get the slide back on or even off in the first place.

Externally, besides being, perhaps 10% larger, the stock hammer is different. No "round hammer" here, there is a definite spur to this hammer. This is great for thumb-cocking or manually lowering the hammer but will definitely be a snag hazard if carried concealed. If this is your intent, take steps to make sure no clothing will catch. I suspect it could also dig into your side if worn close to the body.

Features, Implications and Thoughts

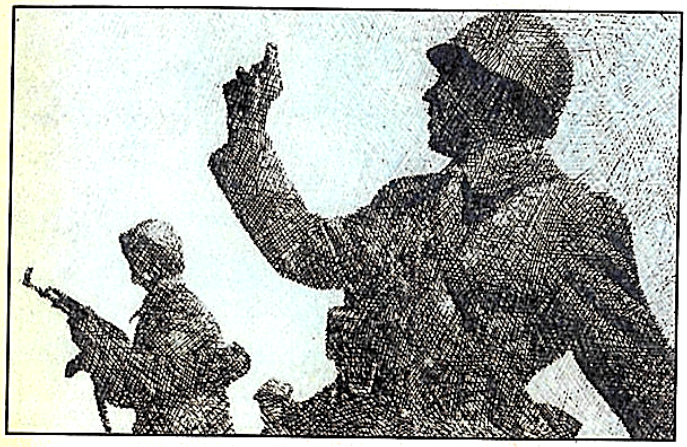
There is a Loaded Chamber Indicator, just above and forward of the safety. It is a small pin and protrudes perhaps 1/32" or so when there is a round in the chamber. I knew it was there but it still took me off guard the first time I actually noticed it. It appeared for all the world as if some retaining pin was walking out of the slide.

Shooting comfort was very nice. Again, I'm going to compare it to the CZ-82. Recoil felt mild, particularly compared to the P64 "Polish Pounder" Radom. The grips, which look fairly smooth, actually held in my hand pretty well. The horizontal bars negatively molded into the grip did their job perfectly. No slide bite. No noticeable trigger slap.

Fit and (original) finish are, well, just OK. Not super. The P64 has a clearly superior fit. While plenty tight for use, the machining on the P83 is not as good as on the P64. But it's not really noticeable unless you're specifically looking for it. The Trigger Guard, most noticeably, as well as some other parts are stamped steel, instead of machined. It doesn't feel cheap or flimsy but it does feel a lot less refined. Call it "Serviceable" but not "Classy." Same goes for the finish. The bluing on the P64 is far better. Nicer. As I mentioned there is some fair amount of finish wear on my P83, but even where it's not worn, the bluing isn't as deep. Again, it's serviceable.

"Serviceable" may be the by-word for this gun – serviceable, but not sexy. In every way that matters to a shooter when actually in the process of pulling the trigger, the P83 is equal or superior to its predecessor, the P64, equal or superior to the Makarov PM and it's variants, and equal in almost every way except magazine capacity to a stock CZ-82. But, when bone stock, the P83 Wanad simply does not have the PPK sexiness of the P64 Radom.

P-83: The Polish Service Sidearm



While other Warsaw Pact nations have joined the craze for ambidextrous safeties and big magazines, Poland has adopted a more traditional design.

BY JIRI FENCL

Beginning in 1935, Poland armed its troops with the Radom, a 9 mm Parabellum pistol whose features were advanced for its day. The Germans thought enough of it to maintain production during their long and violent World War II occupation.

Polish troops, like those of other Warsaw Pact nations, were outfitted during the late 1940s with Soviet weaponry, including the 7.62x25 mm Tokarev pistol. This, in turn, began to be supplanted in the middle 1960s by the P-64 pistol in 9x18 mm Makarov.

The P-64, like the Soviet Makarov, owes much to the Walther PP in its design concept, and the Polish armed forces were satisfied with its operation, weight and size. They were less than happy, however, with the amount of machine time required in the gun's manufacture, and they began as early as 1972 to investigate more modern design and production techniques. The Poles also wanted an increase in magazine capacity over the P-64's six, a lighter trigger pull and less recoil.

Early prototypes reduced cost and weight by using rolled sheet steel for the slide and light alloys for the frame. Plastics were used to reduce weight even more.

While prototypes were made with magazines of up to 14 rounds capacity, designers Ryszard Chelmicki and Marian Greszkiewicz offered pistols of smaller size and weight. This approach eventually gained the favor of the People's Army and police authorities, and after several years of testing and modifications, the Model 1983 (P-83) was officially adopted and series production begun.

The P-83 is a double-action, blow-back-operated autoloader that consists of four main assemblies—the frame and barrel, the return spring, the slide and the magazine.

The barrel is pressed and pinned into the frame. It has four grooves with a 9.9" right twist. The slide entirely covers the barrel and is notable for the rather small ejection port. It serves also as a base for the integral front and dovetailed rear sights.

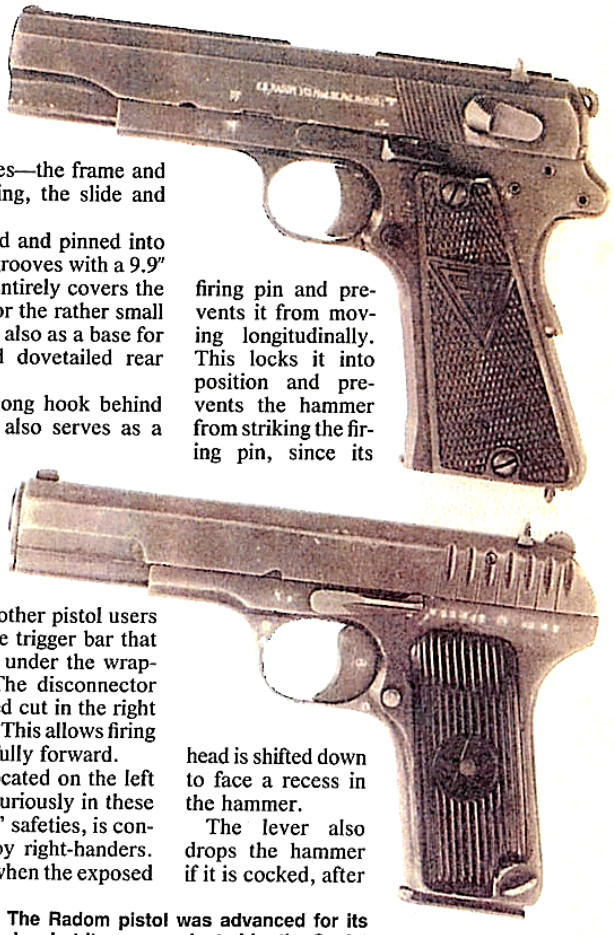
Extraction is by a long hook behind the ejection port that also serves as a loaded-chamber indicator that allows visual and tactile checking of the pistol's status. The ejector is fixed on the left side of the frame.

Beretta, Benelli and other pistol users will be familiar with the trigger bar that runs outside the frame under the wrap-around plastic grips. The disconnector protrudes into a rounded cut in the right rear bottom of the slide. This allows firing only when the slide is fully forward.

The safety lever is located on the left rear of the slide, and, curiously in these days of "ambidextrous" safeties, is conveniently usable only by right-handers. It can be applied either when the exposed hammer is cocked or when it is lowered.

Turning the lever lowers and blocks the firing pin and prevents it from moving longitudinally. This locks it into position and prevents the hammer from striking the firing pin, since its head is shifted down to face a recess in the hammer.

The lever also drops the hammer if it is cocked, after



The Radom pistol was advanced for its day, but it was supplanted by the Soviet Tokarev pistol in the years after 1945.

Features, Implications and Thoughts

American Rifleman Magazine, Part two (1989)

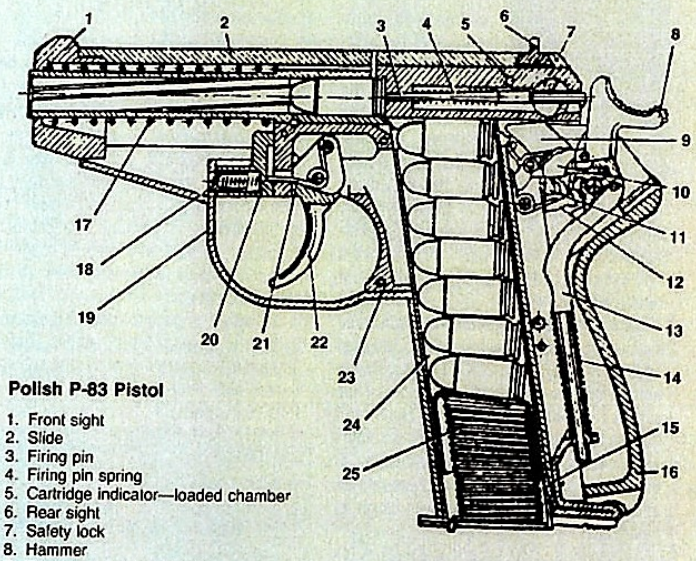
The P-83 was intended to provide the performance of the older P-64 pistol while holding down manufacturing costs and machining requirements. It has succeeded on those counts, and it also has a much lighter double-action trigger pull.

blocking the trigger with the sear. The hammer flies forward, striking the slide rear before rebounding to its uncocked position. Accidental discharges caused by dropping the pistol are guarded against by a passive safety system.

A slide holdback lever is located at the top front of the left grip panel. It holds the slide rearward after the last shot of a magazine is fired. The slide can be released by pushing the lever down, or by inserting a fresh magazine.

The magazine itself is a single-row box for eight 9x18 mm Makarov cartridges. Like the Stechkin and Makarov magazines, it is open-sided, though there is more sheet metal apparent than in the Makarov magazine. It is secured by a catch at the bottom rear of the butt, which displaces the lanyard ring to the left side of the grip.

While the P-83 would be judged a very conservative design by western standards, it is an improvement over the P-64 in magazine capacity, rate of fire, readily applied safety device and low recoil. More importantly, the application of modern techniques of pressing, welding and brazing have reduced material demands by 50% and the quantity of work invested by 30%, which is just what the Poles wanted. ■

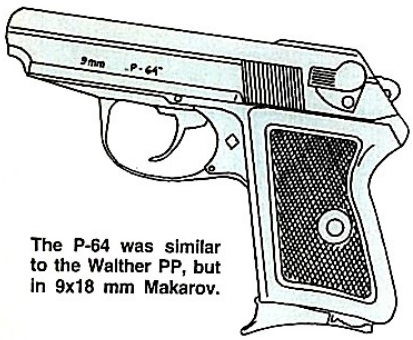


Polish P-83 Pistol

1. Front sight
2. Slide
3. Firing pin
4. Firing pin spring
5. Cartridge indicator—loaded chamber
6. Rear sight
7. Safety lock
8. Hammer
9. Hammer releasing handle
10. Protecting/safeguarding/lever
11. Sear
12. Hammer catch
13. Hammer strut
14. Main spring
15. Magazine catch
16. Stocks
17. Return spring
18. Catch stop slide with spring
19. Trigger guard
20. Stop slide
21. Trigger spring
22. Trigger
23. Frame
24. Magazine
25. Magazine spring

About The Author

Jiri Fencl is a machine tool designer in Rokycany, a Czechoslovakian town southwest of Prague. His articles have appeared in the Czech magazines *Strelecka Revue* and *ATOM* as well as the West German magazine *Deutsches Waffen-Journal*.



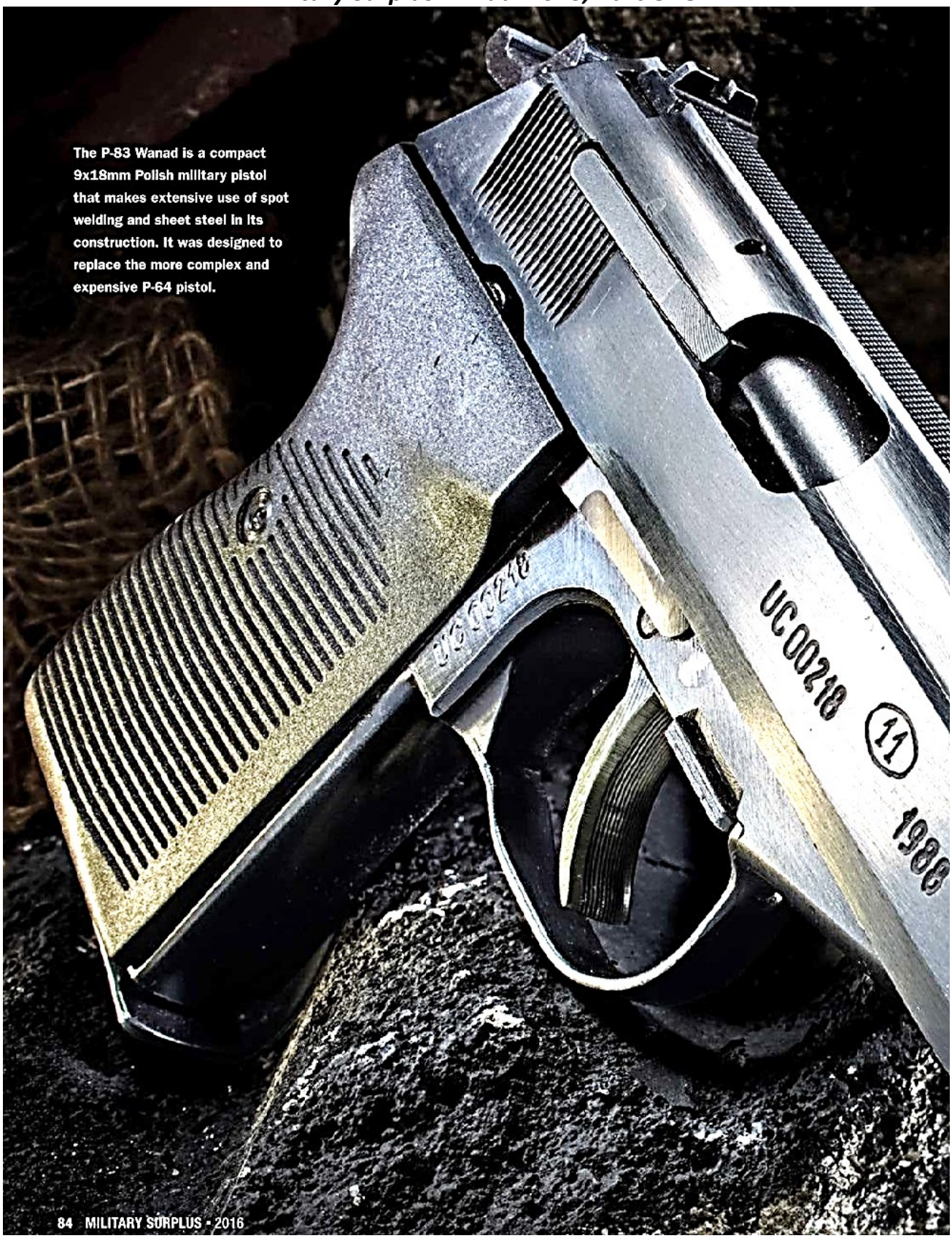
The P-64 was similar to the Walther PP, but in 9x18 mm Makarov.

TECHNICAL DATA

Pistol	Caliber	Weight (ozs.)	Overall length (ins.)	Height (ins.)	Barrel length (ins.)	Mag. capac.	DA trigger pull (lbs.)	Velocity (f.p.s.)	Energy (ft.-lbs.)
P-64	9x18 Makarov	21.8	6.3	4.6	3.3	6	25.7	1016	210
P-83	9x18 Makarov	32.7	6.3	4.7	3.5	8	12.3	1043	223

Features, Implications and Thoughts

Military Surplus Annual 2016, Part One



The P-83 Wanad is a compact 9x18mm Polish military pistol that makes extensive use of spot welding and sheet steel in its construction. It was designed to replace the more complex and expensive P-64 pistol.

Polish P-83 WANAD

Rare 9x18mm ComBloc sidearm that combines advanced design with rugged durability!

Most students of historical firearms are aware of *Fabryka Broni Łucznik* (Radom) of Poland, a highly respected armsmaker with a storied history. Having established a stellar reputation for quality and innovation in the pre-World War II era, Radoms firearms are highly respected and sought-after collectibles for enthusiasts and shooters alike. Examples such as the classic wz.35 Vis 9mm pistol exhibit impressive quality and capable design, combining top-tier design with Polands reputation for quality manufacturing.

However, the after-effects of WWII and the beginnings of the Cold War era (and its division of Europe between the spheres of influence of the East and West) would have profound effects upon Polish small arms design and development. The result was a sharp turn eastward in theory and design for Polands small arms, with Kalashnikov-based rifles becoming the *de rigueur* for that nations military.

In addition to the adoption and domestic production of 7.62x39mm AK-pattern rifles, Poland also shifted toward a more Soviet-centric focus in the design of its military handguns. The earliest result of this was the adoption of a variant of the Russian Tokarev TT-33 pistol in 7.62x25mm as the *Pistolet wojskowy wzor* 1948, or Military pistol, model of 1948, manufactured by Radom to the tune of more than 200,000 samples. While the pistol was very similar in pattern and design to its Russian forebear, it still exhibited the classic Polish attention to fine detail and quality craftsmanship.

A NEW DIRECTION

As the decades of the Cold War ground on, Poland began to show an independent streak in its domestic weapons designs. When that nation looked to transition away from the Tokarev pistol and into a new 9x18mm sidearm similar to the Russian

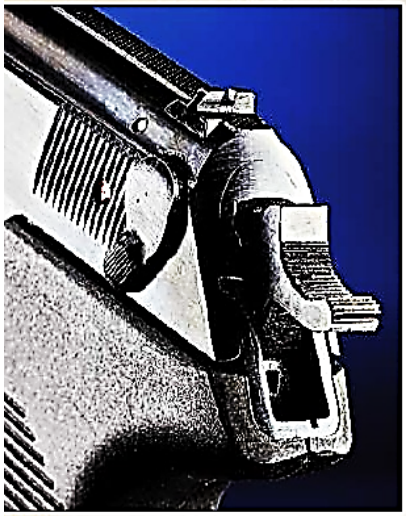
By Michael O. Humphries

PHOTOS BY STEVE WOODS

Features, Implications and Thoughts

Military Surplus Annual 2016, Part Three

POLISH P-83 WANAD



ABOVE: The P-83 has a slide-mounted, hammer-drop safety. The red dot indicates the pistol is ready to fire. Note the loaded-chamber indicator pin above it.

ABOVE RIGHT: The P-83 s sights are rudimentary, with the front blade integral to the slide. The top of the slide is also serrated to help reduce glare.

Makarov, the country instead developed its own homegrown design. What resulted was the new double-action/single-action (DA/SA) P-64, manufactured from 1966 to 1977.

In design and function, the P-64 is very similar to the classic Walther PPK. It is a compact, all-steel, DA/SA pistol that functions as a straight-blowback design where slide mass and recoil-spring strength work together to keep the action closed until chamber pressure drops to safe levels. The P-64 features a loaded-chamber indicator, clean machining as well as good-quality polishing and finishing on the metal. The single-column magazine of the pistol holds six rounds and features a generous finger-extension floorplate.

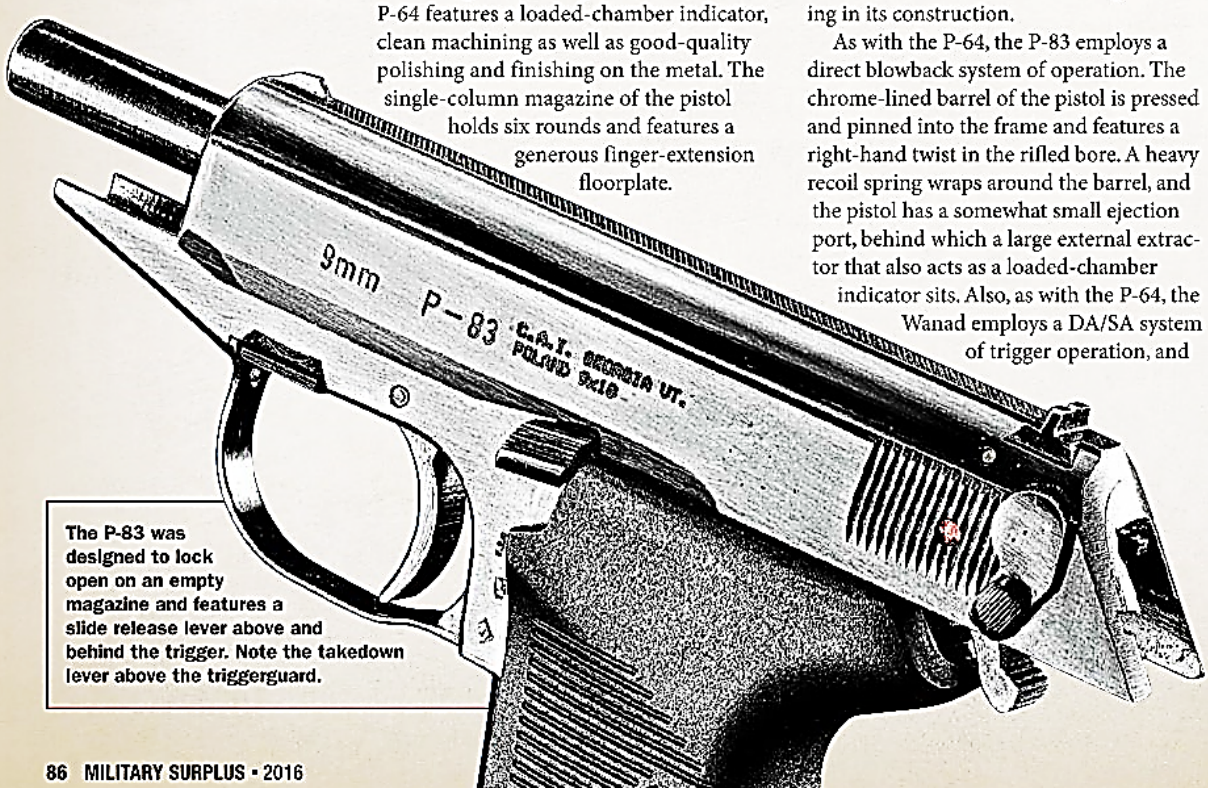
While a very successful design, the P-64 also proved to be very expensive to produce. Its complex angles and shape combined with the level of craftsmanship that Radom put into each sample made it prohibitively costly and forced the consideration of a replacement design.

As a result, in the 1970s Radom set about developing a replacement pistol that would be cheaper and easier to manufacture. The result was the Wanad pistol, chambered for the standard 9x18mm cartridge and adopted in 1984 as the 9mm *pistolet wz.* 1983 , or simply P-83. Wanad in Polish means vanadium, a silver-gray metal. However, this does not refer in any way to the materials used in the construction of the pistol, but is merely part of a Polish style of naming convention for its small arms.

A MOVE TO MODERNITY

While the new P-83 pistol had an overall similar profile to that of the P-64 and would be recognizable as a sibling, it was actually quite different in construction and design. As compared to the more complex and expensive manufacturing approach of the earlier P-64 design, the new P-83 made extensive use of sheet metal and spot welding in its construction.

As with the P-64, the P-83 employs a direct blowback system of operation. The chrome-lined barrel of the pistol is pressed and pinned into the frame and features a right-hand twist in the rifled bore. A heavy recoil spring wraps around the barrel, and the pistol has a somewhat small ejection port, behind which a large external extractor that also acts as a loaded-chamber indicator sits. Also, as with the P-64, the Wanad employs a DA/SA system of trigger operation, and



The P-83 was designed to lock open on an empty magazine and features a slide release lever above and behind the trigger. Note the takedown lever above the triggerguard.

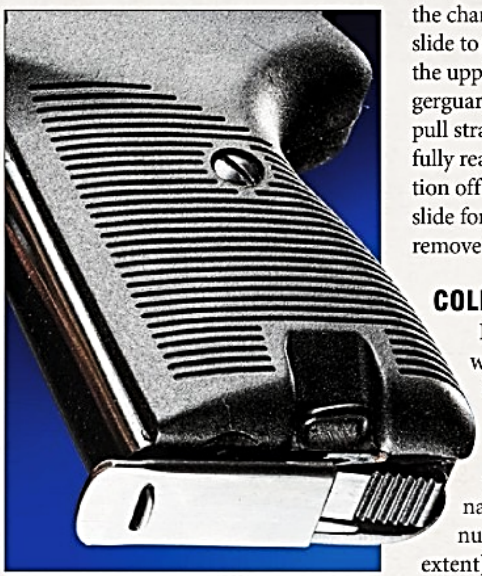
"As compared to the more complex and expensive...P-64 design, the new P-83 made extensive use of sheet metal and spot welding in its construction."

the trigger itself is grooved for purchase and constructed from sheet steel.

The pistol features an external hammer with a deeply grooved spur that can be thumb-cocked for a single-action trigger pull. A hammer-drop safety is mounted on the rear-left side of the slide and features two positions. When in the "up" position, the hammer cannot be cocked and the trigger is locked. If the hammer is cocked when this safety is engaged, the hammer will drop without firing the pistol and the trigger will remain in a rearward position. Disengaging the safety will then allow the trigger to snap forward and the pistol can be fired. If you immediately reengage the safety before firing, the trigger remains locked in the forward position. When the safety is swept down to disengage it, a red dot is exposed that indicates the pistol is ready to fire.

As is common on European pistols from this era (and the same as with the P-64), the P-83 features a heel-mounted magazine catch. It is a long, grooved lever that sits in a recessed portion between the lower rear halves of the synthetic grip panels. An integrated lanyard ring is located at the base of the left-side grip panel, while an additional low-profile ring is located on the base of the magazine.

Where it differs most notably from the P-64 is that it features a slide catch/release lever. Made of stamped sheet steel with integral grooves for purchase, the lever is located at the top forward portion of the left-hand grip panel. It engages the follower of the magazine to lock the pistol open when empty, and it can be engaged by the shooter's thumb to manually lock open the slide. While the P-64 had a 6+1 capacity of 9x18mm rounds, the new P-83 has an eight-round magazine. The steel magazine has open windows on both sides of the magazine's body to allow visual access to the amount of rounds on board.



The pistol features a European-style heel magazine release as well as an integral lanyard ring on the left side of the frame.

• • •

The sights of the P-83 are, as you would expect, very rudimentary. They are black and consist of an integral front blade and a drift-adjustable rear notch. The loaded-chamber indicator is located on the left-rear side of the slide, above the manual safety and below the rear sight. A serrated sighting plane along the top of the pistol is designed to help reduce glare from sunlight and also enhance the ability of the shooter to engage the sights. Simple vertical slide serrations are located on both sides of the rear of the slide.

Disassembly of the P-83 is reasonably straightforward and simple. Engage the safety, remove the magazine and ensure the chamber is empty. Then allow the slide to go fully forward. Located inside the upper forward face of the trigger guard is a takedown release that you pull straight down. Then, pull the slide fully rearward and lift up its rear portion off the slide rails. You then ease the slide forward and clear of the barrel and remove the recoil spring from the barrel.

COLD WAR COLLECTIBLE

During the Cold War, this pistol would have been extremely rare in the West, known only to serious collectors. However, with the very different world in which we live today, that fortunately has changed. Recently, large numbers of P-64 and (to a lesser extent) P-83 pistols have been appearing on the surplus market at very reasonable prices. I recently picked up an excellent condition P-83 with matching numbers from Southern Ohio Gun.

The pistol was described as being in "very good" to "excellent" condition, and I can find no fault with that description. The pistol I purchased featured an excellent finish with practically no wear marks as well as nearly new-looking grip panels. It came packed in a box with a spare magazine. As noted above, all numbers were matching on the pistol. As was my experience with a P-64 pistol I recently purchased, the double-action trigger pull was extremely heavy (off the scales of my 10-pound trigger-pull gauge). The single-action pull of the pistol was a manageable 5 pounds.

As a fan of ComBloc small arms, I was very happy to have the opportunity to pick up one of these Polish P-83 pistols for myself. As with all surplus guns, if you would like one, I highly recommend that you pick one up now before they are all gone. For more information, visit southernohiogun.com or call 800-944-4867. ■

Specifications:

Polish P-83 Wanad

CALIBER:	9x18mm
BARREL:	3.5 inches
OA LENGTH:	6.5 inches
WEIGHT:	26 ounces
GRIPS:	Synthetic
SIGHTS:	Blade front, notch rear
ACTION:	DA/SA
FINISH:	Blued
CAPACITY:	8+1

Specifications

Type	Semi-automatic pistol
Place of origin	Poland
Used by	Polish police and armed forces
Wars	Yugoslav Wars, Iraq War
Designer	OBR Radom
Designed	1978
Manufacturer	Lucznik Arms Factory (Z.M.)
Produced	1983-2000
In service	1983-present (transitioning to other pistols)
Variants	P-83 in (9x17mm Short [.380 ACP]), P-83M, P-83G, P-93, PT-83
Weight	730 g (26 oz) P-83, P-83G 650 g (23 oz) P-83M 750 g (26 oz) P-93
Length	165 mm (6.5 in) P-83, P-83G 170 mm (6.7 in) P-93M 178 mm (7.0 in) P-93
Barrel length	90 mm (3.5 in) P-83, P-83M, P-83G 100 mm (3.9 in) P-93
Width	30 mm (1.2 in) P-83, P-83G, P-93 34 mm (1.3 in) P-83M
Height	125 mm (4.9 in) P-83, P-83G, P-93 127 mm (5.0 in) P-83M
Cartridge	9x18mm Makarov: P-83, P-83M, P-93 .380 ACP (9x17mm Short) P-83 .32 ACP (7.65x17mm Browning SR) P-83 9 mm PA (9x19mm Luger) P-83G
Magazine capacity	8 rounds (9x18 Mak) 9 rounds (.32 ACP or 7.65mm Browning)
Action	Straight blowback

Specifications

Muzzle velocity	312 m/s (1,024 ft/s) P-83, P-83M
	284 m/s (931.8 ft/s) P-83 in 9x17mm Short
	316 m/s (1,036.7 ft/s) P-93
Effective firing range	Sights fixed for 25 m (9x18mm Mak)
Feed system	8-round box magazine
Sights	Fixed, front blade and rear notch
Sight radius	120 mm (4.74 in)

Variants:

Civilian Version

Civilian version pistols have different shaped front and rear sights on the slide, a rounded hammer and different markings on the slide which show a Polish eagle followed by “RADOM wz. P-83 9×18 POLAND Z.M. LUCZNIK”. The name of the importing company is stamped on the left side of the frame.

Specifications

Variants:

P-93

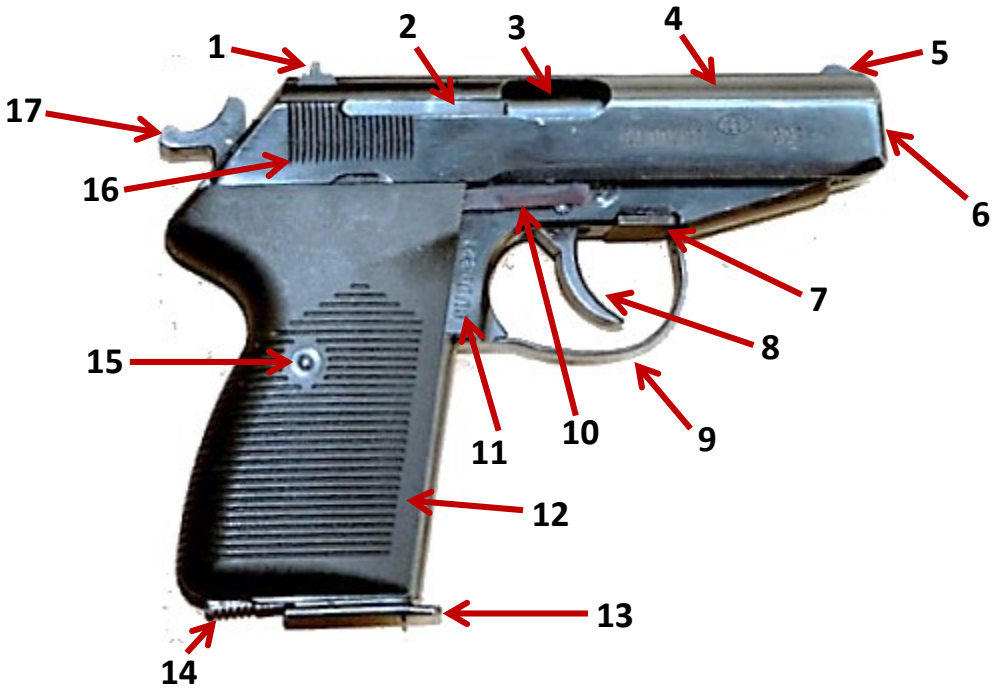
Specifications:
Maker: Z.M. Lucznik, Radom, Poland
Caliber: 9 mm Makarov (9 mm Short (.380 ACP) version is also available)
Action type: Blowback
Capacity: 8+1
Length: 178 mm (7”)
Height: 125 mm (4.92”)
Width: 30 mm (1.18”)
Barrel length: 100 mm (3.94”)
Sight radius: 135 mm (5.31”)
Weight (empty): 750 g (26.45 oz)
Muzzle velocity: 316 m/s (1037 ft/s)

History: P-93 was designed as a possible replacement for the P-83 Wanad as the standard pistol of the Polish police. Few were made and no new manufacture is planned.

Descriptions: P-93 is a modified version of the P-83 Wanad pistol. Externally and ballistically the P-93 is very similar to SIG Sauer P-230 (in its original 9mm Police/Ultra chambering). It is a blowback operated pistol made to the large extend from sheet metal. It has 1 cm longer barrel and slide than its predecessor, giving it slightly better ballistic performance. New high visibility tritium illuminated sights top the slide. The biggest change compared to P-83, lies in the trigger mechanism. P-93 is equipped with a slide-mounted manual decocking lever and an automatic firing pin safety. Other improvements include a squared trigger guard more suitable for two-hand shooting, round hammer and much larger serrations on the slide. The Pistol is fed from an 8-round single-row magazine that is interchangeable with P-83’s magazines. It can be finished in the standard black oxide or in bright or mat chrome.

Users: P-93 was offered to the Polish police and on the civilian marked.

Full Assembly Components' List

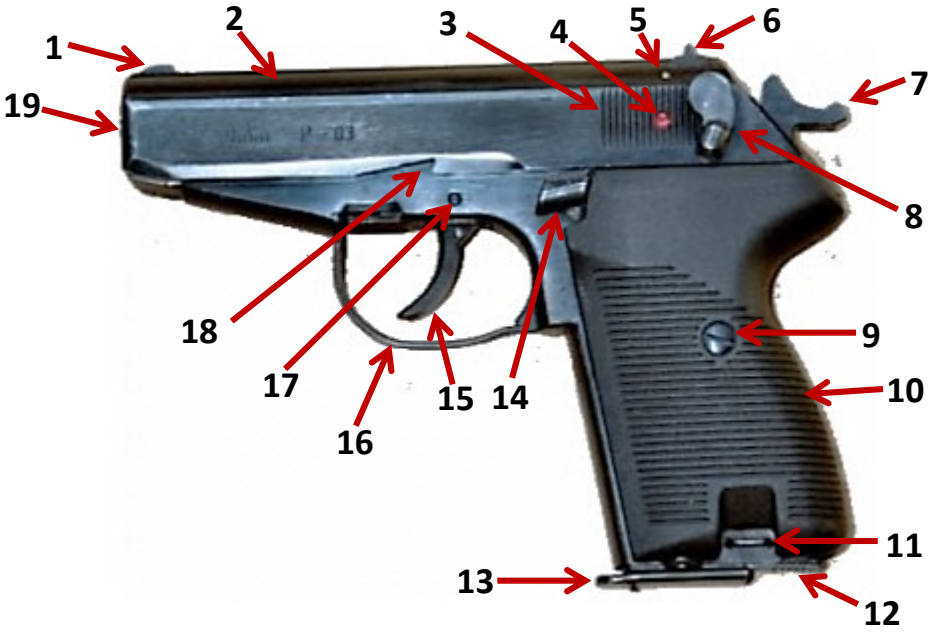


P-83 pistol, right side view

1. rear sight
2. extractor
3. ejection port
4. slide assembly
5. front side post
6. muzzle
7. disassembly release
8. trigger
9. trigger well
10. sear
11. serial number
12. grip
13. magazine bottom plate
14. magazine release
15. grip screw nut
16. serrated grooves
17. hammer

Note: serial number and manufacture date are also stamped on the slide

Full Assembly Components' List



P-83 pistol, left side view

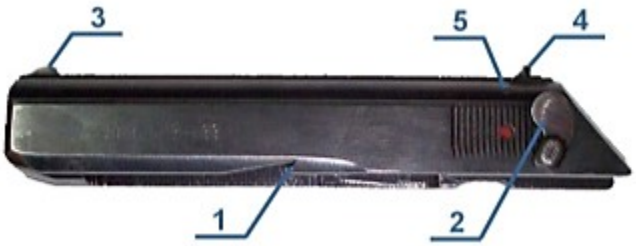
1. front sight post
2. slide assembly
3. serrated grooves
4. safety disabled indicator
5. loaded chamber indicator
6. rear sight
7. hammer
8. safety lever
9. grip screw
10. grip
11. loop anchor
12. magazine release
13. bottom magazine plate
14. slide release lever
15. trigger
16. trigger well
17. trigger pin
18. slide catch notch
19. muzzle

Note: caliber (9mm) and model designation are also stamped on the slide

Parts Large Diagram

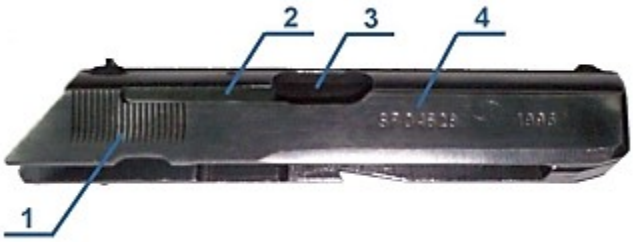
1. magazine
2. magazine release
3. trigger well
4. disassembly release
5. trigger
6. grip
7. barrel
8. slide catch, and slide release lever
9. ejector
10. hammer
11. recoil spring
12. slide assembly

Slide Assembly Components List



Left side view

1. slide catch notch
2. safety lever
3. front sight post
4. rear sight (adjustable)
5. loaded chamber indicator



Right side view

1. serrated grooves
2. extractor
3. ejection port
4. serial number

Pistol Operation

Firing the Pistol:

Safety Note: Before operating your P-83 pistol, read and observe all safety instructions in this manual. Always exercise great care and proper safety procedures when handling this firearm or any other firearm.

1. Load the magazine until full. * Use only "9x18mm Mak" ammunition cartridges. See the page titled "9x18mm Makarov Ammunition" in this document for examples of acceptable ammunition. Do not attempt to load or fire other types of ammunition because they will NOT work and may cause severe permanent injury to you and/or damage to your firearm.

2. With the slide forward and the safety disengaged, insert the loaded magazine into the magazine well completely, verifying the magazine catch is fully engaged.

3. Point the muzzle in a safe direction.

4. Grasp the slide at the milled grooves and pull the slide completely to the rear.

5. Release the slide, allowing it to move forward, chambering a round. Verify the slide is fully forward.

6. The pistol is ready to fire (do NOT pull the trigger yet).

    Note: If the pistol is not to be fired immediately, refer to pages titled "Pistol Operation: Carrying the P-83 pistol with a live round in the chamber."

7. Aligning the front and rear sights in a normal sight picture on the desired target, slowly squeeze the trigger to fire one round in the weapon.

8. When the last round has been fired, the slide will be held open by the slide stop lever.

9. To close the slide, remove the magazine. Verify the chamber is clear, then firmly grasp the slide by the milled grooves and pull back slightly. The slide stop will disengage.

10. Ease the slide forward

Pistol Operation

Carrying the P-83 pistol with a live round in the chamber:

Safety Note: The pistol must be clean and in proper working order without malfunction or operational blockage in the moving parts of the pistol before carrying the pistol with a live round in its chamber.

Follow steps 1 through 5 in the previous page, and then continue to do the following steps:

6. Keeping all fingers away from the trigger, point the pistol in a safe direction, and engage the safety upward, dropping the hammer, locking the firing pin in place and blocking the firing pin from impact by the hammer.

7. The pistol may be placed in a properly designed holster for carry.

8. The P-83 is equipped with a loaded chamber indicator located near the rear of the slide, on the left side of the slide, below the rear sight, but above the safety lever. The indicator is a small light-colored pin. If a cartridge is in the chamber, the indicator will protrude out of the slide and to the left approximately 0.20 inch (a few millimeters). Note: A misfire or malfunction may not make this indicator show itself.

Safety Note: A loaded chamber indicator DOES NOT substitute the practice of visually verifying that the chamber is unloaded or not loaded.

Pistol Operation

Unloading the Pistol, having a live round in the chamber:

Safety Note: While unloading or inspecting the pistol, keep all fingers away from the trigger.

1. Place the safety lever in the ON position by rotating the safety lever upward. The safety lever will cover the red dot which is on the left side of the slide. Remember: red is dead!
2. Remove the magazine by pressing the magazine-release lever on the bottom of the hand grip.
3. Grasp the slide by the milled grooves and quickly pull the slide completely rearward in one smooth motion.
4. The loaded cartridge should be ejected clear of the pistol.
5. Visually verify the chamber is empty and the cartridge has been ejected clear of the pistol.
6. Ease the slide forward to a closed position.
7. Reinsert the magazine.

Pistol Operation

Malfunctions and Stoppages

Always keep your pistol clean and properly lubricated. The majority of malfunctions experienced when firing the P-83 will be the result of faulty ammunition, weak or damaged recoil spring (inside the pistol), and/or a damaged or defective magazine. If the bullet can be removed with a cleaning rod, clean any unburned powder grains from the bore, chamber, and mechanism before resuming shooting. If the bullet cannot be dislodged by tapping it with a cleaning rod, take the firearm to a gunsmith. Dirt, corrosion, or other foreign matter on a cartridge can impede complete chambering and may cause the cartridge case to burst upon firing. The same is true of cartridges which are damaged or deformed or of the wrong size. Note: using ammunition with lacquer coated cases may result in malfunctions due to the possibility of the lacquer melting in or around the pistol's chamber

Warning: Concerning ammunition marked "+P" or "+P+" or high-pressure: Recently there have been many developments by ammunition manufacturers and re-loaders, but not all of them are good. It seems some ammunition manufacturers and re-loaders are in a horsepower race to see who can develop the most case pressure and muzzle velocity with little regard for practicality or safety. Some of these loads exceed common sense, are likely dangerous and can virtually tear metal apart. Such ammunition generates pressures significantly in excess of the pressures associated with standard ammunition. Such pressures may affect the useful life of the firearm or exceed the margin of safety built into many firearms. There is little legitimate documentation on whether +P ammunition should be fired in the P-83 pistol, or how well the pistol handles this ammunition. Unless you really need +P ammunition, do not use it.

To prevent operation problems, exercise the following precautions:

1) Carefully inspect the pistol and magazine prior to operation to assure proper condition, cleanliness and lubrication.

2) Use only clean ammunition of the correct type, caliber and loading. Do not use hand loaded or re-loaded ammunition.

3) Should any parts experience noticeable wear or break, have them repaired or replaced promptly. Should problems occur, the following table will assist in diagnosing and correcting the disorder.

Maintenance

Pistol Disassembly

1. Remove the magazine and lay it aside.

2. Place the safety in the ON position.

3. Grasping the pistol with the right hand, retract the slide with the left hand and verify the chamber is unloaded.

Safety Note: If a live round is in the chamber, then follow instructions on page titled "Pistol Operation: Unloading the pistol, having a live round in the chamber," and return to this page and continue with step 4.

4. Ease the slide to battery forward.

5. Still holding the pistol with the right hand, pull the disassembly pull-down release downward with the left hand.

7. Grasping the slide by the serrations with the left hand, pull the slide completely rearward.

8. Lift the rear of the slide upward, free of the slide rails.

9. Ease the slide forward, clear of the barrel. The recoil spring will remain wrapped around the barrel. Lay the slide aside.

10. Remove the recoil spring and lay it aside. Note: One end of the recoil spring is smaller than the other end of the recoil spring.

11. Unscrew the grip screw from the left side of the hand grip. Lay grip screw aside.

12. Remove the grip panels and lay them aside.

Note: No further disassembly is required or recommended for cleaning or maintenance. Do not allow the hammer to fall with the slide removed. Damage to the internal mechanisms may result. Reassemble by reversing the disassembly procedure. One end of the recoil spring is smaller than the other. The smaller end slips over the barrel. The other end, going into the slide, being slightly larger greatly eases reassembly of the slide onto the barrel.

Maintenance

Magazine Disassembly

1) On the left side of the magazine at its base is a notch. Through this notch a bent portion of the magazine spring protrudes to engage this notch. Using a narrow gunsmith's screwdriver or like tool, lift the wire upward to clear the notch in the bottom plate.

2) Slip the bottom plate forward slightly, so the notch in the base is past the wire end.

3) Laying the tool aside, slide the bottom plate off the magazine, allowing the spring and follower to be removed. Be careful, as the spring is under tension and might fly out if not restrained.

Reassemble the pistol and magazine by reversing the disassembly procedures. No further disassembly is required for routine operation and is not recommended for anyone but a qualified gunsmith.

Maintenance

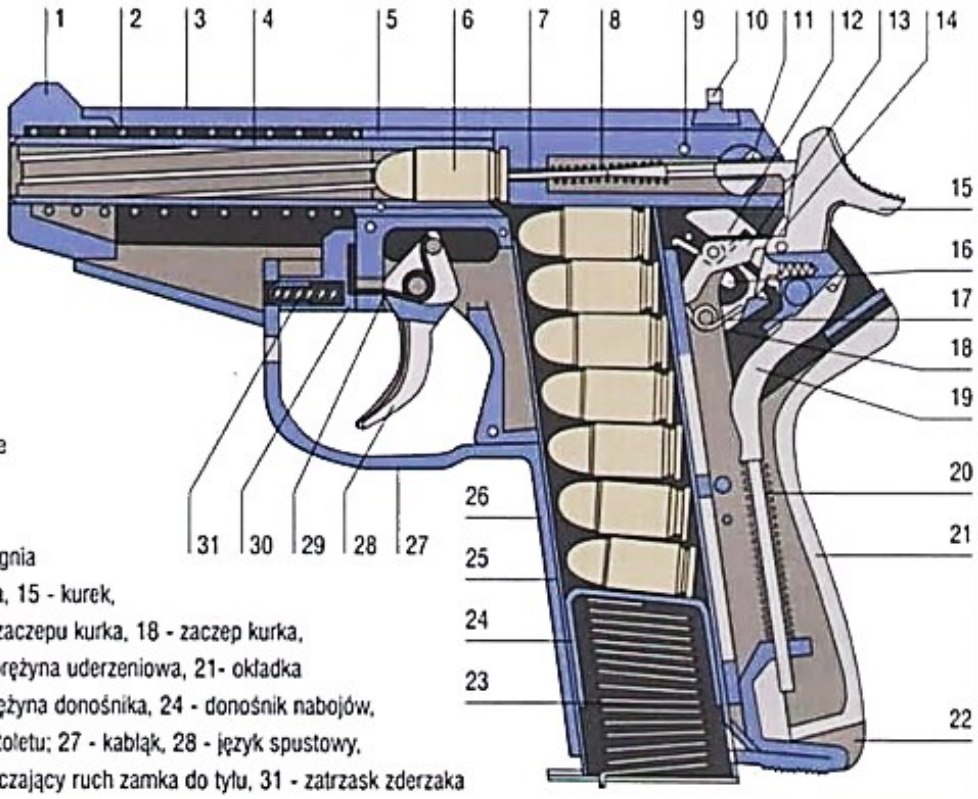
Cleaning and Oiling

To ensure proper operation of the firearm, it is necessary to keep the firearm's internal components clean and lubricated. Clean the pistol after every shooting session. After completing the disassembly procedure, the firearm is now ready for cleaning. Normal cleaning is easily accomplished by using common gun cleaning pads (usually made of cotton), a toothbrush or similar small brush and cleaning fluids such as gun oil or CLP, either liquid or aerosol, to remove any gun powder residue. Do not use any water-based household cleaning products such as detergents; they can cause corrosion. Swab the bore with cleaning solvent, followed by clean dry patches until the patches emerge clean. Remove the slide from the frame and apply a light coat of gun oil to all internal surfaces, excluding the firing pin hole. This allows a smoother operation while protecting the firearm from corrosion. Clean the gun powder residue from the top of the receiver area and apply a light coat of oil to the top of the receiver, hammer area and bottom of the slide assembly. Also, apply a light coat of oil to the inside of the feed lip area of the magazine, allowing oil to coat the inside of the magazine body. Any further disassembly is not necessary under normal usage. The magazine can also be disassembled for thorough cleaning but this is usually not needed or recommended. Reassemble the pistol, insert the magazine (empty) and place the hammer fully forward by engaging the safety. Place the pistol in storage in a clean, dry place away from detergents and chemicals.

Detailed Parts Diagram and List

1. Slide
2. Recoil spring
3. Barrel
4. Disassembly release
5. Disassembly release pin
6. Disassembly release spring
7. Disassembly release screw
8. Grip panels
9. Grip screw
10. Firing pin
11. Firing pin spring
12. Rear sight
13. Safety lever
14. Safety pin
15. Loaded chamber pin
16. Extractor
17. Extractor pin
18. Extractor spring
19. Sear bar
20. Sear push plunger
21. Sear housing pin
22. Sear housing spring
23. Sear pin
24. Sear *(or related)*
25. Hammer spring
26. Cocking rod pin
27. Hammer
28. Hammer pin
29. Magazine release spring
30. Magazine release rod
31. Hammer latch lever
32. Hammer latch lever pin
33. Hammer latch lever push pin
34. Safety engagement
35. Sear rod
36. Cocking axis rod
37. Trigger
38. Trigger pin
39. Trigger pin cap/anchor
40. Magazine release (button/lever)
41. Magazine body
42. Magazine follower
43. Magazine follower spring
44. Magazine bottom plate

Detailed Parts Diagram and List
Alternate View (Polish)



1 - muszka, 2 - sprężyna powrotna,
3 - zamek, 4 - lufa, 5 - obsada lufy,
6 - nabój wprowadzony do komory nabojowej, 7 - iglica, 8 - sprężyna iglicy,
9 - wskaźnik obecności naboju w komorze nabojowej, 10 - szczerbina celownika,
11 - skrzydełkowy bezpiecznik nastawny,
12 - dźwignia zwalniacza kurka, 13 - dźwignia zabezpieczająca kurek, 14 - zapadka kurka, 15 - kurek,
16 - ząb szyny spustowej, 17 - sprężyna zaczepu kurka, 18 - zaczep kurka,
19 - żerdź sprężyny uderzeniowej, 20 - sprężyna uderzeniowa, 21- okładka chwytu, 22 - zaczep magazynka, 23 - sprężyna donośnika, 24 - donośnik nabojów,
25 - pudełko magazynka, 26 - szkielet pistoletu; 27 - kabląk, 28 - język spustowy,
29 - sprężyna spustu, 30 - zderzak ograniczający ruch zamka do tyłu, 31 - zatrzask zderzaka

9x18mm Makarov Ammunition

Introduction

The 9×18mm Makarov cartridge, not to be confused with a Makarov PM (pistol) is designated 9mm Makarov by the C.I.P. (French: Commission Internationale Permanente) and often called 9×18mm PM is a Russian pistol and submachine gun cartridge. During the latter half of the 20th Century it was a standard military pistol cartridge of the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc, analogous to the 9×19mm Parabellum in NATO and Western military use.

History

During the Second World War and the early Cold War, the 7.62×25mm Tokarev was the standard automatic pistol round for the Soviet Union and its satellites in Eastern Europe. This ammunition is still in use by many of these countries today. During the war the Red Army had found a few shortcomings of its 7.62mm TT-33 pistol, one of which was a tendency to inadvertently drop its magazine while in operation. The army wanted something that was lighter, with a heel release instead of a button and different ammunition. A direct blowback design was chosen for the pistol's operation, since it would be quick and cheap to manufacture, as well as accurate, due to the fixed-barrel design allowed by direct blowback operation. The 9×18mm Makarov round was designed by B.V. Semin in 1946. It was intended to be a relatively powerful round with modest bolt thrust that could function safely in a simple or direct blowback pistol. It was based on the 9×18mm Ultra cartridge which was developed in 1936 by Gustav Genschow & Co. for the German Luftwaffe, as a more powerful alternative to the 9×17mm used in the Walther PP, also a simple blowback design pistol. Nikolay Fyodorovich Makarov went on to design the Makarov PM pistol around the 9×18mm Makarov round in 1948. The Soviet military required that their ammunition should be incompatible with NATO firearms, so that in the event of armed conflict a foreign power would be unable to use captured Soviet ammunition supplies. 9×18mm Makarov ammunition uses a larger diameter bullet than other common 9 mm rounds, measuring 9.27 mm (0.365 in), compared with 9.017 mm (0.355 in) for 9mm Parabellum. After its introduction in 1951, the 9×18mm Makarov round spread throughout the militaries of Eastern Bloc nations.

Dimensions

The 9×18mm Makarov has 0.83 ml (12.8 grains H2O) cartridge case capacity. All sizes in millimeters (mm). The common rifling twist rate for this cartridge is 1 in 240 mm (9.45 in), 4 grooves, ø lands = 9.00 mm, ø grooves = 9.27 mm, land width = 4.50 mm and the primer type is small pistol. According to the official C.I.P. (Commission Internationale Permanente Pour L'Epreuve Des Armes A Feu Portatives) rulings the 9×18mm Makarov case can handle up to 160.00 MPa (23,206 psi) piezo pressure. In C.I.P. regulated countries every pistol cartridge combo has to be proofed at 130% of this maximum C.I.P. pressure to certify for sale to consumers. The 9×18mm Makarov is ballistically inferior to the 9×19mm Parabellum cartridge. While there are no official SAAMI pressure specs for the 9×18mm Makarov cartridge, tests indicate that surplus ammunition develop pressures in the mid 20,000 psi, significantly less than the 35,000 psi or more generated by 9mm Parabellum loads.[3] As such it is designed to be used in low-powered blowback semiautomatics, much like the .380 ACP cartridge, rather than locked-breech designs encountered, but not always required, for higher pressure cartridges like the 9×19mm Parabellum.

9x18mm Makarov Ammunition

Basic specifications of 21st century Russian service loads

The 9×18mm Makarov rounds in use with the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation are designed for pistols and submachine guns. In 2003, there are several variants of 9×18mm Makarov produced for various purposes. All use clad metal as case material. The 57-N-181S cartridge is loaded with a steel-core bullet and is designed to kill personnel at a range of up to 50 m (55 yd). The bullet has a clad metal envelope totally covering the core. The bullet's nose is spherical with no distinguishing color of the tip. It can penetrate a 1.3 mm thick St3 steel plate or 5 mm ordinary steel plate at 20 m (22 yd). The RG028 cartridge is loaded with an enhanced penetration bullet and is designed to kill personnel wearing body armor. The bullet has a core of hardened steel. The SP-7 cartridge is loaded with an enhanced stopping effect bullet and is designed to defeat live targets. The bullet has a black tip. The SP-8 cartridge is loaded with a low-penetration bullet and is designed to engage personnel.

Cartridge designation[5]	**57-N-181S**	**RG028**	**SP-7**	**SP-8**
Cartridge weight	10 g (154 gr)	11 g (170 gr)	8 g (123 gr)	8.5 g (131 gr)
Bullet weight	6 g (92.6 gr)	6 g (92.6 gr)	6 g (92.6 gr)	5 g (77.2 gr)
Muzzle velocity	298 m/s (978 ft/s)	325 m/s (1,066 ft/s)	420 m/s (1,378 ft/s)	250 m/s (820 ft/s)
Muzzle energy	251 J (185 ft·lbf)	317 J (234 ft·lbf)	417 J (308 ft·lbf)	156 J (115 ft·lbf)
Accuracy of fire at 25 m (27 yd) (R_{50})	32 mm (1.3 in)	32 mm (1.3 in)	-	32 mm (1.3 in)

Specifications (common loads)	
Case type	Rimless, tapered
Bullet diameter	9.27 mm (0.365 in)
Neck diameter	9.91 mm (0.390 in)
Base diameter	9.95 mm (0.392 in)
Rim diameter	9.95 mm (0.392 in)
Rim thickness	1.25 mm (0.049 in)
Case length	18.10 mm (0.713 in)
Overall length	25.00 mm (0.984 in)
Case capacity	0.83 cm^3 (12.8 gr H_2O)
Rifling twist	240.00 (1 in 9.45 in)
Primer type	Berdan or Boxer
Maximum pressure	160.00 MPa (23,206 psi)

9x18mm Makarov Ammunition

The 9×18 Makarov Ammunition for Self Defense Guide, **by Richard Johnson of the GunsHolstersAndGear blog website**

If you are looking for 9×18 Makarov ammunition for self-defense, you may have had a hard time finding a load that meets your needs. Unlike the .380 ACP or the 9mm Parabellum (aka Luger or 9×19), the Makarov round does not enjoy a wide range of commercially loaded hollow point ammo.

That does not mean there are no good choices for Makarov self-defense ammo – just fewer choices when compared to more popular cartridges. As an owner of an East German Makarov pistol, I enjoy shooting and studying these pistols. Finding good self-defense ammo for them has been difficult, but there are several good loads worthy of consideration. The following is a list of personal protection loads that are currently available. There are a few things to keep in mind about the 9×18 Makarov cartridge when talking about ammo for personal protection. Many of the pistols chambered for the 9×18 Makarov cartridge are surplus guns, are of unknown quality and are simple blowback designs. Some guns may be well made and cared for, while others may have been poorly made and never maintained. So, many manufacturers are careful not to load 9mm Makarov ammo too hot.

9x18 Makarov Ammunition

This Glaser Blue is one example of 9×18 Makarov self-defense ammunition being made today.

When dealing with lower velocity rounds, such as the Makarov cartridge, reliable expansion can be a problem. All other things being equal, a hollow-point will be more likely to expand the faster it is driven. Many Makarov loads are rated at about 1000 fps, which is a marginal velocity for ensuring expansion with a relatively narrow bullet diameter. Bullet design can go a long way to improving expansion of a bullet at lower velocity, but considering the Makarov cartridge makes up a relatively small portion of the self-defense market, most top end bullet designs never make their way to the 9×18. Since some consider bullet expansion an iffy proposition in the 9×18 Makarov ammunition, many people will prefer to carry a FMJ, or ball, round. These non-expanding bullets are normally around 95 grains and have velocities of about 1000 – 1050 fps. They will not expand and produce a wide wound cavity, but they are more likely to penetrate deeply. Except for one, all of the following loads use hollow point bullets. Some attempt to overcome the expansion problem with higher speeds, while at least one load uses a premium bullet design. It is up to you to determine what will work best for your needs.

Barnaul

In the Silver Bear line, Barnaul offers a 94 grain JHP for the 9×18 Makarov. This self-defense ammo is in a steel case that is plated with zinc, which gives it the appearance of being nickel-plated brass. The load is rated at 1014 fps. My experiences with Barnaul in the past have been mostly positive. The ammunition tends to be cheaper than many of the alternatives in a caliber. The Silver Bear would not be my first choice for 9×18 Makarov self-defense ammo, but it would probably work.

9x18mm Makarov Ammunition

***The 9×18 Makarov Ammunition for Self Defense Guide* (continued)**

Buffalo Bore

Buffalo Bore loads two different 9×18 Makarov ammo loads: one is a 95 grain JHP that is rated at 1125 fps, and the other is a 115 grain hard cast flat point. The bullet used in the JHP load appears to be the XTP bullet from Hornady. As one of the only hollow point bullet components widely available for the 9×18 Makarov caliber, several manufacturers use (or have used) the bullet to make self-defense ammo.
The second load is not a hollow point, but is marketed as a self-defense load. It is unusual in this caliber for two main reason: the bullet's weight and the bullet's construction. The bullet weighs 115 grains, which is heavy for Makarov loads. Most 9×18 bullets are 90 to 95 grains in weight. The bullets are also hard cast flat-points, perhaps the only ones being loaded for 9×18 Makarov ammunition. For the reasons mentioned in the introduction, some people might want to choose a deep penetrating, non-expanding bullet for self-defense. For that precise reason, the hard cast load makes sense. The heavier weight will allow for more reliable, deeper penetration – especially when dealing with heavy clothing. It would not be my first choice for personal protection, but it does make a lot of sense for some people. The Ammo Test channel on YouTube ran several 9×18 Makarov ammo loads across a chronograph, one of which was the Buffalo Bore JHP load. As you can see in the video below, the Buffalo Bore averaged 1234 fps on four shots from a CZ 82 pistol. This is well above the 1125 fps published by Buffalo Bore. The company's own testing with a CZ 82 showed a velocity of 1192 fps. The hard cast load is rated by Buffalo Bore at 1000 fps. I could not find any independent testing, but Buffalo Bore states they obtained 1057 with this load in a CZ 82. In an East German Makarov pistol, Buffalo Bore got 1014 fps.

Corbon

Corbon offers three loads for the 9×18 Makarov that are suitable for self defense: a 70 grain Pow'RBall, a 75 grain Glaser Blue and a 75 grain Glaser Silver. Corbon previously offered a standard JHP load (using the Hornady XTP bullet if I recall correctly,) but it is no longer offered. The Pow'RBall load uses a polymer ball in a wide hollow-point cavity to provide for reliable expansion. Combined with a published velocity of 1250 fps, this lightweight load is said to provide impressive expansion. The downside to this load is that it is a special order only item. That means you have to contact Corbon and get a price for them to start up an assembly line. Both 9×18 Makarov loads use a 75 grain projectile and are rated at 1150 fps. The difference in the two self-defense loads is in the projectile composition. Both rounds use a compressed core of bird shot that is designed to immediately burst forward into a target on impact. Think of a small, point-blank shotgun blast. Glaser Blue uses #12 shot, while the Silver version uses #6 shot. Silver will penetrate more deeply that blue.

Hornady

Two different loads are offered by Hornady Manufacturing for the 9mm Makarov. One uses the same 95 grain XTP bullet that several other manufacturers use in their ammunition offerings. The second is a newer addition to the company's Critical Defense line of ammo. The XTP load is rated at 1000 fps, which is much milder than some of the other companies using the same bullet in their loads. Keep in mind, however, that many pistols chambered for the 9×18 Makarov ammo are surplus guns that may not hold up to the higher chamber pressures found in other loads. If you have any doubt about the ability of your pistol to handle the hotter loads, go for a mild load like this one. The 9×18 Makarov Critical Defense load was introduced in late 2010, and has become a popular choice with many people carrying Makarov and CZ 82 handguns. It uses very popular Hornady FTX bullet, which is a polymer tipped hollow-point. These

The 9×18 Makarov Ammunition for Self Defense Guide **(continued)**

rounds have shown very consistent expansion in ballistic gel. They are also rated at 1000 fps and should work fine in all pistols chambered for the 9×18.

Prvi Partizan

A Serbian company, Prvi Partizan has been making ammo for more than 80 years. I've found the quality of their ammo to be good, while keeping the ammo reasonably priced.

Prvi Partizan offers one entry for 9mm Makarov self-defense ammo, a 95 grain JHP rated at 310 meters/second, which works out to be about 1017 fps. The load uses a brass case and is boxer primed. Even though the ammunition is made in Serbia, it is commonly available in other areas of the world, including the United States.

Underwood Ammo

I've not shot Underwood Ammo products before, so I cannot speak to the quality of their loads. However, checking a number of the forums, the customer service has gotten positive reviews and the published velocities are in the range of what customers are seeing on the range. (Keep in mind that velocity can vary wildly depending on gun, barrel length, etc.). Underwood Ammo's 9×18 Makarov load uses a 95 grain Hornady XTP bullet, same as the Hornady XTP load above. Underwood pushes the ammo to 1150 fps making it one of the faster rounds available for the 9mm Makarov, in line with the Buffalo Bore listed above. On the Mrgunsngear YouTube channel, they tested this load in a CZ 82 pistol. With five shots, this 9×18 load averaged 1198 fps at about seven feet. At nearly 1200 FPS, the Underwood Ammo load pushes the 9×18 Makarov into the realm of serious 9×19 loads. If you watched the video in the Double Tap section above, you also saw the Underwood Ammo Makarov load fired there. In that test, velocities were around 1240 fps with a CZ 82.

Wrap Up

Shooters have a decent selection of 9×18 Makarov ammunition for self-defense. The choices are somewhat limited, but there are several loads that I would feel comfortable relying on in my own Mak. Without doing any additional testing, I would likely carry either the Hornady Critical Defense or the Buffalo Bore hollow-point. The two loads take slightly different approaches to the problem of stopping an attacker, but both are credible. If there is any question about the strength of your pistol, do not go for the higher velocity loads and stick to the more standard loads. For anyone in this category, I would recommend taking a look at the Critical Defense over the others. Ultimately, find a load that works reliably in your pistol and practice. If you know of other 9×18 Makarov ammunition loads that are good for self-defense, please list them in the comment section below. •

9x18mm Makarov Ammunition

Cartridges' Graphic Images

94-95 grain (gr) FMJ,

Cross-section view,

115 gr hollow-point,

54 gr Armor Piercing (steel core)

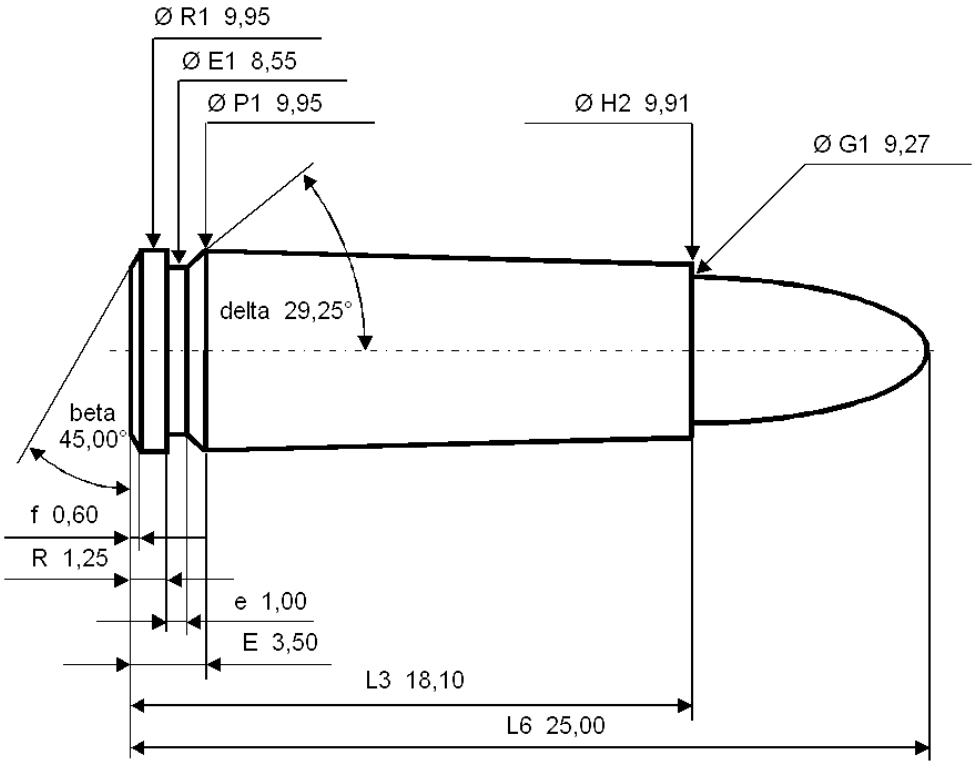
100 or 109 gr FMJ

120 gr hollow-point

95 gr XTP hollow-point

115 gr hard-cast flat-point "+P"

Cartridge Detail Diagram



Note: Measurements are in millimeters (mm). The dimensions of one "9x18 Mak" cartridge are unique. The case is 18.10 mm long and the bullet diameter is 9.27 mm. Consequently, this cartridge is incompatible with many well-known firearms around the world, certainly those firearms not designated for use with 9x18mm cartridges.

Appendix

Information sources and interesting websites and documents:

Wikipedia

P-83 Wanad
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/P-83_Wanad
Pistolet P-83 (Polish)
http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pistolet_P-83
9x18 Makarov (ammunition cartridge)
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/9x18mm_Makarov
Overpressure Ammunition
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Overpressure_ammunition

The Shekel (blog)

The P-83 Wanad - More 9x18 pistol-craft from Radom
http://shekel.blogspot.com/2011/11/p-83-wanad-more-9x18-pistol-craft-from.html

World Guns - Modern Firearms Handguns

P-83 pistol (Poland)
http://world.guns.ru/handguns/hg/pl/p-3-e.html

Firearms and Ammunition (Guns4u)

P-83 Wanad
http://guns4u.info/?cat=146 or http://guns4u.info/?p=965
P-93
http://guns4u.info/?cat=147

Jednostka Strzelecska 2010 Lublbin – im. Ptk. Emila Czaplinskiego (Polish)

Pistolet P-83 Wanad – Wpisany przez st. sierz. ZS Wojciech BIELECKI
http://js2010.pl/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=195:pistolet-p-83-wanad&catid=41:bro-i-amunicja&Itemid=75

GDZIE ZACZYNA SIĘ WOJSKO… blog okołomilitarny (Polish)
http://gdziewojsko.wordpress.com

Szkoła Policji w Katowicach - Opis i uŜytkowanie pistoletu P – 83 Wyd. II
(PDF document, Polish)
http://gdziewojsko.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/opis-i-uzytkowanie_pistoletu_p-83_wyd_ii.pdf

The Unofficial P-64 Resource (forums)

http://www.p64resource.com
http://www.p64resource.com/forum/index.php
The Polish Wanad P-83, by user “blackblade”
http://www.p64resource.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=9&t=4411&view=previous

Hi-Point Firearms Forum

Polish P83 Wanad quick review, by user “lklawson”
http://www.hipointfirearmsforums.com/forum/f277/polish-p83-wanad-quick-review-296594/

Appendix

Information sources and interesting websites & documents (continued):

Polish Radom Model P-64 Manual (PDF Document)
http://www.p64resource.com/board/P64Manual.pdf
http://www.jgsales.com/manuals/P64Manual.pdf
https://www.tnguns.com/shop/manuals/P64manual.pdf

KWIDZYŃSKI KLUB STRZELECKI VIS (KKS VIS) (Polish)
http://www.kksvis.pl/?page_id=483
Biuletyn Kolekcjonera Nr 23/2014 (PDF document, Polish)
http://www.kksvis.pl/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Biuletyn-Kolekcjonera-nr-23-2014.pdf

Hungarian FEG PA-63 (KBI) Manual (PDF document)
https://www.tnguns.com/shop/manuals/PA63Manual.pdf
http://stevespages.com/pdf/kbi_pa63.pdf
http://www.angelfire.com/oh2/manowar/images/PA63.pdf

Buffalo Bore Website
9X18 Makarov +P Pistol and Handgun Ammo
https://www.buffalobore.com/index.php?l=product_detail&p=220

"Archer" Radom Arms Factory LLC
http://en.fabrykabroni.pl
Czak and Wanad: The Postwar Radom Pistols
http://en.fabrykabroni.pl/?d=158

American Rifleman (Magazine) - An Official Journal of the NRA
http://www.americanrifleman.org
P-83: The Polish Service Sidearm. 1989, January. Pages 50-51

Gunboards forums, Makarov forum - *9x18 Ammunition Data*
http://forums.gunboards.com/showthread.php?299-9x18-Ammunition-Data

Firearms Russia, GunsRU.ru – 9x18 pistol cartridges
http://gunsru.ru/rg_patron_9x18_eng.html

Stevespages.com, Century International Arms – *Czech Model 70 Pistol Caliber 7.65 .32 ACP manual*
http://stevespages.com/pdf/cz_70.pdf

Copyright and "Fair Use" laws
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fair_use
http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/17/107

Appendix

Information sources and interesting websites & documents (continued):

Internet Archive, California Digital Library – *Description of the automatic pistol, caliber .45, model of 1911; with rules for management, memoranda of trajectory, and description of ammunition ... April 1, 1912 (1917)* – PDF document file
https://archive.org/details/descriptionofaut00unitrich

Military Surplus Annual 2016 – PDF document file, pages 84 to 87.
https://archive.org/details/Military_Surplus_Annual_2016

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Appendix

Contact the creator of this document:

Email: petesimon (at) yahoo.com
Social networking: Facebook – https://www.facebook.com/psvangorp
Wikipedia 'talk' page – user "petesimon2"
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User_talk:Petesimon2
P64 Resource Forums: user "petesimon", user ID# 4623
http://www.p64resource.com/forum/memberlist.php?mode=viewprofile&u=4623
Oklahoma Shooters Forums: user "petesimon"
http://www.okshooters.com/member.php?33566-petesimon
Gunboards Forums: user "petesimon"
http://forums.gunboards.com/member.php?122228-petesimon
HiPoint Firearms Forums: user "petesimon"
http://www.hipointfirearmsforums.com/members/petesimon
Soviet-Steel Forums: user "petesimon", user ID# 10201
http://www.soviet-steel.com/member.php?u=10201
Postal Mail: 7917 Jordan Lane, Sperry, OK 74073-4825, United States

When contacting the creator of this document, Peter Simon, please include the subject line "Polish P-83 Wanad Pistol User's Guide" so he (I) know(s) what the message is about.

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Google Drive – Microsoft Word 2010, Adobe Acrobat PDF, and DjVu (DjView) documents, and Folder-view
Word – https://docs.google.com/uc?export=download&id=0B7hPlfPtS8nCUWw3QTlEWHhNOUE
PDF – http://goo.gl/QgGpIu
DjVu – http://goo.gl/JOUWMq
Folder – https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B7hPlfPtS8nCcFlZX0xVa0JPTzQ&usp=sharing

Google Sites – various document formats from various online sources. * most updated copy
https://sites.google.com/site/petesimontabibito/p83wanadpistol

Dropbox – PDF
http://goo.gl/LT8NZH

Wordpress Blog (gun manuals & gun info page) – PDF
http://wp.me/P1rAXQ-8

Yandex Disk cloud storage – PDF
http://goo.gl/DJw7Gb

Happy plinking! Thanks for reading!
-Peter