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### **WINCHESTER MODEL 1873 - SERIAL NUMBER 13301**

Serial number application date not available

Type: Carbine

Received in warehouse on December 13, 1876

Shipped from warehouse on March 05, 1877, Order number 8489

Date: August 05, 2015 - Searched by: cms

# Winchester Lever Action Repeaters

was so popular it outsold the round barrel six to one! Round barrels, which were lighter than octagon barrels, were far more popular on carbines which were favored for their light weight.

# Winchester Lever Action Repeaters

M1873 rifles equipped with modified shotgun style buttplates—as usually installed on carbines—were very rare and should be examined closely for evidence of non-factory fitting and workmanship.

## Buttplates—Carbine

Winchester called its standard M1873 carbine buttplate the “modified shotgun” style and all were made of iron or steel. The same style buttplate was used on the M1892 and M1894 carbines, but the M1873 buttplates were considerably thicker at 3/16 inches (measured at the level of the lower buttplate screw hole). See Figure 2-2.

Many M1873 carbines were sometimes factory-equipped with crescent buttplates. Examine the fit of the buttplate to the stock and the stock to the upper and lower tangs, and the fit of the stock to the rear of the receiver to determine originality. A factory letter may be helpful. See Appendix F.

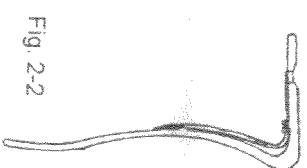


Fig. 2-2

Dimensions were: tang 1 15/16 inches long by 1 3/64 to 1/8 inches wide at the rear (depending on the degree of polish); plate 4 5/16 inches high by 1 13/32 inches wide at the widest point; tang screw hole was centered 5/8 inches from the front edge of the tang to center of hole; the plate screw hole was centered 1 1/8 inches above the toe.

**NOTE:** Special-order, non-standard buttplates almost always show an assembly number stamped on the buttplate near the toe, and on the left side of the receiver's lower tang. The assembly number should also match the assembly numbers on the buttstock (under the upper tang).

## Buttplate Trap Doors—Rifles and Carbines

The .38 and .44 caliber M1873 rifle and carbine buttplates had brass alloy trap doors covering the cleaning rod compartment. The .32 and .22 caliber guns did not.

Trap doors used on the M1873 rifles (A) were convex in shape to fit the curve of the buttplate. Trap doors used on M1873 carbines (B) were flatter to fit the slight curve of that buttplate. See Figure 2-3.

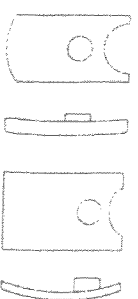


Fig. 2-3

Table 2-1  
Model 1873 Winchester Calibers

Caliber	Circa Serial Number / Date of Introduction
.44 Winchester	1/1873 <sup>1</sup>
.38 Winchester	41,000/1880
.32 Winchester	81,000/1882
.22 Rimfire (Short and Long) <sup>2</sup>	145,000/1884

<sup>1</sup> Date of introduction is taken as year of first appearance in Winchester catalogs.

<sup>2</sup> Although listed in the 1884 catalog, it does not appear that .22 rifles were sold until the circa serial #155,000 to 175,000 range. No carbines or muskets were ever manufactured by the Winchester factory in .22 caliber.

## Buttplates—Rifles

Buttplates for the M1873 rifles were the familiar crescent-type and all were made of iron or steel. Two variations were used: the first had a longer tang (2 7/16 to 2 15/32 inches) to circa serial #550,000. After, the tang was the same length (1 17/32 to 1 9/16) inches as on the M1892, M1894 and M1895 rifles. This change appears to have taken place about 1900 or 1901 with a transition period lasting a few years either way. See Figure 2-1.

The .32 caliber rifles and carbines and .22 caliber rifles did not have trapdoors for cleaning rods as the rod was too thick to pass into the bore and so rods were not furnished.

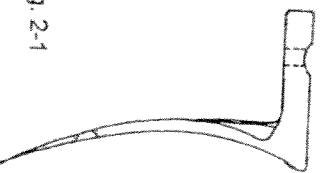


Fig. 2-1