

savage 99 identification guide

Savage 99 Identification Guide: The Savage Model 99 is one of the most iconic lever-action rifles in American history. Renowned for its reliability, innovative design, and accuracy, the Savage 99 has captured the hearts of hunters, collectors, and shooting enthusiasts alike. Identifying the various models and features of this rifle can be a challenging task, given its long production run from 1899 to 1998. This guide will provide detailed insights into the characteristics, variations, and identification tips for the Savage 99, helping you discern the nuances of this remarkable firearm.

History of the Savage Model 99

The Savage Model 99 was introduced by the Savage Arms Company in 1899, designed by Arthur Savage. It was revolutionary for its time, featuring a rotary magazine that allowed for smooth feeding and ejection of cartridges. The Savage 99 underwent numerous changes and improvements throughout its production life, becoming popular among hunters and sport shooters.

Key Historical Milestones

1. 1899: Introduction of the Model 99, featuring a unique rotary magazine.
2. 1907: The addition of the .303 Savage cartridge, which increased its popularity.
3. 1920s: Introduction of the first factory-engraved models.
4. 1930s: Aesthetics were updated with a more streamlined design.
5. 1950s: The introduction of the Savage 99E and 99R models.
6. 1998: The final year of production for the Savage 99.

Model Variations of the Savage 99

Throughout its production, the Savage 99 was released in several different models, each with its unique features and specifications. Here are some of the most notable variations to be aware of:

1. Savage 99A

- Type: The base model introduced in 1899.
- Features: Straight stock, blued finish, and chambered for various cartridges.
- Production Years: 1899-1920.

2. Savage 99B

- Type: Improved model with a more refined design.
- Features: Pistol grip stock and a shorter barrel.
- Production Years: 1920-1939.

3. Savage 99C

- Type: A variant designed for heavier calibers.
- Features: Offered in .300 Savage and .308 Winchester.
- Production Years: 1941-1950.

4. Savage 99E

- Type: A more economical version of the Savage 99.
- Features: Simpler stock design and fewer embellishments.
- Production Years: 1955-1966.

5. Savage 99R

- Type: A model known for its aesthetics.
- Features: Higher-quality wood and engravings.
- Production Years: 1955-1966.

6. Savage 99F

- Type: A model emphasizing functionality.
- Features: Adjustable sights and a more modern look.
- Production Years: 1965-1998.

Identifying Features of the Savage 99

When identifying a Savage 99, several key features can help you distinguish between models and determine the specific year of manufacture. Below are the most important aspects to consider:

1. Serial Numbers

- Location: The serial number is typically found on the left side of the

receiver.

- Identification: The serial number can help pinpoint the year of manufacture. For example:
- Pre-1920 numbers typically range from 1 to approximately 100,000.
- Post-1920 production used a different numbering system.

2. Barrel Length and Configuration

- Standard Lengths: The typical barrel lengths are 20, 22, and 24 inches.
- Configuration Variants: Some models may have an octagonal barrel, while others have a round barrel.

3. Stock Design

- Grip Style: The stock may feature a straight or pistol grip design, impacting identification.
- Material: Many models were made with walnut, but some may have used alternative woods.

4. Magazine Type

- Rotary Magazine: The defining feature of the Savage 99, identifiable by its unique loading mechanism.
- Capacity: The magazine typically holds five rounds.

5. Sights and Optics

- Iron Sights: Many models come equipped with adjustable iron sights.
- Scope Mounts: Some later models are designed with scope mounts.

6. Finish and Engravings

- Blued vs. Case Hardened: Early models often featured case-hardened receivers, while later ones were blued.
- Engravings: Higher-end models may have decorative engravings, which can significantly enhance their value.

Condition Rating

The value and collectibility of a Savage 99 heavily depend on its condition. It is crucial to assess the firearm based on specific criteria:

1. Mint Condition (100%)

- Characteristics: Unfired, original finish, and no visible wear.
- Value: Highest market value due to rarity.

2. Excellent Condition (90-99%)

- Characteristics: Minor handling marks, no rust or pitting, and fully functional.
- Value: High value, sought after by collectors.

3. Good Condition (80-89%)

- Characteristics: Signs of wear, possibly refinished, but in working order.
- Value: Moderate value, often appealing to shooters rather than collectors.

4. Fair Condition (70-79%)

- Characteristics: Significant wear, scratches, or minor repairs.
- Value: Low value, suitable for parts or restoration projects.

5. Poor Condition (below 70%)

- Characteristics: Major defects, non-functional, may require extensive repairs.
- Value: Minimal value, primarily for parts or historical interest.

Final Considerations

The Savage 99 Identification Guide serves as a valuable resource for those looking to appreciate, collect, or utilize this iconic rifle. Understanding its history, model variations, and identifying features can enhance your knowledge and appreciation of the Savage 99. Whether you are a seasoned collector or a novice enthusiast, recognizing the nuances of this storied firearm can add depth to your experience. Always remember to ensure proper identification and condition assessment to make informed purchasing or

selling decisions. Happy hunting, and enjoy your journey with the Savage Model 99!

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Savage 99 identification guide?

The Savage 99 identification guide is a resource that provides detailed information on how to identify different models and variations of the Savage Model 99 rifle, including features, markings, and historical context.

How can I determine the age of my Savage 99 rifle?

You can determine the age of your Savage 99 rifle by checking the serial number, which can be cross-referenced with the production dates provided in the Savage 99 identification guide.

What are the key features to look for when identifying a Savage 99?

Key features include the type of receiver (flat or rounded), the barrel length, the presence of a tang sight, the type of stock, and specific markings or engravings on the rifle.

Where can I find a reliable Savage 99 identification guide?

Reliable Savage 99 identification guides can be found in books dedicated to firearms, online forums, and websites specializing in firearms history, as well as through collectors and gun shows.

What variations of the Savage 99 are most sought after by collectors?

Collectors often seek rare variations such as the Savage 99E, 99R, and those with special features like engraving or unique calibers. Limited production runs and earlier models are also highly valued.

Are there any common misidentifications with the Savage 99?

Yes, common misidentifications include confusing the Savage 99 with other lever-action rifles and mislabeling different models due to similar features or markings.

What calibers were available for the Savage 99?

The Savage 99 was produced in several calibers, including .22 High Power, .250-3000 Savage, .300 Savage, .308 Winchester, and .375 Savage, among others.

Can the Savage 99 identification guide help with restoration projects?

Yes, the guide can provide critical information on original parts and specifications, helping enthusiasts restore their Savage 99 rifles to their original condition.

Is there an online community for Savage 99 enthusiasts?

Yes, there are several online forums and social media groups dedicated to Savage 99 enthusiasts where members share information, restoration tips, and identification advice.

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