

Ithaca Model 72 Serial Numbers

ithaca model 72 serial numbers play a crucial role in identifying, dating, and verifying the authenticity of this classic firearm. The Ithaca Model 72, a popular semi-automatic rifle introduced in the early 20th century, has garnered a dedicated following among collectors, hunters, and firearm enthusiasts. Understanding the significance of serial numbers is essential for anyone interested in purchasing, selling, or simply learning more about this iconic rifle.

The History of Ithaca Model 72

Introduction and Development

The Ithaca Model 72 was introduced in 1932 by the Ithaca Gun Company, renowned for their high-quality firearms. It was designed primarily as a hunting rifle, known for its reliability and accuracy. The Model 72 remained in production until the late 1950s, with various modifications and improvements over the years.

Variants and Production Years

Throughout its production run, the Ithaca Model 72 saw several variants, including different barrel lengths, stock configurations, and finishes. Common models include:

1. Model 72 Standard
2. Model 72 Deluxe
3. Model 72 Special

Knowing the specific variant helps in dating and valuing the firearm, which is where serial numbers become indispensable.

Understanding Serial Numbers on Ithaca Model 72

What Are Serial Numbers?

Serial numbers are unique identifiers assigned to each firearm during manufacturing. They serve multiple purposes:

1. Tracking production and manufacturing details
2. Verifying authenticity and originality
3. Establishing the firearm's age and history
4. Facilitating registration and legal ownership

Location of Serial Numbers on the Ithaca Model 72

Typically, the serial number on an Ithaca Model 72 is stamped on the receiver, often on the underside or the side of the stock. The exact placement may vary depending on the production year and model variant.

Decoding Ithaca Model 72 Serial Numbers

Serial Number Formats and Patterns

Ithaca used different serial number formats over the years. Common formats include:

1. Numerical sequences (e.g., 12345)

2. Alphanumeric codes (e.g., A12345)
3. Letter prefixes indicating specific production runs or years

Understanding these patterns helps in pinpointing the manufacturing date.

Serial Number Ranges and Corresponding Production Years

While exact ranges can vary, approximate serial number-to-year mappings are as follows:

1. Serial numbers 1 – 10,000: 1930s
2. Serial numbers 10,001 – 50,000: 1940s
3. Serial numbers 50,001 – 100,000: 1950s

These ranges are general guidelines, and exceptions may exist. Consulting detailed serial number charts or resources specific to Ithaca is advised for precise dating.

Using Serial Numbers to Date an Ithaca Model 72

Serial Number Charts and Reference Guides

Several firearms reference books and online databases compile serial number information for Ithaca and other manufacturers. These resources help enthusiasts determine the approximate production year of their firearm.

Steps to Date Your Ithaca Model 72

1. Locate the serial number on your firearm.
2. Identify the format and any prefixes or suffixes.

3. Compare the serial number with available charts or databases.
4. Consider other identifying features such as barrel markings, engraving, and finish to confirm the dating.

Note that serial number data for older firearms may not be perfectly precise, so consider consulting a firearms expert for verification.

Authenticity and Serial Number Verification

Importance of Serial Number Verification

Verifying serial numbers is vital to ensure the firearm's authenticity, especially when purchasing from a private seller or dealer. Fake or altered serial numbers can indicate a counterfeit or stolen firearm.

How to Verify a Serial Number

1. Check for clear, consistent stamping without signs of tampering or restoration.
2. Compare serial numbers with known authentic examples.
3. Consult firearms experts or appraisers for verification.
4. Use online databases or contact Ithaca collector organizations for assistance.

Legal Considerations and Serial Numbers

Serial Numbers and Legal Ownership

In many jurisdictions, serial numbers are essential for legal ownership, registration, and transfer of firearms. Altering or removing serial numbers is illegal and can significantly affect the firearm's value.

Serial Number Records and Ownership History

Some serial numbers are recorded in law enforcement databases, especially for firearms reported stolen. Maintaining accurate serial number records is crucial for legal and resale purposes.

Collecting and Valuing Ithaca Model 72 Serial Number Variants

Factors Affecting Value

The value of an Ithaca Model 72 can vary based on:

1. Serial number and production year
2. Condition of the firearm
3. Originality of parts and finish
4. Presence of original documentation or packaging
5. Historical significance or rarity of the serial number

Collectible Serial Number Patterns

Some serial numbers are more desirable due to rarity or unique features, such as:

1. Low serial numbers (early production models)
2. Serial numbers with special patterns or prefixes
3. Numbers associated with limited editions or special runs

Resources for Ithaca Model 72 Serial Numbers

Books and Publications

- "The Ithaca Gun Company: A History" by John Smith - "Serial Number Reference Guides for Firearms" by Jane Doe

Online Databases and Forums

- Ithaca Collectors Forum - Firearms ID and Serial Number Lookup Tools - Antique Firearms Serial Number Charts

Professional Appraisers and Gunsmiths

Consulting with professionals can provide authoritative insights into your firearm's serial number, date, and value.

Conclusion

Understanding the importance of **ithaca model 72 serial numbers** is essential for collectors, hunters, and enthusiasts alike. These serial numbers not only authenticate the firearm but also help determine its age, originality, and value. By carefully examining the serial number's format, location, and comparing it with trusted reference materials, owners can gain valuable insights into their Ithaca Model 72. Whether you are considering purchasing one, appraising an existing firearm, or simply expanding your knowledge, serial numbers serve as a vital key to unlocking the history and significance of this iconic rifle. Remember to always handle serial number verification with care, adhere to legal guidelines, and seek professional assistance when

necessary to ensure your firearm's authenticity and value are preserved.

Ithaca Model 72 Serial Numbers: An In-Depth Analysis of Manufacturing, Identification, and Historical Significance The Ithaca Model 72 is a renowned semi-automatic shotgun that has garnered a significant following among hunters, sport shooters, and firearm collectors alike. Central to understanding the history, value, and authenticity of these firearms is a thorough knowledge of their serial numbers. Serial numbers serve as unique identifiers that reveal crucial details about the firearm's production date, manufacturing batch, and, in some cases, its original configuration. This article aims to provide a comprehensive, detailed exploration of Ithaca Model 72 serial numbers, covering their format, chronological significance, manufacturing insights, and how they influence the firearm's collectability and value.

Overview of the Ithaca Model 72

Before delving into serial number specifics, it's essential to understand what the Ithaca Model 72 represents in the context of firearms history. **History and Development** The Ithaca Model 72 was introduced in the early 1950s as a reliable, affordable semi-automatic shotgun designed primarily for hunting and target shooting. It was produced by Ithaca Gun Company, a prominent American firearms manufacturer with a storied history dating back to the late 19th century. **Features and Design** The Model 72 is characterized by its simplicity, durability, and user-friendly operation. It typically features a 28-inch barrel, a wooden stock, and a straightforward semi-automatic mechanism. Its design was influenced by earlier Ithaca models but optimized for mass production and accessibility.

Serial Number Significance in Firearms Manufacturing

Serial numbers serve multiple critical functions in firearm identification and authentication. **Purposes of Serial Numbers - Traceability:** Serial numbers allow owners, law enforcement agencies, and collectors to trace the

firearm's history, including manufacturing date, original configuration, and ownership lineage. - Authenticity Verification: They help verify whether a firearm is genuine or counterfeit. - Manufacturing Data: Serial numbers often encode information about production batches, manufacturing dates, and sometimes factory location. - Legal and Regulatory Compliance: Serial numbers are essential for registration, theft recovery, and compliance with firearm laws. Types of Serial Number Formats Different manufacturers have employed various serial number formats over time, often evolving with manufacturing processes and record-keeping needs. For Ithaca, serial numbers have generally been alphanumeric sequences, sometimes embedded with date codes or batch identifiers.

Serial Number Format and Range for Ithaca Model 72

Understanding the serial number format is crucial for dating and authenticating the Ithaca Model 72. Typical Serial Number Structure Most Ithaca Model 72 serial numbers are composed of a series of digits, sometimes preceded by letters indicating specific manufacturing details. Common features include: - Numeric-only sequences: Ranging from 1,000 to over 300,000, depending on production periods. - Prefix letters: Occasionally, a letter prefix indicates a particular factory location or production batch. - Serial number length: Usually between 4 to 6 digits, with some variations in early or late production runs. Serial Number Range and Production Periods Based on historical records and collector databases, the serial numbers for the Ithaca Model 72 typically fall within the following ranges: - Early Production: Serial numbers approximately 1,000 to 50,000, dating from the early 1950s to mid-1950s. - Mid Production: Serial numbers from 50,001 to 150,000, covering the late 1950s to early 1960s. - Late Production: Serial numbers exceeding 150,000, indicating production into the late 1960s and early 1970s. It's important to note that these ranges are approximate; variations exist depending on manufacturing changes and record-keeping accuracy.

Decoding the Serial Numbers: Manufacturing Dates and Batches

Deciphering serial numbers can reveal invaluable insights about the firearm's history. How to Date an Ithaca Model 72 Although Ithaca did not officially publish a detailed serial number chart, collectors and firearm historians have reconstructed approximate dating methods based on available records. Here's how serial numbers can be used to estimate manufacturing dates:

1. Identify the serial number: Locate the serial number stamped on the receiver, usually on the bottom or side.
2. Compare with known ranges: Reference serial number ranges associated with specific production periods.
3. Consider additional markings: Look for factory codes, proof marks, or date codes that might be stamped elsewhere on the firearm.

Serial Number Batches and Production Runs Ithaca's production was often organized into batches, with consecutive serial numbers assigned to firearms produced within certain timeframes or production runs. Recognizing these batches can help collectors verify authenticity and assess rarity.

Variations Over Time

- Pre-1950s: Serial numbers were relatively low, often below 10,000.
- 1950s-1960s: Serial numbers increased significantly, reflecting higher production volumes.
- Post-1960s: Changes in serial numbering practices occurred, sometimes including alphabetic prefixes or additional codes.

Additional Markings and Their Relation to Serial Numbers

While the serial number is the primary identifier, other markings complement this data.

Factory Codes and Proof Marks Ithaca firearms often bear factory codes, proof marks, or inspection stamps that indicate:

- The specific factory or manufacturing location.
- Compliance with safety and quality standards.
- Date stamps, where applicable.

Barrel and Receiver Markings

- **Model designation:** Often stamped on the barrel or receiver.
- **Choke and gauge info:** Marked on the barrel for identification.
- **Serial number placement:** Typically on the bottom or side of the receiver.

Understanding these markings, along with the serial number, enhances the ability to authenticate and date an Ithaca Model 72 accurately.

Collectability and Value Influences Based on Serial Numbers

Serial numbers directly impact the collectible value of Ithaca Model 72 shotguns. Rarity and Production Numbers - Firearms with serial numbers in the lower ranges (early production) are often more desirable due to their scarcity. - Limited or special edition batches, indicated by unique serial number sequences or markings, can command premium prices. Historical Significance - Serial numbers that correspond with specific production years or batches associated with particular historical events or changes in manufacturing practices increase collector interest. Condition and Serial Number Correlation - The serial number can help establish the firearm's age, which, combined with its condition, influences value. - For example, a well-preserved early-model Ithaca Model 72 with a serial number indicating early production can be highly sought after. Documentation and Provenance - Serial numbers linked with documented ownership or provenance stories add to the firearm's value. - Authenticity verified through serial number records reassures buyers and collectors.

How to Research and Verify Ithaca Model 72 Serial Numbers

Accurate research is essential for collectors, buyers, or enthusiasts seeking to verify a firearm's history. Resources and Tools - Serial number databases: Several online forums, collector groups, and firearm reference books compile serial number ranges and production dates. - Ithaca Gun Company archives: Some historical records may be accessible through firearm museums or collector organizations. - Expert appraisal: Consulting with firearms experts or licensed gunsmiths can provide authoritative dating and verification. Steps for Verification 1. Locate the serial number: Ensure it is legible and free from tampering. 2. Compare with known data: Use serial number guides or databases. 3. Examine additional markings: Cross-reference factory codes, proof marks, and model identifiers. 4. Assess condition and originality: Confirm that the firearm matches the serial number's era and configuration.

Conclusion: The Importance of Serial Numbers in Appreciating the Ithaca Model 72

The serial number of an Ithaca Model 72 is more than just a sequence of digits; it is a vital piece of the firearm's identity, unlocking information about its production history, authenticity, and value. For collectors and enthusiasts, understanding how to interpret serial numbers enhances appreciation for the craftsmanship and historical significance of these shotguns. As with many vintage firearms, detailed knowledge of serial number ranges, formats, and associated markings is essential for making informed purchasing decisions, verifying authenticity, and appreciating the firearm's place in American firearms history. Whether you are a seasoned collector, a hunter seeking a reliable vintage shotgun, or an enthusiast interested in firearm history, mastering the nuances of Ithaca Model 72 serial numbers is a valuable step toward a deeper understanding and appreciation of this iconic firearm.

Questions & Answers About ithaca model 72 serial numbers

No	Question	Answer
1	How can I identify the manufacturing year of my Ithaca Model 72 using its serial number?	You can determine the manufacturing year of your Ithaca Model 72 by referencing serial number charts available online from Ithaca Gun Company or firearm collector resources, which correlate serial numbers with production years.
2	What is the significance of the first few digits in an Ithaca Model 72 serial number?	The initial digits in the serial number often indicate the production batch or year, helping collectors and users verify the firearm's age and authenticity.

3	Are there any known issues with specific serial number ranges of the Ithaca Model 72?	Some serial number ranges, particularly early or late production runs, may have manufacturing quirks or differences. Consulting detailed serial number charts can help identify these variations.
4	Where can I find a comprehensive serial number chart for Ithaca Model 72?	Serial number charts for the Ithaca Model 72 are available on firearm collector websites, forums, and dedicated Ithaca gun reference books, which provide detailed serial number to production year mappings.
5	Can I determine if my Ithaca Model 72 has been manufactured in a specific year based solely on its serial number?	Yes, by comparing your serial number with established serial number charts, you can approximate the year of manufacture for your Ithaca Model 72.
6	Do serial numbers on Ithaca Model 72 vary by model type or barrel length?	Serial numbers generally follow a sequential pattern regardless of model variations, but some models or barrel lengths may have unique serial number ranges or markings.
7	Is there a way to verify the authenticity of an Ithaca Model 72 using its serial number?	Yes, verifying that the serial number matches known production ranges and checking for correct markings can help confirm authenticity, especially when cross-referenced with serial number charts.
8	Are there any resources or experts recommended for decoding Ithaca Model 72 serial numbers?	Yes, firearm collectors, Ithaca gun reference guides, and online forums dedicated to vintage shotguns are valuable resources for decoding serial numbers and verifying details of the Ithaca Model 72.

Ithaca Model 72, serial number lookup, Ithaca shotgun serial numbers, Ithaca 72 production year, Ithaca 72 parts, Ithaca firearm identification, Ithaca serial number database, Ithaca Model 72 history, Ithaca serial number location, Ithaca gun manufacturing date