



saving grace: an act of penance

Article Contributed by: [Jamie Mangrum](#)

[Adobe PDF Downloadable Version of Article](#)



Sporterized 91 Argentine Sitting Above Assembled Military Stock

A couple of weeks ago I went on a Saturday romp that took me through three different gun stores.

In the last store I saw an 1891 Argentine Mauser that someone had sporterized. Whoever owned it had installed a Fajen Sporter stock and had also chrome plated the magazine and trigger guard. Other than these modifications it appeared to be in good condition and intact. The price tag was only \$53. I thought to myself - "what the heck would I do with a sporterized 1891 Argentine Mauser?" No answer came

quickly so I walked out and drove home.

Lately I have become interested in collecting Argentine Mausers. This is because of the extraordinary beauty of the breed and as a result the thought kept turning over and over in my mind, "What would I do with a sporterized 91 Argentine Mauser?" I have been looking for a good specimen (*91 Argentine - Original Military Configuration*) for my collection and had yet to find one until now. In my opinion 91 Mausers should not be sporterized. Still, the Argentine Mausers are a favorite firearm for folks building custom Mausers. Whoever sporterized this rifle committed a crime. I am not preaching that all mil-surp firearms should be left in pristine condition. I am just making a statement that sometimes the original configuration is of

Note

A reader has emailed me that the chrome plating may be an original finish. Argentine Navy 1891 Mausers did have chrome finish.

such rare beauty that it should be left alone.

The following Monday it finally came to me! After writing and publishing so many articles on Surplusrifle.com about modifying mil-surp rifles I decided it was time for an act of atonement.

I decided that I would purchase the 91 Argentine and hunt down all of the parts and return the rifle to its original grace and glory. I went to the store the next day and purchased it and thus started my adventure.



Note the Chrome Plated Magazine!

After calling around I found a single place that had all of the parts that I needed. I found everything at [Springfield Sporters, Inc](#) (*distributors of curio & relic parts - Since 1961*) for a very reasonable price of only \$88 including the shipping and handling. I did not mention I would be using the parts for an article because I wanted to see the quality of parts that I would receive just being the average Joe calling in an order.

Here are the parts that I ordered:

Part Description	Quantity
Rifle Stock	1
Hand Guard	1
Cleaning Rod	1
Cleaning Rod Nut	1
Butt Plate	1
Butt Plate Screws	2
End Cap	1
End Cap Screws	2
Forward Band	1
Forward Band Spring	1
Rear Band	1
Rear Band Spring	1
Forward Swivel	1

Forward Swivel Screw	1
Rear Swivel	1
Rear Swivel Screw	2

From a fiscal standpoint I was very pleased. If the parts arrived in good condition and did not require any additional supplies for refurbishment I was only into this restoration project for \$141 total (*and some change*). That is a pretty good price to pay for any rifle. While I waited for my parts to arrive I did a little research on my new friend.

Argentine Modelo 1891 Rifle	
Specification	Measurement
Length	48.60 Inches
Barrel Length	29.13 Inches
Weight	8.8 Lbs.
Rifling	4 Groove RH
Caliber	7.65x53mm Argentine
Magazine	5 Capacity Vertical Box



Everything Ready to Assemble

The Argentine Modelo 1891 Rifle replaced the Remington Rolling Block Rifle and was built in Germany by either Ludwig Loewe & Co, Berlin, Germany or Deutsche Waffen und Munitions Fabriken, Berlin, Germany (*German Arms and Ammunition Factories, Berlin, Germany*), DWM.

After a short while the parts arrived and after close inspection I was a very happy customer. I had really been expecting that the stock would be oil soaked and its surface covered with millions of dark dings and dents.

To my pleasant surprise the stock and hand guard were some of the most pretty walnut pieces I have ever seen and both were in unissued or new



condition. Neither piece had a single ding or dent and the stock was not seeping oil. I applied several coats of hand rubbed oil and bee's wax to the surface of the wood and brought out a nice luster. All of the metal parts were clean and in good order.

I had the fever! I quickly assembled all of the parts.

BEAUTIFUL!!!!



The only surprise I encountered was that I discovered that the handguard on this type of Mauser is attached to the barrel by copper wire wrapped around both the barrel and hand guard. This explains the small channels in my 1909 Argentine Carbine's handguard.

As pictured above there are small channels or grooves cut into the top of the hand guard's front and rear. I found 22 gauge solid wire fit nicely into the hand guard's channels.

I found the correct gauge (*22 gauge Enamel Coated Magnet Wire*) at Radio Shack. The Radio Shack wire I

purchased has a clear enamel coating and will be protected from corrosion.

I took the hand guard and placed it on the rear of the barrel resting up against the front of the rear sight.



I wrapped the wire tight around the barrel and then made short and tightly twisted pigtails.



The rifle stock has slots cut into the barrel channel. This is so the wrapped wire and pigtails fit perfectly with the barrel resting in the channel. Once the rifle is assembled the hand guard is very securely attached. The wire only

added a couple dollars to the project - still a worth while effort.



One observation about the 91 Argentine Mauser is that it is one of the most slender rifles I have ever handled. A substantial overall length yet the balance is great.

I have read that one of the only failings of this particular model is the external, extended magazine. The magazine design and function is very similar to the Mosin-Nagant, so I find this difficult to believe.



The rear sight is an interesting design. While laying down flat the sight offers a fixed 250 meter. When lifted as shown in the photo to the left the sight begins at 350 meters, graduating out to 2000 meters.

The chrome plated finish on the magazine no longer bothers me as much. I did have some crazy notion I would attempt to remove the chrome plating for this article and have read some pretty wild things on the internet about how to do this at home. None sound like they would be too safe and I have this

Pop-Up Rear Sights and the Completed Project

crazy goal that I would actually like to keep layers of skin, both of my eyes, and all my body's appendages. I am just funny that way!

pen-ance n

An act of devotion performed voluntarily to show sorrow for a sin or other wrongdoings



Age, Grace, and Beauty all in one Package!

Well, I have paid penance!

Maybe when I am called before a court of my peers and accused of war crimes for altering other mil-surp rifles (*as one email recently said I should be*) the court will look favorably upon this act and be lenient on me.

It sure felt good to take something that should not have been altered in the first place and make it beautiful again! Although with this particular rifle to make a thing of beauty did not take much to accomplish.

I guess this is sort of like in the movies when they take a pretty girl and make her wear dumpy clothes and glasses. When she takes the glasses off and shakes out her hair - she suddenly is a gorgeous babe. This is my **Grace**. My 91 Argentine Mauser. An elegant and gorgeous babe.

jlm;)

[Adobe PDF Downloadable Version of Article](#)

Article Contributed by: [Jamie Mangrum](#)