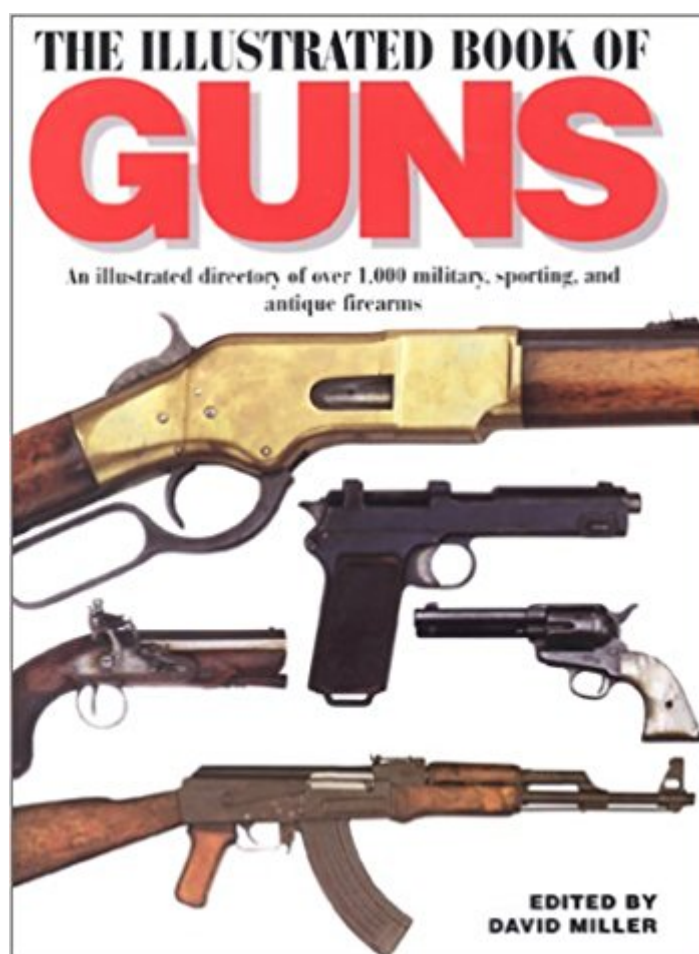


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ILLUSTRATED BOOK OF GUNS: An Illustrated Directory Of Over 1,000 Military And Sporting Firearms



Synopsis

From the early "pepperbox" pistol to the AK-47 and Skorpion of modern times this guide illustrates and describes hundreds of military and civilian pistols and long arms of the past two centuries. Each weapon is illustrated in a full-color profile with statistical information on length, weight, caliber, and muzzle velocity, with history, manufacture and any important factors in its operation and use.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have both this one and David Miller's other book The Illustrated Directory of Guns, it's alright. I have used the Chris McNab book The Great Book of Guns more than either one of the Miller books.

This product is not a magic cure and is somewhat mess and sticky, but it appears to work some of the time.

Be sure to read the reviews for the most recent versions of the book. This older version shares those problems. One example of a factual problem is the assertion that the 1918 Mauser Tank-Gewehr anti-tank rifle was ".51 inch (13mm)" caliber. It was .525 inch (13.2mm nominal). A more serious mistake is the assertion that "its cartridge was closely copied by the Americans in order to provide a suitable round for the 0.50 in Browning..." This is absolute total garbage. Development of the U.S. .50 cartridge was based on scaling up the 30-06, a rimless cartridge we already knew was well-suited to automatic actions, UNLIKE The Mauser 13.2mm TuF or 13.2mm 92SR which was semi-rimmed!

At the time development started on our .50 BMG cartridge, the U.S. didn't even know about the Mauser rifle because it hadn't even been fielded yet. Later, the developers specifically ruled out the German semi-rimmed design as unsuitable for machine gun actions. When an author makes one glaring error like this, my guard goes up. After I found more and more (especially on the modern stuff), I realized I was going to have to take pretty much all the facts I wasn't sure of with a grain of salt until I checked them out myself. This last mistake is also illustrative of numerous near-snide remarks made about U.S. firearms and the British author's disdain for private firearms ownership in general. (Subtle, but it does surface). All that said, good photos with some unusual and one-of-a-kind firearms. Worth adding to your library for that alone. But watch for the errors and get ready to shrug off occasional annoying editorial comments.

This is a VERY comprehensive book which runs the gamut from early firearms up to and including (most of) the modern arms found today in sport or military usage. The photos are first rate, as are the descriptives at the beginning of each chapter. I can overlook the typos (frequent as they might be) in favor of the sheer history of featured weapons, such as the guns of the old west, and the civil war era. The book is also sectioned off into pistols/revolvers, rifles/shotguns, submachine guns, light machine guns, and heavy machine guns. Most every country that manufactures these firearms is covered, although some glaring omissions are present, most notably the Walther P99 auto pistol. Since this volume came out in 2000, it would defy logic that this weapon would NOT be included, since it's appearance in 1998-1999. Still, this is a nice addition to ANY coffee table (or bookshelf), and is well worth the paper it's printed on.

I found this a really stunning intro into the world of guns and gunsmithing. Everything is completely clear, and the excellent illustrations mean that even the non-expert can really enjoy the book and get the most from the author's clear and concise information. I would certainly recommend the book to anyone with an interest in this field.

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