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ONE AND TWO BARREL “EIBAR” BREECH LOADERS

“Lefauchaux” pinfire system pistol with tip up, octagonal, double barrels; 15 mm caliber; Spring opening mechanism, collapsible triggers; 131 mm in OA length; Inexpensive Eibar manufacture, lacking any maker’s markings.

The two barreled “Lefauchaux” system pistols with collapsible triggers are genuinely “Eibar” products, especially those with a spring loaded opening mechanism; They were made in all metallic pinfire calibers, from 7 to 15 mm; Their barrels were cylindrical in those of a certain quality and octagonal in the more common ones, which sometimes are rather poorly finished.



Single barreled “Lefauchaux” pistols with a French style manual lock, as the one shown here, are unusual; This specimen for 12 mm pinfire cartridges is marked “F^a DE B^o LLUCH – EIBAR” (Benigno Lluch, active during 1870-1871)

The so-called “Remington pistols” were more efficient due to this system’s rolling block mechanism, patented in 1866-67, and their use of center fire cartridges; They were made in one or two barrel variants and in .38 and .44 calibers.



One and two barreled “Remington” pistols for center fire cartridges in .44 caliber; Standard Eibar manufacture, lacking any maker’s markings.

Deringer-type center fire pistols (“cachorrillos” or “puppies”) with the Lefauchaux tip up mechanism and extractor, and with hidden trigger, were also made; Also made in both pinfire and centerfire versions were the so-called “rotational or giratory” pistols which, even though their system was scarcely original received a “Patent of Invention” registered by Juan Jose Larrañaga in 1883; These pistols were made by the firm of “Garate, Larrañaga y C^ª” until the company’s dissolution in 1892; After this date they continued to be made by Juan José Larrañaga himself, who apparently gave up on maintaining the Patent, as other makers also started to make them.



Eibar manufacture “cachorrillo” (Deringer-type) for .44 caliber center fire cartridge, and, pin fire “rotating pistol”, 9 mm caliber, marked “LARRAÑAGA – EIBAR” (Juan José Larrañaga, 1892)

Of the .41 caliber rimfire cartridge pistols, with either one or two barrels, the Eibar production was limited to copies of the Colt Third Model Deringer “cachorrillo”, and of the Remington Double Deringer; These can be included among those cheap pistols that were exported to the Middle East via Constantinople (Istanbul); These were marketed without any maker’s markings or, with markings imitating those of the original North American products; Of the Remington Double Deringer, besides the standard model with manual extractor, another one with automatic extraction upon opening the barrels, was also made.



Eibar copy of the Colt Third Model Deringer, .41 caliber, marked “F^a LIEJE COLL” and, under the barrel and visible only upon opening the action “ARIZAGA” (Francisco Arizaga, Eibar, 1870-1885)



Unmarked Eibar copy of the Remington Double Deringer with automatic extractor on the left, and, on the right, marked “REMINGTON ARMS. U.M.C. ILION NY”, n° 442, with manual extractor.

This type of pistols were made by foundries which supplied them to the gunsmiths who then simply finished them; The Eibar Industrial Register of the years 1880-81 includes mentions of Pedro Gabilondo’s “iron smelting oven”, of Felipe Galparsoro’s “iron foundry”, and of Juan José Larrañaga’s “weapons finishing shop”; Their decoration was entrusted to the “engraving shops”, of which twelve are mentioned, the largest one being Placido Zuloaga’s, with 17 workers.

I have never seen any specimens marked by any of the large manufacturers such as Ignacio Ibarzabal or the Orbea Brothers; Those that do bear “factory” markings actually bear those of the “*Montadores*” (assemblers) who marketed them.



“CENTRAL PISTOL”, one of the types of arms offered in the 1920s in the “AAA” catalogues (Antonio Aldazabal Areta, distributor)

During the 1920s the Eibar production of one or two barreled top break type of pistol was limited to the so called "CENTRAL" double barreled Lefauchaux system pistols for center fire cartridges, with automatic shell extractors and conventional triggers protected by trigger guards; This type of pistol was exported to South America where they were known as "*garruchas*".

The first pistol of this type made in Eibar was patented in 1886 by Felix Entrena Campos as: "A central pistol with two barrels, system Remin-Fuse", hoping that this denomination would indicate that it had the advantages of both, the Remington and Lefauchaux, systems.



Double barreled pistol for .44 caliber "central" cartridges, marketed under the name: "REMIN-FUSE PRIVILEGIO DE FABRICACION / FELIX ENTRENA – EIBAR".

Felix Entrena was a partner of the firm of "Entrena y Caloso" which appeared in the Eibar Industrial Register in 1886 declaring a workshop with seven workers; In 1887 it was listed under the sole ownership of Felix Entrena with only one worker and disappeared completely in 1888; Apparently the Remin-Fuse pistol was an economic failure for Felix Entrena.