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**“LEFAUCHEUX” AND “CENTRAL” EIBAR REVOLVERS, 1870s - 1880s**

Towards the end of the 1860s the so-called “Central” revolvers, for center fire cartridges, were introduced in Spain; These did not completely displace the pin fire cartridge “Lefauchaux “ system until the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century; A Royal Order of December, 29, 1906, detailing the inventory of the existing armaments still being used by the Army, Guardia Civil, and Carabineros, continued to include the Model 1863 “Lefauchaux”, and instructed that these should continue in use until they could be replaced by the new Model 1903 Bergmann pistol.



**Galand revolver, 6 shot, 12 mm caliber, barrel length 139 mm, marked: “PRIVILEGIADO / EIBAR” with maker’s marking: “B.C 71” in an oval (Barthelet and Chastang, Eibar makers of French or Belgian origin).**

The different revolvers made and marked by the different Eibar firms towards the end of the XIX Century can be classified in two groups:

-Those with a simultaneous extraction system of all empty shells upon opening the weapon for reloading.

-Those with a central ejection rod for, one by one, extraction of the empty shells from the cylinder, such as in the pin fire revolvers of conventional design.

In the first group we can include specimens of the Tackels, Galand and Spirlet systems, marked, "Vergara y Garate", "Garate e Hijo", "Chastang", and "Jose Maria Unzueta", among others; Due to their complex manufacturing requiring industrial equipment not available then in Eibar they were mostly obtained in Belgium and simply finished in Eibar; The inscription "PRIVILEGIADO" seen in some of them must be considered to be fraudulent, even if they had the corresponding "*Privilegio de Introducci3n*" since from July, 1829 it had been made clear that these "*privilegios*" were meant for the protection of nationally produced, and not imported, products.



**Eibar "central" revolver, one piece frame, double action, 6 shot, 11 mm caliber, "central" fire cartridges; Barrel length 133 mm, marked: "DOMINGO ALBERDI EIBAR" (1870-1887)**

Those in the second group were made in Eibar, and they usually bear the marking of a "Montador" (assembler); The marking of Domingo Alberdi in the above shown specimen is that of a maker who, in 1870-71 already appeared in the Eibar Industrial Register but who from 1881-1887 declared a shop with an average of only one worker; Nevertheless in 1884 the "*Revista Bascongada*" (Basque Review) included him among the previous eight month's most productive makers and detailed a list of, 178 single barrel Lefauchaux shotguns, 55 double barreled, 236 Remington shotguns, 12 percussion pistols, 1,696 Lefauchaux revolvers, 44 Remington pistols (single shot) and 884 revolvers; Obviously he marketed as his own the production of several shops; From 1888-1891 his shop is registered under the name of Maria Ansola or under "Vda. e Hijos de Domingo Alberdi" (Widow and Sons of Domingo Alberdi), wholesalers and exporters.

Of this second group the most innovative Eibar production included the Adams type, double action, one piece frame revolvers, for either "central" or pin fire cartridges, and also the older "Eibar variant" of the 1854 Lefauchaux.



Single piece frame, double action, 6 shot, 12mm caliber pinfire Lefauchaux revolver; Barrel length 169 mm; inscribed in silver: "CAÑON DE ACERO / F<sup>a</sup> DE UNCETA Y BARRENECHEA / EIBAR", serial number 24.



Late variant of the pinfire, 12 mm caliber, 1854 Lefauchaux revolver; Barrel length 155 mm; Specimen marked: "AZTARLOA / EIBAR" (Tomas Astarloa, 1870-1890)