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## **THE RUGER NINE ROUND MAGAZINE**

By  
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The Ruger .22 semi-automatic pistol was introduced in 1949, an original design by William B. Ruger. A ten round Colt Woodsman magazine fed Ruger's first prototype (mid 1940s) pistol. The second prototype pretty well resembled the .22 Ruger pistol marketed until 1982. The second prototype was fed by a modified ten round High standard magazine. The High Standard frame required a 33 degree angle (Editor's note: the angle measured between the vertical centerline of the magazine tube and the perpendicular of the angle of the bottom of the magazine base). The Ruger frame was more in the profile of the Luger at 10 degrees. The altered magazine worked well in the Ruger pistol, with one draw back. To arrive at the 10-degree angle, the bottom of the magazine was cut off and one round would be lost. The ten round magazine now held only nine rounds. Every other .22 pistol on the market was ten shot. Still the Ruger performed without flaw. This was to be the magazine for the production model.

At the Red Barn assembly was under way by the summer of 1949; High Standard Military HD magazines were disassembled and cut down. The springs and modified tubes were the only components used by Ruger for the conversion. A new follower and follower button were adopted, as well as a redesigned base. The sides of the base are serrated for easy removal. The top quarter inch of the magazine tube is hardened and in-the-white; the rest of the tube is soft blue steel. It is often referred to as a two-tone magazine. If you have one of these early magazines look at the bottom of the tube, just above the base. The tubes were cut and not reblued. The bottom of the tubes were left unfinished.

The length along the rounded side of the High Standard magazine tube, from top to base, is four and one half inches (figure 2). For a smooth line on the finished magazine a cut at the base of the High Standard magazine would have been ideal, but Ruger needed another one-eighth inch for the modified clip to function in the Ruger pistol (figure 1). The extra one eighth inch created an annoying gap at the inside base of the magazine (figure 1). The magazine catch had a tendency to hang on this gap when removed from the gun.

The only part for the Ruger magazine produced at the Ruger Red Barn was the follower button. The magazine base and follower were cast by Mt. Vernon Die-Casting, now out of business. The magazine base, follower and trigger were cast in the same die. Mt. Vernon also supplied the grip medallions. All were cast from zinc alloy, triple copper plated, nickel plated and then chrome plated. Stamford Polishing and Plating did the plating.

By mid-1950 Ruger was using an all blue, untempered magazine tube from an unknown vender.

In 1951 the tubes were supplied by the Larson Tool Co. of Attleboro, RI. These magazines were blued tempered steel. The gap (figure 1) was eliminated. The slot, which the follower button moves in, was

lengthened at the bottom for easier disassembly. This magazine saw few changes until the follower button slot was extended to both the right and left side. With the introduction of the Mark II in 1982 the Ruger .22 pistol magazine was completely redesigned and upgraded to ten round capacity.

FIGURE #1

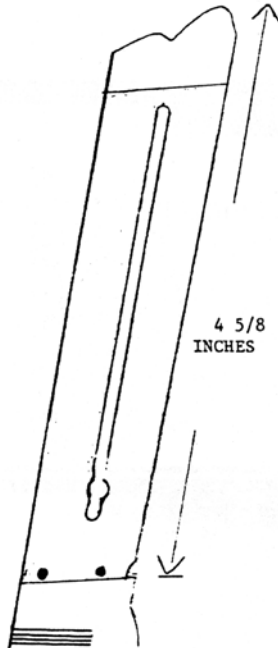


FIGURE #2

