

Showa 14.12 Final Transition Example  
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Without a doubt, the most commonly recognized change that took place on the Type-14's is the change-over from the Small Trigger Guard to the Large Trigger Guard which took place at the Kokubunji Factory during Showa 14.9 (September 1939). Less than 90 days after that change went into effect, two additional changes/innovations took place in the manufacturing process.

Late in 14.12 (December 1939), the grip panel grooves changed from 25 to 17. The lowest number reported with 17 grooves in the grip panels is 72303. There is the normal expected overlap of reported examples having either 17 or 25 grooves until



72464 when it appears that all grip panels were made with 17 grooves.



Almost simultaneously, with the change to the grip panels, a recess with corresponding cutout was machined into the front grip strap to accept an "S" shaped magazine retention spring. At the same time as the grip spring addition, a notch was cut into the

lower front strap of the magazine to align with the "S" shaped retention spring installed in the

frame. This change was implemented to help prevent a fully-loaded magazine from dropping out of the frame should the magazine latch be inadvertently pushed/struck. The spring/magazine change took place in late Showa 14.12. The highest reported serial number without the spring is 72454, and the lowest serial number reported with the spring is 72507. The following photos are of Type-14 serial number 72525 which is the highest reported 14.12-date to incorporate both of these changes. Both changes remained with all Type-14s produced at Kokubunji until production ceased in 19.8.

Note: Many thanks to Dan Larkin for all his work in keeping the Type-14 and Type-94 serial number data base as once again it has proven to invaluable in determining the status of when a pistol had which changes/modifications incorporated.

