

## Rifle, U.S., Type 99, Japanese Cal., .30 Stock Replacement

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Recently I was presented with a Rifle, U.S. Type 99 Japanese Cal. .30 that someone in the past had removed the forearm and the front half of the stock along with removing/rounding off part of the rear half of the stock that would normally be inside the rear barrel band, which is was also missing.

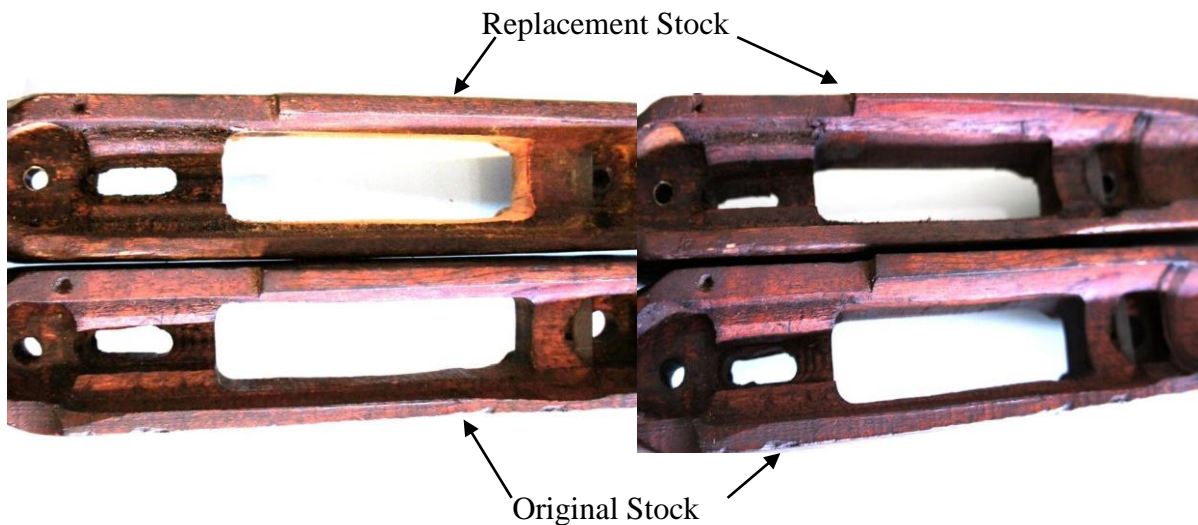


The history of the Japanese Type 99 Arisaka converted to 30-06 for use by the Republic of Korea troops in the Korean War and by the Japanese Police Reserves Corp, is covered in depth in the Banzai Special Project #10 titled “Rifle, U.S., Type 99, Japanese Cal. .30” by Doss H. White. This booklet along with an emails from Doss White and Frank Allan coupled with comments to my posting of it on the web site Castle-Thunder.com were my sources in determining that this rifle was in fact correct and not one of the many post war recreations by others here in the United States. Once I knew that this rifle was go to good I wanted to bring it back into its proper configuration for what it is.

A bit about this rifle is that it is a very late Kokura Army Arsenal 25<sup>th</sup> series serial number 90168. During the work to re-chamber it to 30-06 caliber this rifle along with all the rifles being re-chambered, there was no regard taken to ensure that the rifles matched by original parts, which resulted in rifles being totally mismatched from early to mid and late variations. This rifle is no exception as it has a late Nagoya bolt handle (#163 with “ri” ㇿ inspection mark), long extractor (#36 with “su” ㇿ inspection mark) , a early Nagoya firing pin (#780 with “ri” ㇿ inspection mark), bolt release with “M” inspection mark and a Nagoya Grooved safety knob (#839 no inspection mark noted). Once the re-chambering work was completed all parts were then refinished with a phosphate type finish and the rifle reassembled.



So, in wanting to replace the stock and even knowing that type of stock was not a real show stopper I did decide that I wanted to replace the chopped stock with an original 25<sup>th</sup> series stock. After looking around for a while I was finally offered one for sale and of course purchased it. Replacing the stock is not just as simple as removing the old and replacing it with a new one. During the configuration change one of the things that had to be done was that the stock had to be modified to accept the larger box magazine of the converted rifles. Using the old stock as a template and spending a little bit of time with a file I was able to modify the new stock to match the template. Next was trying to match the color of the stain on the inside of the stock where I had removed portions of the wood to fit the box magazine. Not having any idea on what type of stain was used during the configuration rework and based on the color difference I could see in the reworked area of the original stock I went with a commercial off the shelf product (MINWAX Red Mahogany stain) and with a bit of practice, I believe I was able to match the stain fairly well.



The only missing part at this point was an original Type F rear barrel band which has eluded me, however; Dan Larkin came through with a Type E rear band and screw and since the rifle is proper in this miss-matched state I was only too glad to accept it. Once I put the rifle together I was pleasantly surprised how well the Type E band finish came close to matching the phosphate type finish of the receiver and barrel assemblies.



So with the rifle being returned to its proper configuration, my only task to complete was to take it to the range and see how it would perform.

When shooting one of these old conversions the shooter needs to remember that the U.S. .30 Caliber M2 ball ammunition is different from 30-36 ammunition. They are close, but not exactly the same thing. Using "Hatcher's Notebook", by Julian S Hatcher, Major General, U.S. Army, retired, The Telegraph Press, 1947 as a reference it should be noted that the Caliber .30 M2 ball ammunition produced a muzzle velocity of 2740 +/- 30 Feet Per Second (FPS). Much of today's modern 30-06 ammunition can produced muzzle velocities as high as 2900fps, so caution must be taken when shooting these rifles so as to not shoot ammunition that produces these higher pressures. I found some new Hornady 30-06 M1 Garand (Match) ammunition that produces a muzzle velocity of 2700fps which is as close to the original .30 M2 ball that I could find with off the shelf ammunition.

I was very pleased with how well it did perform on the range. It shot just fine with no key holing or tumbling at all and no splits in the cases. Just a bit high and to the left but then that could have been the shooter.

Postscript. There have been attempts over the years to pass off post war conversions to 30-06 as being one of these U.S. Cal. .30 Type-99 rifles and as noted in Banzai Special Project #10 titled "Rifle, U.S., Type 99, Japanese Cal. .30" along with being discussed on the on-line forums it is important to be knowledge in these before buying one at a show or over the internet.

