

Pistolet Mitrailleur Vollmer Erma

Heinrich Vollmer was an independent firearm manufacturer who developed several weapons starting in the early 1900's. In 1925 Vollmer secretly designed a machine pistol financially supported by the Reichswehr IWG. Due to the Versailles restrictions, funding stopped, but Vollmer was determined to finish the project. Continuing unaided, early designs had an air cooled barrel in a perforated jacket. The 25 round drum magazine mounted underneath the submachinegun. A redesign in 1926 added a mass cooled barrel. A vertical foregrip was introduced on the wooden stock - a trademark of all future Vollmer submachineguns. The gun was chambered for 7.63 Mauser and 9mm Parabellum rounds. The submachinegun could also fire the powerful 9mm Mauser Export. Less than 400 models were sold to sources outside Germany. The design was changed again in 1930. The magazine was updated to a 32 round box and a heavy conical mass cooled barrel replaced the air cooled jacket. The fire selector was positioned above the trigger guard. The MP38 and MP40 borrowed some of these features including the telescopic main spring guide design. A long barrel carbine version was the last model made independently by Vollmer. In October 1931, Vollmer signed a licensing agreement with Erma.



The third model returned to earlier designs, including the vertical foregrip. The bolt locking safety catch of the second model was retained. France purchased this model, designated the Pistolet Mitrailleur Vollmer Erma. Spanish Republican soldiers also acquired the third model for the Spanish Civil War. After the fall of France, Germany used these submachineguns, designated the MP 740(f).

The first Erma model was based on the original perforated air-cooled jacket. Changes included the addition of a bayonet lug under the barrel shroud, a lengthened barrel and improved ramp sights. The EMP 35 was sold to Yugoslavia. The second model removed the bayonet lug and shortened the barrel close to its original length. The sights were changed to flip-up 100 and 200 versions and the vertical foregrip was removed. A transitional version of the second model replaced the flip-up sights with ramp sights.

Combat Data

Type	SMG	Feed	Clip	Year	1930	Calibre	9x19	QM	+0
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Single Shot [SS]

Mishap	Mount	PF
98 - 100	--	--
FRT Modifier	Shots Per Action	Targets Per Shot
+0	1	1
Short	Effective	Long
15mm		
6	14	20
20mm		
8	19	27
25mm & 28mm		
10	24	34

Spray Fire [SP]

Mishap	Mount	PF
96 - 100	--	--
FRT Modifier	Shots Per Action	Targets Per Shot
-10	1	3
Short	Effective	Long
15mm		
5	12	17
20mm		
6	16	23
25mm & 28mm		
8	20	29

Fire Lane [FL]

Mishap	Mount	PF
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FRT Modifier	Shots Per Action	Targets Per Shot
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Short	Effective	Long
15mm		
--	--	--
20mm		
--	--	--
25mm & 28mm		
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