



Guide to Hunting in Germany

07b – HUNTING WEAPONS

Knives (*Messer, kalte Waffen*)

Hunters should carry sturdy knives because they will be expected to field dress the game that they have shot.

Knives are available in several designs. Some hunters prefer the sheath knife, which is familiar to American hunters. Most hunters select the folding universal pocket knife, which has a strong 4- to 6-inch blade, a small gutting blade with blunt end, and a saw.

Stainless steel knives are rust protected and withstand the influence of weather and blood, but will not get a sharp edge like knives made of regular steel, which need more attention. Steel knives require regular cleaning, especially blood should be washed off ASAP.

The saw on hunting knives is used to cut the pelvic joint when gutting game; when a sheath knife is used, the pelvic joint will be broken using the point of the blade.



Left side: typical sheath knives

right side: Puma folding knife



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The sword (*Hirschfänger*) is a traditional sidearm with a long, broad, sharp-pointed blade with cutting edges. In the past the sword was commonly used for finishing off wounded deer in the traditional manner of thrusting the blade into the heart. The sword is sometimes as an item of ceremonial attire at formal gatherings.



Hirschfänger

The lance (*Saufeder*) is a former hunting weapon consisting of a long shaft and a sharp steel head. This was used in stabbing a wild boar that was surrounded by a pack of dogs. (see example on following page)



Saufeder



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Saufeder in use, by original design:



Saujagd, by Johannes St. of Flanders (16th century)

Firearms for hunting (*Jagd Waffen*)

Hunters in Germany use a wide variety of firearms. Hunting techniques, as well as weapons and hunting law require guns of specific design or capacity.

There are two basic groups of firearms in Germany: long weapons (*Langwaffen*, more than 60cm long) and short weapons (*Kurzwaffen*, shorter than 60cm).

Long weapons (*Langwaffen*) subdivide into rifles (*Büchsen*) and shotguns (*Flinten*).

Short weapons subdivide into pistols and revolvers.



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Rifles (*Büchsen*)

Single shot rifles (*einschüssige Büchsen*)

Double barrel rifles (*Doppelbüchsen*)

Bolt action rifles (*Repetierbüchsen*)

Pump action rifle (*Vorderschaftrepetierbüchse*)

Lever action rifle (*Unterhebelrepetierbüchse*)

Semiautomatic rifles (*Selbstladebüchsen*)



Repetierbüchse Mauser with scope 6x42



Unterhebelrepetierer with scope



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Shotguns (*Flinten*)

Single barrel shotgun (*Einlaufflinte*)

Double shotgun side by side (*Doppelflinte or Querflinte*)

Double Shotgun over/under (*Bockflinte or Bockdoppelflinte*)

Pump action shot gun (*Vorderschaftrepetierflinte*)

Semiautomatic shot gun (*Selbstladeflinte*)



Doppelflinte/Querflinte



Bockflinte



Vorderschaftrepetierflinte



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Combination guns (*kombinierte Waffen*)

Rifle/Shotgun side by side (*Büchsfinte*)

Rifle/Shotgun over/under (*Bockbüchsfinte*)

Double shotgun with rifled barrel (*Drilling*)

More and different combinations are possible.



Bockbüchsfinte

Combination guns are popular among German hunters. The popularity of these weapons stems from the practice of shooting big and small game on the same hunt.

The rifled barrel allows shooting cloven hoofed game, while the shotgun barrel(s) can be used for feathered game, hare or fox.

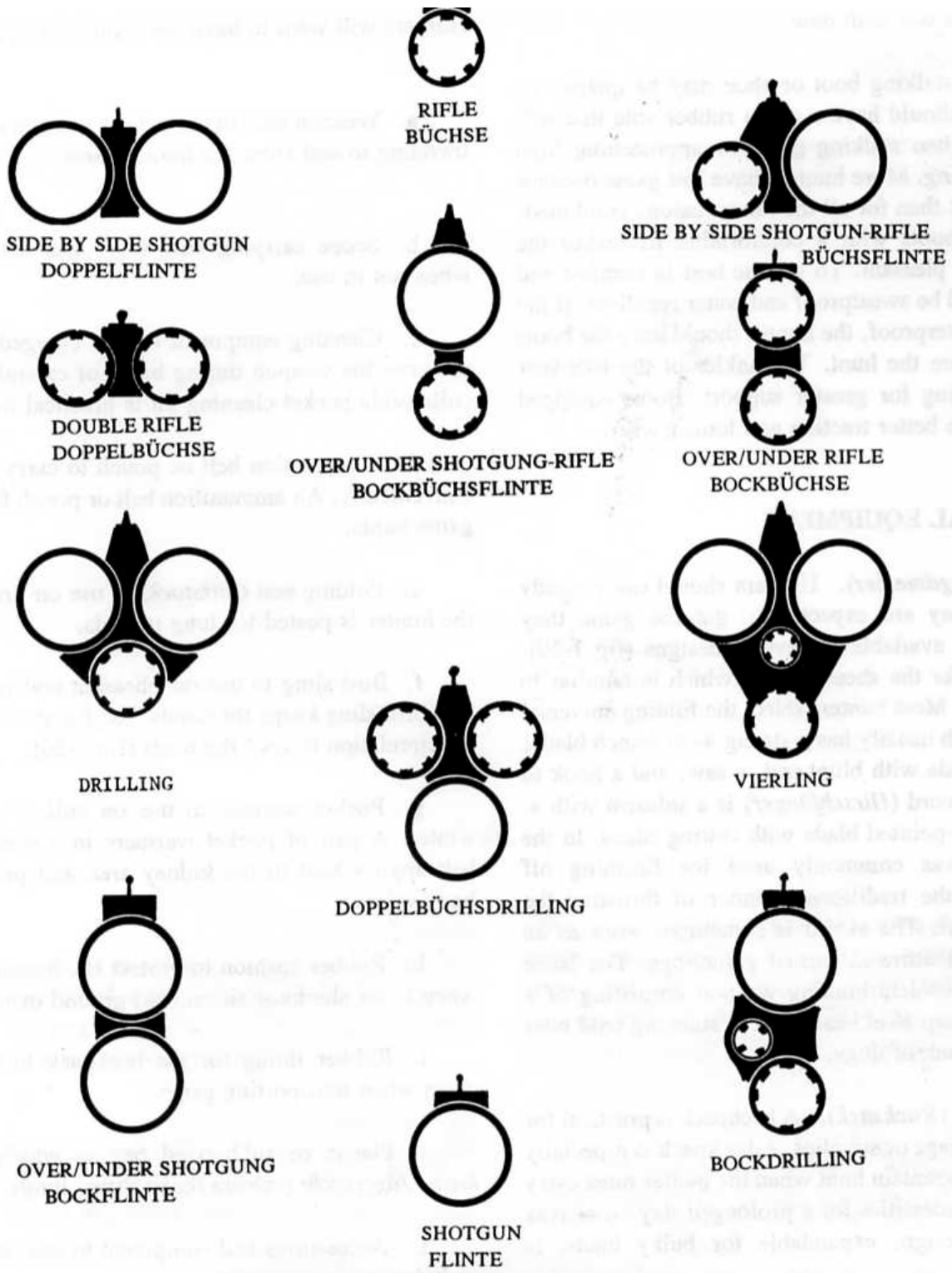
A *Drilling* in the hands of an experienced hunter is the perfect firearm when they will be hunting on an “*Ansitzdrückjagd*”.

With three barrels (one rifled barrel under two shotgun barrels), the *Drilling* allows the hunter to have a slug in the right shotgun barrel for Wild Boar, a shot shell in the left barrel for fox and the appropriate ammo for cloven hoofed game in the rifled barrel. All of this versatility makes the *Drilling* a perfect gun for drive hunts.



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Pistols (*Pistolen*)

Single shot pistols (*einschüssige Pistolen*)

Semiautomatic pistols (*halbautomatische Pistolen or Selbstladepistolen*)



Taurus and Walther pistols



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Revolver (*Revolver*)



Smith & Wesson model 10 and model 28 revolver