

## Instruction & Safety Manual

---



The Walther Police Pistol Models PP and PPK have, by virtue of their unique construction, proved themselves to be the World's safest and most dependable handguns.

The absolute faith in these two products induced specialists both at home and abroad to demand a pistol of a similarly recognized and approved construction which would retain the principle of a very light weight and at the same time fire the more powerful cartridge Cal. 9mm Parabellum.

The outcome of the appropriate considerations was the new Walther Model P 38 Cal. 9mm Parabellum, which combines a phantastically low weight of only a little over 27 ounces with all the desirable advantages of a modern handgun - absolute safety, instantaneous readiness, and easy handling - and which allows the use of a considerably more potent cartridge. This pistol stands without rival.

All the component parts are interchangeable. They are made by means of the most up-to-date production methods involving the use of modern machinery under strictest supervision. As in the manufacture of any other of the several Walther products, only the very best materials are used in the production of the Model P38.

The pages of this on-line brochure will give a most detailed and therefore very useful description of the various data relating to the pistol Model P38.

## **General**

### **Data:**

Overall Length 214 mm

Length of Barrel 125mm

Height of Pistol 136mm

### **Total**

### **Weight:**

Magazine capacity 8 cartridges

Standard Finish set black(matted)



The pistol can be supplied, upon request, in a polished and blued finish.

A spare magazine, a cleaning rod, and a test card are supplied with every pistol. The complete equipment also includes a technical description and is delivered in a stout carton.

The pistol P 38 has an external hammer. The combination of a perfect action design, made evident in the Walther self-loading pistols have in an external hammer, and the constant readiness of a revolver makes the enormous advantages of these weapons abundantly manifest.

The P 38 is a double-action, locked-breach, semi-automatic pistol. It is fitted with an external hammer which is connected to a tension trigger and which has a distinctive pressure point. The P 38, like the models PP and PPK, may be fired by merely pulling the trigger. It may, moreover, readily be carried loaded and uncocked.

Cartridges with faulty primer caps can be fired by pulling the trigger repeatedly.

A bulge in the barrel - caused by some irregular agency - will not impede the functioning of the P 38, since the barrel is mounted in an open and unencumbered manner. The pistol is thus always ready for instant use.

An entirely new method has been adopted in the construction of the safety device of the P 38.

As may be well known, there is always a certain amount of danger inherent in any loaded and cocked firearm, even though, the latter may be rendered "safe" by means of the safety lever. Any sudden mechanical shock or a fracture of an action component can cause an accidental discharge

In the P 38, this basic evil has been remedied: the rotary safety catch does not make the action mechanism safe in the cocked stage. Instead, - application of the safety catch causes the hammer to become uncocked, - and that without any danger to the user. When the safety catch is moved to the "Safe" position, the firing pin becomes locked first. Immediately following this, the action mechanism is automatically blocked and the hammer drops harmlessly - and the pistol is completely uncocked.

Un-cocking of the hammer by means of the firing pin and the connection with the tension trigger, make the P 38 a truly ideal service pistol.

Since the pistol is thus always uncocked but nevertheless always ready for immediate use, the hammer spring is therefore not subject to fatigue and weakening.

The P 38 can be dismantled within a few seconds and without using any tools. Component parts cannot drop out. Any unnecessary operating of the trigger mechanism should be duly avoided, and the hammer should not be allowed to drop while the chamber is empty. In any instance of "dry" shooting practice, a dummy cartridge should be introduced into the chamber first.

It is an essential rule for every shooter that despite the fully guaranteed safety of the weapon, the pistol should always be held so that the muzzle points downwards while the weapon is not being fully used.



### P 38 Auto Pistol

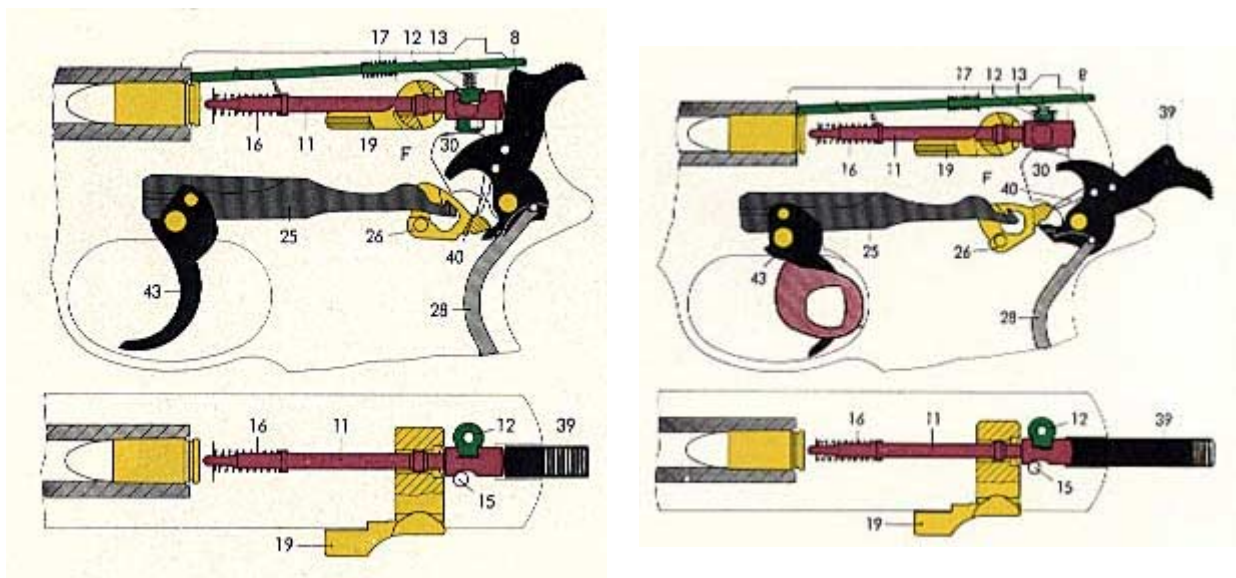
Cal. 9 mm  
Parabellum

in longitudinal  
section



In this illustration, the signal pin immediately above the hammer is clearly visible. It indicates that there is a cartridge in the chamber, i.e., that the weapon is loaded. The signal pin remains visible when the safety catch is applied. The pistol is uncocked, but is nevertheless ready for action. Illustration 4 shows how the pistol is fired by merely pulling the trigger (in "Double-action" shooting).

### Graphic Description



The pistol is loaded and uncocked. The safety lever is 'off'. The pistol is thus ready for instant use ('Double-Action').

### Automatic Safety

The pistol, though uncocked and loaded, may thus be fired. The safety lever (19) is in the 'Fire' position. The weapon is, as shown in illustration 3, entirely free from tension.

The firing pin (11) is blocked by the firing pin arrester (12). The live round in the chamber cannot be discharged if the pistol should accidentally be dropped and fall hammer first on the floor. The signal pin (8) can both be felt and seen, and indicates that there is a cartridge in the chamber (illustration 3).

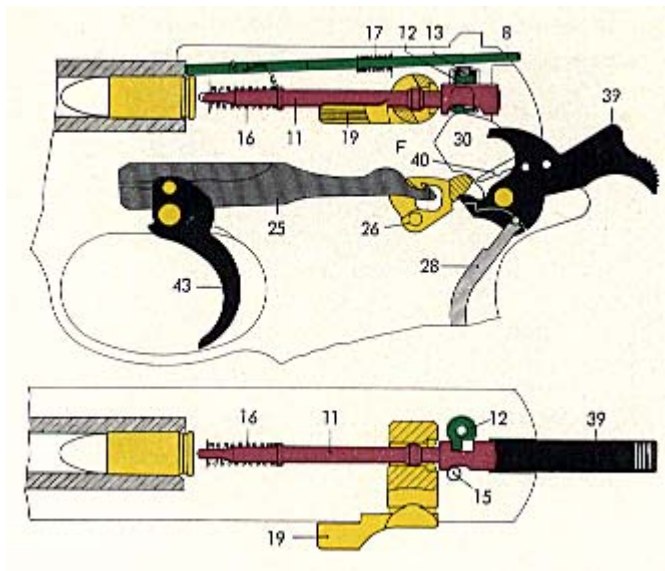
The pistol is loaded, safety lever 'off,' and cocked by 'pulling through' (Double-Action trigger motion, shown here in the moment in which the tumbler is about to be released by the sear).

### Operating the Trigger

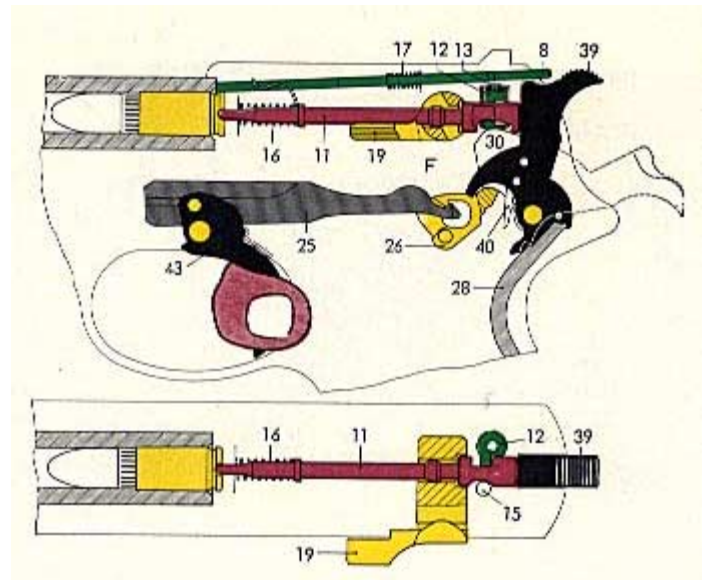
The trigger (43) has been pulled until the tumbler edge (40) of the hammer (39) barely rests on the sear edge of the tensioning piece (26), as shown in illustration 4. Until then, the firing pin (11) is blocked by the firing pin arrester (12).

If the trigger (43) is now pulled back a little further, the sear (40) of the hammer slides off the edge of the cocking piece (26), the firing pin arrester (12) releases the firing pin (11) and the hammer (39) strikes the rear end of the firing pin (11).

## Graphic Description continued



Pistol is loaded and cocked, safety lever 'Off'



Pistol at the moment of firing.

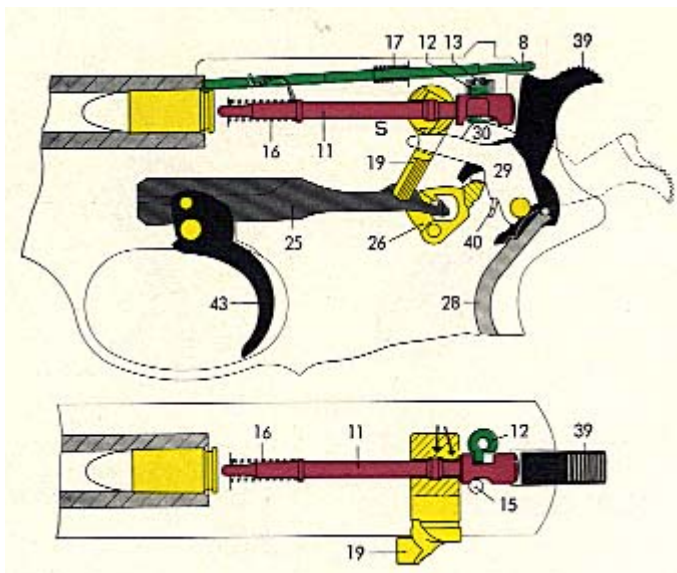
Operating the trigger when the hammer is cocked ('Single-Action').

Upon pulling the trigger (43), the cocked hammer (39) is released from its rearward position by the lifting motion of the cocking piece (26) and strikes the unlocked firing pin (11).

Process of firing.

The hammer (39) strikes the unlocked firing pin (11), and the tip of the latter detonates the primer by hitting and indenting the primer cap, thus igniting the powder charge and thereby causing the resultant pressure gases to drive the bullet out of the cartridge case.

### Graphic Description continued

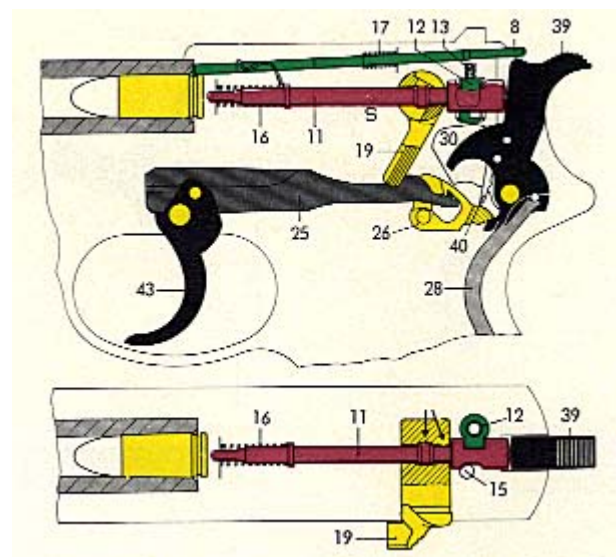


Pistol loaded, safety lever 'Off'

Operating the safety lever when the hammer is cocked.

The hammer (39) has been drawn back, and the arm is thus ready. The protruding signal pin (8) indicates that there is a cartridge in the chamber.

If for some reason it is not intended to fire the round, the safety lever (19) should in such case be moved downwards until the letter "S" becomes clearly exposed. This application of the safety lever (19) causes the firing pin (11) to be blocked (see arrows). Moreover, during the



Pistol loaded, safety lever 'Off'

Operating the safety lever when the hammer is uncocked. The firing pin (11) remains blocked by the automatic safety effect of the firing pin arrester (12) when the hammer is in an uncocked state. By moving the safety lever (19) downwards, thereby exposing the letter "S" fully, an additional lock is applied to the firing pin (11), as shown by the arrows in illustration 8. The trigger remains in its normal forward position.

last third of the lever travel the hammer (39) becomes disengaged by the lifting of the cocking piece (26) and drops forward. (See also: page 10, - 'Handling'..., and Illustration 14.) The trigger moves backwards and remains in the rearmost limit of its travel.

## Directions for the Use and Handling of the Pistol P38

---



### **Loading**

Hold the pistol with the right hand and render it safe by turning the safety lever downwards to the fullest extent of its travel, thus fully exposing the letter "S". Remove the magazine by releasing the magazine catch with the left thumb. The left index finger withdraws the magazine from the grip, as shown above.



### **Filling the Magazine**

Hold the magazine with the left hand and push the cartridges - base first - under the magazine lips by carefully depressing the feeder platform with the cartridge rim. The magazine holds 8 cartridges. When emptying the magazine, push the cartridges gently forward until they are finally expelled by the upward thrust of the magazine spring. The 7 holes in the side of the magazine serve to facilitate checking the contents of the magazine.

Any forceful jamming-in or tearing-out during either of these two respective operations would cause damage to the magazine and consequently lead to functional disorders of the pistol.

## Directions for the Use and Handling of the Pistol P38 continued

---



### **Introducing the First Cartridge into the Chamber**

After inserting the full magazine into the pistol grip, hold the pistol with the right hand. The pistol must still be 'safe'. Next, grip the slide by the ribbed rear end with the left hand and pull fully backwards - then let go. This operation causes the first cartridge to slip into the chamber. The hammer, however, does not become cocked by this process, as the safety lever is still applied and the hammer of the P38 therefore cannot be cocked either by hand or else by pulling the trigger through. To make the pistol ready for immediate use, push the safety lever upwards to cover the letter 'S' completely and the letter 'F' (Fire) becomes visible. The weapon will still remain uncocked, since the firing pin is still blocked. The pistol is nevertheless ready for firing.



### **'Single-Action' Shooting**

In target shooting, it is recommended to cock the hammer with the right thumb as shown above. With a little practice, this operation should become fairly easy. It offers the advantage of having only a comparatively slight amount of resistance (trigger pressure) to overcome. This in its turn increases the accuracy in shooting quite considerably.

## Directions for the Use and Handling of the Pistol P38 continued

---



### **'Double-Action' Shooting**

Firing the first shot by means of the 'single-action' method is, of course, chiefly enacted in practice and competition shooting at targets, while 'double-action' shooting occurs mainly under active service conditions. In the latter event, the hammer is cocked by simply pulling the trigger through its entire length of travel for the first shot.

Should for reasons of faulty ammunition the pistol fail to fire in such exceptional cases, the trigger should be pulled again. A second impact of the firing pin on the primer cap will as a rule cause even a defective round to detonate.



### **Operating the Safety Lever**

Hold the weapon with the right hand, and place the right index finger along the side of the trigger guard. The right thumb grips the hammer, while the left thumb pushes the safety downwards. The hammer can now slowly return to its resting position, as shown above. Care should be taken that the muzzle of the pistol points downwards.



### The Emptied Magazine

When the last round in the magazine has been fired, the slide stays open. If shooting is to be continued, remove the empty magazine and insert the next full magazine. Pull the slide back lightly and then let it glide forward. This process will cause the first round to be introduced into the chamber.

This cartridge may also be fed into the chamber without using the left hand: by simply depressing the catch lever with the right thumb. If it is not intended to continue shooting, apply the safety lever (page 10, illustration on right).



### Unloading

If the pistol P38 is to be unloaded after a live round has been lodged in the chamber, put the safety lever into the 'Safe' position (page 10, illustration on right), withdraw the magazine, and remove the cartridges from the latter. Now pull the slide fully back, as shown above. The cartridge will be extracted from the chamber by this operation and drop out.

## Dismantling the P38

---



## Dismantling

Insert an empty magazine. Hold the pistol with the right hand and move the safety lever to 'Safe' (see page 10, illustration on right). Next pull the slide back until it stays open, and remove the magazine. Then turn the barrel catch lever downwards with the left thumb until it engages with an audible 'click'.

If an empty magazine is not available, the retracted slide may be made to stay open by pushing the catch lever upwards.



## Separating the Barrel from the Slide

Hold the slide upside-down in the left hand as shown above. Press the small internal locking bolt towards the muzzle end with your right index finger. The barrel can then be with your right index finger. The barrel can then be readily taken out of the slide unit.

## Dismantling

The barrel catch lever having been pushed down, the slide should now be pulled slightly and then be allowed to move forward so as to be separated from the frame.

Alternatively, the slide may be drawn back with the left hand while the right thumb depresses the breech catch lever. Following this, the slide may be allowed to glide forward and off the frame unit.



## Cleaning the Component Parts

The pistol is now been partly stripped and split up into its four main units: barrel, slide, frame (grip), and magazine, as shown above. The components can be cleaned and oiled.

The barrel, the grooves of the slide, and the grip unit should be lubricated with a good, acid-free, and nonresinous oil, and the barrel should be then wiped dry again.

Any further dismantling should be carried out only if there is an uncommonly great amount of dirt present in these parts. Any such work, however,

should be entrusted to skilled craftsmen.

## Assembling

---



### Assembling

The re-assembling of the weapon is appropriately carried out in the opposite order to that of taking-down. In order to avoid damage during this process, it is important that the following explanations and illustrations be observed:

It is particularly important to realize that re-assembling can be carried out only while the pistol is in a 'safe' state, i.e., the hammer must be 'down'. First, re-fit the barrel to the slide. When attaching this re-assembled unit to the grip unit, ensure that the locking bolt below the chamber is pressed upwards with the left thumb in the manner shown above. The slide unit can now be freely pushed back over the frame top without any fear of damage to the recoil springs, the slide or the frame.

The three protruding parts - ejector, release lever, and trip lever - must be pushed downwards so as to permit the slide to run freely back over the top of the frame (the three components in question are indicated by arrows in the above illustration).

## Assembling continued

---



### Assembling

Insert the empty magazine into the grip, then pull the slide back until the latter engages and stays open. Now push the barrel catch lever into its normal locking position with the left thumb, as shown above.

Finally, push the breech locking lever downwards with the right thumb, and at the same time pull the slide back with the left hand, then let the slide move forward.

The P38 is now once again in its complete original state, - safe, and ready for further service.

## P38 Schematic

---

