

Western, Winchester and Olin Box Date Codes

(Please send additions, comments and corrections to lcurtis@gigconceptsinc.com)

On the IAA Forum, d'Artagnan has done some excellent research on Olin codes dating back to 2000. He has determined that Winchester ammo lot numbers on the boxes have included the manufacture date encoded within. The date is contained in a LL## group, where L is a letter and # a number, making up or included in the lot number impressed into the box tab. Numbers preceding the LL## probably equate to the production line. The following are some examples from Winchester boxes:

30UA61 = Date code of UA61 = 16 January 2003 (9mm Luger)

022VK30 = Date code of VK30 = 03 September 2004 (9mm Luger)

71WM40 = Date code of WM40 = 04 November 2005 (380 Auto)

30XF90 = Date code of XF90 = 09 June 2006 (9mm Luger)

26YH80 = Date code of YH80 = 08 August 2007 (9mm Luger)

31BN22 = Date code of BN22 = 22 December 2008 (45 Auto)

30CA31 = Date code of CA31 = 13 January 2009 ((9mm Luger)

The first number is probably an inspector number or a lot number.

These codes can be decomposed as follows.

- The first letter is the year:

1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Z	B	C	D	E	F	G	H

- The second letter is the month:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	K	L	M	N

- The two numbers following are the numerical date, but reversed. Examples:

- 10 = 01
- 21 = 12
- 51 = 15
- 42 = 24
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Ref: IAA Forum, d'Artagnan, Tue Apr 07, 2009 6:44 pm

I attempted to project this same system back in time, but was unsuccessful. The code format seems to remain constant for quite some time, but the dates which result are significantly earlier than the actual production dates on some boxes that are easy to date. In d'Artagnan's material above, Olin skipped A & Z. It is likely that they changed the letters they skipped from year to year and probably skipped more than two letters which would explain some of the problems with dating older Olin boxes.

I have a heading for the Winchester year codes below, but no data. The Olin year codes are a simple projection from d'Artagnan's and are probably wrong from the 1990s or early 1980s on back

Anyone with data that will assist in this effort, please contribute and let me know.

At the end of this document are photos and code data on Western, Winchester and Olin box labels. The data associated with the label includes a "Bought:" element which is the confirmed or suspected date of manufacture of the box. There is also an element "PD:" for the Print Date. This is the date in tiny letters on boxes, particular Winchester boxes that identifies the date when the label was printed

which sets a pretty good earliest possible date on the box. The box next to the date list the information on similar boxes in my collection.

Year Codes

Year	Win Year Code	Olin Year Code
1903		
1904		
1905		
1906		
1907		
1908		
1909		
1910		
1911		
1912		
1913		
1914		
1915		
1916		
1917		
1918		
1919		
1920		
1921		
1922		
1923		
1924		
1925		
1926		
1927		
1928		
1929		
1930		
1931		
1932		
1933		
1934		
1935	Reportedly K	
1936		
1937		
1938		
1939		
1940		F
1941		G
1942		H
1943		I
1944		J
1945		K
1946		L
1947		M
1948		N
1949		O
1950		P
1951		S

1952	R
1953	S
1954	T
1955	U
1956	V
1957	W
1958	X
1959	Y
1960	B
1961	C
1962	D
1963	E
1964	F
1965	G
1966	H
1967	I
1968	J
1969	K
1970	L
1971	M
1972	N
1973	O
1974	P
1975	Q
1976	R
1977	S
1978	T
1979	U
1980	V
1981	W
1982	X
1983	Y
1984	B
1985	C
1986	D
1987	E
1988	F
1989	G
1990	H
1991	I
1992	J
1993	K
1994	L
1995	M
1996	N
1997	O
1998	P
1999	Q
2000	R
2001	S
2002	T
2003	U
2004	V
2005	W
2006	X
2007	Y
2008	B

2009	C
2010	D
2011	E
2012	F
2013	G

Western 9X19 Box Styles Taken over by Winchester in December 1931



WCC #1 Also:
 1. Code: none Bought: ? PD: WT-20 Hst: WESTERN Cal: 9x19
 2. Code: ??2K PD: WT-20-JMoss

Code: S26D Bought: ? PD: WT-20
 Hst: WESTERN Cal: 9x19



WCC #2 Also:
 1. Code: 70SD12 PD: K1334T-JMoss
 2.

Code: no end label Bought: ? PD: 31-B
 Hst: WESTERN Cal: 9x19



WCC #3 Also:
 1.
 2.

Code: A3K E41 Bought: 35-45 PD: none
 Hst: WESTERN 9M-M Cal: 9x19



WIN #2 Also:
 1.

Code: 6013 Bought: 1943 PD:
 Hst: WCC 43 Cal: 9x19

**Winchester 9X19 Box Styles
Took over Western in December 1931
Took over USCCO in ?????**

**Stopped production of commercial ammunition in 1942
Bought by Olin in 1944 (began to use name on boxes in about 1946)**



Code: none Bought: ? PD: 296 8-11 739 4-15
Hst: WRACO Cal: 9x19

WIN #1 Also:
1. Code: none Bought: ? PD: 300 9-6 739 9-6 Hst: WRACO Cal: 9x19
2. Code: none Bought: ? PD: 296 4-20 739 13-19 Hst: WRACO Cal: 9x19
3. Code: none PD: 296 8-11-JMoss



Code: none Bought: ? PD: 3-7-20
Hst: WRACO Cal: 9x19

WIN #2 Also:
1. Label in box: 2283 4-13-JMoss



Code: none Bought: ? PD: 300 8-20 745 11-20
Hst: WRACO Cal: 9x19

WIN #3 Also:
1. Code: NOV 20,1919 REC'D Bought: ? PD: 300 10-12 Hst: WRACO Cal: 9x19 Overlabel: PRIMED SHELLS
2.



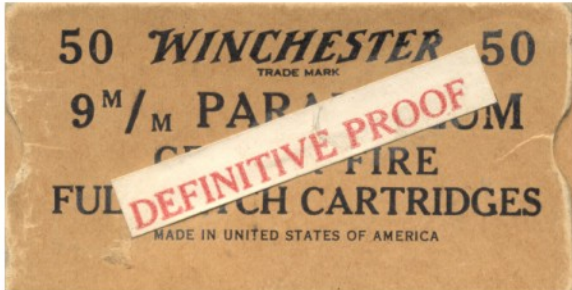
Code: 17 2 or 17-2 Bought: ? PD: none
Hst: WRACO Cal: 9x19

WIN #4 Also:
1. 111 14 - JMoss



Code: D80 28 (or 2) Bought: 39-41 PD: none
Hst: WRA 9M-M Cal: 9x19

WIN #5 Also:
1. Code: A91 22 Bought: ? PD: none Hst: WRACO Cal: 9x19
2. Code: A41 22 Bought: ? PD: none Hst: WRACO Cal: 9x19
3. Code: A9122 & 111 17 Hst WRA - JMoss



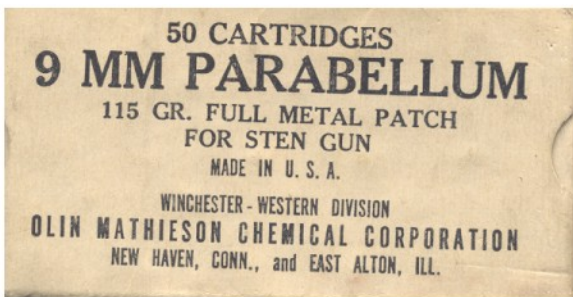
Code: D11 20 Bought: 40-40 PD: none
Hst: WRA 9M-M Cal: 9x19

WIN #6 Actually 40-45 date Also:
1.



Code: WRA.L07 22004 Bought: 41-45 PD: none
Hst: WRA 9M-M Cal: 9x19

Win #7 Also:
1. Code



Code: 57 A37 27 Bought: 44-?? PD: none
Hst: unk-prob WRA 9M-M Cal: 9x19

Win #8 Also:
1. Code



Code: A18 26 Bought: ?? PD: none
Hst: WRA 9M/M LUGER Cal: 9x19

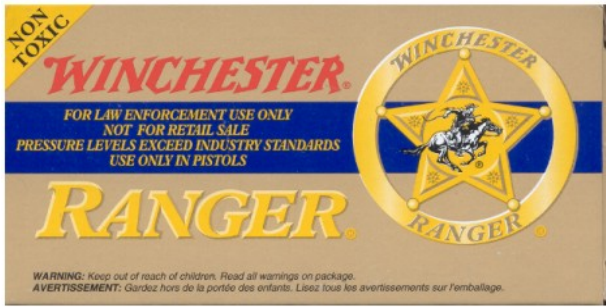
Win #9 Also:
1. Code



Code: WRA LOT 22420 Bought: 41-45 PD: none
Hst: WRA 9M-M Cal: 9x19

Win #10 Also:
1. Code

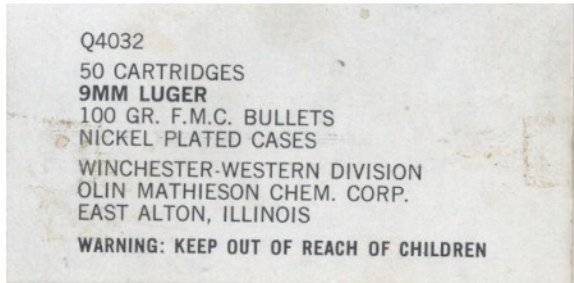
Olin Boxes



Code: 81RL91 03 49 Bought: Jul 09 PD: none
Hst: MN NT Cal: 9x19

Olin #1 Oct 19, 2000 Also:

1. Code:



Code: 76 28CF11 Bought: ?71-72 PD: none
Hst: W-W Cal: 9x19

Olin #2 1961 is too early Also:

1. Code: 96 58BK42 Bought: 71-75 PD: EO1173 C Hst: W-W Cal: 9x19 1960 too early



Code: 76TA80 6 Bought: ? PD: none
Hst: W-W Cal: 9x19

Olin #3 Also:

1. Code



Code: 29BB61 Bought: ? PD: none
Hst: W-W Cal: 9x19

Olin #4 Also:

1. Code



Code: 77 10CF6 Bought: ?70s PD: none
Hst: W-W Cal: 9x19

Olin #5 Also:

1. Code



Code: 8UL70 41 Bought: ? PD: none
Hst: WIN Cal: 9x19

Olin #6 Also:

1. Code



Code: 58 9PF21C Bought: ? PD: none
Hst: unk Cal: 9x19

Olin #7 Also:

1. Code: 89RL82 78 Bought: ? PD: none Hst: W-W Cal: 9x19



Code: 026NH03 Bought: ? PD: none
Hst: W-W Cal: 9x19

Olin #8 Also:

1. Code



Code: F8LB51C6 Bought: ? PD: none
Hst: W-W Cal: 9x19

Olin #9 Also:
1. Code



Code: 88SM40 84 Bought: ? PD: none
Hst: W-W Cal: 9x19

Olin #10 Large box Also:
1. Code



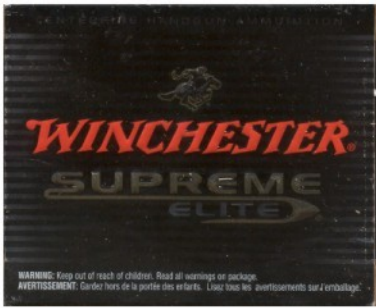
Code: 70PE13 6 Bought: ? PD: none
Hst: W-W Cal: 9x19

Olin #11 Also:
1. Code



Code: 68 16TG80 Bought: 82 PD: none
Hst: 9mm R&D WCC 82 Cal: 9x19

Olin #12 Also:
1. Code



Code: 036CB81 Bought: 2008/9 PD: none
Hst: WIN 82 Cal: 9x19

Olin #13 Feb 18, 2009 Also:
1. Code