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Colt ar serial numbers

A memo about M16 serial numbers has been digitized and verified through OCR technology. The document provides an overview of the production process and highlights various details about the firearms. The early serial numbers (001-100) were prototype tools, and some numbers were reused or built on unnumbered receivers. Many of these guns were destroyed. The first 15,000 M16s were marked as "Armalite AR-15" and were distributed to the US Air Force for testing purposes. The document explains how different models (e.g., Model 03 Army Rifle, Model 04 Air Force Rifle) had rollmarks with serial numbers, which changed over time. The production of GX guns, tool-room prototypes, shows a four-digit number that is reportedly their master drawing. Some GXs have serial numbers, and there are duplicates in certain ranges. The document also provides information on British contract guns intended for special operations forces, including the SAS and SBS. It estimates that 2,778,586 military Colt AR-15s and M16s were produced up to a certain point in time. The memo is addressed to W.H. Craven from B. Northrop on February 2, 1973, and provides a general breakdown of serial numbers for different model types, as well as their corresponding rollmarks and production ranges. Model 613 for Taiwan — Serial Numbers 4,849,401 through 4,926,000, Model 03 — 4,926,001 through 4,926,000 Serial numbers 2,000,000 - 2,999,999 set aside for Harrington & Richardson produced approximately 240,000 guns. General Motors, Hydromatic Division reserved serial numbers 3,000,000 - 3,999,999, producing approximately 480,000 rifles. Colt Model 03: 2,300,171; Model 04 Air Force: 394,855; British: 2,427; AR15 (Early): 14,801; Model 613: 12,500; Commando SMG: 10,000; Lebanon: 14,014; Others: approximately 1,600. Heavy Barrel: 2,444. Total Military Serial Numbers: 2,752,812; Sporters: 25,774. B. Northrop Kevin - Former Special Forces weapons man (MOS 18B) with a focus on weapon history and effects. - Started WeaponsMan.com in 2011 and operated it until passing away in 2017. - His work is being preserved here at his family's request. Disclaimer: This list is accurate to the best of my knowledge, but I accept no responsibility for its accuracy or any consequences arising from inaccuracies. Olympic Arms Receivers under contract, including specific models from Colt, such as the SP series and ST038100. The company produced receivers for various brands before and after the ban, including DPMS, Eagle Arms (now ArmaLite), Essential Arms, Frankford Arsenal, Hesse Arms, J.L.M & Sons, Knights Armament Co., Military Manufacturing (M2), Nesard (also known as Sendra), and Olympic Arms itself. Each brand has its own set of rules for identifying pre-ban and post-ban receivers. Some key points to note include: * DPMS lowers are cast and may have a gray color. * Eagle Arms lowers are anodized and have a specific serial number format that starts with "EA". * Essential Arms lowers are all pre-ban as the company went out of business in 1993. * Frankford Arsenal receivers were produced by Olympic Arms, but the exact details are unclear. * Hesse Arms manufactures only post-ban AR-15s. * J.L.M & Sons has a mix of pre-ban and post-ban lowers, with some serial numbers starting with "SC". * Knights Armament Co. produces mostly post-ban AR-10s and AR-15s. * Military Manufacturing (M2) produces only military/law enforcement models with full auto lowers. * Nesard/Sendra receivers are marked with the letter "ICR" and may be of European origin. It's worth noting that some manufacturers have limited information available, such as ArmaLite and Olympic Arms, which will look up individual serial numbers to determine their status. Colt serial numbers can be broken down into two categories: pre-ban and post-ban. The majority of numbers are either 5's or 0's, with an overwhelming 99.9% being post-ban. However, some exceptions exist, such as the "BL" series which is transitional and includes both pre and post-ban models. In this case, verification from Colt may be necessary to confirm the origin of the firearm. Some manufacturers, like Professional Ordnance, have produced exclusively post-ban products, including pistols. On the other hand, Colt serial numbers below 35222 are generally considered pre-ban. Furthermore, post-ban receivers often feature a circle milled into the magwell, whereas pre-ban models do not. Rumors also surround certain manufacturers, such as Sendra and Rocky Mountain Arms, which allegedly produced only lowers out of Barrington, Illinois. While these claims are unverified, they highlight the complexities involved in tracing the origin of a firearm based on serial numbers. For Colt owners, understanding their serial number can be a daunting task, but it's one of the best ways to determine the gun's history and value. Fortunately, technology has made this process easier with online lookup tools and archive letters from Colt. The first step is to locate the serial number, which can often be found on the receiver or frame. Next, Colt offers an official research service that provides an archive letter detailing the firearm's original specifications and features. This service comes at a cost, ranging from \$100 to \$300 depending on the model. While this method may seem pricey, it's often used to verify the ownership history of a firearm, particularly when it comes to vintage models. Understanding the Meaning Behind Colt Serial Numbers, Prefixes, and Suffixes Colt models share codes with each other, so what you find here may not be applicable in certain cases. However, combining methods can help learn Colt serial number rules and regulations. Prefixes and Suffixes Some codes are easy to figure out as they're the abbreviation of the weapon name. For example, SA is Single Action, NF is New Frontier, SP is Sporter, and MT is Match Target. A capital C prefix or suffix indicates Commercial Use. Other characters show the year manufactured. Serial Numbers Colt serial numbers don't follow a set pattern, making it hard to understand without reference. Design changes can also change the look of serial numbers. For example, 1970s Colt M1911's commercial production started in 1912 with normal serial numbers. Later, everything had a 70 as the first two digits. Colt Model Code A model code contains information about the gun's characteristics. It helps differentiate similar models from each other. A single action model has 1 character prefix and 4 numbers. The prefix tells you the frame type, while the serial number combination indicates the weapon version, caliber, barrel length, and model variation. The first serial number is the basic frame model (1), with later versions (2-8) having different frames. The second serial number specifies the caliber (4= .32-20, 6= .357, etc.). The third serial number specifies the gun's caliber (3=3 or 4 inches, etc.). The fourth serial number is the finish or stock of the weapon. Conclusion I didn't know how to read Colt serial numbers but learned they hold interesting information about the firearm model. Colt serial numbers can be tricky at first but get easier over time. With the info I've shared, tracing the origin of your gun should be relatively simple. Keep in mind that this list is accurate to my knowledge, but I'm not responsible for any inaccuracies or consequences resulting from them. This information is for personal use only and shouldn't be relied upon for legal or other purposes. It's essential to verify all serial numbers with the manufacturer before purchasing or assembling a firearm. Possessing a post-ban assault weapon can result in serious penalties, and it's crucial to understand the difference between "pre-ban" and "grandfathered" firearms. The list provided is a compilation of personal info and data from others, mainly sourced from the internet. If you notice any inaccuracies or have additional information to contribute, please contact me via email (hkusp40@midmaine.com). I'll update and re-issue the list as needed. Note that all items marked with an asterisk (*) are sourced from . Also, always verify information by contacting Colt directly or checking their website (800) 962-COLT for more definitive documentation.