

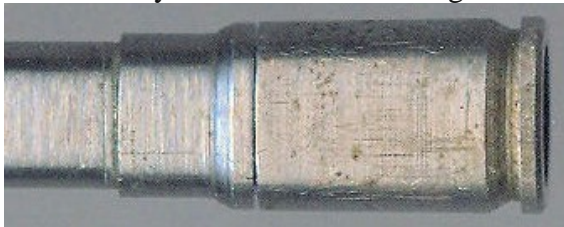
9x19mm Subcaliber Adaptor Cartridges

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There have been quite a few different subcaliber conversion kits made for 9x19mm weapons over the years since the introduction of the Luger pistol early in the last century. Some kits like the well known Erma kit introduced a barrel and toggle specific to allow the 4mm Übungspatrone or .22 RF cartridges to be loaded into a special barrel and fired in a Luger pistol. In the 1920s Star introduced a similar kit for their 9mm Largo and 45 ACP pistols. Datig illustrates a number of similar kits for Luger pistols by other manufacturers. Some kits like the US Tri-Jen are just 9x19mm cartridge shapes loaded with a .22 RF cartridge or a primer and pellet, while others like the Erma use special subcaliber barrel inserts that fit inside the original barrel. In this latter type conversion kit, some use a reloadable adaptor cartridge which is made specifically for use with that that barrel insert. Illustrated below are the barrels and adaptor cartridges for a number of different kits. On top is the Convert-A-Pell originally sold by Jett and Smith. In the center is the Lothar Walther .22 RF Short kit and the bottom is the late model Lienhard kit which uses a pellet and a special primer. Note how the Walther and Lienhard barrels engage the case shoulder in the chamber. With this type barrel, the adaptor cartridge may not resemble the caliber of the kit, except in the diameter of the case head



Some of these adaptor cartridges are unique to a caliber and some are used for a number of calibers (particularly 9mm Luger and 7.65 Luger). The Lienhard adaptor cartridge for a 7.65mm Luger below could clearly work with a 9mm Luger barrel.



(courtesy of John Moss)

Lacking the box or the kit, many of these adaptors are very difficult to identify.

Below are a set of unidentified adaptor cartridges. That are probably intended for 9x19 weapons (i.e. the head diameter is consistent with the 9x19mm cartridge. I would appreciate any assistance in identifying these and photos of the kit associated with these adaptors.

My Unknown Adaptor Cartridges:



From Left to Right:

1. Adaptor to use with a .22 RF barrel. The style and finish is similar to adaptors produced post-WWII by Lothar Walther in Germany.
2. Another adaptor for .22 RF cartridges. This one is slotted to hold the cartridge rim. A number of these are known but there is no indication who produced them.

3. Another .22 adaptor, but the chamber is too short for a .22 Short cartridge so it may be chambered for a .22 BB CAP or similar cartridge. Note that it would require a kit of some type to convert from CF to RF or was designed for a very short .22 rimmed CF cartridge.
- 4.
5. This adaptor is chambered for the 4mm Übungspatrone and as the pin or punch in the side which protrudes into the chamber to retain the 4mm cartridge. This feature is also used on some Lothar Walther 4mm adaptors and this could be for a variation of his kits.



From Left to Right:

1. An aluminum case chambered for the 4mm Übungspatrone. It is reported to be Hungarian, made by Keserü Művek Fegyvergyár in the late 1990s or early 2000s. there was no kit and the rounds were simply fired down the bore of the adaptor. Not successful and the majority of these items were destroyed (this is late information after the photo was taken).

2. The manufacturer of this adaptor is unknown. It is apparently chambered for a .22 RF cartridge. Note that it would require a kit of some type to convert from CF to RF or was designed for the .22 rimmed CF cartridge (.22 Einstecklauf-Patrone Central).
3. This is an adaptor by an unknown manufacturer in South Africa. Probably produced in the late 1990s or early 2000s, it was first encountered in 2006. It uses a normal pistol primer and the front has an internal shoulder to hold a 4mm ball or pellet.

Unknown Adaptors NOT in my collection:



From Left to Right:

1. Unknown solid steel adaptor with a bore of 0.153" (3.90m/m). I do not know anything about the country, manufacturer or what kind of projectile it takes. However, the only cartridge I can find that will fit its base properly is a rosebud crimped .22 blank of the type shown to the right of it in the picture. Firing a RF blank would have required a kit of some sort. (courtesy of John Moss)
2. Shot, solid steel 4mm Übungspatrone caliber. Bore is 0.1665"(4.23m/m) and seems compatible with the diameter of the 4mm Ub. bullet which measured (very difficult to do) about 4.21m/m at the case mouth. An Ub. 4m/m cartridge is shown to the right of it. (courtesy of John Moss)
3. A solid brass cartridge with a cavity in the base that will take only the blank shown to its right, or the rosebud types shown next to the long steel adaptor. I have no information on the manufacturer. It looks very much like the Jett and Smith, but it is shorter OAL and the bore and cartridge (?) recess in the base are totally different. The bore is 0.187" (3.90m/m). Firing a RF blank would have required a kit of some sort. (courtesy of John Moss)
4. Steel adaptor cartridge. The case head construction is unknown. An European collector has reported that this adaptor cartridge has been tentatively identified as East German for a 9mm Makarov conversion kit. Like other adaptor cartridges in this article, it could also have been used in a 9x19mm conversion kit. (courtesy of Gary Muckel)

The following adaptor cartridges that have been identified, but no kits are known:

From my collection:



From Left to Right:

1. Lothar Walther adaptor using a 4mm Übungspatrone. The similar kit for the .22RF Short cartridge is well known but the author has not seen the kit for the 4mm Übungspatrone
2. The distinctive primer pocket identifies this as a Lienhard adaptor cartridge, and it is similar to adaptors illustrated in Lienhard literature. No kit has been identified for this adaptor cartridge. It is likely that the top part of this cartridge is missing and screws in place to retain the pellet. Lienhard was originally a German firm which reportedly moved to Switzerland prior to WWII.
3. This is another Lienhard adaptor pictured in association with a Lienhard conversion kit for the SIG pistol, but no kits are known which actually contain this adaptor cartridge. It is likely an adaptor used with both 9mm and 7.65mm Luger conversion kits.

Not in my collection:



From Left to Right:

1. This is very rare 9 mm Parabellum subcaliber made by Schuchardt & Schütte of Berlin (established in 1880 by Geheimrat Alfred Heinrich Schütte). It was designed by Federico Hartmann of Buenos Aires, Argentina. U.S. Patent No. 976,459 dated November 22, 1910 Hartmann (filled September, 25, 1909). The lettering on the cartridge reads “Schuchardt u. Schütte Berlin, Patent Hartmann.” This adaptor uses a .22RF Short cartridge. (courtesy of Federico Graziano, Specimen is in the AACAM Cartridge Collection)
2. The adaptor pictured came in a Lienhard conversion kit for the 7.65mm Parabellum pistol to use .22 RF cartridges. Note the distinctive dual firing pins. It is probable that an identical adaptor cartridge is used for the 9mm Parabellum conversion kit. Can anyone confirm that there is a 9mm conversion kit that uses this adaptor cartridge? (courtesy of John Moss and Gary Muckel).

Any assistance with the identification of these cartridges and the kits they go to is greatly appreciated.

Beside the adaptors mentioned above, I have documentation on the following 9x19mm conversion kits which include adaptor cartridges:

- S.P.T. (Argentina) – Not in Authors collection
- BBLuger (Russia)
- TARP (British) – no barrel in kit, only plastic adaptor cartridges
- Tri-Jen (USA) – no barrel in kit, only steel adaptor cartridges and loading/decapping rod
- Convert-a-Pell (USA)
- Erich Bischof (Germany)
- Lienhard (Switzerland) with the little adaptor cartridge pictured below:



If anyone has any other 9x19mm conversion kits with adaptor cartridges, or any adaptor cartridges which I have not listed or covered, please contact me at gigconceptsinc@gmail.com or at POB 133193, Atlanta, GA 30333, USA. Many thanks for your help.

My thanks to the members of the IAA Forum (<http://cartridgecollectors.org/forum>) for their contributions to this article and particularly to John Moss, Federico Graziano and Gary Muckel for the specimens they have identified.