

Evolution of National Match Rifles - Springfield Armory Production

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The evolution of the M1 NM rifle is generally broken down into three major stages according to the chronological introduction of major improvements. The official National Match program terminated in 1963, and most NM rifles returned or still in inventory were reconditioned to 1963 standards.

Type 1	1953-1958
Intermediate	1959
Type 2	1960-1963

TYPE 1: (Generally identical to issue grade rifles in appearance)

a) Production	New	Rebuilt	Total
1953	800		800
1954	1700	800	2500
1955	3003	314	3317
1956	5050	550	5600
1957	4184	499	4683
1958	1295	731	2026

- b) Specially selected and assembled for match quality
- c) Only non-standard marking is NM near muzzle
- d) 1957 improvement: Front sight marked 062 available and installation by competitors permitted
- e) 1958 major improvements: Gas cylinder ring reamed .006 larger
Front sight NM062 permitted
Aperture NM .595 and NM .520 permitted
- f) Supply of new receivers exhausted

INTERMEDIATE: (First use of NM marked parts in original SA assembly)

a) Production	New	Rebuilt	Total
1959	2877	2652	5529

1959 Major Improvements: Front sight – NM 062
Aperture – NM .595 (NM .520 optional)
Rear sight base – NM
Windage knob – NM
Wedges glued into recoil shoulders of stock on most new NM's

TYPE 2: (Glass bedding and full complement of NM component parts)

a) Production	New	Rebuilt	Total
1960		8663	8663

1960 Major Improvements: Glass Bedding
Front handguard secured to lower band
Stock and trigger group serialed to rifle (last four digits)
Non-issue item authorized: Experimental ½ minute sight disc

b) Production	New	Rebuilt	Total
1961		1410	1410

1961 Major Improvements: Operating rod marked SA or RA NM 7790277

1962		4500	4500
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1962 Major Improvements: ½ minute hooded aperture
Rear sight base – NM/2

1963		3639	3639
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1963 Major Improvements: Rear sight base – NM/2A
F7791035 marked NM barrel