

.22 Rim Fire Boxes
of the U.S.A.
ID. Reference



MERIDEN FIRE ARMS CO.
Meriden, Conn

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CONTRIBUTORS

THANKS

Special thanks to the following collectors for helping me with this project by supplying me with box images and sharing their knowledge.

DAVE CLEMENCE

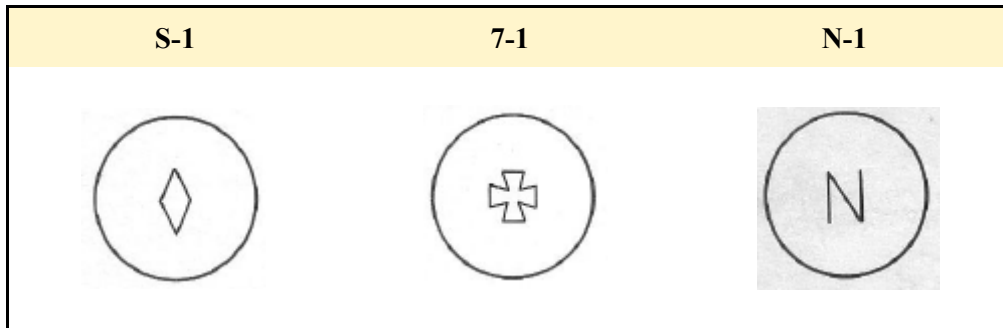
RAY GILES

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HEADSTAMPS (h/s)

Headstamp drawings courtesy of the RIMFIRE HEADSTAMP GUIDE by George Kass and Ron Merchant



MERIDEN FIRE ARMS CO.

S-2



S-3



S-3.1



S-4



S-4.1



S-4a Bottom



MER-1

MERIDEN FIRE ARMS CO.

This was an old line manufacturer of firearms located in Meriden, Conn. During the early 1900's, the company was purchased by Sears and Roebuck & Co. Meriden supplied Sears with their .22 caliber rifles during the period that Winchester was attempting to deny Sears their products due to Sears discounting their prices.

Because Meriden did not produce cartridges, Sears had a line of .22 caliber rimfires produced by other manufacturers and had them private labeled with the Meriden brand. These private labels date from about 1908. The information below will attempt to give the history of the Meriden private labels as it is known today.

TWO-PIECE HALF-SPLIT BOXES

Most of Meriden's loadings were produced by the National Cartridge Company of St. Louis and later, the Western Cartridge Company. However, this box may predate the production of National and may have been produced by the American Metallic Cartridge Company. There are no reported two-piece, half-split boxes produced by National, but American did produce this style of a box during this period.

- S-2 **.22 SHORT**. "SMOKELESS". Green label with cream colored printing. Buff, . Full wrap-around end label. Contents are unknown at this time.
- (a) two-piece, half-split box
 - (b) two-piece, full cover box

S-2a End



TWO-PIECE FULL COVER BOX

The two-piece, full cover boxes noted from this company were produced by either National or the Western Cartridge Company after their takeover of National during 1909.

- S-3 **.22 SHORT**. Red label with yellow printing. Buff, two-piece, full cover box. Full wrap-around end label. No h/s on a copper case. Lead bullets. This is a black powder loading.
- (a) 7-1 h/s on a copper case. Lead bullet

S-3a End



- S-3.1 **.22 SHORT**. Slight color and font variance from S-3.

- S-4 **.22 SHORT**. "SMOKELESS". Green label with white printing. Buff, two-piece, full cover box. Lead bullets. Variations noted:
- (a) No h/s on a copper case.
 - (b) "2-1" h/s on a copper case.

S-3a End



- S-4.1 **.22 SHORT**. Slight color and font variance from S-4.

MERIDEN FIRE ARMS CO.

S-5



S-5a Bottom



S-6



S-7



MERIDEN FIRE ARMS CO.

"POINTER" BRAND" BOXES

It is not known how these boxes fit into the program at this time. They are two-piece full cover types and were probably produced during the same time frame as the above issues. They may have been a premium priced issue or they could have replaced the above issues before they were also replaced by the one piece box style.

S-5 .22 SHORT. BLACK POWDER". Red label with cream and green printing. Buff. two-piece, full cover box. Full wrap-around label Lead bullets. Variations noted;

- (a) No h/s on a copper case.
- (b) "N-1" h/s on a copper case.

S-5a End



S-6 .22 SHORT. "SMOKELESS". Blue-green label with white printing. Buff. two-piece, full cover box. Full wrap-around end label. Lead bullets. Variations noted:

- (a) No h/s on a copper case.
- (b) "N-1" h/s on a copper case.

S-6a End



ONE-PIECE BOX WITH END FLAPS

Sometime around 1910 Western changed to a one-piece box with end flaps. The Meriden boxes were probably changed at the same time. Different head stamps were noted from this period, which should be correct, as Western boxes were also noted from this same period, with this same mixture of head stamps.

S-7 .22 SHORT. Red and buff box with yellow printing. One-piece box with end flaps. No product code. Lead bullets. Variations noted:

- (a) No h/s on a copper case.
- (b) "N-1" h/s on a copper case.
- (c) "2-1" h/s on a copper case.
- (d) "7-1" h/s on a copper case.

S-7a End



Meriden Fire Arms Company was sold to the New England Westinghouse Company during 1915. They continued to produce guns for Sears. With the outbreak of World War I, the company received orders from the Russian government for rifles. The first order was for 600,000 guns, thus ceasing production for Sears. About 1917, the Colt Fire Arms Company purchased Meriden from Westinghouse. After the War, the building was sold to International Silver. They used the building as a rolling mill.

MERIDEN FIRE ARMS COMPANY REFERENCE MATERIALS

MEMORIES OF GUN PRODUCTION HERE. RECALLED IN OLD SEARS CATALOGUE.

Article from THE MORNING RECORD, a newspaper of Meriden, Conn. , dated Dec. 12, 1969.