

# Springfield Model 1795 Musket

Model 1795 Musket	
Type	<a href="#">Musket</a>
Place of origin	United States
Service history	
In service	1795-1865
Used by	United States, <a href="#">Confederate States of America</a>
Wars	<a href="#">War of 1812</a> The Mexican War, and the Civil War
Production history	
Designed	1795
Produced	1795-1818
No. built	150,000
Specifications	
Mass	10 lbs.
Length	60 inches
<a href="#">Barrel</a> length	42 -45 inches
<a href="#">Caliber</a>	.69 <a href="#">musket ball</a>
<a href="#">Action</a>	<a href="#">Flintlock</a>
<a href="#">Rate of fire</a>	2-3 round/min
Effective firing range	50 to 75 yards
Maximum firing range	100 to 200 yards
Feed system	<a href="#">Muzzle-loaded</a>

The [US Springfield Model 1795 Musket](#) was the first [smoothbore flintlock musket](#) produced in the [United States](#).<sup>[1]</sup> It was based on the [French](#) Model 1763 [Charleville musket](#) and like the French design was a .69 [caliber](#) musket.<sup>[2]</sup> The Charleville and the [Brown Bess](#) were the two most famous muskets during the [18th century](#).<sup>[3]</sup> The Charleville musket had been the primary musket used by Americans during the [American Revolutionary War](#).<sup>[3]</sup> The Charleville being the more accurate of the two, it was selected as the model for a new American musket.

## History

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US Army [Combat Infantryman Badge](#) has the image of the Model 1795 musket

About the middle of the [18th century](#), French [gunsmith Honoré Blanc](#) developed the concept of [interchangeable parts](#) for muskets.<sup>[4]</sup> Blanc tried to interest other [European](#) gunsmiths, but they were not impressed by the idea. But he did interest the American [Ambassador to France, Thomas Jefferson](#). Jefferson quickly saw that [mass production](#) of weapons parts would free America from dependence on European sources for parts. He could not get Blanc to move to the United States but he did convince [President George Washington](#) it was a good idea. In 1798, [Eli Whitney](#) got the first [contract](#) for 10,000 muskets to be delivered within two years.<sup>[5]</sup> Whitney used a large force of unskilled workers and machinery to produce standardized identical parts at a low cost.<sup>[6]</sup> [Congress](#) had already decided to pattern the new musket after the 1763 French Charleville model.<sup>[5]</sup> Whitney, like other [contractors](#), had been given 2 or 3 to work with.<sup>[5]</sup>

The Model 1795 muskets were the first muskets produced at the [Springfield Armory](#) and also the [Harpers Ferry Armory](#).<sup>[2]</sup> The Harpers Ferry Armory did not begin producing the muskets until 1798 at the earliest and more probably started around 1800.<sup>[7]</sup> There were some distinct differences in the muskets produced at the two armories. The models from the Springfield Armory have dates of manufacture on the lockplate and have an eagle stamp with the word "Springfield".<sup>[2]</sup> Between 1795 and 1816, the Springfield Armory produced about 85,000 muskets.<sup>[2]</sup> Between the two armories, some 700,000 muskets were produced between 1795 and 1844. This makes it the longest production run in [American history](#).<sup>[2]</sup> The Springfield musket was used in the [War of 1812](#), the [Mexican-American War](#), and even the [American Civil War](#).<sup>[1]</sup> They were also carried on the [Lewis and Clark Expedition](#).<sup>[7]</sup>

## The Springfield Armory

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Created in 1777, during the American Revolution the arsenal stored muskets, [cannon](#), and other [weapons](#). When France entered the war on the side of the United States, the large stores of arms and [ammunition](#) were sent to Springfield for storage and to be sent to the troops.<sup>[8]</sup> After the war there were large supplies of Charleville muskets stored at Springfield. When the US decided to manufacture its own muskets, Springfield had a daunting task ahead of it. The [government](#) had to start up arms factories with no past experience in doing so.<sup>[8]</sup> When Whitney was awarded the contract (for five years) he was paid most of the money up front. The contract paid Whitney \$13.40 per musket when it was determined the Springfield armory could make them for \$10 each. The reason they did this was to learn from Whitney and other contractors how the weapon was produced and assembled efficiently.<sup>[8]</sup> When government [inspectors](#) saw talented workers at various

contractor's [factories](#), they would often persuade them to come work at Springfield.<sup>[8]</sup> By the 1840s the government no longer saw the need to pay contractors the higher prices and would award contracts based on the best [bid](#).<sup>[8]</sup>

## Related pages

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- [musket](#)
- [Brown Bess](#)
- [Flintlock](#)
- [Muzzleloader](#)
- [Charleville musket](#)
- [Fusil de chasse](#)

## References

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## Other websites

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- [1795 Springfield VS Brown Bess: YouTube](#)

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