

Pattern (Name) 1838/39 Socket Bayonet for Muskets, Introduced in New Zealand, c1845, withdrawn 1858
Length OA 21.0 in (534mm), Blade 17.0 in (434mm), Socket 3.0 in (76 mm), MRD 23.0 mm, SM 1.5 in (36mm)
Triangular flat top blade hollow ground on the two lower sides. 3 motion slot in socket with rounded collar.
Black leather scabbard with brass locket and chape.



Socket showing 3 motion slot and collar for Hanoverian catch.



Pat 39 Musket with Hanoverian catch



Pattern 1842 Musket with Lovell catch for comparison

Introduced in 1838 by George Lovell the socket has a rounded collar at the rear to engage the Hanoverian catch as used on the Pattern 1838 & 39 Percussion Muskets, however in 1844 Lovell introduced a new catch and most bayonets were converted to the Lovell catch Pattern 1842. With minor variations in MRD and SM (slot to muzzle) this form of bayonet is also used on the following:

Muskets: Pattern 1838, Pattern 1839, early Pattern 1842

Carbine: Pattern 1842 Sergeants of the Line (16.5 in blade),

Pattern 1841 Artillery (4 in Socket), Pattern 1840 Sergeants of Foot Guards (16.5 in blade)

These bayonets were manufactured from 1838 to 1844 by the Birmingham Trade, which included such makers as: Aston, Hill, Deakin, Heighington, Roe, Salter.

Note: Pattern 38 bayonets have a slightly narrower slot. The East India Company also employed this form of bayonet for their Pattern D and E percussion muskets but with a 16 inch blade.

New Zealand Service

The Pattern 1838/39 Socket bayonet was first introduced in New Zealand with the arrival of British troops armed with Pattern 1839 percussion muskets in the second half of the 1840s and continued until replaced by the Pattern 1853 from 1858.

Acknowledgements: photos provided by John Osborne

Reference: British & Commonwealth Bayonets by ID Skennerton & R Robertson.