

Pattern (Name) 1797 Socket Bayonet for Indian Pattern Muskets,

Introduced in New Zealand, c1834, withdrawn 1850 (?)

Length OA 21.75 in (552mm), Blade 17.0 in (432mm), Socket 4.0 in (100 mm), MRD 25.0 mm, SM 1.9 in (48mm)
Triangular flat top blade hollow ground on the two lower sides. 3 motion slot, or 2 motion slot with India Spring catch, Black leather scabbard with brass locket and chape.



BO Socket showing 3 motions slot.



EIC Socket with 2 motion slot and India Spring

Due to pressures on the manufacturers and supply system during the Napoleonic Wars the Board of Ordnance adopted the EIC India Pattern musket and socket bayonet. While the EIC bayonet had a spring catch and 2 motion slot, the BO bayonet had a conventional 3 motion slot, although bayonets with 3 motion slots have also been noted with the India spring catch. These bayonets were manufactured from 1795 to 1815 by the Birmingham Trade. Slight variations in dimensions will be found in these bayonets due to relaxation of inspections during the Napoleonic War period.

Note: The East India Company also employed this form of bayonet for their flintlock muskets but with a 16 inch blade and also supplied quantities of their muskets and bayonets to the Board of Ordnance.

New Zealand Service

The Indian Pattern socket bayonet was first introduced in New Zealand with the arrival of British troops armed with Indian Pattern Flintlock muskets for example the following regiments: 50th in 1834, 80th in 1841 and 96th in 1843.

Acknowledgements: photos provided by John Osborne

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