

## FIELD MARSHAL MODEL'S BATON



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Left: Top picture: Top cap with gold state eagle; left middle, top presentation band, left lower, details of state eagle and iron cross

Centre: The overall baton (length 49.5 cm)

Right: Top Inside detail of caps; right middle, detail of lower presentation band, right lower, lower cap with detail of Iron Cross



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The Klein jeweler's markings. on the gold caps: (see text below)

This baton was made by the Hanau firm of Otto Klein for German Field Marshal Hans Model. Model, had been a Colonel General and Senior Commander of Army Group 'North' (*Generaloberst und Oberbefehlshaber der Heeresgruppe Nord*) The promotion was made on April 1, 1944.

All previous Army Field Marshal batons had been made by the Berlin jewelers firm of Wilm but because they had been bombed, the contract to make the Model baton was given to the firm of Otto Klein.

The cost was DM 20,000.

It was presented on May 31, 1944 to Field Marshal Model at a ceremony held at Hitler's Berghof

At the end of the war, the baton was hidden by the family and their home, in Dresden, was requisitioned by the Red Army and a senior Russian officer was billeted there.

Later, the baton was recovered by the family and taken to Bonn.

It remains with the family and although a number of crude copies have found their way into the collecting market, the Model baton is still with members of the family.

Measurements:

Overall length: 49.5 cm

The shaft is made from aluminum with a width of 34 mm  
On both ends are the markings:

- Gold content '585'
- 'K' for Klein, and,
- A circle with four chevrons, the markings for the city of Hanau

The shaft is covered with purple-red velvet and on this are placed 45 gold state eagles, 31.5 mm high and 23 mm wide

In addition, there are 45 Iron Crosses on the baton, each 16x16 mm

Between the shaft and the caps is a 12 mm wide silver band with the following gold letters, silver-soldered onto the band.

(Top band) "*Der Führer dem Generalfeldmarschall Model*"

(Bottom band) "*Zum Freiheitskampf des Großdeutschen Volkes-31. März 1944*"

The caps were 56mm wide. On the flat portion of the cap above was a massive, gold state eagle affixed and on the base was an Iron Cross (without the swastika and '1939' date) made from silver.

The overall weight of this piece is 862 grams.

As these batons are masterpieces of the jeweler's art and also considered to be rare historical artifacts, they are easily accounted for either in museums, or the hands of the families.

Klein made only the one Army baton, the one for Model, during the course of the war but made a number of cheaper copies, for the trade, after the war.

These can be compared with our specifications, weighed in the balance and always found wanting. Klein no longer makes such fakes but other firms do.

We are finishing work on the whereabouts of all the original batons and will publish this in a subsequent posting.

It should be noted that if a dealer sells a fake Iron Cross, he can usually get away with it but selling a fake field marshal's piece is a major criminal fraud. If a collector has a piece that is not genuine, he ought first to have an attorney write to the seller and failing any favorable action, sue the dealer in U.S. Federal court and double-head this with a criminal complaint to the U.S. Attorney in their district. .