

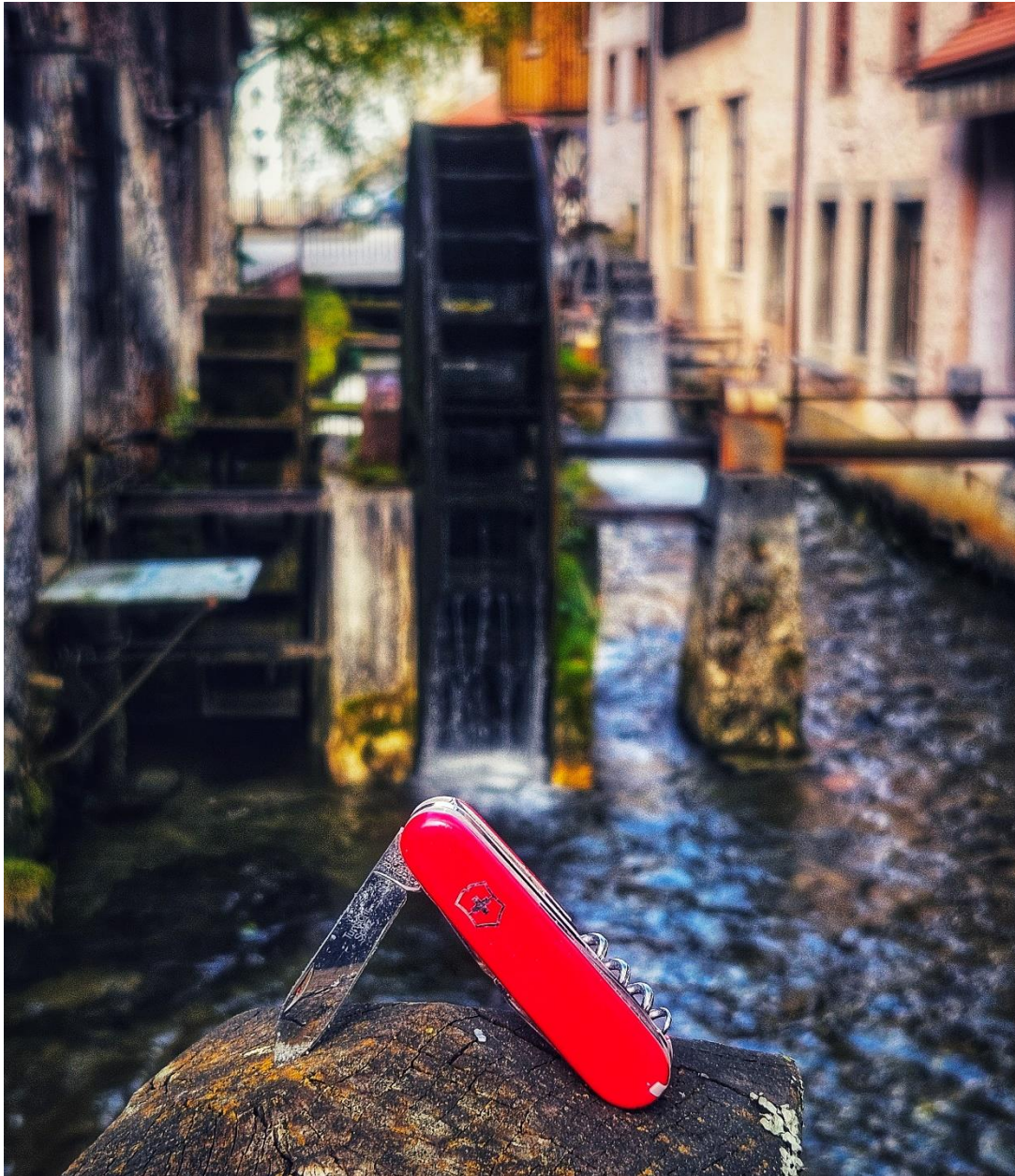
# Elsi Post

english edition

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Victorinox model no. 2224, farmer,  
p. 36

## Model No. 566 – Baker’s or confectioner’s knife by Wenger, Delémont

A long time ago, the Wenger Delémont company manufactured so-called baker's or confectioner's knives in the size 83 mm. This is already shown in a catalog from around 1910 with the model number no. 566. The scale material used was primarily aluminum, steel or a special steel alloy that looked like nickel silver. The production of such knives for industry has a long tradition at both Wenger and Victorinox. These pocket knives were usually not officially available for purchase in stores, but the companies whose employees used these bakery and confectionery knives in everyday life ordered these products directly from the companies. It is also conceivable that the large former companies in the oil and fat industry gave these knives to bakeries and pastry shops, which further processed their products, making them a promotional item.

The photo on the right shows the main 3 basic models of these bakery and confectionery knives from the two companies Wenger and Victorinox, all manufactured for the company “Schweizer Milchgesellschaft AG”. The model on the far left from Wenger Delémont is 83 mm in size, the other two models from both Wenger and Victorinox are 90 mm in size.

A major difference between the 83 mm Wenger model presented here and the other bakers' and confectioners' knives was, in addition to the size, the shape of the bowl, which was not curved, but straight, tapering slightly towards the pocket knife head. The shape of the knife blade was virtually identical on all models, with a characteristic curve and a sharply tapered tip. There were also variants with a serrated knife blade.

Virtually all of these bakery and pastry knives have an engraving on the scale of a specific company. It was always the same engravings, i.e. the same companies that purchased these pocket knives. These included:

- M. Vogel & Co AG from Zurich
- ASTRA fat and oil works from Steffisburg
- Stüssy & Co from Zurich
- Schweizer Milchgesellschaft AG from Hochdorf
- Diamalt
- Hans Kaspar AG from Zurich
- Gattiker & Cie AG from Rapperswil
- Oil and fat works SAIS from Zurich

The choice of scale material made of aluminum or steel was certainly due to the fact that they were used in the food industry and had to meet corresponding regulations regarding hygiene and cleaning.

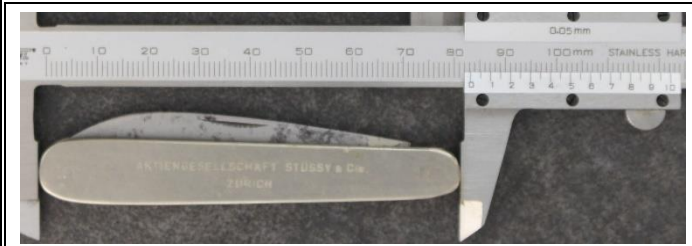
These pocket knives were only available with one blade, with no other variants. There was no key ring, no additional blade, no toothpick/tweezers, etc. The blade was used to cut open large bags of flour or similar packaging, but also to cut dough into portions or to scratch patterns into the surface of bread or desserts. These pocket knives were narrow and thin and could be easily stored in a vest pocket or similar. Due to this special curved shape, the blade protruded clearly between the knife scales when closed. This enabled users to open the blade easily even when wearing gloves by opening the knife blade with their thumb and index finger rather than using a nail. Victorinox still produces these pocket knives in a practically unchanged form. That speaks for itself. There are hardly any pocket knives that can look back on such a long history of success.



# Elsi-Post

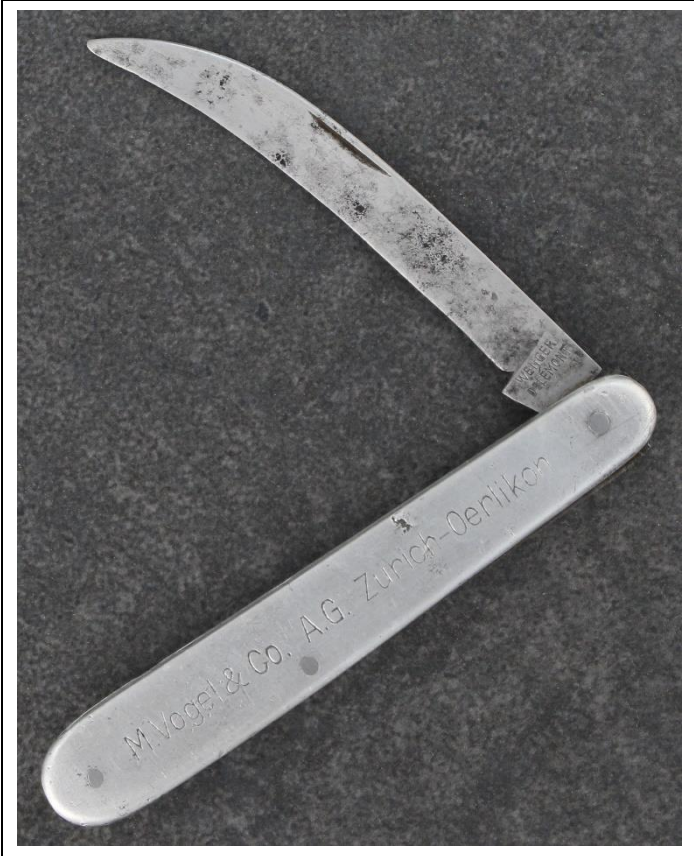
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Today, so-called Alox pocket knives are very popular. These are pocket knives with anodized aluminum scales. Many collectors and enthusiasts are unaware that both Wenger and Victorinox had been producing pocket knives with aluminum scales long before the introduction of the Alox soldier's knives in 1962. In my opinion, aluminum is ideal as a scale material for heavily used pocket knives like this model no. 566 used in industry. Of course, after more than 100 years, the scales are scratched and no longer as beautiful. But the pocket knives still work perfectly. There are no scale cracks, no splinters on the scales, no unsightly deformations as was the case with the celluloid scales, etc. For model no. 566, only natural aluminum was used without colored anodizing. Victorinox later offered different colored anodizing on its models. Model No. 566 consists of only 7 components: 3 rivets, 2 knife scales, 1 blade and 1 back spring. By choosing aluminum or steel as the scale material, it did not require any circuit boards.



# Elsi-Post

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Model No. 566 M. Vogel & Co AG Zurich-Oerlikon



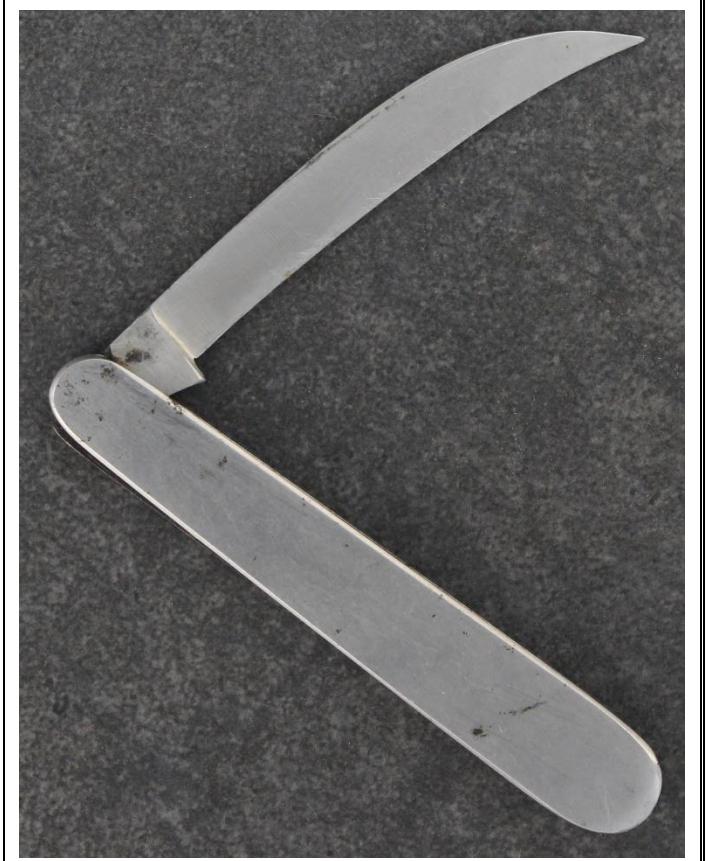
Model No. 566 Aktiengesellschaft Stüssy & Co, Zurich

# Elsi-Post

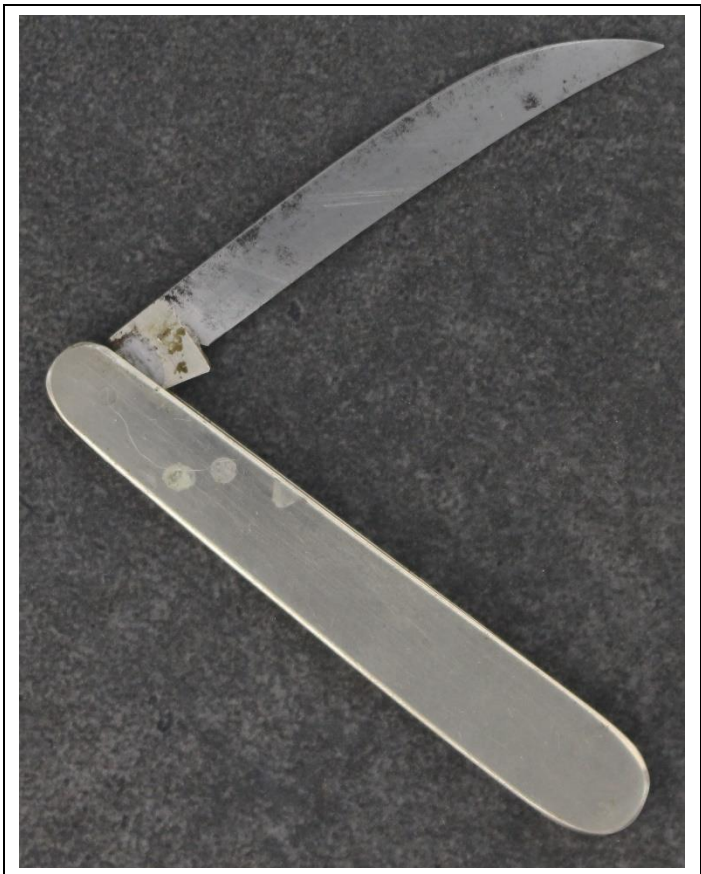
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Model No. 566



Model No. 566 Hochdorf Milk Cooperative

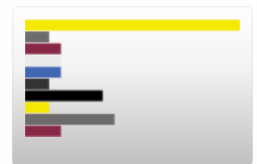


Model No. 566 Aktiengesellschaft Stüssy & Cie, Zurich

## Result of survey from Elsi-Post No. 6

Welches ist dein Lieblingsmodell von Victorinox in 108 mm? / Which is your favorite Victorinox model in 108 mm?

- 36% Mauser
- 4% Solo
- 6% Solo Plus
- 6% Hunter red
- 6% Hunter green
- 4% Hunter stag/fake stag
- 13% Walther
- 4% Pathfinder
- 15% GAK 1 or GAK 2
- 6% other



## The iron city: Vallorbe

The municipality of Vallorbe is located in the French-speaking Vaudois Jura at 750 m above sea level, not far from the French border. The area was known for its ore deposits, which were mined in the region as early as 350 BC. From the 13th century onwards, an artisanal iron industry developed in Vallorbe. The Orbe River supplied the factories with the necessary energy source. The iron ore came largely from the nearby Mont d'Orzeires, and the charcoal came from the lush forests that covered the entire area. Around 1800, 70% of the employed people in Vallorbe lived from iron. At the end of the 19th century there were still a few nail factories in Vallorbe as well as smaller businesses such as farriers. In 1883 a fire destroyed large parts of Vallorbe. In 1899, three factories came together and founded the "Usines Métallurgiques de Vallorbe", which still exists today. The big boom came from industrialization at the beginning of the 20th century. Between 1850 and 1920 the population tripled to over 4,500 people. Now Vallorbe mainly produced metal files, which were needed by the nearby watchmaking industry. Today, precision files are still manufactured on a large scale in Vallorbe and sold worldwide. The name "Vallorbe" is synonymous with the highest quality in this industry.



View of Vallorbe and the Orbe river

In the 1930s and 1970s during the global economic crises, Vallorbe struggled and many businesses had to close. The population during these times fell sharply to just over 3,000 people. Vallorbe has now reached a population of almost 4,000 people again.

The company "Leresche & Cie" was also active in Vallorbe and, among other things, manufactured soldiers' knives for the Swiss Army. The town of Vallorbe with its industry created ideal conditions for the company. The factory was in Eterpraz, just below the center directly on the Orbe River.



View of the branched canal of the Orbe and the mounted water wheels

When you visit Vallorbe today, you get the impression that time has stood still here. The river flows through the middle of the village in a picturesque setting and powers various water wheels. You can hear hammering and see glowing metal in the forges through window panes. There is something very romantic about the village and at every turn you are reminded of the importance that iron processing had and still has.



## The Iron and Railway Museum in Vallorbe

In the middle of the village of Vallorbe, in the “Grandes Forges” part of the village - large forges - there is the Iron and Railway Museum, which opened in 1980, right on the river. I was there recently and toured the museum. Basically, I have to admit that I had hardly heard of this museum before. But this is certainly also due to the fact that German-speaking Switzerland is unfortunately very rarely interested in French-speaking Switzerland and its sights. You don't hear much about such sights in German-speaking Switzerland, apart from those in the large centers of Lausanne and Geneva. The German-speaking Swiss cities of Bern, Zurich and Lucerne are museum cities with countless offerings. But as far as I know, there is no iron museum anywhere.

Coming from the motorway by car, turn off before the town of Orbe and follow a main road towards France. For the municipality of Vallorbe you branch off just before the town. You drive down from above towards the river, where the center of the village is. The Iron and Railway Museum is located right there. You can reach it on foot along the river. You are greeted from the outside with impressive water wheels, which are still in use and turning. Part of the Orbe River is branched off into a tributary and canalized. This drives the water wheels. There are various workshops along this



branch, all of which belong to the museum. Various impressive relics from the heyday of the iron industry in Vallorbe are exhibited around the buildings. These items are all labeled and explained in French. The museum grounds essentially contain two large forges, the “Grandes Forges” and the “Forge Estoppey”. In between is the branched canal of the Orbe, which can be crossed with a bridge. The backdrop is truly unique and impressive. You can immediately imagine how industrial work and production took place here until recently, and under what conditions.

You enter the museum through a small entrance in the main building. Between April and October the museum is open every day except Monday. Specific opening times can

be found on the homepage [www.museedufer.ch](http://www.museedufer.ch) At the entrance there is a cash register and a small shop. Forged products can be purchased there, which are still produced in the forge. These include products for everyday use such as forged tenon pullers or shoehorns. There is also various literature available to purchase. Important: it is not only an iron museum, but also a railway museum. The “Iron” area is located on the entire ground floor and is clearly separated from the “Railway” area, which is located on the 2nd and 3rd floors. The exhibition on the subject of iron is very diverse and, in my opinion, very exciting and varied. When you enter you will receive a map on which all the rooms and their contents are noted, in French and German. There is also a lot of technology to touch and many products that were once and are still



made in Vallorbe. There is also various multimedia content. While most of the captions are purely in French, the multimedia content is also available in German. A video and a diagram clearly show the importance of iron, its extraction, refinement and further processing for Vallorbe and the entire region since the Middle Ages. In one room there are many iron products from archaeological finds on display. Other products are exhibited in a large room, such as anvils, clockworks, mallets and files. File production was and still is an important industry in Vallorbe. Accordingly, it also has great importance in the museum. The “Usines Métallurgiques de Vallorbe” is an important sponsor of the museum. It is very interesting to see how file production has changed over the centuries. A significant contribution to this was made by Mr. Grobet from Vallorbe, who invented a machine for cutting files in 1836. This triggered industrialization in production. Previously, the notches on the file were hewn by hand. These changes in production are clearly presented in the museum, with all the machines and devices. On the wall, behind a display case, it becomes clear what variety of files the blacksmiths from Vallorbe once and still produce.

There are no specific contributions to pocket knife production in Vallorbe, nor to the former company Leresche & Co, which once produced soldiers' knives. However, many typical products are shown that cutlers also made, such as hammers,

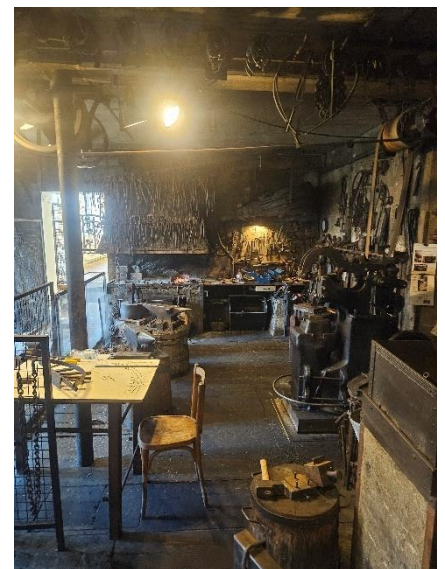
forestry instruments, kitchen knives, shovels, etc.

In another room there is the village blacksmith “Grandes Forges”, which is in active operation. A blacksmith works on objects here at the forge and anvil and shows off his skills. On the side wall facing the river you can directly see the mechanical power transmission, triggered by the visible water wheel on the outside in the canal. This is very impressive and clear. It is not explained further, so it is certainly good if you have some basic knowledge if you want to explain the technology to children or young people. In the rear part of the main building you can access the outdoor area. There you can see various objects on display, including a large hammer for making shovels and the like. If you then go over the bridge, you come to the “Estoppey” blacksmith shop. This forge has existed since 1693 and was in continuous operation until the end of the 20th century. Mainly nails and horseshoes were produced there. The forge is still fully furnished and functional. Many of the tools, apparatus and machines here are not labeled and require an explanation from the blacksmith. But he is very happy to provide information and explain things.

There is space for temporary exhibitions on the first floor of the main building. This was empty when we visited. The 2nd and 3rd floors are dedicated to the railway. This was largely responsible for the upswing in Vallorbe. This exhibition is also very interesting. However, this will not be discussed further here. Personally, I was much more fascinated by iron, and only briefly paid attention to railways.

## General conclusion

I had no idea what to expect in this museum. And I was very positively surprised. The museum and the entire area are very impressive and have a lasting effect, even without much explanation. Here you can see and feel iron and forging and their importance at every turn. The museum offers various options and special rates for groups. You can also book guided



tours. There are also blacksmithing courses. The Knifsmith Festival also takes place annually at Easter from Saturday to Monday. There, cutlers from all over Switzerland show their craft and sell their products.



**Recommendation:** Day trip to Vallorbe with a visit to the museum. There are very nice picnic areas with barbecue areas on the Orbe right next to the museum. In the immediate vicinity of Vallorbe you can also visit other sights such as a grotto or the Jura Park. I consider a visit to the museum to be highly recommended, even if it is not explicitly about pocket knife production, although it has been proven that it took place there. But the techniques, machines and facilities are the same. Maybe someone will be able to convince the museum to set up a special exhibition or a separate area dedicated to the company "Leresche & Co" with information about soldier knife production. The museum is also recommended for children aged 2 and over. Knowledge of French is certainly an advantage, even if the media files are available in German. Vallorbe is relatively easy to reach by public transport or by car. The journey from Zurich takes under 3 hours, from Paris or Stuttgart around 5 hours. The region around Vallorbe also offers the opportunity to spend a whole weekend there and visit a campsite or inexpensive accommodation. Vallorbe, with its picturesque backdrop, the river and the surrounding forests, is incredibly calming. It is probably an ideal place to get away from the hectic pace of everyday life. Everything seems quieter and more leisurely here and you can really relax.

## Cutler Leresche & Cie, Vallorbe

timeline

Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 2 (1884)

*Bureau d'Orbe.*

13 février. Jean Leresche-Bourgeois, de Ballaigues, y domicilié, et William Barbey, de Chexbres, domicilié à Valleyres sous Rances, ont constitué à Vallorbes, sous la raison sociale **Leresche & C<sup>e</sup> Forges de Vallorbes. Les Eterpaz**, une société en commandite, commencée le 2 février 1884, dans laquelle Jean Leresche-Bourgeois est associé indéfiniment responsable et William Barbey associé commanditaire pour une commandite de trente mille francs. Genre de commerce: Location des immeubles, usines, engins et matériel formant la Forge des Eterpaz, avec les outils et les forces motrices qui en dépendent, la mise en oeuvre de ces usines pour la fabrication des outils aratoires ou ménagers, produits du travail des fers bruts et ouvrés ou du travail du bois. L'activité de la société pourrait être étendue à d'autres branches, si le besoin ou l'opportunité s'en faisait sentir. Bureaux: Usines des Eterpaz à Vallorbes.

Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce. 1884

13th February. Jean Leresche-Bourgeois of Ballaigues, resident there, and William Barbey, of Chexbres, resident of Valleyres sous Rances, registered in Vallorbes, under the business name **Leresche & Co Forges de Vallorbes. Eterpaz**, a limited partnership, was founded on February 2, 1884. Jean Leresche-Bourgeois is a partner with unlimited liability and William Barbey is a limited partner for a sponsorship of thirty thousand francs.

Type of business: Rental of buildings, factories, machines and equipment constituting the forges of the Eterpaz, with the tools and motive power dependent thereon, the use of these factories for the production of agricultural or household tools, products of the work of raw and worked iron or Wood processing. The company's operations could be expanded to other industries if necessary or opportunity arises. Offices: Eterpaz factories in Vallorbes.

Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 2 (1884)

Le 27 octobre 1884, à quatre heures après-midi.

No 1256.

*Leresche & C<sup>ie</sup>*, maîtres de forges,  
Vallorbes.



**Fers, pièces forgées et outils aratoires en tous genres.**

Registration of trademark

Iron, forgings and agricultural tools of all kinds.

Untitled Article [ARTICLE]  
Intelligenzblatt für die Stadt Bern 24. April 1891

**Soldatenmesser.** Die Lieferung der viel umstrittenen 150,000 Stück Soldatenmesser ist vergeben worden an die Herren Vereche u. Cie. in Vallorbes, Fr. Sollberger in Morges, Anton Stadler in Zug und Karl Elsener, Messerfabrikation in Jbach (Schwyz).

1891

Soldier knife. The delivery of the much controversial 150,000 pieces of soldier's knives has been awarded to Messrs. Lereche and Co. in Vallorbes, Ms. Sollberger in Morges, Anton Stadler in Zug and Karl Elsener, knife production in Jbach (Schwyz).

Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 12 (1894)

18 septembre. Jean-Louis, fils de feu David-Samuel Leresche et son fils Octave-Eugène Leresche, les deux de Ballaigues, y domiciliés, ont constitué aux forges des Eterpaz, Vallorbes, sous la raison sociale **Leresche et Co**, une société en nom collectif, commencée le 1<sup>er</sup> juin 1894. Genre de commerce: Exploitation des Usines des Eterpaz, pour la fabrication des outils aratoires ou ménagers, produit du travail des fers bruts et ouvrés ou du travail des bois. Bureaux: Usines des Eterpaz, à Vallorbes.

Swiss Commercial Official Gazette, 1894 September 18th. Jean-Louis, son of the late David-Samuel Leresche and his sons Octave-Eugène Leresche, both from Ballaigues, residing there, founded a general partnership in June in the Eterpaz forge, Vallorbes, under the company name Leresche et Co 1, 1894. Art of the company: operation of the Eterpaz factories for the production of agricultural or household tools, products from the processing of raw and worked iron or the processing of wood. Offices: Eterpaz factories in Vallorbes.

1896

Swiss national exhibition.  
Metal industry.

...Leresche and Cie. And advertising. Also included the tools and equipment they made, such as shovels, spades, staples for various purposes, so that their entire production can be seen.

Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Nummer 241, 30. August 1896

## Schweizerische Landesausstellung.

### Metallindustrie.

gerade gegenüber, haben sich auf das dekorative Moment beschränkt und zeigen ihre Produkte in einem sehr reich zusammengestellten mit Ansichten ihres Werkes geschmückten Tableau. Die Aktiengesellschaft der von Moos'schen Eisenwerke in Luzern hat die von ihr erstellten Ketten und besonders auch die in längst bekannter Qualität fabrizierten Handseisen, Schraubenbolzen, Hakensrauben, Nägel und Nieten jeder Form übersichtlich dargestellt. H. Heß in Bilgersteg-Rüti zeigt auf zweiseitiger groß angelegter Auslage seine Fabrikate, neben den couranten Stiften aller Größe seine patentierten Stahlspringfedern, Thürbeschläge und Glätteisen für Rohle und Gas. Neben diesen Ausstellern nimmt sich die Ausstellung des bekannten Schraubenfabrikanten Rud. Frey in Bubikon fast zu bescheiden aus, welche in einer Kollektion ihrer gesuchten Fabrikate besteht. Gebrüder J. und A. Schraner in Oberurnen fabrizieren als Massenartikel die ausgestellten Façon-schmiedeteile für Messerschmiede und ähnlichen Bedarf. Leresche und Cie. und Ad. Balotton aîné, beide in Vallorbe, wo die Metallindustrie zu Hause ist, geben eine vollständige Zusammenstellung je ihrer Produkte, an Ketten, Hufnägeln u. s. w. Leresche und Cie. fügten ebenfalls die von ihnen hergestellten Werkzeuge und Geräte bei, wie Schaufeln, Spaten, Krampen zu verschiedenen Zwecken, so daß man ihre gesamte Fabrikation übersieht.

Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 21 (1903)

**N° 15977. — 17 juin 1903, 8 h.**  
**Leresche & C°, fabricants,**  
**Vallorbe (Suisse).**

**Outils, taillanderie, coutellerie, ferronnerie, pièces de forge.**



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**N° 15978. — 17 juin 1903, 8 h.**  
**Leresche & C°, fabricants,**  
**Vallorbe (Suisse).**

**Outils, taillanderie, coutellerie, ferronnerie, pièces de forge.**



Bulletin technique de la Suisse romande,  
Band 31 (1905)

**Estampage - Découpage**

*PIÈCES DE FORGE en masse*  
fer doux et acier. 297

*PIÈCES DE TOLE en masse*  
découpées et repoussées.

**Leresche & Cie, Forges de Vallorbe.**

Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 24 (1906)

**Eintragungen. — Enregistrements.**  
**N° 19964. — 25 janvier 1906, 8 h.**  
**Leresche et C°, fabricants,**  
**Les Eterpaz, Vallorbe (Suisse).**

**Outils aratoires ou ménagers, produit du travail des fers bruts ou ouvrés, ou du travail des bois.**



<p>Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 30 (1912)</p> <p><i>Bureau d'Orbe</i></p> <p><b>Usines des Eterpaz. — 30 décembre.</b> Jean-Louis, feu David-Samuel Leresche, étant décédé, a cessé de faire partie de la société en nom collectif Leresche et C°, Les Eterpaz, Vallorbe (F. o. s. du c. du 21 septembre 1894, n° 210, page 864).</p> <p>30 décembre. Maurice-Jean Leresche, feu Jean Leresche, à Ballaigues, entre comme associé dans la société en nom collectif Leresche et C°. Les Eterpaz, Vallorbe (F. o. s. du c. du 21 septembre 1894, n° 210, page 864).</p>	<p>Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce. 1912.  Orbe office  Eterpaz Factories. 30th of December. Jean-Louis, the late David-Samuel Leresche, is no longer part of the general partnership Leresche et Co, Eterpaz, Vallorbe after his death.  30th of December. Maurice-Jean Leresche, the late Jean Leresche, in Ballaigues, becomes a partner in the general partnership Leresche et Co, Les Eterpaz, Vallorbe.</p>
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<p>Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce. 1913  Orbe office  Tool making. 1913. March 17th. The corporate form of the house Leresche et Co in Vallorbe is registered as follows: Forges de Vallorbe, manufacture and sale of agricultural tools, tools for entrepreneurs; Tailoring.</p>	<p>Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 31 (1913)</p> <p><b>Waadt — Vaud — Vaud</b></p> <p><i>Bureau d'Orbe</i></p> <p><b>Fabrication d'outils. — 1913. 17 mars.</b> La maison Leresche et C° à Vallorbe (F. o. s. du c. du 21 septembre 1894, n° 210, page 864, et du 5 janvier 1912, n° 3, page 14), fait inscrire son genre de commerce comme suit: Forges de Vallorbe, fabrication et vente d'outils agricoles, outils d'entrepreneurs; taillanderie.</p>
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Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 41 (1923)

**N° 54362. — 20 juin 1923, 8 h.**  
**Leresche et Co., fabrication,**  
**Vallorbe, Les Eterpaz (Suisse).**

**Outils agricoles, outils d'entrepreneurs, taillanderie.**



(Renouvellement avec indication modifiée des produits du n° 15977).

Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 42 (1924)

**Forges.** — 15 janvier. La société **Leresche et Co**, société en nom collectif dont le siège est à Vallorbe (Les Eterpaz) (F. o. s. du c. n° 210 du 21 septembre 1894, page 864; n° 3 du 5 janvier 1912, page 14, et n° 71 du 20 mars 1913, page 499), fait inscrire que l'associé Maurice-Jean, feu Jean Leresche, s'étant retiré de la société, sa signature est radiée. Entre dans la société commune, associé en nom collectif, sans signature sociale, Madame Angéline-Alexandrine-Louise, fille d'Emile Margot, femme d'Octave-Eugène Leresche, de Ballaigues, domicilié à Vallorbe. La société confère procuration à Jean-Jacob, fils de Jean Muller, de Heiligkreuz (Thurgovi:), domicilié à Vallorbe.

Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce. 1923  
 Forge. 15. January. The company Leresche et Co, a general partnership based in Vallorbe (Les Eterpaz), announces that the partner Marice-Jean, the late Jean Leresche, has resigned from the company and his signature has been removed. Entry into the joint company, partner in the collective name, without company signature, Madame Angéline-Alexandrine-Louise, daughter of Emile Margot, wife of Octave-Eugène Leresche, from Ballaigues, resident in Vallorbe. The company grants power of attorney to Jean-Jacob, son of Jean Müller, from Heiligkreuz (Thurgau), living in Vallorbe.

Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce. 1926  
 No. 48449. October 12, 1931, 11 a.m. Open. 6 models. Tools that can be used as rakes and scrapers. Leresche & Cie, Vallorbe (Switzerland).

Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 44 (1926)

N° 48449. 12 octobre 1931, 11 h. — Ouvert. — 6 modèles. — Outils pouvant servir de râtaux et de raclours. — **Leresche & Cie**, Vallorbe (Suisse).

Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 44 (1926)

**N° 62257. — 19 juillet 1926, 8 h.**  
**Leresche et Co., fabrication,**  
**Vallorbe (Suisse).**

**Outils agricoles, outils d'entrepreneurs, taillanderie.**



(Renouvellement avec indication modifiée des produits du n° 19964).

Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 54 (1936)

## Transmissions — Uebertragungen

**N° 62257. — Leresche et Co, Vallorbe (Suisse). — Transmission à Leresche et Cie, Forges de Vallorbe, Société Anonyme, Les Eterpaz, Vallorbe (Suisse). — Enregistré le 14 mai 1936.**



Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce. 1936

Orbe office

Forges, tools, etc. January 27th. The open trading company Leresche et Co, based in Vallorbe, Forges de Vallorbe, which manufactures and distributes agricultural tools, contractor tools and edge processing, is dissolved. After the liquidation is completed, the company name will be deleted. The assets and liabilities are assumed by the company "Leresche et Cie, Forges de Vallorbe, Société anonyme" registered below.

A limited liability company was created on January 14, 1936 under the name of Leresche et Cie, Forges de Vallorbe, Société Anonyme, the purpose of which is to take over, with assets and liabilities, the workshops and forges which the general partnership "Leresche et Cie" operates in Vallorbe, a place called Les Eterpaz, and which generally carries out all industrial and commercial activities related to the metallurgical industry. The takeover is made on the basis of the history of the general partnership "Leresche et Cie" as of June 30, 1935, whose assets and liabilities amount to 148,621 francs. 65 and swing. The Hilan's liabilities include a debt of Octave Leresche for 66,509 francs. 80. The registered office is fixed at 10,000 francs. ; It is divided into 20 registered shares of 500 francs each. The company's official publications are published in the Official Gazette of the Canton of Vaud. The Board of Directors consists of one or more members. The Constituent Assembly elected the following directors: Albert Kueny, from Basel, businessman, resident in Lucerne, as Chairman of the Board of Directors without a company signature; Ernest Berdoz-Leresche, from Rossinières, industrialist, resident in Vallorbe, invested as Managing Director with his individual company signature. At its meeting on January 23, 1936, the Board of Directors appointed Jean Müller, from Savoy, employee, resident in Vallorbe, as Authorized Signatory and gave him the individual company signature. The company is based at the headquarters of the Eterpaz factory in Vallorbe.

Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 54 (1936)

Bureau d'Orbe

Forges, outils, etc. — 27 janvier. La société en nom collectif **Leresche et Co**, ayant son siège à Vallorbe, forges de Vallorbe, fabrication et ventes d'outils agricoles, outils d'entrepreneurs, taillanderie (F. o. s. du c. n° 210 du 21 septembre 1894, page 864, et n° 13 du 17 janvier 1924, page 90), est dissoute. La liquidation étant terminée, la raison sociale est radiée. L'actif et le passif sont repris par la société « Leresche et Cie, Forges de Vallorbe, Société anonyme » inscrite ci-après.

Sous la raison sociale **Leresche et Cie, Forges de Vallorbe, Société anonyme**, il a été constitué le 14 janvier 1936 une société anonyme dont le but est la reprise avec actif et passif et l'exploitation des ateliers et forges que la société en nom collectif « Leresche et Cie », exploite à Vallorbe, lieu dit aux Eterpaz, et généralement toute activité industrielle et commerciale en rapport avec l'industrie métallurgique. La reprise a lieu sur la base du bilan de la société en nom collectif « Leresche et Cie » au 30 juin 1935 dont l'actif et le passif s'élèvent à 148,621 fr. 65 et se balancent. Le passif du bilan comprend une créance de l'hoirie Octave Leresche de 66,509 fr. 80. Le siège de la société est à Vallorbe. Sa durée est illimitée. Le capital social est fixé à 10,000 fr.; il est divisé en 20 actions nominatives de 500 fr. Les publications officielles de la société auront lieu dans la Feuille des avis officiels du canton de Vaud. Le conseil d'administration se compose d'un ou de plusieurs membres. L'assemblée constitutive a désigné en qualité d'administrateurs: Albert Kueny, de Bâle, commerçant, domicilié à Lucerne, à titre de président du conseil sans signature sociale; Ernest Berdoz-Leresche, de Rossinières, industriel, domicilié à Vallorbe, à titre d'administrateur-délégué investi de la signature sociale individuelle. Dans sa séance du 23 janvier 1936, le conseil d'administration a désigné Jean Muller, de Heiligkreuz (Thurgovie), employé, domicilié à Vallorbe, en qualité de fondé de pouvoirs et lui a conféré la signature sociale individuelle. La société a ses bureaux au siège social, usine des Eterpaz, à Vallorbe.

Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio Band 61 (1943)

N° 105655. Date de dépôt: 3 novembre 1943, 18 h. Leresche et Cie, Forges de Vallorbe, Société Anonyme, Vallorbe (Vaud, Suisse). — Marque de fabrique et de commerce.

Instruments, appareils, ustensiles et matériaux pour l'industrie et le génie civil. Machines et appareils agricoles. Travaux de serrurerie, de forge et de fonderie. Machines et parties de machines; coutellerie.



N° 105656. Date de dépôt: 3 novembre 1943, 18 h. Leresche et Cie, Forges de Vallorbe, Société Anonyme, Vallorbe (Vaud, Suisse). — Marque de fabrique et de commerce. — (Renouvellement avec indication modifiée des produits de la marque n° 62257. Le délai de protection résultant du renouvellement court depuis le 3 novembre 1943.)


Instruments, appareils, ustensiles et matériaux pour l'industrie et le génie civil. Machines et appareils agricoles. Travaux de serrurerie, de forge et de fonderie. Machines et parties de machines; coutellerie.



N° 105657. Date de dépôt: 3 novembre 1943, 18 h. Leresche et Cie, Forges de Vallorbe, Société Anonyme, Vallorbe (Vaud, Suisse). — Marque de fabrique et de commerce. — (Transmission et renouvellement avec indication modifiée des produits de la marque n° 54362 de Leresche et Co., Vallorbe, Les Eterpaz. Le délai de protection résultant du renouvellement court depuis le 20 juin 1943.)

Instruments, appareils, ustensiles et matériaux pour l'industrie et le génie civil. Machines et appareils agricoles. Travaux de serrurerie, de forge et de fonderie. Machines et parties de machines; coutellerie.



<p>Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 67 (1949)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Bureau d'Orbe</i></p> <p>21 juillet 1949.  <b>Leresche et Cie, Forges de Vallorbe, Société anonyme, à Vallorbe (FOSC. N° 157 du 9 juillet 1947, page 1899).</b> Ernest Berdoz n'est plus administrateur-délégué mais demeure administrateur; sa signature est radiée. Le conseil d'administration a conféré à Albert Kueny, de Bâle, à Yverdon, président, la signature individuelle.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce 1949</p> <p>July 21, 1949. Leresche et Cie, Forges de Vallorbe, limited liability company, in Vallorbe. Ernest Berdoz is no longer managing director, but remains a director; his signature will be deleted. The Board of Directors handed over the individual signature to Albert Kueny from Basel to President Yverdon.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce 1950 Orbe office</p> <p>April 14, 1950. Leresche et Cie, Forges de Vallorbe, limited liability company, in Vallorbe. Ernest Berdoz, administrator, resigned; his signature will be deleted.</p>	<p>Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 68 (1950)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Bureau d'Orbe</i></p> <p>14 avril 1950.  <b>Leresche et Cie, Forges de Vallorbe, Société anonyme, à Vallorbe (FOSC. du 26 juillet 1949, N° 172, page 1985).</b> Ernest Berdoz, administrateur, est démissionnaire; sa signature est radiée.</p>
<p>Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 69 (1951)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Bureau d'Orbe</i></p> <p>3 février 1951.  <b>Leresche et Cie, Forges de Vallorbe, Société anonyme, à Vallorbe (FOSC. du 20 avril 1950, N° 91, page 1021).</b> Jean Muller, fondé de procuration, est radié; sa signature est éteinte. Ont été désignés comme fondés de procuration, avec signature collective entre eux deux ou avec une personne possédant la signature: Hansruedi Meier, de Roggwil (Berne), à Vallorbe, et Alix Grobéty, de et à Vallorbe.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce 1951 Orbe office</p> <p>February 3, 1951. Leresche et Cie. Forges de Vallorbe, joint stock company, in Vallorbe. Jean Muller, proxy, is removed; his signature has expired. The following were appointed as proxies with a joint signature between both or with a person who has the signature: Hansruedi Meier, from Roggwil (Bern), in Vallorbe, and Alix Grobéty, from and in Vallorbe.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 82 (1964)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p><b>N° 202913.</b> Date de dépôt: 18 mars 1964, 19 h.</p> <p><b>A. Kueny et Cie, rue des Cygnes 10, Yverdon (Vaud).</b></p> <p>Fabrication et commerce. — Transmission et renouvellement de la marque</p> <p><b>N° 105656</b> de Leresche et Cie, Forges de Vallorbe, Société Anonyme, Vallorbe. Le délai de protection résultant du renouvellement court depuis le 3 novembre 1963.</p> <p>Instruments, appareils, ustensiles et matériaux pour l'industrie et le génie civil.          Machines et appareils agricoles. Travaux de serrurerie, de forge et de fonderie.          Machines et parties de machines; coutellerie. (Cl. int. 6 à 8)</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div>	<p>Transfer and renewal of the brand.</p>
<p>Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 93 (1975)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Bureau d'Orbe</i></p> <p>12 septembre 1975.  <b>Fonds de prévoyance en faveur du personnel de la maison Leresche et Cie, Forges de Vallorbe S.A., à Vallorbe (FOSC du 22. 4. 1950, N° 93, p. 1045).</b> Par décision du 20 décembre 1974, le Département de l'Intérieur et de la Santé Publique du canton de Vaud a pris acte de la dissolution de la fondation, a constaté sa liquidation et a ordonné la radiation d'office de cette institution de prévoyance.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce Orbe office September 12, 1975</p> <p>Support fund for the staff of Leresche et Cie, Forges de Vallorbe SA, in Vallorbe. By decision of December 20, 1974, the Department of the Interior and Public Health of the Canton of Vaud noted the dissolution of the foundation, declared its liquidation and ordered the automatic dissolution of this pension fund.</p>

Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio,  
Band 95 (1977)

1<sup>er</sup> juillet 1977.

**Leresche et Cie, Forges de Vallorbe, Société anonyme en liquidation, à Vallorbe.** Toute activité industrielle et commerciale en rapport avec l'industrie métallurgique (FOSC du 19. 8. 1971, N° 192, p. 2057). La liquidation de la société étant terminée, cette raison sociale est radiée.

Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce

1977

July 1, 1977

Leresche et Cie, Forges de Vallorbe, limited liability company in liquidation, in Vallorbe. Any industrial and commercial activity related to the metallurgical industry. Since the liquidation of the company is complete, this company name will be deleted.

## Opinion poll

Wie viel bist du bereits für ein Sondermodell auszugeben im Vergleich zum Standardmodell? / How much are you willing to spend on a special model compared to the standard model?

- 10 mal so viel / 10 times as much
- gleich viel / same amount
- das Doppelte / two times as much
- das Dreifache / three times as much
- das Vierfache / four times as much
- das 5 bis 9-fache / five to 9 times as much
- maximum USD 100
- maximum USD 250
- maximum USD 500
- more than USD 500

took part at: [www.elsinox.com/elsi-post](http://www.elsinox.com/elsi-post)



## Leresche & Co, Vallorbe, examples

### Soldier knife

The company Leresche & Co was the official manufacturer of the first Swiss soldier's knife, the soldier's knife model 1890. A publication in a military magazine shows that Leresche & Co, along with Elsener, Schwyz and Sollberger, Morges, as well as Stadler, Zug, were included in the first order in Switzerland. The total order quantity at that time was 150,000 pieces. After that, new orders were placed every year. Alongside Karl Elsener from Schwyz, now the Victorinox company, Leresche & Co was the main supplier. The other two companies Sollberger and Stadler only produced small quantities of soldier's knives. Later, the Wenger company from Delémont joined in for the second version of the soldier's knife 1890 with red fiber scales. Leresche & Co also remained the supplier of the next model, the soldier's knife model 1908. It can be assumed that they were suppliers of soldier's knives to the Swiss army until around 1920. Certainly from 1921 onwards, the two manufacturers Elsener and Wenger divided up production. It is unclear why Leresche & Co were no longer considered. Perhaps they had not even applied for the contract. In contrast to the other two large companies Wenger and Elsener, Leresche & Co only produced a very small number of other pocket knives. They focused mainly on the manufacture of garden and agricultural tools.



Soldier's knife model 1890 type I from Leresche & Co

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Soldier's knife model 1890 Type II from Leresche & Co



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# Elsi-Post

~ 24 ~



Soldier's knife model 1908 from Leresche & Co





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## Other pocket knives from Leresche & Cie

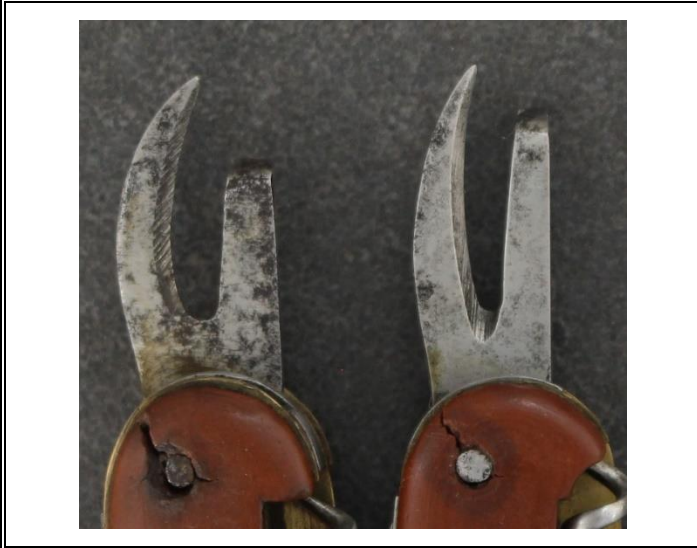
What many people don't know is the fact that the company Leresche & Co produced other pocket knives in addition to the soldier's knives, even if in significantly smaller quantities. There are not many other pocket knives known, just a type of pocket knife that is strongly reminiscent of the Victorinox officer's knives. If you didn't see the blade embossing, many people would probably think that these were early Victorinox officer's knives, as the models look so similar. The size of around 90 mm was also almost identical to the 91 mm officer's knife series from Victorinox. Here is a direct comparison of the Spartan model from Victorinox with the similar model from Leresche & Cie.



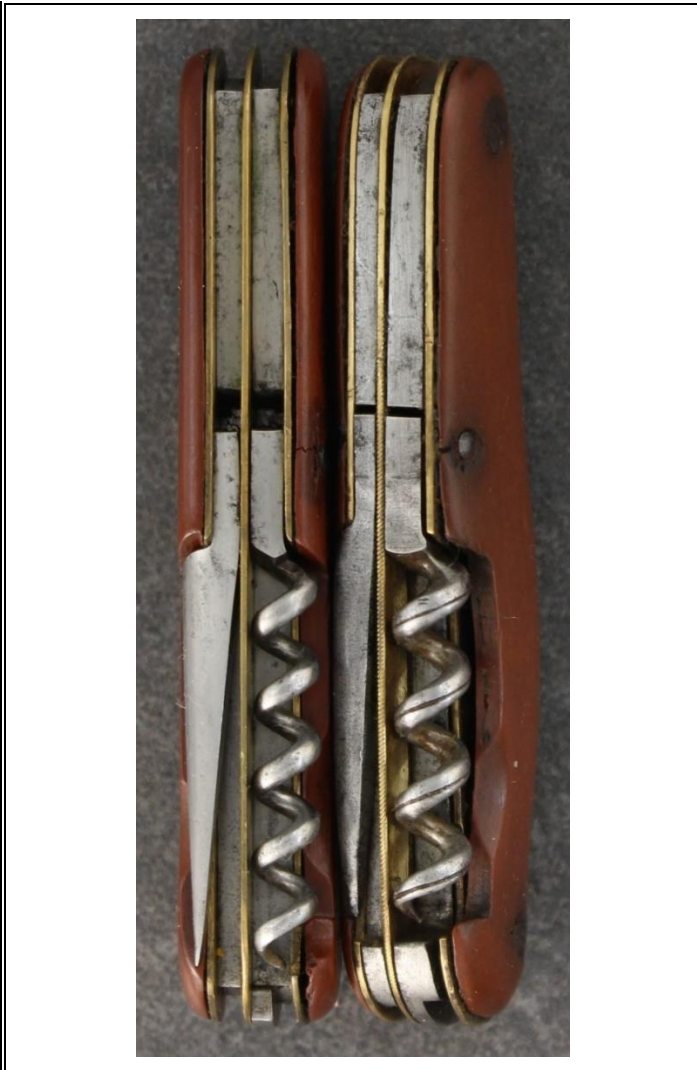
Photos above: Knife on the left from Victorinox, knife on the right from Leresche & Co

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Photos above: Knife on the left from Leresche & Co, knife on the right from Victorinox



Photos above: Knife on the left from Leresche & Co, knife on the right from Victorinox

You can clearly see the differences in the detailed images. The knife body on Leresche & Co becomes slightly narrower against the pocket knife knock, while on Victorinox this has an almost parallel course. At Leresche & Co the tenon puller has 4 revolutions and at Victorinox it has 5. The shape of the screwdriver and the can opener are different. The back feathers also have a different shape. At Leresche & Co they form a flush finish with the circuit boards and the scales, while this is not the case with Victorinox. All of these differences indicate that Leresche & Co has actually developed and produced a complete pocket knife, and not assembled from purchased parts and understood with their brand. All embossing stamps are embossed in the Forges L & C Vallorbe variant. This brand was registered in the commercial register in 1884. Later stamps of the soldier's knives have the stamp Forges L & Co Vallorbe. This shows that these "officer's knives" from the company Leresche & Co were produced in a somewhat similar time frame as the first officer's knives from the Elsener company. Karl Elsener received model protection on his Spartan with the 6 tools in 1897. Leresche & Co also produced a practically identical model, possibly even before Elsener. This is certainly an exciting detail, because today everyone only talks about Victorinox and its history - based on the officers' and soldiers' knives - and no one talks about Leresche & Co.

Another exciting detail is the following. The Victorinox Spartan model is probably the most famous product of the entire company. It consists of 6 tools, large and small cutting blade, awl, corkscrew, screwdriver and can opener. It was 2 layers. It is amazing that the company Leresche & Co probably produced a pocket knife before Victorinox, with the same tools and the same size. However, it was 3-ply. Only the corkscrew was on the back, while the awl was mounted on the front. You can tell that this was a very early pocket knife because, among other things, the corkscrew had no soul. Later, Leresche & Co produced a pocket knife in the same configuration as the Spartan from Victorinox with the identical tool arrangement. It is no longer possible to say who was the first to come up with the idea. Here are pictures of the knives from Leresche & Co.



Above: early variant with 6 tools on 3 layers

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Above: later variant, the same 6 tools on 2 layers



Above: Comparison of the two variants: old below; newer above



Variant with additional saw (similar to model no. 237 from Elsener)

Stamp Leresche & Co, Vallorbe



[Le conteur vaudois: journal de la Suisse romande, volume 53 \(1915\)](#)

[Nos légendes: la grotte aux fées : légende jurassienne: \[suite\]](#)

Author: [sn]

## OUR LEGENDS

The fairy cave.

Jurassic legend.

Above Vallorbe, in the steep slopes of the Jura, a large cave opens that no one dared to enter before because it was supposedly inhabited by fairies who did not allow anyone to enter their underground home with impunity. Every Palm Sunday one of these fairies was from the To see from a distance how they led on a leash a snow-white sheep when the year was to be rich, and a goat black as a crow when the year was afflicted with bad harvests and consequently famine. Another, or perhaps the same one, came to bathe at midnight in the beautiful pool of the Orbe spring, under the care of two wolves who kept curious people away. In the winter, when the workers had retired, they went to the forges to warm themselves, and a watchful rooster, by crowing, announced the return of the forges an hour in advance, so that they had time to escape. It was agreed that these fairies were beautiful, tall and well-built, that their clothing consisted of a white dress that reached to the floor and always covered their feet, and that their thick and long hair floated over their clothing and as a cloak served; Her voice was harmonious and sweet, say those who claimed to have heard her sing.

\* \* \*

Among the workers at the Vallorbe forge was an eighteen-year-old boy named Donat. He was handsome, robust, skilful, bold to the point of boldness; but he was also considered boastful and presumptuous and incapable of keeping a secret. After carefully gathering all the lore about the fairies, Donat decided to enter the cave through the thick thicket that hid the entrance. One Sunday morning, without telling anyone about his attempt, he climbed the rocks, broke through a border of brambles and bushes, and entered the cave, which he found deserted and dark. He slips in and gets to the second floor of this unique cave. There he finds a bed of moss and ferns in a corner. He takes the opportunity to rest and soon falls asleep. When he wakes up, Donat. saw the illuminated cave. At his side he saw a beautiful lady, wrapped in her long blonde hair, being chased by two cute greyhounds. The fairy, who had calmly looked at him in his sleep, graciously gave him her white hand and said to him in a voice that touched his heart: "Donat, I like you." Will you stay with me? I will make you happy for a century; I will give you knowledge about precious metals, health-promoting herbs and many mysterious secrets. You will be welcomed in the company of my sisters from Moncherand, who will share with me the care of teaching you, entertaining you and compensating you for what you leave on earth. The young blacksmith gladly accepts the suggestion. - But, continues the fairy, I impose a necessary condition on our pact, namely, that you will only see me if it pleases me to appear in your eyes. If I retire to another part of my apartment, you will not attempt to enter it; because if you did, I would leave you forever and you would have to repent for it all your life. Here, here are two wallets; Every day that I am pleased with you, I will put a gold coin in one and a pearl in the other. Donatus was happy about this promise and received the pearl and the gold coin every evening for fifteen days. When the noon bell of the Vallorbe church rang, a vault opened and Donat dined there with the beautiful lady who waited on him, without a servant ever appearing. The table was rich and delicate: trout from the Orbe, game from the Jura, game from Petra-Félix, cream from Dent-de-Vaulion, honey from Abbaye-du-Lac, wine from Arbois, fruits from the mountains and from the Simply, nothing was missing. Sometimes the beautiful lady would tell him underground stories to entertain him; another time she sang him ballads in the Vallorbe or Romainmôtier dialect. Then she retreated through a door in the corner of the dining room; but he shouldn't follow her.

Little by little Donat found that the time was getting long; the loneliness he was in when the fairy left him. became boring. His imagination convinced him that these underground passages must hold more extraordinary secrets than the ones he saw. His curiosity led him to secretly sneak into places where he was forbidden to enter. After dinner on the sixteenth day, at which the fairy had been even friendlier than usual, she went out according to her custom and entered a neighboring cupboard to set up her chaise longue; but whether intentionally or unintentionally, she did not close the door

completely. When Donat thought the fairy had fallen asleep, he tiptoed towards the open door, pressed it lightly and saw the fairy dozing on a beautiful velvet bed. Her long dress was pulled up a little, and to his great surprise he noticed that her foot had no heel, just like a crow's foot. He slowly backed away when one of the greyhounds hidden under his mistress' bed began to bark. The fairy wakes up, sees Donat and calls to him: "Stop, unfortunate man, I was happy with you until this moment." At the end of this first month of trials, I intended to take you as my husband and my power, my secrets and to share my wealth with you. Go immediately •; returns to the sweat of the forge; Since I do not take back what I have given, take the two wallets I gave you and forget everything you have seen and heard in my cave. If you ever reveal this to anyone, your punishment will immediately follow. » The lady disappears. All the lights go out. Donat, left alone in the darkness, gropes around and finally finds the assure with which he climbed from the first to the second floor. As he passes under the portico carved into the rock, he hears a voice calling out:

– Give silence or punishment

\* \* \*

When he returned to the forge, where no one knew what had become of him, he was questioned about his absence. He told everything that had happened to him, spoke of the fairy's treasures, of her kindness to him, of her promises of marriage, not without making fun of his crow's feet and adding circumstances and details in which his self-esteem interfered with the exact truth. The blacksmiths laugh at this story and call Donat a visionary; others call him a liar; several of him. demand proof of what he so boldly claims. "Well," he replies, "I'll give you some." And he takes the two wallets he received from the fairy out of his pocket. But what is his amazement and confusion? The purse that contained gold coins now only contains Alizier leaves; Only juniper berries remained in the area where he had placed the beads. So, ashamed and desperate, Donat decides to leave the country. From then on we heard nothing more about it in the forges of Vallorbe. When the fairy saw that her home was discovered and the secret of her crow's feet was revealed, she also set out to find another home. But his name remained in the cave as a reminder of his stay. Even today this cave is called the "Fairy Cave" and travelers are taken there to admire its dark expanse. Most only visit the ground floor; Only a few have the courage to climb through the narrow slit that leads to the upper floor.

END



## News: SWIZA Legacies Collection

On April 24, 2024, SWIZA presented its latest collection for the company's 120th anniversary, the so-called SWIZA Legacies Collection, which includes 3 different pocket knives. What is this about? The basis of all 3 variants is a basic model from SWIZA, the D03 model with 5 tools, comparable to the basic Spartan model from Victorinox. Special scales were now installed on top. SWIZA advertises that this new product brings together all of SWIZA's expertise in both the "watches" and "pocket knives" sectors. According to the homepage, the Legacies collection offers "A brilliant union of watchmaking and cutlery". This sounds very good for the first time and makes you sit up and take notice. It is directly reminiscent of the Minathor model from the former Wenger company, which also created a connection between the watch and knife industries.



In contrast to a Minathor model, it is clear at first glance that the Legacies collection is not a new or further development of tools for watchmakers or watch lovers. The upgrade to the standard model only consists of the scales, the housing, the screws and the push button. The housing is made of 1.4435 steel, as are the push button and the screws that attach the inserts. The housing is designed in such a way that it is divided into 2 segments. A distinction is made between an upper and a lower insert. The push button is integrated into the upper insert. The lower housing only has one insert. In the upper housing, the upper insert piece is the same in all 3 variants and is made of steel 1.4435. The lower insert piece of the upper housing and the complete insert piece of the lower housing differ depending on the variant.

The use of cases is unusual in pocket knife production. As a rule, one-piece bowls are used. This case is comparable to the cases/scales of the Minathor Club series, whose case was made of steel with inlays made of various leather.

Here are the 3 variants and their special features

### ***Legacies Titanium DLC***

The lower insert of the upper housing and the insert of the lower housing are made of grade 5 titanium and are additionally coated using the DLC (Diamond-Like Carbon) process. This model costs CHF 650.-

## ***Legacies Titanium***

The lower upper case insert and the lower case insert are made of grade 5 titanium with a vertical satin finish. This model costs CHF 600.-

## ***Legacies Mahogany***

The lower insert of the upper case and the insert of the lower case are made of mahogany wood. This model costs CHF 550.-

That all sounds pretty spectacular. However, in my opinion it is a product that requires a lot of explanation. Due to the presentation on the homepage, it was difficult to see exactly what and where exactly the connection between watchmaking and knifemaking should be. Apparently it's particularly about surface processing and finishing, which is very common in the watch industry. But this only appeals to a very small target group and, in my opinion, is very technical. Unlike watches, I think knife buyers work a little differently. For the first time you see the functionality, what the knife can do and how suitable it is for everyday use, and in a second step the look and feel decide. I think few people are interested in the knife in terms of craftsmanship as is very much the case with watches. Practically any digital watch for a few francs can do significantly more than complex mechanical clockworks that cost thousands of francs. Here a buyer - usually an enthusiast - consciously chooses the mechanical product because he is interested in the technology behind it, the history of the brand, or the watch as an art object. SWIZA is less known for highly complex movements and does not have anywhere near the standing of other watch brands such as Omega, Rolex, Patek Philippe and others.

SWIZA pocket knives are generally significantly more expensive than comparable pocket knives from Victorinox. In this collection, all variants are more than 10 times more expensive than the standard D03 knife. That's an enormous amount. The homepage also clearly states who possible customers of the SWIZA Legacies collection are: collectors. I personally only know a few SWIZA collectors. In addition, the collection is not limited. The question therefore arises as to who is willing to pay over CHF 500 for a beautiful, special pocket knife. It is and remains an industrially manufactured mass product, not a custom-made knife, nor a small series. I think the product has to be convincing in the store and directly appeal to and fascinate potential buyers. I think it will be difficult to sell the collection successfully via online retail. The ideal solution would be to sell/distribute very high-priced and high-quality watches in specialist watch shops. As far as I know, SWIZA does not create this itself, which makes the connection a bit difficult. In any case, I'm curious to see how the collection sells and whether there will be any fans for it. There is also no weight information about the products and the delivery time is stated to be up to 1 month.



**Personal impression:** Before I saw the knives live and held them in my hands, the pictures really spoke to me. The pocket knives look very high quality. But we've known SWIZA for a while now and know that the knives don't always perform perfectly in tests. I would really like to use a pocket knife from this Legacies collection in everyday life. For that I would be willing to pay a maximum of 2-3 times the price of the standard model, i.e. CHF 100 to CHF 150. In my opinion, 10 times is completely exaggerated. Parallels can be seen here with the last Victorinox limited editions such as the 1897 replica or the Off-White pocket knife, which were in the same price segment. Unlike there, however, SWIZA has not developed any new innovative tools here, but has simply "spruced up" a standard model. In my opinion, this doesn't justify the high additional price, and titanium or mahogany are not that expensive either. Maybe the reasoning behind it is completely different. Maybe you want to establish yourself in the field of watch advertising knives. In my opinion, this product is very suitable for this. I am convinced that the Legacies collection with a ROLEX, a Vacheron-Constantin or a Patek-Philippe logo as an accompaniment to the purchase of a high-priced watch: customers would be thrilled. SWIZA already produces promotional knives for ROLEX. The hard surfaces made of titanium or mahogany would be ideal for individual logos and engravings.

Unfortunately, this is another product in a whole series of relatively recently released pocket knives from various manufacturers, which are purely in a luxury segment and do not appeal to the broad class of knife lovers. Personally, I doubt whether this is actually a successful strategy in the medium to long term, as it also involves some risks. SWIZA has already released very high-priced standard pocket knives with leather inserts in the scales. Even though I don't know the sales figures, I don't think they were particularly successful, but you can buy them in various stores with sometimes strong discounts of up to 50%.

The Legacies collection was already available in SWIZA branches on April 26th. I was able to see them in a jewelry store. There was a large advertising monitor outside the store. In the store, the entire collection was displayed behind glass. When asked, I was able to take the knives in my hands and look at them. The high-quality impression is confirmed. The knives weigh a lot. They turned out great, no question about it. There was already a first special model of it, the Legacies Titanium DLC model with an engraved relief of the Eiger-Mönch-Jungfrau mountain range on the lower insert on the top. Cost: CHF 700.- In my opinion, the seller was unable to explain the high price of the collection in conversation. Apart from a few standard arguments about "high-tech material from the watch industry" or "special edition" there wasn't much. But he made no secret of who the actual target group is: rich tourists from Asia who want to take a souvenir from Switzerland that is not available there. That's exactly what I was thinking too. It's a shame, but it's probably just reality and demand determines supply.



## Victorinox Model No. 2224, Farmer

Around 1957, Victorinox developed a new series of pocket knives in the size 93 mm and with aluminum scales, the so-called Pioneer series. Victorinox already had previous experience with aluminum scales. Officers' knives with aluminum scales were already being manufactured around 1900. At that time, however, the price for aluminum was significantly higher than around 1957. The series was so-called "farmer's knives", meaning robust pocket knives for the rural population with the appropriate tools. The initial product was model number 2220, which was developed first. It had the 4 tools: an awl, a can opener, a large cutting blade and a screwdriver. The awl was external. From this model the model 1961 soldier's knife was created, which already had an internal awl. From the original model no. 2220, Victorinox developed various other models, including model no. 2224, later called "Farmer".

In addition to model no. 2220, eight other models from the pioneer series are shown and listed in the 1959 catalog. These were models No. 2200, No. 2203, No. 2204, No. 2208, No. 2216, No. 2223, No. 2224 and No. 2208. Of these, only model No. 2224 still had the awl as a tool installed.

In the 1964 catalog these pocket knives were referred to as "ELINOX – farmer's knife "Pioneer". The name Elinox indicates that these were cheaper and simpler pocket knives as opposed to the Victoria series. Specifically, this meant that the Elinox pocket knives were not polished and other intermediate steps in production were omitted in order to offer these pocket knives to customers at a reasonable price. Typically on Elinox pocket knives you can see the fine grooves through the grind as a result of the missed polish. This increased the surface area and made the knives more susceptible to oxidation. This is actually the case. Many early Elinox pocket knives show typical signs of oxidation on the tools.

In addition to the models from the 1959 catalog, the 1964 catalog lists two more models, models No. 2005 and No. 2215.

The model no. 2224 was probably manufactured by Victorinox shortly after the model no. 2220, i.e. from around 1957/1958. There are only known models with an Elinox embossing, which Victorinox used from 1957. Very early versions of model no. 2220 with Victoria or Fischer embossing are known. The very early variants of model no. 2224 still had the external awl. This was later replaced with the internal awl, which was also used in model no. 2220 for the Swiss Army - the soldier's knife type 61.

Model No. 2224 is basically a Model No. 2220 with an additional saw. There was model no. 2224 with the bracket option, and later with the key ring option. For a long time, model no. 2224 was produced exclusively in the color Alox red. It was only from the year 2000 with the new Cross and Shield that model no. 2224 was produced with Alox silver scales and also in other colors. Between 2005 and 2015, various special editions of model no. 2224 came onto the market, with additional fire steel, with special colors, special engravings, etc. There are over 40 different variants of scale colors known. A major customer of these special editions was SwissBianco. But there were also other online shops that ordered special versions of model no. 2224 from Victorinox. These special editions are not discussed in this article because they were not official Victorinox products and were never sold through Victorinox. For example, Victorinox never manufactured Alox pocket knives with a fire steel. These knives come from Guido Fischlin, who specially configured standard knives and equipped them with a fire steel. Through such modifications, these models automatically lose their warranty claims against Victorinox. Victorinox generally doesn't like it when their models are configured and resold, which is understandable. Nevertheless, they take very moderate action against such custom made knife makers. However, I am convinced that many end customers are not aware of what they have purchased here and what exactly that means. The models No. 2224



ordered directly from Victorinox in special colors without subsequent configurations are products directly from the Victorinox workshops and the guarantee continues to run. However, Victorinox has now largely stopped such special orders and only allows online retailers and clubs or Facebook groups to order 1 of the same special model per year for everyone or a selection from the existing range with a few color options. Therefore, every person should be sensitized when current alleged special models are offered to them. From the perspective of many Alox collectors, Victorinox's move is certainly very regrettable. From the company's perspective, I can understand this step, especially since in my opinion there was a huge proliferation of some very adventurous configurations that no reputable knife manufacturer would have produced.

In a catalog from the 1970s, model number 2224 is shown with the key ring as standard. From this point onwards, the model came almost exclusively with the key ring, and this was not just a selectable option, as it was at the beginning of production.

In general, model no. 2224 "Farmer" was and is a popular model. The term "Farmer" first appeared in an English-language catalog in the 1970s. Originally this was purely a marketing name. Later, the name "Farmer" stuck, and hardly anyone uses the specific model number anymore, which has changed several times since production began. In a catalog from the 1980s, Model No. 2224 is described as "The practical carry-along knife with all the implements for agriculturists from the backyard greenthumb to the multi-acre harvester. Perfect control over the knife with wet or greasy hands is assured by the anti-slip durable Alox handle. All blades are made of double thickness steel." Here it becomes clear once again the purpose for which these Alox pocket knives were originally manufactured. It wasn't until the 2000s that the Alox hype developed, which led to people moving further and further away from the original idea of Alox pocket knives and producing various special models without any connection to agriculture. Many of the special colors of the modern model No. 2224 would be extremely unfavorable for agriculture. There was a reason why the color "red" was chosen for model no. 2224. At that time there were also the color variants silver and gold, in which model no. 2220, for example, was produced.

### Variants and chronology (approximate)

<b><i>Awl</i></b>	outside: 1957 – 1961	inside: from 1961
<b><i>Bail/Ring</i></b>	bail: 1957 – 1964	Keyring: from 1964
<b><i>Saw</i></b>	asymmetrical: 1957 – ca. 1966	symmetrical: from ca. 1966
<b><i>Screwdriver</i></b>	+ PAT: 1957 – 1971	without + PAT: from 1971
<b><i>Blade stamping</i></b>	Elinox: 1957 – 1974	VICTORINOX: 1974 – 1987
<b><i>Plate</i></b>	brass: 1957 -	Nickel silver: - until today
<b><i>Intermediate layer</i></b>	brass: 1957 -	Nickel silver: - until today
<b><i>Coat of arms on bowl</i></b>	old Cross and Shield: 1957 – 2000	new Cross and Shield: from 2000

When it comes to the circuit boards and intermediate layers, it seems that what was currently available and available was temporarily used and installed. Interlayers and circuit boards were initially made of brass, but were used repeatedly until the 1990s. Nickel silver has been used before, and currently exclusively.

Because of these various changes, a model can be timed quite accurately. It is also possible to draw conclusions as to whether a model was later repaired or whether everything is still in its original condition.

Victorinox model no. 2224 Farmer, examples



Victorinox model no. 2224: first variant, Elinox embossing, old external awl



# Elsi-Post

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Victorinox model no. 2224, early variant, Elinox embossing, bracket, brass plates



Victorinox model no. 2224, Victorinox embossing, key ring

# Elsi-Post

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Victorinox model no. 2224, Victorinox embossing, no key ring



Victorinox model no. 2224, new modern variant, new Cross and Shield, Alox silver, key ring



Photo top left: Different boards/interlayers from brass-brass to brass-nickel silver to nickel silver-nickel silver. Photo top right: old variant below with external awl; Newer variant at the top with an internal awl



## anecdote

Intelligenzblatt für die Stadt Bern, 3. August 1892

**Genf.** Tragi-komische Liebesgeschichte. Eine Genfer Dame, die gezwungen ist, im Sommer ein Bad zu brauchen, gab ihre Kinder für die Zeit ihrer Abwesenheit einer verwittweten Freundin in Pension. Der 17jährige Sohn verliebte sich hier in aller Form in die Freundin seiner Mutter; vor sie auf den Boden hintnieend und die Schwurfinger in die Luft streckend, machte er ihr Erklärungen und verfolgte sie allenthalben mit seinen Anträgen. Die Dame behandelte ihn mit Spott und Hohn und Gelächter. Nun erwirkte er dieser Tage von ihr die Erlaubniß, ihr den Kaffee brauen zu dürfen. Als sie die Tasse gegen den Mund hob, fiel ihr ein säuerlicher Geruch des Getränkes auf; der jugendliche Liebhaber wollte dem Kaffee nichts beigemischt haben; die Pflegemutter traute aber dieser Versicherung nicht recht und entfernte sich, indem sie die Absicht aussprach, das Ding untersuchen zu lassen. Da ergriff der Junge ein Taschmesser und verwundete sich damit an der Brust. Nun wurde Polizei geholt. Den jugendlichen Schwärmer schaffte man in das Spital und hofft ihn von seiner unbedeutenden Wunde bald genesen zu sehen. In einem Verhör gab er an, keine Vergiftungsabsichten gehegt, sondern dem Kaffee Alaun beigemischt zu haben, in der Hoffnung, der Mokka, den er wohl u.ter Zaubersprüchen gekocht und gebraut hat, werde als Liebestrank wirken und die Dame zwingen, seine Gefühle zu erwidern. Die Analyse wird ergeben, ob der unglückliche Liebhaber im Spitalbett die Wahrheit geredet hat. Die Dame seines Herzens hat erklärt, auf einen Strafantrag zu verzichten, und somit dürfte der Jüngling aus dem Krankenhaus entlassen werden, sobald sein Zustand es erlaubt.

Intelligence sheet for the city of Bern,  
August 3, 1892

Geneva. Tragicomic love story. A Genevan lady, who is forced to take a bath in the summer, has entrusted her children to a widowed friend for the time she is away. The 17-year-old son has formally fallen in love with his mother's friend; kneeling on the floor in front of her and raising his swearing fingers in the air, he explained to her and pursued her everywhere with his proposals. The lady treated him with mockery, scorn and laughter. He recently obtained her permission to make her coffee. When she raised the cup to her mouth, she noticed a sour smell in the drink; the young lover claimed that nothing had been mixed into the coffee; the foster mother, however, did not really trust this assurance and left, expressing her intention of having the thing examined. The boy then grabbed a pocket knife and wounded himself in the chest with it. The police were then called. The young dreamer was taken to the hospital and it is hoped that he will soon recover from his minor wound. During an interrogation he stated that he had no intention of poisoning anyone, but had mixed alum into his coffee

in the hope that the mocha, which he had probably cooked and brewed under magic spells, would act as a love potion and force his lady to return his feelings. The analysis will show whether the unfortunate lover was telling the truth in his hospital bed. The lady of his heart has declared that she will not press charges, and the young man will therefore be released from the hospital as soon as his condition allows.

the end