

# Armed Officer's Training Manual

## Section 8: Nomenclature and Inspection

Learning Goal: The student will know the components and understand the operation of the service revolver and semi-automatic pistol. The student will understand the importance of inspecting his or her handgun to ensure that it is operational and ready for duty.

### Basic Components of the Revolver

The service revolver is comprised of the following main components:

#### **Frame**

Includes the trigger and trigger guard, the rear sight, the hammer, firing pin, cylinder latch, and other action parts.

#### **Barrel**

Includes the front sight, the rifled bore comprised of lands and grooves, and the muzzle.

#### **Cylinder**

Includes the extractor, extractor rod and yoke/crane.



Fig. 8-1

## **Double-Action Firing Versus Single-Action Firing**

The service revolver may be fired in two modes:

### ***Double-Action***

The shooter moves the trigger directly to the rear through a relatively long and heavy pull. This long and heavy movement of the trigger partly revolves the cylinder and aligns a cartridge with the rear of the barrel. Simultaneously, the hammer is cycled to the rear of its arc and released, firing the cartridge.

### ***Single-Action***

The shooter cocks the hammer (moves it to the rear against spring pressure until it catches the hammer notch), and then exerts a light pressure on the trigger to fire the revolver.

The armed officer may encounter a loaded and cocked revolver and may have to unload it. This situation requires heightened safety consciousness due to the very light single-action trigger pull. The officer should identify a safe direction and back stop to point the revolver during the de-cocking and unloading. This can be a structural part of the building, the ground or a heavy object like a bookcase. All persons should be moved from the area.

## **TO DE-COCK THE REVOLVER**

**Pick the revolver up with the trigger finger well away from the trigger guard, and point it in the pre-selected safe direction. Place the support hand thumb between the frame and the cocked hammer, pull the hammer fully to rear, and hold it there while pressing the trigger. Keeping the trigger to the rear, lower the hammer partially and then take the finger off the trigger. Then lower the hammer all the way down. The cylinder can then be opened and unloaded (Removing the finger from the trigger re-engages the internal safeties. If the hammer slips while the trigger is held to the rear, the internal safeties are disengaged and the revolver could fire.)**

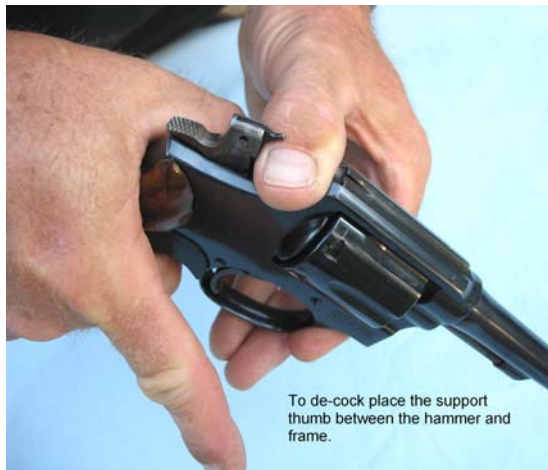


Fig. 8-2



Fig. 8-3



Fig. 8-4

## **INSPECTION: REVOLVER**

### **Before Inspecting the Revolver**

1. Point the revolver in safe direction.
2. Unload and check three times to ensure that it is unloaded.
3. Remove all live ammunition to another area before inspecting.

## Revolver Serviceability Check

**(Bold type indicates corrective action. Armorer repair indicates repair should be performed by a qualified armorer or gunsmith. Factory repair indicates that the repair should be performed by the manufacturer.)**

1. Check the overall condition and for visible damage, rust or dirt. **(Clean. Armorer repair.)**
2. Check the stocks for looseness or damage. **(Tighten stock screw or replace damaged stocks.)**
3. Check the exterior of the barrel for bulges by running the thumb and index finger along the barrel from rear to front. The rear shoulder of the barrel is not a bulge. Check the muzzle for nicks or other damage to the bore. **(Factory repair required.)**
4. Inspect the interior of the barrel (bore) for obstruction. **(Remove obstructions like cleaning patches or fouling. Difficult obstructions may require armorer or factory repair.)**
5. Inspect the front and rear sights for looseness or damage. **(Armorer repair.)**
6. Inspect the hammer nose (firing pin) for damage or breakage. **(Armorer repair.)**
7. Inspect the recoil plate (firing pin hole) for fouling or damage. **(Clean. Armorer repair.)**
8. Check that the extractor rod moves in and out smoothly without binding. **(Armorer repair.)**
9. The extractor rod may unscrew on Smith and Wesson revolvers. Check for tightness. **(Armorer repair if loose.)**
10. Check the cylinder and its chambers for fouling or damage. The front of the cylinder should be free of fouling. The undersurface of the extractor and its recess in the rear of the cylinder must be free of any fouling, small particles or oil. **(Clean.)**

11. Check that the cylinder opens and closes smoothly without any binding. **(Armorer repair.)**
12. Check all screws for tightness. Be sure to use properly fitted screwdrivers.
13. Check the action for smooth function by dry firing in double-action mode. The trigger should move smoothly to the rear and forward without hesitation or excessive pull weight. The cylinder should carry up to the next chamber and lock in place. **(Armorer repair.)**

## **Basic Components of the Semi-Automatic Pistol**

The semi-automatic pistol is comprised of the following main components:

### ***Frame***

Includes the trigger guard, trigger, safeties, de-cocker (SIG-type), hammer, grips, magazine well, magazine catch (release), ejector and slide stop.

### ***Slide***

Includes the front and rear sights, recoil spring and guide, extractor, firing pin and decocker (Beretta-type).

### ***Barrel***

Includes the chamber, locking lugs, bore and rifling.

### ***Magazine***

Includes the magazine body (tube), feed lips, base plate, follower and magazine spring.



Fig. 8-5



Fig. 8-6



Fig. 8-7

## Semi-Automatic Pistol Action Types

### **Single-Action**

Pistol must be manually cocked before firing, and is carried hammer cocked over a loaded chamber with thumb safety engaged.

## ***Double-Action***

Pistol is carried with the hammer down on a loaded chamber. Pistol is fired by a long, heavy pull of the trigger for the first round, and then a short, light pull for each subsequent round.



Fig. 8-8



Fig. 8-9

## ***Double-Action Only***

Pistol is carried hammer down on a loaded chamber. Pistol is fired by a long, heavy pull of the trigger for each round.

## ***Striker Fired (Glock-type)***

Trigger pull retracts the striker against spring compression and then releases the striker for each round fired.



Fig. 8-10

## **INSPECTION: SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOL**

### **Before Inspecting the Semi-Automatic Pistol**

1. Point the pistol in a safe direction.
2. Unload the pistol (remove the magazine, retract the slide to unload the chamber, lock the slide to the rear, look and feel with a finger that the magazine well and chamber are unloaded. Do this three times.
3. Unload the magazine.
4. Remove ammunition to another room or area before inspecting.

### ***Serviceability Checks***

#### **ALL SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOLS**

**(If a pistol fails an inspection point, have the pistol inspected and repaired by a qualified gunsmith or armorer.)**

1. Dry fire and hold the trigger to the rear. Pull the slide to the rear and allow it to almost close. Release the slide. It should go into battery.
2. Slide forward and hammer down. Insert unloaded magazine. Aggressively pull the slide to the rear and release. Slide should lock open.
3. Press the magazine catch and hold it in. Steel magazines should drop free. Polymer magazines may partially eject.
4. Check the extractor for damage.
5. Check the sights for looseness or damage.
6. Check the slide for small cracks near the ejection port.



7. Check the slide for smooth back and forth movement on the frame rails without binding.
8. Check the exterior of the barrel for bulges, cracks and damage at the muzzle.
9. Check the interior of the barrel for obstructions, fouling and scratches.
10. Check the stocks (grips) for looseness, cracks, chips or missing screws.
11. Check each magazine:
  - Dents, cracks at the top of the back plate and deformed feed lips.
  - Looseness on the base plate or cracks in the base plate welds.
  - Base plate is properly engaged and secure on magazine body.
  - Magazine locks up properly in magazine well.
  - Magazines fall free, or are removed with minimal effort (Glock).
12. Check the frame:
  - Ensure that the ejector is in place and not damaged.
  - Cracks near the slide stop hole or notch.
  - Damage to the trigger guard and the magazine well opening.

## **SPECIFIC SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOLS**

**(If a pistol fails an inspection point, have the pistol inspected and repaired by a qualified gunsmith or armorer.)**

### ***Single-action pistols with thumb safety only (Colt 1911, Browning High Power)***

1. Cock the hammer. Engage the safety lever.
2. Pull the trigger. The hammer should not fall.
3. Disengage the safety lever. Pull the trigger. The hammer should fall.

### ***Single-action pistols with a grip safety (Colt 1911, Springfield XD)***

1. Cock the hammer.
2. Pull the trigger without depressing the grip safety.
3. Hammer should not fall.
4. Pull the trigger while depressing the grip safety. The hammer should fall.

### ***Pistols with a slide-mounted decocker/safety lever (Beretta, S&W)***

1. Insert an empty magazine if equipped with a magazine safety (S&W).
2. Cock the hammer. Trigger finger clear of the trigger. Press the decocker/safety lever down. The hammer should fall.
3. Pull the trigger. The hammer should NOT cycle and fall.
4. Push the decocker/safety up. Pull the trigger. The hammer should cycle and fall.

### ***Pistols with a frame-mounted decocker lever (SIG, H&K)***

1. Cock the hammer. Press the decocker down. The hammer should fall.
2. Pull the trigger. The hammer should cycle and fall.

### ***Pistols with a magazine safety (S&W, Browning)***

1. Insert empty magazine. Cock the hammer.
2. Pull the trigger. The hammer should fall.

3. Cock the hammer. Remove the magazine.
4. Pull the trigger. The hammer should not fall.

### ***Pistols with a Glock-type trigger safety***

1. Cycle the slide.
2. Move the trigger to the rear without depressing the trigger safety. The striker should not fall.
3. Depress the trigger safety and pull the trigger. The striker should fall.

### ***Modifications to Handguns***

The armed private security officer should avoid modifications to the service handgun unless the work is done by the factory or a factory certified gunsmith. If the officer is involved in a shooting, non-factory modifications may create liability for the officer and his or her employer. This liability risk is especially likely when the trigger pull is lightened in an attempt to make the handgun easier to shoot. The plaintiff's lawyer can claim that the officer acted negligently by carrying a handgun with a "hair trigger" that was more prone to a negligent discharge. It is generally acceptable to enhance the officer's control of the weapon by installing after-market grips that are in general service with law enforcement agencies.

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## **Section 8: Review**

1. **What are the four steps that must be taken before inspecting any handgun?**
2. **Why is a light trigger pull a liability risk?**
3. **Why should the service revolver always be fired in double-action mode?**