

# Firearm Safety

**A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.**

US Constitution: “ Bill of Rights”, Second Amendment

ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a  
safe direction

NRA



**ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.**

NRA

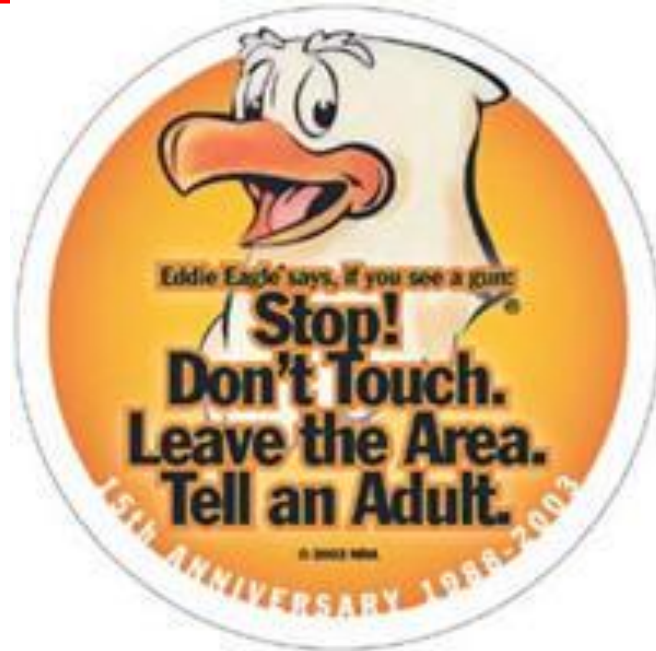


**ALWAYS keep the gun  
unloaded until ready to use.**

**NRA**



# NRA Eddie Eagle Gun Safety Program



- **The Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program teaches children in 1st grade and up, four important steps to take if they find a gun.**

**These steps are presented by the program's instructor, in an easy-to-remember format consisting of the following simple rules:**

- **If you see a gun:**
- **STOP!**
- **Don't Touch.**
- **Leave the Area.**
- **Tell an Adult.**

**NRA Eddie Eagle**

***When using or storing a gun,  
always follow these NRA rules:***

- **Know your target and what is beyond:**



NRA



# Know how to use the gun safely.



NRA

**Be sure the gun is safe to operate.**



NRA

# Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate.

NRA



**Never use alcohol or over-the-counter, prescription or other drugs before or while shooting.**



**And**

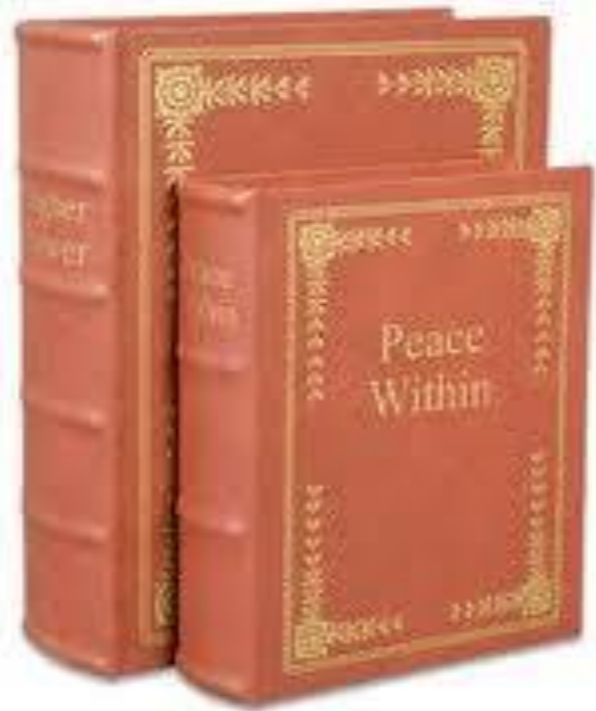


NRA

**Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.**



NRA



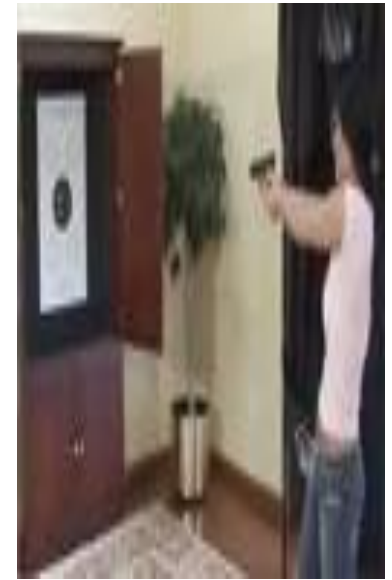
# Storage Concealment

<http://gunsafehaven.com/gun-storage->

[novault/](http://gunsafehaven.com/gun-storage-novault/)



**Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions.**



NRA



**Use only the correct  
ammunition for your gun.**

**Shotguns**



NRA

# Rifles



# Cleaning





- <http://www.kleen-bore.com/safetytips.html>



- Dip a phosphor bronze brush of the proper size in solvent and pass it through the bore several times.
- Work from the rear and go in one direction only.



- **Pass clean, dry patches through the bore until there are no signs of residue on the patch.**
- **Work from the rear and go in one direction only.**



## Bore Snakes



- **Remember:**

**Always check the chamber to make sure that the firearm is unloaded before attempting to clean. Remove any clips or magazines.**



- **Lee Paige**, a DEA agent who literally shot himself in the foot with an allegedly unloaded gun while talking about firearm safety to a roomful of Florida children—right after announcing, "I'm the only one in this room professional enough...to carry this Glock 40."



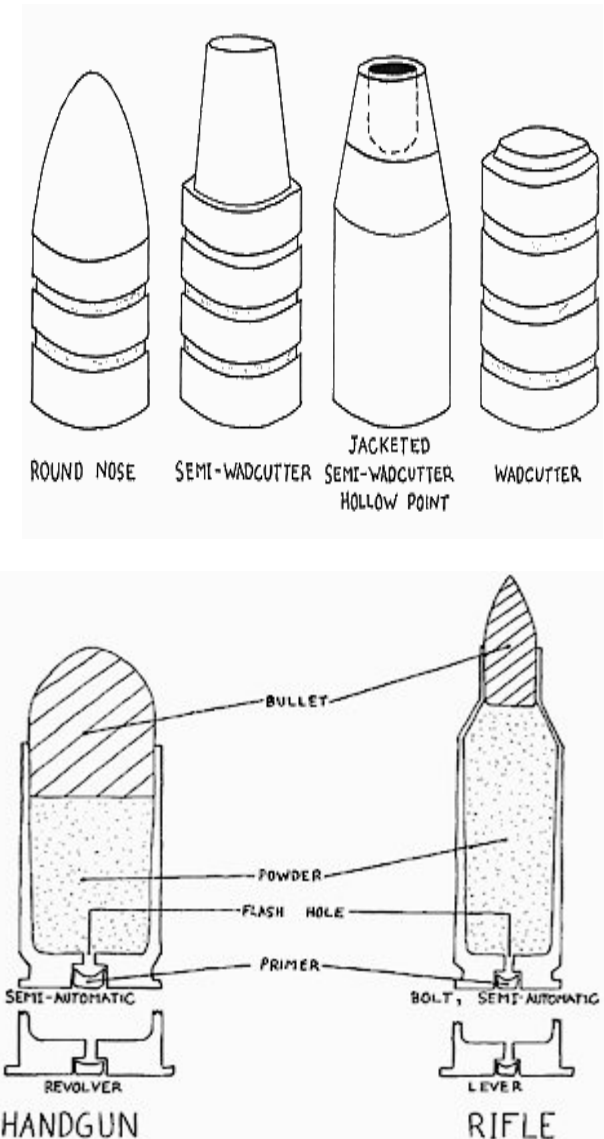
# **FIREARMS**

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# Ballistics

- The term ballistics refers to the science of the travel of a projectile in flight.
- The flight path of a bullet includes: travel down the barrel, path through the air, and path through a target. The wounding potential of projectiles is a complex matter. (Fackler, 1996)



## Rifle vs Handgun

- Bullets fired from a rifle will have more energy than similar bullets fired from a handgun.
- More powder can also be used in rifle cartridges because the bullet chambers can be designed to withstand greater pressures (50,000 to 70,000 for rifles psi vs. 30,000 to 40,000 psi for handgun chamber).

# Ammo



- **Pistol**
- **Rifle**
- **Shotgun**

- **Big Ammo means bigger guns:**



- **Higher pressures require a bigger gun with more recoil that is slower to load and generates more heat that produces more wear on the metal.**



Cobra Big Bore Derringers



From left to right:

.50 BMG, 300

Win Mag, .308

Winchester, 7.62

Soviet, 5.56

NATO, .22LR





220R



9MM



45 ACP

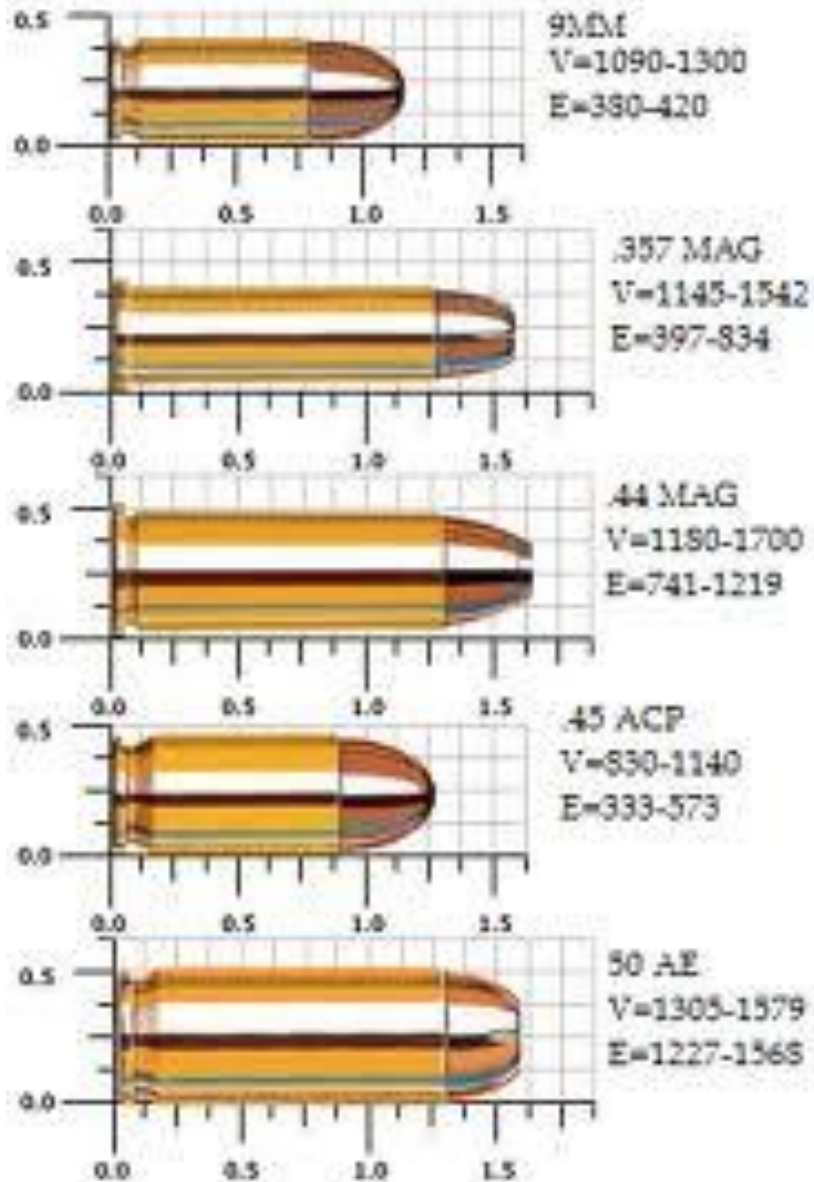


7.62x39 (AK47)



7.62x54r

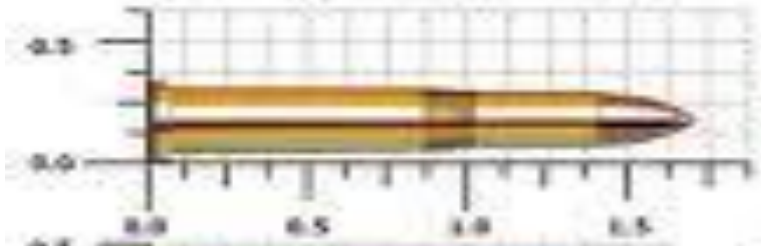
# Handgun Ammunition



# Small Caliber



.22 LR  
VELOCITY=1050-1435 FT/SEC  
ENERGY=95-191 FT-LB



.22 HORNET  
V =2346-2690  
E =550-723



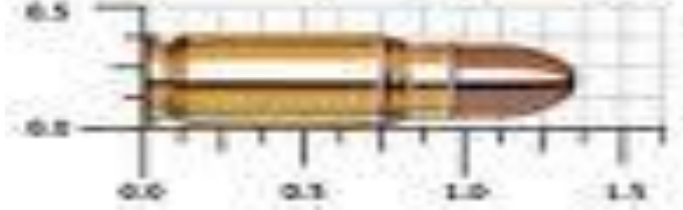
.22 WMR  
V=1875-2200  
E=312-324



.32 ACP  
V=900-950  
E=100-130

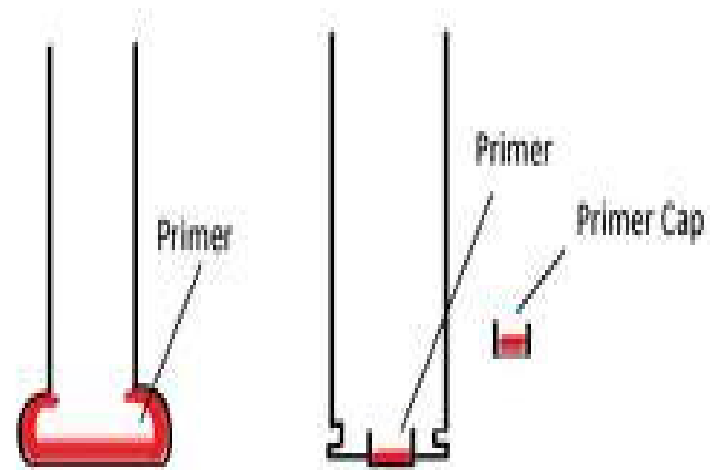


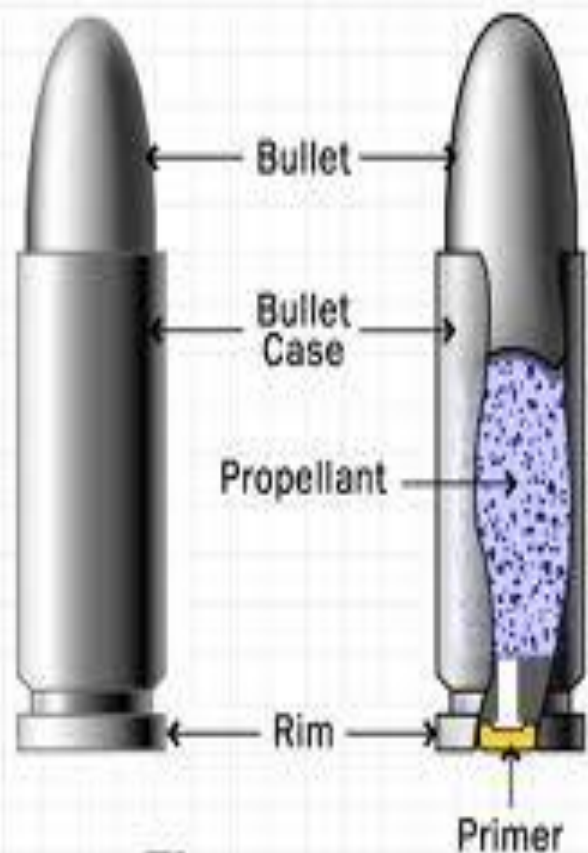
.25 ACP  
V=750-900  
E=62-73



.25 MAI TT -D  
V=1230-1390  
E=290-365

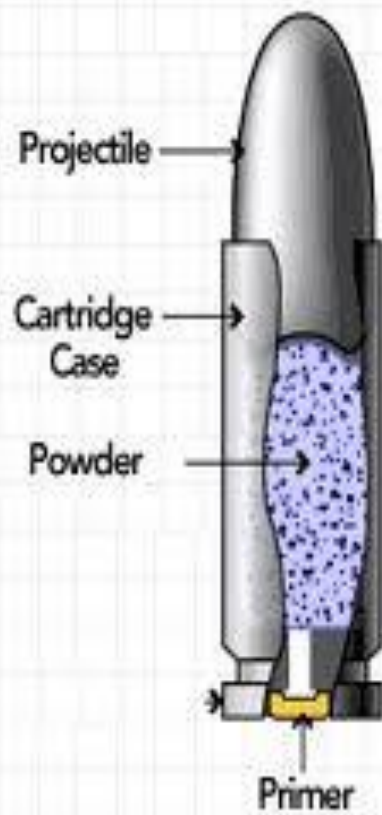
# Rimfire vs. Centerfire



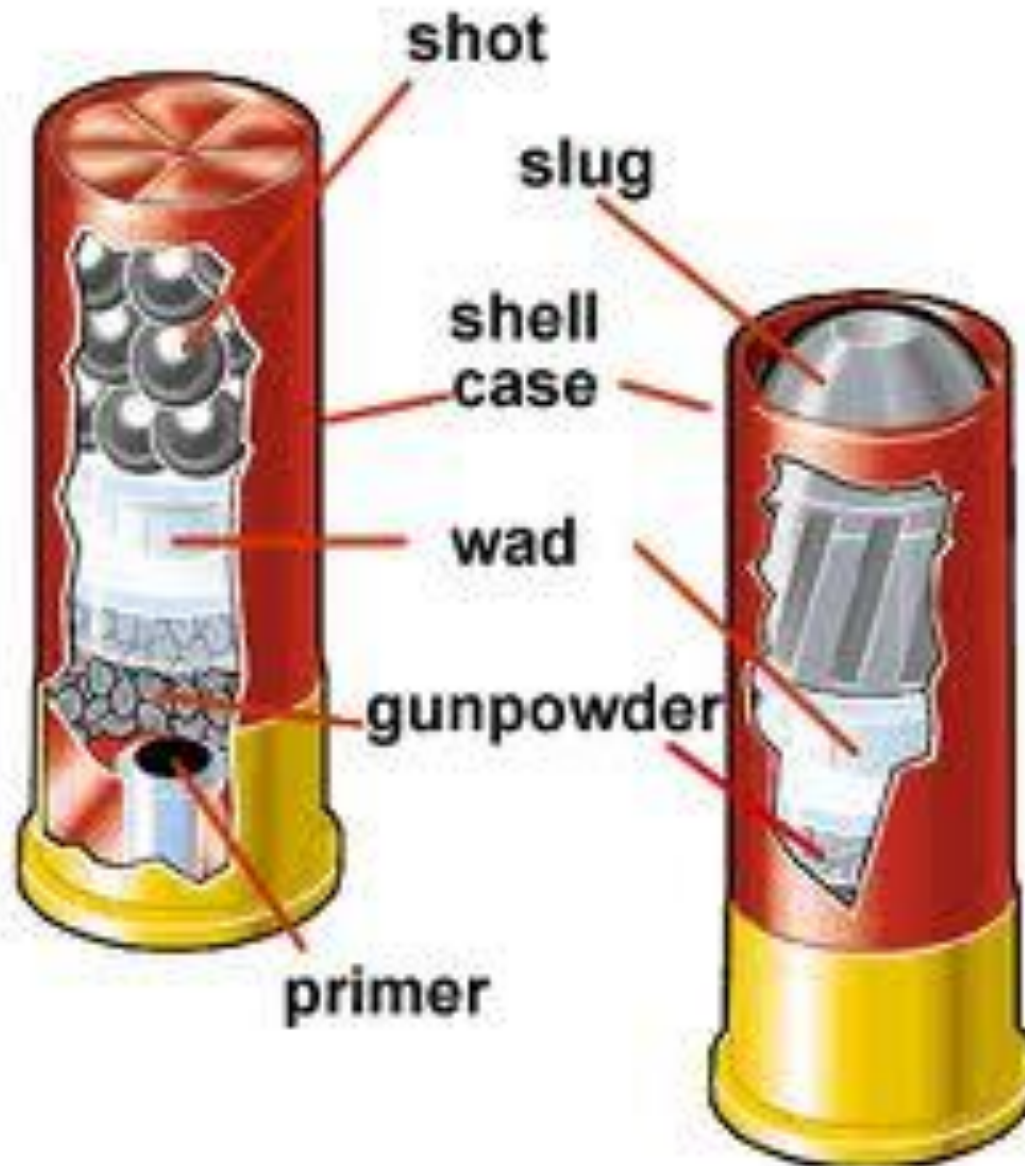


### The Modern Bullet Cartridge

©2001 HowStuffWorks



# Shotgun Shells





.410



28ga



20ga



16ga



12ga



10ga



8ga



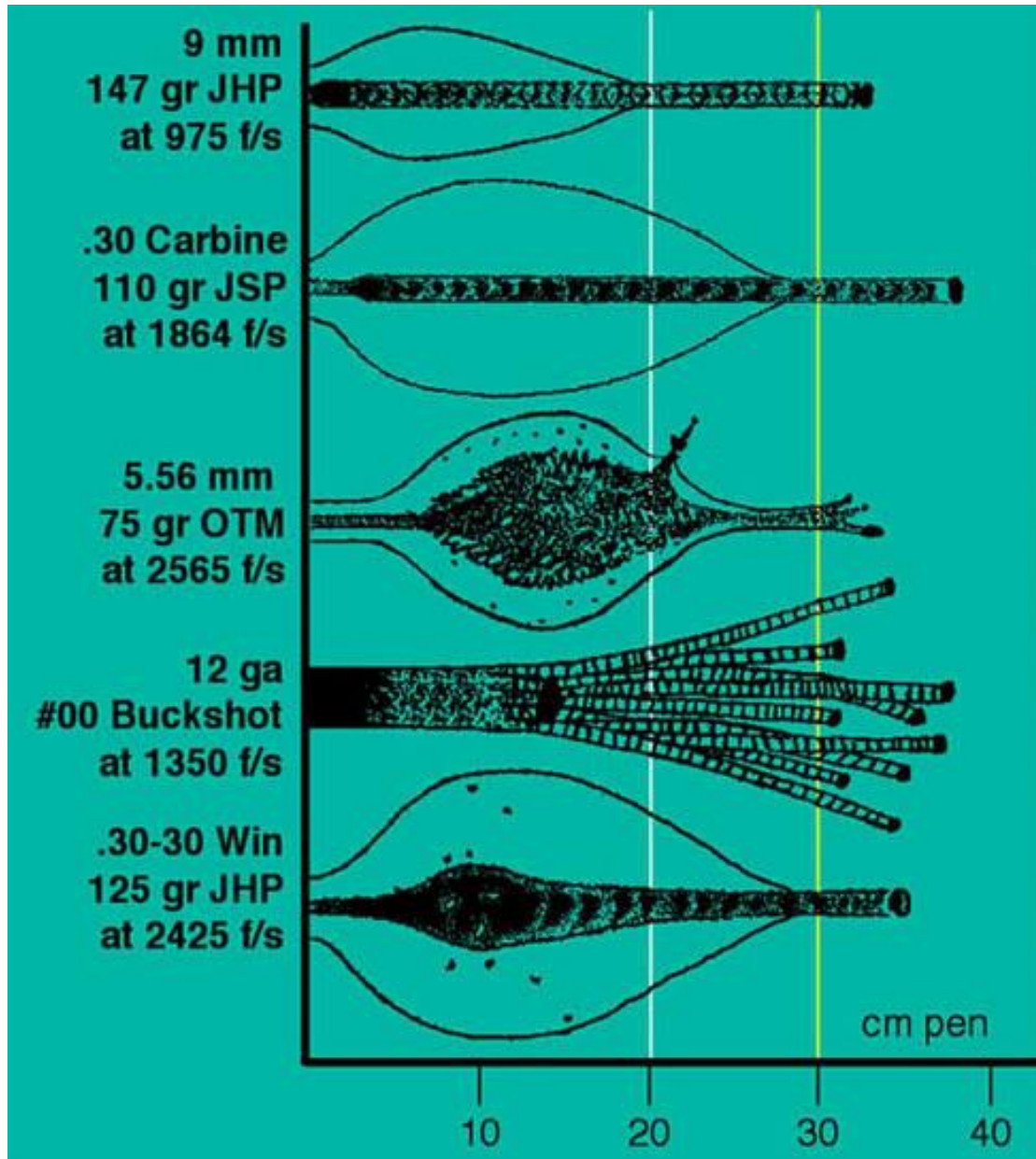
4ga

# Shot Shell Carriers





# Drywall Ammo Penetration



# Firearm Types

<http://rkba.org/guns/principles/definitions/gun-types.html>

- Firearms can be divided into those that are fired **hand-held** and those that are **braced against the shoulder** for firing.
- The former are called **pistols**, while the latter are referred to generically as **long guns**.

# Pistol

- **“Pistol” can refer to the general class of hand-fired guns.**



- **Pistol rounds are usually used at distances of less than 50 meters(164 feet;55 yards)**

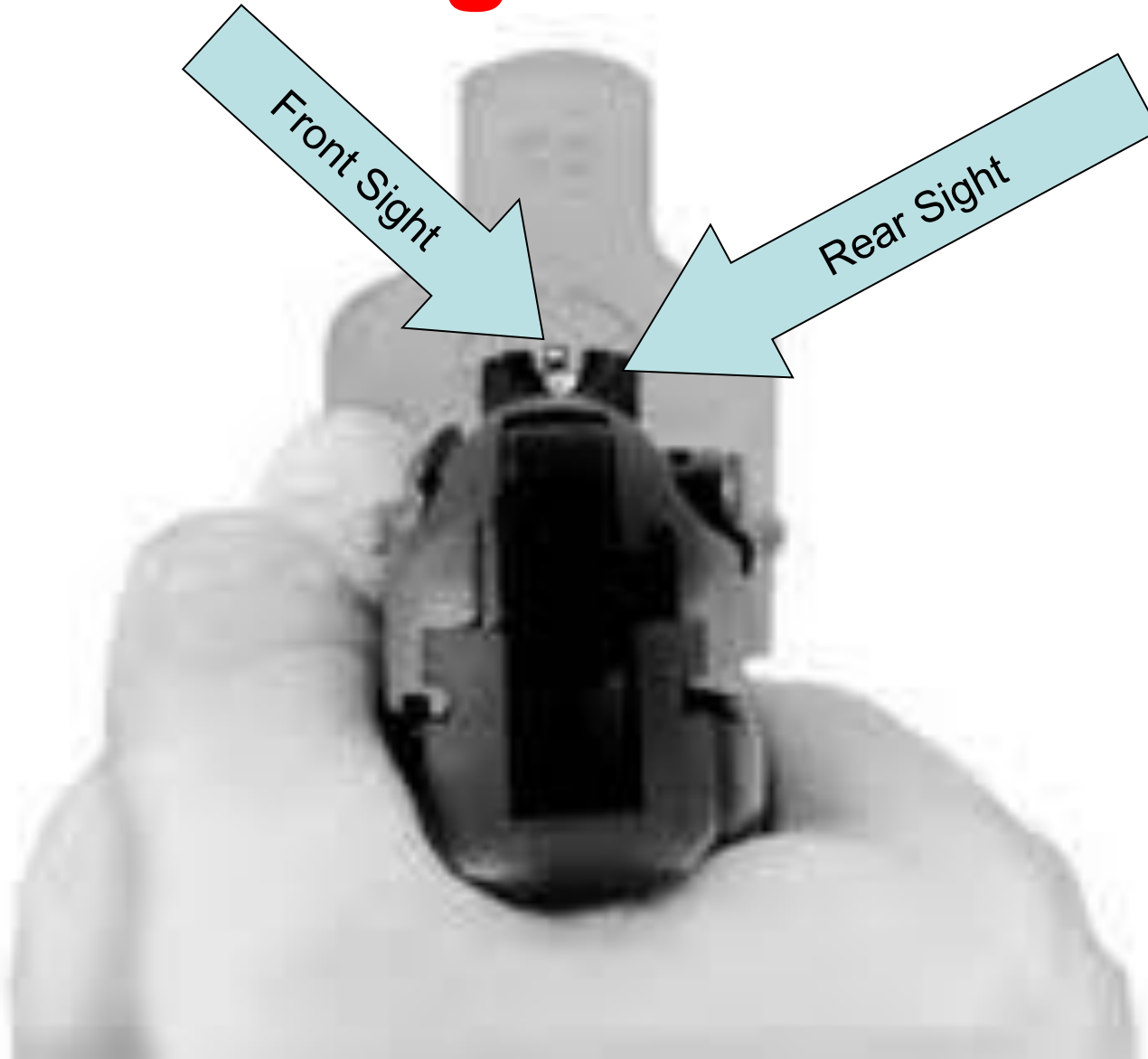


# Revolvers



- A type of pistol is the revolver.
- Revolvers have a single barrel but use a rotating cylinder with multiple chambers to provide a repeating action.

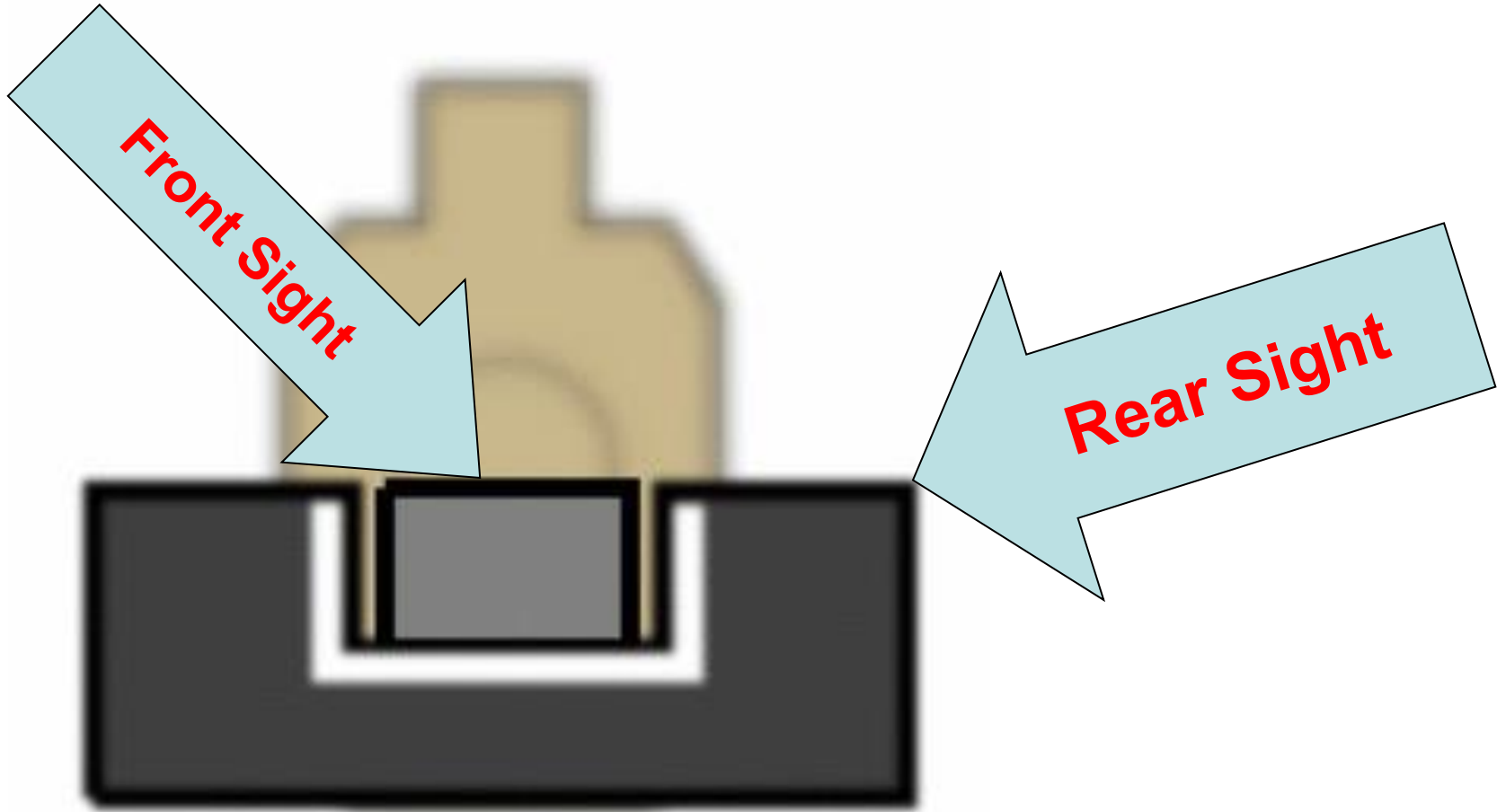
# Sight Picture



**Front Sight**

**Rear Sight**

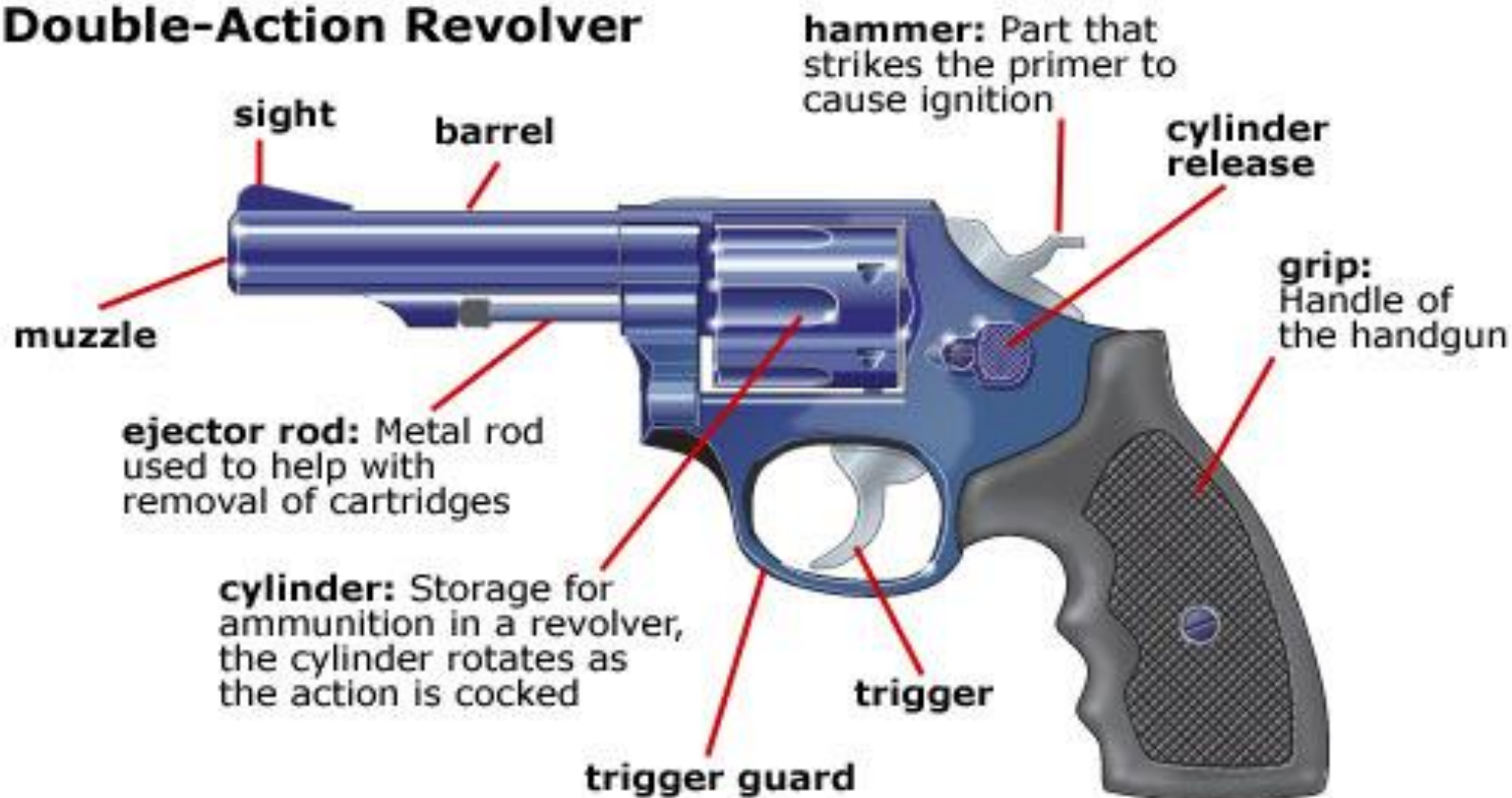




## Parts of a Handgun

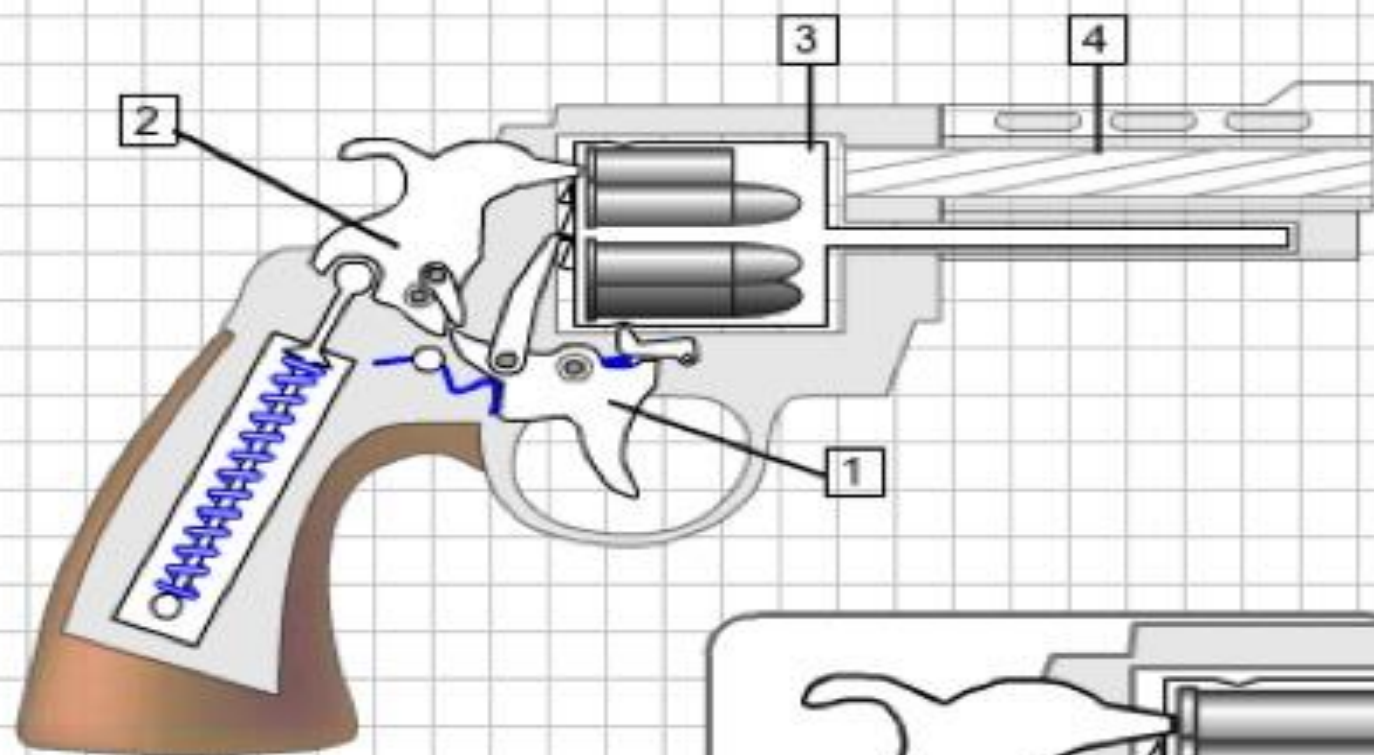
Handguns (revolvers and pistols) are short-barreled firearms sometimes used for hunting. Below are the parts of a double-action revolver and a semi-automatic pistol.

### Double-Action Revolver

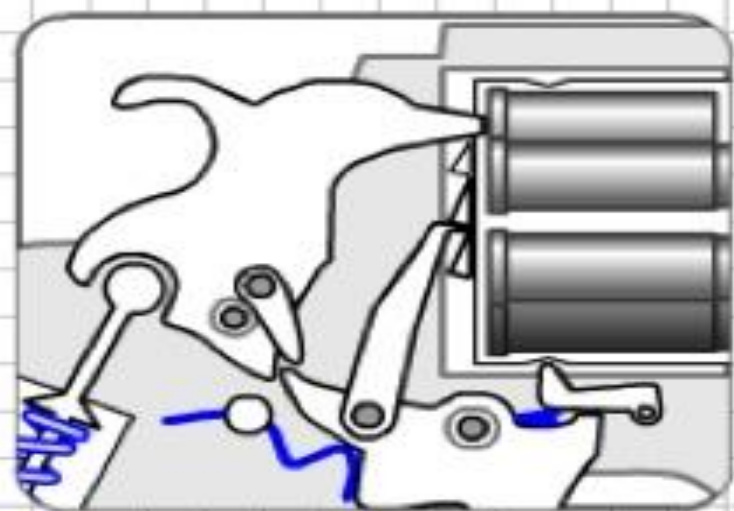




## How Revolvers Work

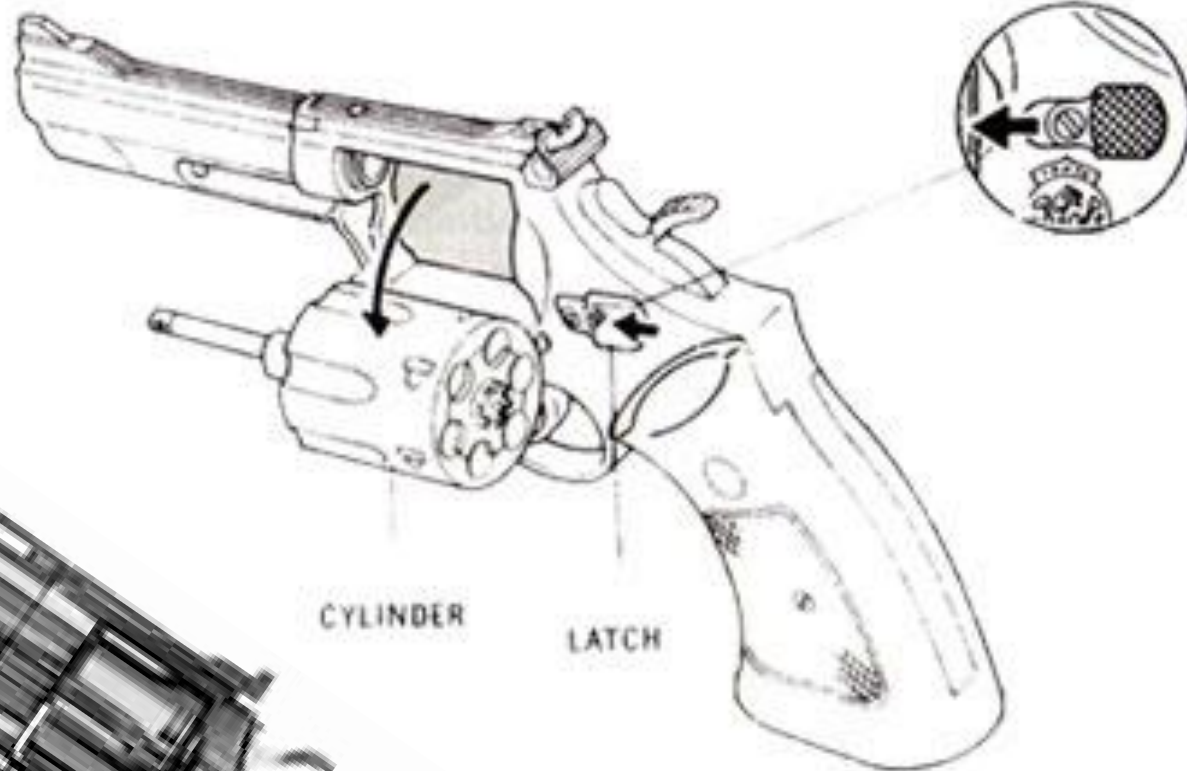


- |   |          |   |          |
|---|----------|---|----------|
| 1 | Trigger  | 4 | Barrel   |
| 2 | Hammer   | 5 | Magazine |
| 3 | Cylinder |   |          |



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**Click on the trigger to fire the gun.**



CYLINDER

LATCH



# “Semi-Auto Pistols”



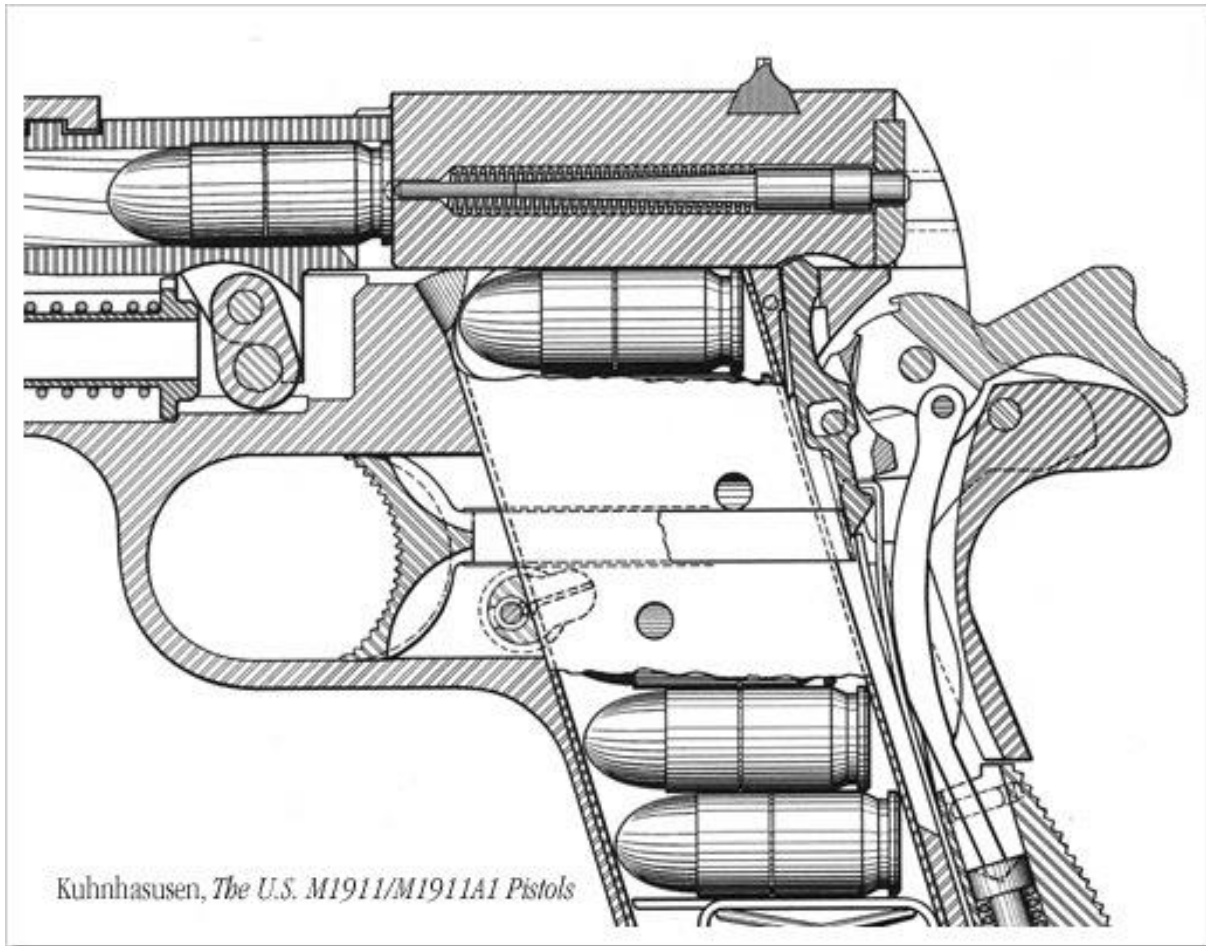
A more specific use of the term "pistol" is for self-loading (semiautomatic), magazine-fed hand guns.

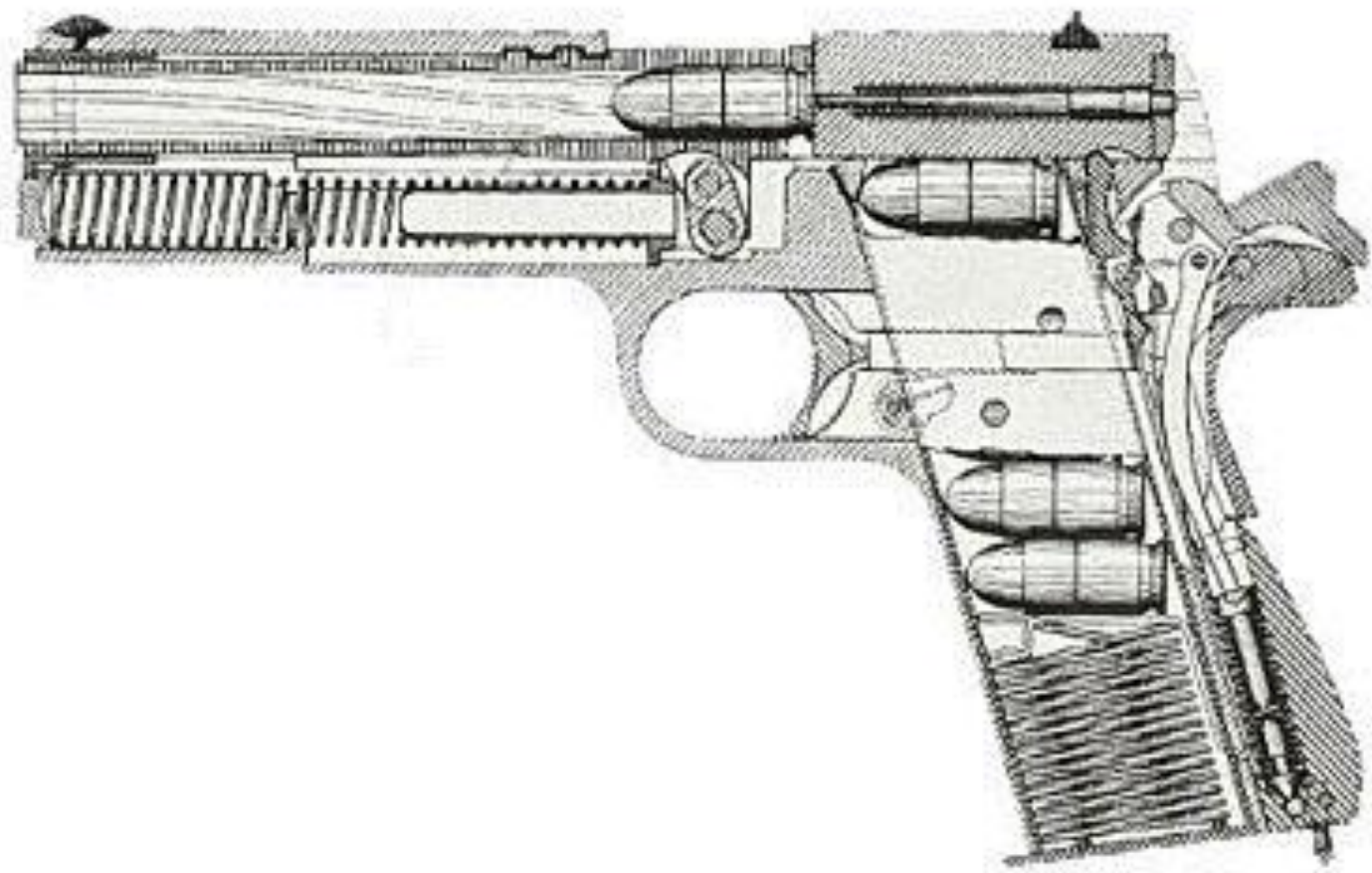


# Semi-Automatic Pistol



# Semi-Auto Pistol Action







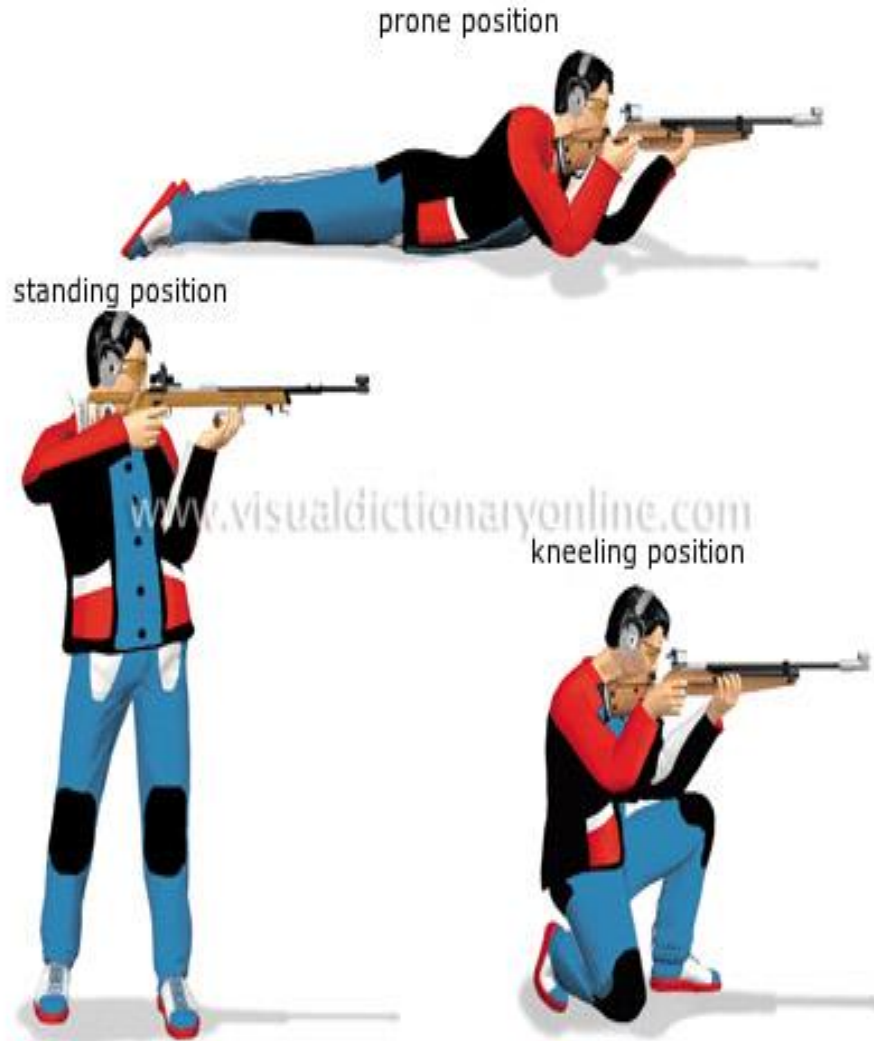
**Semi-automatic guns** are those which:

- Fire the round in the chamber
  - Extract it
  - Eject it, and
  - Load a new round into the chamber (if one is available in the magazine), **each time the trigger is pulled.**
- 
- Most semi-autos will also cock the gun at the same time, but some semi-auto pistols do not.



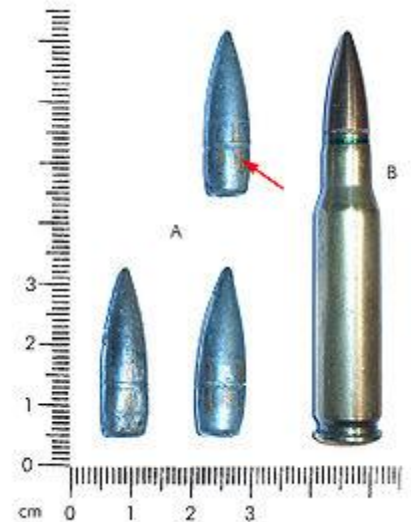
# Rifle

- A rifle is a shoulder-fired arm utilizing a relatively high-velocity round.
- They are capable of accurate fire out to a few hundred meters.



# The term rifle derives from the rifling of the barrel.

- Rifling is twisting spiraling ridges/grooves **formed on the inside of the barrel.**
- As the bullet engages the rifling it imparts spin. The spin stabilizes the flight of the bullet once it has left the barrel, giving it greater precision over longer distances.
- **Most Pistol and Long Gun barrels are usually rifled.**



Three recovered [7.62x51mm NATO](#) bullets (next to an unfired cartridge), showing rifling marks

# Rifle Actions



# Lever Action Rifles



# Bolt Action Rifles

## Parts of a Bolt Action Rifle



# Magazine



# Semi-Automatic Rifles



# Shotguns

- A shotgun is a shoulder-fired arm. Most have barrels with smooth bores and fire loads of multiple lead or steel shot (balls individually or collectively called *shot*).
- Shotguns are found in hunting, target shooting, military, police, and self-defense applications. Shotguns can also fire slugs (a single large projectile) from smooth or rifled barrels.
-





- **Shot is effective to about 40 meters (131 ft/43 yds) or less.**
- **Slugs are effective out to about 100 meters (328 ft/100yds+) or less.**
- **Shotguns are usually used at the shorter end of these ranges**

# Shotgun Actions





# Home Defense

- **Mossberg Tactical 6 Shot Synthetic 12 Ga./18 1/2" Cylinder Bore/Pistol Grip \$369.74**
- SPECIFICATIONS:  
Drop :Pistol Grip Only  
Stock :Black Synthetic

Weight :5 3/4 lbs



## **Why a Shotgun?**

- **There is no sound in the world quite as identifiable or as intimidating as the rhythmic "click-click" of a pump action shotgun being racked.**
- **In a home defense situation, the gun owner is cautioned to secure any loaded firearm, including a pump action shotgun, in a responsible manner.**



- **High quality pump action shotguns offer a distinct advantage over autoloaders in the sense that their operation tends to be mechanically reliable, even under the worst of adverse conditions.**
- **They often represent the best choice for a home defense application because they can be stored or carried in a relatively safe condition: magazine loaded, chamber empty, safety on, hammer down.**

- **A reliable, well made pump action shotgun can usually be purchased at a cost less than a comparable quality handgun.**



**Mossberg: Special Purpose shotgun**

- **Advantages of the shotgun are threefold:**
  1. There exists less danger of harming third parties through walls in the event of an errant shot
  2. The potential for inflicting wound trauma to a criminal assailant is maximized, thus halting a violent confrontation quickly;
  3. And it is easier to hit one's attacker with a shotgun when compared to a handgun.



# Model 870™ Express Tactical



- Model 870™ Express Tactical with a quick pointing 18 1/2" barrel and includes our extended ported Tactical Rem Choke. It packs a full 7 rounds of 2 3/4" or 3" 12-gauge firepower with the factory installed 2-shot extension

# Rifle Types



- **Carbine**
- **A carbine is usually a shorter, lighter rifle. It can also refer to pistol-caliber, shoulder-fired light arms. Carbines were originally developed to improve the mobility of horse-riding cavalry soldiers.**



# Rifle Bullet Power

- **.22 caliber can travel ONE MILE!**
- **.30/06 caliber can travel TWO MILES!**
- **.50 CALIBER (bmg): TWO MILES+!!**

**Know your target  
and what is  
beyond!**

# Assault Rifle

- **A true assault rifle is a small, rifle-sized, fully-automatic arm chambered for an intermediate-power rifle round such as 7.62 x 39mm (Soviet) or 5.56 x 45mm (NATO). Current examples include the AK-47, AK-74, M16, and Steyr AUG. Note that true assault rifles are the fully automatic military versions, not the semi-automatic versions commercially available in the U.S.**



# Assault Rifles





# What Is An “Assault Rifle”?

- An **assault rifle** is a rifle designed for combat with **selective fire** (capable of shooting in **both fully automatic and semi-automatic modes**).
- *For the term as used in the 1994 US Assault Weapons Ban, see **Federal Assault Weapons Ban**.*





- Assault rifles are the standard infantry weapons in most modern armies, having largely superseded or supplemented larger and more powerful battle rifles such as the M14, FN FAL and the Heckler & Koch G3. Examples of assault rifles include the AK-47, the M16 and the Steyr AUG.
- The M16 was first adopted in 1964 by the United States Air Force (USAF). It fires the 5.56x45mm NATO round.

- The term *assault rifle* is a translation of the German word ***Sturmgewehr*** (literally meaning "**storm rifle**"), "storm" used as a verb being ***synonymous with assault, as in "to storm the compound."***
- The name was coined by Adolf Hitler[1] to describe the ***Maschinenpistole 44***, subsequently re-christened ***Sturmgewehr 44***, the firearm generally considered the first true assault rifle that served to popularize the concept.

# Grandfather of the Assault Rifle StG 44 (*Sturmgewehr 44*)



- The translation *assault rifle* gradually became the common term for similar firearms sharing the same technical definition as the StG 44. In a strict definition, a firearm must have at least the following characteristics to be considered an assault rifle:
  - **It must be an individual weapon with provision to fire from the shoulder (i.e. a buttstock);**
  - **It must be capable of selective fire;**
  - It must have an intermediate-power cartridge: more power than a pistol but less than a standard rifle or battle rifle;

- The US Army defines assault rifles as "short, compact, selective-fire weapons that fire a cartridge intermediate in power between submachinegun and rifle cartridges.



From left to right: [.50 BMG](#), [300 Win Mag](#), [.308 Winchester](#), [7.62 Soviet](#), [5.56 NATO](#), [.22LR](#)

- Its [ammunition](#) must be supplied from a detachable [box magazine](#).
- Rifles that meet most of these criteria, but not all, are technically not assault rifles despite frequently being considered as such. For example, semi-automatic-only rifles that share designs with assault rifles such as the [AR-15](#) (which the [M-16](#) rifle is based on) are not assault rifles, as they are not capable of switching to automatic fire and thus not selective fire. Belt-fed weapons (such as the [M249 SAW](#)) or rifles with fixed magazines are likewise not assault rifles because they do not have detachable box magazines.
- The term "assault rifle" is often more loosely used for commercial or [political reasons](#) to include other types of arms, particularly arms that fall under a strict definition of the [battle rifle](#), or [semi-automatic](#) variant of military rifles such as [AR-15s](#)

# Assault weapons vs. Automatic weapons

- Primarily limited to the [United States](#), the term [assault weapon](#) is a legal term, separate from the technical definition, used to describe a variety of [semi-automatic](#) firearms that have certain features generally associated with military assault rifles. The 1994 [Federal Assault Weapons Ban](#), which expired on [September 13, 2004](#), defined the rifle type of assault weapon as a semiautomatic firearm with the ability to accept a [detachable magazine](#), **and two or more** of the following:
  - Folding or telescoping stock
  - Conspicuous [pistol grip](#)
  - [Bayonet](#) mount
  - [Flash suppressor](#), or threaded barrel designed to accommodate one
  - [Grenade launcher](#)
  - [Barrel shroud](#)



- The assault weapons ban did not restrict weapons capable of fully automatic fire, such as assault rifles and [machine guns](#).
- **Fully automatic weapons were unaffected by the ban and have been continuously and heavily regulated since the [National Firearms Act](#) of 1934 was passed. Subsequent laws such as the [Gun Control Act of 1968](#) and the [Firearm Owners Protection Act](#) of 1986 also affected the importation and civilian ownership of fully automatic firearms, the latter fully prohibiting sales of newly-manufactured machine guns to non-law enforcement or SOT (special occupational taxpayer) dealers.**
- Questions over the definition, manufacture, sale and ownership of assault weapons still continue; supporters and opponents of increased [gun control](#) constantly debate these topic



# Machine Guns

- **National Firearms Act Firearms:**
- It is a felony for any person to manufacture, transport, or dispose of a machine gun. It is a felony to buy, receive, dispose or conceal a machine gun which has been defaced for the purpose of concealment. The presence in any room, dwelling, structure or vehicle of any machine gun is presumptive evidence of unlawful possession by all persons occupying the place where the machine gun is found. A machine gun is defined as any weapon from which a number of shots or bullets may be rapidly or automatically discharged from a magazine with one continuous pull of the trigger and includes a submachine gun.

- ***The fundamental NRA rules for safe gun handling are:***

**1. ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.**

This is the primary rule of gun safety. A safe direction means that the gun is pointed so that even if it were to go off it would not cause injury or damage. The key to this rule is to control where the muzzle or front end of the barrel is pointed at all times. Common sense dictates the safest direction, depending on different circumstances.

**2. ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.**

When holding a gun, rest your finger on the trigger guard or along the side of the gun. Until you are actually ready to fire, do not touch the trigger.

**3. ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.**

Whenever you pick up a gun, immediately engage the safety device if possible, and, if the gun has a magazine, remove it before opening the action and looking into the chamber(s) which should be clear of ammunition. If you do not know how to open the action or inspect the chamber(s), leave the gun alone and get help from someone who does.

***When using or storing a gun, always follow these NRA rules:***

- **Know your target and what is beyond.**  
Be absolutely sure you have identified your target beyond any doubt. Equally important, be aware of the area beyond your target. This means observing your prospective area of fire before you shoot. Never fire in a direction in which there are people or any other potential for mishap. Think first. Shoot second.
- **Know how to use the gun safely.**  
Before handling a gun, learn how it operates. Know its basic parts, how to safely open and close the action and remove any ammunition from the gun or magazine. Remember, a gun's mechanical safety device is never foolproof. Nothing can ever replace safe gun handling.

- **Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.**  
Many factors must be considered when deciding where and how to store guns. A person's particular situation will be a major part of the consideration. Dozens of gun storage devices, as well as locking devices that attach directly to the gun, are available. However, mechanical locking devices, like the mechanical safeties built into guns, can fail and should not be used as a substitute for safe gun handling and the observance of all gun safety rules.
- **Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions.**
- **Cleaning**  
Regular cleaning is important in order for your gun to operate correctly and safely. Taking proper care of it will also maintain its value and extend its life. Your gun should be cleaned every time that it is used.
- A gun brought out of prolonged storage should also be cleaned before shooting. Accumulated moisture and dirt, or solidified grease and oil, can prevent the gun from operating properly.
- Before cleaning your gun, **make absolutely sure that it is unloaded.** The gun's action should be open during the cleaning process. Also, be sure that no ammunition is present in the cleaning area.
-

- **Be sure the gun is safe to operate.**  
Just like other tools, guns need regular maintenance to remain operable. Regular cleaning and proper storage are a part of the gun's general upkeep. If there is any question concerning a gun's ability to function, a knowledgeable gunsmith should look at it.
- **Use only the correct ammunition for your gun.**  
Only BBs, pellets, cartridges or shells designed for a particular gun can be fired safely in that gun. Most guns have the ammunition type stamped on the barrel. Ammunition can be identified by information printed on the box and sometimes stamped on the cartridge. Do not shoot the gun unless you know you have the proper ammunition.
- **Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate.**  
Guns are loud and the noise can cause hearing damage. They can also emit debris and hot gas that could cause eye injury. For these reasons, shooting glasses and hearing protectors should be worn by shooters and spectators.
- **Never use alcohol or over-the-counter, prescription or other drugs before or while shooting.**  
Alcohol, as well as any other substance likely to impair normal mental or physical bodily functions, must not be used before or while handling or shooting guns.

# NYS Castle Doctrine

- Under Article 35, you are under a duty to retreat unless you are in your dwelling and are NOT the initial aggressor.  
This does not mean you have carte blanche to start blasting. There are a lot of factors that are taken into consideration when deadly force is used even in your own home. Factors such as what precipitated the use of deadly force, were you or a family member threatened with the use of force or deadly force by the intruder, was the intruder leaving or attempting to leave..etc , Unfortunately, these questions are asked and answered after the fact when people on the jury have time to sit and analyze what happened rather than having to make a decision while being caught up in the adrenalin when it is actually happening. This is not saying you should not protect yourself but remember, the use of deadly force in ANY instance should be a last resort. Using deadly force as a last resort and only as a last resort strengthens your defense in any criminal case that may be brought against you. And if an investigation shows you had no other alternative but to use deadly force, any investigating officer would recommend no charges be brought. Contrary to what some people here on this forum believe, an investigator in a matter such as this is not looking to jam you if you are in the right. And unless there is circumstances that are questionable, a DA would usually (I say usually, not always) follow the recommendation fo the investigators. As far as civil liability is concerned, that is a whole different ballgame that castle doctrine cannot address. Civil law is totally removed from criminal law and liability

Steve G.

- NRA Endowment, NYSRP Life, Member SASI, JPFO, SAF  
Club LIF Member  
LISAPA Politics/LegalCommittee

