



# **Rifles For Rookies**

## ***A Firearm Manual for the Completely New***

This introductory manual will cover the basis of firearms acquisition, ownership, law, terminology, safety, and ammunition. It will include information covering where to buy a gun, the process of buying a gun in a store, how to buy online, basic safety aspects of handling a firearm, gun terminology, common firearm types, and ammunition. This guide is intended for the very beginner.

The purpose of this guide is to be a general overview, not a specific legal manual. The application and impact of laws can vary widely based on the specific facts involved. Given the changing nature of laws, rules, and regulations, and the inherent hazards of electronic communication, there may be delays, omissions, or inaccuracies in information contained in this Ebook. Accordingly, information contained herein is provided with the understanding that the authors and publishers are not herein engaged in rendering legal, or other professional advice and services. As such, it should not be used as a substitute for consultation with professional legal or other competent advisers. Before making any decision or taking any action, you should consult a legal professional.

# Buying a gun:

In most US states, buying a gun is an easy process. The steps I outline here will be specific to my state. However, they will most likely apply to other states as well. In my state you do not need a license to purchase a firearm. You do not need to register your firearm once you have bought it. There is no waiting period required for purchasing.

When it comes to the process of buying a gun, there are three types of transactions:

- A. Purchases from a licensed dealer
- B. Private purchases
- C. Online sales

**Type A:** If you go to a gun store, a pawn shop, a big box retailer like Wal-Mart, a sporting goods store like Academy, an outdoor store such as Bass Pro Shop, or a vendor at a gun show, you will be purchasing from a licensed gun dealer with a Federal Firearms License (FFL). This means the vendor has applied with the federal government through the ATF for a license to sell firearms. In doing so, they have promised to follow certain steps for every firearms transaction they process. To buy a gun through a licensed dealer, you will have to do these things:

1. Present a government issued ID with a photograph and current physical address
2. Fill out a Form 4473. This is an ATF form that asks you certain questions regarding your identity, citizenship, criminal background, mental health status, and if you are subject to any current restraining order. Lying on this form is a felony. Your address on this form must match the identification you present to the dealer.
3. After you have filled out Form 4473, the dealer will perform a background check, usually over the phone or electronically. This is an instant background check ran through the FBI. At this point, you will either be accepted or denied for your purchase.
4. When you are accepted, you pay for your firearm like you would anything else, collect your receipt, and go home.

**Type B:** A private purchase is a sale between two citizens, neither of which are operating as a business. For example, if you go to a garage sale and purchase a BBQ grill neither you nor the seller are operating as a business. The seller is not required to get a sales tax permit, register his garage sale under a business name, or perform any of the bureaucratic steps necessary to operating a business. He is in all likelihood selling his grill at a loss, and therefore not going to pay taxes on the sale.

In the same vein, if you go to your neighbor's house to buy a gun he owns, neither of you have to perform the same steps you would normally be required to perform in order to buy from a licensed dealer operating in the business of selling firearms.

This aspect of private sales is what has prompted a political push for "universal background checks".

**Type C:** Online sales are becoming increasingly popular. Contrary to popular myth, you cannot just order a gun on the internet and have it shipped to your house. As with any retailer, online gun stores are licensed by the government. The process for ordering a firearm online works like this:

1. Find the firearm you want to buy online.
2. Find a local gun dealer with an FFL that is willing to accept the shipment from the online store.
3. Purchase the gun online and have it shipped to your local gun dealer.
4. When the gun arrives to the local dealer, you will go there to tell them you want to pick up your gun. They will have you perform the steps from a normal gun purchase through a dealer, checking your ID, filling out Form 4473, and undergoing a background check. They will charge a small fee for performing this service, usually anywhere from \$10-\$50.
5. After your transaction is complete, take your gun and go home.

# Rules of Gun Safety

In general, there are four rules of gun safety that should be adhered to at all times. These rules should be in your mind any time you are handling a firearm or in the presence of someone who is. If you are a beginner, memorize them. You should be practicing them to the point they become automatic habit.

The rules are designed in such a way that if you slip up and violate any one rule the other rules will save you from injuring or killing someone else or yourself.

Firearms are not toys. They demand a certain level of respect. Take heed.

## The Rules:

1. **All guns are always loaded.**
2. **Never let the muzzle cover anything you are not willing to destroy.**
3. **Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target and you are ready to fire.**
4. **Be sure of your target and what is beyond it.**

# Gun Anatomy

Proper understanding of gun safety requires knowledge of firearm anatomy. Knowing the various parts of firearms and how they work will go a long way to preventing safety mistakes.

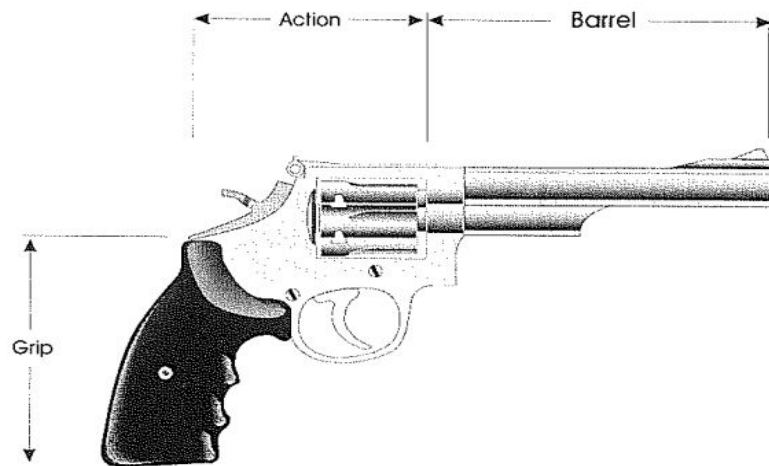
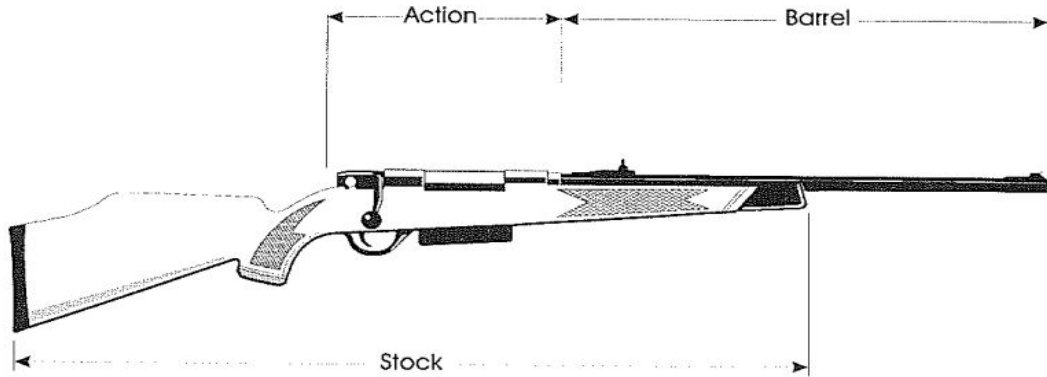
The **barrel** is a tube which the bullet or shot is fired through when the firearm is discharged.

The **action** contains the parts that load a cartridge, fire the ammunition, and remove the used casing. Triggers, safeties, and magazines are all part of the action.

The **trigger** releases the part of the action that fires the cartridge. The **trigger guard** is a loop around the trigger made to protect the trigger from being accidentally pulled.

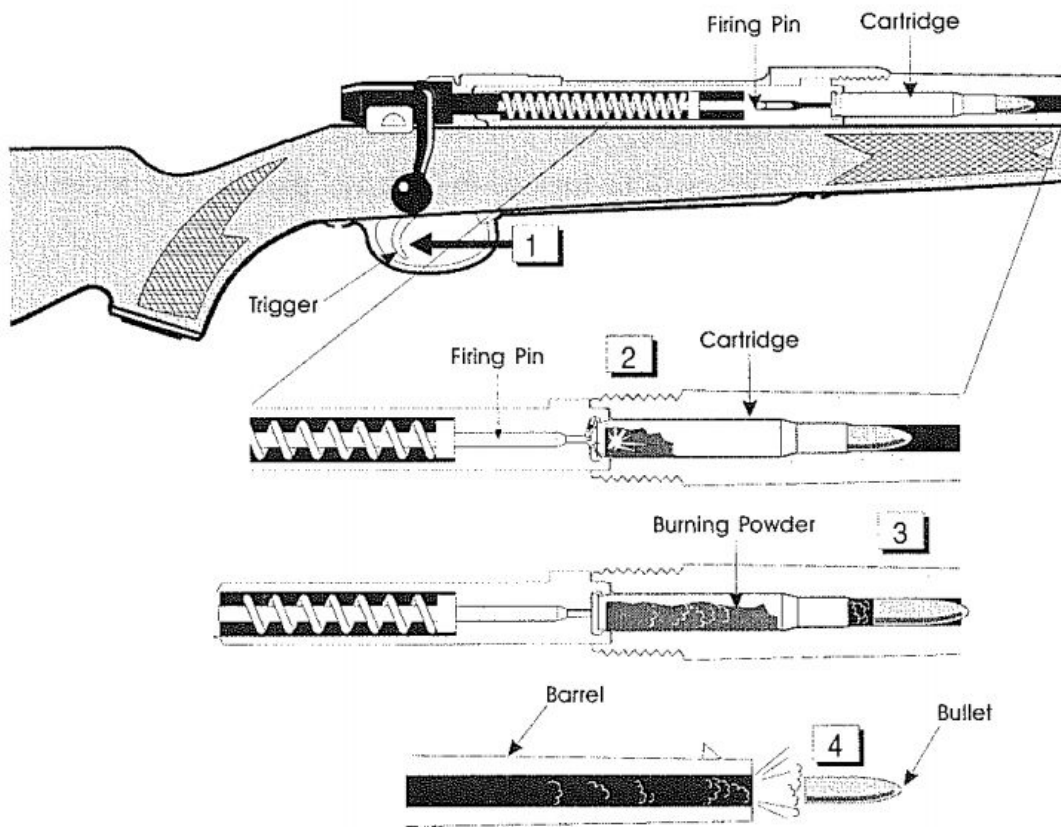
**Safeties** block some part of the action to prevent the gun from firing. Some guns do not have safeties.

The **stock** or **grip** is the handle of the firearm.



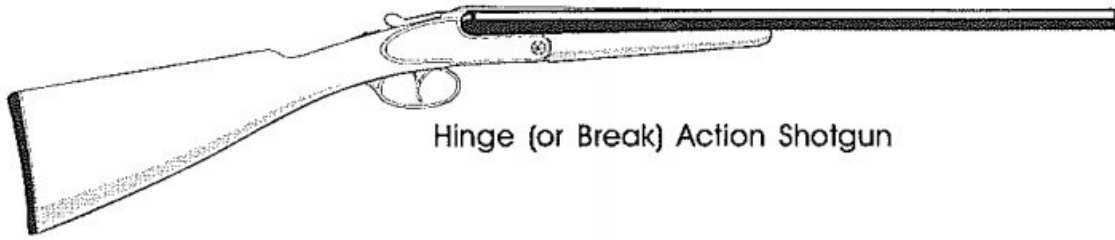
Just about all modern firearms follow the same firing sequence:

1. A squeeze on the trigger releases the firing mechanism. This results in the firing pin striking the primer on the cartridge.
2. When struck by the firing pin, the primer explodes. This projects a flame into the cartridge body.
3. The flame from the primer ignites the powder. The powder burns and produces rapidly expanding gases.
4. The high pressure gas drives the bullet or shot forward through the barrel.



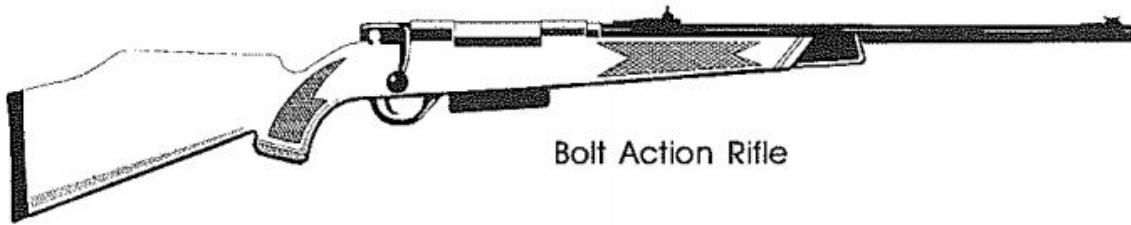
There are many various kinds of firearms in different configurations. One of the variables is the type of **action**. Rifles, handguns, and shotguns can be set up with several different styles of action. Some of the styles are illustrated below.

**Break Action** involves having to push a lever or button to “break” open the firearm, manually extract the used casings, and reloading by hand. Many double-barrel shotguns function this way.



Hinge (or Break) Action Shotgun

**Bolt Action** guns require you to manually cycle the bolt in order to reload, or rechamber another round. This style is very common in hunting rifles.



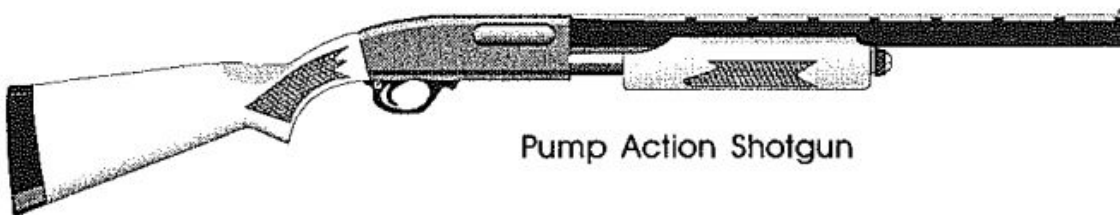
Bolt Action Rifle

**Lever Action** rifles require you to manually cycle the lever underneath the gun to load another round into the chamber. When most people see a lever action they think “cowboy” gun.



Lever Action Rifle

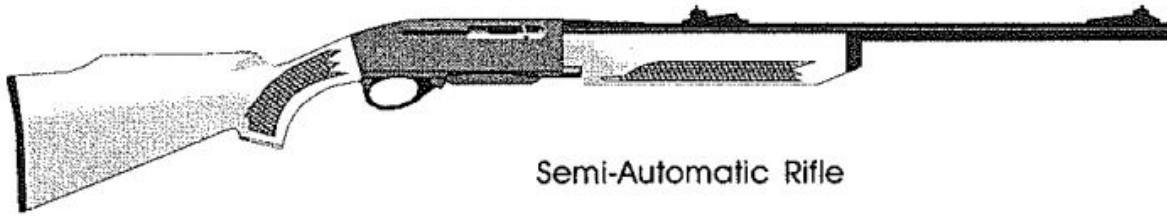
**Pump Action** is another manually operated style of action. It requires you to pump a hand grip to cycle the rounds. Many shotguns are configured this way.



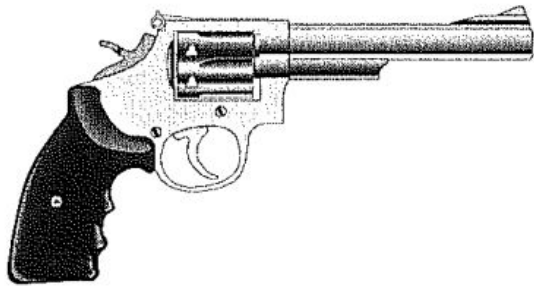
Pump Action Shotgun



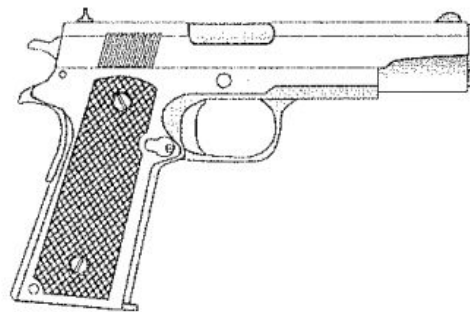
**Semi-Auto Action** firearms are automatically cycles every time the trigger is pulled. No manual cycling of the gun is required. Each time the trigger is pulled, one round will fire.



Semi-Automatic Rifle



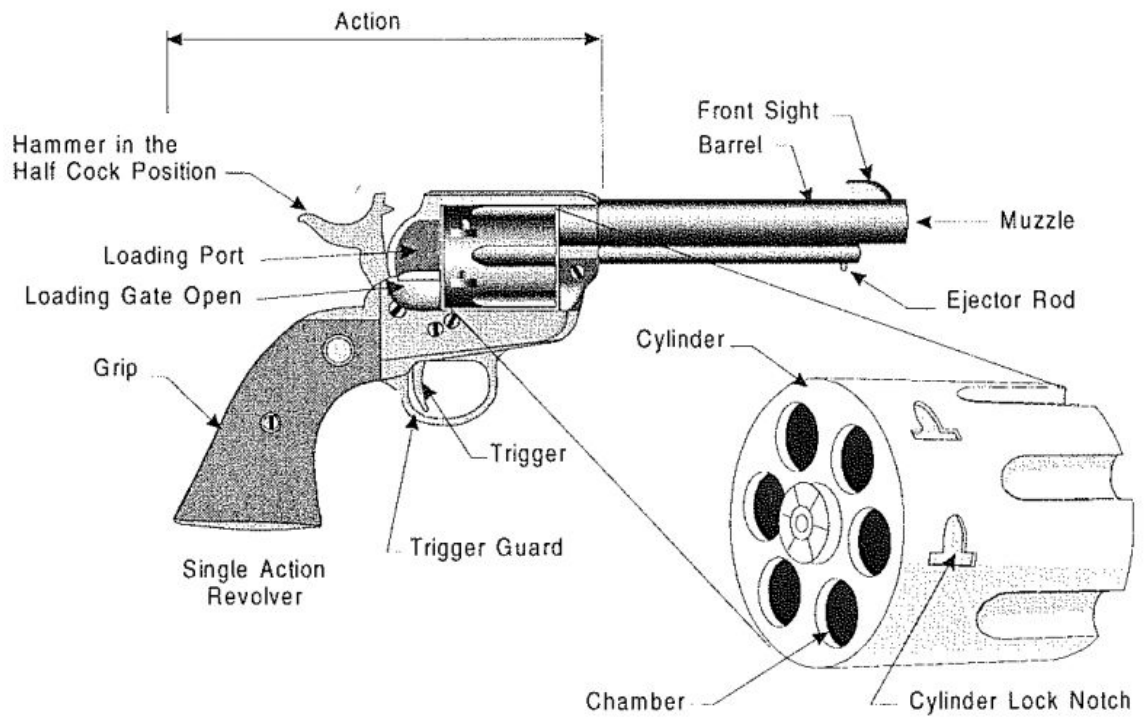
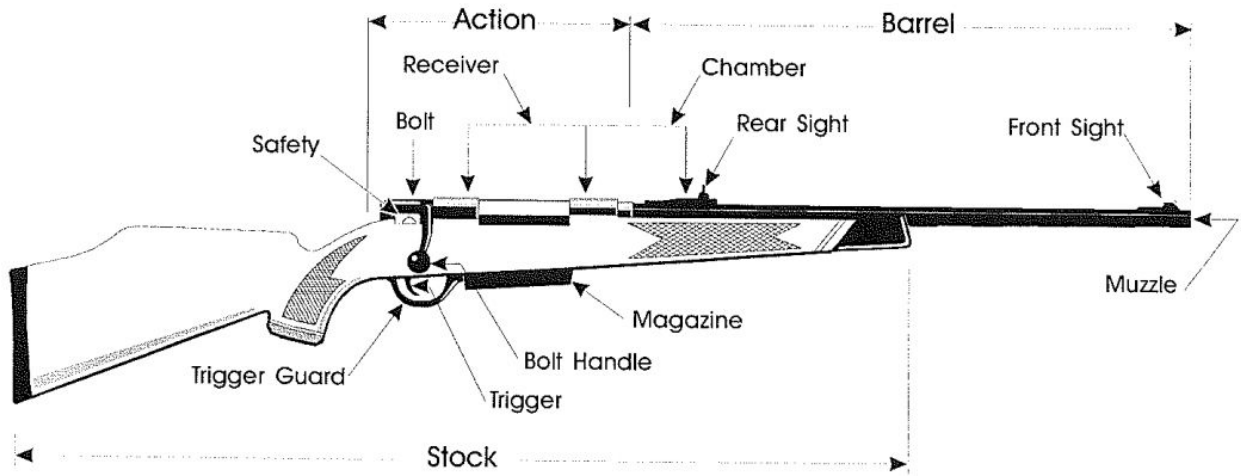
Double Action  
Revolver

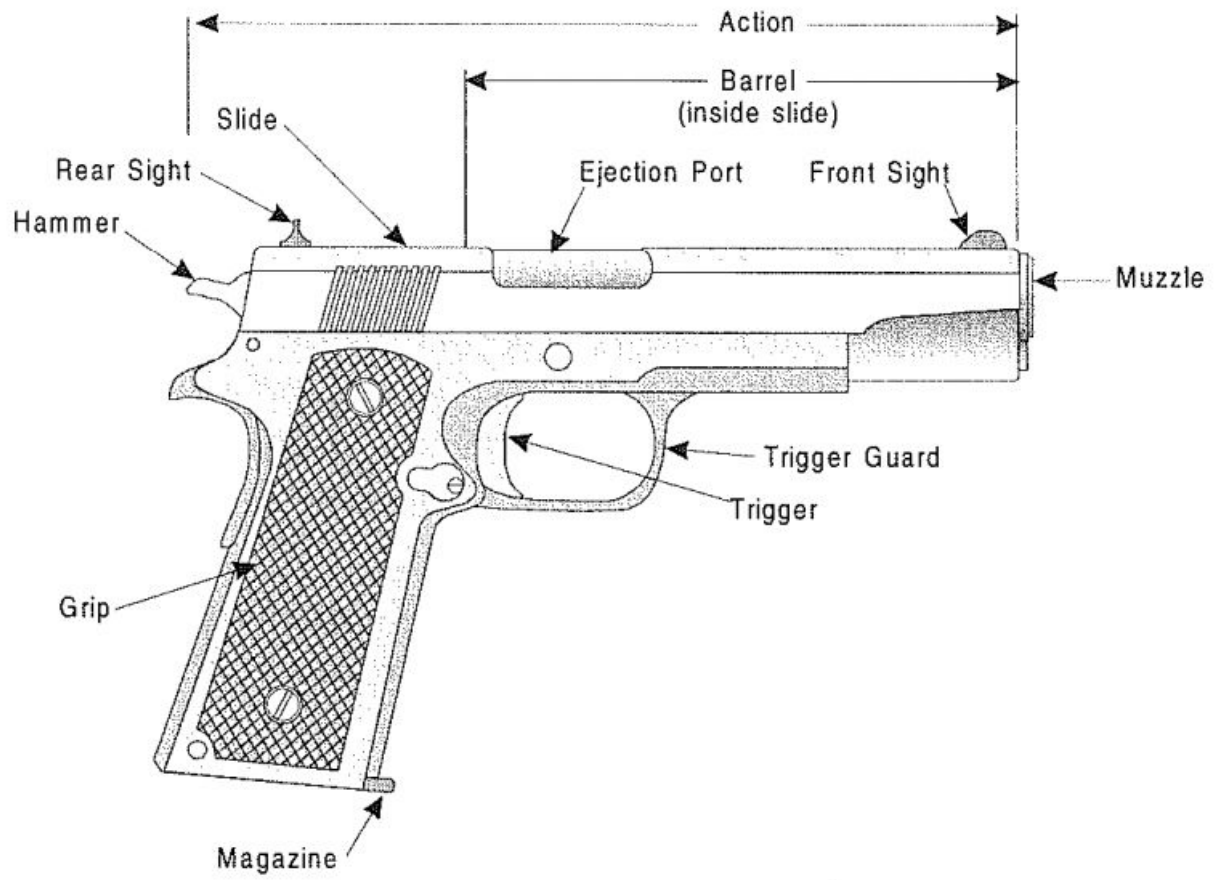


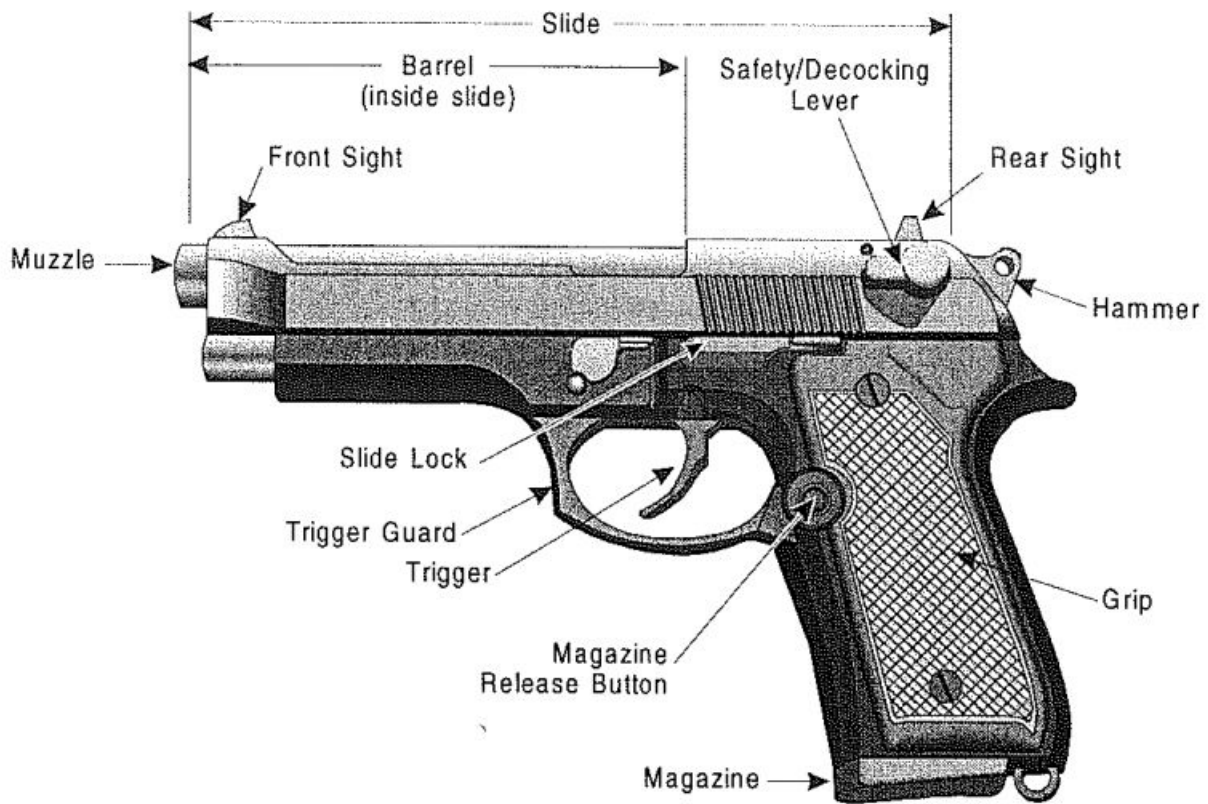
Single Action  
Semi-Automatic

All of the individual pieces of a firearm have the potential to be of different size, shape, and configuration from gun to gun. Understanding the terminology and various parts on the most basic types of firearms will help you further your understanding as things

become more complicated. Use the illustrations below for reference.





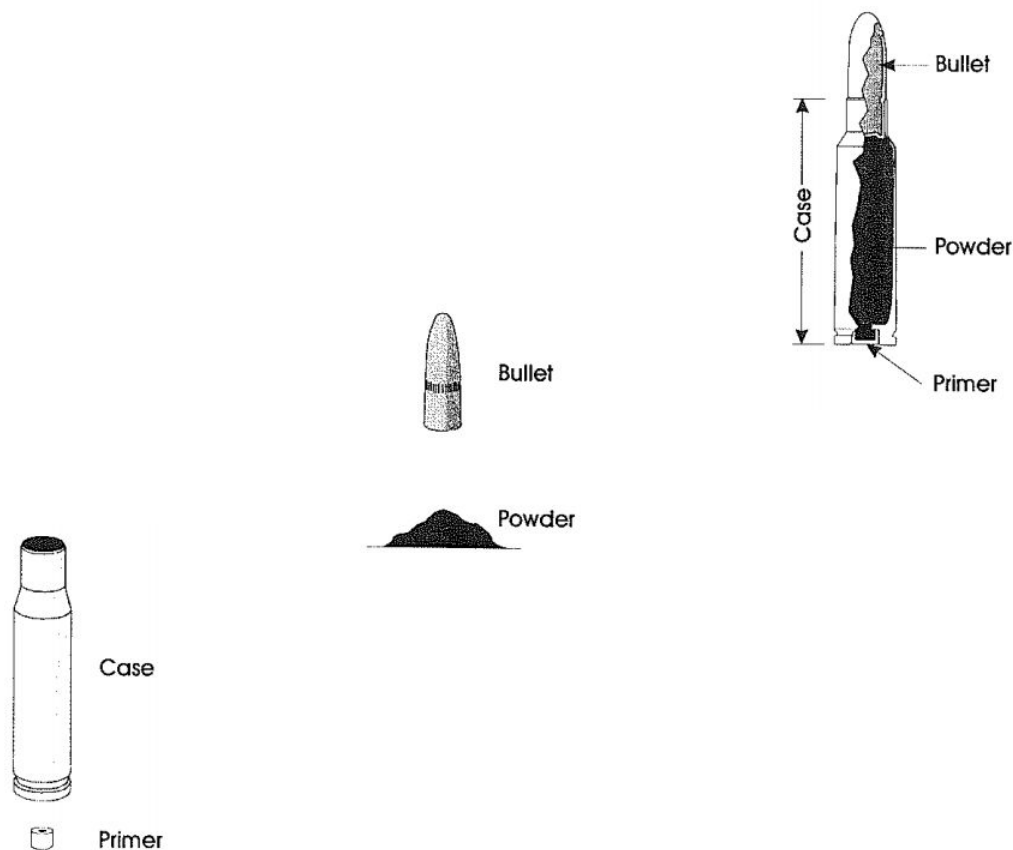


# Ammunition

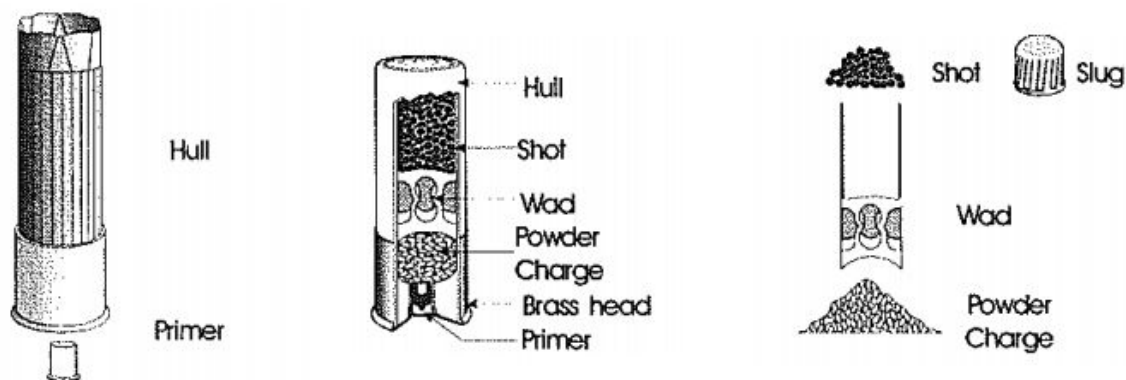
More various than the types of firearms on the market is the variety of ammunition available. Entire books have been written about the different kinds of shotgun ammo alone. This section will provide you with a brief rundown of the most common varieties available, what their use is, how they work, and some further considerations.

All ammunition functions in essentially the same way. The gun's **hammer** strikes a **firing pin** which sets off the **primer**. The primer ignites the **powder**. The explosive force of the powder launches the **bullet** out of the **case** or **shell**.

Together these components make up a **round**. It is common for people outside of the firearms community to call the entire round a "bullet" in a colloquial manner. However, this is technically incorrect. The **bullet** is only the projectile that is launched from the gun.



Shotgun shells work in the same way. The hammer of the gun strikes the firing pin which strikes and ignites the primer. Shotgun shells are designed differently in that they fire **shot** rather than a bullet. **Shot** comes in different sizes for different purposes. Unlike other rounds, shotgun shells are generally measured in size by gauge rather than caliber. E.g. 12 gauge, 20 gauge, etc...



### Self Defense Considerations:

Many people choose to carry a handgun for self defense. Exactly which handgun ammunition is best to carry is a contentious debate in the firearms community. Generally speaking, 9mm and .45 are the two most common calibers carried. .38 and .40 are also very popular.

In the aftermath of what came to be known as the 1986 FBI Miami Shootout, the FBI created a report in 1989 entitled *Handgun Wounding Factors and Effectiveness*. The goal of the report is to advise law enforcement on selection of handgun ammunition. Here is one snippet from the report:

*All handgun wounds will combine the components of penetration, permanent cavity, and temporary cavity to a greater or lesser degree. Fragmentation, on the other hand, does not reliably occur in handgun wounds due to the relatively low velocities of handgun bullets...With the exceptions of hits to the brain or upper spinal cord, the concept of reliable and reproducible immediate incapacitation of the human target by gunshot wounds to the torso is a myth. The human target is a complex and durable one. A wide variety of psychological, physical, and physiological factors exist, all of them pertinent to the probability of incapacitation.*

*Physiologically, a determined adversary can be stopped reliably and immediately only by a shot that disrupts the brain or upper spinal cord. Failing a hit to the central nervous system, massive bleeding from holes in the heart or major blood vessels of the torso causing circulatory collapse is*

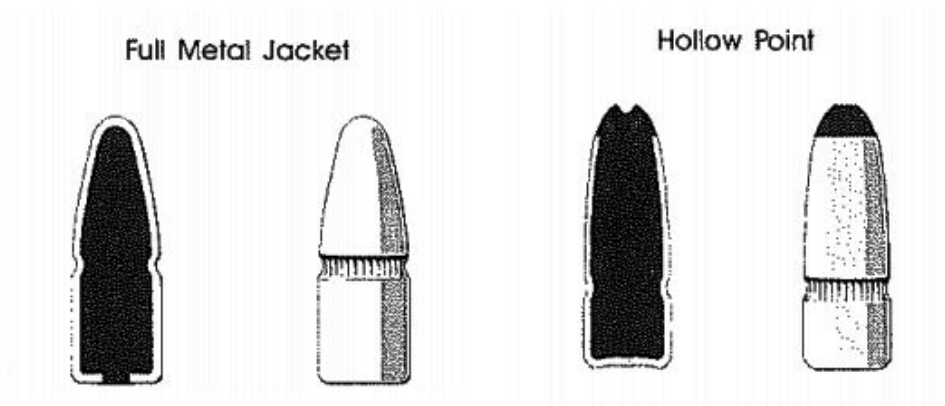
*the only other way to force incapacitation upon an adversary, and this takes time. For example, there is sufficient oxygen within the brain to support full, voluntary action for 10-15 seconds after the heart has been destroyed.*

*In fact, physiological factors may actually play a relatively minor role in achieving rapid incapacitation. Barring central nervous system hits, there is no physiological reason for an individual to be incapacitated by even a fatal wound, until blood loss is sufficient to drop blood pressure and/or the brain is deprived of oxygen.*

*The often referred to "knock-down power" implies the ability of a bullet to move its target. This is nothing more than momentum of the bullet. It is the transfer of momentum that will cause a target to move in response to the blow received. "Isaac Newton proved this to be the case mathematically in the 17th Century, and Benjamin Robins verified it experimentally through the invention and use of the ballistic pendulum to determine muzzle velocity by measurement of the pendulum motion." A bullet simply cannot knock a man down. If it had the energy to do so, then equal energy would be applied against the shooter and he too would be knocked down. This is simple physics, and has been known for hundreds of years.*

The best handgun caliber for self defense is the one that you can reliably deploy to get on target, not the biggest cartridge with the most "stopping power". Choosing a larger round based on the myth of stopping power is not based on medical science or physics. Even .22 caliber rounds are capable of killing reliably.

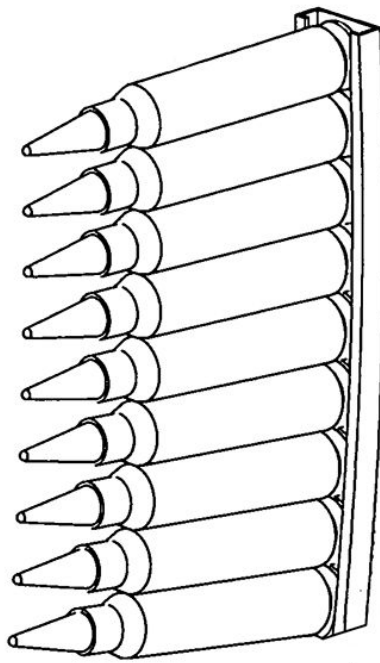
Another choice to make for self defense consideration is hollow point vs full metal jacket bullets. A hollow point is hollowed out in the tip of the bullet for the purpose of causing the bullet to expand upon penetration of the target. This expansion causes greater tissue disruption, and greater drag as the bullet passes through the target, therefore limiting the penetration of the bullet.



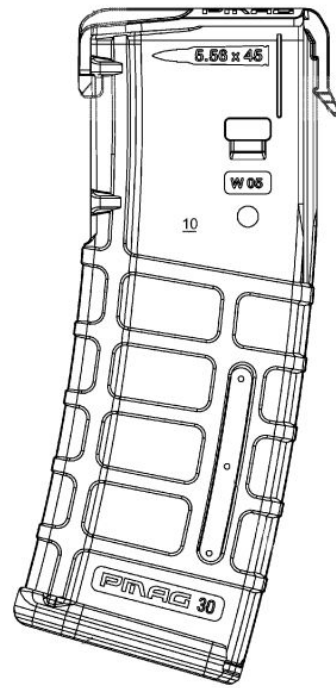
This expansion of the bullet is known as the bullet's mushroom. Full metal jacket bullets that do not achieve this kind of expansion are likely to pass clean through the target, thereby not transferring their full energy potential into the target. Instead, the bullet keeps on travelling, expelling all of its energy into whatever else it strikes.

For self defense purposes, you want your bullets to stay in your target's body as long as possible, transferring the full energy of the round into the target. Hollow points are ideal for this. Also, they are better if you are worried about over-penetration and collateral damage, as may be the case in a home-defense situation. Hollow point bullets are less likely to travel through your target and keep travelling through the walls of your house.





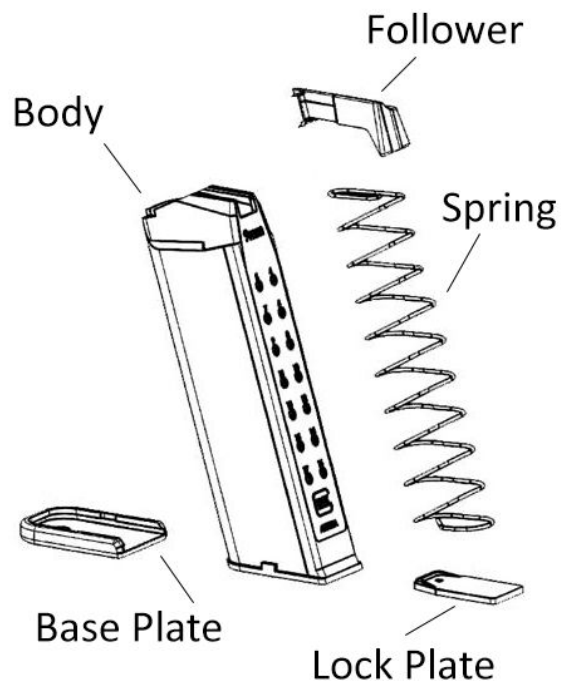
Clip



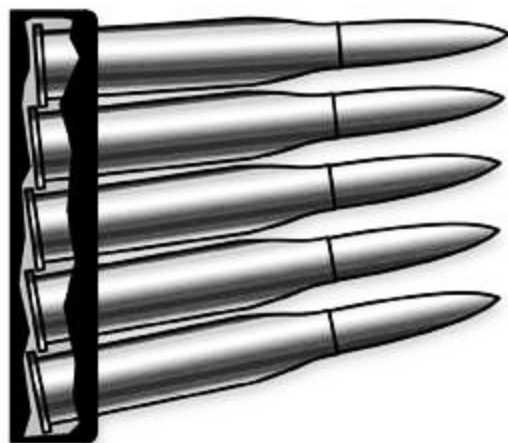
Magazine

Concerning colloquialisms, ammunition, and gun terminology is this important point: In movies, TV shows, music, and daytime news broadcasts you will hear the words “clip” and “magazine” used interchangeably. This is incorrect. A magazine is **not** a clip. A clip is *not* a magazine.

The magazine functions by moving the cartridges stored in the magazine into a position where they may be loaded into the chamber by the action of the firearm. A firearm loads rounds into the chamber from a magazine.



A clip is a device that is used to store multiple rounds of ammunition together as a unit, ready for insertion into a magazine. The purpose of a clip is to load a magazine.



This might seem like a petty semantic technicality, but they really are two different devices with different purposes. We all have slip-ups now and then. Just know that calling a magazine a “clip” is the quickest way to out yourself as someone who does not understand firearms.



# Conclusion

Hopefully this guide has been helpful to you in gathering a basic understanding of firearms, their function, terminology, ammunition, and purchases. It is my hope you will use this knowledge for good.

Get together with your friends and neighbors and train, run shooting drills, develop a disaster preparedness plan, and establish a neighborhood watch in your community. Grow food, share seeds, organize a local shooting group, learn radio, learn first aid, volunteer during disasters, assemble, boycott, protest, and bolster your community's self reliance. Convince your fellow citizens to participate with you and counter-protest anyone intimidating immigrants, religious minorities, people of color, or other socialists.

*"It takes a socialist with a gun to stop a fascist with a gun."*