



Carrick Sportsmen's Club

Handgun Cleaning 101

Class Agenda

- Welcome!
- Introduction & Ground Rules
- Basic Safety
- Cleaning Equipment
- Handgun Types
- Handgun Cleaning
- Q&A
- Hands-on Cleaning
- Cleanup & Thank you

Disclaimer

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Introduction

- Say Hello to your Instructors
- Concealed Carry Notice
 - Do you have a carry piece on you? For the security of all those present the following must be adhered to.
 - You may continue to carry your defensive firearm for the duration of this class, with one caveat. It will not be accessed unless you are presented with a life-threatening situation, OR you request permission to access it.
 - Thank you for your understanding of the need for this to be addressed.

Course Ground Rules

- All ammunition is to be removed from the classroom before class begins.
 - It may be taken to the bench on the indoor range; or moved to your vehicle.
- Restrooms are to your left: ladies to the left and gentlemen to the right.
- Cell phones should be on vibrate or off.
- There is bottled water in the refrigerator.
- There is no smoking during the class.
- If the room temperature is too hot or too cold, please let us know.
- Please ask questions.

Course Introduction

- There are many types of firearms, and many methods of disassembly and reassembly.
- Always refer to your firearm's manual for the procedure specific to your specific firearm.
- In this class, we will introduce you to cleaning the most common types of firearms you are likely to encounter.
- The actual cleaning process is common to the action type being cleaned, but the specific steps to disassemble and reassemble will be slightly different depending on make and model of the firearm.

Basic Safety – Always Remember & Practice these

- Treat every firearm as if it is loaded
- Never point a gun at anything you are not willing to destroy
- Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to fire
- Be sure of your target and what is behind it

During this class:

- Please do not handle or touch your firearm until told to do so by the instructor(s).
- Your ECI must remain in place until told to remove it by the instructor(s).
- Failure to abide by these rules is subject for dismissal.

Thank you.

Cleaning your firearm requires disassembly, often pulling the trigger, and pointing the firearm and components of the firearm in various directions.

The first thing we will always do is clear the firearm.

Some best practices to remember when cleaning:

- Never have ammunition in the same area as where you are cleaning. Remove any ammunition from the table, bench, or even the room you will be using.
- Eliminate distractions
- Clean in a well-ventilated area
- Wear gloves if you are sensitive to chemicals or solvents
- Use a cleaning mat to protect your table or bench and to keep small parts from rolling around and getting lost
- Perform a function check following reassembly

Cleaning Equipment

Regardless of the type of firearm you will be cleaning, a good cleaning kit is essential. Cleaning kits differ from manufacturer to manufacturer, but in general, the items you will need are shown below. The quantity and sizes of the various brushes, jags, mops, patch loops, etc vary depending on the type and caliber of the firearm you are cleaning. Often an all-inclusive kit such as this can be the most economical solution for a variety of firearms.



Handgun Types

The most common types of handguns, and those we will cover in this class, are:

- Semi-Automatic Pistol
- Revolver

In class, we will assist you with your specific firearm if we are able to do so, and we will demonstrate these techniques and walk you through the process on as many types of actions as you are interested in, and we have available.

Semi-Automatic Pistols

For this type of firearm, the photos below are of a Glock pistol. The steps to clean a semi-automatic pistol are as follows:

- Unload and show clear
- Disassemble the pistol
- Clean Guide Rod
- Clean Barrel
- Clean Slide
- Clean Frame
- Lubricate pistol
- Reassemble
- Function Test



Unload and Show Clear

The first step in cleaning any gun is to make sure it is unloaded, and all ammunition is stored away from the cleaning area for the remainder of the cleaning process. Remove the magazine and lock the slide to the rear, ejecting any live ammo from the chamber.



Empty the magazine and remove all ammunition from the room. With the slide locked back, visually check several times that the gun is unloaded, and no ammunition is present in the chamber or magwell.



Disassemble the pistol

Once you are certain the pistol is clear of ammunition, disassemble the firearm. While specific firearms may disassemble differently, in general, you must pull the trigger (which is why you must be certain there is no ammunition in the pistol and always point it in a safe direction).

Once you pull the trigger, using your non- dominant hand, grasp the rear of the slide and pull back slightly (1/4" or so).

Using your dominant hand, pull down on the takedown lever(s) to release the slide. The slide will slide forward and then can be lifted off the frame.



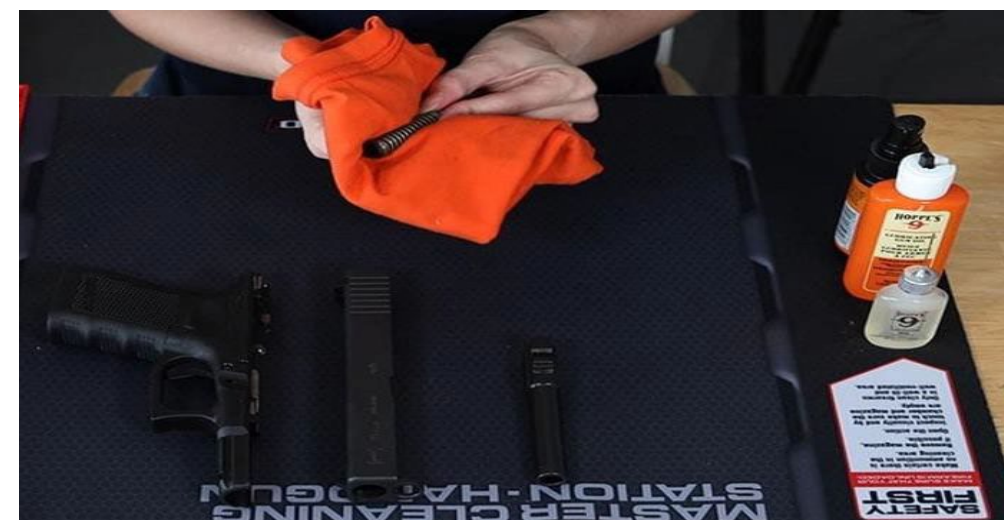
Remove Barrel and Guide Rod

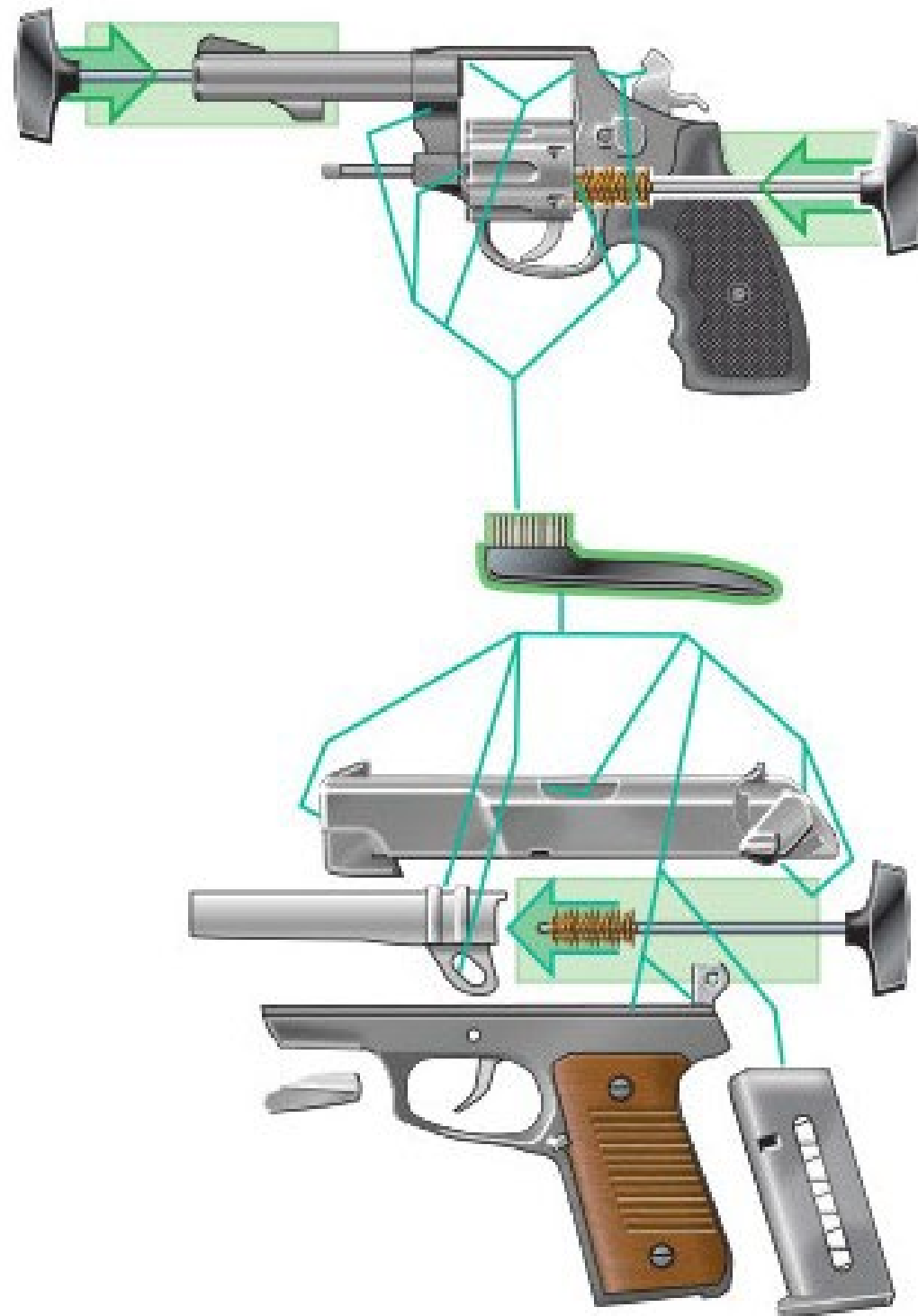
With the slide in your hand, use your thumb to apply slight pressure forward and up to the guide rod to release and remove it. Then pull the barrel up and out of the slide. At this point you have “field stripped” the pistol.



Clean the Guide Rod

Simply wipe the guide rod and spring with a rag. If there is persistent debris, you can scrub it with nylon bristle brush (such as a toothbrush)





Cleaning of a Handgun

Clean the Barrel

The barrel tends to accumulate a lot of carbon buildup. Start by threading a patch through the cleaning rod and wet it with gun cleaner. If you prefer, you can use a bore snake instead (wet the bore snake with gun cleaner).

Working from the chamber end of the barrel, move the cleaning rod back and forth through the barrel a few times to loosen the grime and buildup. Remove the dirty patch and replace it with a clean, dry patch. Run the new patch through the barrel, and if it comes out black, repeat the above process. If the new patch is clean, move to the exterior of the barrel. If the barrel is very dirty or stubborn, once it is wet with gun cleaner you can run a bore brush through it to loosen the debris before moving back to the patches.

To clean the exterior of the barrel, simply wipe it down with a wet cleaning patch then go back over it with a dry patch. Do this again until the dry patch remains clean. If you need to use a nylon bristle brush wrapped in a cloth or patch to remove stubborn carbon buildup, feel free to do so.



Clean the Slide

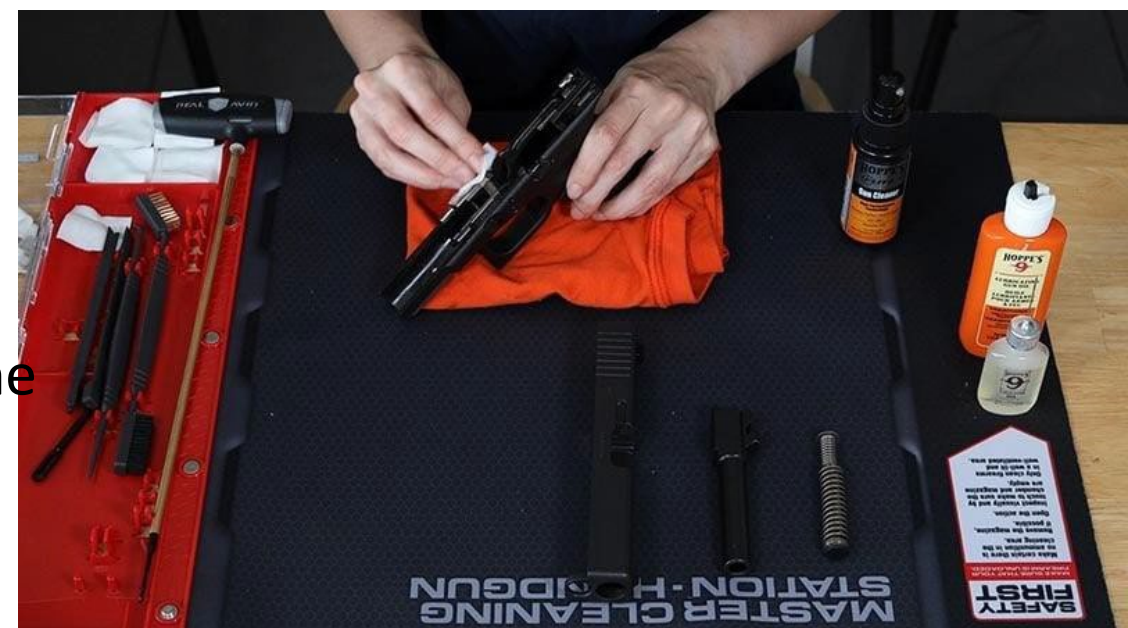
The slide rails see the most action and are often coated with carbon deposits. Use a combination of cleaning patches, a nylon bristle brush, and a plastic pick to clean the area around the rails. Wrapping a patch around the brush often helps.

Tilt the slide so the muzzle side is down, and using the bristle brush, brush the breech face (where the firing pin is) clean. Once finished, take a dry patch and wipe down the area.



Clean the Frame

Like the slide, the rails on the frame are often coated in carbon. Again, using a combination of patches, a nylon bristle brush, and a plastic pick, loosen any debris and clean the frame until the patch comes out clean. Feel free to wipe down the exterior of the frame as well if needed.



Lubricate the Firearm

Now that the pistol is cleaned, it must be lubricated. A good rule of thumb is to lubricate any area that has metal on metal contact. However, be aware a little lube goes a long way! Most pistols do not require a ton of lube to work properly, and too much can induce problem. With most standard pistols, less is more when it comes to lube.

The guide rod does not require any lubrication. If you would like to wipe the guide rod down with a towel that has some lube on, feel free to do so – but no direct lubrication is required.

Add a little gun oil to a cleaning patch, and using a jag and cleaning rod, push the patch through the barrel to lubricate the inside of the barrel. Feel free to repeat a couple of times. Take a dry patch, and push the dry patch through the barrel a few times to soak up any excess lubrication. For the outside of the barrel, simply take a cleaning patch with a little lube and wipe down the exterior of the barrel, again, followed by a dry patch to remove any excess.



Moving to the slide, pay particular attention to the rails, spreading a drop of lube down the entirety of the rail. Again, wipe any excess with a dry patch. Also, lube the openings where the slide moves against the barrel.



On the frame, spread a drop of lube down the rails and wipe any excess with a dry patch. Also, add a drop of lube to where the trigger bar touches the connector at the right rear of the frame. As before, wipe up any excess.



Reassemble the Firearm

Congratulations, you've cleaned your semi-automatic pistol, and it's time to reassemble it. Start by dropping the barrel back into the slide, followed by the guide rod. To install the guide rod, insert the front of the guide rod into the hole in the frame, and apply light pressure to the rear of the spring until it catches on the barrel. Next, align the slide with the rails on the frame and slowly guide the slide from front to rear, racking completely to engage the slide lock. Rack the slide several times to ensure proper alignment is achieved. Go ahead and wipe off any excess lubrication that may appear.



Function Test

Perform a trigger function test by first ensuring the action is clear and the gun is pointed in a safe direction. Pull the trigger, and cycle the slide, then test the trigger safety if your firearm has one. Press the side of the trigger, being careful not to press on the trigger safety – verify the trigger does not engage.



Revolvers

The steps to clean a revolver are as follows:

- Unload and show clear
- Clean under extractor star
- Clean Under Charge Holes
- Clean Cylinder Face
- Clean Barrel
- Clean Forcing Cone & Frame Face
- Clean Frame & Exterior



Unload and Show Clear

The first step in cleaning any gun is to make sure it is unloaded, and all ammunition is stored away from the cleaning area for the remainder of the cleaning process. By pointing the muzzle in a safe direction, release the cylinder and ensure there is no ammunition in the cylinder.

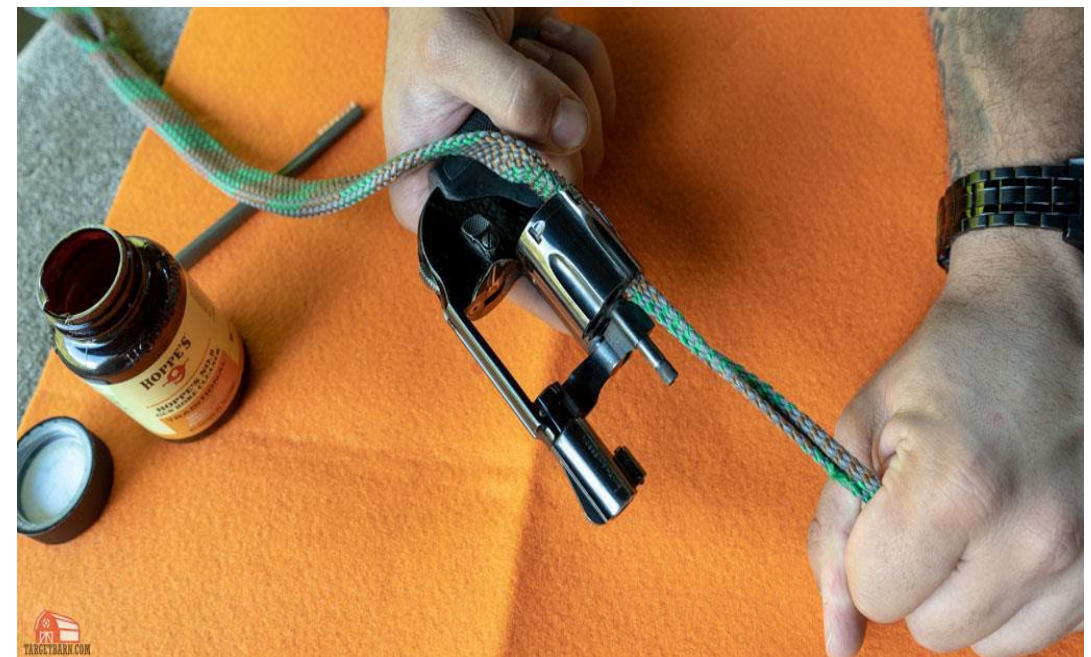
Clean under the extractor star

With the cylinder open, hold the extractor rod so the star is up, and spray some cleaner on the area under the star and scrub it with a nylon brush. Wipe the deposits clean with a clean patch.



Clean the Chambers

Add some gun cleaner in each of the chambers and let it sit for a few minutes to break down any carbon deposits. Using the proper size bore snake, pull the snake through each charge hole, from breech to muzzle. If deposits are particularly stubborn, do this as many times as necessary. It is also possible to apply gun cleaner directly to the bore snake.



Clean the Cylinder Face

Apply gun cleaner to a bronze brush and scrub the cylinder face until clean of deposits.



Clean the Barrel

Put some gun cleaner in the barrel and let it sit for a few minutes to break down any carbon deposits. Run the bore snake through the barrel, from breech to muzzle several times.



If your muzzle is particularly dirty, add some gun cleaner to a bronze barrel brush and carefully insert it into the muzzle end of the barrel. Be **very** careful here, as your bronze brush is attached to a steel rod, and that rod can damage the crown on the muzzle of your barrel. Push the brush through the barrel until it exists the forcing cone. Unscrew the brush from the rod and pull the rod out of the barrel. Reassemble the brush and repeat as needed. Follow the final brushing with the bore snake a final time.



Clean the Forcing Cone & Frame Face

Using the bronze brush, scrub the forcing cone and face of the frame. The forcing cone is the part of the barrel that sticks into the frame. The frame face is where the firing pin comes through to strike the primer.



Clean the Frame and exterior

To finish the cleaning, wipe down the exterior of the frame and metal parts with a cloth with a small amount of gun oil on it, to deter rust.

Questions?

- What can we answer for you?

Hands-On Cleaning

- How can we help?

Cleanup

- Deposit all trash in receptables
- Wipe down your table
- Place your chair on the table

Thank you!