

Care of Stainless Steel Barrels



ABSOLUTE PRECISION

As one of the worlds leading manufacturers of high power long range extreme accuracy rifles we demand the highest quality from our barrel maker. In the production of our stainless steel barrels, the goal has been the absolute in quality of the internal finish, design and workmanship. It is in your interest as well as barrel makers that you exercise similar care and attention in the cleaning of the barrel as has gone into its production. Always use a good straight plastic coated cleaning rod. Chamfer the end of the rod, jag and brush where they butt up to remove protruding corners. Use lint free thin material for patches and only stiff bronze bushes, slightly larger than the calibre. NEVER use abrasive pastes – RPA recommends a good quality solvent for cleaning such as Hoppes number 9 or Sweets.

New barrels – For best results and prolonged barrel life, barrels should be “shot in” we suggest the following:-

1. With a new barrel patch through to clean out any dust or oil.
2. Fire 2 or 3 shots then clean.
3. Fire 5 - 7 shots, clean again.
4. Thereafter assume a regular cleaning procedure after every two 5 shot groups and “sighters”.

Before shooting as a general rule 1 or 2 fouling shots are sufficient to coat the barrel.

Cleaning Procedure.

Clean as soon as possible after firing while the barrel is still hot. Dip a patch into about 1/2" of solvent and push right through and out of the muzzle end. Remove patch before withdrawing the rod out of the chamber end. Dip a bronze brush into about 1/2" solvent and push it through the barrel and right out the muzzle and then right back into the chamber. Stroke the brush, attached to the end of the rod, back and forth through the barrel, going right through and out each end. NEVER reverse the brush while it is in the barrel - don't scrub! Approximately 10 strokes will suffice. If continuing with your shoot, dry the barrel with patches. Wipe the muzzle face and chamber before putting the last drying patch through the barrel. If you are not going to shoot again for some time repeat the solvent and bronze brush procedure, cleaning again that night or the day after. During a long competition will help a barrel which is inclined to foul more than normal. Always remember to dry the barrel and check for obstructions before firing.

7.62 mm Range Rifles

If using hard military jacketed projectiles, solvent may not prove adequate to quickly remove fouling. Therefore after around a 25 shot maximum, push out loose residue with a loose patch saturated in solvent, wetting the bore by stroking through the barrel a few times. Leave the solvent to work for a few minutes, continue cleaning with patches. Brush the bore with solvent leaving a thin residue of solvent in the barrel until shooting next. Chrome/Moly barrels may need oiling for protection from rust if left for extended periods.

NB: Solvents are potentially hazardous to health, for your own protection read the instructions a carefully for their use and disposal.

Do's & Don'ts:

- Do apply a smear of grease (molybdenum disulphide) on the extractor, cocking pin and behind the bolt lugs every 50 or so rounds. If tight head spacing is being used the lugs should be coated every 20 or so rounds.
- Don't use a plug gauge in stainless barrels, they may gaul (friction weld) and damage the lapped finish.
- Don't let solvents leach into the bedding, stock and trigger mechanism.

Happy shooting!