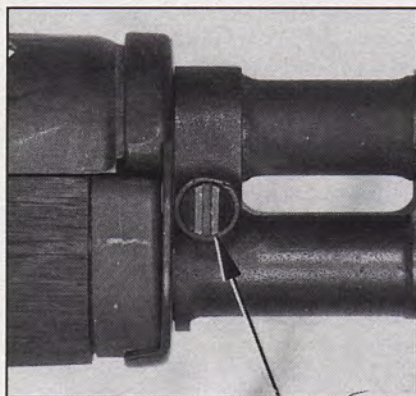


MIA STRAIGHT-PULL

Q I recently acquired a Springfield Armory M1A rifle. For many years I have fired a military M1 which, at times, I use with reduced loads as a straight-pull, having removed the center of the gas cylinder plug. I would like to have a similar option with my M1A. Is this possible, and if so, what is the proper procedure for adapting the system.

A Your M1A can be easily converted from a semi-auto to a straight-pull bolt-action without addition, modification or deletion of any components. On the right side of the gas cylinder is the small slotted gas spindle valve (arrow). This spring-loaded component is held in position by a cross pin visible on the left side of the gas cylinder. In the normal position, the slot for the spindle valve should be vertical in relationship to the barrel. By using the proper size screwdriver you can press in on the head of the spindle valve and rotate it 90° so the slot is parallel with the barrel. This will cut off the gas flow from the barrel to the gas cylinder and allow you to use your rifle as a straight-pull.



Restoration of the rifle to a semi-automatic mode is accomplished by reversing the rotation of the spindle valve to its former position.—O.R.C.

A TEST TO IDENTIFY CORROSIVE AMMO

Q I recently purchased a large quantity of 7.92x57 mm rifle ammunition that is identified only by code numbers. How can I tell if it is corrosive?

A With a few insignificant exceptions, U.S. military ammunition made after 1955 is noncorrosive, but the use of corrosive primers lasted much longer overseas, especially in nations like China.

The only way to tell for sure if ammunition is corrosive is to test it. Fortunately, this is an easy task.

Polish the surface of a strip of sheet iron or steel about 2x8" (size and thickness are not critical) and clamp it in a vise. Pull a bullet from a case and discard the powder. Do the same with a single round of current ammunition as a control. Discharge the subject cartridge and the control round with the muzzle held about 2" from the plate.

Clean the barrel thoroughly with boiling water or with World War II G.I. bore cleaner followed by normal solvents. Inspect it carefully for the next several days. Put the test plate in a damp area and check it after about 48 hours. Wipe off the fouling. The area fouled by the suspect primer should appear just as shiny as that fouled by the modern ammunition. If it is dark or shows signs of rust, the primer is corrosive.—A.L.

continued on p. 24

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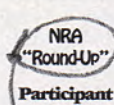
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