

The following is a selection of pertinent questions about arms, ammunition, and their use, with informative answers by Technical Staffmen and Contributing Editors.

Being able to receive answers to questions of this type is one privilege of NRA membership.

Every Dope Bag question-letter submitted must contain the member's 'code line' from RIFLEMAN mailing label or membership card.

If you are not a member and want an answer, submit your question with your membership application and dues.

(Membership application blank appears on page 77).

Questions and Answers

Initials carried in "Answers" below indicate handling by: Walter J. Howe, Julian S. Hatcher, E. H. Harrison, E. W. Heter, Jr., Ludwig Olson, Allen F. Ruffin, Jr., M. D. Waite, Frank de Haas, William Dresser, B. R. Lewis, Herschel C. Logan, H. E. MacFarland, Clyde Ormond, Bert Popowski.

AMMUNITION SELECTION

We have several lots of good ammunition and several precision rifles. In testing one rifle we obtain superior results with one particular lot. Is this lot likely to give the best performance in all the rifles, or is it likely to prove inferior in some rifles to lots which did not perform as well in the initial test rifle?—S.P.T.

Answer: Industry spokesmen are in general agreement that the best lot of ammunition can be expected to perform best in all the rifles. However, this presupposes a significant and detectable difference in performance between the best lot and the other lots based upon extensive test firing. Where the difference in accuracy between lots is small, it could be expected that the other rifles might perform best with a different lot or lots of ammunition.

This selectivity is due apparently to small mechanical differences between the rifles as well as differences in bedding of their barrels and actions.—M.D.W.

SHORTENED M14

I have seen an advertisement by one of the commercial producers of the M14 rifle for the government, offering a shortened form of the M14 rifle for military purposes. Has the use of such a rifle been considered?—O.A.

Answer: The rifle you speak of appeared in 1962. Whether it has been considered for U. S. military use is not known.



7.62 mm. Rifle T44E6, a shortened and lightened form of the M14, tested in 1958. T44E6 features are aluminum magazine (applicable also to M14 rifle if desired); barrel 2" shorter and somewhat lighter, and flash suppressor shorter, than M14; no gas spindle valve (this rifle was not designed to fire grenades); and no bayonet stud

Consideration was given to a shortened and lightened model of the M14 rifle, the T44E6. This was described and illustrated by THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN in July 1958. Weight of the T44E6 was 7¾ lbs., against 8¾ lbs. for the M14 as it was then manufactured.

Firing of the T44E6 by members of THE RIFLEMAN Staff brought a very favorable reaction to its handling and firing characteristics. The recoil seemed remarkably light for a shortened and lightened rifle. This obviously was because of the gas-operated mechanism, including the expansion-type gas cylinder used in the T44 series of rifles and incorporated in the M14. Of course there is some increase in recoil, and especially increase in flash at night. These disadvantages would be increased in full-automatic fire.

The T44E6 passed its engineering tests and was given a Service test. It was decided that advantages of this short rifle failed to outweigh its disadvantages, and it was dropped.—E.H.H.

MAGAZINE SAFETY

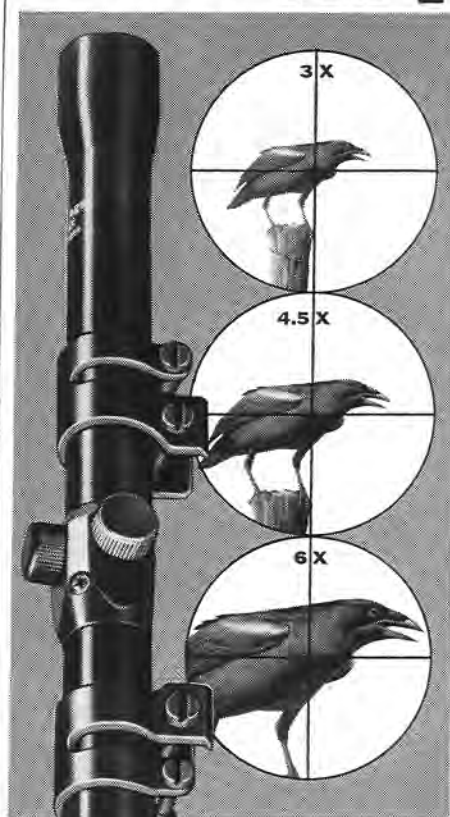
My Colt .32 Automatic Pocket Model pistol cannot be fired when the magazine is removed. Is this a defect?—S.F.

Answer: What you describe is not a defect. Your pistol has a magazine safety (also called safety disconnect) which prevents firing when the magazine is removed. This safety is a safeguard against a forgotten cartridge in the chamber when the magazine is removed to unload.

A magazine safety is included in Colt .32 Auto. pistols above serial #468097, and in Colt .380 Auto. pistols above serial #92894. Colt .25 Auto. Pocket Model pistols with serial number above #141000 also have a magazine safety.

A few of these Colt pistols above the serial numbers mentioned may not have a magazine safety as in some cases pistols were made up specially or modified.—L.O.

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