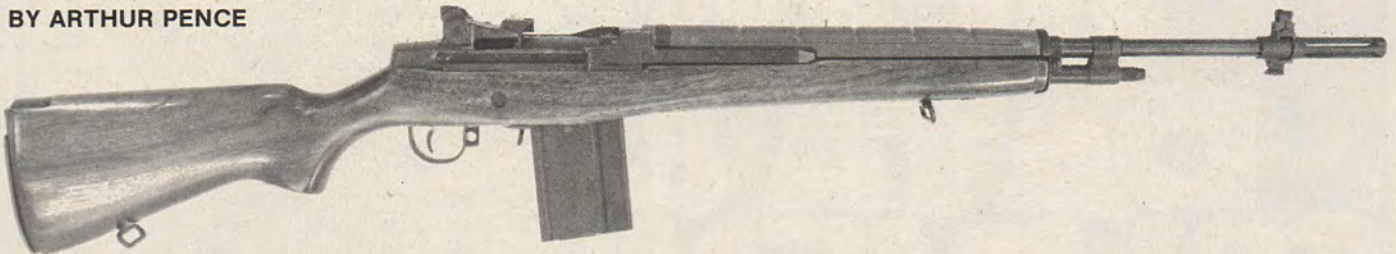


Exploded views:

THE M1A RIFLE

BY ARTHUR PENCE

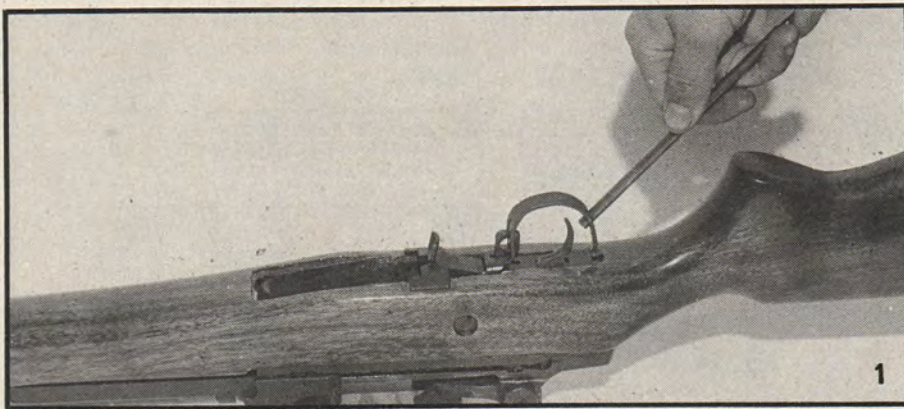


THE M1A rifle, manufactured by the non-governmental Springfield Armory, Inc., of Geneseo, Ill., was accepted for use in the service rifle class of competition by both the DCM and the NRA as of Jan. 1, 1974. Designed with no capability of full automatic fire, it is not subject to the restrictions imposed on civilian ownership of M14s.

The M1A is available in three grades: Standard, National Match and Super Match. The Standard M1A is not glass bedded and has the regular-issue sights with one minute of angle adjustments. The National Match version is glass bedded in a new walnut stock and is marked NM on the barrel 4" to the rear

of the front sight, which is the narrow blade type. The rear sight is the hooded aperture $\frac{1}{2}$ m.o.a. adjustable version and is marked NM. The trigger is tuned to $4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., and the gas system is unitized, rendering the spindle valve immovable. The operating rod spring guide is round and concentric and the flash suppressor is reamed oversize. The Super Match is the same as the National Match except that it has a barrel $1\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. heavier than standard.

The factory suggests that disassembly be done only if absolutely necessary. Frequent disassembly contributes to wear of the parts and leads to early unserviceability and inaccuracy. ■

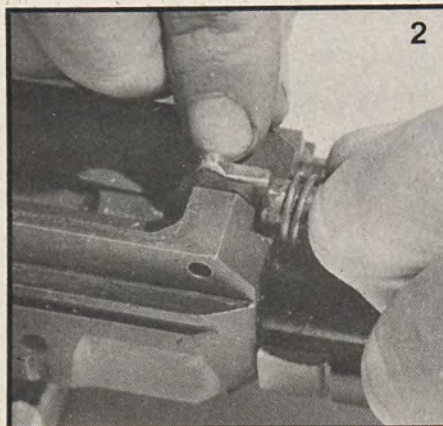


Disassembly Procedures

Press the magazine catch (56) and remove the magazine (60). Draw the bolt to the rear and inspect the chamber to make sure that it is empty and allow the bolt to go forward.

1. Engage the safety (53) and place the rifle, sights down, on a bench with a block under the cartridge clip guide (13) to keep the sights off the bench. Using a cleaning rod section or other tool in the trigger guard hole for leverage, pry the guard (54) back and up. Pivoting the trigger guard forward frees the trigger assembly (45-56). Pull straight out to remove it.

To remove the stock (44) hold the receiver down and a few firm slaps with the



palm of the hand on the comb of the stock will separate it from the barreled action.

2. With the muzzle to the left, grasp the operating rod spring (36) with the left hand and pull toward the muzzle, easing tension on the operating rod spring guide (35). With the right fore-finger, pull the connector lock (18) toward you. If the operating rod spring guide is allowed to slip at this point it will be projected with enough force to cause injury. Carefully lift the operating rod spring guide and spring and withdraw them to the rear.

Pull the operating rod (37) to the rear until its guide lug is in the disassembly notch in the receiver, then pull the operating rod handle outward and to the rear and remove.

3. Grasp the roller guide on the bolt (3) and move it forward, simultaneously turning the bolt upward and outwards with a slight clock-wise rotation. The motion required is tricky but quickly learned and done properly requires no force.

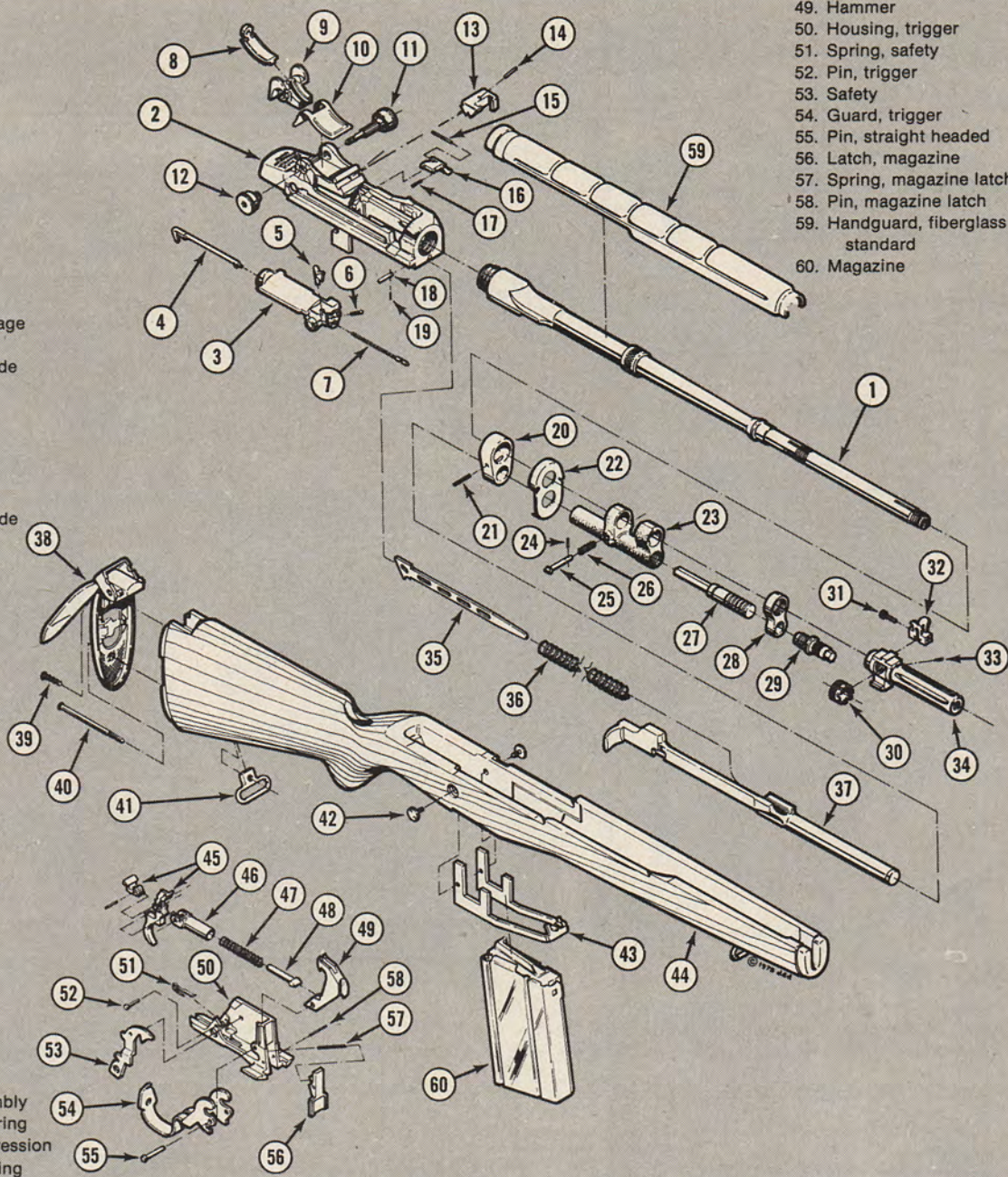
With the combination tool or a $\frac{3}{8}$ " wrench remove the gas cylinder plug (29). Tilt the rifle muzzle down and allow the gas piston (27) to slide out into your hand. Unscrew the gas cylinder lock (28) and slide it, the gas cylinder (23) and the front band (22) forward, exposing the gas port. Slide the handguard (59) toward the muzzle until it is free of the grooves in the barrel.

The M1A is now fully field stripped for all normal maintenance requirements.

4. The bolt (3) is best stripped by using

Parts Legend

1. Barrel
2. Receiver
3. Bolt, breech
4. Pin, firing
5. Extractor
6. Plunger, extractor, w/spring
7. Ejector, w/spring
8. Aperature, rear sight
9. Base, rear sight
10. Cover, rear sight
11. Pinion assembly, elevating
12. Knob assembly, windage
13. Guide, cartridge clip
14. Pin, cartridge clip guide
15. Pin, bolt lock
16. Lock, bolt
17. Spring, bolt lock
18. Lock, connector
19. Pin, connector lock
20. Guide, operating rod
21. Pin, operating rod guide
22. Band, front
23. Cylinder, gas
24. Pin, spindle valve
25. Spindle, valve
26. Spring, valve
27. Piston, gas cylinder
28. Lock, gas cylinder
29. Plug, gas cylinder
30. Nut, flash suppressor
31. Screw, cap socket head, front sight
32. Sight, front
33. Setscrew
34. Suppressor, flash
35. Guide, operating rod spring
36. Spring, operating rod
37. Rod, operating
38. Plate assembly, butt, hinged
39. Screw, wood
40. Screw, machine
41. Swivel, butt stock
42. Screws, stock liner
43. Liner, stock
44. Stock
45. Trigger & Sear assembly
46. Housing, hammer spring
47. Spring, helical compression
48. Plunger, hammer spring
49. Hammer
50. Housing, trigger
51. Spring, safety
52. Pin, trigger
53. Safety
54. Guard, trigger
55. Pin, straight headed
56. Latch, magazine
57. Spring, magazine latch
58. Pin, magazine latch
59. Handguard, fiberglass standard
60. Magazine



49. Hammer
50. Housing, trigger
51. Spring, safety
52. Pin, trigger
53. Safety
54. Guard, trigger
55. Pin, straight headed
56. Latch, magazine
57. Spring, magazine latch
58. Pin, magazine latch
59. Handguard, fiberglass standard
60. Magazine

the combination tool. Insert the combination tool into the face of the bolt with the blade between the inner edge of the extractor (5) and the lug on the bolt face, turn the combination tool clockwise, prying the extractor up and out, taking care to retain the extractor plunger and spring (6). Remove the extractor plunger with spring and the ejector with spring (7). The firing pin can now be withdrawn to the rear.

Reassembly is done in reverse order except as noted below:

Bolt; insert firing pin, ejector and spring, extractor plunger and spring. With the combination tool against a solid surface, press the ejector into place and at the same time press the extractor down into its place.

Gas Piston; must be positioned with the flat on the tang toward the barrel to slide into place.

