



LET'S TALK GUNS

PART I (A to I)

If you're going to know guns, you've got to be able to talk guns. And there are "gun languages" spoken by the gunsmith, gun repairman, ammo specialist, muzzle-loader, and the collector. We have brought these languages together for this comprehensive glossary designed with the gun pro in mind. You will find it to be one of the most complete single-source gun reference listings available.

Use it, and it will serve you well. When you run into a new term, LOOK IT UP — USE IT. From then on, it will be second nature. And you will be talking guns.

This is only the first part of your "Let's Talk Guns" glossary. Parts II and III will be sent as you progress in your course.

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A

accuracy — the term used to describe the measurement of a bullet's precision and a firearm's ability to shoot consistently where aimed.

accurize — increasing the accuracy of a handgun or rifle by improving the fit or function of the trigger and other moving parts, adding better sights, and rebedding the barrel.

action — in general, the primary assembly of a firearm consisting of the receiver, bolt or breech block, and feed and firing mechanisms. The operating mechanism to which the barrel and stock are attached. In a double-barreled shotgun, the action refers to the receiver which houses the working parts and is commonly called the *action body*.

adjustable choke — a device attached to the muzzle of a shotgun which allows the shooter to change choke degree rapidly. Some types employ tube inserts, others an adjustable collet.

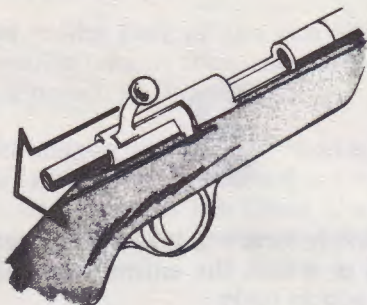
air gun — a type of gun which uses compressed air or gas to launch a bullet, dart, or shot charge.

air resistance — the friction or drag which slows the forward motion of a projectile and limits its maximum range. A bullet's relative ability to overcome this resistance is defined by its ballistic coefficient number.

airspace — that space between the powder and the bullet in a loaded cartridge. Most commer-

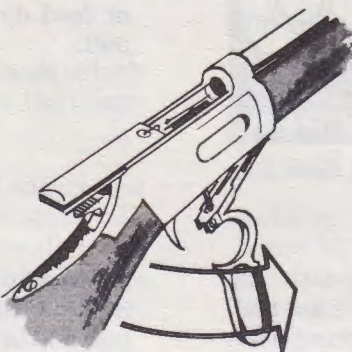
Bolt Action

A bolt action firearm operates in the same manner as a door bolt and even looks very similar. The bolt handle should be lifted up and pulled all the way back. It is then possible to see and even feel the chamber to see if it is loaded. If the gun is loaded the cartridge will normally be extracted when the bolt is pulled back. Occasionally the extractor doesn't work properly. For that reason, it should actually be checked by sight and touch to be certain it isn't loaded. While the action is open locate the magazine and check to be certain it, too, is unloaded.



Lever Action

A lever action firearm can be identified by the metal handle which is located just behind the trigger guard. This type of action is so named because it operates just like a lever. To open the action the handle is pulled away from the stock. It is then possible to see and feel the chamber to be certain the gun is unloaded. While the action is open locate the magazine and check to be certain it, too, is unloaded.



Hinge Action

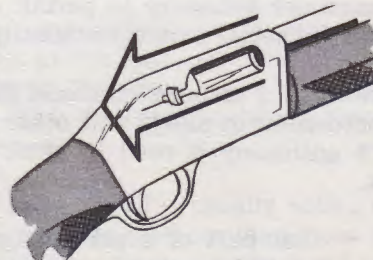
The hinge on a hinge action firearm operates just like a hinge on a door. To open the action, the release handle is pressed and the barrel or barrels are pressed downward. The hinge which is located beneath the barrel and in front of the trigger guard will allow the action to open. A quick glance will tell you if it is loaded.

Hinge action guns have no magazine.



Semi-Automatic

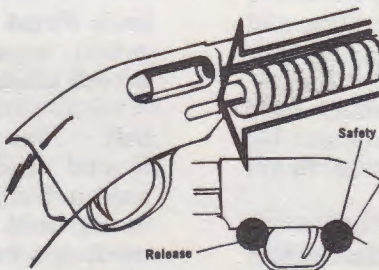
The action of a semi-automatic firearm (frequently incorrectly referred to as an "automatic") is opened by pulling back a handle. Most semi-automatics will lock open when pulled fully to the rear but some must be held open in order to look inside to see if they are unloaded. While the action is open locate the magazine and check to be certain it, too, is unloaded.



Pump Action

A pump action firearm is also referred to by several other names. Sometimes it is called a slide or trombone action because the wooden fore-end is pumped back and forth in order to operate the action.

The fore-end is pulled back toward the trigger guard in order to open the action. If the gun is cocked, loaded or not, a release must be pressed before the pump will operate. The release is usually located just in front or just behind the trigger guard. When the action is open, it is easy to tell by sight and touch that it isn't loaded. While the action is open locate the magazine and check to be certain it, too, is unloaded.



The ACTION is the heart of the gun. Examples of shoulder arm actions courtesy National Rifle Association.

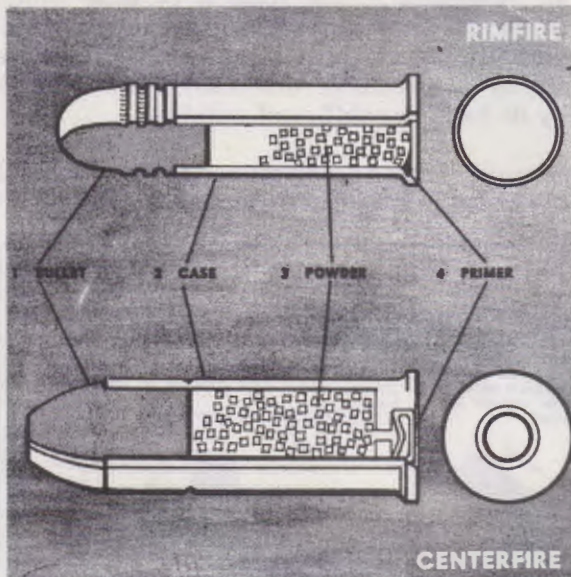
cial cartridges contain 10% to 15% airspace because of loading machine mechanical requirements.

altitude effect — as altitude increases and air has less density, bullet drop decreases due to lessened air drag or friction.

Amateur Trapshooting Association (ATA) — the official regulating and rule-setting organization for registered trapshooting, with headquarters in Vandalia, Ohio.

American black walnut (American walnut) — a gunstock wood frequently used in North America, with an excellent strength/weight ratio and dense grain characteristics.

ammunition — made up of components which together compose the complete cartridge: case, primer, bullet (or shot), and powder charge.

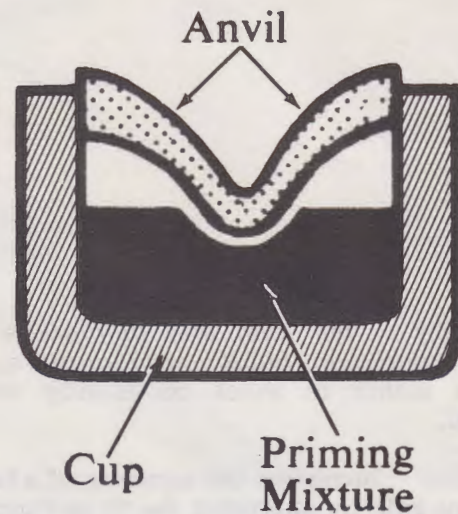


This illustration, courtesy of the National Rifle Association, shows AMMUNITION components and types.

annealing — the process of softening metal by heating. Makes brass cartridge cases more malleable, less brittle, and prevents cracking from repeated resizing. Spot annealing of a receiver is sometimes necessary to permit drilling and tapping for scope mount installation.

antimony — a metallic chemical element used for hardening in alloys and other metals. Up to 3% antimony is used in most lead bullet cores.

anvil — that part of a primer against which the priming mixture is crushed by the firing pin, thereby producing detonation.



The priming mixture is crushed against the ANVIL for detonation.

aperture — the opening or diameter of the opening in a peep sight and in some front target sights.

automatic safety — a mechanical device on any firearm which is engaged automatically either by cocking or by loading the gun. Prevents firing until the safety is manually disengaged.

automatic weapon (machine gun, submachine gun) — a firearm that will insert, fire, and eject continuously all ammunition in the magazine or feed device with a single continuous trigger pull.

B

back action side lock — a type of shotgun side lock action in which the entire mechanism is behind the action body.

back thrust — the rearward pressure or back action, expressed in pounds, exerted on the breech block or bolt by firing the cartridge.

ball — one of the earliest forms of bullets. Round lead projectiles are still commonly used in blackpowder muzzle-loading rifles and in cap and ball revolvers. The term is also used, as a holdover from the past, by the military. Modern "ball ammunition" does not include balls.

ballistic coefficient — a number given a bullet which "rates" the ability of that bullet's design to overcome air resistance in flight.

ballistics — the science dealing with the motion, behavior, and impact of projectiles. Interior ballistics concerns itself with what occurs inside a gun from primer ignition to departure of the projectile from the bore. Exterior ballistics is concerned with the bullet's flight — from the time it leaves the gun until it stops. Terminal ballistics relates to the bullet's performance on striking or entering its target.

ball powder — the copyrighted trade name for a double-based, smokeless propellant developed by Olin Industries for the U.S. military. Ball powder may be either flat or spherical in shape.

ball screw — a screw device which, when attached to the end of a ram rod, threads into and removes the ball from the bore of a black-powder arm.

bar — in a shotgun, the forward extension of the action body, the top of which is the water table or the flats.

bar action side lock — in a shotgun, a system of side lock design in which part of the working parts of the gun are on the plate that extends up to and into the bar of the action body.

bar flats — the top flat surface of the bar of a shotgun, more commonly referred to as the water table.

barrel — the part of the gun through which projectiles pass in their travel from the chamber or breech to the muzzle.

barrel adapter — a short section of chambered barrel which, when inserted into a larger caliber barrel, permits the firing of a smaller caliber cartridge. Also known as a "subcaliber device."

barrel band — a metal band used on rifles which holds the stock and barrel together.

barrel channel — the groove cut in the forward portion of the stock to accommodate the barrel.

barrel erosion — the wearing or "washing" away of the metal just forward of the chamber by hot powder gases. The degree of erosion depends on the chamber pressure generated, the amount of powder burned per shot, and

the resulting heat developed. Erosion reduces accuracy and in an advanced state may cause a bullet to disintegrate.

barrel flats — in a double shotgun, the flat portions at the breech or rear end of the action body (water table).

barrel liner — a thin-walled, rifled tube used for relining worn barrels or changing to another caliber.

barrel lugs — located on the underside of the barrel. Provides the means for attaching the forearm to the barrel.

barrel tenon — that portion of the barrel, usually threaded, which fits into the receiver.

barrel throat — that part of a barrel between the chamber and rifling.

base wad — a compressed paper filler or plastic material at the rear of the powder charge and inside the head of a shotgun shell which forms a part of the combustion chamber.

battery cup primer — the standard type of shot shell primer.

BB — a term indicating the caliber of an air rifle; also a shotgun shot size sometimes used for geese.

bearing surface — that portion of a bullet's surface which contacts the barrel or rifling in its passage through the bore. Sufficient bearing surface is necessary for good accuracy.

beavertail forend — refers to a forend that is wider than normal. Provides for a better grip and protects the hand from a hot barrel during rapid shooting.

bedding — refers to a method of mating the barrel to the stock. The barrel may bear fully or partially against wood or an epoxy ("glass") liner; it may free-float without touching the stock; or it may free-float with a pressure point at the forearm tip.

belted case — a cartridge case with a raised band or belt at the base. The belt strengthens and reinforces the case, which serves as the means by which the cartridge headspaces within the chamber.

bench rest rifle — a rifle, usually with a heavy barrel, which is designed for maximum accuracy and shooting from a permanent benchrest, thus eliminating much human error.

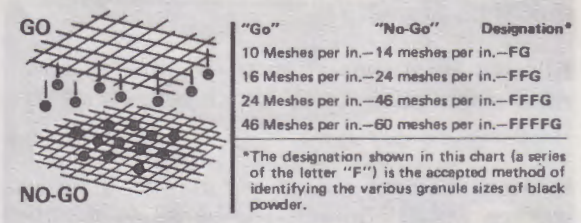
Berdan decapping tool — a device for depriming Berdan cases.

Berdan primer — a type of ignition system in which the primer has no integral anvil and is actually a part of the cartridge case. This system, still common in Europe, was invented by an American, Col. Hiram Berdan, in the 1860's.

big-bore — in American target shooting terminology, usually refers to .30 caliber rifles; with handguns, to a bullet diameter greater than .38 caliber; with hunting rifles, to cartridges above .30 caliber.

bites — in shotguns, slots cut in either barrel extensions or lumps into which bolts fit to lock the gun together.

blackpowder — the earliest small arms ammunition propellant, made of saltpeter (potassium nitrate), charcoal, and sulphur. Combined, these ingredients, thought to be a Chinese invention, form the standard propellant for muzzle-loading firearms today.



The granule size of BLACKPOWDER is determined by passing it through a series of screens, such as this method employed by Thompson/Center Arms Company.

blind magazine — a box magazine which is completely concealed within the stock.

blowback — a gun malfunction generally caused by excess headspace or too high chamber pressure. Powder gases escape into the action and possibly the shooter's hands and face. Also refers to a type of semi-automatic design, usually employed in pistols and machine guns.

blowback action — a type of semi-automatic or full-automatic action design in which the locking of the bolt is not mechanical. Rather, the breech is held closed by the weight and inertia of the bolt until after firing. Semi-automatic pistols and most submachine guns use blowback actions.

blown pattern — a shotgun pattern with erratic shot distribution, generally caused by gas by-

passing the wad and disrupting the shot cone.

blueing — the various blue-black finishes applied to ferrous metals for appearance and rust prevention. The blueing process oxidizes a thin surface layer of the metal. There are a variety of blueing methods, and the quality of the finish is always dependent upon chemical cleanliness and perfect polishing.

blunderbuss — an early American gun with a flared muzzle. Traditionally pictured as the standard Pilgrim firearm which is absolutely erroneous. Actually, the blunderbuss was more commonly used on naval vessels to discourage boarding of unwanted passengers or pirates.

boat tail — a type of bullet, usually long and slender with a high ballistic coefficient, which is tapered at the base. Used frequently for long-range shooting and as military and match bullets.

bolster — the recess or breech of a muzzle-loading gun into which the nipple is screwed.

bolt — that assembly which houses the striker and case extractor mechanism and locks the cartridge or shell in the firearm's chamber. In a shotgun, the sliding or rotating extension that engages bites in the lumps or barrel extensions to lock the action body and barrels together.

bolt action — a type of rifle action consisting of a tubular receiver fitted with a cylindrical, manually operated bolt which incorporates either front or rear locking lugs.

bolt face — the forward end of the bolt which contains the firing pin and extractor and which supports the base of the cartridge when chambered.

bolt guide — the rib or groove which maintains alignment during bolt travel, with the corresponding part located either on the bolt or on the receiver.

bolt thrust — the force exerted on the face of the bolt by the pressure of powder gases.

bore — the inside of a firearm barrel.

bore buildup — refers to the powder or metal fouling residue resulting from the continuous firing or lack of cleaning of a rifle, shotgun, or pistol.

bore diameter — in rifles and pistols, it is determined by measuring the distance from

land to land (raised portions) of the bore. To put it another way, it is the measurement from one side to the other before rifling is cut.

bore sighting — a method of preliminary sighting-in of a rifle, usually of bolt-action design. The bolt is removed and the rifle is mounted firmly with the target centered when viewed through the bore. The sights are then adjusted until they, too, bear on target.

box lock — a type of gun lock originating in muzzle-loading guns and still used in many modern break-open shotguns in which all working parts are contained within the lock. The hammer may be either exposed or concealed.

box magazine — on a rifle, a box-like feed device containing cartridges, one stacked on top of the other. Usually removable for reloading. Sometimes referred to as a "clip" magazine. See "clip."

Boxer primer — a priming system in which the primer contains its own anvil pressed into the cup, and the standard type of primer used in all shot shells and for center-fire cartridges manufactured or used in the United States. Named after the inventor, Col. Boxer, a firearms and ordnance expert in the British army.

brass — an alloy of copper used to manufacture cartridge cases and bullet jackets; also a term commonly applied to empty cartridge cases.

brazing — the soldering of metal parts by use of a copper alloy (usually brass). Often used to mount sights and lugs to shotgun barrels, and for many gun repairs.

breath control — vital to accuracy as the barrel and sights move with each breath the shooter takes. After the position is steady and the sight picture good, the shooter takes a full breath, lets half out, holds, and squeezes the trigger.

breech — the portion of a gun which includes the essential working parts: the action, trigger or firing mechanism, magazine, and chambered portion of the barrel. In modern arms, that portion of the barrel through which the cartridge is inserted.

breech block — generally used in single-shot small arms. The part of the breech mechanism that locks the action against pressure of the fired cartridge.

breech loader — any firearm in which loading is accomplished from the breech. Breech-loading firearms date back to the 1400's, although they were considered "new" in the 1850's when they superseded the muzzle-loaders.

breech plug — a threaded plug that closes the breech end of the bore in a muzzle-loader's barrel.

brisance — in a muzzle loader, that quality of brusqueness or shattering power. The more brisant an explosive, the more rapidly it detonates and the greater its relative power of demolition.

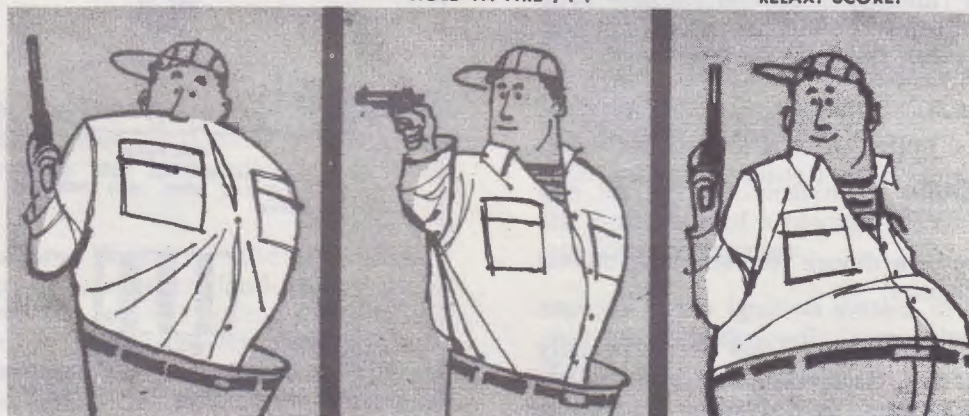
buckhorn sight — a type of rear sight in which the sides of the leaf curl upward and inward over the sighting notch, similar in shape to a bull's horns.

buckshot — a large shot in shotguns generally for use in hunting big game at short ranges.

TAKE A NORMAL BREATH . . .
LET IT OUT . . .

HOLD IT! FIRE . . .

RELAX! SCORE!



Here the National Rifle Association shows proper BREATH CONTROL.

bull barrel — any rifle or handgun barrel that is abnormally thick and heavy for its length. A heavy target barrel.

bullet — the projectile or missile only. It is *not* the cartridge. Bullet designs differ to fit different shooting needs: spire-point — a long-range hunting bullet; round-nose — a brush-busting bullet preferred for hunting in heavy cover; flat-point — used in rifles with tubular magazines; hollow-point — a popular varmint-type with open tip and thin jacket; full metal jacket — has a jacket of nickel silver, copper, or steel for maximum penetration on dangerous species; boat-tail, hollow-point — an accurate, very efficient match style; short-jacket — an economical, semi-jacketed varmint or plinking bullet; cast bullet — a lead bullet usually incorporating gas checks; wadcutter — a swaged or cast pistol bullet with a flat nose.

bullet deflection — the directional deviation produced when a bullet strikes any object and is deflected from its original path. Also referred to as ricochet.

bullet energy — the kinetic energy, generally stated in foot pounds, delivered by a bullet at impact.

bullet engraving — the grooves impressed in a bullet by the rifling lands as the bullet is driven through the barrel.

bullet, expanding — any bullet designed to deform or expand in a predictable manner upon impact.

bullet lubricant — lubricating grease applied to a lead bullet to decrease friction, prevent leading, and reduce deformation.

bullet mold (mould) — generally a plier-type device for forming bullets from molten lead alloy poured into the mold cavities.

bullet pull — the number of pounds required to extract a bullet from a loaded cartridge, thus measuring how tightly the case neck grips the bullet.

bullet puller — a device for removing bullets from loaded cases.

bullet trap — usually a steel box especially made to receive, decelerate, and stop bullets without ricocheting or deflecting fragments. A sandbox, cotton padding, or water receptacle may be used.

burning rate — a relative term which denotes



Spire Point
A hunting bullet designed for longer range shooting.



Round Nose
A dependable brush-busting style preferred for hunting in cover.



Flat Point
A Round Nose variation used in rifles with tubular magazines.



Hollow Point
A popular varmint bullet with open tip and thin jacket. (Varmint bullets come also with lead points.)



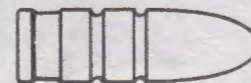
Full Metal Jacket
FMJ's have thick, tough jackets of nickel silver or clad steel for use on dangerous African and Asian species.



Boat Tail Hollow Point
An accurate, very efficient match style.



Short Jacket
An economical semi-jacketed for rifles or pistols.

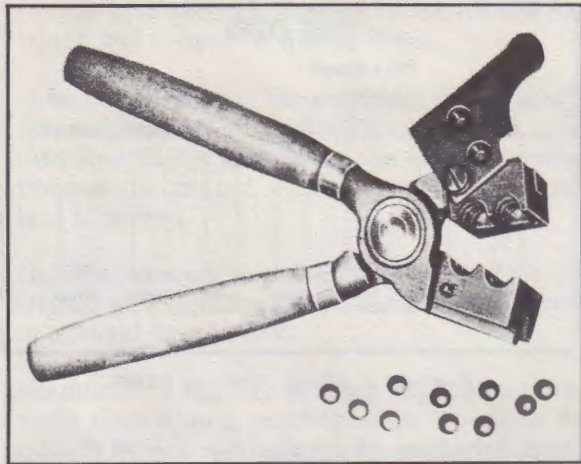


Cast Bullet
Lead bullets cast from molten metal and often used with gas checks.



Wadcutter
A swaged or cast pistol bullet. Its flat point cuts neat holes in target paper.

BULLETS in various shapes serve various purposes.



Bullet casting is easy with the help of a **BULLET MOLD** such as the double-cavity style shown here.

the rapidity with which a given powder burns compared to other powders.

burp gun — a slang term associated with sub-machine guns.

burst limiter — a device in a full-automatic weapon that allows for a specified number of shots to be fired with a single pull of the trigger, usually three.

buttplate — a hard metal or plastic protective plate which covers the wood of a rifle or shotgun butt.

buttstock — the rear segment of a two-piece rifle or shotgun stock, or that portion of a one-piece stock which rests against the shooter's shoulder.

C

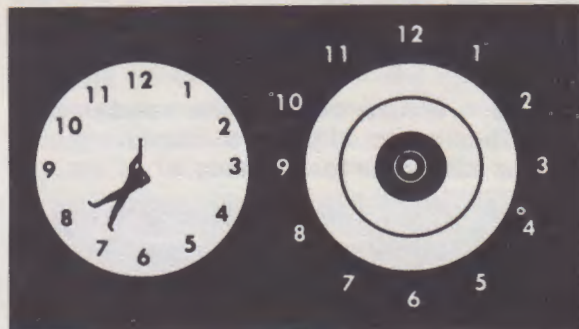
cake cutter — a tube-like device, most often a fired cartridge case with its head cut away, used to remove cast lead bullets from lubricant.

caliber (calibre, English) — the approximate bore or groove diameter (land-to-land diameter) of any gun barrel, expressed in decimals of an inch or in millimeters. This measurement is frequently compounded to indicate the powder charge in the case of old blackpowder cartridges, such as .44-40; to show the date of adoption of that cartridge, such as .30/06; to show case length, such as 8x57mm; to show brand name designation, such as .22

Hornet; to designate the designer, such as .257 Roberts; or to show the proprietor of the cartridge, such as the .375 Holland & Holland.

call, game — a sound produced orally or by a mechanical device to attract wild animals, birds, waterfowl, or predators.

calling the shot — the ability of some shooters to know where each shot has struck without inspecting the target. Depends on knowing the exact sight alignment at the instant of firing.



Important to accurate shooting is the ability to **CALL THE SHOT** by the **CLOCK SYSTEM**. (Photo courtesy National Rifle Association)

cannelure — one or more grooves cut around the circumference of a bullet or cartridge case. In reference to bullets, cannelures are used to hold the lubricant, furnish identification, help control expansion, and/or furnish a point on the bullet where the case neck may be crimped. In reference to cartridge cases, the cannelure usually refers to the extractor groove around the head of the case.

cannister — a standardized container used by powder manufacturers.

cant — a deviation or leaning of the gun's vertical axis from the true vertical. If the shooter leans his gun to the right, it is said to be "canted right." Canting causes the bullet's trajectory to deviate from the line of sight, resulting in inaccurate shooting.

cap box — a compartment usually found in the buttstock of a blackpowder rifle or shotgun for carrying caps.

caplock — the ignition system or firing mechanism for muzzle-loading guns using percussion caps.

Cap-Shur gun — the trade name for a gun specifically designed to launch hypodermic-type darts containing tranquilizer drugs. Generally used to subdue wild animals.

carbine — a rifle with a short barrel. Also a relative term that applies to light, semi-automatic M1 or automatic M2 .30 caliber rifles of relatively limited range used by the U.S. Armed Forces. Includes older guns with barrels of up to 30 inches; today refers to rifles with 18 to 20-inch barrels.

cartridge — a complete round of rifle or pistol ammunition consisting of a brass alloy or steel case, primer, projectile, and powder.

cartridge trap — a covered compartment, usually in the buttplate or underside of the buttstock, where spare cartridges are carried. Common in European sporting arms.

carving — designs cut into the wood portion of a firearm. In addition to improving grip, carving adds value to any gun.

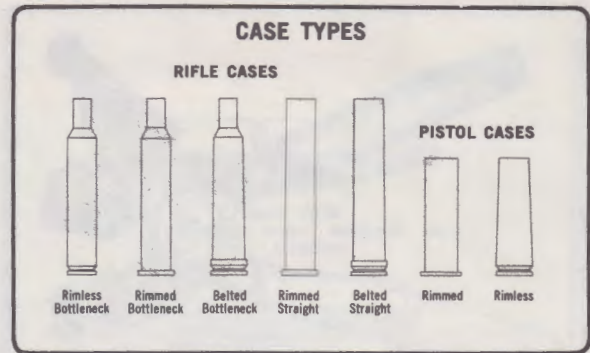


CARVING on the stock greatly enhances the beauty and value of a gun.

case — a paper, metal, or plastic container which holds all other components of a round of shotgun or rifle ammunition: powder, primer, wad, and projectile. Normally referred to as a shell in shotguns, and when empty a hull (slang).

case capacity — refers to the usable case volume; that part of the case interior below the base of the case neck.

case forming — the process of making cases of one caliber suitable for another. Usually ac-



Examples of CASES. (Courtesy RCBS)

complished mechanically by special loading press dies. (See "fire forming.")

case gauge — a device used to measure overall cartridge case length to determine if the neck needs trimming.

case hardening — a surface-hardening process, usually involving the use of cyanide, which changes the outer layer of iron-base alloys, providing a very hard, thin, wear-resistant surface, rich in "oldtime" mottled blue colors.

case remover — a device designed to grip and extract a ruptured case from the chamber. Also referred to as a case puller or case extractor.

case, separated — the condition of the case head cracking away from the case body. Also called a ruptured case.

case trimmer — a cutter-type device used to remove excess material from a case mouth or neck.

CB cap — a low-powered .22 rim-fire cartridge which uses only the primer for power.

center-fire (abbreviated CF) — a type of ammunition which has a centrally located primer or system of ignition in the base of a cartridge case and is generally reloadable. This is distinguished from primer powder located in the rim of the cartridge case, known as rim-fire. Center-fire ammunition is the most widely used ammunition today except for .22 rim-fire calibers.

center of impact — a term applied to the calculation and measurement of a horizontal and vertical displacement and subsequent location of the precise center of a given group of shots on a target.

chamber — that part of a gun's bore at the

breech end — which is formed to accept the cartridge and support it during firing.

chamber pressure — the expanding gases which force the bullet or projectile out of the case, into the rifling, and down the bore. Chamber pressure is created when the powder propellant is ignited.

chamber reamer — a sharp-edged tool for enlarging and tapering. Used to cut the chamber in a barrel or cylinder.

chamfer — a slightly beveled edge or rounded angle placed on a cartridge case mouth to facilitate bullet seating and to remove outside burrs from the case. Can refer to the beveling of any angle or hole.

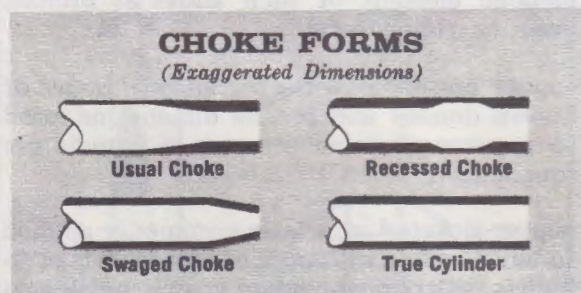
charge — the amount of propellant or powder loaded or measured into the case. Also refers to the act of loading or charging.

charger — any device (flask, horn, dipper, etc.) that measures out one exact charge of powder.

checkering — made by cutting diamond-like patterns on grips and forends of rifles, pistols, and shotguns. Checkering is usually done by cutting crossing lines into the stock material with hand tools or with special machine cutters.

cheekpiece — a raised portion on the buttstock of any long gun, intended to ensure a good cheek-to-stock contact during shooting.

choke — the construction at the muzzle of a shotgun barrel which is designed to control the spread and dispersal of the shot charge.



(Courtesy National Rifle Association)

choke tube — a tube screwed into the muzzle or a choke body which provides a particular degree of choke.

chopper lump — a construction method for double-barreled shotguns in which a "lump" extends beneath the breech of the barrel to form an integral part of the barrel.

chronograph — an instrument used to measure the velocity of a projectile.

clay bird — a clay-like or similar type material used as a standard target for all shotgun shooting. Also known as a clay target.

clip — a device, metal case, or reservoir designed to hold a number of cartridges to permit their easy insertion into a magazine. A slender metal strip from which cartridges are stripped into a magazine well. Also refers to a separate, spring-powered, detachable magazine used for autoloading pistols, many rifles, and shotguns.

clip lips (slot) — in the top of a rifle receiver, a recess or recesses to accept and hold a cartridge clip of the stripper type to allow cartridges to be pressed out of the clip into the magazine.

clock system — a method by which a clock face is used to designate the bullet strike on a target or to indicate wind direction. The center of the target would normally represent the center of a clock, with the top center position indicating 12 o'clock, bottom center 6 o'clock, center right 3 o'clock, center left 9 o'clock, and so forth.

CO₂ — a colorless, odorless, incombustible gas usually supplied in steel containers, used in air guns and in special tranquilizer guns.

CO₂ gun — a form of air gun which substitutes CO₂ containers for compressed air as an energy source.

co-ax press — a new in-line type of reloading press developed and produced by Bonanza Sports, Inc.

cock — the process of setting the action or firing mechanism into firing position. Some weapons have a half-cock position which sets the action in an intermediate position. On early weapons the hammer was referred to as a cock.

cocking indicator — a device which informs the shooter that the gun is cocked. A pin-type indicator is found on some hammerless shotguns and on pistols, while exposed cocking knobs are considered cocking indicators on bolt-action rifles.

cocking lever — usually an internal lever which acts to force the hammer or hammers to the cocked position as the action is opened. Occasionally the cocking lever will be found on

the outside of a receiver and is operated manually to cock or uncock an internal firing mechanism. On a shotgun, the cocking lever is a bar of metal connected through the knuckle of the action which operates on a pin. When the barrels are opened, they push down on the front end of the cocking lever, the back end of which lifts the toe of the hammer into the cocked position where it is held by the sears.

collimator — a very precise device used for checking the precision and accuracy of optical devices such as scope sights. In shooting, an optical instrument attached to the muzzle, used to align telescopic sights on rifles or pistols.

color-harden — a process of case hardening which can produce a very hard, but thin, wear-resistant surface while the interior portion of the parts retain their original properties. Case hardening can create a color change, usually of reds and blues, on the metal surface.

Colt, Samuel — Col. Sam Colt invented the first percussion-fired revolving pistols. Founder of the Colt Firearm Company.

comb — the upper portion of a buttstock on a rifle or shotgun which serves as a rest for the shooter's cheek as well as an alignment point for the shooter's eye.

combination gun — a gun which contains at least one shotgun barrel and one rifle barrel or a combination of three or more barrels with a possibility of differing calibers for each barrel. Generally, combination guns are of a break-open shotgun configuration with various caliber and gauge combinations. The most common are the two-barrel over-and-under rifle and shotgun combination and the German "drilling," two shotgun barrels over a rifle barrel.

combustible cartridge — a muzzle-loading cartridge containing powder and projectile rolled in a nitrated paper casing, making the entire cartridge completely combustible.

combustion — the act or process of burning; the chemical process which unites oxygen with other substances in gunpowder to produce heat and gas.

compensator — a device placed on the muzzle of a firearm to reduce upward movement of the muzzle brought about by recoil forces during firing.

components — those parts which make up the

cartridge, such as bullet, cartridge case, powder, primer, and so forth.

compressed charge — a charge of gunpowder upon which the bullet is seated to the point of compressing the powder. Not considered desirable for loading.

compression-formed shot shell (abbreviated CF) — a recently developed shot shell design whereby the entire plastic case is formed in a single piece from a mold. This design eliminates the separate head, body tube, and base wad of earlier designs.

cone — the rear portion of the choke at the shotgun muzzle. Also the front end sloping portion of a shotgun chamber in which the diameter is decreased to bore diameter.

conoidal bullet — a cone-shaped bullet.

controlled-expansion bullet — a bullet designed to expand freely and quickly at relatively low velocities and yet will not generally fragment when entering animal tissue at high velocity. This type of bullet ensures a deep penetration without creating an abnormally large wound channel.

cook-off — encountered with machine guns and other full-automatic weapons; the firing of a cartridge resulting from igniting the primer by an overheated chamber due to extensive rapid firing. Will not occur in a machine gun such as the Thompson, which fires from an open bolt and doesn't chamber the cartridge until firing.

copper — a reddish-brown, malleable basic metallic element of such alloys as bronze, brass, or gilding metal.

copper crusher — a copper alloy cylinder of known density and precise dimensions, used to measure chamber pressure in pounds per square inch.

copper-jacketed — a term commonly applied to bullets made with pure copper jackets or to bullets with copper-colored gilding metal jackets.

cordite — a nitroglycerine, double-based, smokeless powder of nitroglycerine and gun cotton which is used in the form of long, thin, spaghetti-like strands or cords; used mainly in Great Britain.

core — the central portion of a bullet, usually lead, that is covered by a jacket.

corrosion — the eating away of metal or of a rifle or shotgun bore by rust or chemical action salts deposited by primer or powder. Can also be caused to all metal parts by exposure to salt air or moisture.

Cosmoline — a trade name used to identify a protective, rust-preventive material used on ferrous metal parts; formerly used by the military services.

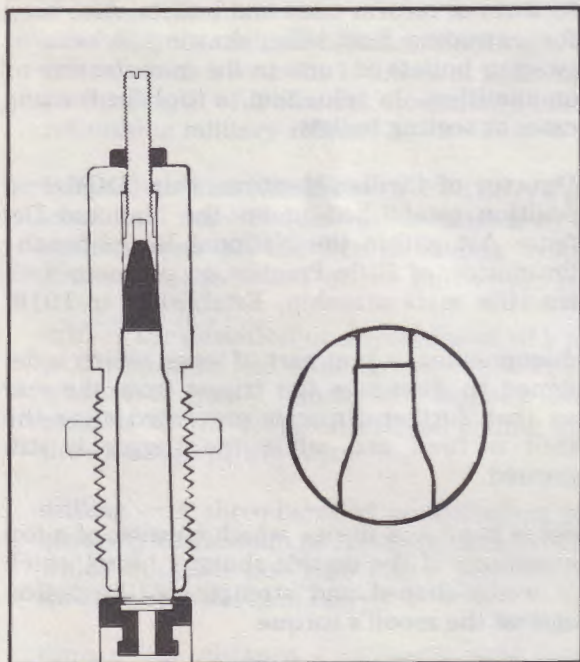
C press — a popular cartridge reloading press, so named because of its shape.

crane — the U-shaped yoke on which the cylinder rotates and which holds the cylinder in the frame on modern solid-frame, swing-out revolvers.

crazy quail — a shotgun sport in which the shooter is positioned within a partially enclosed booth that limits his field of fire to the rear while standard clay targets are thrown from an underground trap in any direction.

creep — excessive motion or movement between full finger pressure and sear release during trigger pull. Also called drag or crawl.

crimp — the slight turning in of the cartridge case mouth perimeter to provide the grip of the case on the bullet or, in the case of the shot shell, to hold the shot charge in place and create a strong mechanical assembly.



Bullets can be CRIMPED by adjusting the seater die illustrated here by RCBS.

crimp die — a die which finishes the crimp folds, radiuses the edges, and recesses the crimp center.

crimped primer — usually found in military cartridges. A primer which has been secured in the primer pocket by a flange indented from the mouth of the pocket.

crimp-on-gas check — a gas check design which crimps or pinches on the base of a cast bullet and will not come off in the case or barrel or in flight. The gas check, a shallow brass or copper cup affixed to the bullet base, will reduce leading and improve accuracy.

crimp remover — a reloading device to remove the crimp in the primer pocket of a military case by swaging. Crimps may also be removed by reaming.

crooked stock — a stock used by visually impaired shooters. It is an offset stock, usually bent or shaped into an S curve so that the arm may be fired off the right shoulder with the barrel aligned with the left eye or vice versa. See "cross-eye stock."

cross bolt — a bolt or pin passing laterally through the buttstock behind the recoil lug to strengthen the area and transfer recoil loads over a wide area of the stock.

cross-eye stock — a buttstock bent or shaped so that the gun may be mounted to one shoulder of the shooter while his opposite eye views the sights.

crosshairs — in a telescopic sight, the sighting lines.

crowning — the rounding, chamfering, or countersinking normally done to the muzzle of a rifle barrel.

cupronickel — formerly used for bullet jackets, the material contains about 60% copper and 40% nickel.

cut shell — a cutting process to reduce shot dispersion. A hazardous practice of cutting the shot shell partially through forward of the powder wad. The forward portion of the case separates, holding the shot together for a considerable distance after leaving the barrel.

Cutts compensator — a device for single-barrel shotguns which provides adjustable choking and also reduces recoil.

cyclic rate — the rate at which a full-automatic weapon will fire ammunition. Usually expressed in rounds of ammunition per minute.

cylinder — in a revolver, a cylindrical carrier that rotates (generally) around an axis parallel to and below the barrel of the revolver. Contains chambers for several cartridges (usually six) and combines the functions of a magazine and feed system.

cylinder gap — the gap located between the cylinder and the barrel breech in a revolver.

D

Damascus barrel — an early form of barrel construction formed by welding together strips of various metals around a mandrel. Damascus barrels were once considered the ultimate in fine craftsmanship; however, even with the best possible construction, they are considered unsafe with modern smokeless powders primarily because of the inordinate manual forge welding required on a multitude of seams, resulting in weak barrel structure.

deburr — to remove rough edges or small metal burrs specifically from the inside and outside of a cartridge case mouth.

deburring tool — a chamfering-deburring device used to remove rough edges and metal burrs from the mouths of cartridge cases. Also provides a chamfer to assist in bullet seating.

decap — to deprime or remove the primer from a fired cartridge case.

decapping pin — the pin-like rod in an expander die or sizer which expels the spent primer from a fired case.

decoy — any likeness of a bird or other hunted species replica used to attract others of its species within shooting range. Decoys have been used successfully from earliest times to attract a variety of game and varmints. Live bird decoys, once widely used, are prohibited from use in many areas today by Federal migratory bird regulations.

deloader (unloader) — a small device used primarily to unload a muzzle-loader and a load limited primarily to the muzzle-loading field. Deloaders have been applied to and used with other systems such as breech-loading cartridge

arms. Extreme care should be taken when using a deloader on muzzle-loaders since the powder charge can be ejected with enough velocity to cause injury. Essentially, the deloader works by injecting carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the barrel, thereby forcing the powder and projectile out of the barrel without powder ignition.

deplating — a process for removing chrome, nickel, silver, tin, or other plated finishes by a mechanical, chemical, or electrical process.

deprime — to remove the fired primer from a cartridge case.

Deringer — a generic term applied to many muzzle or breech-loading small, large-caliber single or double-barreled pistols.

Deringer, Henry — an American gunsmith (1786-1868) who produced the short single-shot percussion pistol in 1825.

deterrent — the combustion-controlling chemical material added to an explosive to reduce its burning rate and produce desired burning characteristics.

DEWAT — a term generally applied to machine guns, submachine guns, or other full-automatic weapons rendered unserviceable by welding or cutting. An acronym for DEactivated WAR Trophy.

die — used in hand-loading forming tools used to form or reform cases and bullets. Also used for extruding lead wire, drawing jackets, or swaging bullets or cores in the manufacture of ammunition. In reloading, a tool for resizing cases or seating bullets.

Director of Civilian Marksmanship (DCM) — a position established under the National Defense Act within the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice, to promote civilian rifle marksmanship. Established in 1916.

disconnecter — that part of a gun which is designed to disengage the trigger from the sear so that further firing is prevented after the shot is fired and while the trigger is still pressed.

doll's head — a device which consists of a top extension of the double shotgun barrel which is wedge-shaped and strengthens the action against the recoil's torque.

donut pattern — a donut-shaped shotgun pattern. The hole in the middle of the pattern is

generally caused by the interference of the old-style top wad.

double action — in a revolver or autoloading pistol, the action by which the hammer can be cocked and dropped to fire the gun by a single pull of the trigger.

double-barreled gun — any gun having two barrels.

double-base powder — a quick-burning, smokeless, propellant powder with nitroglycerine and nitrocellulose. Cordite is an example of a double-base powder.

double pull — a trigger action commonly found in military rifles whereby the gun trigger is moved some distance with little finger pressure, then considerably greater trigger pull pressure is required for a relatively short distance to release the sear.

double rifle — another term for double-barreled rifle.

double-set trigger — a mechanism containing two triggers. One operates as a cocking trigger requiring heavy trigger pull pressure, while the other trigger functions as a firing trigger with an adjustable and very light pull.

drams equivalent — a term used in shotgun ballistics to indicate that a charge of smokeless powder produces the same velocity as a stated volumetric charge of blackpowder.

draw-file — a method used to smooth gun barrels in which a long file is drawn at right angles to the length of the barrel. Commonly used in refinishing military rifles.

Dreyse, Johann Nikolas — (1787-1867) a gunsmith and manufacturer made famous by the development of the breech-loading system. Known as the father of the bolt-action rifle.

drift — the deviation or displacement of a projectile from its line of departure, caused by its rotation or spin. Usually the bullet's movement is to the right or left, depending upon the direction of the twist.

drilling — a three-barreled combination gun, generally of German or Austrian manufacture, which contains one rifle barrel beneath two smooth-bore shotgun barrels.

drop — the distance a projectile falls (measured or calculated from its line of departure) due to the force of gravity. This must be cor-

rected for the difference between the line of sight and the line of departure.

drop, stock — on shotguns or rifles, the measurement of the slope (drop) of the top of the buttstock from the line of sight. Drop is necessary to bring the sight to eye level.

dud — generally referred to as a misfired cartridge; however, it can apply to any explosive charge which does not detonate as intended.

Dum Dum bullet — a bullet designed by Capt. Bertie Clay, a British officer attached to the munitions works at Dum Dum, India in the late 1800's. The Dum Dum bullet was a form of jacketed, soft-point, expanding bullet which produced terrible wounds. Prohibited by The Hague Convention in 1899.

dummy cartridge — used for testing the feed and ejection of rifle actions. The dummy cartridge usually consists only of a cartridge case and bullet with an uncharged primer, forming an inert cartridge.

duplex loads — a loading term normally used when more than one type of powder (usually of different burning rates) is used in loading the same cartridge in order to obtain maximum performance.



ear protectors — plugs, ear-fitting valves, acoustical muffs, or similar products that help protect the shooter's ears from the damage resulting from gunfire.



These EAR PROTECTORS will help guard the shooter's ears from damage.

eject — the action whereby a cartridge is thrown clear from the breech after extraction; usually accomplished by spring action.

ejector — on a double or single-barrel shotgun, a mechanism similar in design to a miniature gun lock, activated by the falling of one or both hammers within the action, which will selectively eject the emptied or fired shell clear of the gun. Ejectors are usually cocked by the closing motion of the gun.

ejector rod — a rod or plunger designed to eject fired cases out of the chamber.

elevation — the vertical sight adjustment to bring the point of aim to the proper elevation to compensate for bullet drop.

energy — the amount of work capable of being done (force transferred) by a projectile at a given range, expressed in foot pounds.

Enfield — an early manufacturer of guns. For many years a generic term used to refer to a multitude of muzzle and breech-loading guns and several revolvers by that maker.

engine turning — the overlapping pattern of circular spots appearing on the bolts of rifles and shotguns, formed on the bolt surface by a spinning abrasive rod. Often incorrectly termed damascening.

English stock — a shotgun stock common to British field guns which is distinguished by a straight grip versus the pistol grip found on typical American shotgun stocks.

engraving — the art of hand-cutting patterns or designs into the metal parts of a firearm, greatly enhancing its value.

erosion — the gradual wearing away of metal from the metal surface by the heat of powder gases or bullet friction. The wearing away generally increases gradually upward toward the end of the bore. As erosion enlarges the bore, both accuracy and velocity are reduced.

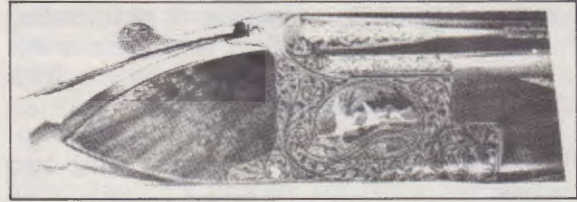
etching — an acid coating method of decorating metal gun parts.

Everlasting case — a cartridge case made from heavy brass stock, intended for extended reloading life.

exit pupil — the opening or clear aperture in the eyepiece lens of a telescopic sight.

expander — the part of a die that expands the

case mouth to receive the bullet. Also referred to as the expander ball.



ENGRAVING is a skill usually left to a highly trained specialist.

expansion ratio — the ratio of the volume of the bore (from the base of the seated bullet to the muzzle) to the volume of the cartridge case. An expansion ratio of 10:1 means the bore volume is ten times the cartridge case volume.

express cartridge — a cartridge which uses abnormally light bullets for its caliber and is fired at unusually high velocities. Not in general use today.

express rifle — a blackpowder rifle which uses and fires express cartridges.

extract — the process of removing the fired case from the chamber as the action is opened.

extractor — the hook device usually contained within the action body or at the barrel breech of a shotgun that partially withdraws the fired cartridge case from a rifle chamber. The extractor generally brings the case within reach of the ejector, which then flips (or ejects) the cartridge case out of the gun.

extruded primer — a primer which has had the primer cup metal forced back into the firing pin hole in the face of the bolt, or the entire primer extends above the cartridge base. Usually denotes excessive pressure, soft primer metal, and/or excess headspace.

extrusion — a material-forming process whereby the material is forced through a die for desired shape.

eye relief — the optimum distance the eye must be held from the ocular lens of a telescope to obtain a full field view through the scope.



face (standing breech) — the vertical part of the shotgun action body through which the

firing pins normally protrude and against which the breech end of the barrel is fitted.

falling block — a form of single-shot action where the breech block travels vertically in a mortise in the receiver. Generally, the block is lowered through the opening in the bottom of the receiver by a finger lever.

false muzzle — a removable extension of the barrel usually associated with high-grade target guns of the late muzzle-loading and early breech-loading period. False muzzles are generally used in cases where maximum accuracy is desired as they serve to protect the rifling at the muzzle during the use of the ram rod when seating the bullet. They must be removed before firing.

fanning — a method whereby a single-action revolver is fired rapidly. The trigger is held back, allowing the hammer to rapidly and repeatedly drop and fire the gun as the palm of the other hand strokes (fans) the hammer to the cocked position. It is not possible to fan double-action revolvers.

Farquharson rifle — a falling-block, single-shot rifle considered by many to be the epitome of traditional single-shot rifle development. Most often encountered in large calibers intended for large game.

fast draw — drawing a pistol or revolver and firing in the fastest time possible. Championship times run as low as 0.2 second.

feed — the action of transferring live cartridges from the magazine of a semi-auto pistol, rifle, or shotgun into the chamber. Also referred to as the system or method of feed in a particular gun; i.e., magazine feed, belt feed, gravity feed, etc.

feed ramp — the breech part of any gun except a revolver which channels a cartridge from the magazine into the chamber.

Ferguson rifle — the first practical breech-loaded rifle designed and patented by Major Patrick Ferguson (1744-1780). The gun is simple in design, consisting of a round breech plug passing through a matching hole at the rear of the barrel and caused to travel vertically by means of a multiple high-pitch thread. Few Ferguson rifles are in existence today.

field of view — in a telescopic sight, the maximum area for optimum view through the scope, usually measured at a distance of 100 yards.

fine sight (fine bead) — the picture in an open sight when the tip of the front sight shows only slightly at the base of the notch of the rear sight.

fire-form — the shaping of a cartridge case to fit a given chamber by firing the case in that chamber.

firing pin — that part of the breech mechanism which strikes the primer to fire the cartridge. Often termed "striker" in some bolt-action rifles.

firing pin protrusion — the measurement from the bolt face to the tip of the firing pin as it protrudes beyond the face of the bolt at the instant of firing.

fit and finish — refers to the overall craftsmanship of a gun.

flake powder — a chip-type smokeless powder, usually burning rapidly.

flanged — a rimmed cartridge case.

flash — a very minor explosion on a front lock resulting when a bit of molten metal falls into the priming powder in the flash pan.

flash hider — a device attached to the muzzle of a military arm to conceal the flash.

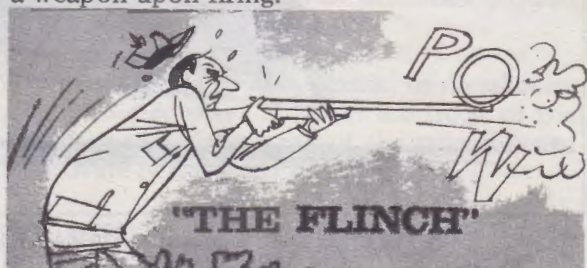
flashhole — the opening between the pan of a front lock and the powder charge in the chamber.

flash pan — on flintlock arms requiring spark for ignition, a small pan located below the frizzen.

flash suppressor — any device attached to the muzzle of a gun to reduce flash.

flat-point — a bullet shape having a blunt tip, used especially in rifles with tubular magazines.

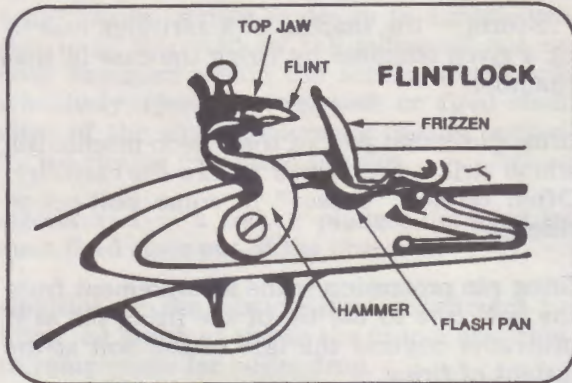
flinch — the involuntary movement or jerk of a weapon upon firing.



Fear of recoil is often a cause of FLINCHING.

flint — a stone located in the cock of the flintlock which strikes steel, causing a spark to ignite the powder.

flintlock — any firearm in which flint strikes steel to ignite the powder charge.



The FLINTLOCK was in general use in the mid-1800's. (Courtesy National Rifle Association)

floating barrel — a barrel inletted in such a way that it never contacts the stock, even upon firing.

floor plate — the metal plate located at the bottom of the cartridge magazine. May be fixed, hinged, or detachable, depending on gun type. Sometimes called the "bottom" or "base" piece.

flush-seating — encasing a wadcutter bullet completely within the case, its nose flush with the case opening.

fluted chamber — the grooving of a conventional chamber to permit propellant gases to flow between the case and the chamber, thus reducing the amount of force necessary for extraction. Fluted chambers are found in some foreign automatic weapons.

folding gun — a firearm that folds at a hinge pin to simplify carrying or packing.

follower — the platform in a magazine, controlled by the magazine spring, which moves

the cartridges into position for feeding.

foot pound — a unit of energy equal to the energy required to raise a one-pound weight to a height of one foot.

forcing cone — the cone-shaped portion of a shotgun barrel located directly ahead of the chamber where shot charge is reduced to bore diameter.

forend — the frontal portion of the stock located under the barrel of a one-piece stock to provide the lefthand hold for a righthanded shooter. A separate hold or handguard on two-piece stocks.

forend latch — an easily removed, spring-loaded device on a shotgun which secures the forend to the barrel.

forend tip — the term commonly applied to a decorative and contrasting piece of wood such as rosewood or ebony forming the last two inches or so of the forend. Usually attached by dowels and glue or epoxy.

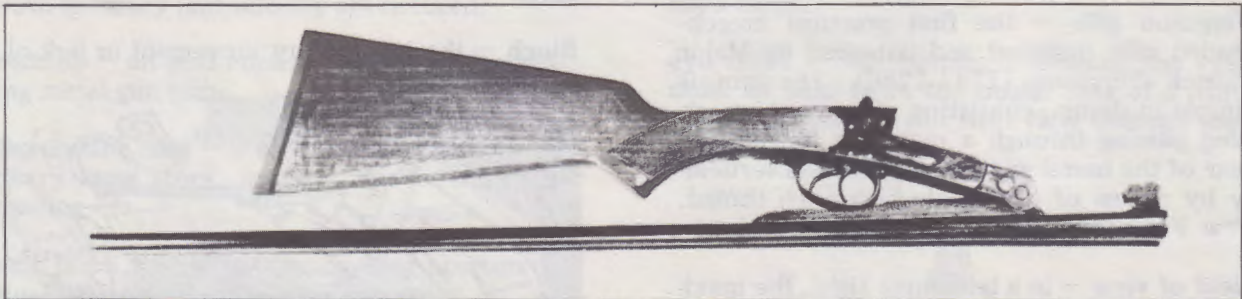
fouling shot — one or more shots fired after a gun barrel has been cleaned and oiled to eliminate the slight center of bullet impact difference between a clean bore and a fouled one.

fowling piece — the original term for a shotgun, referring to a smoothbore with a long barrel intended for shooting fowl.

fps — abbreviation for feet per second, a term used in rating the speed of a bullet.

Frankford Arsenal — a manufacturing and experimental arsenal at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, operated by the U.S. Army. Ammunition manufactured at the Frankford Arsenal can be identified by the letters FA in the headstamp.

freebore — the distance which a bullet travels when fired before it contacts the rear portion



A FOLDING GUN, such as this .410 double shotgun, can be carried or packed easily and compactly.

of the rifling. Usually applied to an unrifled portion of the barrel between the rifling and the end of the chamber.

free rifle — a rifle weighing 8 kilograms (17.6 pounds) designed specifically for international match shooting.

freshing out — recutting the rifling of a barrel to regain smoothness and top performance.

frizzen — the hardened steel surface which the flint strikes to ignite the primed flash pan of a flintlock.

frontal ignition — use of a tube which, in effect, extends the flashhole to the front end of the powder for better ignition. Used in artillery cartridges, but not normally in rifle cartridges.

full charge — any cartridge loaded to factory or SAAMI standards.

full metal jacket (FMJ) — a non-expanding bullet whose jacket is open only at the rear.

fulminate of mercury — a highly sensitive explosive used in the 1800's to ignite gun powder with detonation by a blow.

functioning cycle — regardless of gun design, certain operations must occur for the firearm to function properly. Beginning with the gun loaded and cocked, the eight steps are: (1) ignition, (2) unlocking, (3) extraction, (4) ejection, (5) cocking, (6) feeding, (7) chambering, and (8) locking.

G

gas-cutting — the escaping of propellant gas between a bullet and the bore when the bullet first enters the rifling. A lead bullet at high gas pressure can become badly distorted by excessive gas-cutting so that accuracy is destroyed.

gas operation — a type of firearm operation, semi-automatic or full-automatic, where some of the propellant gases are vented out of the bore through a small port. This drives the piston to the rear and provides power for unlocking and opening the action and compressing a return or recoil spring which allows power for closing the action, thus completing the functioning cycle. A contemporary gas-operated

sporting rifle is actually a pump-action rifle in which the gas-driven piston substitutes for the shooter's arm and muscle.

gas port — in a gas-operated firearm, the small hole in the barrel through which expanding powder gases escape to power the auto-loading system.

gauge — the measurement of the bore diameter of a shotgun. Originally represented the number of bore-sized balls that could be cased from one pound of lead. For example, 12 balls which fit the bore of a 12-gauge shotgun would weigh one pound. Also see "windage."

gilding metal — the copper-zinc or copper-nickel alloy used in making bullet jackets.

glass bedding — the reinforcing of a wooden gunstock by adding a fiberglass-epoxy compound to strengthen the stock and improve accuracy and consistency of point of bullet impact.

Go-No Go gauges — standard measuring devices used to determine proper headspace in a firearm.

grain — the British unit of measure used to describe weight when measuring gunpowder. Seven thousand grains equal one pound, 437.5 grains equal one ounce. Individual particles of powder are referred to as granules or kernels, never as grains.

grease groove — an indentation in the circumference of a swaged or cast bullet to hold lubricant.

grease gun — slang expression for the M3 and M3A1 .45-caliber machine gun used in World War II.

Greener safety — a manual safety located on the left side of the buttstock just below the top lever of a double-barreled shotgun. Designed by W. W. Greener, an English gunsmith in the mid-1870's.

grip — the small portion of the stock gripped or held by the trigger hand.

grip adapter — a rubber, plastic, or metal filler added to a revolver between the front of the grip frame and the back of the trigger guard to provide better hand support.

grip safety — a separate mechanical safety protruding to the rear from the grip which prevents firing by trigger movement unless de-

with a hook"; first used to describe the smooth-bore matchlock of the mid-15th century. Now the term refers to a gun of fine workmanship.

heel — the top of the buttplate or the edge of the base of a bullet.

high-base — shot shell with a thick base was combined with a low brass head, generally used for target shooting.

high-brass — shot shell having an elongated metal head used for high-powered field and magnum loads. However, the "high brass" does not provide extra strength as is commonly assumed. The strength is in the case. High-brass cases are of *low-base* construction, which provides greater powder capacity. (These two terms are often confused.)

high-intensity — refers to cartridges giving a velocity of 2700 feet per second or more.

high-power — a term used to describe the first smokeless powder cartridges having velocities of about 2000 feet per second.

hinge pin — the large, hardened pin or dowel located at the front end of the shotgun action bar upon which the barrels pivot.

hip shooting — shooting with a gun held about waist level without benefit of sight. Usually refers to handguns, but can also apply to rifles or shotguns.

holding — keeping the sight on the target while applying pressure to the trigger.

holdover — the distance a shooter must raise his point of aim to be on target to compensate for drop in trajectory when the firearm is zeroed in at a lesser distance.

hollow-base — a bullet design in which a cup or cavity is cut into the base.

hollow-point — a bullet designed with an axial hole at the point to increase expansion upon impact.

hooded sight — a front sight covered by a hood or tube to protect it from wear or damage while eliminating glare.

hook — the semi-circular groove at the front end of the shotgun barrel lumps which contacts the hinge pin and rides on the hinge pin

as the barrel is rotated down or back into locking position.

hook buttplate — a butt attachment, usually adjustable, which in effect extends the stock so that it fits under the arm of the shooter, thus keeping the rifle in proper position.

hypervelocity — a military term used for fire-arm ammunition which produces a muzzle velocity greater than 5000 feet per second.



igniting charge — in early firearms, the charge used to ignite the propellant. Modern cartridges include the igniting charge with the primer.

ignition — a combustion of propellant powder which occurs when sparks and incandescent particles pass through the flashhole as a result of firing pin impact.

improved cartridge — a cartridge which has been fire-formed to new dimensions in an "improved" chamber. Such cases are usually sharper at the shoulder, less tapered, and have a greater powder capacity than standard cases.

IMR (Improved Military Rifle) — the trade name for single-base cannister rifle powders. Associated with Dupont powders.

incendiary bullet — a kind of military small arms bullet containing incendiary material so that it will ignite upon impact. Extremely dangerous because of fire hazard and should not be used for hunting or sporting purposes.

inertia firing pin — a firing pin which moves freely within the breech block so that a blow of the hammer or striker propels it forward and the explosion of the primer forces it back. Such pins are valuable safety devices when a gun is carried with a round chambered and the hammer in the down position.

Ingalls' Tables — ballistic tables computed by the late James M. Ingalls of the U.S. Navy, used to calculate remaining velocities and trajectories for small arms projectiles.

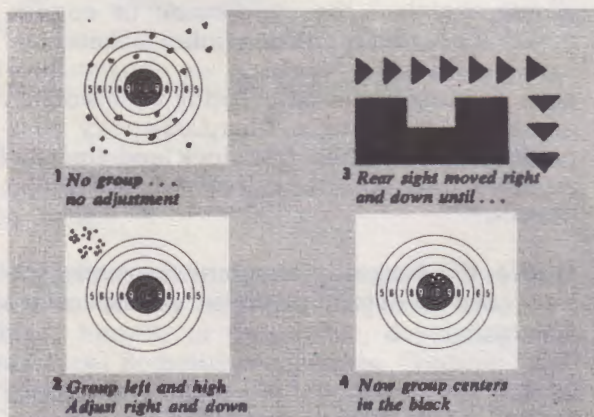
inletting — that part of the stock which has been cut and formed to precisely fit the metal gun parts.

pressed. A prominent feature of the Colt .45 semi-auto pistol.

groove diameter — the diametrical measurement between the bottom of grooves.

grooves — spiral cuts or impressions in the bore of a firearm which impart a rotational or gyroscopic spin to the bullet as it moves through the barrel.

group — a term used to describe the pattern of a number of shots fired from one aiming point and with one sight setting, generally used to determine ammunition and gun accuracy.



If shots **GROUP** consistently at one point, the sights need adjustment.

guard screw — holds the action and trigger guard to the stock. In bolt-action rifles, the screw holding the trigger guard/magazine unit to the receiver, sandwiching the stock in between.

Gun Control Act of 1968 — Gun control and registration ordinances have existed in various forms since the 1930's. In 1968, following a series of political assassinations, Federal gun control laws were enacted governing the sale, purchase, and shipment (intrastate and interstate) of firearms, ammunition, and destructive devices.

gun cotton — cotton treated with nitric acid, used as an early explosive. Not a smokeless propellant as is often erroneously believed. See "cordite."

gun metal — a bronze alloy, usually dark bluish-gray in color, used to make cannons.

gunpowder — refers to blackpowder, but is sometimes incorrectly used to describe smokeless propellant powders.

gunstock — that portion of a shoulder arm, usually wood, which is connected to the breech or barrel and action assembly and holds the gun to the shoulder.

Gyro Jet — patented name for a plastic smooth-bore handgun developed by M.B.A. Associates in which a long steel cartridge holds a small solid-fuel rocket motor. Accuracy is not equal to conventional ammunition and arms. No longer manufactured, Gyro Jet guns and ammunition are now collector's items.



half cock — a position found on exposed-hammer rifles and shotguns and on most single-action revolvers which serves as a manual safety.

half-jacketed — a design of bullet where the soft lead core is only partially encased by a thin jacket. Half-jacketed bullets cause heavy leading and are not usually accurate.

hammer — that part of the action which is actuated by a spring driving the firing pin to ignite the cartridge.

hammerless — a term used to describe a gun without an exposed hammer. The so-called "hammerless" gun will usually have a concealed, pivoted hammer or reciprocating striker.

hand cannon — the earliest known small firearm. Hand cannons were muzzle-loaded and ignited manually.

hand guard — a wood, metal, or plastic covering placed over the barrel to allow it to be touched without injury when sustained firing causes the barrel to become quite hot. Generally found only on military rifles.

handloading — charging new or used cartridge cases or shot shells with fresh powder, primer, and bullet or wad and shot, thus customizing cartridges and reducing shooting costs.

hangfire — a potentially dangerous situation when what appears to be a misfire discharges after a short delay. Hangfires are usually caused by too light a firing pin blow or when ammunition has become wet or oil-laden.

Harquebus, Arquebus — actually meaning "gun

with a hook"; first used to describe the smooth-bore matchlock of the mid-15th century. Now the term refers to a gun of fine workmanship.

heel — the top of the buttplate or the edge of the base of a bullet.

high-base — shot shell with a thick base wad combined with a low brass head, generally used for target shooting.

high-brass — shot shell having an elongated metal head used for high-powered field and magnum loads. However, the "high brass" does not provide extra strength as is commonly assumed. The strength is in the case. High-brass cases are of *low-base* construction, which provides greater powder capacity. (These two terms are often confused.)

high-intensity — refers to cartridges giving a velocity of 2700 feet per second or more.

high-power — a term used to describe the first smokeless powder cartridges having velocities of about 2000 feet per second.

hinge pin — the large, hardened pin or dowel located at the front end of the shotgun action bar upon which the barrels pivot.

hip shooting — shooting with a gun held about waist level without benefit of sight. Usually refers to handguns, but can also apply to rifles or shotguns.

holding — keeping the sight on the target while applying pressure to the trigger.

holdover — the distance a shooter must raise his point of aim to be on target to compensate for drop in trajectory when the firearm is zeroed in at a lesser distance.

hollow-base — a bullet design in which a cup or cavity is cut into the base.

hollow-point — a bullet designed with an axial hole at the point to increase expansion upon impact.

hooded sight — a front sight covered by a hood or tube to protect it from wear or damage while eliminating glare.

hook — the semi-circular groove at the front end of the shotgun barrel lumps which contacts the hinge pin and rides on the hinge pin

as the barrel is rotated down or back into locking position.

hook buttplate — a butt attachment, usually adjustable, which in effect extends the stock so that it fits under the arm of the shooter, thus keeping the rifle in proper position.

hypervelocity — a military term used for firearm ammunition which produces a muzzle velocity greater than 5000 feet per second.



igniting charge — in early firearms, the charge used to ignite the propellant. Modern cartridges include the igniting charge with the primer.

ignition — a combustion of propellant powder which occurs when sparks and incandescent particles pass through the flashhole as a result of firing pin impact.

improved cartridge — a cartridge which has been fire-formed to new dimensions in an "improved" chamber. Such cases are usually sharper at the shoulder, less tapered, and have a greater powder capacity than standard cases.

IMR (Improved Military Rifle) — the trade name for single-base canister rifle powders. Associated with Dupont powders.

incendiary bullet — a kind of military small arms bullet containing incendiary material so that it will ignite upon impact. Extremely dangerous because of fire hazard and should not be used for hunting or sporting purposes.

inertia firing pin — a firing pin which moves freely within the breech block so that a blow of the hammer or striker propels it forward and the explosion of the primer forces it back. Such pins are valuable safety devices when a gun is carried with a round chambered and the hammer in the down position.

Ingalls' Tables — ballistic tables computed by the late James M. Ingalls of the U.S. Navy, used to calculate remaining velocities and trajectories for small arms projectiles.

inletting — that part of the stock which has been cut and formed to precisely fit the metal gun parts.

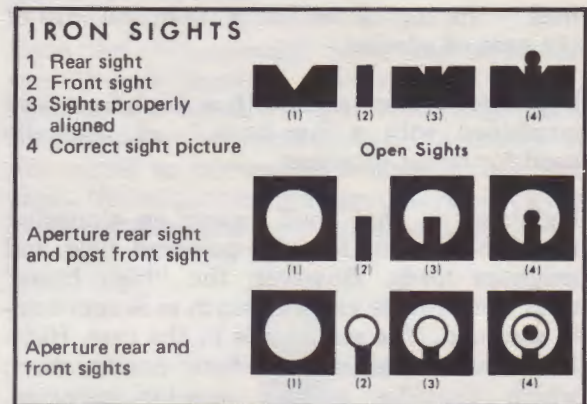
instrumental velocity — a term used to describe the velocity of a bullet as it is computed with a chronograph.

intermediate cartridge — a military cartridge with power and velocity ranges midway between that of a rifle and pistol cartridge, usually used in submachine guns.

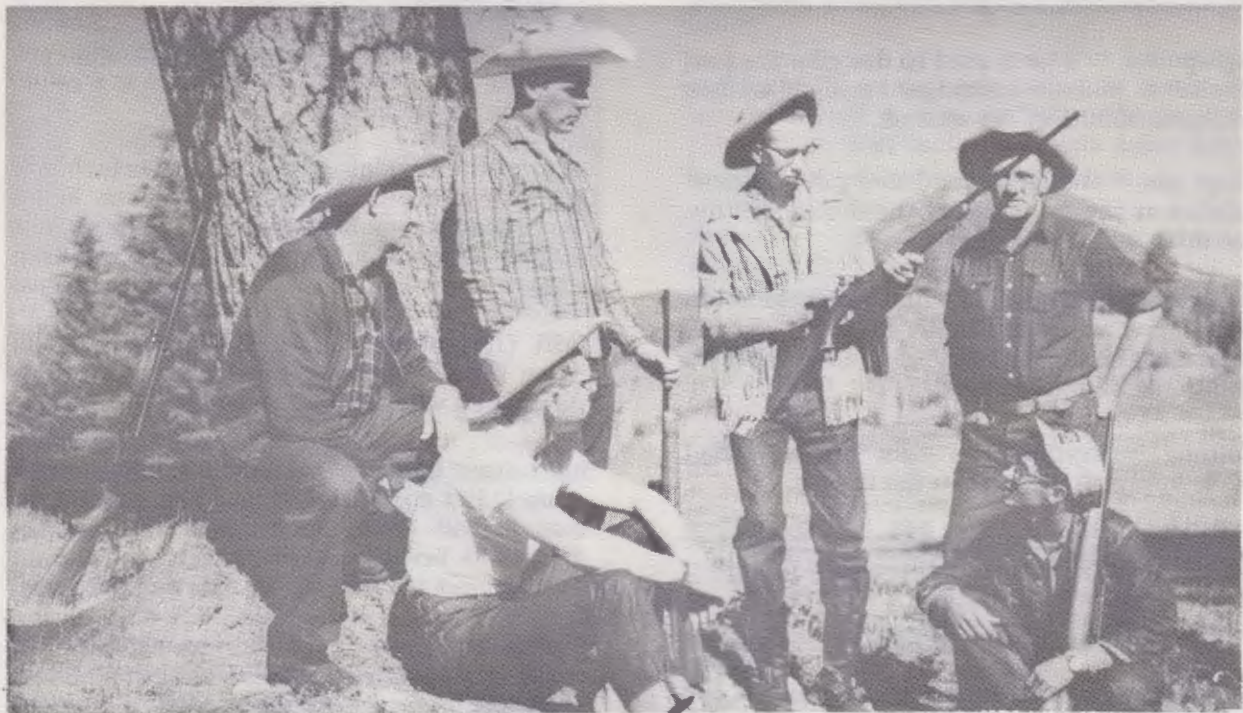
International Shooting Union (ISU) — the organization which promotes and develops international shooting competition, including Olympic matches.

investment casting — a casting method wherein small, detailed parts may be cast from sophisticated alloy steels of great strength. Usually investment cast parts do not require machining and can be cast to exact finish dimensions.

iron sights — the most common form of sighting instruments, manufactured in both open and aperture designs.



The open type is the most popular IRON SIGHT. (Drawing courtesy National Rifle Association)



You can bet that when two or more hunters get together, they will start talking guns.