

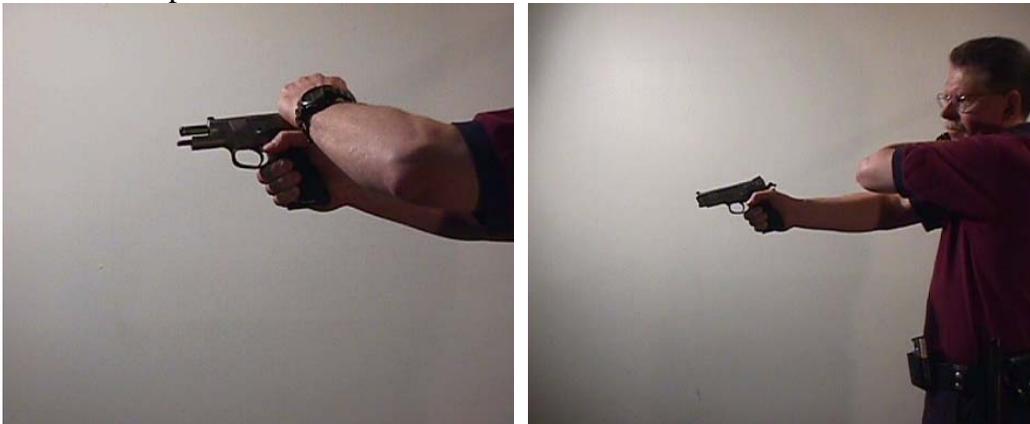
Pistol Manipulation

All manipulations of *any* firearm require that the trigger finger is indexed above the trigger guard alongside the receiver and the muzzle is kept pointed in a safe direction throughout the process. Whenever possible, students should learn to manipulate the slide stop lever, magazine catch, and decocking lever and safeties using the strong hand only keeping in mind that at some point the support hand may be incapacitated or occupied with other tasks such as holding a flashlight.

Racking the action – To facilitate *reliable* functioning of the semi-automatic, the slide moves rapidly when fired. To ensure that the weapon feeds, chambers, extracts and ejects without interruption requires that *at least as much* energy as that provided by the detonation of the fired cartridge be used when manipulating the slide manually. If the recoil spring is not fully compressed to the rear or if it is not allowed to release its energy unimpeded as it moves the slide forward, the **cycle of operation** (Sec. 2 – Pg. 14) is hampered and malfunctions are likely to occur. Any technique used to manipulate the slide *must* be performed briskly to avoid stoppages whether loading, unloading, reloading, or clearing malfunctions.

Technique #1: (“Traditional” or “Saddle Grip”) While holding the pistol in a normal firing grip with the dominant hand, cant the weapon outboard (toward the dominant side) approximately 45° and grasp the top rear of the slide behind the ejection port with the support hand. The support hand palm is facing down with the thumb toward the rear of the pistol. Briskly pull the slide to the rear allowing it to tear away from your hand when it reaches the rear limit of its travel. The follow-through motion of the support hand continues until it contacts the support side shoulder to keep from inadvertently riding the slide forward thereby impeding its return trip to the **in-battery** (Sec. 3 – Pg. 14) position. This follow through motion will also minimize the chance of the trailing edge of the support hand from lingering over the ejection port and potentially blocking an ejected round which sometimes occurs, especially for those with larger hands.

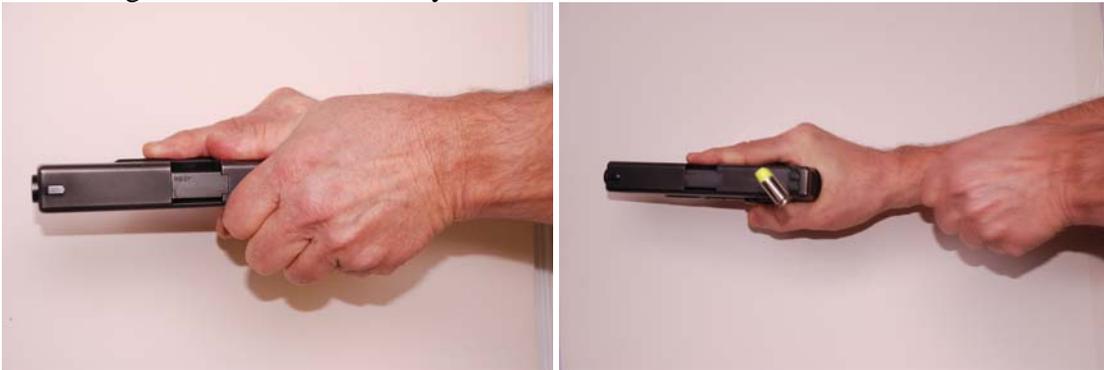
As the two handed grip is reacquired, be sure that the support hand does not go in front of the muzzle of the pistol!



Alternative #1

Pistol Manipulation

Technique #2: (“Slingshot” or “Reverse Saddle Grip”) This technique, introduced to assist in eliminating blocking the ejection port with the support hand is as follows: Hold the pistol in the normal firing grip in the dominant hand and rotate it inboard towards the support side approximately 90° – 135°. Grasp the rear of the slide behind the ejection port with the web of the support hand over the rear sight, the thumb pointing away from you along the right side of the slide, (right handed-opposite for left handed) and the remaining fingers on the opposite side of the slide. Using a brisk and forceful motion, simultaneously, push away with the dominant hand and pull the slide to the rear with the support hand, allowing the slide to tear away from the grip as it reaches its rear limit of travel. This technique puts the weapon in a position of strength at the centerline of the body and allows for more rotation of the weapon to allow gravity to assist in ejecting rounds or casings than can be achieved with Technique #1 (Pg. 1). It also tends to eliminate the tendency for the muzzle of the weapon to drift towards the support elbow or those who may be standing in that direction which can occur especially when Technique #1 is being used to clear secondary malfunctions.



Technique #2
Right handed



Technique #2
Left handed

Pistol Manipulation

Manually locking the slide to the rear (open) can be especially difficult for the inexperienced, for those with smaller hands, and for left handed shooters. Proper guidance from patient instructors along with practice can overcome initial awkwardness.

Right handed shooters will need to learn to shift the dominant hand grip to allow the thumb to reach the **slide stop lever** (Sec. 2 – Pg. 4) While continuing upward pressure on the slide stop lever, obtain a grip of the slide with the support hand and briskly pull the slide to the rear allowing it to tear away from the support hand as it reaches the rearward limit of travel. This will work with either of the Techniques shown on pages 1 & 2. The slide will be locked **out-of-battery** (Sec. 3 - Pg. 13) when the notch in the slide contacts the slide stop lever.



Apply upward pressure on slide stop



Rack the slide to the rear



Slide locked back

Pistol Manipulation

Left handed shooters (option # 1) can maintain the dominant hand grip on the firearm and apply upward pressure on the slide stop lever with a knuckle or tip of the trigger finger. Continuing to apply the upward pressure, obtain a grip on the slide with the support hand (using one of the techniques described on page 1 & 2) and briskly pull the slide to the rear allowing it to tear away from the hand as it reaches the rearward limit of travel. The slide will be locked out-of-battery when the notch in the slide contacts the slide stop lever.



Knuckle applying pressure on slide stop

Left handed shooters (option #2) can maintain the dominant hand grip on the firearm and turn the weapon over onto its right side and move the weapon to the center of the body in front of the stomach. Grip the rear of the slide behind the ejection port with the support hand. With the fingers on the right side of the slide and the base of the thumb on the left, extend the thumb towards the muzzle far enough to reach the slide stop notch in the slide without blocking the ejection port with the fingers. Briskly pull the slide to its rearward limit of travel where the slide stop lever matches up with the notch. Use the support hand thumb to press the slide stop lever into the notch in the slide. Allow the slide to move forward while maintaining pressure on the slide stop lever to where it locks into the out-of-battery position.



Right thumb applies upward pressure on the slide stop

Pistol Manipulation

Press Check: The Press Check may be performed anytime the shooter is uncertain of, or wishes to confirm, that the pistol is loaded although not recommended while in the midst of the deadly force confrontation. Several techniques are available to accomplish this. Throughout all manipulation it is important to keep the hands away from the muzzle of the weapon, the trigger finger indexed, and the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. On applicable weapons, manual thumb safeties must be disengaged prior to manipulating the slide.

Option #1: Slightly lower the firing grip with the dominant hand to allow room to place the thumb of the support hand under the curved portion of the backstrap (tang.) Hook the first or first and second fingers of the support hand over the top of the slide in front of the rear sight and pull the slide **out-of-battery*** sufficiently to LOOK and FEEL using the index finger, through the ejection port, to verify the existence of the partially extracted round. After removing the finger, release the slide and allow it to go back into battery. Decock the weapon if applicable.



Option #1

Pistol Manipulation

Option #2: Maintain a firing grip on the pistol with the dominant hand. Insure the trigger finger is indexed high on the slide and the muzzle is pointed down-range. Grasp the top rear of the slide behind the ejection port. The support hand palm should be facing down and the thumb toward the rear of the pistol. Deep the little finger free of the gripping process and held up off the slide. Pull the slide partially **out-of-battery** with the support hand grip while using the dominant hand trigger finger to apply pressure to the side of the slide as a brake. Use the trigger finger against the slide to control the rearward motion to prevent the chambered round from being ejected. When the slide is open sufficiently to allow access through the ejection port, stop the motion with firm pressure of the trigger finger. Look and use the little finger of the support hand to feel through the partially open ejection port to feel for the partially extracted round. Remove the finger and release the slide allowing it to return to the **in-battery** position.



Option #2

Option #3: Pistols with **dual function decocking levers** (Sec. 2 - Pg. 22) on the rear of the slide may be press checked by maintaining a firing grip with the dominant hand. With the support hand thumb on the curved portion of the backstrap (tang,) position the index and middle finger over each side of the decocking lever and push it into the “down” position. Pull the slide **out-of-battery** sufficiently to LOOK and FEEL with the index finger, through the ejection port, to verify the existence of the partially extracted round. After removing the finger, release the slide and allow it to go back **in-battery**. Place the decocking lever back in the “up” (fire) position.



Option #3

Pistol Manipulation

Press Check continued

Double action pistols (Sec. 2 – Pg. 22) with exposed hammers are more easily press-checked if thumb-cocked first to ease spring tension. Double action pistols which remain in **single action** (Sec. 2 – Pg. 24) condition after press checking *must* be **decocked** (Sec. 2 – Pg. 22) and manual **thumb safeties** (Sec. 2 – Pg. 24) *must be* engaged prior to holstering.

NEVER PRESS CHECK BY PUTTING THE SUPPORT HAND THUMB INTO THE TRIGGER GUARD!

Pistol Manipulation

Loading the Semi-Automatic Pistol

Although agencies may determine that initial loading of the pistol should start with the weapon in the holster and call it “administrative loading”, consideration should be given to the philosophy that the term “administrative” may impart the idea to some that it is of lesser importance thereby resulting in a casual approach to a potentially hazardous task. Also, starting the loading procedure in the holster deprives one of repetitions needed to reinforce good body mechanics transferable to efficient reloading. With any technique, the question must be asked and answered; “what is the advantage?” Whether it is decided to *start* the loading procedure in the holster or not, the handgun will eventually be in the hand and issues of safe muzzle direction as well as correct trigger finger indexing throughout the loading process *must* be followed. If unsure of its condition, once the weapon is in hand, a press check *may be* performed or the slide locked to the rear to verify that the weapon is in need of loading. The semi-automatic pistol can be loaded from either an **in-battery** or **out-of-battery** condition.

1. *On applicable weapons*, place dual function **decocking levers** in the down position or disengage **manual thumb safeties**.
2. Firmly insert the loaded magazine into the magazine well.
3. **Rack the action** to chamber a round. If the slide is already locked to the rear it is advised that it be pulled briskly rearward and released in a similar manner to that used as if it were in-battery. This will disengage the slide stop lever and allow the slide to go forward into battery and chamber the round. Pushing down on the slide stop lever to release the slide causes unnecessary wear resulting in premature breakage of the slide stop lever and unnecessary wear to the slide stop lever notch located on the slide.
4. **Press check** to ensure that a round was chambered. **An alternative** is to remove the magazine and verify that it contains one less round than before the slide was racked. Proponents of this method maintain that once a round has been chambered a press check by pulling the slide out of battery might cause the round to not be fully in battery when the slide is released.
5. Immediately decock single function **decocking levers** to lower hammers, place dual function **decocking levers** in the up position and reengage manual **thumb safeties** *on applicable weapons*.
6. Replace the magazine in the weapon with a full one. This might be a good time to practice a **tactical reload** (Sec. 3 – Pg. 15). Holstering the weapon, then removing the magazine, topping it off and placing it back into the magazine well creates potential for the magazine to not be fully seated and to fall from the weapon when it is drawn or when the first round is fired.

Pistol Manipulation

Unloading the Semi-Automatic Pistol

The same issues addressed above regarding “administrative loading” are applicable to the “administrative unloading” that starts in the holster. Care again must be taken throughout the manipulation of the weapon to ensure that the muzzle is always pointed in a safe direction and the trigger finger remains outside and above the trigger guard.

1. Remove the magazine from the magazine well.
2. Disengage the manual thumb safety on applicable weapons. Dual function decocking levers may be placed in the down position.
3. **Lock the slide to the rear** allowing the chambered round to be ejected to the ground. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CATCH THE ROUND IN YOUR HAND!** Covering the ejection port with the hand can capture it between the breech face and chamber at an angle that exposes the primer to the ejector. Any racking of the slide then creates the potential for the round to detonate causing serious damage to the support hand.
4. *Visually* and *physically* verify that both the chamber and the magazine well are empty by looking through the ejection port and feeling with a finger of the support hand.
5. Lower the slide by briskly pulling back on it with the support hand and releasing it when it contacts its rear limit of travel and allow it to go in-battery.
6. On applicable weapons, lower the hammer by pushing down on the single function decocking lever or pushing the dual function decocking lever down (if not already down) and then back up. Single action 1911 type variants remain in the single action mode with hammer cocked and the thumb safety reengaged. The only time the hammer is not left cocked is for long term storage of the weapon.

Pistol Manipulation

Reloading the Semi-Automatic Pistol

Correctly gripping the magazine

The reloading of the semi-automatic pistol in as short a time as possible is more a product of *efficiency* of movement than speed of movement. To mitigate the effects of adrenaline, including the loss of fine motor skills, it is important to obtain the proper grip on the pistol magazine each and every time as it is removed from the pouch. The magazine floor plate should rest against the base of the palm of the support hand. The index finger of the support hand should be extended along the front of the magazine body with the fingertip touching the nose (bullet) of the top cartridge in the magazine. Those with both small hands and large magazines may need to compromise by sacrificing the fingertip reaching the nose of the top cartridge in order to have enough palm under the magazine floor plate to seat the magazine in the magazine well.



Correct Grip on the Magazine

Equipment placement

Prior to addressing the skill steps necessary to accomplish reloading, attention must be given to equipment placement. Both the location of magazine pouches on the belt and the placement of the magazines within those pouches must be taken into account. Efficient reloading, which emphasizes grasping the magazine correctly as it is removed it from the pouch *ideally* places the magazine pouch somewhere between the support side hip and the centerline of the body. Shooters who prefer to place the pouch on the belt in a vertical position should locate it on the support side between the hip and centerline of the body. Those who choose to use horizontal pouches should locate them on the strong side between the holster and centerline with the flaps opening toward the support hand. The latter may offer a compromise solution for heavier officers wearing their soft body armor. The bottom line is that magazines *must* be accessible to the support hand and *should* be accessible to the dominant hand in the event that the support hand is disabled. Additionally, accessibility from different shooting positions, such as sitting in a vehicle or kneeling behind cover, must also be evaluated. Once pouch placement has been determined, the decision regarding magazine placement in the pouch must be made.

Pistol Manipulation

Equipment Placement Continued

Most who carry vertical pouches find that placing the magazines in the pouch with the cartridge pointing forward (or away from the support side hip) provides the most efficient accessibility to the magazine. For those who use horizontal pouches, most find that having the cartridges pointing towards the ground accomplishes the same result although gravity may cause the top round to work its way out of position in the magazine. In any case, it is important that magazines are positioned the same way in both (all) pouches at all times, in order to allow the shooter to reflexively reload without needing to look at or manipulate the magazine in the hand as it moves from the pouch to the magazine well.

The importance of details

1. The eyes:

Shooters who learn to perform manipulations without looking at their equipment are quicker and safer than those whose dependence on their eyes, slows them down and distracts them. With correct and frequent practice, the hands and fingers can and should learn to perform reloads and clear malfunctions under all circumstances, including in the dark. During weapon manipulation in a deadly force confrontation, the eyes should be free from all tasks not related to observing and assessing the tactical situation.

2. Elevation:

Manipulating the weapon at belt or stomach level has two obvious disadvantages. First, it requires more elapsed time (travel time) to put it back into service after the manipulation is completed. Secondly, in the event of an unforeseen hang-up during the manipulation, it draws the eyes downward, away from the threat area. In contrast, keeping the pistol just below the line of sight, (at approximately the collar bone level) so as not to block the field of view, allows it to return to pointing in on the target quicker and remain in the shooter's peripheral vision during the manipulation.

3. Arm extension

In order to place the weapon in a position that takes advantage of the body's natural strength, bend the dominant arm at the elbow and bring the weapon closer to the body, rather than trying to manipulate it at full arm's length. However, bending the elbow more than 90° tends to point the muzzle skywards and increases the time and distance necessary to bring it to bear on the threat. Thus, an intermediate position, in conjunction with the proper elevation of the weapon (#2 above), places it in the "**work area**" that best utilizes the way the human body is built.

Pistol Manipulation

Reloading Philosophy

The concept of “when to” reload the semi-automatic pistol must be combined with the “how to.” Phrases such as “reload whenever you can” or “every chance you get” or “whenever there is a lull in the action” must be expanded upon and examples and exceptions critically discussed whenever teaching techniques. This contrasts with those who insist that a person in the midst of the confrontation will have too much to think about to know when they are getting low on ammunition and consequently should focus on learning to reload only when the slide locks out-of-battery on the empty magazine. Yet, the slide locking to the rear on an empty magazine can be mistaken (especially in the dark) for a type III malfunction and therefore extra time will be used up performing unnecessary clearance procedures instead of simply reloading. Instructors must also factor into their thinking that the best thought out technique which works flawlessly for *them* on the range will deteriorate for *their students* when exposed to the mental, physical, and environmental chaos of the deadly force confrontation. As instructors, we need to constantly explore and evaluate available techniques. We must find those with the fewest drawbacks, expose the student to those which are proven in battle, and allow the student to develop those options which accomplish the desired results.

Speed Reloads

This term refers to the methods by which the shooter replenishes ammunition in the pistol during a confrontation or training exercise *without* retaining the depleted magazine. When the slide has locked to the rear due to the magazine being out of ammunition, it is frequently called an “**out-of-battery**” or “empty chamber” speed reload. When performed before the weapon runs dry, it may be called an “**in-battery**” speed reload. Efficiency of execution is an important aspect of the concept of **continuity of fire** (Sec. 1 – Pg. 14). As with all weapons manipulation, correct muzzle awareness and trigger finger indexing is vital.

Pistol Manipulation

Out-of-Battery Speed Reload – Empty Chamber Reload – Slide lock Reload

When the slide locks to the rear on an empty magazine, keep the eyes on the threat, bend the dominant arm and bring the pistol into the “**work area.**” Shift the dominant hand’s grip on the weapon to allow the thumb (right handed) or index or middle finger (left handed) to press the magazine catch and release the empty magazine from the weapon. While doing so, remove the fresh magazine from the pouch with the support hand, obtaining the proper grip. The index finger of the support hand should then guide the magazine to the magazine well. Next, place the flat of the back of the magazine to the flat of the back of the magazine well. Insert the magazine and firmly seat it with the palm of the hand under the magazine floor plate. Grasp the slide behind the ejection port and rack the action to chamber the round. Reestablish the proper two-handed grip on the pistol and deal with any threats appropriately.



Out-of-battery reload sequence



Back in the fight

Pistol Manipulation

In-Battery Speed Reload

Keeping the eyes on the threat, bend the dominant arm and bring the pistol into the “**work area.**” Shift the dominant hand’s grip on the weapon to allow the thumb (right handed) or index or middle finger (left handed) to reach the magazine catch as the support hand moves to the magazine pouch. Only *after* obtaining a full magazine from the pouch, press the magazine catch to drop the depleted magazine from the pistol. Using the correct grip on the fresh magazine, move it towards the magazine well. The full magazine and the depleted magazine should pass each other in mid-air. Place the flat of the back of the magazine to the flat of the back of the magazine well. Insert the magazine and firmly seat it with the palm of the hand under the magazine floor plate. Reestablish the proper two-handed grip on the pistol and deal with any threats appropriately.



Step #1

Step #2



Step #3

Step #4

In-Battery Speed Reload Sequence

Pistol Manipulation

Tactical Reload

This reload is performed prior to emptying the magazine and is sometimes referred to as a “Tac” or “Magazine Save” or “magazine retention” reload. The obvious advantage over the in-battery speed reload is that it retains whatever ammunition is in the partially depleted magazine for later use instead of dropping it to the ground and leaving it behind. A disadvantage is that the more complex manipulative skills may be difficult under stress due to loss of fine motor skills. This can be mitigated by finding the technique which works best for the individual shooter followed by lots of practice. If for no other reason than to holster a fully loaded weapon at the end of the confrontation or range exercise, the tactical reload is a skill well worth learning. There are several techniques to take into consideration hand size and shooter preference. The previously listed guidelines promoting attention to detail remain applicable.

Option #1:

Keeping the eyes on the threat, bend the dominant arm and bring the pistol into the “**work area.**” First, verify the availability of a fresh magazine and remove it from the magazine pouch with the support hand. Shift the dominant hand’s grip on the weapon to allow the thumb (right handed) or index or middle finger (left handed) to reach the magazine catch. Position the support hand with the fresh magazine under the magazine well. The support hand palm should be approximately 1 – 2 inches below the magazine well. Depress the magazine catch and drop the depleted magazine onto the palm of the support hand at the base of the ring finger. Grasp the depleted magazine between the middle and ring finger or between the ring and little finger (depending upon hand size and strength) and pull it from the magazine well. Insert the fresh magazine into the magazine well and firmly seat it. Place the depleted magazine into the waistband or pocket to be available for later retrieval if needed. Reestablish the correct two-handed grip on the pistol and deal with any threats appropriately. If the threat should become imminent before it is possible to put away the depleted magazine it is possible to retain it between the fingers and reacquire the two handed grip shown in step 6 photo below. It is advisable to stow it in the waistband or pocket at the first opportunity.



Option #1 - Step #1

Option #1 - Step #2

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Option #1 – Step #3



Option #1 – Step #4



Option #1 – Step #5



Option #1 – Step # 6

Pistol Manipulation

Option #2:

Keeping the eyes on the threat, bend the dominant arm and bring the pistol into the “**work area.**” First, verify the availability of a fresh magazine and remove it from the magazine pouch with the support hand. Shift the dominant hand’s grip on the weapon to allow the thumb (right handed) or index or middle finger (left handed) to reach the magazine catch. Starting with the correct grip on the magazine, move the index finger down alongside the magazine towards the thumb as the support hand moves to the pistol. This places the magazine between the index and middle fingers and positions them to grasp the base of the depleted magazine and withdraw it when the magazine catch is depressed. Insert the fresh magazine into the magazine well and seat it firmly with the palm of the hand. Place the depleted magazine into the waistband or pocket to be available for later retrieval if needed. Reestablish the correct two handed grip on the pistol and deal with any threats appropriately.



Option #2 – Step #1

Option #2 – Step #2



Option#2 – Step #3

Option #2 – Step #4

Pistol Manipulation

Option #3:

Keeping the eyes on the threat, bend the dominant arm and bring the pistol into the “**work area.**” Shift the dominant hand’s grip on the weapon to allow the thumb (right handed) or index or middle finger (left handed) to reach the magazine catch. Position the support hand palm under the magazine well. Depress the magazine catch to release the depleted magazine into the support hand. Place the depleted magazine into the pocket or waistband to be available for later retrieval if needed. Remove the fresh magazine from the pouch using the correct grip and move it towards the weapon. Place the flat of the back of the magazine to the flat of the back of the magazine well. Insert the magazine and firmly seat it with the palm of the hand under the magazine floor plate. Reestablish the proper two-handed grip on the pistol and deal with any threats appropriately. While this method contributes to speed and simplicity its major drawback is that there is no verification of the availability of a fresh magazine prior to removing the depleted magazine from the weapon.

Clearing Malfunctions of the Semi-Automatic Pistol

Malfunction: (Sec. 2 – Pg. 28) Any interruption in the **cycle of operation** (Sec. 2 – Pg. 14) which can be remedied by performing malfunction clearance procedures (sometimes referred to as an “immediate action drill”.) The interruption can be caused by mechanical failure of the weapon, the ammunition, or be induced by actions of the shooter. Technically, a malfunction is distinguished from a **jam** (Sec. 2 – Pg. 28) in that the jam requires tools or disassembly to be remedied. For purposes of this training, malfunctions will be divided into *three general types*. Type I and Type II can be cleared by performing a “**Primary**” Malfunction Clearance Procedure. Type III can be cleared by performing a “**Secondary**” Malfunction Clearance Procedure. Remember that it is not important at the time for the shooter to know *why* the pistol malfunctioned but rather *how* to return the weapon to action. It is important for the instructor to know both the “why” and the “how.”

Type I Malfunction – Failure to Fire

Some Common Causes:

- An empty chamber
- A defective round of ammunition in the chamber
- Magazine not fully seated
- Defective magazine
- The slide is out-of-battery
- Broken firing pin (Jam)

Usual Symptoms:

- An audible click instead of the expected detonation when the trigger is pulled.
- No recoil when the trigger is pulled.

Pistol Manipulation

Type II Malfunction – Failure to Eject - Stovepipe

Some Common Causes:

- Failure of the shooter to control recoil, allowing excessive muzzle flip.
- Dirty condition of the weapon causing the slide movement to be slowed.
- Damaged ejector
- Ejection port obstructed or partially obstructed.
- Defective ammunition

Usual Symptoms:

- Weapon will not fire when trigger is pulled
- Spent casing protruding from the ejection port, trapped between the breech face of the slide and barrel hood. It may be blocking the view of the front sight or off to the right side at an angle.



Type II Malfunction

Primary Clearance Procedure – Immediate Action

Type I and Type II malfunctions described above are the most common and can usually be cleared by performing the three steps of the primary clearance procedure. As with reloading the pistol, when the malfunction occurs, the shooter should bend the dominant arm, keep the weapon just below line of sight to allow unobstructed view of the threat area. When performed reflexively and correctly, these types of malfunctions can be cleared in a matter of seconds before the opponent realizes that it has occurred.

INSTRUCTORS NOTE: Type II malfunctions were previously taught to be cleared by sweeping the brass casing out of the partially open ejection port with the support hand in a “knife blade” position. This resulted in injuries to the student’s hand and did not always clear the problem. That method has since been abandoned for the one described here.

Malfunction Clearance Procedure photos and descriptions shown here depict Option #1; “Saddle Grip” (Pg. 1 this section) but can be adapted to utilize Option #2; “Reverse Saddle Grip” (Pg. 2 this section) technique

Pistol Manipulation

Primary Clearance Procedure Continued:

Steps:

1. **“TAP”** While pointing the muzzle of the weapon in a safe direction and keeping the trigger finger indexed outside the trigger guard, firmly tap the bottom of the magazine in the weapon with the palm of the support hand.



2. **“RACK & CANT”** Tilt the weapon over onto its *right* side at an approximate 45° angle. Canting the weapon allows gravity to assist in removing the obstruction as most handgun ejection ports are on the right side of the slide. At the same time grasp the slide behind the ejection port and rack the action vigorously one time with the support hand to eject any obstructing casing and chamber a new round.



3. **“ASSESS”** Reestablish the correct two handed grip on the pistol. Make the decision to continue firing or not, based upon the dynamics of the situation. Keeping the eyes on the threat area throughout the manipulation will allow constant real-time appraisal.



Pistol Manipulation

Type III Malfunction – Double feed, Failure to Extract, Buried Stovepipe,

Some Common Causes:

- Defective or worn extractor
- Faulty magazine lips not holding the rounds in correct alignment during the firing cycle.
- Dirty chamber
- Faulty ammunition
- Shooter incorrectly attempting to perform Primary malfunction clearance procedure

Usual Symptoms

- The weapon will not fire when the trigger is pulled and some weapons have a “mushy” trigger.
- The slide is out-of-battery – may be mistaken for an empty weapon
- Cartridge *may* be visible through open ejection port nosing into rear of chambered cartridge.
- Does not respond to Primary Malfunction Clearance procedure



Simulated
Type III Malfunction

Pistol Manipulation

Secondary Clearance Procedure

If the pistol suddenly stops working during a deadly force confrontation, it is unlikely that one will know the cause for certain. Poor or non-existent lighting, the effects of stress, movement, and the need to maintain visual contact with the threat throughout the confrontation are just a few of the factors that may make instant recognition and analysis difficult if not impossible. With proper training, one in that position should reflexively respond by performing a Primary Clearance Procedure. If a Type III malfunction was the cause, the weapon will still be inoperable. At that time, it may be argued that the best course of action would be to draw a back-up weapon. The ability to do so in less time than it takes to perform a Secondary Clearance procedure will depend upon the existence of such a weapon, the location on the person where it is carried, and how much the person has practiced with it under those conditions. With repetition, immediately performing the steps of the Secondary Clearance Procedure with the semi-automatic pistol will many times be just as fast or faster. As with other manipulations, the weapon is maintained in the work area.

Steps:

1. **“LOCK”**

- Keeping the trigger finger outside the trigger guard and the muzzle pointed in a safe direction Lock the slide to the rear.



2. **“RIP”**

- Depress the magazine catch with the strong hand and using support hand fingers, pull the magazine from the magazine well. Drop it to the ground. The loose cartridge should usually fall free.



Pistol Manipulation

Secondary Clearance Procedure Continued

3. “WORK”

- Grasp the slide behind the ejection port and *vigorously* rack it forward and backward about three times to remove any cartridge that may be lodged in the chamber. Note: If the extractor is broken this will not clear the malfunction.



4. “TAP”

- Obtain a fresh magazine from the pouch using the correct grip and placing the flat of the back of the magazine to the flat of the back of the magazine well firmly seat it into the weapon.



5. “RACK”

- Grasp the slide behind the ejection port with the support hand and rack the action once to chamber the round.



Pistol Manipulation

Secondary Clearance Procedure Continued

6. **“ASSESS”**

- Reestablish the correct two handed grip on the pistol. Make the decision to continue firing or not, based upon the dynamics of the situation. Keeping the eyes on the threat area throughout the manipulation will allow constant real-time appraisal.



Miscellaneous Malfunctions and Remedies

Failure to go into battery - Failure to feed

Some Common Causes:

- Dirty or dry pistol
- Defective magazine
- Defective or dirty ammunition
- Racking the slide gently instead of vigorously
- Squib load lodged at rear of rifling and blocking new cartridge access to chamber

Usual Symptoms

- Slide partially out-of-battery

Remedy: **Primary Clearance Procedure**

Note: Do not force the slide to go into battery or the round into the chamber by striking or pushing the back of the slide with the palm of the hand. At one time this was taught and referred to as a Type IV malfunction. Performing this action frequently creates a jam requiring tools to remedy and can cause the bullet in the new cartridge to be forced back into the casing. The resulting over-pressured cartridge against the barrel obstruction can damage the weapon and potentially cause shooter injuries.

Pistol Manipulation

Miscellaneous Malfunctions and Remedies Continued

Dual function decocking levers knocked down

Some Common Causes:

- Slide mounted decocking levers pushed into the down position when manipulating the slide.
- Forgetting to place the decocking lever in the up (fire) position prior to holstering.

Usual Symptoms

- Trigger feels mushy when pressed
- Weapon will not fire

Remedy: Habit must be instilled through training for persons carrying this weapon configuration to sweep forward with the dominant hand thumb under the decocking lever to ensure that it is in the up (fire) position after any manipulation of the slide. This is an essential step to add to the **weapon presentation** (Sec. 5) to ensure that the weapon is ready to be fired anytime it is drawn from the holster.

Manual Thumb Safety in the up (safe) position

Some Common Causes:

- Unintentionally knocking it into the up (safe) position
- Forgetting that the safety is on

Usual Symptoms

- Trigger will not move
- Weapon will not fire

Remedy: Habit must be instilled through training for the dominant hand thumb to remain on top of the safety while shooting and manipulating the weapon to ensure that it is in the down (fire) position by choice not chance. The same thumb moves under the safety to push it into the up (safe) position only when applicable such as prior to re-holstering. This is an essential step to add to **weapon presentation** (Sec. 5) training for weapons having this configuration. Students who keep their dominant hand thumb under the manual thumb safety can inadvertently cause the safety to engage during recoil causing this malfunction.