

# Owner's Manual/Instruction Book

for:

Century International Arms'

## VZ58 Rifle



### **VZ58 Rifle**

Distributed by:

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**We specifically disclaim any responsibility for damage or injury whatsoever, incurring as a result of the use of faulty, non-standard or remanufactured ammunition, any modifications or changes made to the firearm; improper use or unsafe handling of this firearm.**

**FIREARMS SAFETY IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SHOOTER.  
ALWAYS TREAT ALL FIREARMS AS IF THEY WERE LOADED.**



## **IMPORTANT!**

**READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS  
AND WARNINGS IN THIS  
BOOKLET BEFORE USING  
THIS FIREARM.**

## IMPORTANT SAFETY MESSAGE



Children are attracted to, and can operate firearms which can cause severe injuries or death. Prevent child access by always keeping guns locked away and unloaded when not in use. If you keep a loaded firearm where a child obtains and improperly uses it, you may be fined or sent to prison.

### Firearm Safety Depends on You

A gun is only as safe as the person operating it. You can never be overly careful when handling a firearm. Carelessness is the cause of shooting accidents, such as failing to keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, not verifying your target and what is behind it, failing to engage the safety properly, leaving ammunition in the chamber or using improper loads. Since a bullet can never be called back once fired, such errors in gunhandling can result in loss of life, severe injury or property damage. It is thus crucial for your safety and the safety of those around you that you learn the principles of safe gun handling and storage before you begin to use your new firearm. Be a safe shooter - please read this instruction book thoroughly even if this is not your first firearm purchase as not all firearms are the same. The first step in being a safe shooter is to learn the rules for the safe operation and handling of firearms. There is nothing more important in gunhandling than safety.

### THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF FIREARM SAFETY

The Ten Commandments of Firearm Safety must be etched into your memory before you begin to handle firearms. These rules are intended to be followed by all persons handling firearms in the field, on the range, or at home. Please read, review and understand these rules before you begin to use or even take your new firearm out of its box. Remember, firearms safety depends on you!



#### **Commandment #1 Always Keep the Muzzle Pointed in a Safe Direction**

This is the most basic and most important safety rule. A safe direction is one in which an accidental discharge will not cause injury to yourself, to others or property damage. This is particularly important when loading or unloading your firearm. Never point your gun at anything you do not intend to shoot. Treat every gun as if it were loaded at all times.



#### **Commandment #2 Firearms Should Be Unloaded When Not Actually in Use**

**Firearms should only be loaded when you are in the field or on the target range or shooting area, ready to shoot.** When not in use, firearms and ammunition should be secured in a safe place, separate from each other. Remember to unload your firearm completely, so that there is no ammunition in the chamber or magazine. Before handling this or any firearm, or handing it to someone else, visually check the chamber and magazine to ensure they do not contain ammunition. Always keep the gun's action open when not in use. Never assume a gun is unloaded - even if you were the last person to use it. Never cross a fence, climb a tree, wade through a stream, or perform any awkward movement with a loaded gun. When in doubt, unload your gun! Never pull or push a loaded firearm toward yourself or another person. And never carry a loaded gun in a scabbard, a holster not being worn, or a gun case - Common Sense Prevails!



#### **Commandment #3 Don't Completely Rely on Your Gun's Safety**

**Treat every gun as though it could fire at any time, even if you are not applying pressure to the trigger.** The "safety" on a firearm is a mechanical device which, like any such device, can become inoperable at the worst possible time and fail to function. By mistake, you may think the safety is "on" when it actually is not. Or you may think your gun is unloaded when there is actually a round of ammunition in it. The safety serves as a supplement to proper gun handling but cannot serve as a substitute for common sense. Never handle a gun carelessly and assume that the gun won't fire, just because "the safety is on." Never touch the firearm's trigger until you are ready to shoot. Keep your fingers away from the trigger when loading or unloading. Never pull the trigger when the safety is engaged or when the safety is positioned between the "safe" and "fire" positions. Never place your finger on the trigger unless you intend to fire.



#### **Commandment #4 Be Sure of Your Target - And What Is Beyond It!**

**Once fired, a bullet (or shot charge) can never be called back, so before you shoot know where the bullet is going and what it will strike.** Be certain your shot will not injure someone or strike something beyond the target. Never fire in the direction of noise, a movement, or at any object you cannot positively identify. Be aware that a .22 Short bullet can travel over 1-1/4 miles. A centerfire cartridge, such as the .30-06, can send its bullet over 3-miles. Shotgun pellets can travel 500-yards and a shotgun slug has a range of over a half-mile. Make sure your shot has a safe backstop such as a hillside. Keep in mind how far the bullet will travel if it misses your intended target. Once fired, a bullet can never be called back. You are responsible for your actions and judgment.



### **Commandment #5 Use the Correct Ammunition**

Every firearm is designed to use a certain caliber or gauge of ammunition. It is important that you use the correct ammunition for your firearm. Information on the correct ammunition to use with your firearm appears in the firearm's instruction manual and the manufacturer's markings on the firearm itself. Use of the wrong ammunition, improperly reloaded ammunition, or corroded ammunition can result in the destruction of the firearm, serious personal injury and/or death. Form the habit of examining every round of ammunition before it's put into your gun to ensure it is of the proper gauge or caliber and that it is in good condition.



### **Commandment #6 If Your Gun Fails to Fire When the Trigger Is Pulled, Handle With Care**

If a cartridge or shell does not fire when the trigger is pulled, follow Commandment #1 and keep the firearm's muzzle pointed in a safe direction. Keeping the muzzle pointed away from your body and anything you do not intend to shoot, wait at least 20-seconds (to ensure that the ammunition is not delayed in firing) before carefully opening the action, unloading the firearm and disposing of the ammunition.



### **Commandment #7 Always Wear Eye & Ear Protection When Shooting**

Exposure to shooting noise can permanently damage hearing and flying debris, such as powder residue and ejected cartridge cases can injure your eyes. Thus, it is only common sense to wear both eye protection (such as shooting glasses) and ear protection (such as a sound muffling headset) whenever shooting. Also, wear eye protection when cleaning or disassembling your gun to ensure that cleaning solvent and tensioned parts (such as springs), do not come into contact with your eyes.



### **Commandment #8 Be Sure the Barrel Is Clear of Obstructions Before Shooting**

Discharging a firearm with an obstruction in the barrel can result in personal injury, property damage or death. Before you load your firearm, check the chamber and magazine to ascertain that no ammunition is inside. Also, check the inside of the barrel (called the "bore") to ensure it is free of obstructions. Even a small amount of mud, snow or excess lubricating oil or grease in the bore can cause excessive pressures resulting in a bulged or burst barrel which can injure or kill the shooter and bystanders. It's a good idea to make a habit of cleaning the bore and checking for obstructions with a cleaning rod just before each shooting session. If the noise or recoil experienced upon firing seems low or weak, or something doesn't feel "right", cease firing immediately and check to make sure that there is no obstruction in the barrel. Placing an under-sized shell or cartridge into a gun (such as a 20-gauge shell in a shotgun chambered for 12-gauge ammunition) can result in the smaller round of ammunition falling into the barrel and acting as an obstruction. When a round is subsequently fired, the barrel may burst causing injury to the shooter and bystanders. For reference, re-read Commandment #5.



### **Commandment #9 Do Not Alter or Modify Your Gun and Have It Serviced Regularly**

Firearms are complex mechanisms that are designed to function properly in their original condition. Any alterations or changes made to a firearm after its manufacture can make the gun unsafe and will void its warranty. Do not jeopardize your safety or the safety of others by altering the trigger, mechanical safety or other mechanisms of your firearm. You should have your firearm periodically checked for proper functioning and serviced by a qualified gunsmith.



### **Commandment #10 Learn the Mechanical and Handling Characteristics of Your Firearm**

Not all firearms operate the same way. The method of carrying, handling and operating firearms varies with the mechanical characteristics of each gun. Thus, you should never handle any firearm until you become familiar with the safe handling, loading, unloading and carrying procedures for that particular firearm, as well as the rules for safe gun handling in general.

**Memorizing these safety rules will help prevent gun accidents.  
Please study these safety rules before handling your new firearm.**

**Alcohol, Drugs and Guns don't mix. Make no mistake about it!** Never handle firearms after consuming alcohol or taking drugs that can affect your judgment. **Shoot Sober!** Alcohol, certain kinds of drugs and firearms don't mix. Safe firearms handling requires alertness and concentration on one's actions. You cannot handle a firearm safely after consuming alcohol. Never consume anything that can impair your judgement or physical coordination when handling a firearm.



**WARNING!** Discharging firearms in poorly ventilated areas, cleaning firearms or handling ammunition may result in exposure to lead and other substances known to cause birth defects, reproductive harm and other serious injury. Have adequate ventilation at all times when shooting. Wash hands thoroughly after exposure.



## Basics of Safe Gun Handling

1. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
2. Firearms should be unloaded when not actually in use.
3. Don't totally rely on your gun's safety.
4. Be sure of your target and what's beyond it.
5. Use the correct ammunition for your firearm.
6. If your gun fails to fire when the trigger is pulled, handle with care.
7. Always wear eye and ear protection when shooting.
8. Be sure the barrel is clear of obstructions before shooting.
9. Don't alter or modify your firearm and have your firearm(s) serviced regularly.
10. Learn the mechanical and handling characteristics of the firearm you are using.

**Safe gun handling depends on you! A safe shooter is a knowledgeable shooter.**

### *Illustrations # 1, #2 & #3*

### **Diagrams showing major operational parts of the VZ58 Rifle**



The pictures above shows the main operational parts of the Century VZ58 Rifle  
**Study of these pictures will aid you in understanding the instructions in this booklet.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE!** The Century International Arms, Inc. VZ58 Rifle is a surplus firearm. As with all surplus products, it should be carefully inspected before use, preferably by a competent gunsmith! This is to ensure your safety and the safety of those around you. Congratulations on your purchase of a Century International Arms, Inc. VZ58 Rifle. With proper care, maintenance and handling, it will give you long, reliable service. This rifle, which is designed for hunting and sporting use, is effective for firing within a range of 800 meters. The folding leaf rear sight is adjustable from 100 to 800 meters in 100 meter increments. The rear sight also contains a 'U' mark (meaning "universal") for aid in firing at moving targets at a range of up to 300 meters.

**VZ58 Rifle Background** - While having its roots in the famous Czech Sa vz. 58 full-auto military rifle of the 1950's, the Century ZA58 Rifle is a pure sporting firearm in all respects. One of its most outstanding features is its anatomically-shaped thumbhole polymer stock, which gives the rifle a modern, updated appearance. Though its firing mechanism looks (at first glance) to be of the Kalashnikov design system, not a single part is interchangeable with Kalashnikov-series arms, not even the magazine.

**Operational Characteristics:** The VZ58 Rifle functions much like other semi-automatic rifles in that once a loaded magazine is inserted and the bolt cocked, the operator needs only to pull the trigger and the mechanism fires a round, ejects the empty cartridge case and feeds another fresh round into the chamber. The barrel is rifled with four grooves and the barrel's muzzle is crowned to help prevent damage to the rifling. Further, the barrel's bore is chrome-plated to reduce wear and provide corrosion resistance. The barrel is fitted with an extension to make its length compliant with federal regulations.

**Specifications VZ58 Sporter Rifle:**

Caliber: 7.62x39mm, Type of Firearm: Semi-Automatic Rifle, Effective Range: 2,624-feet, Approximate Muzzle Velocity: 2,312 fps, Practical Rate-of-Fire: 40-shots per minute, Length with Recoil Pad: 36-inches, Height Without Magazine: 7-inches, Overall Length: 35-1/4 inches, Barrel Length: 16-1/4 inches, Number of Grooves in Barrel: 4, Weight with recoil pad and cheekpiece installed and empty magazine: 7.3 lbs., Trigger Pull: 5.7 lbs., Magazine Capacity: 10-Rounds



**WARNING!** Always ensure that the ammunition you are using is clean, undamaged, and of the proper caliber before loading your rifle. The manufacturer and distributor of this rifle disclaim any liability for the use of remanufactured, reloaded or handloaded ammunition. Protect your investment in this fine firearm by using only quality ammunition.

Remember, firearms safety depends on you!

**To Load the Magazine:**

- WARNING!** 1. Place the rifle's safety lever in the vertical position. This is the lever's "SAFE" position.
- 2. If the magazine is installed in the rifle, press the magazine release lever (located at the front of the trigger guard) forward and pull the magazine from the rifle. (See Illustration # 4)
- 3. Place a round of ammunition of the proper caliber (7.62x39mm) between the lips of the magazine with the bullet forward and press the round down until it is held by the magazine's lips. (see Illustration # 5)
- 4. Place the next round on top of the previous round and continue in this way until the desired number of rounds are loaded (maximum capacity is 10-rounds).

**NOTE:** To minimize the risk of personal injury, death, or property damage, magazine loading should only be done when you are about to shoot.

*Illustration # 4*



To install or remove the magazine, press the magazine release lever forward.

*Illustration # 5*

**To load the rifle:**



**WARNING!** Before loading, ensure the inside of the barrel is free of obstructions.

**WARNING!** Always check each cartridge to ensure it is of the correct caliber before loading the firearm.

**WARNING!** Keep fingers away from the trigger while loading.

**WARNING!** Keep muzzle pointed in a safe direction.

**WARNING!** When the safety lever is in its horizontal position on the receiver, the safety lever is in the off or "FIRE" position. Pulling the trigger when the safety lever is in this horizontal position will result in the rifle firing a round. To avoid serious injury, death or causing property damage, make sure you know the "SAFE" and "FIRE" positions of the safety lever before attempting to load your rifle! (continued on page 6)



Loading the magazine.

## To load the rifle (continued from page 5):

1. Place the safety lever in the “on” or “SAFE” position by moving it to its vertical position.
2. Load magazine as previously described.
3. Keep the rifle pointed in a safe direction with your finger off the trigger and the safety lever in the vertical or “on” position and install the loaded magazine (with bullet points facing forward) into the rifle’s magazine well until its locks into place. Pull on the magazine slightly to ensure it is securely locked into position.
4. While keeping the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and your finger off the trigger, move the safety lever to its horizontal or “Fire” position.
5. Pull back the operating handle to its fully-rearward position and release. As it moves rapidly forward under spring pressure, the bolt will strip a round from the magazine and insert it into the chamber, readying the rifle for firing.
6. Move the safety lever back to its vertical “SAFE” position.



**WARNING!** *The rifle is now loaded with a round in the chamber and the hammer is cocked. Handle with extreme caution.*

**WARNING!** *The rifle is now loaded and will fire if the safety lever is moved downward to the “OFF” or “FIRE” horizontal position and the trigger is pulled! Handle with extreme caution!*

Remember, firearms safety depends on you!



## To Fire the Rifle:

**WARNING!** *Firearms expel burning powder residue and issue a loud report when fired. The use of shooting glasses (to protect your eyes) and sound mufflers (to protect your ears) are mandatory when discharging firearms.*

1. Keeping the 10 Commandments of Shooting Safety in mind, aim the rifle downrange at the target.
2. Release the safety lever by moving it to its horizontal or “Fire” position.
3. Align the sights on the target.
4. Place the trigger finger inside trigger guard and on the trigger.
5. Press the trigger back to fire the first round.
6. Being a semi-automatic, after the first round is fired, the rifle’s action (its moving parts) will cycle and as the bolt moves rearward, the extractor will pull the empty cartridge case from the chamber and eject it from the rifle. **(Make sure there are no bystanders close by on either side who could be hit and injured by the ejected cartridge casing).**
7. **Note: If the trigger is again pressed, the rifle will fire! Keep rifle pointed in a safe direction.**
8. Firing may be continued in this manner until the magazine is empty.
9. When firing is finished, place the safety lever in its ‘on’ or ‘safe’ position by rotating it to its vertical position.
10. Remove the magazine from the rifle and check the magazine for any remaining rounds, If found, remove and store the rounds of ammo separately from the rifle in a place inaccessible to unauthorized persons.



**WARNING!** *Always unload your rifle immediately after use and prior to cleaning and storage to minimize the risk of an accidental discharge. If your rifle ever fails to fire keep it pointed at the target for at least 30-seconds in event of a hangfire (slow ignition). If round still does not fire, remove magazine, eject and discard the bad round. Reload the rifle to resume firing.*

## Unloading the Rifle:

**WARNING!** Keep muzzle pointed in a safe direction.

1. Place the safety lever in the on or “SAFE” position by moving it to its vertical position.
2. Press magazine release to remove the magazine.
3. Pull the charging handle fully to the rear and while holding it back, look into the chamber to ensure there is no ammunition. (Note: if there had been a round in the chamber, it should have been ejected by this action.)
4. Remove any remaining rounds from the magazine by sliding them out forward end first.
5. Place the safety lever in the ‘on’ position or vertical position.

When storing the rifle, keep the safety lever in the “ON” or “SAFE” position. Store magazine and ammunition in a separate place from the rifle.



## Rifle Disassembly:

**WARNING!** *Wear eye protection, such as shooting glasses or goggles when disassembling your firearm to protect your eyes from tensioned parts, such as springs, that could be dislodged during disassembly.*

**WARNING!** *Before beginning the disassembly process, check to ensure the rifle is unloaded. To do so, follow the procedures detailed previously in this manual.*

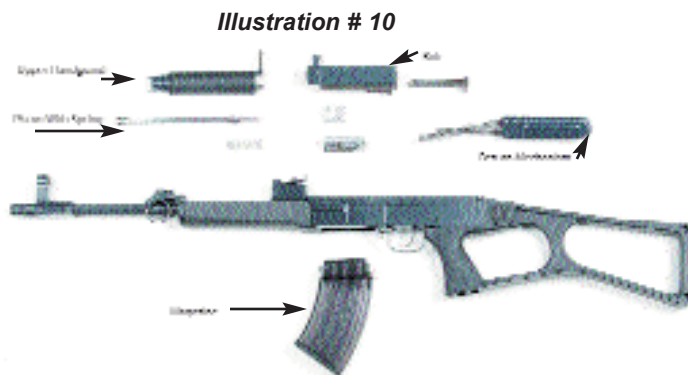
## Rifle Disassembly (continued from page 6):

1. Remove the magazine (See Illustration #4)
2. Press in on the receiver retainer/takedown button situated at the rear of the receiver. (See Illustration #6.
2. Grasp the knurled head of the receiver cover pin and pull the pin out to the right until an audible click is heard. (See Illustration #7)
3. Place your thumb against the rear wall of the receiver cover and while exerting pressure by pushing upward with your thumb, press the base of the return mechanism out of its recess in the receiver. Now, pull the return mechanism backward (toward you) and out of the rifle's receiver. (See Illustration # 7)
4. Point the rifle downward with its muzzle toward the ground. Place your fingers around the bolt assembly and the operating handle and pull the bolt carrier backward until it stops. Then lift the bolt assembly out of the receiver. It is important to keep the rifle pointed downward during this step to prevent the striker from moving out of the bolt carrier shaft, which would allow the bolt to fall out. (See Illustration # 8)
5. Holding the bolt carrier assembly in one hand, grasp the head of the striker and pull it out of the bolt carrier assembly. While performing this operation, turn the striker slightly to the left until the projection of the bolt carrier passes through the cross groove to the nearby through groove. Continue to pull the head of the striker until it is removed from the bolt carrier. The locking piece can now be removed from the bolt by tilting it upward.
6. To remove the upper handguard, depress the projecting area of the barrel guard pin. Grasp the pin by its knurled head and pull it completely to the right to remove it. Then, lift the rear section of the handguard and tilt it upward toward the muzzle. This action shifts the tabs of the upper handguard out of their grooves by the gas adapter and the handguard may now be removed by pulling it backward.
7. Grasp the gas piston and push it backward until it stops by spring pressure. Then tilt the piston upward, away from the gas cylinder and pull it forward, through the recess in the rear sight's base. If the piston spring has not come out, use the rear end of the piston to coax it out of its recess. (See Illustration # 9)

NO FURTHER DISASSEMBLY IS REQUIRED FOR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE.

## Rifle Reassembly:

Reassemble your rifle by reversing the procedure for disassembly (steps 7 through 1).



The VZ58 rifle field stripped for routine cleaning and maintenance.

## To Clean The Rifle:

**WARNING!** There may be sharp edges on parts of the firearm. Keep fingers protected, such as by wearing a pair of protective gloves when cleaning.



**WARNING!** You should wear eye protection, such as shooting glasses or goggles when cleaning this rifle to protect your eyes from tensioned parts, such as springs, that could become dislodged during the cleaning procedures.

(continued on page 8)

**Illustration # 6**



Press the receiver retainer/takedown button to begin disassembly.

**Illustration # 7**



Grasp and pull the return mechanism out of the receiver.

**Illustration # 8**



Removing the bolt assembly.

**Illustration # 9**



Removing the gas piston.



**WARNING!** Excessive use of cleaning solvents or lubricants can adversely affect your rifle's functioning. Wipe the inside of the barrel dry before firing. Ensure it's free of obstructions.



**WARNING!** This firearm should be checked periodically for worn or damaged parts by a competent gunsmith. This will help ensure its safe functioning and a long service life.

**WARNING!** Some cleaning solvents produce hazardous vapors. Read and follow the solvent manufacturer's cautions found on the product's package.

**WARNING!** Handling ammunition and cleaning firearms results in exposure to lead and other substances that can pose health risks. Wash your hands and face after firing your rifle or after cleaning it.

### Cleaning Intervals:

Always clean your rifle as soon as possible after firing to prevent buildup of shooting residue and to prevent corrosion from starting. To maintain your rifle in good working order, it should be cleaned once or twice a year in low-humidity environments, even if it has not been fired. In a high humidity area, it may be necessary to clean your rifle as often as once a week. Note: In freezing weather (below 32 degrees F. or 0 degrees C.) the use of a dry lubricant (instead of oil) for lubrication may work better.

**Cleaning Procedure:** Before beginning the cleaning procedure, disassemble the rifle as described on page 7.

1. Obtain a quality rifle cleaning kit and thoroughly review its instructions provided.
2. To clean the barrel, select the correct caliber cleaning brush and attach it to a cleaning rod.
3. Dampen the brush with gun cleaning solvent and then push the brush through the barrel several times.
4. Remove the brush and attach a correctly-sized cloth cleaning patch to the cleaning rod and push it through the barrel several times to remove loosened fouling. The use of a chamber brush to clean chamber area is recommended.
5. Repeat this process with the brush and cleaning patches until a final patch comes out clean.
6. Use brush to clean residue from around the gas tube, bolt locking lugs, bolt rings, etc.
7. Wipe all components dry and inspect for wear or damage. If necessary, have rifle serviced before firing again.
8. Remove shooting residue from the rifle's outside by wiping surfaces with a soft cloth dabbed in solvent. Dry surfaces.
9. Finally, wipe down all outside surfaces with a soft cloth dipped in a good quality metal preservative oil. Before re-assembly, lightly oil action parts and place a thin film of oil inside the bore if the rifle is to be stored.
10. Follow the procedures detailed on page 7 to reassemble your rifle.

*Illustration # 11*



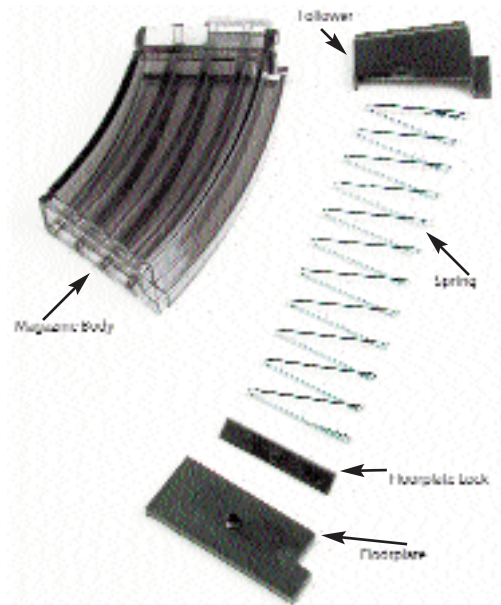
To install the recoil pad, align the four studs with the four holes in the base of the stock and press into place. The wider end of the recoil pad is placed at the bottom of the stock and the narrow end at top.

To install the cheekpiece, place its shorter edge over the wider portion of the buttstock's top. Then push its wider side down while sliding it forward or backward until the projection on the inner side of the cheekpiece catches into the opening in the buttstock.

*Illustration # 12*



*Illustration # 10*



Should the magazine become dirty, it may be disassembled into the parts shown above for cleaning.

### STORAGE

When putting your rifle away for storage, it should be thoroughly cleaned and lightly lubricated. Outside surfaces should be wiped with a light coat of good quality gun oil. CHECK TO ENSURE YOUR FIREARM IS UNLOADED BEFORE PUTTING IT AWAY FOR STORAGE BY VISUALLY EXAMINING BOTH ITS CHAMBER AND MAGAZINE. Store the rifle in a separate location from its ammunition. When the rifle is to be reused, remove all excess lubrication before firing. Make certain that the bore (inside of barrel) is dry and free of obstructions before firing.



