

SHADOW
S Y S T E M S

SEMI-AUTO MODELS



SAFETY & OPERATION MANUAL

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This manual must remain with the firearm at all times and should be given to any new owner or to anyone who borrows or receives the firearm.

Read and follow all instructions before using any Shadow Systems firearm. Using the firearm without understanding these instructions can cause serious injury, death, or property damage.

Never load your firearm with live ammo until you've read and understood this manual.
Get supervised training if needed.

SERVICE & SUPPORT

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This manual applies to multiple Shadow Systems semi-automatic platform firearm configurations, which may include rifles and pistols. Unless a section specifically refers to a “rifle” or a “pistol,” the term firearm is used throughout this manual to refer generally to the Shadow Systems product covered by this manual.

Always refer to the markings, packaging, configuration, and applicable laws for the specific firearm you own. Do not install, remove, or modify stocks, braces, barrels, vertical foregrips, muzzle devices, or other components in a manner that changes the firearm's legal classification unless you understand and comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws.

Safety & Legal

SAFETY WARNINGS

SAFE OPERATION

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

STATE-BY-STATE WARNINGS

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY



**FULLY READ THE INSTRUCTIONS AND WARNINGS IN THIS MANUAL
BEFORE USING THIS FIREARM.**

The warnings in this manual are crucial. Following them helps ensure safe firearm use. Failing to follow any warning may cause **serious injury, death, or property damage.**



WARNING

Warnings highlight clear dangers and are marked with an orange banner, a warning icon, and the word WARNING in bold letters. Not following them can result in injury or death.



CAUTION

Cautions indicate the potential for firearm damage and are shown in uppercase black letters with the word CAUTION. Not following them can cause damage to the firearm.

FOUR RULES OF FIREARM SAFETY

RULE 01

**ALWAYS TREAT EVERY FIREARM
AS IF IT IS LOADED.**

RULE 02

**NEVER POINT A FIREARM AT
ANYTHING YOU ARE NOT WILLING
TO DESTROY.**

RULE 03

**KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE
TRIGGER AND OUTSIDE THE
TRIGGER GUARD UNTIL READY
TO FIRE.**

RULE 04

**ALWAYS BE AWARE OF YOUR
TARGET, WHAT IS IN FRONT OF IT,
AND WHAT IS BEYOND IT.**

ALWAYS CLEAR A FIREARM

ALWAYS clear any firearm of unknown condition, or any firearm believed to be unloaded, before handling it. Never rely on memory or someone else's word. Follow these steps **IN THIS ORDER**:

1. Point the firearm in a safe direction.
2. Place the selector on SAFE if possible.
3. Remove the magazine.
4. Pull the charging handle fully to the rear and lock the bolt to the rear using the bolt release. This must be done to remove a cartridge that is in the chamber.
5. Visually confirm the chamber is clear of ammunition. A malfunctioning firearm or defective ammunition can cause a cartridge to stay in the chamber despite pulling the charging handle fully to the rear.
6. Physically inspect the chamber when lighting or conditions make visual inspection uncertain.
7. Leave the action open when handing the firearm to another person.

ADDITIONAL SAFETY RULES & PRACTICES

- **ALWAYS** keep firearms secured. **NEVER** leave a firearm unattended. When not under your direct control, secure it in a safe or with an appropriate locking device. A lock is included with your firearm. **NEVER** leave the keys in the lock.
- **ONLY** load a round in the chamber when ready to fire.
- **NEVER** place your finger on the trigger or inside the trigger guard until you are ready to fire.
- **NEVER** allow clothing, gear, sling material, support equipment, or other foreign objects to enter or interfere with the trigger guard.
- **ALWAYS** carry a firearm so that control of the muzzle can be maintained in the event of a fall or stumble.
- **ALWAYS** ensure the barrel is clear of obstructions before firing. If a shot sounds or feels abnormal, stop immediately, unload the firearm, and inspect the bore for a possible obstruction. Defective ammunition, especially a squib load with an insufficient powder charge, is the leading cause of obstructed bores and permanently damaged Shadow Systems firearms.
- **ALWAYS** use clean, dry, original factory-made ammunition of the proper type and caliber. **NEVER** use reloaded, remanufactured, or improper ammunition.
- **NEVER** shoot at a flat surface or water.
- **NEVER** point any firearm, loaded or unloaded, at any undesignated or unsafe target.
- **ALWAYS** wear eye and ear protection when shooting.

- **ALWAYS** wear eye protection when cleaning the firearm and performing maintenance.
- **ALWAYS** keep ammunition out of the area when cleaning or dry firing. Dry practice and cleaning should be done in a separate, ammunition-free environment.
- **ALWAYS** dry fire safely and deliberately. Thoroughly clear the firearm, remove all live ammunition from the area, and conduct dry practice in a safe direction toward an object capable of stopping a bullet.
- **ALWAYS** unload and lock open the firearm before handing it to another person. Magazine out, chamber clear, and action open.
- **NEVER** allow the firearm to be used by anyone who has not read and understood the Operator's Manual.
- **NEVER** leave a loaded firearm unattended.
- **NEVER** rely solely on a mechanical device or indicator to determine whether a firearm is loaded. Loaded chamber indicators and safeties can fail. **ALWAYS** visually and physically inspect the chamber yourself.
- **NEVER** handle or shoot a firearm while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or impairing medication. Handle firearms only when alert, capable, and exercising sound judgment.
- **ALWAYS** seek a doctor's advice before handling or discharging a firearm while using any medication that could impair judgment, coordination, vision, or safe firearm handling.
- **NEVER** discharge a firearm near an animal unless the animal is trained to accept the noise. An animal's startled reaction could injure it or cause an accident.
- **NEVER** modify a firearm with non-factory parts or in a way that may compromise safe function. Alterations can create unsafe conditions and cause malfunctions.
- **ALWAYS** build and reinforce a safety culture. Correct unsafe gun handling immediately and respectfully. Accept correction from others the same way. "It's unloaded" is never an excuse for unsafe handling.
- **NEVER** use a firearm after it has been dropped, struck, damaged, or subjected to abusive handling unless it has been inspected and determined safe. **ALWAYS** maintain control of the firearm and keep it pointed in a safe direction. If the firearm is dropped, impacted, malfunctions, or is otherwise suspected to be damaged, unload and clear it immediately and have it inspected by a qualified armorer before further use. Repetitive or intentional abusive handling can damage the firearm, create an unsafe condition, and void the warranty.
- **ALWAYS** remember, you cannot call a bullet back. YOU are responsible for safe use of YOUR firearm.

TRITIUM

Some firearms, sights, or optical accessories may contain tritium illumination for low-light visibility. Tritium sights contain a small, sealed amount of tritium (H3), a radioactive material that is safe under normal use but may present a hazard if the sealed vial is damaged and material is inhaled or ingested. Do not attempt to disassemble, modify, break, burn, or dispose of tritium sights in household trash. If a tritium sight is damaged, avoid contact with the contents, ventilate the area, wash hands thoroughly, and contact Shadow Systems Customer Service or the sight manufacturer for proper handling and disposal instructions. Follow the sight manufacturer's instructions for any tritium, illuminated, battery-powered, or electronic sighting equipment installed on the firearm.

LEAD

Discharging firearms, cleaning firearms, and handling ammunition may expose you to lead and other substances known to cause birth defects, reproductive harm, and other serious physical injury. Always shoot in well-ventilated areas, avoid eating, drinking, or smoking while shooting or cleaning firearms, and wash your hands thoroughly after handling firearms or ammunition.

CALIFORNIA

“WARNING: Children are attracted to and can operate firearms that 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.”

“ADVERTENCIA: A los niños los atraen las armas de fuego y las pueden hacer funcionar. Ellos pueden causarse lesiones graves y la muerte. Evite que los niños tengan acceso a las armas de fuego guardándolas siempre con llave y descargadas cuando no las esté utilizando. Si usted tiene un arma de fuego cargada en un lugar en que un niño tiene acceso a ella y la usa indebidamente, le pueden dar una multa o enviarlo a la cárcel.”

CONNECTICUT

“Unlawful storage of a loaded firearm may result in imprisonment or fine.”

FLORIDA

“It is unlawful, and punishable by imprisonment and fine, for any adult to store or leave a firearm in any place within the reach or easy access of a minor under 18 years of age or to knowingly sell or otherwise transfer ownership or possession of a firearm to a minor or a person of unsound mind.”

MAINE

“Endangering the welfare of a child is a crime. If you leave a firearm and ammunition within easy access of a child, you may be subject to fine, imprisonment or both. Keep firearms and ammunition separate. Keep firearms and ammunition locked up. Use trigger locks.”

MARYLAND

“WARNING: Children can operate firearms which may cause death or serious injury. It is a crime to store or leave a loaded firearm in any location where an individual knew or should have known that an unsupervised minor would gain access to the firearm. Store your firearm responsibly!”

MASSACHUSETTS

“It is unlawful to store or keep a firearm, rifle, shotgun or machine gun in any place unless that weapon is equipped with a tamper-resistant safety device or is stored or kept in a securely locked container.”“It is unlawful to store or keep a firearm, rifle, shotgun or machine gun in any place unless that weapon is equipped with a tamper-resistant safety device or is stored or kept in a securely locked container.”

NEW YORK CITY

“The use of a locking device or safety lock is only one aspect of responsible firearm storage. For increased safety, firearms should be stored unloaded and locked in a location that is both separate from their ammunition and inaccessible to children and unauthorized persons.”

NEW JERSEY

“It is a criminal offense to leave a loaded firearm within easy access of a minor.”

NORTH CAROLINA

“It is unlawful to store or leave a firearm that can be discharged in a manner that a reasonable person should know is accessible to a minor.”

TEXAS

“It is unlawful to store, transport, or abandon an unsecured firearm in a place where children are likely to be and can obtain access to the firearm.”

WISCONSIN

“If you leave a loaded firearm within the reach or easy access of a child you may be fined or imprisoned or both if the child improperly discharges, possesses, or exhibits the firearm.”

For additional state or local warnings that may apply, consult your licensed retailer, state police, or other appropriate local authority. Firearm laws and required warnings may change, and local authorities are often in the best position to provide current guidance.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

Pistols and rifles are firearms and must be handled with care, sound judgment, and strict adherence to all safety instructions. Shadow Systems sells its firearms with the understanding that it cannot control how the firearm is stored, maintained, modified, loaded, or used after sale. Accordingly, Shadow Systems is not responsible for firearm malfunctions, personal injury, death, or property damage arising in whole or in part from any of the following:

- Criminal, reckless, or negligent discharge
- Improper, careless, unsafe, or abusive handling
- Unauthorized modification, alteration, or replacement of parts
- Defective, incorrect, hand-loaded, reloaded, or otherwise improper ammunition
- Corrosion, poor maintenance, or neglect
- Misuse, abuse, or any other cause beyond Shadow Systems' direct and immediate control

This limitation applies regardless of the legal theory asserted, including contract, negligence, strict liability, or alleged failure to warn. In no event shall Shadow Systems be liable for incidental, indirect, special, or consequential damages, including loss of use, property damage, lost profits, lost business opportunity, or commercial loss.

Firearm Functions

FIREARM OVERVIEW

OPERATING CONTROLS

FIREARM OPERATION

STOPPAGES & MALFUNCTIONS

STOCK & PISTOL STABILIZING BRACE

USER CONFIGURATION

OPTIC & ACCESSORY MOUNTING

AMMUNITION & PERFORMANCE

SUPPRESSOR USE

DANGEROUS SITUATIONS

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Muzzle device | 9. Case deflector | 17. Pivot pin |
| 2. Barrel | 10. Bolt Carrier Group | 18. Takedown pin |
| 3. Handguard | 11. Lower receiver | 19. Pistol grip |
| 4. Gas block | 12. Ambidextrous selector | 20. Foregrip |
| 5. Upper receiver | 13. Ambidextrous bolt release | 21. Stock / Pistol Stabilizing Brace |
| 6. Charging handle | 14. Magazine release button | 22. QD sling point |
| 7. Forward assist | 15. Trigger | 23. In-battery index mark |
| 8. Ejection port dust cover | 16. Magazine | |



SELECTOR

The images below show the selector position for SAFE and FIRE. Always visually confirm the position of the selector before loading, handling, or firing the firearm.



SAFE



FIRE-60 °



FIRE-90°

Shadow Systems firearms use pictograms to indicate the selector positions. In this manual, the safe pictogram is referred to as SAFE, and the fire pictogram is referred to as FIRE.

The selector is used to select the operating condition of the firearm. Rotate the selector lever to the desired position. Depending on the lever style installed, the selector will feature an indicator line or pointer that will show whether the selector is in the SAFE or FIRE position.

When the selector is set to SAFE, the trigger is blocked and the firearm should not fire. When the selector is set to FIRE, the firearm is capable of firing one round each time the trigger is pressed.

The safety selector is user-configurable for either a 60-degree or 90-degree throw and may be configured with different lever styles. See Section 11, User Configuration for more information.



WARNING

NEVER RELY ON THE SAFETY SELECTOR AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR SAFE FIREARM HANDLING. ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION AND KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER AND OUTSIDE THE TRIGGER GUARD UNTIL READY TO FIRE.

AMBIDEXTROUS BOLT RELEASE

The bolt release can be manipulated from either side of the receiver. Most operators will find that the bolt release is within reach of their trigger finger (both left and right handed).

On the right side of the receiver, press down on the bolt release to allow the bolt to move forward. Lift up on the bolt release to lock the bolt to the rear (while holding the bolt to the rear using the charging handle).

On the left side of the receiver, press the upper section of the bolt release to allow the bolt to move forward. Press on the lower section of the bolt release to lock the bolt to the rear (while holding the bolt to the rear with the charging handle).



MAGAZINE RELEASE BUTTON

The magazine release button is used to release the magazine from the firearm. To remove the magazine, keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction, keep your finger off the trigger, and press the magazine release button.



WARNING

REMOVING THE MAGAZINE DOES NOT REMOVE A ROUND FROM THE CHAMBER. AFTER REMOVING THE MAGAZINE, PULL THE CHARGING HANDLE FULLY TO THE REAR TO EJECT THE ROUND IN THE CHAMBER. CAREFULLY INSPECT THE CHAMBER TO CONFIRM THERE IS NO AMMUNITION.

LOADING

Insert a loaded magazine into the magazine well of the firearm until it clicks and locks in place. Pull down on the magazine to ensure it is seated properly.

CHAMBERING

WITH YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER, POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION, pull the charging handle FULLY rearward and release. The bolt carrier group will move forward and chamber a round. Do not “ride” the charging handle forward with your hand as this can induce a malfunction.



WARNING

THE FIREARM IS NOW READY TO FIRE.

FIRING

Once loaded per the instructions above, rotating the selector to FIRE and pulling the trigger will fire the firearm. The bolt should lock to the rear after the last round in the magazine is fired.

RELOADING

WITH YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER, POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION, press the magazine release button to remove the empty magazine. Insert a fresh magazine. Chamber the top round by pulling the charging handle to the rear and releasing it or by pressing the bolt release if the bolt is locked to the rear.



WARNING

THE FIREARM IS NOW READY TO FIRE.

UNLOADING

Never assume your firearm is empty. After the last round in the magazine has been fired, the bolt should lock to the rear. However, a weak magazine spring or malfunction may prevent the bolt from locking to the rear. Confirm the firearm is empty by removing the magazine and inspecting the chamber.

If you wish to suspend firing while the firearm is still loaded, WITH YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER, place the selector on SAFE if possible, remove the magazine, and pull the charging handle to the rear to eject the round from the chamber. **DO NOT FORGET TO DO THIS.** The firearm is capable of discharging with the magazine removed if a round is left in the chamber. Inspect the magazine area and chamber to ensure that no ammunition remains in the firearm.

MALFUNCTION PROTOCOL

A stoppage is a temporary interruption in operation that may be cleared by the user. A malfunction is a mechanical problem that makes the firearm unserviceable and may require repair by a qualified armorer.

If the firearm stops functioning properly or a shot sounds or feels abnormal, stop firing at once. Keep the muzzle in a safe direction and unload the firearm. Remove the magazine, lock the bolt to the rear, and clear any live or spent cartridge cases. Visually and physically confirm the chamber, bolt face, and magazine well are empty.

After the firearm is clear, inspect both the firearm and the ammunition. If you believe there is an obstruction in the bore, or if the problem continues, do not fire the firearm again. Have it examined by a qualified armorer.

In the event of a stoppage:

IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. Ensure firearm is pointed in a safe direction.
2. Tap upward on the bottom of the magazine to confirm it is seated.
3. Pull the charging handle fully and sharply to the rear.
4. Observe whether a live round or fired case ejects.
5. Release the charging handle fully to chamber a new round.
6. Attempt to fire only if the firearm appears normal and safe.

REMEDIAL ACTION (IMMEDIATE ACTION FAILS TO CORRECT STOPPAGE)

1. Ensure firearm is pointed in a safe direction.
2. Pull charging handle to rear, hold in place.
3. Activate bolt release to lock bolt to the rear.
4. Remove magazine.
5. Clear receiver of all ammunition.
6. Reload only if the firearm appears normal and safe. If the stoppage cannot be cleared, if a case is stuck in the chamber, or if anything appears damaged or abnormal, stop using the firearm and have it inspected by Shadow Systems or a qualified armorer.

REDUCING STOPPAGES

- Keep the firearm clean and properly lubricated.
- Use clean, dry, original factory-made ammunition of the proper type and caliber.
- Inspect magazines regularly and mark suspect magazines so they can be removed from service.
- If you experience repeated stoppages, see Section 17, Troubleshooting. Contact Shadow Systems if you cannot resolve your issue.



STOCK



BRACE

STOCK

The Shadow Systems adjustable buttstock can be adjusted for correct length of pull. Depress the stock adjustment latch and slide the stock to the desired position. Release the latch and move the stock forward and rearward slightly to confirm it is locked.

PISTOL STABILIZING BRACE

Some models may feature a pistol stabilizing brace that is adjustable for length. Depress the brace adjustment latch and slide the brace to the desired position. Release the latch and move the brace forward and rearward slightly to confirm it is locked.



CAUTION

Do not install, remove, or modify stocks, braces, vertical foregrips, barrels, muzzle devices, or other components in a manner that changes the firearm's legal classification unless you understand and comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws.

**WARNING**

SELECTOR AND BUFFER CONFIGURATION CHANGES SHOULD BE PERFORMED ONLY BY USERS WHO UNDERSTAND THE PROCEDURE AND CAN COMPLETE THE FUNCTION CHECK EXACTLY. IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF THE PROCESS, CONTACT SHADOW SYSTEMS OR A QUALIFIED ARMORER/ GUNSMITH BEFORE USING THE FIREARM.

SELECTOR LEVER ANGLE CONFIGURATION

**60° FIRE
POSITION**



**90° FIRE
POSITION**

The selector lever can be configured to be either a 60-degree or 90-degree throw.

1. Confirm the firearm is unloaded and the chamber is clear.
2. Remove lower receiver from upper receiver.
3. If it is not already cocked, cock the hammer by pushing it backward under spring force until it clicks and stays to the rear.
4. Insert the appropriate tool into the pistol grip and begin to remove the screw. After 3-5 turns, pull downward on the pistol grip and observe the location of the safety detent spring. There is a detent above the spring in the receiver. Make note of the location of the spring and detent to prevent loss. Fully remove the screw from the pistol grip and cautiously remove the pistol grip from the receiver taking care not to lose the detent and spring. Note: a properly greased detent may “hang” in the receiver. Move the selector lever to dislodge it. Set aside the pistol grip components, safety detent spring, and safety detent.

DO NOT LOSE THE DETENT.



5. Using a 1/16 inch Hex key with a long shank to avoid marring the receiver, remove the pin screw in the safety lever on the left side of the receiver. Note: the lever can be rotated past normal position to allow easier tool access.

6. Pull the selector lever out of the right side of the receiver by grabbing the lever still attached to the selector body.

Note: we recommend lubricating the detent “tracks” in the safety body with grease. The short track is for 90-degree installation, the long track is for 60-degree installation.

7. Insert the lever and safety body into the OPPOSITE side (now left side). Note: if you are using the ergonomically shaped lever, the lever will be upside down in its new position. Leave it in this condition.

8. Reinstall the pistol grip, confirming that the detent and spring are installed correctly. Tighten the screw hand tight (specification is 25-35 in-lbs).

9. Using the 1/16 inch Allen key, remove, relocate, and reinstall your selected levers on the safety body, as required. Tighten them hand tight. Do not use Loctite. Use caution not to mar the receiver with your tool.

10. Confirm smooth functioning of the lever. If you find the lever does not move smoothly, ensure the safety body is properly lubricated. It is also possible that the detent is missing or upside down.

11. Perform a Function Check (see Section 16, Function Check) before returning the firearm to service.



90°

60°


WARNING

WARNING IMPROPER INSTALLATION OF THE SAFETY ASSEMBLY CAN RESULT IN AN UNSAFE FIREARM. IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF THE PROCESS OR ARE HAVING ISSUES, PLEASE CONTACT CUSTOMER SERVICE OR A QUALIFIED GUNSMITH.


WARNING

WARNING DO NOT USE OR LOAD THE FIREARM AFTER SELECTOR CONFIGURATION UNLESS THE SELECTOR MOVES POSITIVELY TO EACH POSITION AND THE FIREARM PASSES THE COMPLETE FUNCTION CHECK EXACTLY. SEE SECTION 16, FUNCTION CHECK.

**CAUTION**

Fully insert the Allen key into the pin screw to avoid stripping screws. Do not overtighten or Loctite the pin screw. The screws are retained by friction with the plastic lever body.

SELECTOR LEVER STYLE CONFIGURATION

Safety lever style is configurable using the extra levers included with the firearm.

1. Remove the pin screws in the levers using 1/16 Hex key.
2. Install the selected lever style per the photographs. The short and long mil-spec style levers can be used on either side of the receiver.
3. Tighten hand tight. No Loctite is required.
4. Confirm proper selector lever movement.

**ERGONOMIC****MIL-SPEC****LEFT SIDE****RIGHT SIDE**

BUFFER CONFIGURATION

The firearm is designed around a specific gas port size, gas system length, buffer weight, and spring weight to provide a broad operating window and an optimal balance of reliability, recoil impulse, and component life.

Commercial ammunition, suppressors, temperature, barrel wear (gas port erosion), and environmental conditions can all change how much energy is available to cycle the firearm. For most users, the factory midweight buffer will require no change and will provide reliable function across the vast majority of ammunition and suppressor use cases.

Users may choose to tune the firearm for a narrower use case by changing buffer weight. Users who primarily shoot suppressed, use higher-pressure or NATO-spec ammunition, or have a high round count barrel may choose to increase buffer weight. Users who primarily shoot unsuppressed, use lower-pressure target ammunition, or operate in extreme cold weather may choose to decrease buffer weight. Any buffer change should be tested with the ammunition, magazines, suppressor configuration, and conditions in which the firearm will be used.

1. Ensure the firearm is pointed in a safe direction, remove the magazine, lock the bolt to the rear, and visually and physically confirm the chamber is empty.
2. Allow the bolt to go forward on an empty chamber.
3. Push the rear takedown pin and pivot the upper receiver away from the lower receiver.
4. Locate the buffer and buffer retaining pin at the rear of the lower receiver.
5. While controlling the buffer with your thumb, depress the buffer retaining pin and allow the buffer and action spring to move forward slowly.
6. Remove the buffer and action spring from the receiver extension.
7. Separate the buffer from the action spring.
8. Insert the replacement buffer onto the action spring, then guide the new buffer and action spring back into the receiver extension.
9. Push the buffer rearward until the buffer retaining pin captures it.
10. Close the upper and lower receivers, push the takedown pin fully into place.
11. Perform a Function Check (see Section 16, Function Check) before returning the firearm to service.

**CAUTION**

Buffer change is not required for normal use, but it gives the user a simple way to optimize the firearm recoil to a narrower use case. If you are not sure, do not change it. Excess buffer weight can cause short-stroke reliability issues if using low power ammunition, particularly in extreme cold conditions.

**WARNING**

THE BUFFER AND ACTION SPRING ARE UNDER SPRING PRESSURE. ALWAYS WEAR EYE PROTECTION AND KEEP CONTROL OF THE BUFFER DURING REMOVAL.

SLING ATTACHMENTS

If equipped with QD sling sockets or other sling attachment points, confirm the sling hardware is fully seated and locked before use. Tug firmly on the sling attachment before carrying the firearm. Do not allow sling material to enter the trigger guard or interfere with the selector, bolt release, charging handle, or magazine release button.

Confirm the firearm is unloaded and the chamber is clear before mounting or adjusting optics, lights, lasers, slings, hand stops, bipods, or other accessories.

OPTIC MOUNTING

1. Select a mounting location on the top rail that provides proper eye relief and does not interfere with charging-handle operation.
2. Install the optic or optic mount according to the optic or mount manufacturer's instructions, including all torque specifications.
3. Using the T-slot markings, record the mounting location so the optic can be returned to the same position after removal.
4. Confirm all mounting hardware is secure, then zero the optic before serious use.
5. Recheck mount tightness after the first firing session and at regular maintenance intervals.



CAUTION

Use only compatible mounts and hardware. Incorrect screws, clamps, torque, or mounting surfaces can damage the optic, mount, or firearm.

ACCESSORY MOUNTING

Accessories must not interfere with the muzzle device, suppressor, charging handle, selector, bolt release, magazine release button, ejection port, or trigger. Confirm that all mounted accessories are secure before firing.



CAUTION

CAUTION Before installing an accessory, confirm that the installation is lawful for the firearm as configured.

The caliber for your firearm is marked on the barrel. .223 Remington ammunition may be fired in Shadow Systems firearms marked 5.56 NATO.

Always use clean, dry, original factory-made ammunition of the proper type and caliber. Never use reloaded, remanufactured, handloaded, dirty, wet, bent, corroded, damaged, or improperly identified cartridges.

Performance varies by barrel length, ammunition type, projectile weight, pressure level, environmental conditions, and muzzle-device configuration. If you are seeking maximum accuracy, we recommend match grade loadings from reputable manufacturers. However, excellent accuracy is possible with any high quality ammunition featuring a bullet weight appropriate for the barrel twist rate.

MAGAZINES

Use only serviceable magazines designed for the caliber marked on the barrel and compatible with the firearm as configured. Inspect magazines regularly for cracked feed lips, damaged bodies, weak springs, debris, corrosion, or other damage. A damaged or incompatible magazine can cause feeding failures, double feeds, or failure of the bolt to lock rearward.



WARNING

NEVER LOAD OR FIRE AMMUNITION OTHER THAN THE CALIBER MARKED ON THE BARREL. SOME CARTRIDGES, INCLUDING .300 BLACKOUT AND OTHER NON-5.56 CARTRIDGES, MAY FIT IN 5.56/.223 MAGAZINES OR MAY PARTIALLY CHAMBER IN A 5.56 NATO FIREARM. FIRING THE WRONG CARTRIDGE CAN CAUSE CATASTROPHIC FIREARM FAILURE, SERIOUS INJURY, OR DEATH. ALWAYS VERIFY BOTH THE FIREARM MARKING AND EACH CARTRIDGE BEFORE LOADING.

Use only suppressors and mounting systems rated for the firearm's caliber and barrel configuration. Before firing, confirm the suppressor is fully attached, properly aligned, and clear of any prior strike damage. If a shot sounds abnormal, if a baffle strike is suspected, or if the suppressor loosens, stop firing immediately and inspect the system.

Suppressors can increase backpressure and bolt velocity, which may increase recoil and wear on operating components. This is normal for suppressed use, especially with higher-pressure ammunition. The firearm is designed to function reliably across a broad range of conditions, but users who primarily shoot suppressed may prefer to install a heavier compatible buffer to soften recoil impulse and reduce operating speed (See Section 11, Buffer Configuration).

During suppressed firing, periodically confirm the suppressor or mount remains tight.



WARNING

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO STORE THE FIREARM WITH A HOT SUPPRESSOR ATTACHED INSIDE A SOFT CASE OR ENCLOSED STORAGE SYSTEM.

MISFIRE OR HANGFIRE

If the trigger is pressed and the firearm does not fire, keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. Wait at least 30 seconds before attempting to clear the firearm, then remove the magazine, lock the bolt to the rear, and inspect the chamber. Do not assume a misfired cartridge is safe to handle casually.

ABNORMAL REPORT OR SUSPECTED BORE OBSTRUCTION



WARNING

IF A SHOT SOUNDS WEAK, FEELS ABNORMAL, PRODUCES UNUSUAL RECOIL, OR IF YOU SUSPECT A SQUIB LOAD, STOP FIRING IMMEDIATELY. UNLOAD THE FIREARM AND INSPECT THE BORE FROM THE CHAMBER END. NEVER ATTEMPT TO CLEAR A LODGED BULLET BY FIRING ANOTHER ROUND. DO NOT FIRE AGAIN UNTIL THE BORE IS CONFIRMED CLEAR AND THE FIREARM IS SAFE.

HOT FIREARM / POSSIBLE COOK-OFF

Extended firing, high ambient temperature, and suppressor use can cause the chamber and barrel to become extremely hot. A live round left in a very hot chamber may ignite without the trigger being pressed. If the firearm stops firing with a live round suspected in a hot chamber, keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, remove the magazine if safe to do so, and allow the firearm to cool before further handling. If you cannot safely clear the firearm, keep clear of the muzzle and ejection port and contact qualified assistance.

SUSPECTED BAFFLE STRIKE

If a suppressor strike, impact, abnormal sound, sudden point-of-impact shift, or projectile instability is suspected, stop firing immediately. Unload the firearm and inspect the suppressor, muzzle device, bore, and ammunition before firing again.

Maintenance

FIREARM MAINTENANCE

TROUBLESHOOTING

SERVICE & REPAIR

WARRANTY

FREQUENCY OF MAINTENANCE

Follow a regularly scheduled maintenance program to ensure reliable function. The firearm should be properly cleaned, lubricated, and inspected after firing, after exposure to harsh conditions, before long-term storage, and after any drop, impact, or unusual malfunction.

DISASSEMBLY

1. Point the firearm in a safe direction.
2. Place the selector on SAFE if possible.
3. Remove the magazine.
4. Pull the charging handle to the rear, lock the bolt open, and inspect the chamber and magazine well.
5. Allow the bolt to go forward on an empty chamber.
6. Push the takedown pin until the upper receiver pivots open from the lower receiver.
7. Pull the charging handle rearward approximately three inches and remove the bolt carrier group.
8. Remove the charging handle.
9. If full upper/lower separation is desired for routine cleaning, push the pivot pin and separate the receivers.
10. To disassemble the bolt carrier group, remove the firing pin retaining pin, remove the firing pin, rotate and remove the cam pin, then pull the bolt from the carrier.
11. If extractor service is required for cleaning, control extractor spring tension and remove the extractor pin and extractor.
12. If the firearm uses a conventional receiver extension, depress the buffer retainer and remove the buffer and action spring while controlling spring tension.
13. No further user disassembly is recommended.



WARNING

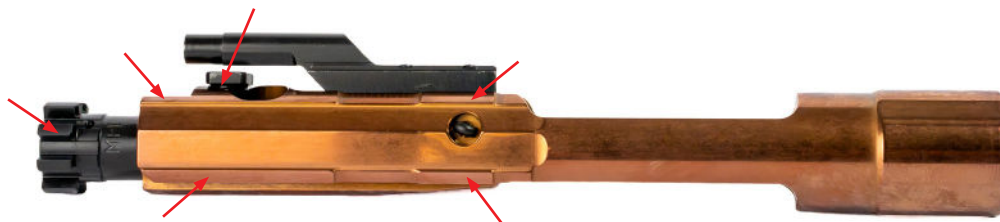
ALWAYS WEAR EYE PROTECTION DURING DISASSEMBLY AND CLEANING. SPRING-LOADED PARTS CAN RELEASE UNEXPECTEDLY AND CAUSE INJURY.

CLEANING

1. Use only cleaning products intended for firearms.
2. Do not use wire brushes on aluminum receiver surfaces.
3. Clean the bore and chamber from the chamber end whenever possible.
4. Use a chamber brush to clean the chamber and locking-lug recesses.
5. Clean the bolt body, bolt lugs, extractor claw, firing pin, cam pin, and the inside and outside of the bolt carrier.
6. Clean the charging handle, upper-receiver channel, lower receiver, buffer, action spring, and stock surfaces.
7. Remove all loose fouling, cloth fibers, and debris before lubricating.
8. Keep ammunition out of the cleaning area.
9. Do not allow excess oil or solvent to contaminate the firing pin recess, firing pin channel, chamber, or ammunition.

LUBRICATION

1. Run a lightly oiled patch through the bore. Keep the chamber dry.
2. Lightly lubricate the bolt locking lugs, bolt carrier contact surfaces, cam pin, and charging handle.
3. Apply a light coat to the extractor pin and extractor pivot surfaces.
4. Lightly lubricate pivot and takedown pins, selector detents, bolt release pivot, and other internal moving contact points.
5. Lightly lubricate the buffer spring and the inside of the receiver extension.
6. Lightly oil exterior steel surfaces to resist corrosion.
7. Do not flood the firing pin channel or chamber with oil.



BOLT LUBRICATION POINTS

REASSEMBLY

1. Reinstall the extractor if removed.
2. Insert the bolt into the carrier.
3. Install the cam pin and rotate it into position.
4. Insert the firing pin.
5. Reinstall the firing pin retaining pin.
6. Reinstall the action spring and buffer.
7. Reinstall the charging handle into the upper receiver.
8. Install the bolt carrier group into the charging-handle track and push both fully forward.
9. Manually cock the hammer if it is not cocked.
10. Rejoin upper and lower receivers using the pivot pin and takedown pin.
11. Perform the function check (see Section 16, Function Check below) before returning the firearm to service.



CAUTION

Do not dryfire the lower receiver without the upper attached.
The hammer will impact the receiver and can cause damage.



WARNING

DO NOT ASSEMBLE, LOAD, OR FIRE THE FIREARM UNLESS THE CAM PIN IS PROPERLY INSTALLED IN THE BOLT CARRIER GROUP. AN IMPROPERLY ASSEMBLED BOLT CARRIER GROUP CAN CAUSE SEVERE FIREARM DAMAGE, SERIOUS INJURY, OR DEATH.

FUNCTION CHECK

**WARNING**

PERFORM THE FUNCTION CHECK ONLY AFTER CLEARING THE FIREARM AND REMOVING ALL LIVE AMMUNITION FROM THE WORK AREA.

1. Ensure the firearm is unloaded. Remove the magazine, lock the bolt to the rear, and visually and physically inspect the chamber and magazine well. Let bolt forward and dry fire in a safe direction.
2. Insert an empty magazine.
3. Pull the charging handle fully to the rear. The bolt should lock to the rear.
4. Press the magazine release button. The magazine should drop free.
5. Press the bolt release. The bolt should move forward.
6. Rotate the selector to SAFE.
7. Press the trigger. The hammer should not fall.
8. Rotate the selector to FIRE.
9. Press and hold the trigger to the rear. The hammer should fall.
10. While holding the trigger to the rear, pull the charging handle fully to the rear and release it.
11. Slowly release the trigger. You should hear or feel the trigger reset.
12. Press the trigger again. The hammer should fall.
13. Pull the charging handle fully to the rear and release it to cock the hammer.
14. Rotate the selector back to SAFE.

The table below is limited to safe operator-level actions. Escalation beyond these steps should go to Shadow Systems customer service or a qualified armorer.

Many stoppages can be caused by damaged, dirty, underpowered, or improper ammunition. Always confirm that the ammunition is correct, clean, and serviceable before investigating the firearm further.

Issue	Likely cause	Operator action
Fails to fire	Selector on SAFE; defective ammunition; bolt not fully in battery; firing system contaminated; firearm not cocked.	Clear and reload; inspect ammunition; clean firearm; if repeated, stop using and service.
Failure to feed	Magazine not fully seated; dirty or damaged magazine; weak/damaged ammunition; dirty firearm.	Reseat magazine; try known-good magazine; clean magazine/firearm; replace suspect ammunition.
Double feed	Defective magazine or failure to extract.	Remove magazine, lock bolt open, clear chamber, reload with known-good magazine.
Failure to chamber	Dirty chamber; damaged cartridge; restricted carrier movement.	Clean chamber; discard damaged ammunition; clean/lubricate carrier contact surfaces.
Failure to extract/eject	Dirty chamber; dirty extractor/ejector area; worn component; ammunition or suppressor/gas variable.	Clean chamber/extractor area; try known-good ammunition; service if repeated.

Issue	Likely cause	Operator action
Bolt does not lock rearward	Faulty magazine; bolt release issue; underpowered ammunition; gas-system issue.	Try known-good magazine; inspect bolt release; use correct ammunition; service if repeated.
Abnormal report or suspected squib load	Possible bore obstruction.	STOP FIRING IMMEDIATELY. Unload, inspect bore from chamber end, and do not fire again until clear and safe.
Stiff selector or controls	Dirt, residue, or insufficient lubrication.	Clean and lightly lubricate safety detent/detent track. Service if unresolved.
Function check fails / unsafe fire-control behavior	Hammer falls on SAFE; hammer follows bolt closure; trigger fails to reset; selector does not positively engage; firearm fires when trigger is released.	STOP USING IMMEDIATELY. Unload the firearm and contact Shadow Systems or a qualified armorer before further use.

PARTS SCHEMATICS AND REPLACEMENT PARTS

Current parts schematics, component images, part numbers, and replacement-part ordering information are available through Shadow Systems Customer Service and at the parts support page listed below. Online parts information may be updated from time to time to reflect current production parts, model variations, and service guidance. Use only Shadow Systems-approved parts for your specific model and configuration. If you are unsure whether a part is compatible or whether installation requires armorer-level service, contact Shadow Systems Customer Service before ordering or installing the part.



Scan QR code or visit:

<https://shadowssystemscorp.com/resources>

FACTORY SERVICE & SHIPPING

Before returning any firearm to service after repair, maintenance, or configuration changes, perform the complete function check in this manual.

ADDITIONAL SAFETY

If service is required, unload the firearm completely and contact Shadow Systems Customer Service before shipping. Do not ship ammunition with the firearm. Package the firearm securely and include the model, serial number, return contact information, and a detailed description of the problem. Follow all applicable federal, state, and local laws and carrier requirements when shipping a firearm or firearm component.

LIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY

Shadow Systems warrants to the original purchaser that the firearm was made free of defects in material, function, and workmanship. Shadow Systems will address any such defect for the period that the original purchaser owns the firearm. In cases where a product cannot be repaired, Shadow Systems reserves the right to replace the product with a current production product of like kind or value.

This Limited Lifetime Warranty does not apply to wear items including: Firing Pins, Extractors, Magazine Release Button and springs. This Limited Lifetime Warranty also does not cover loss, theft, deliberate damage, or cosmetic damage that does not affect function. With that said, regardless of whether you are the original purchaser or what your issue is, we will always do our best to support you. Just email our Customer Service team at support@shadowssystemscorp.com. If required, we will make arrangements to return the firearm or components thereof to our facility for repair or send you a replacement part.

Shadow Systems warranty coverage is voided by:

- Careless or abusive handling, installation of aftermarket components, alterations or modifications, including those of a cosmetic nature, or failure to perform proper maintenance in accordance with this manual.
- Use of reloaded ammunition, or ammunition which is overloaded, damaged, or otherwise out of specification.
- Criminal misuse, negligence, or use while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Under no circumstances shall Shadow Systems be responsible for incidental or consequential damages with respect to economic loss, injury, death or property damage, whether as a result of breach of this warranty, negligence or otherwise.

USE OF FIREARM IN SELF-DEFENSE SITUATION

If you are forced to use your Shadow Systems firearm in a self-defense situation in the United States, it is possible that you will temporarily or permanently lose possession of your Shadow Systems firearm. If your use of your Shadow Systems firearm is deemed legally justified to the satisfaction of Shadow Systems, but the firearm is not returned to you, Shadow Systems will replace your firearm free of charge, to the extent permitted by law. This policy also applies to law enforcement line of duty use in cases where the firearm was personally purchased by the officer.

NOTES

MAINTENANCE & RANGE LOG

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SHADOW SYSTEMS

MADE IN THE USA

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MADE IN USA



PLANO, TX