

SHADOW
SYSTEMS

Shadow Systems MR918 Pistol



Safety & Operation Manual

SHADOW
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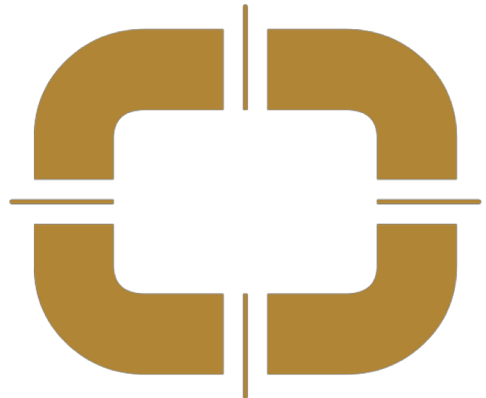
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Contact

We love talking to our customers!

Feel free to reach out to us at
469.458.6808 or
support@shadowssystemscorp.com.



web: shadowssystemscorp.com

instagram: @shadowssystemscorp

facebook.com/shadowssystemscorp

youtube.com/shadowssystemscorp

Warranty

Shadow Systems products are guaranteed to be free of defects in materials and workmanship that adversely affect operation for a period of 5 years from the date of original purchase. If there is a problem with your product, we will take care of it, just give us a call. No need to fill out a warranty card, keep the original receipt, or sign an affidavit. This warranty is fully transferable. The warranty does not cover loss, theft, deliberate damage, or cosmetic damage that does not affect function.

Use of Pistol in Self-Defense Situation

If you are forced to use your Shadow Systems pistol in a self-defense situation in the United States, you will likely lose possession of your pistol to the authorities. If your use of your Shadow Systems pistol is deemed legally justified, Shadow Systems will replace your pistol free of charge.

Safety

SAFETY ITEMS BELOW ARE BASED ON COMMON CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS. PLEASE READ BEFORE OPERATING ANY FIREARM.

First, the Four Rules of Firearms Safety have been keeping people safe for a long time. You and everyone you shoot with needs to know them and apply them. This will prevent the vast majority of serious gun accidents:

1. Treat every firearm as if it is loaded.
2. Don't point your firearm at anything you're not willing to destroy.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until you're ready to fire.
4. Be aware of your target and what is beyond it.

Now, here are a few safety considerations that we've seen and learned about through our experience in the law enforcement, military, and competitive shooting fields. Give this some thought:

1. **Always, always, clear it** – The moment you pick up ANY firearm, you should automatically point it in a safe direction and clear it (remove magazine, check chamber). This is the mark of a professional. Even if you are CERTAIN a gun is unloaded having only left it for a moment, clear it again. It only takes a second. An unbelievable number of accidental shootings happen with a gun that "wasn't loaded." Clear it every time.

Safety (continued)

2. Add this rule: All guns are carried or secured

– When you take your EDC gun off, where do you put it? When you are done cleaning your pistol, where does it go? There is a reason that you never leave your weapon unattended in the military. Unattended firearms can be used against you or fall into the hands of an untrained, innocent person and cause a tragedy. By owning and/or carrying a firearm, you are solely responsible for ensuring it does not fall into the wrong hands. Take it seriously. Get an inexpensive pistol vault or trigger lock and throw it on the gun when you take it off. If you are leaving guns in your home or vehicle, implement controls such as a safe or cable lock, to keep it from being stolen and used in a crime. Do everything you can to ensure your Shadow Systems pistol is used for good, righteous things, and does not harm an innocent person or you.

3. Dryfire is how you safely learn new skills –

Most competitive shooters will tell you that they build their core skills and speed through dry fire. Start by removing all ammunition from your practice area. Clear your pistol thoroughly and clear it again. Even though the gun is unloaded, ensure you are dry firing toward something that will stop a bullet...just in case. Now, practice the skill slowly (aiming and firing, drawing, reloading, etc.) and gradually increase your pace. You will become more comfortable with the new skill and it will start to feel natural and automatic. More importantly, if you screw it up and drop the gun or pull the trigger too soon, you have not created an unsafe situation. You have learned a valuable lesson and can correct your technique and try again. Once you are truly comfortable through dry fire, you are ready to try it slowly at the range. Be patient, focus on technique, do not compromise safety. This is how you master the fundamentals.

Lubrication

To properly lubricate your Shadow Systems pistol after cleaning, use a clean patch that has been slightly dampened with quality gun oil. Wipe the outside of the barrel, including the barrel hood and lugs, the inside top of the slide forward of the ejection port where the barrel hood rubs against the slide, and the opening that the barrel slides through in the front of the slide. One drop of oil should be spread along the entire length of each slide rail cut. A drop of oil is needed where the rear end of the trigger bar touches the connector at the right rear corner of the frame.



This will assure proper lubrication of your Shadow Systems pistol without over-lubrication.

Warning: Do not put oil or solvent inside of the firing pin channel it can cause contamination of primers and failure to fire.

Reassembly

1. Reassemble the slide, barrel, and recoil spring assembly by reversing the disassembly procedures
2. Replace the slide assembly on the receiver and pull to the rear. If the slide hangs up, ensure the recoil spring is fully seated against the barrel.
3. The action of pulling the slide to the rear completes the reassembly procedures.

Cleaning

Barrel: Once field stripped, the barrel and chamber are easily cleaned from the chamber end using a bore brush, patches, and solvent. Standard firearm solvents can be used on the pistol. Do not leave excess solvent inside the pistol as it can cause the accumulation of dirt and contaminate primers

Slide: The slide rail cuts should be cleaned of dirt and debris by using a clean patch on the end of a toothbrush-type cleaning tool. The breech face and the area under the extractor claw should be cleaned with a toothbrush-type cleaning tool and be absolutely dry and free of any dirt and debris after cleaning. All other exposed areas of the slide should be checked for cleanliness and wiped or brushed clean as required.

Frame: The frame should be checked for cleanliness. Exposed parts in the frame may be wiped with a clean, soft cloth that has been slightly dampened with a quality firearm cleaning solvent. All solvent should then be wiped from the parts so that they are clean and dry.

Post-cleaning Inspection: Before moving forward, ensure that no debris from your cleaning tools (q-tip cotton, threads from rags, etc.) are left behind in the action of the pistol.

Safety (continued)

- 4. Don't shoot yourself re-holstering** - Lots of negligent discharges happen re-holstering which can be especially bad because the pistol may be oriented toward your body. Don't get in a rush or "slam" the gun into the holster. Shirt tails, gear, and even your finger can get caught inside the trigger guard and then pull the trigger as the gun goes into the holster. Take your time. Keep in mind that you are particularly at risk for a mistake like this after a self-defense situation. Being fast OUT of the holster is important. Being fast INTO the holster has never won a gun fight.



- 5. Build a safety culture** – Strive to encourage and enforce safety among the people you shoot or handle firearms with. If you are showing someone a firearm (after clearing it, of course) and they accidentally orient it toward you, a gentle reminder "watch your muzzle please," is totally appropriate. By that token, if someone calls you out for something unsafe, set the example by taking the feedback in a respectful manner. "But it's unloaded," or "but the safety is on," is never an acceptable response. Teach others the four rules of guns safety and hold everyone accountable, including yourself.

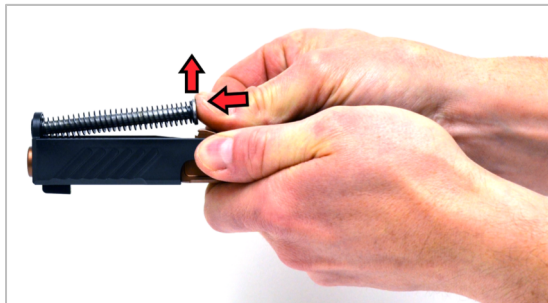
Safety (continued)

Now here are some other safety rules you should be aware of:

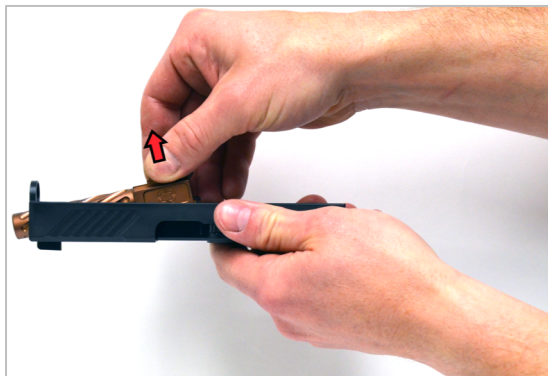
1. Read this manual carefully before loading or using your Shadow Systems pistol.
2. Failure to follow the safety information and safety instruction in this manual could result in death, serious personal injury and/or property damage.
3. Like most modern handguns, your Shadow Systems pistol is designed without a conventional manual safety. Therefore, you must consider it to be loaded and ready to fire until you have removed the magazine and visually and physically confirmed that the chamber is empty.
4. Always seek a doctor's advice if you are taking medication to be sure that you are able to shoot and handle a firearm safely.
5. Never drink alcoholic beverages or take drugs before or while shooting. Your vision and judgment could be seriously impaired, making you unsafe when handling firearms.
6. If your Shadow Systems pistol or any other firearm is carelessly or improperly handled, you could cause a negligent discharge, which could result in death, serious personal injury and/or property damage.
7. Never take anyone's word that a firearm is unloaded; always check for yourself, with the firearm pointed in a safe direction and your finger off the trigger and outside of the trigger guard.

Disassembly (continued)

7. Push the recoil spring assembly slightly forward while lifting it away from the barrel.



8. Remove the recoil spring assembly.
9. Lift the barrel from the slide.



Further disassembly by the user is neither required nor recommended and should only be performed by certified gunsmiths or armorers.

Disassembly (continued)

Once you have verified that the pistol is unloaded by following the above steps, the slide is removed as follows:

1. Pull back the slide and release to close the action
2. Point the pistol in a safe direction, and then pull the trigger. You will hear the firing pin move forward.
3. Hold the pistol in either hand so that your fingers grasp the top of the slide as shown.
4. With these fingers, pull and hold the slide back approximately 1/16 of an inch.
5. Simultaneously, pull down and hold both sides of the slide lock using the thumb and index finger of your free hand.



6. Push the slide forward until it is fully separated from the receiver.



Note: If the trigger moves forward and the slide will not come off during step 6, you may have pulled the slide back too far in step 4. If this happens, begin again at step 1 above.

Safety (continued)

8. Always make sure your Shadow Systems pistol is unloaded and that the slide is locked open in the rearward position with the magazine taken out before handing it to another person.
9. Modifying your Shadow Systems pistol with non-factory parts can cause it to malfunction and create a dangerous condition. If you choose to modify your pistol, always choose Shadow Systems parts and only take on modifications you feel comfortable completing. Call us to speak with our technical team with any questions before, during, and after a modification. 469.458.6808.
10. If you choose to carry your Shadow Systems pistol loaded, ensure that your holster properly and securely fits the pistol.
11. To store your Shadow Systems pistol, first unload it as described in this manual. Then, after checking to make sure that it is unloaded (magazine removed and chamber empty), use the included lock (pass it through the open ejection port and down the magazine well), or lock it a suitable container.
12. Although the Shadow Systems pistol has several internal design features and mechanical safeties designed to prevent an unintentional discharge if the pistol is dropped or hit, the proper and safe function of the pistol depends on it being used for its intended purposes and not being altered or modified. Like any other mechanical device, if your Shadow Systems pistol is subjected to unusual and extreme forces, a part failure can occur. Therefore, safe firearm handling practices and the instructions and safety warnings in this manual must always be followed to minimize the risk of a negligent discharge.

Safety (continued)

13. Although your Shadow Systems pistol has a loaded chamber indicator, it is a mechanical device, which could fail. Never rely solely on a loaded chamber indicator or your memory to determine whether your pistol is loaded or unloaded. Always remove the magazine, retract and lock the slide by pulling it to the rear and then visually and physically check to make sure there is not a cartridge in the chamber.
14. Do not use reloaded, remanufactured, or hand loaded ammunition because it may not meet applicable SAAMI, CIP, or NATO standards and could cause death, serious personal injury and/or property damage. Only use high quality commercially manufactured ammunition in the same caliber as your Shadow Systems pistol.
15. Always be sure that the barrel of your Shadow Systems pistol is clear of obstructions before firing it. Any obstruction in the barrel could prevent the pistol from firing properly and result in death or serious personal injury and/or damage to the pistol.
16. Always wear safety glasses when cleaning your Shadow Systems pistol to protect your eyes from cleaning materials.
17. Always make sure that no ammunition is located in the area where you clean or dry fire your pistol.

Disassembly (continued)

4. With your finger off the trigger and out of the trigger guard, lock the slide open by pushing up on the slide release lever while pulling the slide to the rear with your other hand. Be aware of where the muzzle is pointed during this manipulation.



5. Once the slide is locked to the rear, thoroughly inspect the chamber and the magazine well of the pistol to be sure that no ammunition remains in either place.



Disassembly

The Shadow Systems pistol should be field stripped every time it is cleaned. Cleaning without field stripping, by merely locking the slide to the rear and inserting the cleaning rod from the muzzle, can cause dirt, oil, and fouling to build up inside of the pistol.

In order to field strip the Shadow Systems pistol, **THE PISTOL MUST FIRST BE COMPLETELY UNLOADED.** To unload your Shadow Systems pistol, proceed as follows:

1. Point the pistol in a safe direction. Keep your finger off the trigger and out of the trigger guard.
2. Depress the magazine release.
3. Remove the magazine.



Introduction

Shadow Systems pistols are custom built in Plano, TX, USA. Our pistols provide high reliability, accuracy, and excellent handling characteristics under stress and in harsh conditions. This manual will cover the recommended procedures for operation, field stripping, cleaning, and lubrication of your Shadow Systems pistol.

Terminology



Operation

Safe use of the Shadow Systems pistol is YOUR responsibility. Ensure anyone who will come into contact with your Shadow Systems pistol has a full understanding of firearms safety and the contents of this manual.

1. **Loading:** Insert a loaded magazine into the grip of the firearm until it clicks and locks in place.
2. **Chambering:** WITH YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER, POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION, pull the slide fully rearward and release. The slide will slam forward and chamber a round. Do not "ride" the slide forward with your hand as this can induce a malfunction. THE PISTOL IS NOW READY TO FIRE.
3. **Firing:** Once loaded per the instructions above, pulling the trigger will fire the pistol. The slide will lock to the rear after the last round in the magazine is fired.
4. **Reloading:** WITH YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER, POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION, press the magazine release to remove the empty magazine. Insert a fresh magazine. Chamber the top round by pulling the slide to the rear or by pressing downward on the slide release lever if the slide is locked to the rear.
5. **Unloading: Never assume your firearm is empty.** After the last round in the magazine has been fired, the slide will lock 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, remove the magazine and pull the slide 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.

Frequency of Maintenance

You should follow a regularly scheduled maintenance program to ensure the reliable functioning of your Shadow Systems pistol. Your pistol should be properly cleaned and lubricated to prevent corrosion and to remove accumulated debris that could affect the functioning of your Shadow Systems pistol.

Your Shadow Systems pistol should be field stripped, cleaned, lubricated and inspected as follows:

1. After each firing session.
2. After exposure to the elements or harsh conditions.
3. At least once per year if in extended storage conditions.

Notes on Performance and Reliability

To ensure that the Shadow Systems pistol performs at the highest level, we recommend the following:

1. The break-in period for the Shadow Systems pistol is 150-200 rounds. The pistol has close tolerances and benefits from a "wearing-in" period before reliability and performance are at their best. During this break-in period, the parts will fully mate and springs will achieve their final set. Keep the pistol well-lubricated during this period.
2. Use only the highest quality factory ammunition. Budget priced and/or reloaded ammunition can suffer from quality control issues and result in degraded performance and reliability. If you are trying to achieve maximum accuracy, it is beneficial to test different types of ammunition (manufacturer, bullet weight, etc.) as your Shadow Systems pistol may prefer some loads over others.
3. Use high-quality magazines. The use of low-quality magazines and low-quality ammunition are the most common causes of performance issues with the Shadow Systems pistol.

Introduction to Pistol Marksmanship

We realize that not every customer is an experienced shooter with access or budget for training. We always recommend seeking professional instruction, and it is likely that your local range can help you find an instructor.

With that said, we thought it might be helpful to provide a very basic overview of pistol marksmanship. By the way, some shooters can hold very strong views about marksmanship technique. We realize this section is not for everyone. This is merely our humble attempt to assist those who are new to shooting.

DISCLAIMER: You are solely responsible for the safe use of your pistol. The following section contains generally accepted operation and safety practices for use of a firearm. Use this information at your own risk. Always seek competent professional instruction.

You must learn new techniques using dry fire practice. See Safety section, paragraph 3 above.

Stance: Accurate shooting and good recoil control begins with a stable foundation. There are several techniques out there, but a good start is a modified weaver stance. Key points of performance:

1. Weak-side leg is advanced slightly forward of the strong-side leg.
2. Feet are placed approximately shoulder width apart.
3. Chest is generally square to the target.

Introduction to Pistol Marksmanship (continued)

Stance (continued):

4. Weight is balanced forward on the lead foot (about 60/40 distribution). Distributing your weight slightly forward helps control recoil.
5. Extend your arms straight toward the target. Some people lock out the elbows, but most find the elbows should be slightly bent.
6. Orient your head upright and square to the target. Shooters who are cross-eye dominant may find that they tilt their head.
7. Some people describe this stance as feeling like you were walking along and suddenly stopped mid-stride with your weak-side leg forward.



Optic Mounting (continued)

Your pistol will come with a total of 5 screws. THE SCREWS ARE DIFFERENT SIZES. Please note the following:



1. Cover Plate Mounting: Use 2x 1/4 inch long screws.
2. Trijicon RMR Mounting:
 - a) 1x 5/16 inch long screw goes on the EJECTION PORT SIDE
 - b) 1x 3/8 inch long screw goes on the NON-EJECTION PORT SIDE (we add the 3/8 inch screw to maximize the strength of the mount as there is space for it when mounting the RMR. However, a 5/16 screw will also provide adequate strength).
3. Holosun 507c Mounting
 - a) Use 2x 5/16 inch screws.

**Call us if you need replacement screws.
469.458.6808**

Backstrap and Magwell Features

(continued)

Magwell (continued):

Note: Many shooters feel that magwells can limit your ability to remove a stuck magazine during an emergency. We have tested this with our magwell and found that the shooter's hand size, the type of magazine, and other factors can also profoundly impact this. We raise this only for your consideration and recommend thoroughly testing all of your equipment in a variety of situations.

Optic Mounting (Optic Ready Slides ONLY)

Optic ready pistols come with the cover plate pre-installed and torqued at the factory. We use medium strength blue Locktite on the screws, but they can be removed with hand pressure and a typical hand tool.

Screws require a torx T-10 driver and should be torqued to approximately 10 inch pounds. If you do not have a torque wrench and are using a typical hand tool, most people describe this as "very snug, but not excessively tight."

Medium strength blue Locktite is recommended for mounting screws but is optional. If you choose not to use Locktite, we recommend re-torquing screws periodically and after every range session. Loose screws can cause zero shift. If many rounds are fired with the optic loose, thread damage could result.

Introduction to Pistol

Marksmanship (continued)

Grip: Proper grip technique is the heart of controlling recoil. The Shadow Systems Pistol has been carefully contoured and textured to minimize muzzle flip during recoil and maximize your control of the pistol. Key points of performance:

1. Firing hand (dominant hand):
 - a) Your firing hand should be placed as high as possible on the pistol. There should be no light between the underside of the beavertail and the web of your firing hand. This minimizes the leverage the pistol has on your hand during recoil (reduces muzzle flip).
 - b) Unless your muzzle is pointed at the target, your trigger finger should feel for and rest on the textured index pad on the side of the frame (finger off the trigger).
 - c) Your thumb lays naturally along the opposite side of the frame.



Introduction to Pistol Marksmanship (continued)

Grip (continued):

2. Non-firing hand (support hand):
 - a) Your non-firing hand should wrap around the fingers of your firing hand. Avoid the "cup and saucer" technique of using the non-firing hand to grab the bottom of the firing hand from below.
 - b) Your index finger should be in contact with the underside of the trigger guard.
 - c) There are many variations on thumb placement. A good place to start is with the thumbs oriented forward toward the target. The firing hand thumb can rest on the base of the non-firing hand thumb.



Backstrap and Magwell Features

(continued)

Backstraps (continued):

5. Once the pin is removed, the backstrap is removed by sliding it downward off the rail on the frame.
6. Your pistol will have the flat backstrap plug pre-installed at the factory. If you are not using the magwell, you will want to use this plug on the backstrap you end up selecting. If you are using a magwell, you can set this plug aside for future use.

Magwell: Your Shadow Systems pistol includes a lightweight polymer magwell that enlarges the magazine well for faster reloads. When installed, the magwell also creates a larger "lip" at the bottom of the frame which many shooters feel improves their grip and control of the gun.

1. Begin installation by removing the backstrap pin with the pin removal tool.
2. Install your backstrap of choice
3. Insert the magwell plug into the backstrap. Insert the backstrap pin
4. Place the magazine well on the bottom of the grip by starting on the frontstrap and pivoting the magwell toward the backstrap. It will "click" in place.
5. Insert the shorter magwell installation pin.



Backstrap and Magwell Features

Your Shadow Systems pistol features the NPOA (natural point of aim) interchangeable backstrap system. Each backstrap is designed to alter how the pistol points to allow you to tune it to your natural sense of where the muzzle is oriented. This speeds up sight alignment as the pistol is presented to the target and can help you “find the dot” if you are choosing to run an electronic dot sight.



Backstraps: Each backstrap has a letter on one of the circles on the back to indicate its purpose:

1. H – HIGH. This backstrap places the muzzle in a relatively high point. This will point very similarly to a stock Glock.
2. N – NEUTRAL. This backstrap places the muzzle in a relatively neutral (midrange) point. This backstrap works well for many shooters and is pre-installed at the factory.
3. L – LOW. This backstrap places the muzzle in a relatively low point. This backstrap works well for shooters who are very used to 1911s. It is also preferred for those with smaller hands.
4. Your Shadow Systems pistol includes our pin removal tool for the backstrap and magwell pins. With hand pressure, you can push out the pins (in either direction) and experiment with different backstraps.

Introduction to Pistol Marksmanship (continued)

Grip (continued):

3. Grip Pressure: There is no need to “death grip” the pistol. In general, you should be squeezing harder with your support hand than your firing hand as excessive tension in your firing hand can cause “trigger freeze” when firing rapidly. Also, the pressure from your support hand effectively transfers to your firing hand fingers which are in contact with the grip surface. A good rule of thumb is 60/40 firing hand to non-firing hand pressure.

Sight Alignment: Consistent sight picture when combined with proper trigger manipulation is what allows you to hit your target.



1. Iron Sights:
 - a) Your eye is only able to focus in one plane at a time. Getting good at shooting with iron sights starts with accepting that it is physically impossible to have the rear sight, front sight, and target in focus at the same time.
 - b) The generally accepted practice is to FOCUS ON THE FRONT SIGHT. This does mean the target will appear a bit blurry. This is something all shooters contend with. A blurry target will have less impact on your accuracy and precision than a blurry front sight. Obviously, all of this assumes that you have focused on the target enough to properly identify it before shifting your focus to the front sight when firing the shot.

Introduction to Pistol

Marksmanship (continued)

Sight Alignment (continued):

- c) Therefore, a typical sight picture will feature a slightly blurry rear sight, a crisp clear front sight that is symmetrically placed in the rear sight notch, and a slightly blurry target.
2. Electronic Dot Sights: If you choose to use an electronic dot sight on your pistol, the process of aligning the sight with the target is vastly more simple.
- a) With dot sights, you keep your focus on the target which allows you to better identify threats, maintain your situational awareness, and transition quickly in a multiple target scenario. Focusing on the target is also more natural under stress.
 - b) The dot does not need to be “centered” in the window for the round to impact the target. If it is off to the side or a bit high in the window, the round will still impact the target where the dot is located. This is another advantage of electronic dot sights—they are very “forgiving” in terms of alignment.
 - c) Therefore, a typical electronic dot sight picture will feature a crisp clear target and a dot that is superimposed on the target where you want the round to strike.

Introduction to Pistol

Marksmanship (continued)

Trigger Control: We will describe basic techniques for physically pulling the trigger, but the most important (and difficult) pitfall for new shooters to avoid is what is commonly called “flinch.”

- 1. Finger Placement: The dimensions of your hand strongly impact where your finger falls on the trigger. The important thing is to ensure you are able to pull the trigger to the rear in a controlled fashion without disturbing your aim. Some very competent shooters use only the pad of the finger while others seemingly jam their whole finger in the trigger guard. Find what feels best for you during dry fire.
- 2. Flinch: Flinch is a very common tendency to anticipate the noise and sensation of recoil and “jerk” the trigger or dip the muzzle downward as the shot is being fired.
 - a. This normally manifests as a shot group that is low and to the right for right handed shooters and low and to the left for left handed shooters.
 - b. The problem with flinch is that recoil masks the jerking movement and the problem can remain hidden.
 - c. If you have ever seen someone hit a dud or dummy round at the range, you will often see them dip the muzzle downward at the moment they expect recoil to occur. This is a great illustration of how drastically flinch can affect accuracy.
 - d. The best way to avoid or eliminate flinch is with dry fire practice—lots of it. Randomly adding some dummy rounds to your magazines during live fire training can also help reveal and correct flinch.

Final Thoughts: One final reminder to never lose sight of safety as you learn pistol marksmanship. Practice the fundamentals, seek the help of competent instructors, dry fire as much as you can, and you will progress rapidly.