

Mossberg 500 Series Shotgun

Field Stripping



1. Unload the weapon, place on safe, check the action for clear, cycle the slide, check safety again and always! Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. Now, check the action to be sure it's unloaded, and when you've finished, check again. You can never be too careful.

2. Unscrew that screw that holds the shell-tube in place. This is a bit weird -- it has detents to prevent easy rotation. You'll feel the clicks as you turn the bolt. Don't worry -- it's normal, and designed to keep the barrel from falling off while you are shooting. The bolt will not come out of the hole.



3. Once you have the screw all the way loose, move the pump to the lowest position and move the barrel up and out from the frame of the shotgun.

4. To remove the magazine plug you'll stop here. The wooden dowel rod will just drop out of the screw hole at the end of the magazine. You can also push the rod out by loading shells into the magazine until the wooden rod comes out the end of the magazine. If you are planning on replacing the barrel, doing a detail cleaning, or just like to take things apart, continue on!



5. With the barrel removed, you can now remove the magazine. The magazine is threaded into the action. You will need to take a firm grip on the magazine and the action and twist. See below for a detail on the threads. Note -- keep a firm grip on the magazine and the action once you get it unscrewed. The spring inside is under quite a bit of tension, and you will be introduced to this new sound of metal bits ricocheting off the walls! (not that I've ever done this, no!). Also, watch for the magazine follower -- it's either attached to the end of the spring or still inside the action. Do not loose this bit. You will want it later.





6. You now have a bunch of pieces on the table in front of you. You can now change out barrels, clean the thing up, put a longer magazine in, or just toss it in a basket and take it to your gunsmith for re-assembly. It really isn't hard to put back together -- it's taken me longer to write these web pages than it did to disassemble, photograph and reassemble my Mossberg. All you need to do is follow the steps in reverse order.

