

NEBRASKA HAPKIDO ASSOCIATION

INTRO TO FIREARMS

Expectations for Learning:

- 1) Know and practice the Four Laws of Gun Handling.
- 2) Know and practice the General Rule of Thumb for handling firearms.
- 3) Recognize the basic terms, parts, and action of both a revolver and a semi-automatic pistol.
- 4) Understand the basic nomenclature of handgun ammunition.
- 5) Understand and demonstrate the basics of proper stance and sighting.
- 6) Fire both a revolver and a pistol.

4 LAWS OF GUN HANDLING:

- 1) The Gun is Loaded
- 2) Never Point the Weapon at Anything You Are Not Prepared to Destroy
- 3) Keep Your Finger Off the Trigger Until Your Sights Are On Target
- 4) Know Your Target and Your Backstop

GENERAL RULE OF THUMB:

EVERY TIME YOU RECEIVE A WEAPON, CHECK ITS CONDITION. IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO DO SO, THEN DON'T PICK IT UP – YOU DON'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THE WEAPON TO USE IT SAFELY.

Sabumnim's Comments about Weapons:

Use common sense at all times.
If you have a question, ask it. Don't guess.
Shooting the instructor will not make him happy.
Be polite.

There are two basic types of modern handguns:
Revolvers and Semi-automatic Pistols.

REVOLVERS:

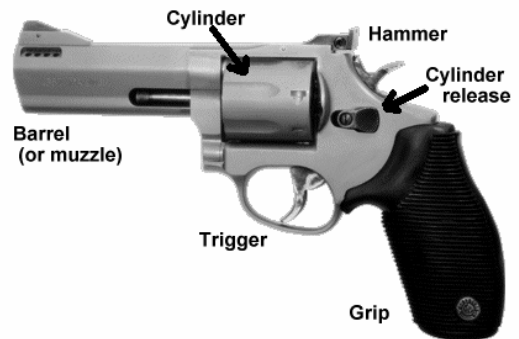
Revolvers, also called “wheel guns” are the older of the two main types of handguns in existence today.

Rounds of ammunition are loaded into the cylinder of the firearm, and each time the trigger is pulled the cylinder revolves and puts the next round in line with the barrel and the firing pin.

For most revolvers, pulling the trigger will cock the weapon (causing the hammer to pull back) and then fire the weapon (causing the hammer to fall forward).

Revolvers tend to be very straightforward in usage, having only a trigger and a cylinder release button on them. The cylinder release button allows the cylinder to be moved out to reload the weapon.

The most common ammunition rounds for the revolver are .38 Special and .357 Magnum rounds. (Though revolvers are also common in .22 Long Rifle and .44 Magnum.)



SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOLS:

In semi-automatic pistols, the “semi-automatic” part means that for each time the trigger is pulled, one round is fired. An “automatic” pistol is one in which pulling the trigger once and holding it will fire a continuous number of rounds.

A semi-auto differs remarkably from a revolver, both in method of moving a round into position to fire it, and in holding the rounds of ammunition in the first place.



The rounds of ammunition are placed into the magazine of the pistol, which is inserted into the grip of the gun. The slide is then “racked” (meaning it is pulled backwards and then released) which strips the top round from the magazine (the round is visible at the top of the magazine in the middle picture) and inserts it into the chamber. This also cocks the weapon. Note the hammer being cocked back on the right-most picture above. The gun can now be fired.

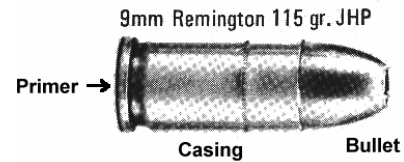
Each successive firing also moves the slide, which pushes out the old casing and loads a new round into the chamber. Again, it also cocks the weapon (similar to when the hammer is pulled back by hand on a revolver---it makes the trigger pull much easier.)

When the magazine of a semi-auto pistol is empty, the slide will lock back after the last round is fired. Reloading is accomplished by simply pushing the magazine release, removing the empty magazine, then inserting a new one. By pushing the slide release lever or simply racking the slide after reloading, a new bullet is put into the firing chamber and the gun is again ready to fire.

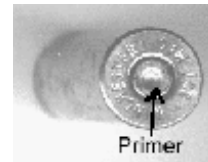
Unlike revolvers, many semi-auto have safeties. When the safety is *on*, the gun cannot be fired. When the safety is *off*, the gun will fire. Do NOT trust mechanical safeties, however. Use of the safety lever is not an acceptable substitute for following the four laws of gun handling.

AMMUNITION:

Each round of ammunition is made up of a casing filled with gunpowder, with a bullet crimped into it. At the base of the casing is a primer that ignites the gunpowder when the primer is struck. Strictly speaking, the “bullet” is only the part that is pushed out of the barrel by the explosion of the gunpowder. A “round” is the entire thing that you load into your firearm.



The second picture here is that of an expired round. Note the dent on the base of the casing where the firing pin struck the primer.

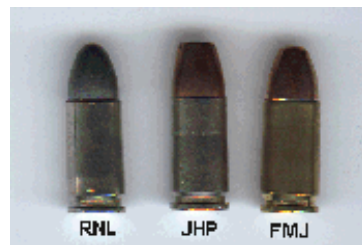


Ammunition is defined in a number of ways. The most common is by diameter, such as 9mm, .38, .357, or .22.

Note that there are rounds with similar diameters that are remarkably different rounds. The 9mm Parabellum round is quite different from the 9mm Luger round. Also, a smaller diameter doesn't necessarily mean a smaller and less powerful round. For example, a 9mm Parabellum is a common pistol round, and a 7mm Magnum is a much larger rifle round.

Rounds can also be denoted by type. The three most common types of handgun rounds are:

- FMJ (Full Metal Jacket)
- JHP (Jacketed Hollow Point)
- RNL (Round Nose Lead)



FMJ rounds have a copper “jacket” around the bullet, which makes them a lot cleaner to shoot through a handgun. It also helps the bullet keep its integrity when impacting materials. JHP rounds have a hollow in the point of the bullet so that they expand upon hitting a target. JHP rounds are the self-defense rounds of choice.

Rounds can also be denoted by bullet weight. Bullets are weighed in grains. This denotation is generally given along with the diameter and type of the round. For example, a 9mm 115 gr. FMJ has a 9mm diameter bullet with a weight of 115 grains, and is a full metal jacketed round.

Taking the 9mm round as an example, a common practice round is the 115 gr. FMJ. But for self-defense, two common rounds are the 147 gr. JHP and the 124 gr. JHP. Another common round is the 124 gr. +P JHP round. The “+P” part simply means the round is overpowered for its size---extra gunpowder was added to “hop up” the round, and will give the bullet more velocity when fired. (It also makes the handgun recoil more.) And these are all common 9mm rounds.

Action:

For firearms, the “action” of the weapon is the term used for what process the handgun trigger uses to fire the round. Trigger action can be either single or double action.

DA (Double Action) both cocks the weapon (if it has an exposed hammer, you will see the hammer cock back) then fires the weapon.

SA (Single Action) just fires the gun, it will NOT cock the weapon first.

Most revolvers are DA, though if you pull the hammer back each time by hand, a revolver can be SA. Hammerless revolvers are DAO (Double-action only).

Most modern semi-autos are DA/SA—the first shot is DA, wherein pulling the trigger cocks the hammer and fires the weapon—but each subsequent shot is SA because as the slide moves after each firing, the hammer is cocked by the slide movement.

There are some semi-autos that are SA, and some old revolvers that are also. All of the “Old West gunfights” that people read about actually occurred with SA revolvers, so that before the gunfighter shot his weapon, each time he had to cock the hammer manually.

Shooting:

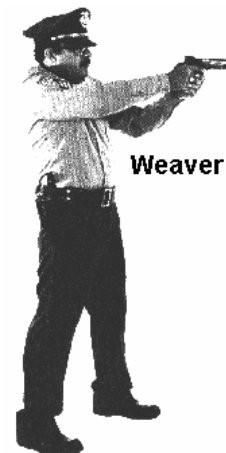
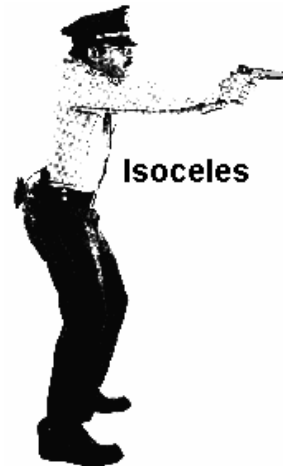
Every time you pick up a weapon with your shooting hand, pick it up with the correct shooting grip. Teach yourself to automatically pick the weapon up correctly every time.

There are two main types of shooting stances: **Isosceles**, and **Weaver**

Isosceles: Weight even (horse stance) slightly forward, arms out evenly, shooting stance forward. The body is held square to the target, feet planted firmly and evenly. Think of it as a narrow horse stance with the upper body leaning slightly forward.

Weaver: The body is bladed to the target (similar to a back stance in angle), with the shooting arm straight and the support arm bent with its elbow down. Unlike this picture, we will want to bend the knees slightly. Think of it as a smaller back stance, again leaning slightly forward into the target.

When shooting, both eyes stay open, keep your shoulders relaxed, and focus on the **FRONT** sight, not the target or the rear sight.



Sighting:

Always focus on the front sight. The back sight will be slightly out of focus, and the target may be a bit blurry. However, this will give you the greatest chance of quickly coming on target to fire.

Your sight picture should match the picture on the right. (If you are right handed and right-eye dominant.) The front sight is clearly in focus, the back sight not quite as much, and the target is slightly blurry though clearly centered by the sights.

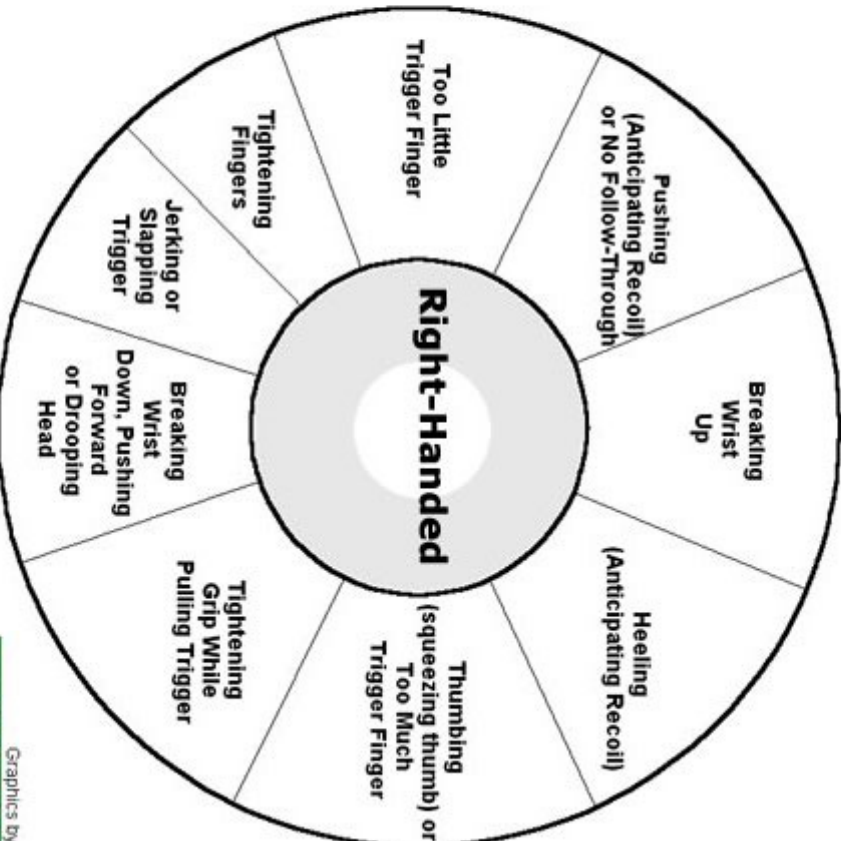
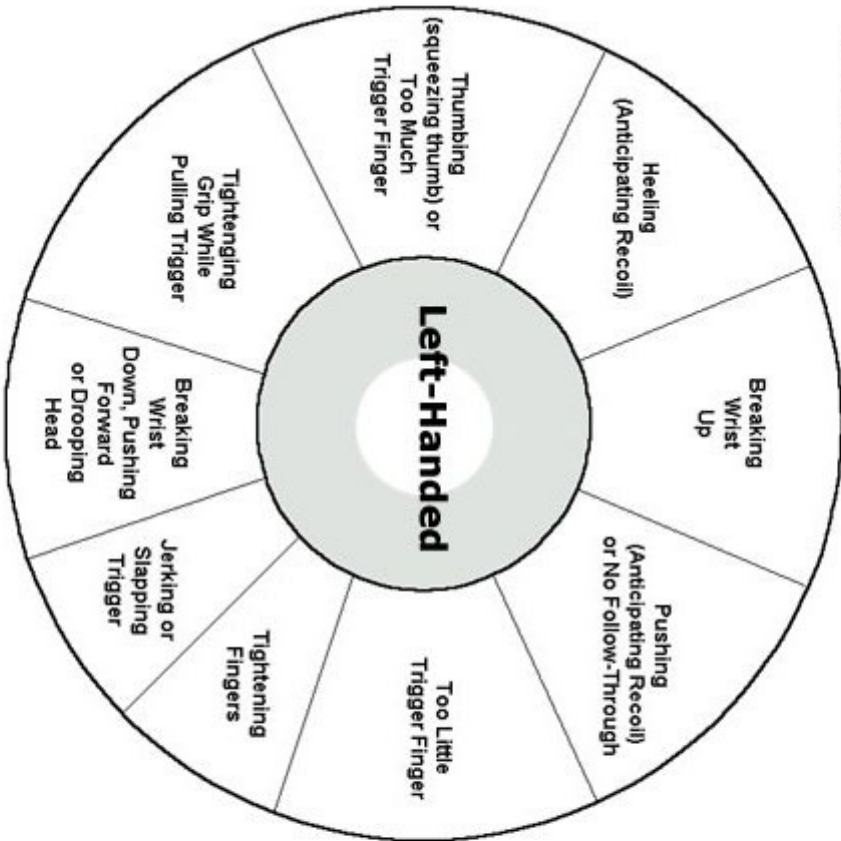


The front sight should be centered in the notch of the back sight, and aligned with it horizontally as well. The bead of the front sight should be slightly below the middle of the area that you want to hit on the target.

Trigger control: When firing, the trigger finger is the only thing that moves. Pressing the trigger should not be used to “pull” the handgun down onto the target. The body and arms should have the sights correctly on target first, then the trigger should be pressed. Don’t yank, jerk, or pull—don’t even squeeze. **PRESS** the trigger slowly and evenly.

Range Rules:

- 1) Obey the Four Gun Laws
- 2) All weapons must be holstered or set down if someone is downrange.
- 3) This is a “hot” range—guns may be loaded and carried away from the firing line. (“Cold” ranges do not allow ammo to be loaded into weapons, and weapons must be carried with the action open away from the firing line.) However, being as it is a hot range, any deviation from the four gun laws results in one warning (unless a completely flagrant offense) and then on second occurrence you are done for the day.
- 4) It is courteous to yell “shooting!” before beginning to fire.



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