
Where Can I Learn More?

If you're confused or intimidated by the equipment presented, or the idea of firing a gun, you're not alone! Fortunately, you are also in good company. Your local SRA chapter may be able to teach you how to safely handle a rifle.

Some SRA chapters also offer licensing classes, to help you get your permit to carry a firearm

Choosing a rifle is a personal and involved process. When choosing your first rifle, try a variety of models and bring someone along who can help answer your questions

Once you've learned the basics of rifle shooting and chosen your first rifle, consider taking concealed carry and defensive shooting classes, or find resources to improve your marksmanship for recreational or competitive shooting. Your local SRA chapter can help get you in touch with all of those resources.

How Do I Join the SRA?

The Socialist Rifle Association's mission is to uphold the right of the working class to keep and bear arms and maintain the skills necessary for self and community defense.

You can learn more and join us at:

Socialistra.org

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Bolt Action Rifle Components



This educational guide is produced by the Education and Instruction Committee of the Socialist Rifle Association.

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SOCIALIST RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Gun safety is everyone's duty. We keep us safe.

Rifle Basics

What's a Bolt Action Rifle?

Broadly speaking, a rifle is a firearm designed to be fired with two hands with a rifled (spiral grooves in the bore) barrel. There are exceptions, but this definition covers the vast majority of rifles. There are thousands of models and types of rifles, in many shapes and sizes, but almost all of them share a common set of features and layout.

The bolt action rifle was the primary military rifle for several decades until the semi-automatic rifle began replacing it in the 1940s.

Why choose a bolt action rifle?

Bolt action rifles are a common firearm for hunting, and are also a frequent choice for long range and competitive shooters. They are available in a huge number of calibers and configurations, from the .22LR pest control gun to the massive .50BMG anti-materiel rifle. Shooters can take advantage of the wide variety of features and optics available, as well as the bolt action rifle's inherent simplicity and accuracy. Recreational shooters may find the bolt action rifle to be an ideal firearm to start off with, as it can be very affordable, easy to operate, and the skills developed on a smaller rifle will translate well to larger calibers.



Savage Axis Trophy Hunter

Bolt Action Rifle Components

The exact arrangement of features listed may vary from model to model, and some bolt action rifles may have different sights or other attachments, but most follow the basic layout below.

- Bolt: Contains the firing pin, extractor and ejector and moves to cycle the rifle
- Bolt Handle: Used to manually rotate and pull the bolt to eject spent cases and load a new cartridge
- Scope: Used to acquire distant targets and aim the rifle
- Ejection Port: Empty cases are ejected here. Rifles with internal magazines are reloaded through here as well
- Front/Rear Sight: Used to acquire target and aim the rifle. Often adjustable for elevation
- Barrel: The tube the bullet moves through
- Muzzle: Bullets fire from here
- Sling: Used to carry and stabilize the rifle
- Forend: Provides a grip for the support hand when firing
- Magazine Floorplate: Holds the internal magazine in place. Can be removed for cleaning and maintenance. Some bolt action rifle use removable magazines
- Trigger Guard: Protects the trigger from unintended squeeze
- Trigger: Fires the rifle
- Safety: Prevents unintentional trigger squeeze
- Buttstock: Used to shoulder the rifle when firing. Lever action rifles usually have straight stocks, unlike most other rifles, but are also available with more modern "pistol grip" or Monte Carlo style stocks



Unknown model, .30-06