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 shotgun.

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

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

Once you’ve learned the basics of shotgun shooting and chosen your first pistol, 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

Disclaimer

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Shotgun Basics

What’s a Shotgun?

Broadly speaking, a shotgun is a smoothbore firearm designed to be fired with two hands that can fire pellets or slugs. There are exceptions, but this definition covers the vast majority of shotguns. There are thousands of models and types of shotguns, in many shapes and sizes, but almost all of them share a common set of features and layout.

Break action shotguns have an appeal to the collector due to their historical significance and often elaborate decoration.

Why choose a break action shotgun?

Break action shotguns are a common firearm for bird hunting, and are also a frequent choice for trap/skeet and competitive shooters. With proper training and practice, a shotgun vastly increases your capacity to defend yourself or others in life-or-death situations. Break action shotguns are not picky about ammunition, are reliable, and easy to learn. Recreational shooters may enjoy using a shotgun for skeet shooting, or trying out the many varieties of ammunition available, especially for the ubiquitous 12 gauge.

Break Action Shotgun Components

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

- Barrel: The tube through which the slug or pellets move, usually smoothbore
- Hinge: The action opens here for loading and unloading
- Muzzle: Projectiles fire from here
- Ejector/Extractor: Removes shells or shell casings from the chamber
- Hammer: Strikes the firing pin to fire the gun
- Top Lever: Unlocks the action to open the gun
- Buttstock: Used to shoulder the shotgun and absorb recoil. Unlike with rifles, the cheek is not pressed into the buttstock of a shotgun
- Trigger Guard: Prevents the trigger from being squeezed inadvertently
- Trigger: Fires the shotgun
- Barrel Selector: Determines which barrel fires when the trigger is squeezed
- Forend: Provides a forward grip for the support hand
- Sling Swivel: A sling is attached here