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## 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](http://Socialistra.org)

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## Disclaimer

The information contained in this guide does not, and is not intended to constitute legal or medical advice; instead, all information and content contained in this guide are for general informational purposes only. Information contained in this guide may not constitute the most up-to-date legal or medical information.

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## Lever Action Rifle Components



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

[socialistra.org](http://socialistra.org)



**SOCIALIST RIFLE ASSOCIATION**  
*Gun safety is everyone's duty. We keep us safe.*

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## Rifle Basics

### What's a Lever 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 lever action rifle was the first repeating rifle, replacing muskets in the Civil War before itself being replaced by the bolt action rifle. Almost all lever action rifles use round nose bullets because they are stacked end to end in the magazine tube, tip to primer.

### Why choose a lever action rifle?

Lever action rifles are a common firearm for hunting, and are also a frequent choice for cowboy and competitive shooters. With proper training and practice, a rifle vastly increases your capacity to defend yourself or others in life-or-death situations, though lever actions are no longer a common choice for self defense. Recreational shooters may enjoy using a lever action rifle for their historical appeal, ease of operation, and wide availability of the ubiquitous 30.30 round

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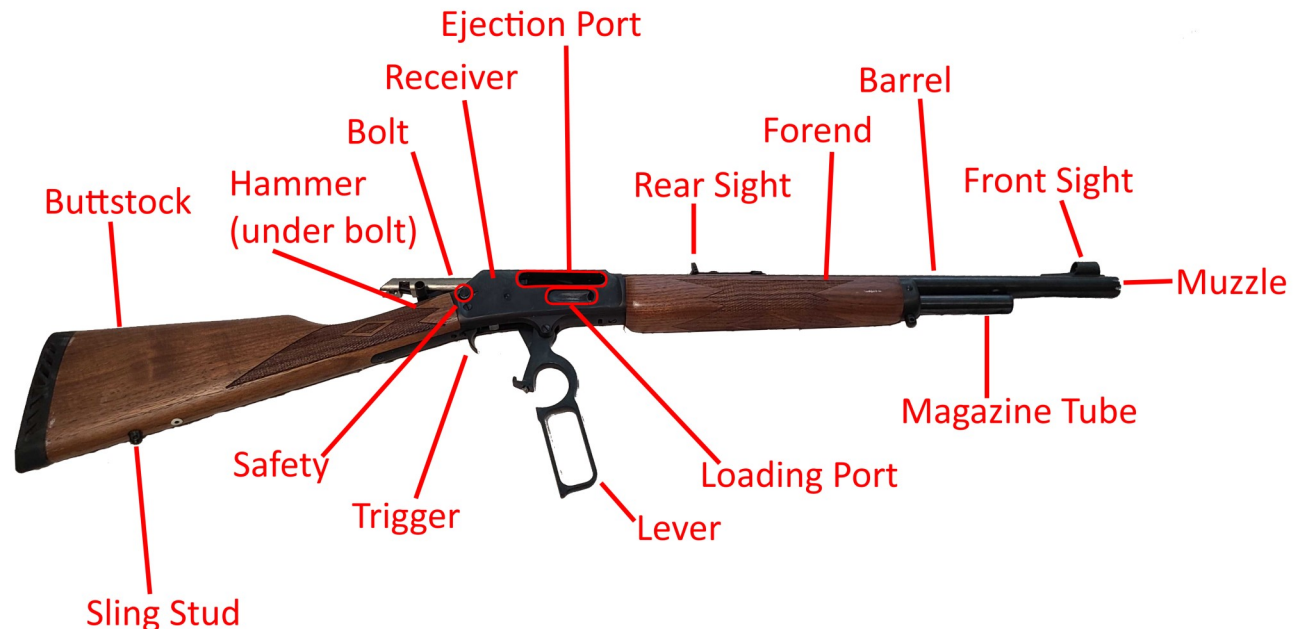
## Lever Action Rifle Components

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

- Hammer: Strikes the firing pin to fire the rifle
- Bolt: Contains the firing pin, extractor and ejector and moves to cycle the rifle
- Receiver: Contains all the moving parts
- Ejection Port: Empty cases are ejected here
- Front/Rear Sight: Used to acquire target and aim the rifle. Often adjustable for elevation
- Forend: Provides a grip for the support hand when firing
- Barrel: The tube the bullet moves through
- Muzzle: Bullets fire from here
- Magazine Tube: Cartridges are stored in here and advanced by a spring and follower
- Loading Port: When the bolt is closed, cartridges are loaded into the magazine tube through here.
- Lever: The lever is swung down to open the bolt and eject spent cases. Swinging it up loads a cartridge from the magazine tube. The rifle is emptied by repeating this motion until all cartridges are ejected. The lever also functions as a hand and trigger guard
- Trigger: Fires the rifle
- Safety: Prevents unintentional trigger squeeze
- Sling stud: A sling is attached here and to the matching stud on the forend retaining clip
- 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



*Marlin M1895 with lever closed*



*Marlin M1895*