
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 shotgun, 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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Pump Action Shotgun Components



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

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.

Why choose a pump action shotgun?

Pump action shotguns are a common firearm for home defense, and are also a frequent choice for hunters and competitive shooters. With proper training and practice, a shotgun vastly increases your capacity to defend yourself or others in life-or-death situations. Pump action shotguns are not picky about ammunition, are reliable, often inexpensive, 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.

Pump Action Shotgun Components

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

- Ejection Port: Empty cases are ejected here
- Barrel: The tube through which the slug or pellets move, usually smoothbore
- Bead Sight: Used to acquire target and aim the shotgun
- Muzzle: Projectiles fire from here
- Magazine Tube: Shells are stored in here and advanced by a spring and follower
- Forend: Pumped back and forward to eject spent shells and load a new one
- Elevator: Catches the new shell and lifts it up to the chamber
- Loading Port: When the bolt is closed, shells are loaded into the magazine tube through here. Shells can also be emptied through this port by pressing the shell stop (inside)
- Safety: Prevents unintentional trigger squeeze
- Trigger Guard: Prevents the trigger from being squeezed inadvertently
- Trigger: Fires the shotgun
- Slide Release: Allows the forend to be moved without firing the gun, in order to eject a shell loaded in the chamber
- Buttstock: Used to shoulder the shotgun and absorb recoil. Unlike with rifles, the cheek is not pressed into the buttstock of a shotgun

