

---

## 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 revolver.

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

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

Once you've learned the basics of revolver shooting and chosen your first revolver, 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 will 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)

---

## 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.

You should contact your attorney to obtain advice with respect to any particular legal matter. No user of this guide should act or refrain from acting on the basis of information confined in this guide without first seeking legal advice from counsel in the relevant jurisdiction. Only your individual attorney can provide assurances that the information contained herein —and your interpretation of it—is applicable or appropriate to your particular situation.

The views expressed through this guide are those of the individual authors writing in their individual capacities only—not those of the Education and Instruction Committee of the Socialist Rifle Association or the Socialist Rifle Association as a whole. All liability with respect to actions taken or not taken based on the contents of this guide are hereby expressly disclaimed. The content in this guide is provided "as is;" no representations are made that the content is error-free.

We shall not be liable for any loss or damage of whatever nature whether arising in contract, tort or otherwise, which may arise as a result of your use of this guide or from your use of information contained therein.

Last Revised: 5/5/20

---

## Revolver 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.*

# Revolver Basics

## What's a Revolver?

Broadly speaking, a revolver is a firearm with a rotating cylinder that holds ammunition, designed to be fired with one hand. There are exceptions, but this definition covers the vast majority of revolvers. There are thousands of models and types of revolvers, in many shapes and sizes, but almost all of them share a common set of features and layout.

## Why carry a revolver?

Revolvers are a common firearm carried for self defense outside the home, and are also a frequent choice for recreational and competitive shooters. With proper training and practice, a revolver vastly increases your capacity to defend yourself or others in life-or-death situations, while being simple to operate and maintain, and small and light enough to be carried concealed in a manner that won't alarm those around you. Recreational shooters may enjoy the wide variety of choices available and the reduced size, weight, and cost of revolver shooting compared to a rifle or shotgun. Hikers and campers may find revolvers and their relatively high powered rounds useful when spending time in bear country.

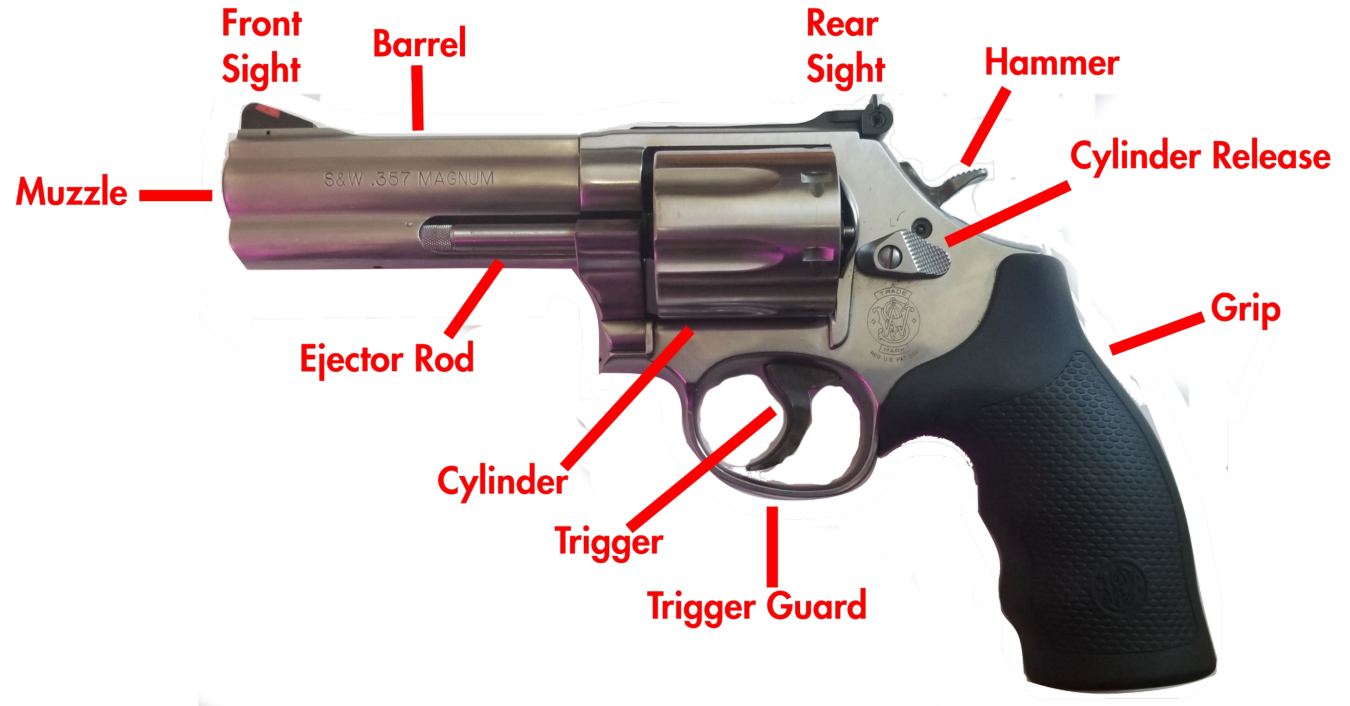


Nagant M1895

# Revolver Components

Not all revolvers will have all of the components pictured here; some will not have a hammer, and single action revolvers will have a loading gate instead of a cylinder release

- Barrel: The tube through which the bullet moves, usually with rifling (spiral grooves)
- Front/Rear Sight: Used to acquire target and aim the revolver
- Hammer: Falls forward to hit the firing pin when the trigger is squeezed
- Grip: Revolver is held here
- Cylinder Release: Used to flip the cylinder out for inspection and reloading
- Trigger Guard: Prevents accidentally squeezing the trigger
- Trigger: Fires the revolver
- Ejector Rod: Used to eject spent cases from the cylinder when open
- Muzzle: Bullet fires from here



S&W 686+