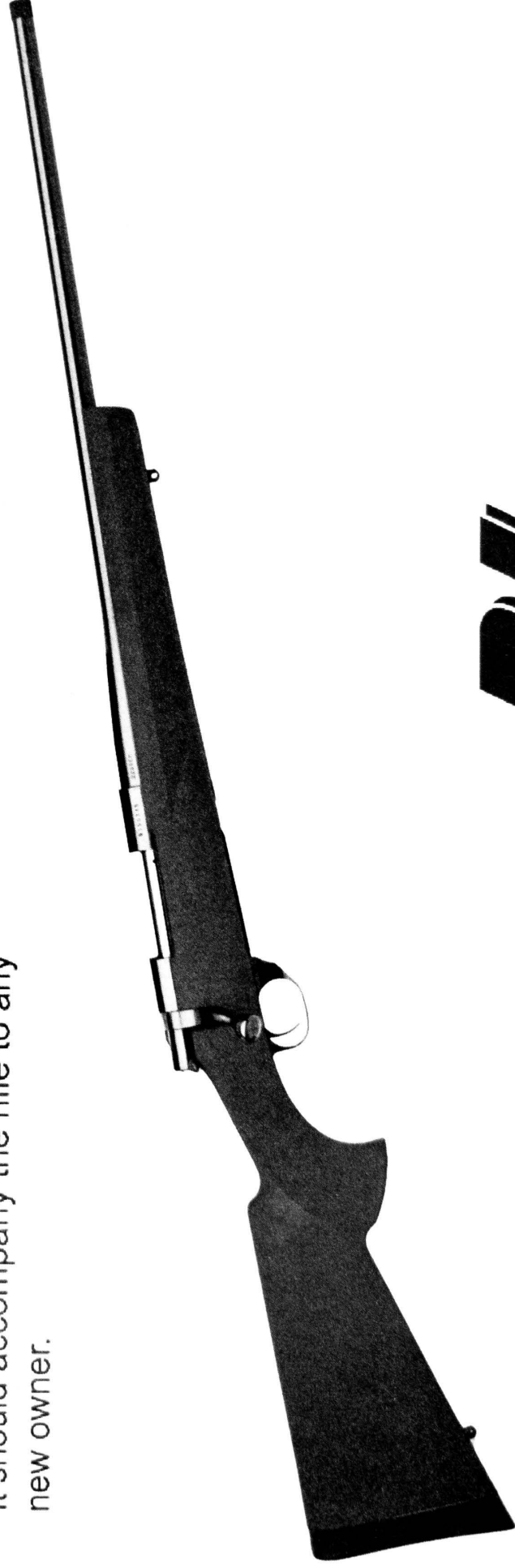


INSTRUCTION & SAFETY MANUAL

READ CAREFULLY BEFORE USING THIS FIREARM

HOWA SERIES 1500 RIFLES

IMPORTANT! Do not discard!
Keep this manual with your rifle.
It should accompany the rifle to any
new owner.



Howa[™]
Precision Rifles & Barreled Actions

ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY THE FIRST STEP

The first step in the safe handling of any firearm is to know how to **CLEAR** it.

The Howa rifle is considered **CLEAR** when there is no ammunition in the chamber or in the magazine, the bolt is open and the safety is "on".

To clear the rifle:

Point the muzzle in a safe direction. Lift the bolt handle and pull the bolt fully to the rear. This should eject any cartridge that may be present in the chamber, but **LOOK** in the chamber anyway to be sure it is empty. The magazine also is now exposed. If it contains any cartridges, remove them (see page 17). Leave the bolt open and put the safety "on".

Always clear your rifle before handing it to another person. If someone hands a firearm to you, personally determine whether it is clear before any further handling.

Never assume any firearm to be unloaded, and don't accept anyone's assurance. **LOOK** inside it yourself. When entering or leaving a range or hunting area, or when showing the rifle to others, make sure the bolt is open, the safety is "on", and all ammunition has been removed. That way others can see, without need to operate its mechanism, that the rifle is clear.

THESE WARNINGS ARE IMPORTANT

Firearms, by their nature and intended function, are lethal weapons. By understanding the dangers inherent in the use of any firearm, and by taking proper precautions, you can enjoy complete safety in the use of your firearm. Failure to heed any of these warnings may result in accidental death or serious injury to you or others, as well as severe damage to the firearm or other property.

NOT JUST FOR BEGINNERS

Even if you are familiar with other firearms, don't assume there is no need to study this manual.

Accidents happen to experienced shooters as well as beginners. Most of them could have been avoided if the shooter had read and followed the instructions and observed the basic rules of gun safety.

IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Having a firearm in your possession is like being the captain of a ship. It's a serious responsibility, and yours alone. It's up to you to **KNOW** how to keep and use your firearm safely, and up to you to always take the necessary precautions - all of them. If you fail to do so, and someone gets hurt, the blame rests on you.

Remember: Accidents are rarely the fault of the firearm. A gun is just a machine, with no judgment of its own. It responds to your actions, whether wise or foolish. Of course it has mechanical safety features, but none as effective as the brain of a cautious shooter who never forgets that a moment's carelessness can produce a permanent tragedy.

TRAINING IS ESSENTIAL

The safe handling of firearms requires specialized training, knowledge and discipline. The best way to learn is with supervised instruction, often available from gun shops, gun clubs, state hunter safety programs or police departments. For help in finding a training course, write to the National Rifle Association, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22030.

GUNS ARE NOT ALL ALIKE

Many makes and models of firearms might look nearly the same. However, they differ widely in design and operation, and in the location and function of various controls.

Study this manual. Thoroughly educate yourself on the characteristics and operation of this particular firearm before attempting to load it. Do not permit others to have access to your rifle unless they have received proper instruction.

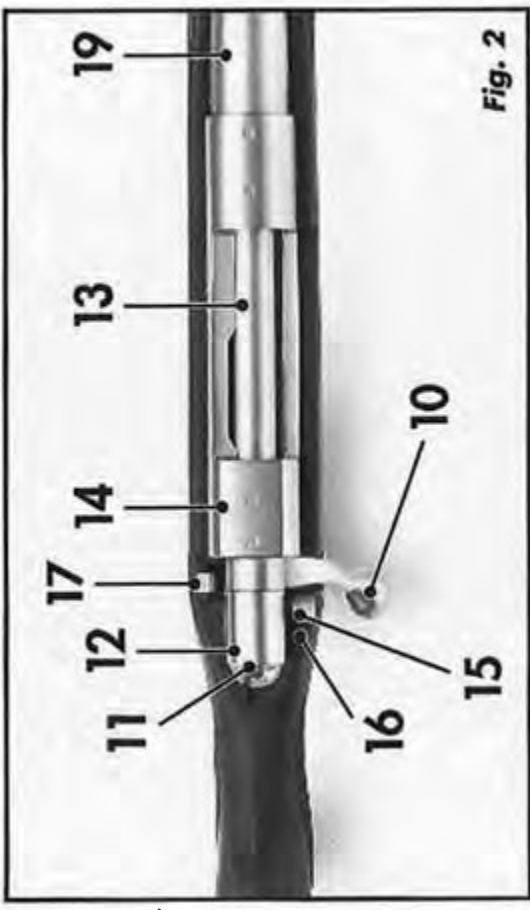
SAVE YOUR EYES AND EARS

Always wear protective shooting glasses and ear plugs or " earmuff" type protectors whenever you are shooting. Your vision and hearing are priceless, and irreplaceable. Always make certain that persons close to you are similarly protected.

Shooting glasses will protect your eyes from burns and abrasions caused by powder gas, metallic particles, burning powder grains, lubricant, and similar debris that can emanate occasionally from any firearm in normal use. If something goes seriously wrong and fragments of cartridge case or firearm are sent flying, shooting glasses can make the difference between future sight and blindness. The best compromise between protection and convenience is offered by high-quality shooting glasses or industrial-grade safety glasses with large-area shatter-resistant polycarbonate lenses at least 2mm thick.

Without ear protection, repeated exposure to shooting noise may lead to cumulative, permanent hearing loss. Many experienced shooters who value their hearing wear both ear plugs AND ear muffs. At a shooting range it is common courtesy not to commence firing until everyone nearby has their eyes and ears covered.

HOWA MODEL 1500



1. Muzzle of barrel
2. Barrel
3. Floor plate
4. Floor plate catch
5. Trigger guard
6. Trigger
7. Stock
8. Sling swivel stud
9. Butt end of stock
10. Bolt handle
11. Cocking Piece (with firing pin)
12. Bolt sleeve
13. Bolt
14. Receiver
15. Safety

16. Red Dot Safety Indicator
17. Bolt stop
18. Magazine (inside stock)
19. Chamber end of barrel

Important Terms Which Are Not Individual Parts:

- Bore:* The hole lengthwise through the barrel through which a fired bullet passes.
- Chamber:* The enlarged rear portion of the bore into which a cartridge is seated for firing.
- Muzzle:* The front face of the barrel from which the bullet emerges.
- Magazine:* The space inside the rifle where cartridges are stored to be fed into the chamber. Left, Right, Front, and Rear refer to the rifle as seen by a shooter holding it in the firing position.

WARNING!

LEAD EXPOSURE Discharging firearms in poorly ventilated areas, cleaning firearms, or handling ammunition may result in exposure to lead and other substances known to the state of California to cause birth defects, reproductive harm, and other serious physical injury. Have adequate ventilation at all times. Wash hands thoroughly after exposure. **SHOOTING OR CLEANING GUNS MAY EXPOSE YOU TO LEAD.**

TO AVOID A CATASTROPHE

ALWAYS keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. Never point any gun – loaded or unloaded – at anything you are not willing to see destroyed.

ALWAYS assume every gun is loaded until you personally prove otherwise. Don't trust your memory, and never take anyone's word for it.

ALWAYS hold your gun so that you can control the direction of the muzzle if you fall or stumble.

ALWAYS keep the safety "ON" and your finger outside the trigger guard until the muzzle is pointed at the target and you are ready to fire.

ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until it must be ready for use. If there is no need to load it until later, don't.

ALWAYS pay attention where the muzzle is pointing when you (or others nearby) are handling any gun, especially while operating any part of its mechanism. Don't let anyone point the muzzle in an unsafe direction (for example: at you).

ALWAYS check for any obstruction in the barrel before loading or if there is any reason to suspect blockage. Bore obstructions are a major source of gun explosions.

ALWAYS positively identify your target and be sure there is a safe backstop before you shoot. It's far better than making pathetic excuses afterward.

ALWAYS use high quality ammunition made to American industry standards. Make sure it is clean, dry, in good condition, and of the proper type and caliber for your gun. Defective or improper ammunition is responsible for most malfunctions and blown-up guns.

NEVER mix alcohol or drugs with shooting. There is enough danger without the added hazard of fuzzy judgment.

NEVER pull a gun toward you by grasping its muzzle end. If the rifle snags on something and fires, the bullet probably won't miss.

NEVER attempt to load or unload a gun inside a vehicle or building (except a properly constructed indoor range); there usually is no safe direction to point the muzzle.

NEVER shoot at a hard object or at water except under carefully controlled conditions.

Bullets can glance off hard materials like rock, glass or steel, or skip off the surface of water, fly in unpredictable directions – and kill.

NEVER leave an unattended gun loaded. Guns and ammunition should be stored separately, locked and beyond the reach of children and careless adults.

AMMUNITION

- 1.** Use only high quality, original factory-manufactured ammunition. Do not use cartridges that are dirty, wet, corroded, bent, or damaged. Use only ammunition of the caliber for which your firearm is chambered. The proper caliber is permanently engraved on your firearm; never attempt to use ammunition of any other caliber.
- 2.** Do not oil cartridges, or spray aerosol lubricants, preservatives or cleaners directly onto cartridges or where excess spray might come into contact with them. Highly penetrative lubricants can migrate inside cartridge cases and contaminate the primer and/or propellant powder. Either a misfire or a failure of the powder to ignite may result. If only the primer ignites, there is danger that the bullet may not exit the barrel, and obstruct the bore.
- 3.** Store ammunition in a cool, dry place, away from sources of heat. Heat shortens the shelf life of ammunition by accelerating the chemical decomposition of primer and propellant.

- 4.** Make a habit of regularly examining your fired cartridge cases, particularly when trying different ammunition. Watch for abnormalities: punctured, loose, or excessively flattened primers; split, deformed or partially separated cases; rough or cratered firing pin indents, torn rims, etc. "Reading" the cases can reveal a lot about the quality of the ammunition and the condition of the rifle, allowing corrective steps to be taken before something ugly happens.

- 5.** Don't mix up ammunition. Keep cartridges in their original box until you are ready to load them. When afield, carry only one caliber of ammunition in your pockets. At the range, put only the ammunition for the firearm you are currently using on the shooting bench. Don't put ammunition of different calibers or loads in the same box or loose in a range bag. It is too easy to pick up and load the wrong cartridge, with potentially disastrous results.

AMMUNITION

WARNING!

Excessive pressure in the barrel when a shot is fired can blow up even the strongest firearm, and cause death or serious injury to the shooter or others nearby.

Even at normal firing pressure (often in excess of 50,000 pounds per square inch), if the cartridge case bursts the uncontrolled escape of propellant gas from the barrel into the receiver area can be extremely dangerous. Explosions from excessive pressure or burst cartridge cases are most commonly caused by defective or improper ammunition or by an obstruction in the barrel. (See warnings in following section, "Bore Obstructions".)

Defective cartridges may be overloaded or underloaded, incorrectly dimensioned, improperly manufactured or assembled, or assembled from the wrong or faulty components. Defective ammunition also includes cartridges that are dirty, wet, corroded, bent, split, damaged, contaminated with lubricant, or deteriorated from age or poor

storage. Corrosion, dirt or other foreign matter on a cartridge can impede complete locking of the bolt, and in combination with other faults may result in a burst cartridge case; the same is true of a cartridge that is oversized, damaged or deformed. Another defect is a bullet that is loose in the case neck; this condition introduces a high risk of a bore obstruction.

Improper cartridges are those of the wrong caliber or loading for normal use in a particular firearm.

FOR SAFETY, USE ONLY CLEAN, DRY, HIGH QUALITY AMMUNITION IN GOOD CONDITION MANUFACTURED AND ASSEMBLED TO INDUSTRY STANDARDS, BY REPUTABLE MANUFACTURERS, AND OF THE CORRECT CALIBER AND LOADING FOR YOUR FIREARM.

WARNING ON RELOADED AMMUNITION

The use of reloaded (or "handloaded", "remanufactured", or other non-standard) ammunition is far and away the most common cause of dangerous malfunctions and blown up firearms.

Reloading is a complex science which unfortunately is not as fully understood by many of its practitioners as it deserves to be. It also requires a high order of quality assurance which many have neither the specialized knowledge nor the equipment to establish and maintain.

A reloaded cartridge is no better than the knowledge, skill and care of the person who made it. The process is endless of seemingly minor details that, if not gotten right, can produce a major disaster. A cartridge that is improperly resized, primed, charged or assembled, or made from the wrong, defective or outdated components, can be extremely dangerous in many ways. It can slam-fire, cause a bore obstruction, produce a malfunction that sets the stage for an accidental discharge, inflict progressive damage to the gun, or suddenly blow it up.

Such problems seldom arise from original factory-made ammunition from major manufacturers who have the experience and facilities to produce it correctly. It is much safer to use only original factory-made cartridges, and you are emphatically urged to do so.

Some intrepid souls nonetheless will choose to use reloaded ammunition. They should understand that they are embracing an extra and potentially lethal risk, and must accept full responsibility if injury results.

**HOWA AND LEGACY SPORTS
INTERNATIONAL WILL ACCEPT NO
RESPONSIBILITY WHATSOEVER FOR
ANY PERSONAL INJURY OR DAMAGE
TO THE RIFLE OR OTHER PROPERTY
ARISING FROM THE USE OF
RELOADED AMMUNITION.**

BORE OBSTRUCTIONS

WARNING!

Barrel obstructions, especially from a bullet stuck in the bore, are a major cause of firearm explosions and can cause death or serious injury to the shooter or others nearby. Immediately stop shooting and check the barrel for a possible obstruction whenever:

- You have difficulty, or feel unusual resistance, when chambering a cartridge, or
- A shot sounds weak or abnormal, or
- Unburned grains of propellant powder are discovered spilled in the mechanism, or
- You retract the bolt to eject an unfired (or misfired) cartridge from the chamber, but only the cartridge case comes out.

In such instances a bullet may be lodged in the barrel. Firing a subsequent bullet into the obstructed barrel can produce an explosion.

An obstruction from a stuck bullet can occur if:

- The cartridge has been improperly loaded with insufficient or no propellant powder, or the propellant fails for any reason to ignite. (Ignition of the primer alone will push the bullet out of the cartridge case but usually does not generate sufficient energy to drive the bullet out of the muzzle), or
- The bullet is not properly seated tightly in the cartridge case. If such a cartridge is extracted from the chamber without being fired, the bullet may be left behind in the bore at the point where the rifling begins. Attempting to chamber another cartridge may push the first bullet ahead into the bore (or telescope the second bullet rearward into its cartridge case), making room for the bolt to close. If this cartridge is then fired an explosion will almost certainly result.

If you have any reason to suspect that a bullet is obstructing the barrel, immediately unload the firearm and look through the bore. It is not sufficient to merely look in the chamber. A bullet may be lodged some distance down the barrel where it cannot easily be seen.

BORE OBSTRUCTIONS (continued)

If a bullet is in the bore, **DO NOT** try to shoot it out by using another cartridge, or by blowing it out with a cartridge from which the bullet has been removed, or with a blank cartridge. Unburned powder trapped in the bore behind the stuck bullet can detonate in the confined airspace with devastating results.

Often a bullet lodged in the barrel can be removed by gently tapping it out with a rat-tipped brass rod that closely fits the bore diameter. Don't use a cleaning rod, as it is likely to bend or deform and become jammed in the bore. Unburned powder and other fouling probably will be left in the bore. It is imperative that the bore, chamber, and receiver be thoroughly cleaned to remove all such residue before shooting is resumed.

If the bullet cannot be readily dislodged, take the firearm and the ammunition to a gunsmith. Do not use any more ammunition from that lot until both have been examined and the cause of the obstruction determined.

Soil, mud, snow, water, ice, vegetation, mudwasp nests, etc. are all dangerous inside a gun barrel. If the muzzle of your rifle comes into contact with the ground, or you have reason to suspect that something has gotten into the barrel, unload the rifle and look through the bore. It's not enough to just look at the muzzle; debris can slide some distance inside where it can't easily be seen. If anything is there, clean it out with a rod. Never attempt to shoot it out; the barrel may burst and you could be seriously hurt.

USE OF THE SAFETY: TWO POSITION

The safety on the Model 1500 rifle consists of a knurled lever on the right side of the receiver immediately to the rear of the bolt handle. When "ON", it locks the trigger. Its purpose is to prevent firing if the trigger is pressed inadvertently. It should not be relied upon to prevent accidental discharge from other causes. See page 13.

A. The safety is "ON" when the lever (15) is pushed fully rearward, covering the red indicator dot in the stock.

B. The safety is "OFF" when the lever is pushed forward, uncovering the red indicator dot (16).

Do not carry the rifle with a cartridge loaded in the chamber without first placing the safety "ON". Keep the safety "ON" until you are ready to fire and the rifle is pointed at the target.

Note: The safety can be placed "ON" only when the rifle is cocked, i.e., ready to fire (Fig. 4). You can see whether it is cocked from the position of the cocking piece (11). When cocked, the rear of the cocking piece protrudes from the back of the bolt sleeve (12).

