

M1 “Garand,” U.S. Rifle caliber .30

The first gas-operated, semi-automatic service rifle adopted by the U.S. to replace the M1903 Springfield bolt action Rifle, and chambered for the same .30-06 cartridge. Developed by John Garand at Springfield Armory in Massachusetts, the M1 was approved in 1935, but regular production began in 1937. The M1 would eventually become the iconic American shoulder arm of WW2 in Europe and the Pacific, serve through the Korean War, and supplanted by a modernized, selective-fire M14 Rifle developed from the M1 in 1957. General George Patton memorably described the M1 simply and definitively as the “greatest battle implement ever devised,” and American troops boasted the only self-loading battle rifle, accurate and with the highest rate of fire, with stopping power and a robust construction in comparison to their German and Japanese foes, who still carried WW1-era bolt action rifles into combat. A poster slogan for war production declared “The M1 does my talking! . . . with your cartridges,” picturing a tattered, battle-stained G.I. cradling his rifle and holding an en bloc clip in his extended hand. The M1 was clip-fed from a fixed magazine, firing “en bloc” clips loaded with 8 rounds of ball ammunition as quickly as the trigger could be pulled. After the last round in a clip was discharged, the empty clip was ejected with a distinctive “ping” and a fresh clip of 8 more rounds could expeditiously be loaded from the cartridge belt or from cloth bandoliers. Designed for easy field stripping and disassembly without any special tools, the rifle could be regularly cleaned and maintained by troops with the proper training, using an ingeniously compact kit of screw-together rods, an oiler and a pot of grease, and a handle that doubled as a rifle tool that fit into a recess in the walnut stock behind a hinged circular trap door.

Originally fixing the long 16” bladed M1905 bayonet, the M1 would be provided with shorter 10” blade knife bayonet with different point styles (knife, spear, or original), and the WW1 scabbard of gut sheath covered in canvas would be replaced by a plastic, olive drab version.





M1 Bayonet



M1905E1 Bayonet
Spear Point



M1905E1 Bayonet
Knife or Chisel Point



M1 Bayonets and Scabbards.



En Bloc Clip with 8 rounds.



1. Butt Plate. 2. Stock. 3. Receiver. 4. Rear Sight. 5. Bolt. 6. Operating Rod.



7. Butt Swivel. 8. Trigger Guard. 9. Rear Hand Guard. 10. Front Hand Guard.

U.S. RIFLE CALIBER .30 - M1 GARAND

GENERAL VIEW

SECTIONAL VIEW

BAYONET M1905

CARTRIDGE CLIP

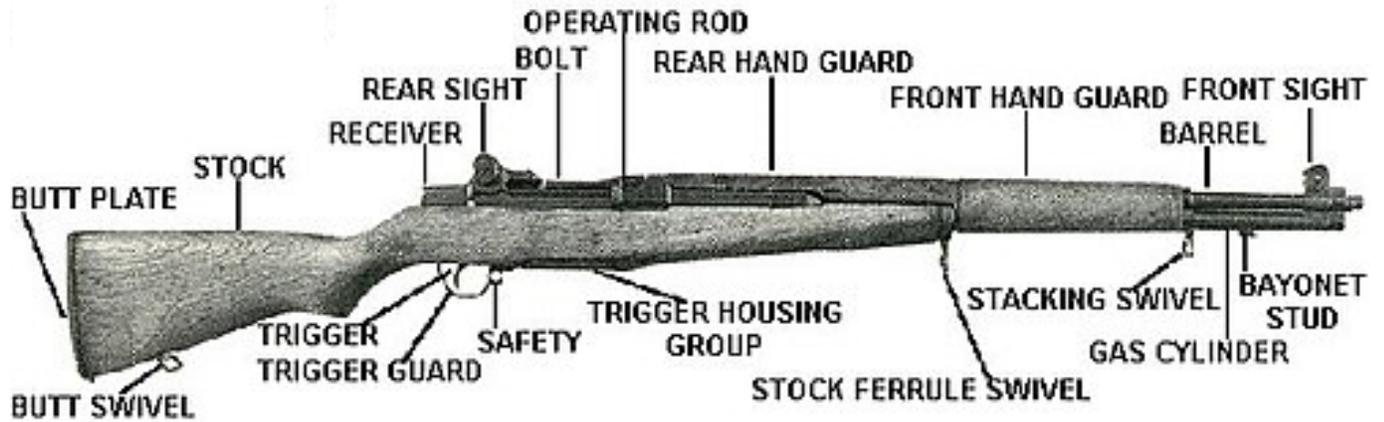
COMPONENTS PARTS

1 - barrel
2 - barrel band
3 - barrel band pin
4 - rear handguard
5 - rear handguard band
6 - rear sight
7 - rear sight screw
8 - tip screw
9 - tip screw
10 - tip screw
11 - extractor
12 - extractor spring/plunger
13 - firing pin
14 - hammer
15 - hammer spring/plunger
16 - hammer spring
17 - hammer spring
18 - rear sight assembly
19 - gas cylinder
20 - gas cylinder lock
21 - gas cylinder lock screw
22 - stacking swivel
23 - stacking swivel
24 - follower arm
25 - follower arm pin
26 - follower arm
27 - extractor pin
28 - extractor
29 - operating rod
30 - operating rod catch
31 - operating rod assembly
32 - trigger housing
33 - trigger housing
34 - trigger pin
35 - hammer
36 - hammer
37 - trigger guard
38 - screw
39 - stock
40 - trigger
41 - hammer spring housing
42 - hammer spring
43 - hammer spring plunger
44 - operating rod
45 - operating rod spring
46 - front handguard
47 - front handguard female
48 - front handguard screw
49 - bolt plate screw - receiver
50 - bolt plate screw - barrel
51 - bolt plate screw - barrel
52 - stock female screw
53 - stock female screw
54 - stock female
55 - stock female
56 - stock female
57 - stock female
58 - stock female
59 - stock female
60 - stock female
61 - stock female
62 - stock female
63 - stock female
64 - stock female

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION

Caliber 7.62 x 63 mm
 Cartridge 30-06 Springfield
 Length without bayonet 1100 mm (35.4 ft)
 Length with bayonet 1200 mm (39.4 ft)
 Barrel length 800 mm (26.2 ft)
 Weight without bayonet and clip 4.5 kg (9.9 lb)
 Weight with bayonet and clip 5.0 kg (11.0 lb)
 Magazine capacity 8 rounds
 Rate of fire 20 - 25 rounds/minute
 Muzzle velocity 883 m/sec (2897 ft/sec)
 Maximum length 2000 m (6561 ft)
 Effective range 460 m (1509 ft)

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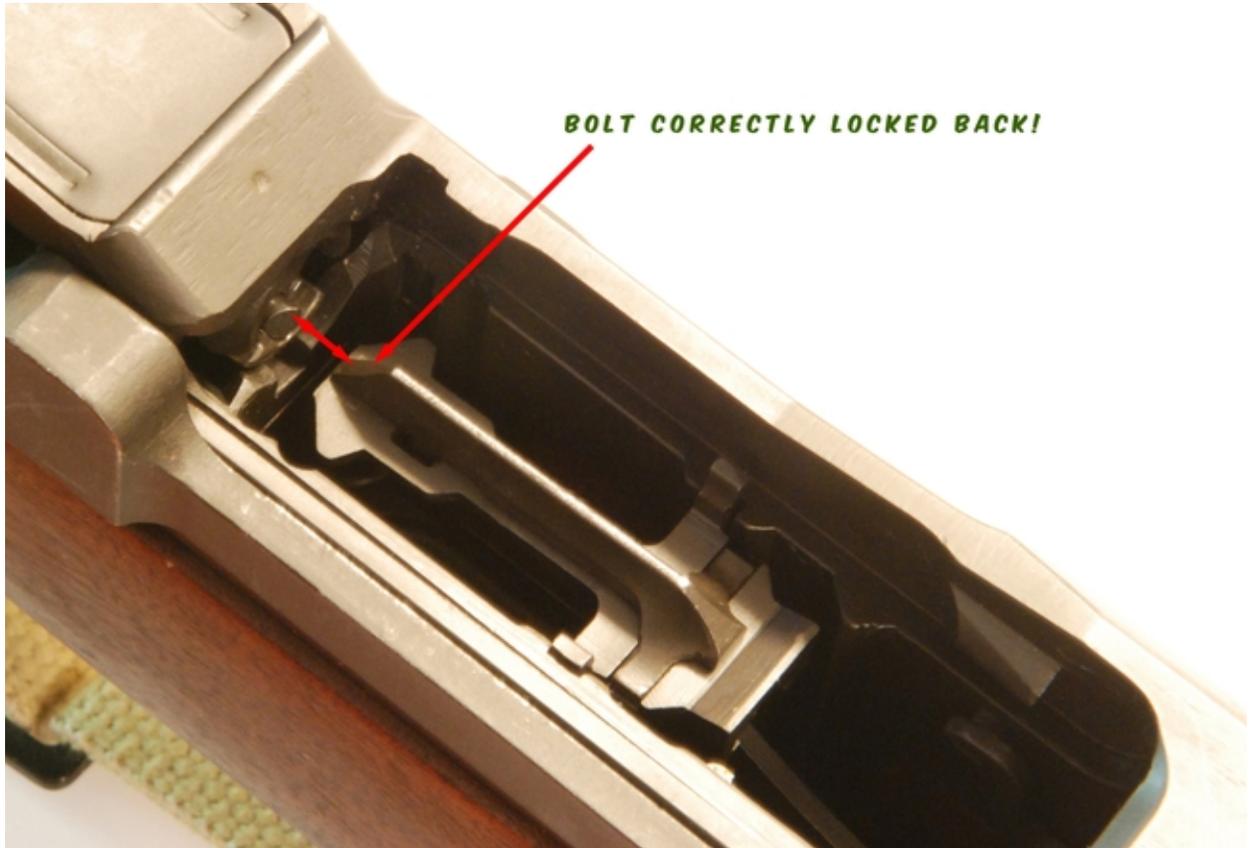


Safety Concerns with the M1 are associated with loading and cleaning the fixed magazine: as the en bloc clip is inserted into the magazine, or while scouring or lubricating the interior of the magazine, care must be exercised to avoid premature closing of the bolt upon thumb. When the operating-rod handle is grasped and pulled back, the operating-rod engages the operating-rod catch and locks it in place. However, if the bolt does not fully retract, the operating-rod catch never engages the operating-rod and the bolt can get stuck on the follower. When this happens, just the friction between the two parts prevents the bolt from flying home. If you bump the rifle, or stick your hand in the receiver, the bolt will snap shut. If your thumb is in the receiver it will be caught in the mechanism rather painfully.

The image below shows how the bolt can get hung up on the follower. When the bottom of the bolt is properly greased it's very difficult to get the bolt to hang up as shown.



When you pick up an M1 Garand the first thing you should do is firmly retract the bolt and verify it's locked in place as shown below. With the operating-rod locked back you can depress the follower almost all the way down before the bolt releases. However, if you pull back on the operating-rod even slightly, and then depress the follower, the bolt will immediately snap shut. With the bolt correctly locked back you can safely clean and access the internal mechanism without fear of the bolt closing on your hand. Just remember: never pull back on the operating rod when touching the follower unless you wish to close the bolt. If you're holding the operating rod handle you can safely ease the bolt shut. If not, it will shut itself forcefully, on your thumb!.



NO!



Practice loading clips using dummy rounds and gain confidence in the process. Within a very short time the process will become second nature, just like the manual of arms drill with practice, and the risk of accidentally injuring your thumb will be curtailed. Although U.S. Marines chant “Blood makes the grass grow” (see *Full Metal Jacket*), it is not good for lubricating the rifle.





Manual of Arms

(1) The U. S. rifle, caliber .30, M1, is not carried with cartridges in either the chamber or the receiver except when specifically ordered. When so loaded or when supposed to be loaded, it is habitually carried locked; that is, with the safety in its rearmost position, inside the trigger guard.

(2) Whenever troops equipped with the U. S. rifle, caliber .30, M1, are formed under arms, pieces are immediately inspected at the commands: 1. INSPECTION, 2. ARMS, 3. LOCK PIECES. At the command LOCK PIECES, each man in ranks closes the bolt, sets the safety of his piece in its rearmost position, and resumes PORT ARMS.

Rifles are again inspected at dismissal by the commands: 1. INSPECTION, 2. ARMS, 3. UNLOCK PIECES. At the command UNLOCK PIECES, each man in ranks closes the bolt, sets the safety of his piece in its foremost position, pulls the trigger, and resumes PORT ARMS. If cartridges are found in the chamber or receiver, they are removed and placed in the belt. The procedure prescribed for these inspections is intended, first, to insure that U. S. rifles, caliber .30, M1, in the hands of troops are carried cocked and locked; second, to insure that hammers are released on unloaded pieces not in use to prevent damage from long continued compression of the hammer springs. c. The bayonet is fixed only when so ordered.

In all positions of the left hand at the balance, the thumb clasps the rifle; the sling is included in the grasp of the hand (fig. 3). In describing the manual of arms, the term "at the balance" refers to points on rifle as follows:

U. S. rifle, caliber .30, M1. A point just forward of the trigger housing. b. In all positions of the rifle, diagonally across the body, the barrel is up, butt in front of the right hip, barrel crossing opposite the junction of the neck with the left shoulder. The rifle is grasped at the balance with the left hand, palm toward the body, wrist straight.



Order, Arms.



Sling Arms. Bayonet Fixed.

POSITION OF ORDER ARMS.-The butt of the rifle rests on the ground, barrel to the rear, toe of the butt on line with the toe of, and touching the right shoe, right hand holding the rifle between the thumb and fingers, left hand as in position of the soldier without arms.

BEING AT ORDER ARMS. 1. TRAIL, 2. ARMS. At the command ARMS, raise the rifle and incline the muzzle forward so that the barrel makes an angle of about 15° with the vertical, the right arm slightly bent.

BEING AT TRAIL ARMS.-1. ORDER, 2. ARMS. At the command ARMS, lower the rifle with the right hand and resume the order. 39. BEING AT ORDER ARMS TO SLING ARMS, AND

BEING AT SLING ARMS TO UNSLING ARMS. a. SLING ARMS. Loosen the sling, if not already loosened, and in the most convenient manner assume the position shown in figure 6. This position is authorized for long parades, long reviews, and for occasions when the prolonged holding of the rifle becomes a hardship on the troops. When used in ceremonies the bayonet may be fixed. b. 1. UNSLING, 2. ARMS, 3. ADJUST, 4. SLINGS. At the command ARMS, pieces are unslung. This adjustment of the sling will be made before precise movements of the manual are to be executed.



The Big Red One, 1980)

Unslung Arms, Adjust Slings. (Lee Marvin,

BEING AT ORDER ARMS. 1 PORT, 2. ARMS. At the command ARMS, raise the rifle with the right hand and carry it diagonally across the front of the body until the right hand is in front of and slightly to the left of the chin, so that the barrel is up, butt in front of the right hip, barrel crossing opposite the junction of the neck with the left shoulder. At the same time, grasp the rifle at the balance with the left hand, palm toward the body, wrist straight. (TWO) Carry the right hand to the small of the stock, grasping it, palm down, holding right forearm horizontal; left elbow resting against the body; the rifle in a vertical plane parallel to the front.

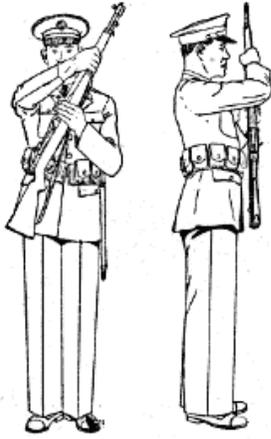


Fig. 1. First Position

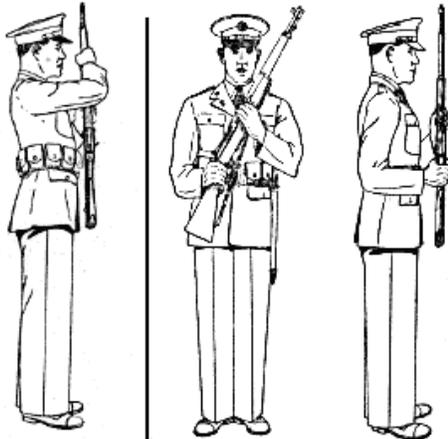


Fig. 2. Second Position

Plate 7. Position of Port Arms.



Approximate Position of PORT, ARMS

BEING AT ORDER ARMS. 1. PRESENT, 2. ARMS. At the command ARMS, with the right hand carry the rifle in front of the center of the body, barrel to the rear and vertical, grasp it with the left hand at the balance, forearm horizontal and resting against the body. (TWO) Grasp the small of the stock with the right hand

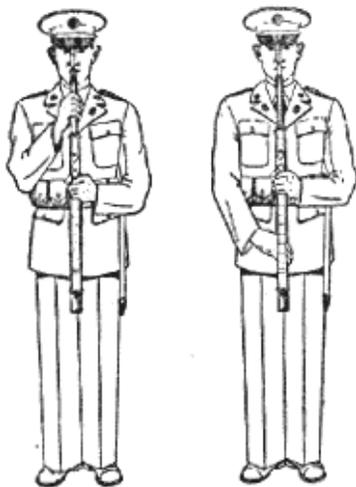


Plate 8. Execution of Present Arms.

BEING AT ORDER ARMS. 1. RIGHT SHOULDER, 2. ARMS. At the command ARMS, raise and carry the rifle diagonally across the body with the right hand as shown in figure 10, at the same time grasp it at the balance with the left hand. (TWO) Re-grasp it with the right hand on the butt, the heel between the first two fingers, thumb and fingers closed on the stock. (THREE) Without changing the grasp of the right hand, place the rifle on the right shoulder, barrel up and inclined at an angle of about 45° from the horizontal, trigger guard in the hollow of the shoulder, right elbow against the side, forearm horizontal, the rifle in a vertical plane perpendicular to the front, carry the left hand, thumb and fingers extended and joined, to the small of the stock, first joint of the forefinger touching the cocking piece (or, for the M1 rifle, touching the rear end of the receiver), wrist straight, and elbow down. (FOUR) Cut away the left hand smartly to the side.

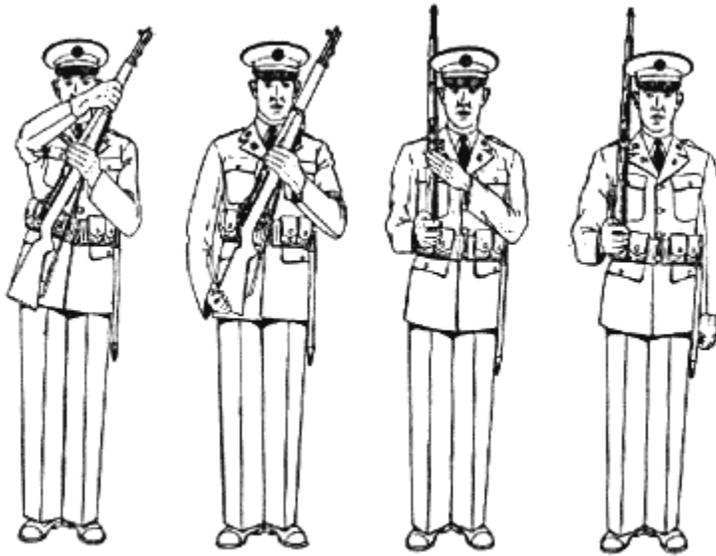


Plate 10. Execution of Right Shoulder Arms.



Stack, Arms

BEING AT ORDER ARMS 1. PARADE, 2. REST. At the command REST, move the left foot smartly 12 inches to the left of the right foot, keeping the legs straight so that the weight of the body rests equally on both feet. At the same time incline the muzzle of the rifle to the front, the right arm extended, right hand grasping the rifle just below the upper band. Hold the left hand behind the body, resting in the small of the back, palm to the rear.

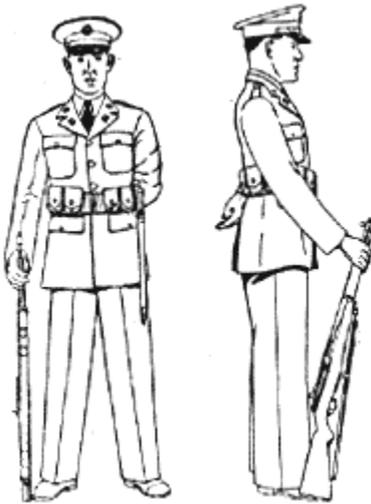


Plate 11. Position of Parade Rest.

BEING AT ORDER ARMS. 1. FIX, 2. BAYONETS. At the command BAYONETS, if the bayonet scabbard is carried on the belt, move the muzzle of the rifle to the left front and grasp the rifle below the stacking swivel with the left hand; grasp the bayonet with the right hand, back of the hand toward the body; pressing the spring with the forefinger, draw the bayonet from the scabbard and fix it on the barrel, glancing at the muzzle; resume the order. b. If the bayonet is carried on the haversack, draw and fix the bayonet in the most convenient manner.

BEING AT ORDER ARMS. 1. UNFIX, 2. BAYONETS. At the command BAYONETS. a. If the bayonet scabbard is carried on the belt, take the position for fixing bayonets; grasp the handle of the bayonet with the right hand, pressing the spring, raise the bayonet until the handle is about 12 inches above the muzzle of the rifle; drop the point to the left, back of the hand toward the body and, glancing at the scabbard, return the bayonet, the blade passing between the left arm and the body; re-grasp the rifle with the right hand and resume the order. If the bayonet scabbard is carried on the haversack, take the bayonet from the rifle as described above and return it to the scabbard in the most convenient manner.



Plate 13. To Fix Bayonets.



Charge, Bayonets



LOADING AND FIRING

LOAD. The unit being in any formation, standing at a halt, the commands are: 1. WITH BALL (BLANK, DUMMY, GUARD) CARTRIDGES, 2. LOAD.

U. S. rifle, caliber .30, M1.--At the command **LOAD**, each front rank rifleman faces half right and carries his right foot 12 inches to the right and to such position as will secure the greatest firmness and steadiness of the body, raises or lowers the rifle and drops it into the left hand at the balance, right hand at the small of the stock, muzzle in the air at an angle of 45°. With the forefinger of the right hand, he pulls the operating rod handle smartly to the rear until the operating rod is caught by the operating rod catch. With his right hand he takes a fully loaded clip and places it on top of the follower. He places the right side of his right hand against the operating rod handle and with his thumb presses the clip down into the receiver until it engages the clip latch. He swings his thumb to the right so as to clear the bolt in its forward movement. He releases the operating rod handle. He then pushes forward on the operating rod handle with the heel of his right hand to make certain of complete closing of the bolt and carries his right hand to the small of the stock.

UNLOAD.—Being in any formation, the command is: **UNLOAD**.

U. S. rifle, caliber .30, M1. At the command **UNLOAD**, take the position of **LOAD**. Hook the right thumb over the operating rod handle, pull and hold the operating rod in the extreme rear position. Hold the rifle with the right hand, thumb on operating rod handle, fingers around trigger guard. Steady the rifle by pressing the stock against the right hip. Place the left hand over the receiver and release the clip latch with the left thumb. Catch the ejected clip in the left hand, return the clip to the belt, return the left hand to the balance. Place the right side of the right hand against the operating rod handle and force the operating rod slightly to the rear. Depress the follower with the right thumb and permit the bolt to ride forward about 1 inch over the follower. Remove the thumb from the follower and release the operating rod handle. Bring the rifle to the order.

FIRE RIFLE



Fire.

U. S. rifle, caliber .30, M1. (1) Fully loaded with clips of ball ammunition or with blank ammunition and blank adapter. Squeeze the trigger for each shot. When the eighth shot has been fired, the clip will be ejected automatically and the bolt will remain open for the insertion of a new clip.

(2) Fully loaded with clips of blank or guard ammunition. Squeeze the trigger for each shot. After each shot, pull the operating rod handle to the rear with the right forefinger and release it. Push forward on the operating rod handle with the heel of the right hand to insure that the bolt is fully closed.



Audie Murphy (as himself), *To Hell and Back*, 1955.

