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mossberg 500 ag manual

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Understanding the Mossberg 500 AG Manual: A Complete Guide

The Mossberg 500 AG is a versatile pump action shotgun that has earned a reputation for reliability, durability, and ease of use. Whether you're a seasoned hunter, a law enforcement officer, or a home defense enthusiast, the Mossberg 500 AG offers a dependable platform that can be customized to fit a wide range of missions. However, like any firearm, the Mossberg 500 AG requires a solid foundation of knowledge, safe handling practices, and routine maintenance to operate at its best.

In this comprehensive guide, we'll walk through everything you need to know about the **Mossberg 500 AG manual**. From the basics of the shotgun's design and operation to advanced troubleshooting and field striping techniques, you'll gain the confidence to use and care for your Mossberg 500 AG responsibly.

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1. Overview of the Mossberg 500 AG

The Mossberg 500 AG is an evolution of the classic Mossberg 500 pump action shotgun. The "AG" designation typically refers to the "Aviation Gun" or "Accessory Group" variant, which features a heavier barrel, enhanced recoil mitigation systems, and a modular design that allows for a variety of aftermarket accessories. Key attributes include:

- Caliber options ranging from 12 gauge to 20 gauge
- Standard barrel lengths of 18" and 20" with optional 24" barrels
- Durable polymer and steel construction for corrosion resistance
- Integrated recoil reduction system for smoother shooting
- Optional accessories such as a tactical rail, forearm, and adjustable stock

Understanding the core design philosophy of the Mossberg 500 AG is essential before diving into the manual's detailed instructions. The shotgun's modularity makes it a popular choice for a wide range of applications, from hunting to law enforcement duty, and even civilian home defense.

2. Key Components and Their Functions

Below is a quick reference to the main parts of the Mossberg 500 AG and their roles:

- Barrel – The main firing chamber where the projectile travels.
- Choke – Controls the spread of shot; can be fixed or interchangeable.
- Pump Handle – Operated manually to cycle the action.
- Barrel Extension – Provides a longer bore for increased velocity.
- Barrel Sleeve – Protects the barrel and facilitates easy barrel changes.
- Stock – Adjustable for user comfort and recoil management.
- Forearm – Provides a handle for better grip and control.
- Barrel Extension and Choke – Allows for quick field changes.
- Safety Selector – Prevents accidental discharge.
- Trigger – Releases the firing mechanism.
- Recoil Pad – Helps absorb recoil energy.
- Magazine Tube – Holds the shells; typically 5 shot capacity.

Each component plays a vital role in ensuring the shotgun functions safely and efficiently. Familiarity with these parts will help you troubleshoot issues and maintain optimal performance.

3. Safety Protocols and Best Practices

Safety is paramount when handling any firearm. The Mossberg 500 AG manual places a strong emphasis on safe practices. Below are the core safety guidelines you should always follow:

1. Always Treat as Loaded. Never assume the shotgun is unloaded. Always check the chamber and magazine.
2. Keep the Barrel Pointed in a Safe Direction. When handling the shotgun, the barrel should always be pointed away from yourself and others.
3. Use the Safety Selector. Engage the safety when the shotgun is not in use or while you are reloading.
4. Verify the Chamber. Remove a shell and visually inspect the chamber before handling or cleaning.
5. Wear Appropriate Eye and Ear Protection. Especially during cleaning or in high recoil situations.
6. Store Securely. Keep the shotgun in a locked safe or cabinet when not in use.

By incorporating these safety protocols into your routine, you'll minimize the risk of accidental discharge and ensure a safe shooting experience.

4. Operating the Mossberg 500 AG

The Mossberg 500 AG's pump action mechanism is simple yet robust. Below is a step by step guide to operating the shotgun safely and efficiently.

4.1 Loading the Shotgun

1. Open the magazine tube by pulling the bolt back.
2. Slide the bolt forward until it locks into place.
3. Insert a shell into the chamber.
4. Close the bolt to secure the shell.

4.2 Firing Sequence

1. Ensure the safety selector is off.
2. Point the shotgun in a safe direction.
3. Pull the trigger gently to fire.
4. After firing, cycle the action by pulling the pump handle back and pushing it forward.

4.3 Reloading

Reloading is quick and straightforward:

- Pull the pump handle back to eject the spent shell.
- Slide the bolt forward to lock it.
- Insert a new shell into the chamber.
- Close the bolt to secure the shell.

4.4 Discharging in Various Conditions

The Mossberg 500 AG is designed to handle a range of environments. Whether you're shooting in bright daylight, low-light conditions, or adverse weather, the shotgun's robust construction ensures consistent performance. Always adjust your sighting and trigger discipline to suit the conditions.

5. Routine Maintenance and Cleaning

Proper maintenance extends the life of your Mossberg 500 AG and ensures reliable performance. The manual recommends a cleaning schedule based on usage:

- After Every Shoot. Clean the barrel and chamber to remove fouling.
- Weekly. Inspect the bolt, pump handle, and safety selector for wear.
- Monthly. Lubricate moving parts and check for corrosion.
- Annually. Conduct a full disassembly and deep clean.

5.1 Cleaning the Barrel

1. Use a cleaning rod with a bore brush to remove debris.
2. Apply a small amount of solvent to dissolve fouling.
3. Wipe the barrel with a clean cloth.
4. Apply a light coat of oil to prevent corrosion.

5.2 Inspecting the Safety Selector

Check that the safety selector moves smoothly and engages fully. If you notice any resistance or misalignment, replace the selector or consult a professional.

5.3 Lubrication Points

- Bolts and springs.
- Barrel extension and choke.
- Pump handle pivot points.

Use a high quality firearm lubricant and apply sparingly to avoid residue buildup.

6. Troubleshooting Common Issues

Even the best firearms can encounter problems. Below are common issues and how to address them:

6.1 Failure to Cycle

If the shotgun won't cycle, check the following:

- Ensure the safety selector is off.
- Inspect the pump handle for obstruction.
- Check the bolt for wear or damage.
- Lubricate the action to improve movement.

6.2 Misfire or Failure to Fire

Possible causes include:

- Expired or improperly stored shells.
- Damaged primer or powder.
- Obstruction in the chamber.
- Trigger mechanism failure.

Inspect the shell, clean the chamber, and if the issue persists, replace the trigger components.

6.3 Excessive Recoil

Excessive recoil can be mitigated by:

- Using a heavier barrel or barrel extension.
- Adding a recoil pad or brace.
- Adjusting the stock to a more ergonomic position.

7. Field Stripping and Reassembly

Field stripping is a quick and essential skill for any shotgun user. The Mossberg 500 AG manual provides a step by step process for removing the barrel, choke, and other components for cleaning or repair.

7.1 Field Stripping Procedure

1. Remove the bolt and slide the barrel out.
2. Detach the choke from the barrel sleeve.
3. Remove the forearm and stock.
4. Unscrew the barrel extension if present.

7.2 Reassembly Checklist

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