

HANDGUN ANATOMY

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Handgun

A **handgun** is a short-barreled firearm that can be held and used with one hand. The two most common handgun sub-types in use today are revolvers and semi-automatic pistols.

Though the exact definition of a handgun is sometimes disputed, a handgun is a firearm that is easily concealable, can be fired one-handed, and usually has an effective range of no greater than 100 meters.

Common parts in revolver and semi-automatic pistol

Gun Barrel: Solid bar of steel that has been hollowed out by drilling. The barrel is the part the bullet moves through after it is fired. The muzzle is the open end of the barrel that the bullet exits the gun through.

Action: The action is the part that has the mechanism that fires the bullet.

Grip or Stock: The grip or stock is the part you hold onto. Generally it's a grip on a handgun and a stock on a long gun.

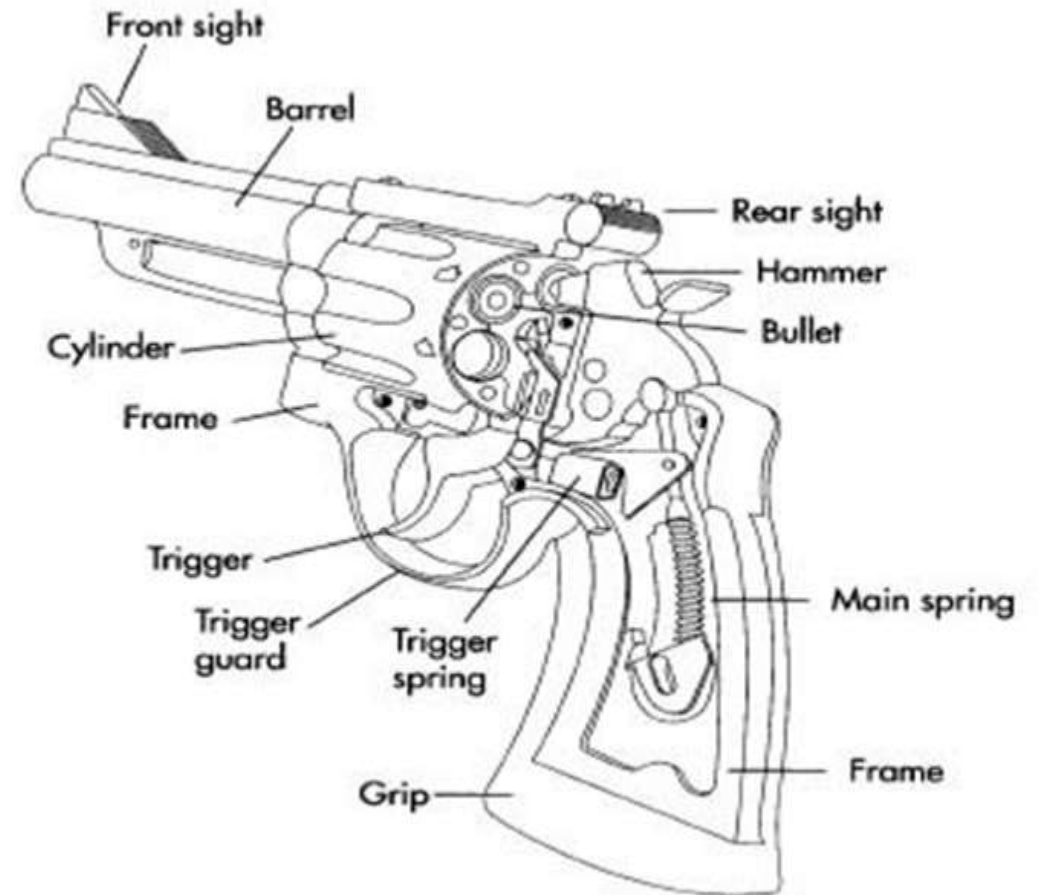
Trigger Guard: The piece around the trigger that protects it from getting bumped.

Trigger: The part your finger pulls to make the gun fire.

Sights: Sights come in various styles also. Most firearms have a front sight at the muzzle end of the barrel, and a rear sight at the back end of the barrel.

Revolver

A **revolver** (also called a **wheel gun**) is a repeating handgun that has a revolving cylinder containing multiple chambers (each holding a single cartridge) and at least one barrel for firing.



Components of Revolver

- Gun-Barrel
- Action
- Grip
- Trigger
- Trigger guard
- Sights (rear and front)



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Cylinder: The cylinder is a cylindrical, rotating part of a revolver that contains multiple cartridge chamber.

Frame: The frame is a metal housing that also serves as the handle (grip) of the handgun. All other parts are contained within it or connected to it.

Hammer: The Hammer on a revolver is the part that strikes the firing pin or the cartridge primer directly, detonating the primer which discharges the gun. You have to cock or pull back the hammer on a single-action revolver by hand before each shot. This revolves the cylinder and aligns the next cartridge. A double action revolver performs two basic actions with each pull of the trigger, firing a round and rotating the cylinder.

Firing Pin: A hardened pin that, when struck by the hammer, impacts the primer of a cartridge. This initiates a chain of events that discharges a bullet.

Cylinder release: Button or latch that frees the cylinder from the frame in a double-action revolver.



Semi-automatic pistol

A **semi-automatic pistol** is a type of repeating single-chamber handgun (pistol) that automatically cycles its action to insert the subsequent cartridge into the chamber (self-loading), but requires manual actuation of the trigger to actually discharge the following shot. As a result, only one round of ammunition is fired each time the trigger is pulled, as the pistol's fire control group disconnects the trigger mechanism from the firing pin/striker until the trigger has been released and reset.





Parts of semi-automatic pistol

- Gun-Barrel
- Action
- Trigger
- Trigger guard
- Sights (rear and front)



Grip: Like with a revolver, a pistol's grip is the portion you hold when shooting. However, the grip on a pistol also serves another purpose: housing the magazine.

Magazine: The magazine holds multiple cartridges until they are fed into the action. Magazines can be detachable or an integral part of the firearm.

Magazine Well: Also called a "magwell," the magazine well locks the magazine into place so the cartridges can feed properly into the chamber.

Magazine release button: The magazine release is used to eject the magazine from the grip of handgun.

Takedown Lever: Usually a wing of metal attached to a pin. The lever retains the slide, bolt, or barrel. It allows the firearm to be disassembled.

Slide: On most semi-automatic pistols, the slide is the part that moves during the operating cycle, sliding in a back-and-forth motion.

Slide Stop: You can also call this a “slide lock” or “slide release.” This feature locks the slide back when the last cartridge in a magazine has been fired.

Receiver: This is the part of a pistol that “receives” the ammunition. The receiver houses the weapon’s internal components, including the hammer, action, and firing mechanism.

Extractor: After you fire a cartridge, the extractor lifts or removes the spent brass case from the firing chamber and sends it through the ejection port

Ejection Port: Spent casings exit the receiver through this opening.

Hammer: Just like in a revolver, the hammer strikes the firing pin or makes direct contact with the firing pin (depending on the weapon). This sets off a chain of events that results in the firing of the weapon.

Firing Pin: The hammer drives this hardened pin into the cartridge, causing the primer to explode and ignite propellants in the cartridge.

Safety: A mechanism designed to prevent the accidental discharge of a firearm. It may be a button or sliding device located near the trigger or situated on the grip of the handgun. Not all handguns have an external safety. On some models, like Glock pistols, the safety is deactivated only when the trigger is pulled.

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Silencer:

A silencer, also known as a sound suppressor, suppressor or sound moderator, is a muzzle device that reduces the acoustic intensity of the muzzle report (sound of a gunshot) and the recoil, when a gun is discharged, by modulating the speed and pressure of the propellant gas from the muzzle and hence suppressing the muzzle blast.



Tang:

The tang is a protrusion that sits over the webbing of the firer's shooting hand. This structure assists the operator in managing the recoil of the weapon and also protects the hand from the slide assembly as it quickly moved rearwards and then forward during the firing action.

References

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