

CLEANING AR-15

SAFETY CHECK

1. Fire Control Selector (Safety) is in SAFE position
2. Remove magazine
3. Retract charging handle, locking bolt carrier assembly to rear; visually and physically inspect the chamber to verify it is empty. Never assume the gun is unloaded.

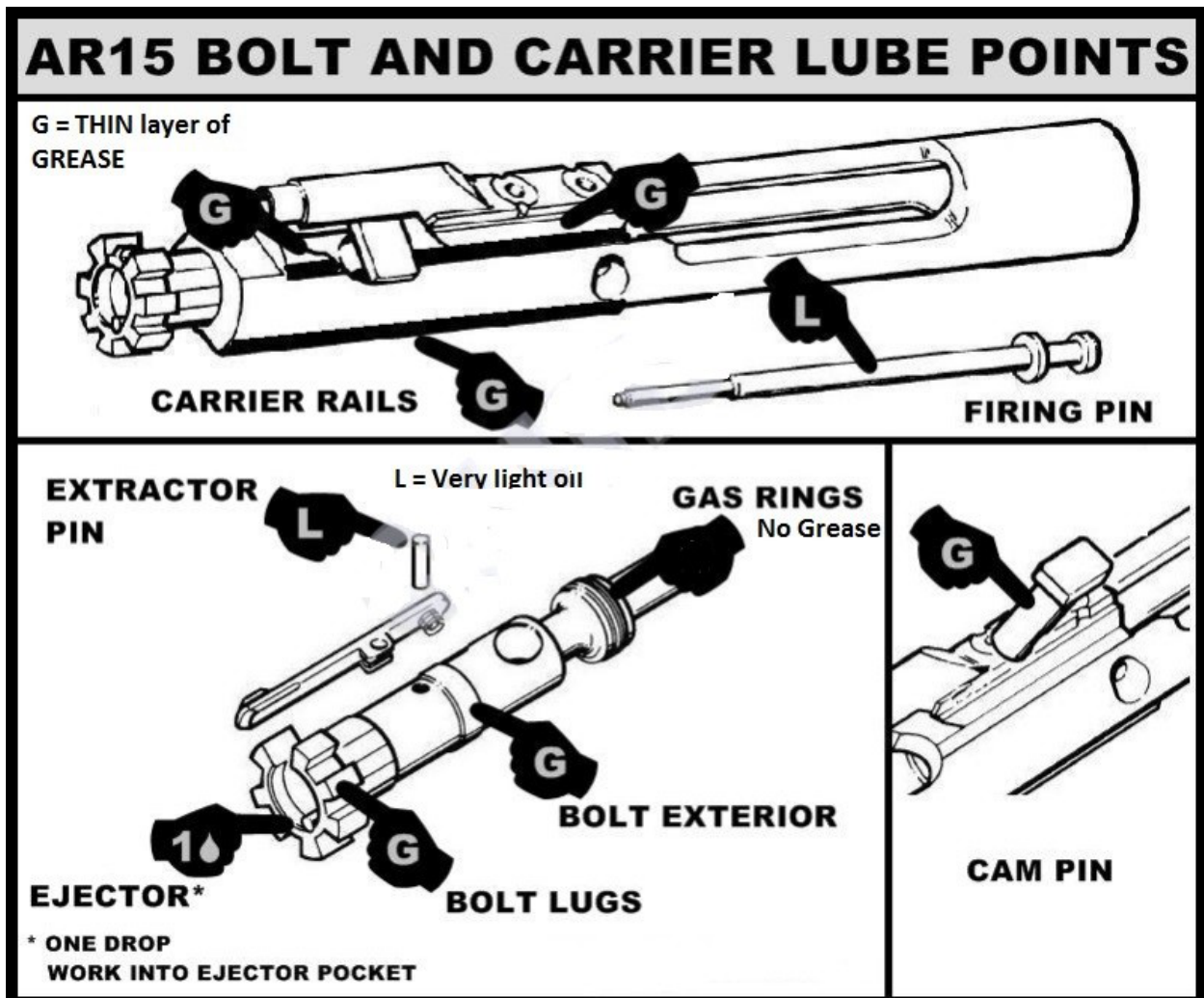
DISASSEMBLY & CLEANING

4. Clear the rifle with safety check per steps 1-3 above.
5. Strike bolt release (with palm of hand) to close the bolt and confirm fire control selector in SAFE position.
6. Press takedown and pivot pins through receiver to their stops; separate upper and lower receivers.
7. Place upper receiver upside down
8. Slowly pull charging handle to rear, remove bolt carrier group. Align tabs of charging handle with openings in receiver then lift charging handle and pull from the receiver.
9. Liberally spray inside of barrel and chamber lug locks with CLP (cleaner, lubricant, protector).
10. Use charging handle and depress buffer detent pin remove buffer & action spring, wipe clean & reinstall. See handbook if you wish to remove hand-guard.
11. Remove firing pin retaining pin (cotter key) from left side of bolt carrier; tilt bolt carrier upwards and catch firing pin in your hand as it slides out of the rear of the bolt.
12. With bolt pulled as far out as possible in bolt carrier, rotate bolt cam pin $\frac{1}{4}$ turn, (cam pin should be parallel with gas key), push bolt fully into the bolt carrier and remove bolt cam pin. Pull bolt from body of bolt carrier.
13. Apply slight pressure to the rear of the extractor to remove spring tension and press-out extractor retaining pin using a punch or tip of the firing pin. Remove extractor from bolt. Only separate the extractor spring from the extractor if replacement is necessary.
14. Inspect for broken parts or parts with a crack; check spring tensions.
15. Spray CLP on: bolt, carrier, cotter pin, firing pin & cam pin (do NOT spray into gas port). The threaded portion or eyelet end of a metal cleaning rod eyelet can be used to scrape carbon off the bolt in areas adjoining gas rings. Scrub bolt with nylon brush. Pay particular attention to fouling around bolt locking lugs, bolt body, extractor, extractor-slot in the bolt. Use pipe cleaner to clean firing pin channel and inside of bolt. Use 2x2 patches over nylon brush to scrub off remaining dirt.
16. Attach chamber-brush to T-handle section of cleaning rod, spray brush with CLP, insert into chamber and turn clockwise a minimum of 3-full turns and plunge in/out a minimum of 5-times. Place 2x2 patch over chamber brush, insert and remove from chamber and repeat with new patch until patch is clean.
17. Loosely assemble 2-cleaning rod sections, attach bore brush, with barrel facing down, drop cleaning handle through barrel (brush facing upward) attach handle at muzzle end and pull through. Repeat a minimum of five times. A bore snake is a suitable substitute for the foregoing bore brush operation. Remove bore brush, attach eyelet (fold 1"x1" patch corner to corner and insert into eyelet); apply small amount of CLP to first patch and run through barrel as outlined above; repeat with dry patches until patches are clean. If the gun is to be stored, the last patch through the bore should have CLP on the patch; however, a dry patch must be run through the barrel before the gun is fired.
18. Remove chamber brush from T-handle and attach old bore brush and clean area underneath and around gas tube and sidewall areas; place 2x2 over brush and repeat until inside of bolt carrier is clean.
19. Use pipe cleaner to clean all openings on bolt carrier including gas-key. Insert T-handle (or suitable tool) into front of bolt carrier and rotate to dislodge carbon. A 45 caliber brush with patch can be inserted into bolt carrier and turned to assist with cleaning; spray with CLP and repeat until patch is clean. With clean 2x2, apply CLP to the bolt carrier and then wipe-off with clean rag.
20. Clean firing pin with nylon brush; a metal eyelet can be utilized to remove any carbon.
21. Clean charging handle with nylon brush and then nylon brush covered with 2x2 patch.

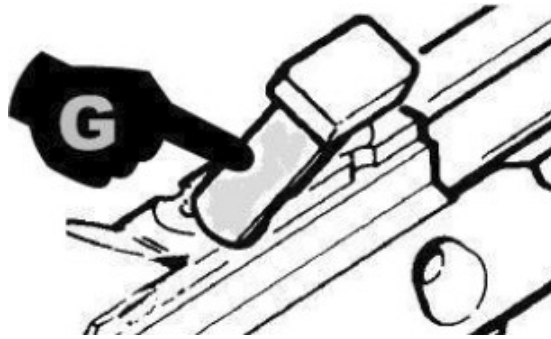
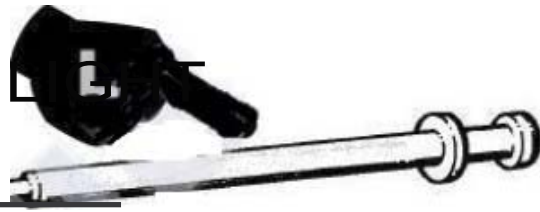
22. Fire control selector (Safety) in FIRE position, hold hammer and pull trigger and allow hammer to slowly extend. Use nylon brush to clean all around hammer area in lower receiver and behind bolt catch, then use nylon brush covered with 2x2 patch to assist with removing dirt.
23. With needle applicator, apply a SMALL amount of CLP to lubrication points in diagram. Place hammer in cocked position and put fire control selector (safety) to SAFE.
24. With clean rag, wipe exterior of gun and inside of magazine well.

FINAL LUBRICATION & REASSEMBLY

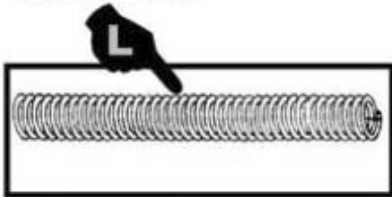
25. Place extractor back into bolt, press down on back of extractor and reinsert holding pin.
26. Per diagram below, place THIN layer of **high-temperature brake grease** on bolt body and edges of bolt lugs (TW25B grease may provide added performance in sandy, salt water or humid environments) **Place NO grease on gas rings or bolt face.** Reinsert bolt into bolt carrier; extractor on bolt should be at 10 o'clock position relative to gas key.
27. Per diagram below, Place THIN layer of grease on cam pin, insert and turn so it is perpendicular to gas key. **Failure to install cam pin can result in personal injury or death of operator.**
28. Insert cleaned firing pin that has THIN coat of CLP fully into bolt carrier, insert retaining pin (cotter key) and assure it is flush with carrier. Tap bolt carrier in palm of hand in same manner as to remove firing pin to confirm firing pin has been secured and will not come out.
29. Per diagram below, place a THIN layer of grease on the four narrow **carrier rails** (BEARING SURFACES) on the exterior of the bolt carrier group—do **NOT** place grease on other exterior surfaces of the bolt carrier group as these are non-contact surfaces.



LIGHT: A FILM BARELY VISIBLE TO THE EYE



BUFFER SPRING



REAR SIGHT



FORWARD ASSIST



FRONT SIGHT POST AND DETENT



TAKEDOWN PIN



DUST COVER PIN

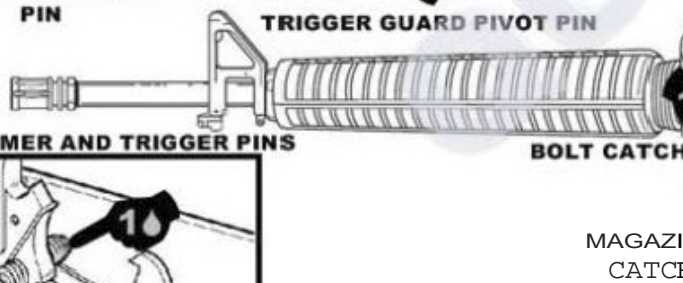


PIVOT PIN

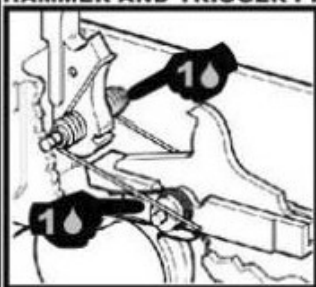


HAMMER FACE

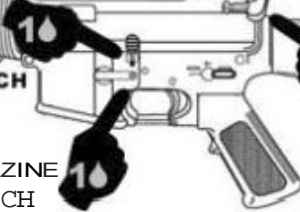
TRIGGER GUARD PIVOT PIN



HAMMER AND TRIGGER PINS



BOLT CATCH



MAGAZINE CATCH



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RIFLE LUBE POINTS

30. As an enhancement to using CLP on the charging handle, place a THIN layer of grease on the outside of the shaft of the charging handle. With upper facing up, reinstall charging handle, pull bolt as far-out as it will come on bolt carrier, insert gas key into recess of charging handle and push both full forward into gun until they lock—this should be possible with very little resistance. (if the bolt is not pulled fully rearward in the bolt carrier, you cannot insert bolt carrier and charging handle fully into the gun)
31. Realign holes on both receivers and press through takedown & pivot pins to lock receivers together.

FUNCTION CHECK—MUST PASS ALL TESTS

32. Insert empty magazine into the magazine well until it locks into place;
33. Pull down on magazine to ensure it is locked in place by magazine catch.
34. Pull charging handle fully back then push it forward into locked position. The bolt carrier should now be held to the rear by the bolt catch.
35. Depress the magazine catch, the magazine should fall free of the rifle under its own weight (unloaded)
36. Push the top of the bolt catch (with palm of hand) to release the bolt carrier. The bolt carrier should travel forward into the locked position.
37. Rotate fire control selector to SAFE
38. Press the trigger to the rear; the hammer should NOT fall.
39. Rotate the fire control selector to FIRE, press the trigger to the rear and do not release it; you should hear a click as the hammer falls. Keep trigger pressed to the rear and pull the charging handle to the rear and release while keeping trigger pulled. Hammer should not fall but be held in the cocked position by the disconnect..
40. Release the trigger, a click should be heard as the hammer is caught by the trigger sear;
41. Press the trigger to the rear again the hammer should fall.

IN FIELD LUBRICATION

After extensive shooting-especially if grease is not utilized as outlined above--a few drops of CLP can be allowed to soak into the exhaust holes on the bolt carrier group, visible through the ejection port, to enhance lubrication.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This AR-15 cleaning checklist is posted for the purpose of criticism and drawing commentary from AR-15 users and should not be used as a substitute for what a particular gun manufacturer recommends.