

SHOOTING TIP: HAMMER PIN HEAD

Although WWII carbine manuals are inconsistent on the subject of hammer pin insertion, it is important that the hammer pin be inserted from the left. That is, the head of the pin should be on the left. Due to the design of the trigger housing, and the inletting of the stock, if the hammer pin head is on the right, the pin can actually back out from the vibration of firing. It won't be able to move very far, but it can move just barely enough for it to disengage, jamming the hammer. If the hammer pin head is on the left, the interior left "wall" of the stock will hold it in place, preventing movement from firing vibration.

SHOOTING TIP: EXTRACTOR CARE

The carbine extractor is a weakness of the carbine. The "claw" or "lip" that engages the rim of the cartridge case is very thin, and can be brittle due to improper heat-treating. Also, when gunk builds up behind the claw, it will eventually hinder movement of the extractor and place stress on the stem, which will eventually break. To mitigate this weakness, it is important to always clean out the area behind the extractor claw. Use the small end of the common plastic "GI toothbrush" and/or a toothpick, to ensure full movement of the extractor against the extractor spring.

SHOOTING TIP: CHAMBER CLEANLINESS

Because the carbine cartridge has a straight case, cleaning the bore will normally also clean the chamber. However, it is recommended that the chamber get a dedicated scrubbing after every shooting session. A bristle bore brush with a short flexible nylon stem and a T-handle is available from Hoppe's. It is called the "Chamber Cleaning Kit For Rifles," and the size to fit the carbine is Item Number CCK1. It costs about \$5. The M3A1 Combination Tool for the M1 Garand Rifle will also work, but it's a very tight fit in the breech of the carbine, and requires that the slide and bolt be removed first. If your carbine tends to "stovepipe" the spent casing vertically in the breech, ensure your chamber is clean. A scrubbed chamber will reduce the friction (drag) of the (expanded) spent casing, and facilitate easy extraction and ejection, optimizing the semiautomatic performance of your carbine.