



HELLCAT.380

INSTRUCTION MANUAL



**READ AND UNDERSTAND THE INSTRUCTIONS
AND WARNINGS BEFORE USING THIS FIREARM**

THIS MANUAL SHOULD ALWAYS ACCOMPANY THIS HELLCAT AND BE INCLUDED UPON CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP, OR WHEN THIS HELLCAT IS LOANED OR PRESENTED TO ANOTHER PERSON.

PRODUCT INFO AVAILABLE AT WWW.IOINC.US
OR BY CALLING 866-882-1479

STATE-BY-STATE WARNINGS

Certain states require by law that their own specified warning notices in larger-than-normal type be conspicuously included by the manufacturer, distributor, or retail dealer with firearms sold in that state. I.O. Inc. sells its products in compliance with applicable state laws and regulations. Because our products may be sold in these states, we include the following:

CALIFORNIA:

WARNING

"Children are attracted to and can operate firearms that can cause severe injuries or death. Prevent child access by always keeping guns locked away and unloaded when not in use. If you keep a loaded firearm where a child obtains and improperly uses it, you may be fined or sent to prison."

CONNECTICUT:

"UNLAWFUL STORAGE OF A LOADED FIREARM MAY RESULT IN IMPRISONMENT OR FINE."

FLORIDA:

"IT IS UNLAWFUL, AND PUNISHABLE BY IMPRISONMENT AND FINE, FOR ANY ADULT TO STORE OR LEAVE A FIREARM IN ANY PLACE WITHIN THE REACH OR EASY ACCESS OF A MINOR UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE OR TO KNOWINGLY SELL OR OTHERWISE TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OR POSSESSION OF A FIREARM TO A MINOR OR A PERSON OF UNSOUND MIND."

MAINE:

"ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD IS A CRIME. IF YOU LEAVE A FIREARM AND AMMUNITION WITHIN EASY ACCESS OF A CHILD, YOU MAY BE SUBJECT TO FINE, IMPRISONMENT OR BOTH. KEEP FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION SEPARATE. KEEP FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION LOCKED UP. USE TRIGGER LOCKS."

MASSACHUSETTS:

"WARNING FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS ATTORNEY GENERAL: This handgun is not equipped with a device that fully blocks use by unauthorized users. More than 200,000 firearms like this one are stolen from their owners every year in the United States. In addition, there are more than a thousand suicides each year by younger children and teenagers who get access to firearms. Hundreds more die from accidental discharge. It is likely that many more children sustain serious wounds, or inflict such wounds accidentally on others. In order to limit the chance of such misuse, it is imperative that you keep this weapon locked in a secure place and take other steps necessary to limit the possibility of theft or accident. Failure to take reasonable preventive steps may result in innocent lives being lost, and in some circumstances may result in your liability for these deaths."

"IT IS UNLAWFUL TO STORE OR KEEP A FIREARM, RIFLE, SHOTGUN OR MACHINE GUN IN ANY PLACE UNLESS THAT WEAPON IS EQUIPPED WITH A TAMPER RESISTANT SAFETY DEVICE OR IS STORED OR KEPT IN A SECURELY LOCKED CONTAINER"

NEW JERSEY:

"IT IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE TO LEAVE A LOADED FIREARM WITHIN EASY ACCESS OF A MINOR."

NEW YORK CITY:

"THE USE OF A LOCKING DEVICE OR SAFETY LOCK IS ONLY ONE ASPECT OF RESPONSIBLE FIREARM STORAGE. FOR INCREASED SAFETY FIREARMS SHOULD BE STORED UNLOADED AND LOCKED IN A LOCATION THAT IS BOTH SEPARATE FROM THEIR AMMUNITION AND INACCESSIBLE TO CHILDREN AND OTHER UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS."

NORTH CAROLINA:

"IT IS UNLAWFUL TO STORE OR LEAVE A FIREARM THAT CAN BE DISCHARGED IN A MANNER THAT A REASONABLE PERSON SHOULD KNOW IS ACCESSIBLE TO A MINOR."

TEXAS:

"IT IS UNLAWFUL TO STORE, TRANSPORT, OR ABANDON AN UNSECURED FIREARM IN A PLACE WHERE CHILDREN ARE LIKELY TO BE AND CAN OBTAIN ACCESS TO THE FIREARM."

WISCONSIN:

"IF YOU LEAVE A LOADED FIREARM WITHIN THE REACH OR EASY ACCESS OF A CHILD YOU MAY BE FINED OR IMPRISONED OR BOTH IF THE CHILD IMPROPERLY DISCHARGES, POSSESSES, OR EXHIBITS THE FIREARM."

MARYLAND:

"WARNING: Children can't operate firearms which may cause death or serious injury. It is a crime to store or leave a loaded firearm in any location where an individual knew or should have known that an unsupervised minor would gain access to the firearm. Store your firearm responsibly!"



Please check with your licensed retailer or state police for additional warnings which may be required by local law or regulation. Such regulations change constantly, and local authorities are in the best position to advise you on such legal matters.

**FIREARMS SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY
SAFETY MUST BE THE FIRST AND CONSTANT
CONSIDERATION OF EVERY PERSON WHO HANDLES
FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION.**

This Instruction Manual is designed to assist you in learning how to use and care for your HELLCAT properly. Please contact us if you have any questions. Only when you are certain you fully understand the Manual and can properly carry out its instructions should you practice loading, unloading, etc. with live ammunition. If you have any doubts about your ability to handle or use a particular type of gun safely, you should seek supervised instruction. Such personalized instruction is often available from gun dealers, gun clubs or police departments. If none of these sources can help you, write to the National Rifle Association, 11250 Waples Mill, Fairfax, VA 22030-7400.

The person possessing a gun has a full-time job. You cannot guess; you cannot forget. You must know how to use your firearm safely. **Do not use any firearm without having a complete understanding of its particular characteristics and safe use.**

REMEMBER: THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A FOOLPROOF GUN.

GENERAL INFORMATION & MECHANICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The I.O.INC HELLCAT is a compact, single strike double action, magazine-fed, recoil-operated pistol chambered for the .380 Auto cartridge. It incorporates a different "link-less" design in the barrel locking/unlocking system than some other pistols and features a streamlined slide and glass reinforced nylon and aluminum sub frame.

AMMUNITION

WARNING - LEAD EXPOSURE

Discharging firearms in poorly ventilated areas, cleaning firearms, or handling ammunition may result in exposure to lead and other substances known to the state of California to cause birth defects, reproductive harm, and other serious physical injury. Have adequate ventilation at all times. Wash hands thoroughly after exposure.

SHOOTING OR CLEANING GUNS MAY EXPOSE YOU TO LEAD

The I.O.INC HELLCAT pistols are chambered for the .380 Auto cartridge. Do not attempt to load any other cartridges into the magazine or chamber of the pistol.

Do not use "+P" ammunition.

The pistols are compatible with standard factory ammunition loaded to U.S. Industry Standards. No .380 Auto ammunition manufactured in accordance with SAAMI or CIP standards is known to be beyond the design limits or known not to function in these pistols.

Do not use "+P" ammunition.

AMMUNITION (CARTRIDGES) NOTICE

WE SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY DAMAGE OR INJURY WHATSOEVER OCCURRING IN CONNECTION WITH, OR AS A RESULT OF, THE USE IN ANY I.O.INC FIREARMS OF FAULTY OR NON-STANDARD, OR "REMANUFACTURED" OR HAND-LOADED (RELOADED) AMMUNITION, OR OF CARTRIDGES OTHER THAN THOSE FOR WHICH THE FIREARM WAS ORIGINALLY CHAMBERED.

ACTION:

The strong locked breech action of the HELLCAT utilizes a tilting barrel design in which the barrel and slide are locked together at the moment of firing. After firing, the barrel and slide recoil to the rear a short distance while securely locked together. After this initial movement, the barrel is cammed downward from its locked position, permitting full recoil of the slide and the extraction and ejection of the spent cartridge case. Upon return of the slide to its forward position by the recoil spring, the barrel is cammed back upward into its locked position in the slide.

The user of this or any autoloading pistol must always remember that when fired, it automatically reloads and re-cocks itself, so that simply pulling the trigger will fire the pistol again. Therefore, an autoloading pistol user must be particularly conscious to always keep the pistol pointed in a safe direction.

MAGAZINES:

THE HELLCAT .380 Auto magazines have been specifically designed for the I.O.INC HELLCAT pistol are not interchangeable with pistol magazines of another any manufacturer even though they may appear similar.

DAMAGED, NON-STANDARD, OR IMPROPERLY ASSEMBLED MAGAZINES SHOULD NOT BE USED. THEY CAN CAUSE THE PISTOL TO MALFUNCTION.

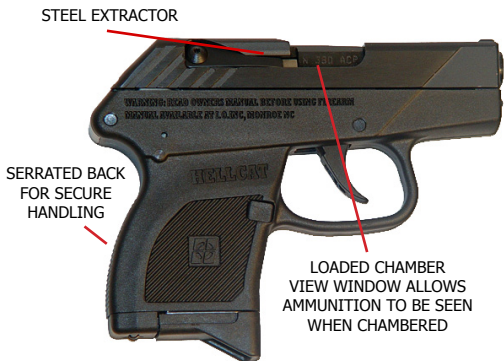
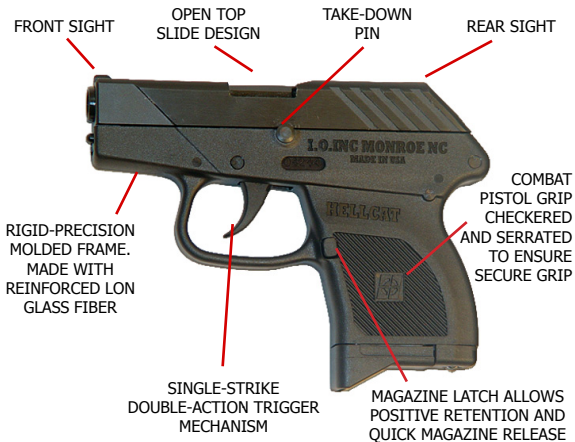
WARNING:

NO STEEL CASE AMMUNITION!

STEEL CASE AMMUNITION WILL BREAK THE EXTRACTOR.
RECOMMENDED BRANDS ARE **MAGTECH & FIOCHI**

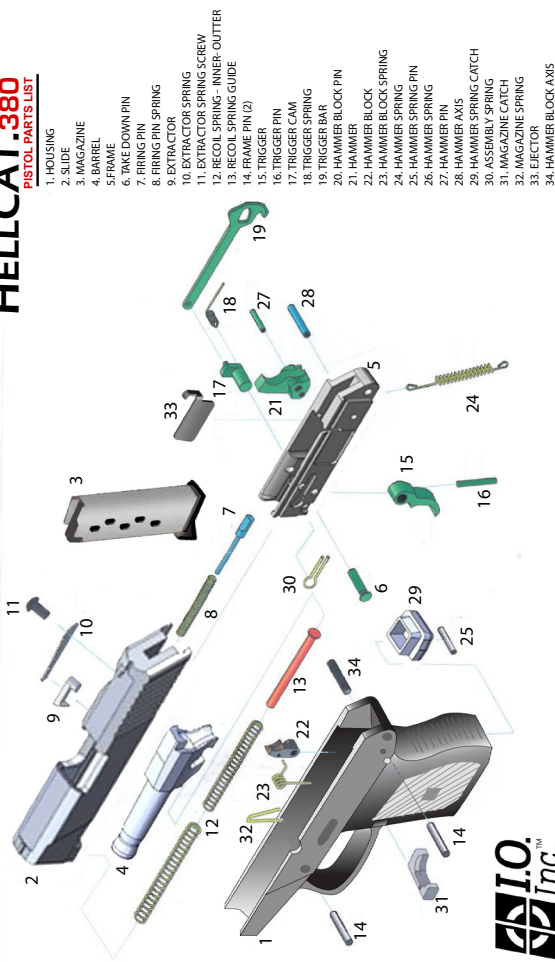
Death serious injury, and damage can result from the use of the wrong ammunition, bore obstructions, powder overloads or incorrect cartridge components. Even the strongest gun can be "blown up" as a result of excess pressure. Always wear shooting glasses and hearing protection.

IDENTIFYING PARTS OF YOUR HELLCAT



HELLCAT.380

PISTOL PARTS LIST



WARNING! PISTOL WILL FIRE EVEN WITHOUT MAGAZINE!

WARNING - WHEN UNLOADING:

So that the pistol can be used as a single loader, it will fire even if a magazine is not in the gun as long as a cartridge is chambered.

Removing the magazine does not unload the pistol! To unload, first remove the magazine, then pull slide to the rear, eject the chambered cartridge, and visually inspect chamber to be sure it is empty. Always point the pistol in a safe direction when loading or unloading.

WARNING: This sequence must be followed exactly as outlined. Failure to do so can result in the chamber being unintentionally loaded with a live cartridge!

1. The muzzle of the pistol must be pointed in a safe direction at all times, and fingers should be outside of the trigger guard.
2. Remove the magazine from the pistol by pushing in on the magazine latch.

REMEMBER - Even though the magazine has been removed, a live round remaining in the chamber can still be fired. Always double check visually that the chamber, breach-face, and the interior are clear of any live rounds.

3. Hold the pistol firmly and grasp the slide. Retract the slide to its rear-most position briskly to extract and eject any chambered cartridge.

WARNING - SLIDE RETRACTION: The slide should always be pulled rearward ("retracted") by pulling the rear portion of the slide. Never put any part of your hands over the muzzle during retracting the slide while unloading, inspection or clearing the pistol of a malfunction.

KEEP HANDS AWAY FROM MUZZLE AND FINGER OFF TRIGGER

4. To close the slide, pull the slide to its rear-most position and release it. The slide will snap forward. Keep fingers out of ejection port on top of slide!
5. If the magazine contains cartridges, they can be removed by sliding each cartridge forward and out of the magazine, one at a time, until the magazine is empty.
6. Push empty (unloaded) magazine into frame until magazine latch locks it in place.

TO EXTRACT AND EJECT A CHAMBERED CARTRIDGE:

When the pistol is fired, the same gas pressure that drives the bullet forward also acts through the cartridge case to push the slide to the rear. The action causes extraction and ejection of the fired cartridge case. If a cartridge fails to fire or if the shooter wishes to eject the chambered cartridge manually, follow the procedure "To Unload" step 3. When the slide is operated by hand, there can be a failure to extract the cartridge from the chamber or a failure to eject the cartridge clear of the pistol. These failures usually are the result of the slide not being pulled rearward vigorously and then released. From the foregoing, it is clear that the gun user must:

1. Always visually check the chamber and the breech-face after opening the slide to eject a chambered cartridge. If the slide is not quickly retracted when being hand operated, the extracted cartridge can be ejected into the magazine well.

2. Thoroughly clean the chamber and the extractor as often as necessary. If an empty magazine is in the pistol when the slide is being hand-retracted to extract a cartridge, the cartridge may drop on top of the magazine or remain held to the breech face by the extractor. Then when the slide goes forward, the cartridge will be chambered again!

Remember — always remove the magazine before clearing the chamber, and visually ensure that no cartridges remain in the gun.

CLEARING A MALFUNCTION (“JAM”):

1. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.

2. If possible, remove the magazine. It may be necessary to manually remove a jammed cartridge that has only been partially stripped from the magazine. If so, use extreme care. Drawing the slide fully to the rear may bring the jammed cartridge along. Keep your face away from the ejection port during this operation. When attempting to clear a jam, use only wooden “tools” so that the cartridge will not be damaged or the primer ignited. A 3/16” wooden dowel is useful.

3. Visually check to make sure that all cartridges have been removed from the pistol. Safely dispose of any cartridges involved in a malfunction incident. Do not use damaged ammunition in any firearm.

Any autoloading pistol may occasionally malfunction. If a cartridge hangs up, jams or binds when being chambered, do

not attempt to force it into the chamber by pushing or striking the slide. Carefully remove it. Most failures of a cartridge to feed or to chamber properly are caused by a damaged magazine, incorrect gun handling, insufficient lubrication or improper ammunition.

Whatever the cause, the user of the pistol must, above all, recognize that any cartridge jam can result in the very potentially dangerous situation of a cartridge discharging before it is properly chambered. If this happens, the cartridge case may rupture and its fragments fly out of the ejection port of the pistol with sufficient force to cause serious injury.

Always wear shooting glasses!

TO MINIMIZE MALFUNCTIONS (“JAMS”):

1. If it appears that the jam was caused by the type of ammunition being used, try another brand, type or lot number. Remember — use only factory ammunition of the correct caliber and no steel case ammunition!
2. If changing ammunition does not at once eliminate malfunctions, then the following steps should be taken:
 - a. Thoroughly clean the pistol, paying particular attention to the removal of accumulated grease and dirt. Use a bristle brush and solvent to remove grease and fouling from the breech-face, extractor, chamber and feed ramp area immediately behind the chamber.
 - b. Check to be sure that the magazine spring firmly returns the magazine follower to the top of the magazine.
 - c. Check the magazine lips to be certain that they are free of nicks and burrs and that they are not deformed or cracked.

d. Remove excess oil and solvent from all cleaned components, load the magazine and try the pistol again. Make sure you are following the correct loading and firing sequence as described in this manual.

e. Always be sure that the pistol has been properly lubricated with a good gun oil.

f. If none of the above steps are effective, try a different magazine of I.O.INC manufacture. If a new magazine does not function correctly, return the pistol and magazine.

ALTERATIONS TO THE PISTOL OR USE OF NON-I.O. MAGAZINES AND ACCESSORIES MAY CAUSE MALFUNCTIONS.



DISASSEMBLY:

Unload your pistol. Then, while holding back the slide remove the assembly pin from the pistol. Push the barrel back. While holding the slide, slowly let it move forward off the frame. Remove the recoil spring and barrel. No further disassembly is recommended. Do not rotate the firing pin screw, it is factory adjusted.

ASSEMBLY:

Make certain the barrel and recoil springs are well centered when putting them back in the slide. Push the slide onto the frame, and while holding the slide back, allow the barrel to slide forward. Look into the assembly pin hole and align it with the cut in the barrel. Insert the pin at a slight angle in order to push the spring down and then push the pin completely in. Work the slide a few times to check the action.

DO NOT DRY FIRE YOUR HELLCAT!

As with any gun, dry firing should be avoided.

MAINTENANCE:

Your pistol is a precision instrument and to insure reliable function it is necessary to follow a routine maintenance procedure. After firing your pistol, be sure to unload it following the procedure outlined in the section entitled "Unloading" before any cleaning or maintenance procedure. Your pistol should be cleaned by brushing the barrel bore and chamber with a good powder removing solvent and bore brush. Wipe the areas clean with patches or a swab. Using a small brush dipped in solvent, remove all deposits from around the breech of the barrel, chamber, extractor and adjacent areas which have been subjected to the action of powder or primer residue. Remove any residue on the frame with light brushing and a solvent. After cleaning the entire gun, use cloth to apply a light coating of high quality gun oil to all external surfaces and wipe clean. Also please make sure that you apply a few drops of oil to the trigger, hammer mechanisms, and the aluminum slide rails. For a more detailed cleaning, the pistol should be disassembled as described in the section "Disassembly".

SERVICE:

Should your pistol require adjustment, refinishing or repair, it should be returned to the factory in unloaded condition. In shipping the pistol, be sure to adhere to the following rules: Individuals who wish to return the handgun for service can do so by shipping it prepaid to the address below. No return authorization number is required. Include a letter of instruction, full name, address, telephone number and the gun's serial number. This will ensure prompt service and handling. Once your pistol has been received, anything other than warranty work will receive a quotation. You will be notified of full charges and no work will commence before receiving your approval of our quotation. All quotations are payable by money order, Visa and Master Card only. No COD's or personal checks will be accepted. Please return your pistol to:

I.O. INC.
3305 WESTWOOD INDUSTRIAL DRIVE
MONROE, NC 28110
1-866-882-1479

TO LOAD AND FIRE (WITH MAGAZINE):

Practice this important aspect of safe gun handling with an unloaded pistol until you can perform each of the steps described below with skill and confidence. But before you do anything with the pistol, first read completely through this manual.

1. Be certain the muzzle is pointed in a safe direction.
2. Press the magazine latch and remove the magazine from the frame. NOTE: The magazine is designed to fall free of the

frame of its own weight when unloaded and the pistol is held in the normal firing position, but you should always prevent possible damage to the magazine by not letting it drop to the ground unless rapid reloading is absolutely necessary.

3. Place six (6) or fewer .380 Auto cartridges into the magazine from the top.

4. Insert the magazine into the frame, taking care that the magazine is locked in place by the magazine latch. Slamming the magazine into the frame forcibly is not necessary.

5. Hold the pistol firmly in the shooting hand but do not touch the trigger. Keep the pistol pointed in a safe direction. With the thumb and forefinger of the other hand grasp the top of the slide and pull the slide to the rear as far as it will go (see Figure 1A, below). Use care to not place any part of your hand in front of the muzzle. When released, the slide will fly forward to strip the top cartridge from the magazine and chamber it. The hammer automatically moves to the semi cocked position as the slide moves forward.



6. If the pistol is not to be used immediately, the magazine should be removed and the chamber unloaded.

7. The pistol is ready for instant use. When the pistol is in the "semi-cocked" mode, the first shot can be fired double

WARNING: The pistol is ready for instant use when the trigger is pulled once the slide moves fully forward. Be careful!

action by pulling the trigger all the way to the rear, which fully cocks and releases the hammer and then fires the pistol. Subsequent shots are fired in the same way by releasing and then pulling the trigger until the magazine is empty, the hammer being semi cocked by the slide as it recoils from each shot. After a shot is fired the trigger must be allowed to move fully forward. If the trigger is pulled before the trigger mechanism fully resets (two "clicks") the hammer may not fire the cartridge.

8. Immediately following the firing of a shot, and if a subsequent shot is not to be fired at once, remove the magazine and empty the chamber manually. Be sure the chamber is empty. If the slide is shut, the shooter should always assume that there is a cartridge in the chamber! Don't rely on your memory to know if a gun or magazine is loaded. Visually inspect the magazine and chamber.



The slide automatically opens and shuts quickly while firing. Keep face and hands away from rear. Hot brass is ejected quickly and can burn you. Always wear shooting glasses and hearing protection.

WARRANTY:

This warranty is granted by I.O.INC Monroe, NC 28110. This lifetime warranty is effective from the date of purchase and applies to the original owner of a HELLCAT Pistol. HELLCAT handguns are warranted to be free from defects in material and workmanship. Any such defects of which I.O.INC receives written notice by the original owner will be remedied by I.O.INC without charge within a reasonable time after such notification and delivery of the handgun as provided below. Warranty claim and the gun concerned should be delivered (transportation charges prepaid) to:

**I.O.INC
3305 WESTWOOD INDUSTRIAL DRIVE
1-866-882-1479**

Return Material Authorization Form is available for download online, and can be found by visiting www.IOINC.us.

No return authorization number is required. In addition, a copy of a bill of sale in the owner's name or a copy of ATF Form 4473 indicating date of purchase must be included. In order to expedite service, warranty claims should state the model and serial number of the gun concerned and a description of the difficulty experienced. It is recommended that shipments be insured by the owner, since I.O.INC will accept no responsibility for loss or damage in transit. Transportation and insurance charges for return to owner will be paid by I.O.INC if the claim is covered by the warranty.

Under no circumstances shall I.O.INC be responsible for incidental or consequential damages with respect to economic loss or injury or property damage, whether as a result of breach of express or implied warranty, negligence or otherwise. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation or incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you.

I.O.INC will not be responsible for defects resulting from careless handling, unauthorized adjustments or modifications, defective or improper ammunition, corrosion, neglect, abuse, ordinary wear and tear, or unreasonable use.

HELLCAT.380

ITEM # IOPI0001



Caliber	.380
Capacity	6+1
Length	5.16in
Height	3.6in
Weight	9.4oz
Barrel Length	2.75in
Grooves	6
Twist	1:16in

QUALITY MADE IN THE CAROLINAS. The I.O. Hellcat is a compact .380 Auto Pistol, which is ideal for concealed carry or as a backup firearm for law enforcement. Designed for both male and female shooters, the Hellcat is affordable and reliable. The size and weight of the Hellcat makes it ideal for all-day carry - ensuring your protection.

All of us here at I.O. thank you, our customers, for your business. We are proud to manufacture quality firearms in the United States. All of our staff members take pride in their jobs and I.O. supports our domestic economy. Please enjoy our products in a safe manner by following the rules of handling a firearm. God bless America.



 **I.O.**
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