



Safety & Instruction Manual For Sidelock Muzzleloaders



⚠ WARNING: Black Powder or an approved black powder substitute are the only propellant powders that are safe to use in a muzzleloading firearm.

YOU MUST READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS AND WARNINGS CAREFULLY. FAILURE TO READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS AND FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS MAY RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH TO YOU AND OTHERS AND DAMAGE TO PROPERTY.

Traditions™ Performance Firearms
1375 Boston Post Road
P.O. Box 776
Old Saybrook, CT 06475
(860) 388-4656
www.traditionsfirearms.com

Your Muzzleloading Rifle

Congratulations on your purchase of a Traditions™ muzzleloader. You have selected a muzzleloading firearm designed and engineered to give today's shooters excellent performance and optimum accuracy. When given the respect and care that any firearm demands, you can expect many years of reliable service and enjoyable hunting from your new Traditions™ muzzleloader.


The Sport of Muzzleloading

More and more sportsmen have discovered the challenge and enjoyment of muzzleloading in recent years. For both hunting and target shooting, muzzleloading guns have helped a modern generation recapture and enjoy an important aspect of our nation's sporting past. Traditions™ muzzleloaders represent the latest developments in this unique part of the shooting sports. They are manufactured to modern standards for safe and enjoyable shooting. This booklet is intended as a basic guide for the proper maintenance, loading and shooting of Traditions™ muzzleloaders, and it offers important rules and precautions for safe handling and shooting of this type of firearm. In addition to this booklet, it is recommended that the you obtain further information and instruction before firing a muzzleloader.

Sources for this help include:

1. National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association
2. National Rifle Association
3. Local sporting goods dealer, state DEP
or conservation department
4. Local muzzleloader or hunting club
5. National Shooting Sports Foundation

**This SAFETY & INSTRUCTION
MANUAL should always
accompany this firearm and be
transferred with it upon change of
ownership or when the firearm is
presented to another person.**

 DANGER: Always keep your firearm pointed in a safe direction with your finger off the trigger until you are ready to fire. Never point a firearm at anything you do not intend to shoot and always be sure of what is beyond your target.

**If you don't have a manual, a printed copy is available free upon request by contacting Traditions™ at the address below. A manual is also available via download at:
www.traditionsfirearms.com**

**• CUSTOMER SUPPORT •
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P.O. Box 776
Old Saybrook, CT 06475
(860) 388-4656
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1. YOUR SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES


SAFETY IS YOUR NUMBER ONE RESPONSIBILITY!!!!


No matter if you are at home, in the field, at the range, or anywhere; your primary concern as a firearm owner must always be safety. You must always apply the following safety rules in every situation with any kind of firearm regardless of setting. If you feel unsure about any aspect of your firearm or its operation, please contact Traditions™ before using it.


 **WARNING: YOU MUST FOLLOW ALL OF THESE SAFETY RULES TO ENSURE THE SAFE USE OF YOUR FIREARM. THE FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS AND WARNINGS IN THIS MANUAL COULD CAUSE SERIOUS PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH TO YOU OR OTHERS AND DAMAGE TO PROPERTY.**


When you become a firearm owner, you take on a serious and demanding responsibility. How seriously you take this responsibility can be the difference between life and death. There is no excuse for reckless or abusive handling of your firearm. At all times you must handle your firearm with an intense respect for its power and potential danger.

 **WARNING: YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS AND ALL YOUR FIREARMS AT ALL TIMES.** In owning a firearm, you have a constant responsibility for your firearms' safety and security. You must always protect yourself and all others against injury or death from misuse of the firearm 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. This responsibility is not something you can ever neglect.


 **WARNING: ALWAYS BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND WHAT IS BEYOND IT.** Always know where a bullet you fire will hit and shoot only where there is a safe back stop free of any obstructions. Bullets can bounce or ricochet off many surfaces like rocks or the surface of water and travel in unpredictable directions with considerable velocity creating dangerous situations. NEVER fire randomly into the sky.


 **WARNING: NEVER SOLELY RELY ON MECHANICAL FEATURES SUCH AS A SAFETY.** Mechanical features such as safeties can fail and should never be relied upon with disregard to proper safe firearms handling. Only by following the safe firearms-handling procedures in this manual will the safe use of your firearm be assured. You are responsible for always following these safe firearm handling rules. Mechanical safeties in firearms are aides in establishing a more convenient operating system but are never replacements for safe handling on the part of the shooter.


 **WARNING: ALWAYS WEAR EYE AND EAR PROTECTION THAT ARE SPECIFIED FOR USE WITH FIREARMS** every time you handle your firearm for loading, firing, cleaning, or maintenance. Make sure that all bystanders where you will be shooting are also wearing the proper eye and ear protection.

 **WARNING: ALWAYS HAVE ADEQUATE VENTILATION WHEN DISCHARGING A FIREARM.** Discharging a firearm in poorly ventilated areas, cleaning firearms, or handling ammunition and loading components may result in exposure to lead and other substances known to cause birth defects, reproductive harm, and other serious physical injuries. Review the warnings and labels for all ammunition, loading components, and cleaning products carefully. Wash hands thoroughly after exposure.

 **WARNING: NEVER ALLOW THIS FIREARM TO BE USED BY ANYONE WHO DOES NOT UNDERSTAND ITS SAFE OPERATION OR HAS NOT READ THIS MANUAL IN ITS ENTIRETY.**

 **WARNING: NEVER DISASSEMBLE YOUR FIREARM** beyond the instructions outlined in this manual. Improper disassembly or re-assembly of your firearm may create a dangerous situation which can lead to serious injury or death to you or others or also the destruction of property.

 **WARNING: NEVER MANIPULATE, ADJUST, OR ALTER ANY OF THE INTERNAL COMPONENTS OF YOUR FIREARM.** Improper manipulation or alteration of any internal component may affect the safety and reliability of your firearm and create a situation where serious injury or death could occur. In addition do not replace any of the parts in your rifle unless they are genuine Traditions™ parts. The use of non-Traditions™ parts will void all warranties. Any alteration or replacement of parts in your Traditions™ firearm not performed by a qualified gunsmith using genuine Traditions™ parts may cause death, personal injury, or property damage. NOTE: Altering the factory-standard mechanical function of your firearm will VOID your warranty and could lead to unsafe handling and function of the firearm.

 **WARNING! DO NOT DRILL HOLES IN THE BARREL AS THIS COULD WEAKEN THE BARREL STRUCTURE LEADING TO A RUPTURE. A RUPTURED BARREL CAN CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY AND/OR DEATH TO THE SHOOTER OR BYSTANDERS AND DAMAGE TO PROPERTY. DRILLING HOLES IN THE BARREL VOID ALL WARRANTIES.**

⚠ DANGER: SAFE FIREARMS HANDLING IS YOUR PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ALWAYS. Firearms have the potential to be dangerous resulting in serious injury or death if they are misused or handled inappropriately. Safety must always be the primary concern of anyone who owns or handles firearms. Accidents are the result of violating the rules of safe firearm handling. Professional firearm safety training is available to supplement the safety instruction in this manual. Some examples of organizations to contact are your local firearms dealer, state conservation department, hunter safety department, law enforcement agency, local sportsman's club, the NSSF, and the National Rifle Association (NRA) for availability of firearms training.

⚠ DANGER: ALWAYS TREAT EVERY FIREARM AS IF IT IS LOADED AND WILL FIRE. Never assume or take anyone's word that the firearm is uncharged or unprimed - you must always physically check for yourself. Never pass a loaded firearm to another person. You must first open the action and then visually check that it is uncharged and unprimed before passing the firearm to another person. Keep your muzzleloading firearm uncharged, unprimed, and safely stored when not in use.

⚠ DANGER: NEVER PLACE YOUR FINGER INSIDE THE TRIGGER GUARD OR ON THE TRIGGER UNLESS YOU INTEND TO FIRE. Always keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target and you are prepared to fire. Also make sure that other objects do not touch the trigger at any time.

⚠ DANGER: ALWAYS KEEP YOUR FIREARM POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION. Never point the muzzle of a firearm at anyone or anything you do not intend to shoot. Many incidents have occurred because people pointed what they thought was an unloaded firearm in an unsafe direction. This is especially important when loading, unloading, or field stripping the gun. ALWAYS control the direction of the firearm.

⚠ DANGER: NEVER ENTER A VEHICLE/STRUCTURE AND NEVER CROSS ANY OBSTACLES SUCH AS FENCES OR STREAMS WITH A CHARGED OR PRIMED MUZZLELOADING FIREARM. Always make sure your muzzleloading firearm is unprimed or unloaded before crossing a fence, climbing a tree, jumping a ditch, entering a vehicle or structure, or negotiating any other obstacles.

⚠ DANGER: ALWAYS REMOVE THE PRIMER OR PERCUSSION/MUSKET CAP FROM THE BREECH PLUG OR NIPPLE BEFORE YOU CLIMB TO OR DESCEND FROM A TREE STAND. NEVER RAISE OR LOWER A PRIMED MUZZLELOADER FIREARM TO OR FROM A TREESTAND. Failure to follow this rule may cause serious injury and/or death to the shooter or bystanders and damage to property.

⚠ DANGER: NEVER LEAN A CHARGED AND PRIMED RIFLE AGAINST A TREE, A WALL, OR ANY SURFACE WHERE IT MAY FALL OVER. Once a rifle has been charged or primed it is your responsibility to protect against any situation that may result in an accidental discharge. Failure to follow this rule may cause serious injury and/or death to the shooter or bystanders and damage to property.

⚠ DANGER: NEVER UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES USE ALCOHOL OR DRUGS BEFORE OR WHILE SHOOTING. In addition, do not use your firearm if you are on any medication which impairs, even slightly, your mental or physical ability. You should also not use your firearm if you are excessively tired, distracted, or impaired in any way. You need to be alert and have your full attention devoted to the safe use of the firearm.

⚠ DANGER: ALWAYS USE THE CORRECT COMBINATION OF MUZZLELOADING APPROVED LOAD COMPONENTS FOR YOUR PARTICULAR MUZZLELOADING FIREARM as detailed in this manual.

⚠ DANGER: MAKE CERTAIN THE BARREL IS CLEAR OF ANY OBSTRUCTIONS BEFORE SHOOTING. Dirt, water, snow and other objects may inadvertently become lodged in the bore of the barrel. A small obstruction can cause a dangerous increase in pressure and may damage your firearm and cause injury or death. Refer to the field cleaning section of this manual if you discover any obstructions in the barrel for instructions on how to remove it.

⚠ CAUTION: BEFORE HANDLING ANY FIREARM, UNDERSTAND ITS OPERATION. Not all firearms are the same and some have features and mechanical operation unique to that specific firearm. Before using a firearm you should learn the mechanical features of that specific firearm you intend to use. If you feel unsure about any operational aspects of this firearm, please contact Traditions™ before proceeding with its operation. **WARNING:** This product contains, and is used in conjunction with other products containing, lead, a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm.

APPROPRIATE USE FOR YOUR FIREARM MEANS USING YOUR FIREARM FOR LEGAL PURPOSES. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in compliance with all applicable Federal, State, and Local laws and ordinances regarding the use of your firearm.

MAKE SURE THAT ALL A SLINGS, SCOPES, AND ANY OTHER ACCESSORIES ARE COMPATIBLE with the firearm and that they do not interfere with the safe operation of the firearm. It is your responsibility to understand and follow all instructions in this manual, as well as those which may be supplied with your ammunition and loading components and any accessory and how they all relate to each other.

2. SAFE STORAGE & TRANSPORTATION

⚠ WARNING: FIREARM SECURITY IS YOUR PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY. ALWAYS SAFELY STORE AND SECURE YOUR FIREARM. You must ensure that your firearms are securely and safely stored so that children and/or unauthorized users may not obtain them. Your firearms should always be kept unloaded and locked when not in use or in your immediate control. Never assume that the use of a lock alone is sufficient to safely secure your firearm. You must continually evaluate your personal situation and employ security systems that prevent children and unauthorized users from gaining access to your firearm. It is recommended that you secure ammunition in a locked container separate from your firearms.

⚠ WARNING: DO NOT LOAD UNTIL READY TO DISCHARGE YOUR RIFLE.

⚠ WARNING: FIREARMS ARE DANGEROUS IF THEY ARE USED AND/OR STORED IMPROPERLY. THEY POSE A RISK OF SERIOUS OR FATAL INJURIES. FIREARMS CAN BE ESPECIALLY DANGEROUS TO CHILDREN WHEN THEY ARE STORED IN AN IRRESPONSIBLE AND UNSAFE MANNER. FOR YOUR SAFETY AND THE SAFETY OF OTHERS, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU KEEP YOUR FIREARM LOCKED AND UNLOADED IN A SECURE PLACE. THE AMMUNITION AND LOADING COMPONENTS SHOULD BE STORED IN A SEPARATE, LOCKED, SECURE LOCATION WHEN IT IS NOT IN USE. SAFE AND SECURE STORAGE OF YOUR FIREARM IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT RULES OF FIREARM SAFETY. YOUR FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE RULES MAY RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH TO YOU OR OTHERS.

⚠ WARNING: MAKE SURE TO CHECK TWICE THAT YOUR FIREARM IS UNLOADED BEFORE TRYING TO INSTALL ANY LOCKING DEVICE.

⚠️ WARNING: NEVER TRANSPORT A CHARGED OR PRIMED MUZZLELOADING FIREARM. When transporting your firearm it must be uncharged, unprimed and securely locked. Safe and secure transportation of your firearm is another important aspect of your responsibility as a firearm owner.


⚠️ DANGER: NEVER STORE A CHARGED OR PRIMED MUZZLELOADING FIREARM. When storing your firearm it must be uncharged, unprimed and securely locked. If you fail to follow this instruction, you may experience a double load or fire the muzzleloader thinking it is unloaded.

⚠️ CAUTION: NEVER ASSUME THAT A "SECRET LOCATION" OR "HIDING PLACE" IS A SECURE STORAGE METHOD. Without your knowledge others, such as children, may be aware of your storage location or they may find it by accident. It is your responsibility to properly store your firearms, ammunition, and loading components and to always make sure they are not accessible to children or unauthorized persons.

⚠️ CAUTION: ALWAYS FOLLOW THE LAW! In many states and local municipalities there are laws and regulations that make it a crime to keep a firearm unlocked in an area that is accessible to children or others. Keeping a firearm locked and unloaded when not in use is not only a common sense safety practice... IT IS THE LAW. You must be familiar with all local, state, and federal laws regarding the safe storage and transportation of your firearm. Failure to know and follow the law may result in unauthorized access or use of your firearm by another for which you may be held accountable. Obey all laws relating to the storage and transportation of firearms. Your local police department or gun shop can provide you with the pertinent information for where you live on storing and/or transporting a firearm safely and legally.

3. SAFETY RULES FOR YOUR TRADITIONS™ MUZZLELOADER


In addition to the general Firearm Safety Responsibilities covered so far in this manual, there are additional guidelines specific to black powder muzzleloading firearms that must be adhered to at all times to ensure the safety of the shooter and others.


 **WARNING: UNDERSTAND THE TERMINOLOGY REGARDING LOADING.** When speaking of a muzzleloading firearm “Charge” or “Charged” refers to the presence of a propellant powder charge and projectile in the bore of the firearm


“Uncharge” or “Uncharged” indicates that the powder charge and projectile have been either fired or removed and that the bore is completely clear.


“Prime” or “Primed” applies to the act of placing a primer, cap, or priming powder in or on a muzzleloader.

“Unprime” or “Unprimed” indicates that the primer, cap, or priming powder has been removed from the firearm or is not in place.


 **DANGER: NEVER UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE USE SMOKELESS POWDER OF ANY TYPE OR IN ANY QUANTITY IN A MUZZLELOADING FIREARM, AND NEVER MIX POWDERS.** The use of any smokeless powder at all will result in a detonation or explosion which will cause injury and/or death to the shooter or bystanders and damage to property.


 **DANGER: NEVER USE ANY POWDER THAT YOU CANNOT POSITIVELY IDENTIFY.** The use of any mislabeled or unknown powder could result in injury and/or death to the shooter or bystanders and damage to property.


 **DANGER: USE ONLY BLACK POWDER OR AN APPROVED BLACK POWDER SUBSTITUTE IN YOUR TRADITIONS™ MUZZLELOADING FIREARM.** Never use even small amounts of smokeless powder, even if it may be black in color. The use of any propellant other than black powder or approved black powder substitute may cause injury or death to the shooter or bystanders and damage to property.


 **DANGER: NEVER SMOKE OR ALLOW BYSTANDERS TO SMOKE WHILE USING YOUR MUZZLELOADER.** The spark from a lighted cigarette, cigar, or pipe can ignite Black Powder or a Black Powder substitute, Percussion Caps, or Primers. Smoking around a charged or primed muzzleloader, percussion caps, primers, priming powder or supply of powder may cause premature firing of the firearm or an explosion of the powder can, horn, or flask causing serious injury and/or death to the shooter or bystanders and damage to property.


 **DANGER: DO NOT LOAD A MUZZLELOADER WHICH IS HOT FROM PREVIOUS FIRING.** ALWAYS ALLOW THE BARREL TO COOL BEFORE YOU BEGIN RELOADING YOUR MUZZLELOADING FIREARM.

 **DANGER: BEFORE YOU BEGIN LOADING, MAKE SURE YOUR MUZZLELOADING FIREARM IS NOT ALREADY CHARGED.** To make sure the firearm is uncharged, keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and insert the ramrod provided with the firearm into the bore. If the ramrod sits approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ " below the muzzle then the firearm is not charged, while if the end of the ramrod extends past the muzzle then it is charged and you will need to remove the charge.

 **DANGER: WHEN LOADING, MAKE SURE THAT THE PROJECTILE IS FIRMLY SEATED AGAINST THE POWDER CHARGE.** Serious personal injury or death can result if the projectile is not seated properly against the powder charge. To create a simple way to check this when loading is after you have fully seated a projectile against a powder charge mark the ramrod as a point of reference for a properly seated projectile.

 **DANGER: NEVER EXCEED THE RECOMMENDED MAXIMUM BLACK POWDER OR BLACK POWDER SUBSTITUTE CHARGE LISTED IN THIS BOOK.** If the recommended maximum charge is exceeded then injury or death to the shooter or bystanders can occur.

 **DANGER: NEVER POUND ON THE RAMROD WHEN LOADING.** Black powder and/or approved black powder substitutes are potentially sensitive to impact and could ignite from the impact of pounding on the ramrod. Always be sure to keep the muzzle pointed away from your face or body when loading. Place your fingers and hand around the ramrod, and not over the end of the ramrod when seating projectile for safety.

 **DANGER: NEVER PRIME YOUR MUZZLELOADING FIREARM UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO FIRE IT.** Your muzzleloader should remain unprimed until the instant before firing. After you prime the firearm, your full attention should be on the target and firing of the firearm.

⚠ DANGER: NEVER PASS A CHARGED MUZZLELOADING FIREARM TO ANOTHER PERSON. Once charged, a muzzleloading firearm requires your complete attention. Never charge the firearm and then hand it to another shooter. You should also never shoot a muzzleloading firearm that was charged by someone else. Only the person who actually performed the loading knows whether the firearm has been charged properly and should fire it.

⚠ DANGER: BEFORE YOU ACCEPT A MUZZLELOADING FIREARM FROM SOMEONE, CONFIRM FOR YOURSELF THAT IT IS UNPRIMED AND UNCHARGED. Treat all firearms as if they are loaded and will fire.

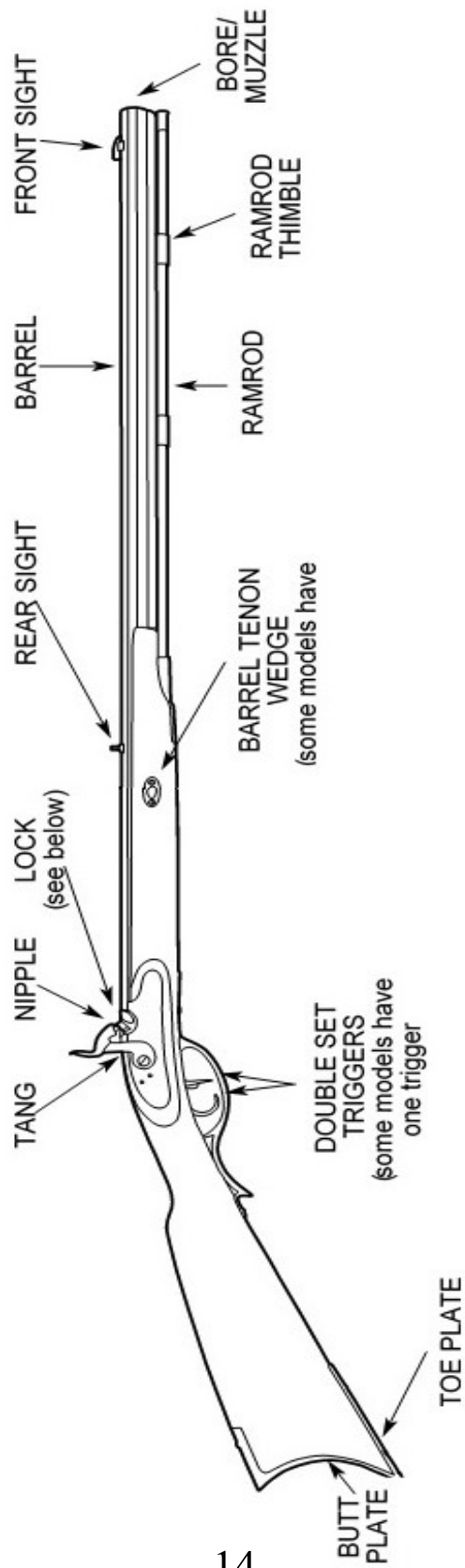
⚠ DANGER: NEVER CHARGE YOUR MUZZLELOADER DIRECTLY FROM A CAN, HORN OR FLASK. A spark from a previous firing may ignite the stream of powder being poured into the firearm and cause the container to explode. The explosion of a powder can, horn or flask may cause serious injury and/or death to the shooter or bystanders and damage to property. Use a separate pre-calibrated measuring device containing small quantities of powder to charge your firearm. Keep the muzzle directed away from your face and body when loading.

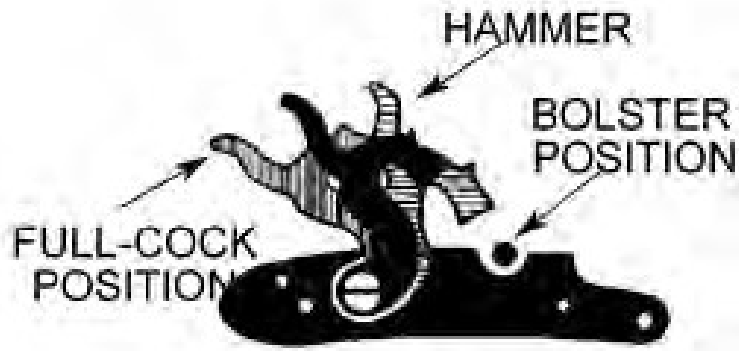
⚠ CAUTION: BLACK POWDER AND BLACK POWDER SUBSTITUTES ARE CORROSIVE BY NATURE AND LEAVE RESIDUES IN THE BORE AND ON THE FIREARM THAT REQUIRE IMMEDIATE CLEANING. A quick field cleaning should be performed just after you complete firing at the range or hunting. A thorough in depth cleaning is required before the storage for any amount of time to keep the firearm functioning properly and in a safe condition. Failure to properly clean the firearm may prevent the firearm from functioning safely and correctly and may result in injury or death to the shooter or others or damage to property.

⚠ CAUTION: DO NOT ATTEMPT TO SHOOT OR LOAD YOUR MUZZLELOADING FIREARM UNTIL YOU HAVE READ THIS MANUAL COMPLETELY AND FULLY UNDERSTAND IT. FAILURE TO READ AND FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS COULD RESULT IN INJURY AND/OR DEATH TO THE SHOOTER OR BYSTANDERS AND DAMAGE TO PROPERTY. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND ANY OR ALL OF THIS MANUAL, CALL THE CUSTOMER SERVICE DEPARTMENT AT TRADITIONS™.

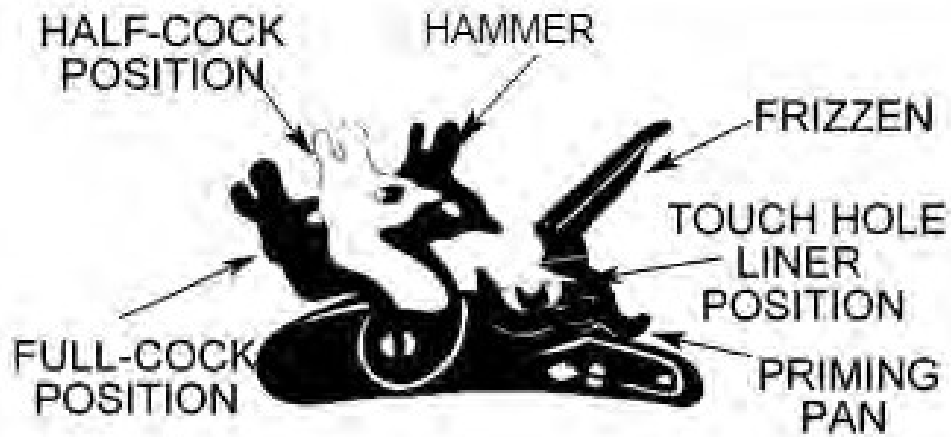
You must follow these procedures every time a firearm leaves your hand, is cleaned, handed to you or another person, transported or stored.

4. LEARNING THE BASICS OF THE SIDELOCK MUZZELOADER

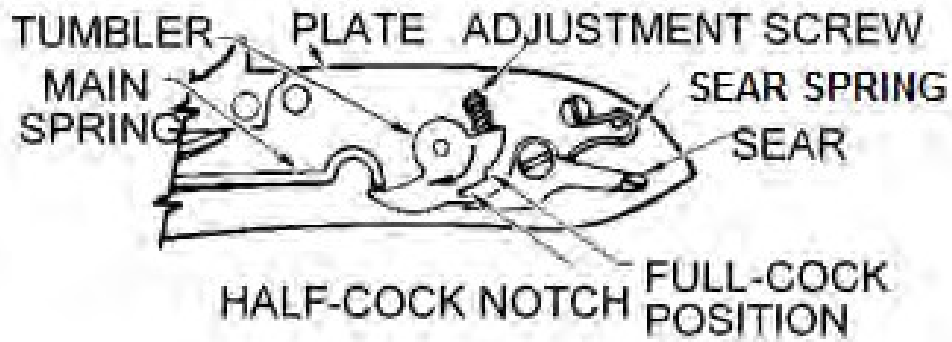




PERCUSSION: EXTERNAL LOCK PARTS



FLINTLOCK: EXTERNAL LOCK PARTS



Internal Lock Parts

Gun Model Name, Serial Number, and Caliber Designation on Barrel

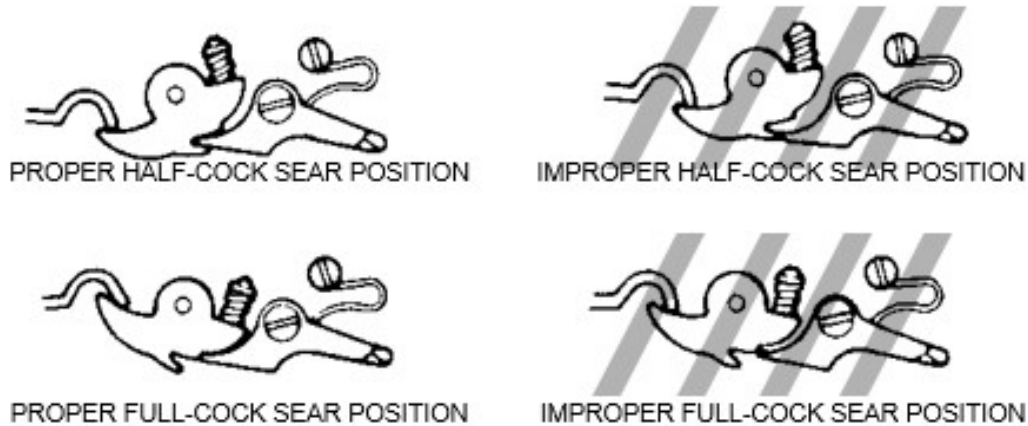


Propellant Marking on the Barrel



SAFETIES INCLUDED ON SIDELOCKS

Your Traditions sidelock muzzleloader comes equipped with captive half cock safety on the fire control system. This is where the hammer's forward rotation is arrested into a recess on the tumbler, not allowing it to fall forward without rotating the hammer back to full cocking position and pulling the trigger. The trigger will also be arrested at half-cock position and will not pivot if pulled.



LOCK ADJUSTMENT

If the lock of your gun functions properly as described in the Loading and Shooting Instructions, do not attempt to adjust it. If in the rare event adjustment is necessary, carefully make the following adjustments.

An adjustment screw is located on the lock tumbler. Turning this screw clockwise will reduce the engagement of the sear point on the tumbler. (See *diagrams*.)

CAUTION: Be extremely careful that the sear engages fully on the face of the tumbler. If it does not, a dangerous “hair-trigger condition” will exist with the danger of accidental firing. To reduce this danger, turn the adjustment screw counterclockwise to obtain more sear engagement.

5. FUNCTION TEST FOR SIDELOCK MUZZLELOADERS

⚠ WARNING: ALWAYS POINT THE MUZZLE IN A SAFE DIRECTION AND TREAT THE FIREARM AS IF IT WAS LOADED AND CAN FIRE.

⚠ WARNING: CONFIRM THE FIREARM IS UNCHARGED AND UNPRIMED BEFORE CONDUCTING ANY OF THE FUNCTION TESTS.

HOW TO DETERMINE THAT YOUR SIDELOCK RIFLE IS UNLOADED

1. Insert the ramrod down the bore of the barrel and mark it at the point where it exits the muzzle. In the event that the ramrod completely enters the barrel, take note of the distance between the end of the ramrod and the muzzle.

Note: Each time this test is done, make certain that the same attachments (if any) are screwed onto the loading end of the ramrod.

2. Remove the ramrod and lay it alongside the barrel.
3. Align the reference mark on the ramrod even with the end of the muzzle. If the gun is unloaded, the other end of the ramrod should be even with the nipple of a percussion gun or touch hole area of a flintlock. If it is significantly higher (2") than that, the barrel is probably either obstructed or loaded. In either case, this situation must be resolved before continuing with the loading and shooting procedures.
4. If you find an obstruction, please consult the "Unloading & Uncharging Your Rifle" section of this manual. Do not attempt to clear the barrel by firing.

If an obstruction is not found, a function test can be performed on the rifle to ensure that all parts are operating as intended. This function test should also be performed after anytime you have disassembled the rifle for cleaning or any maintenance.

Function testing the Hammer & Trigger

1. Cock the rifle by rotating the hammer rearward until you hear a metallic click and the hammer is locked into place. This means the rifle is now half-cocked and the safety feature is engaged.



2. Pull the trigger to ensure that the half-cock setting has arrested the pivoting ability of the trigger, as well as the hammer's ability to rotate forward.



3. Rotate the hammer to the fully cocked position.



4. Push forward on the rear of the cocked hammer. The hammer should remain in place and does not fall.



5. While empty and pointed in a safe direction, pull trigger in a rearward motion and hold. Hammer should now fall forward impacting the nipple (or frizzen area on a flintlock).




*NOTE: Visually inspect to be sure when the hammer is in forward position after firing that it is in alignment with priming system.

6. INITIAL CLEANING

CAUTION: When performing this test be mindful to always point the barrel in a safe direction and not towards any hard surface. Treat every gun as if it were always loaded and can fire at any time. Make sure the gun is unloaded by the procedure outlined previously in Function Test Section.

NOTE: BEFORE YOUR INITIAL USE, PLEASE CLEAN & LUBRICATE YOUR MUZZLELOADER!

These are brief instructions on what to do before you use your sidelock muzzleloader for the first time. Please review the disassembly instructions for the complete set of cleaning instructions. When you first remove the new muzzleloader from the box there will be some manufacturing oils and grease for shipping purposes. These residues need to be removed so that the muzzleloader will function properly.

 WARNING: Make sure the firearm is unloaded with the hammer in the half-cocked position. See Function Test section for how to check for loaded firearms.

A Note about maintenance procedures: Please refer to the Cleaning & Maintenance section for more information. Take time before such cleaning to study the Disassembly/ Assembly procedures and the accompanying photographs to thoroughly acquaint yourself with your rifle's subassemblies.

BE SURE TO WIPE ALL EXCESS OIL FROM THE EXTERNAL SURFACES OF YOUR NEW RIFLE.

FOR PERCUSSION MODELS

Method 1 - Make sure the rifle is unloaded and pointed in a safe direction. Place a properly sized percussion cap on the nipple and set the hammer on full-cock. Point the muzzle of the gun in a safe direction away from you and all other individuals. Point it an inch or two from a leaf, blade of grass or any other lightweight object on the ground and fire two or three percussion caps. This will help to clear any residue out of the nipple and ignition channel and if by firing the cap the object is moved, the barrel is clear of obstruction. Fire two additional caps to blow out any remaining oil or moisture. The gun is now ready for loading.


Method 2. Make sure the rifle is unloaded. Place a clean cleaning patch on the cleaning jag end of a ramrod. Insert the ramrod with clean white patch attached. Point the gun, with ramrod fully inserted, in a safe direction and fire a percussion cap. Remove ramrod. Observe amount of residue on the patch. Reinsert the ramrod with clean patch. Repeat this procedure until the patch comes out relatively free of oil and moisture.

FOR FLINTLOCK MODELS

Unfortunately no similar cleaning procedure exists for a flintlock model. It is best to wipe the interior of the barrel with a progressive series of cleaning patches affixed to the cleaning jag end of a ramrod until as much of the oil and moisture as possible has been removed.

7. BASIC EQUIPMENT FOR SHOOTING A SIDELOCK

In order to shoot your Traditions™ muzzleloader, you will need the following accessories or equipment listed below:

 CAUTION: DO NOT ATTEMPT TO SHOOT OR LOAD YOUR MUZZLELOADING FIREARM UNTIL YOU HAVE READ THIS MANUAL COMPLETELY AND FULLY UNDERSTAND IT. FAILURE TO READ AND FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS COULD RESULT IN INJURY AND/OR DEATH TO THE SHOOTER OR BYSTANDERS AND DAMAGE TO PROPERTY. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND ANY OR ALL OF THIS MANUAL, CALL THE CUSTOMER SERVICE DEPARTMENT AT TRADITIONS™.


1. Proper eye protection specified for use with firearms.
2. Proper ear protection specified for use with firearms.
3. Black powder or an approved black powder substitute in the appropriate type for your firearm.

WARNING: NEVER USE POWDER FROM AN UNKNOWN SOURCE

4. A powder measure.
5. Projectiles appropriate for your firearm such as Traditions™ lead balls
6. Priming Caps (for Percussion) or Priming Powder (for Flintlock)
7. Shooting Patches (These should be 100% cotton or linen)
8. Ball Starter
9. Nipple Wrench (for Percussion)
10. Bore cleaning patches.
11. A jag to hold cleaning patches.
12. An appropriate bore cleaner for muzzleloaders (like EZ Clean™).
13. An appropriate oil or rust inhibiting lubricant (like Wonderlube™).

Note: While not required, a Traditions™ range rod will make loading and cleaning easier and is recommended.

8. CHARGING YOUR TRADITIONS™ **SIDELOCK MUZZLELOADER**

 **DANGER: ALWAYS POINT THE MUZZLE IN A SAFE DIRECTION AND DO NOT HAVE ANY PART OF YOUR BODY OVER THE MUZZLE WHEN LOADING.**

Note: When using conical bullets or patched round ball, it is recommended to use loose powder only.

PREPARING TO LOAD THE CHARGE:

 **WARNING: Wear proper eye protection for entire loading process.**

Prior to loading, you must first ensure the gun is uncharged, unloaded, and the barrel is free of any obstructions.

Position for loading:

Rifle - Stand the rifle, butt end down, on the ground between your legs with the muzzle pointed upward and out away from you. It helps to have a shooting table against which to rest the rifle.

Pistol - Either stand the pistol on a loading stand or kneel on the ground holding the pistol between your knees

NOTE (for percussion): Check the nipple on a percussion gun or the flint, jaws and frizzen of flintlock gun, to be sure they are secure. Tighten, if necessary. Take care not to overtighten. Always lubricate threads when installing a nipple. Most Traditions™ percussion rifles and pistols utilize a nipple with M6 x 1 threads. Others may require a different size nipple.

LOADING THE CHARGE FOR MUZZLELOADING RIFLES:

NOTE: Use only black powder or an approved black powder substitute. Never use powder from an unknown source. Follow the powder manufacturer's instructions when measuring any type of powder as not all powders are measured the same. Some are measured by weight and some by volume, and volumetric measuring can vary depending on the type and manufacturer of the powder. (See more information on black powder and black powder substitutes)

When loading loose powder:

1. Fill your Traditions™ flask with Black Powder or Black Powder substitute of your choice.
2. Adjust your Traditions™ powder measure to the desired correct charge for the type of powder you are using based on the powder manufacturer's recommendations.
3. Pour powder from your Traditions™ flask into the desired powder charge. Pour powder from the powder measure down the barrel.
4. Tap the side of the barrel to help settle the powder into the breech area.



⚠ Warning: Never load powder into a gun directly from a can, powder horn or flask. Always use a separate calibrated powder measuring device. A remaining spark or ember in the barrel may cause serious injury and/or death to you or bystanders and damage to property.

Note: Preformed Pyrodex® Pellets generally work best in in-line rifles and were not designed for guns with side-lock ignition. The use of preformed powder such as pellets or sticks is NOT recommended

LOADING THE PROJECTILE:

PATCHED LEAD ROUND BALLS

⚠️ WARNING: CHECK AND CONFIRM THAT THE FIREARM IS UNCAPPED OR HAS AN UNCHARGED PAN PRIOR TO LOADING.

1. Lubricate one side of a shooting patch with Traditions™ WonderLube or use the convenient pre-lubed Traditions™ WonderLube Shooting Patches. Center the patch on top of the muzzle, lubed side down. Place the ball in the center of the patch. If the ball has a dimple “sprue,” face it upward.



2. Using a ball starter, place the short shaft on top of the ball and apply pressure to drive the ball downward into the muzzle. With a sharp knife cut away any of the patch remaining outside the barrel. (This is unnecessary if round pre-cut patches are used.)
3. With the longer shaft of the ball starter, drive the ball deeper into the barrel.



4. Place the ramrod on top of the ball and grasp it no more than 8 inches above the muzzle. (Any greater distance could result in breaking the ramrod and injury to your hand.) Apply moderate pressure and push the ball down into the barrel in 8 inch increments. Be sure to firmly seat the ball on top of the powder.



5. With powder and projectile properly and firmly loaded into the barrel, insert the ramrod into the barrel and mark it at the point where the ramrod exits the muzzle. In the future, this mark will serve to indicate that the barrel is loaded. Be sure that each time you measure, the ramrod has the same accessory tip attached, if any.



Note: You should now have two marks on your ramrod. One to indicate that the barrel is unloaded and one to indicate when the barrel is loaded. These are very important reference marks that will prove valuable in the future.

⚠ WARNING: Any air gap between powder and ball is a potentially dangerous situation that could cause a burst barrel with death or bodily injury resulting.

CONICAL BULLETS

Note: When using conical bullets or patched round ball, it is recommended to use loose powder only.

1. Lubricate the projectile with Wonderlube™ 1000 Plus.
2. Place the projectile into the barrel using the ball starter and ramrod. Follow the same procedures as shown with the Lead Round Ball loading described previously.

Note: Patches are not to be used with conical bullets; these bullets are made to full bore size.

It is critical that the conical bullet is the correct size to your bore. It must fit fairly tight and require moderate pressure to seat on top of the powder. A loose fit could cause the projectile to separate from the powder, particularly if the gun is subjected to jarring or sharp movement or is carried with the muzzle down before ignition.

SABOT USE IN SIDELOCKS

Sabots can be used in side-lock guns. They will perform differently than patched round balls or conical bullets. It will be necessary to experiment with them to become familiar with their performance. The plastic material used in our Traditions™ sabots is self-lubricating; therefore you do not need to pre-lube your bullets or sabots.

1. Insert the base of the bullet into the sabot, making certain the bullet is firmly & fully seated against the bottom of the sabot.



2. Place the assembled projectile into the muzzle.



3. Start the projectile with your thumb.



4. Using a ball starter, place the short shaft on top of the bullet and push it downward until the starter hits the top of the muzzle.



5. Push the projectile deeper into the bore using the longer shaft of the ball starter until it hits the muzzle.

6. With the loading jag on your ramrod, position the ramrod on top of the bullet inside the bore. Holding the ramrod no further than 6" over the bore apply firm pressure downward until the bullet is on seated against the powder. (Holding the ramrod any higher will increase your chances of breaking your ramrod.)

7. With a clean barrel, after the bullet is seated fully against the powder charge, **mark the ramrod at the muzzle.** This will show you that each projectile is seated at the same depth each time. If you change the desired powder charge or projectile, you will need to change the mark and make a new one for the new charge.



WARNING: ALWAYS SEAT THE BULLET FIRMLY ON TOP OF THE POWDER CHARGE. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN INJURY OR DEATH TO YOU AND/OR BYSTANDERS.

IF IT IS FOUND THAT DUE TO FOULING A BULLET OR BALL BECOMES LOGGED PART WAY DOWN THE BARREL, THE FIREARM MUST BE DISSASSEMBLED AND THE CHARGE REMOVED. SEE SECTION ON UNCHARGING & UNLOADING.

9. PRIMING YOUR SIDELOCK

WARNING: DO NOT PRIME YOUR MUZZLELOADER UNTIL IMMEDIATELY BEFORE YOU ARE PREPARED TO FIRE.

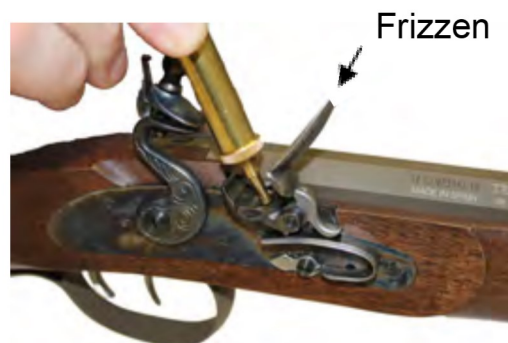
Percussion Models:

With the gun pointed in a safe direction (upward and down-range), move the hammer to the half-cock position and place a percussion cap of the proper size on the nipple.



Flintlock Models:

Tilt the frizzen (striker) forward to expose the pan and fill the pan with 4f powder. Close the frizzen.



10. FIRING THE TRADITIONS™

SIDELOCK

 **WARNING: BE SURE TO WEAR PROPER EYE AND EAR PROTECTION ANYTIME YOU FIRE YOUR FIREARM. ALSO MAKE SURE ALL BYSTANDERS IN THE AREA ARE WEARING PROPER EYE AND EAR PROTECTION AS WELL.**

 **WARNING: ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION AND BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND WHAT IS BEYOND IT.**

 **WARNING: NEVER SOLELY RELY ON THE MECHANICAL SAFETY OF YOUR FIREARM FOR YOUR OR OTHER'S SAFETY. IT SHOULD NOT REPLACE PROPER SAFE FIREARM HANDLING PROCEDURES DESCRIBED IN THIS MANUAL.**

Now after following the previous instructions your muzzleloader is charged, primed, and ready to fire.

1. Grasp the rifle firmly with both hands with your finger off the trigger and out of the trigger guard.
2. Raise the rifle up and firmly pull the stock into your shoulder.
3. Acquire your target and aim with your sights. Remember to be sure of what is beyond your target as well.
4. Pull the hammer in a rearward motion until it locks in the cocked position.
5. The rifle is now cocked and ready to fire.
6. Slowly squeeze the trigger until the rifle fires.

11. DEPRIMING YOUR MUZZLELOADER AFTER FIRING:

NOTE: Wait at least one minute before reloading to ensure that no spark or smoldering ember remains in the barrel that could possibly ignite fresh powder.

Percussion models: With the gun pointed in a safe direction, upward and down range, move the hammer to the half-cock position and remove the percussion cap from the nipple.




Flintlock models: With the gun pointed in a safe direction, upward and down range, move the hammer to the half-cock position. Tilt frizzen (striker) forward to expose the pan and clear of any residue powder from firing.



12. MISFIRES & HANGFIRES

If after following the previous instructions the rifle did not fire then you have had a misfire or hangfire. Anyone involved with muzzleloading firearms may experience a misfire or hangfire at one time or another. The following are a few simple procedures that will help you to effectively manage such occurrences.

 WARNING: A MISFIRE OR HANGFIRE IS A DANGEROUS SITUATION AND IT IS IMPERATIVE YOU PROCEED WITH EXTREME CAUTION. AS YOU ALWAYS SHOULD DO, BUT ESPECIALLY IN THIS SITUATION, BE SURE TO KEEP THE FIREARM POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION AS IT MAY FIRE AT ANY TIME.

MISFIRE

A misfire is a failure of either the primer or the main charge to ignite. This could be a very hazardous situation.

 WARNING: Extreme caution should be exercised when dealing with a misfire.

Rarely is a misfire the fault of the rifle. Generally, it can be attributed to a problem with the propellant or primer or improperly cleaning the rifle. Should your gun fail to fire for any reason, **keep the muzzle pointed at your down-range target for at least one minute with the action closed.**

Percussion models:

1. Keep the barrel pointed upward and toward your target. Wait at least one minute. By doing so, this will make sure you are prepared for the chance of delayed ignition, also called “hangfire”.
2. After this interval, place the hammer at half-cock with the gun pointed in a safe direction, remove the percussion cap from the nipple and insert a nipple pick or fine wire deeply into the hole of the nipple to ensure that the hole is not clogged. Slap the barrel on the lock side to force powder into nipple area.
3. Place another percussion cap on the nipple, set hammer on full-cock and with the gun pointed in a safe direction attempt to fire again.
4. If ignition still does not result, wait another minute, and with the gun pointed in a safe direction, set hammer at full-cock and remove the fired percussion cap then remove the nipple.
5. Introduce a small amount of powder into the nipple hole by slapping the left side of the gun with the palm of your hand in attempt to induce the powder as far into the barrel as possible.

6. Reinstall the nipple.
7. Set hammer at half-cock.
8. Install a new percussion cap on the nipple, set the hammer on full-cock and with the gun pointed in a safe direction attempt to fire again.

Flintlock Models:

1. Keep the barrel pointed upward and toward your target. Wait at least one minute. By doing so, you will make sure you are prepared for the chance of a delayed ignition, also called "hangfire".
2. After this interval, set the hammer at half-cock and, with the gun pointed in a safe direction, tip the frizzen forward to expose the pan.
3. Insert a nipple pick or fine wire through the touch hole in the side of the barrel to ensure that the ignition channel is not blocked.
4. With the palm of your hand, slap the lock side of the gun in an to attempt to induce the powder to be as close to the pan as possible.
5. Recharge the pan with 4fg powder.
6. Close the frizzen, set hammer on full-cock and attempt to fire again.

Note: Given their level of technology, a misfire is more prevalent with flintlock models than with percussion models. Two or three attempts may be necessary to ignite a stubborn load. Also, flints and frizzens do wear out over time and should be replaced.

ON BOTH PERCUSSION AND FLINTLOCK

If the above techniques do not work, the charge must be removed from the barrel. First use the ramrod marking test to first see if powder was indeed installed before the projectile. If the muzzle is positioned between the unloaded and loaded marks on the ramrod, it may be that powder was not installed before the projectile. Another possibility is that there was too much oil or moisture in the barrel and the propellant got damp. In either case, the projectile will have to be removed. At this point, the beginning shooter should ask for the help of an experienced shooter with the proper tools.

HANGFIRE

CAUTION: If you experience a hangfire, wait at least one minute before reloading to ensure that no spark or smoldering ember remains in the barrel that could possibly ignite fresh powder.

A hangfire is a delayed ignition. The primer fires when the trigger is pulled and the main charge fires a brief moment later. There are many reasons that hangfires occur. If you are experiencing hangfires, there are possible causes that you need to evaluate. Verify the following:

1. Verify that the primer is the correct size and properly fitted onto the nipple.
2. Inspect that the ignition channel is clear of obstructions.
3. Verify that the proper propellant is being used and that it is the proper granulation and is free from moisture, contamination and oils.
4. Check the condition of the primers and propellant powder. Inspect the nipple to make sure it is in good condition. For hunting situations, it is a wise practice to use fresh primers and powder. Use a fresh load for each day's hunting.


13. UNLOADING AND UNCHARGING **YOUR SIDELOCK**

1. Check to be sure the rifle is unprimed and unloaded. Place hammer in half-cock position.
2. With the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, remove the barrel from the stock.
3. With the nipple and clean-out screw removed from percussion models or the touch-hole liner removed from flintlock models, submerge the breech end of the barrel in about 10 inches of water or heavy oil for 20 minutes.
4. Screw a bullet/ball puller onto the threaded end of the ramrod. Insert the ramrod into the barrel and forcefully screw the bullet/ball puller into the projectile and carefully pull it out.


Note: When extracting sabot bullets the first few inches of the pull will separate the projectile from the plastic sabot. At this point the bullet will be free from the sabot and will come out easily. It will then be necessary to reinsert the ball puller screw back down the barrel and screw it into the plastic sabot and also pull it out.

5. Remove powder, if any.
Note: After powder dries it will once again be volatile. Handle it with care.
6. Clean and dry the bore of the barrel making sure the breech area is dry before reloading fresh powder.

14. HOW TO CLEAR AN OBSTRUCTION FROM YOUR SIDELOCK

 WARNING: NEVER ATTEMPT TO REMOVE A CHARGE FROM YOUR MUZZLELOADER UNTIL YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT THE FIREARM IS UNPRIMED.

 WARNING: ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION.

 DANGER: NEVER SMOKE OR ALLOW BYSTANDERS TO SMOKE WHILE USING YOUR MUZZLELOADER. The spark from a lighted cigarette, cigar, or pipe can ignite Black Powder or a Black Powder substitute, Percussion Caps, or Primers. Smoking around a charged or primed muzzleloader, percussion caps, primers, priming powder or supply of powder may cause premature firing of the firearm or an explosion of the powder can, horn, or flask causing serious injury and/or death to the shooter or bystanders and damage to property.


Under normal conditions, the rifle is unloaded by simply firing the rifle into a safe and suitable backstop. However, there are some conditions under which the rifle cannot be fired and the charge must then be removed manually.


Some of the most common conditions in which manually removing a charge would be required are:

1. If the projectile was not seated firmly against the powder charge, stop immediately! Do not attempt to fire the rifle. You must remove the charge and clean the barrel prior to firing.
2. If the rifle has been loaded properly yet fails to firing after repeatedly re-priming and clearing the ignition channel
3. If you are present at a location that is not suitable for discharging the rifle before transporting it.

To remove a charge from your Traditions™ Sidelock, follow these steps:

1. Be sure that the rifle is unprimed and the lock is in the half cock position.
2. Remove the cap from the nipple on the cap lock for a percussion rifle or open the frizzen and remove the priming powder for a flintlock rifle.
3. Remove the barrel from the stock following these steps:
 - A.) Remove the ramrod from the thimbles and set it aside
 - B.) Pull out any wedge pins. You may need to tap it partially out in order to grasp the wedge/s and pull it out the rest of the way.
 - C.) Lift the barrel up, pulling the barrel forward and away from the lock assembly. Pull the barrel in a forward motion, pulling the breech plug out of the breech plug slot in the tang.
4. Using a bucket or container wide enough for the barrel, add 7-8 inches of hot water to the container.
5. Submerge the breech end of the barrel in the water to render the powder inside of the barrel inert.
6. Soak the breech end of the barrel in the hot water for at least 30 minutes. At this point, the powder charge should be rendered inert and you can remove the projectile with a ball puller on the end of your ramrod.
7. After the powder and projectile have been removed from the barrel, clean the barrel and breech plug by following the cleaning instructions in this manual

 **WARNING:** If you are unable to remove the charge, be sure that the powder has been rendered inert with hot water and then squirt oil through the touchhole or nipple channel into the breech plug. At this point, please call your local gunsmith or Traditions Customer Service department at 1-860-388-4656.

 **WARNING: It is in violation of Federal Law to ship a loaded firearm. If your gun has a live cartridge, charge, and/or projectile in the chamber or barrel, please take it to a local gunsmith for removal or call Traditions Customer Service Department at 860-388-4656.**

15. CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

⚠ WARNING: Confirm there are no powder charges, primers, or projectiles present or available during any disassembly, reassembly, or function test procedures.

Note: Reference the exploded view diagram in this manual to help identify part names and numbers.

RANGE CLEANING AND ADVICE WHILE SHOOTING

A systematic routine of cleaning while shooting is strongly advised to avoid problems while loading and to optimize accuracy.

1. When cleaning the bore use Traditions EZ Clean cleaning patches rather than shooting patches. Shooting patches are too small for cleaning and can be lost in the bore.
2. If a patch becomes lost in the bore, use a Traditions Patch Puller Worm attached to a ramrod for retrieval, Never load a charge over a lost patch.
3. If unusual resistance is felt while loading a projectile, place an EZ Clean™ cleaning patch on a cleaning jag affixed to the end of a ramrod and run it the full length of the barrel several times with your objective being to remove as much of the fouling build up as possible.

NOTE: It should never be necessary to hammer or excessively force a projectile down the bore. Projectiles should load firmly against the powder charge with a series of short strokes. If the projectile is the proper size, unusual resistance usually indicates the need to swab the bore with a treated cleaning patch. Use EZ Clean™ solvent if barrel is heavily fouled. An occasional cleaning of the bore with a brass Traditions™ Bore Brush is advisable to remove excessive plastic and fouling build-up.

4. When target shooting or sighting in, develop a habit of consistently wiping the bore with Traditions™ EZ Clean™ patches after each shot. Depending upon the specific load, temperature, and humidity, a short series of shots with black powder or black powder substitute can be fired before it becomes necessary to wipe the bore with Traditions™ EZ Clean™ patches or in order to remove fouling build-up. If for any reason the projectile will not go all the way down to the powder charge, it will be necessary to extract the projectile from the barrel with a bullet puller on a ramrod.

NOTE: A dirty fouled barrel will directly affect your ability to group shots. However, in a hunting situation, only a few shots will likely be taken. If the barrel is prepped and lubed at the onset, it is not necessary to clean and lube the interior of the barrel between shots when hunting.

FIELD CLEANING & DISASSEMBLY

PROCEDURE

The field disassembly procedure is most often used for general cleaning, lubrication and inspection of your rifle. It must be completed after each shooting session. This procedure allows for quickly cleaning, lubrication and inspection of all important parts and assemblies. The field disassembly procedure outlined below will keep your rifle shooting safely and reliably for years to come. .

Required Tools & Supplies:

- Bore solvent patches
- Bore dry patches
- Pipe Cleaners
- Bore brush
- EZ Clean™ solvent
- Traditions™ range rod or Wonderlube™ 1000 ramrod with jag
- Wonderlube or other firearms lubrication product

Caution: Before loading and firing your new Traditions™ gun for the first time, remove the nipple and clean-out screw from the bolster or the touch hole liner from the flintlock and coat the threads of each with Traditions™ WonderLube. This will help in future removal. It is advisable to coat these threads on a regular basis and whenever a new nipple or clean-out screw or touch hole liner is installed

These items are relatively inexpensive. Nipples should be changed frequently and the clean-out screw at least once a year.

Black powder and Pyrodex® are both very corrosive and leave considerable residue in the barrel. For proper shooting, protection and safety, your gun must be cleaned frequently after each shooting session by using these simple methods.

CLEANING DURING TARGET OR BENCH SHOOTING

1. After every shot or two, or as soon as you notice any resistance in introducing a projectile down the barrel, place a cleaning patch treated with a commercial black powder solvent on a loading/cleaning jag attached to a ramrod and run it down the barrel a few times to remove the fouling build up. For very fouled barrels, it may be necessary to use more than one patch.
2. Repeat with a clean treated patch one or two times. Follow-up with a dry patch or two to remove any moisture. This is highly advised when shooting sabot ammunition. If sabot ammunition is used always coat the rifling with Traditions™ WonderLube™ for easier loading and tighter groups. This is not necessary when hunting where only one or two shots will be fired.
3. As soon as possible after your firing session is completed, your gun must be thoroughly cleaned. To leave a gun uncleaned, even overnight, can result in serious and damaging corrosion. Following of simple cleaning instructions should be implemented.

GENERAL CLEANING

Important: Never remove the bolster/drum or breech plug from the barrel. They have been installed at the factory such that they interlock with each other for maximum lockup strength. The removal or alteration of these key parts will compromise the performance of your gun, void your warranty, and can create an unsafe situation.

1. Remove the nipple and clean-out screw from the bolster/drum of a percussion gun or the touch hole liner from a flintlock.
2. Wrap a cleaning patch around a loading jag attached to a ramrod.
3. Pump warm soapy water or a black powder solvent down the muzzle and out the hole(s) in the breech end of the gun.
4. Insert a pipe cleaner into the bolster/drum fire channel to help remove any residue.
5. Rinse and dry barrel.

DETAILED CLEANING & DISASSEMBLY PROCEDURE

Caution: Perform a function test as described earlier in this manual to confirm your rifle is fully operational and reassembly was correctly completed.

NOTE: Store your rifle in a cool, dry, secured area. Storage in a gun case should be avoided as it may hasten condensation and corrosion. During long periods of storage, periodically check for signs of pitting or rusting on the surface and in the barrel bore.

DISASSEMBLY PROCEDURE

Traditions™ barrels are held in place by one of two methods. Select the appropriate procedure for your gun.

FOR HOOKED-BREECH MODELS

1. Remove ramrod.
2. Gently tap barrel tenon wedge(s) through and out of the barrel and stock.
3. Remove tang screw.
4. Remove barrel from stock by lifting the muzzle end of the barrel upward and out of the stock and pivoting around the breech as you elevate the front of the barrel from the stock. It may require a little force to initially break the barrel free of the stock.

FOR INTEGRAL TANG MODELS

1. Remove ramrod.
2. Carefully tap barrel tenon pins to drive them out the opposite side of the forend. Take care not to damage the stock.
3. Remove tang screw located at the very back end of the barrel.
4. Lift barrel from stock. Light tapping may be necessary to initially break the barrel free of the stock.

CLEANING PROCESS

CAUTION: Each time the gun is cleaned, be sure to remove both the clean-out screw from the end of the bolster/drum and the nipple. (On flint-lock models remove the touch hole.) Clean the fire channel in the bolster with a pipe cleaner or the like. Reinstall the clean-out screw and nipple (or touch hole). Be sure to always lube the threads of the clean-out screw, nipple or touch hole liner with WonderLube to insure their easy future removal.

1. An easy procedure is to stand the barrel in a pail of cleaning solution, breech end down.
2. With a cleaning patch on a loading/cleaning jag attached to the end of a ramrod, draw the solution in and out of the barrel by means of a pumping action to create suction.
3. Wipe the exterior surfaces of the barrel and the rest of the gun with a cloth dipped in the same cleaning solution.
4. Rinse the barrel with warm water and immediately dry the barrel.
5. The lock plate and trigger assembly can be removed from the stock, as well as the other metal components.

Note: Lock Removal Hint

On most models the ramrod retaining spring is attached to the stock by the lock plate screw closest to the barrel tenon pin or wedge. If that lock plate screw is unscrewed entirely, the spring may become dislodged in the stock. As a preventative measure, partially loosen that lock plate screw. Place a piece of tape over screw head to hold the screw (and ramrod retaining spring) in place. Unscrew the remaining lock plate screw. Remove the lock from the stock.

6. When the gun parts are dry, treat all metal surfaces, including the inside of the lock plate, with a light coating of a rust preventative or gun oil. Reassemble.
7. Store the gun in a cool, dry place which can be securely locked. Storage in a gun case is not recommended. It may retain moisture and hasten corrosion.

16. SIGHTING IN

Start your sighting in at approximately 25 yards with a large target. You want to achieve a grouping of shots no matter where on the target first. After you are able to shoot at least 3 shots in the same 2" area, then adjust your sight to the center bull's-eye.

To adjust: Move the rear sight in the direction you want the bullet to go.

Note: Take care not to over-tighten the screws or damage to the rear sight may occur.

POLYMER REAR SIGHT ADJUSTMENT

1. To adjust for elevation, loosen the screw found on the right side of the rear sight. To raise the bullet's point of impact, slide the upper portion of the sight forward (up the ramp). To lower the bullet's point of impact, slide the sight to the rear (down the ramp). Tighten the screw to lock sight in place.
2. To adjust for windage, loosen the small screw found on the top of the rear sight and just forward of the "V" notch. Slide the "V" notch to the left to move the bullet's impact point left, or to the right to move the bullet's impact point to the right. Tighten the screw to lock into place.

SCREW ADJUSTABLE REAR SIGHTS

1. To adjust for elevation, turn the large screw in the center of the sight.
2. To adjust for windage, turn the screw located on the right side of the sight. Turn the screw clockwise or counterclockwise to move the point of impact right or left, respectively.

FIXED REAR SIGHTS

1. The windage adjustment can be accomplished by tapping the rear sight in its dovetail with a small piece of wood. Moving the sight to the left, moves the point of impact to the left.
2. Elevation adjustment can be accomplished by filing off the top of the front sight to move the point of impact higher or deepening the slot in the rear sight to move it lower.

Note: Traditions™ recommends while sighting in your muzzleloader that you clean the bore between each of your shots. By doing this you are starting out with a fresh, seasoned bore that will help prevent some shooting errors such as powder build up that could cause poor accuracy. Different projectiles and recommended powder charges can vary in accuracy, so make sure to sight in using the same projectiles and powder charges first and then change if needed.

17. SIDELOCK TRIGGER SYSTEMS

DOUBLE SET TRIGGERS OPERATION

- a) The purpose of double-set triggers is to increase the sensitivity of the front trigger. The front trigger actually fires the gun. Double-set triggers are used during bench, precision target shooting and hunting.
- b) **Testing double-set triggers:**
1. Make certain gun is unloaded and always pointed in a safe direction.
 2. With the rifle pointed in a safe direction, place hammer in the half-cock (first click) position. Set (pull) the rear trigger until it clicks into position. With the hammer in the half-cock position, it should be impossible to make the hammer fall by applying pressure on the front trigger or pushing the hammer forward.
 3. Place the hammer in the full-cock (second position). Set the rear trigger. Test that it will stay in this position by attempting to push the hammer forward. With the hammer secure, very light pressure applied to the front trigger will then fire the rifle.

CAUTION: If the lock and triggers do not perform, as in steps “a” and “b” above, do not continue until this problem has been corrected. Follow the instructions under Double-set Trigger Adjustment in this booklet. If further assistance is needed call Traditions Customer Service Department.

DOUBLE-SET TRIGGER ADJUSTMENT

Many Traditions™ guns have double-set triggers. These are adjusted at the factory and will usually perform adequately without further adjustment. Any adjustment should be done carefully.

Tightening the small screw between the triggers reduces the pull weight needed to actuate the trigger. For any adjustment, first make sure the gun is unloaded then remove the trigger guard (and with the trigger area facing you) proceed as follows:

1. Place the hammer in full-cock (second position).
2. Cock the rear trigger.
3. Turn screw between the triggers clockwise until the trigger “fires.”
4. Turn screw one or more full turns counterclockwise.

CAUTION: To turn the screw less than one full turn counterclockwise will create a dangerous situation called a “hair trigger”.

There is a second adjustment screw just behind the rear trigger. The position of this screw regulates the force of the trigger “trip lever” and its height. This is adjusted at the factory. If the lock hammer does not remain in full cock (second position), adjust the trip lever as follows:

1. Set the rear trigger.
2. Turn the small screw clockwise until it stops. Then back the screw off one-half turn counterclockwise.
3. Test the operation. If the trigger has insufficient force to make the lock function, turn the screw counterclockwise very gradually until the lock functions. Backing the screw off too far will cause a condition where the lock hammer will not remain in full cock (second position). This setting on the trigger is to be avoided. See Lock Adjustment notes in safeties section.

SINGLE TRIGGER OPERATION

- a. With the rifle pointed in a safe direction, set the hammer in the half-cock (first click) position. It should not be possible to make the hammer fall from this position even with strong pressure is applied to the trigger or by pushing the hammer forward. If this is not the case, call Traditions Customer Service.
- b. Test the full-cock (second click) position to ensure that the hammer will securely stay in this position by attempting to push the hammer forward. Only when moderate pressure is applied to the trigger should the gun fire. In the event the hammer falls when minimal pressure is applied to the trigger (extreme hair trigger) or to the back of the hammer without involving the trigger, do not continue until this problem has been corrected. Contact Traditions Customer Service.

CAUTION: If the lock does not perform, as in steps “a” and “b” above, do not continue until this problem has been corrected.

18. INFORMATION ON BLACK POWDER & BLACK POWDER SUBSTITUTES

As a muzzleloading firearm shooter you become a reloader in addition to being the shooter. This adds another aspect of responsibility and requires that you strictly adhere to the proper safe charging of you firearm regardless of what type of black powder or black powder substitute you use. Failure to properly follow these instructions and the powder manufacturer’s recommendations may cause damage to the firearm and injury and/or death to the shooter or bystanders and damage to property.

BLACK POWDER

Black powder is the original propellant of firearms and is still quite useful today. Black powder is generally available in four different granule sizes which determines the appropriate use for the powder. The burn rate of black powder depends on its grain size.

Larger granules burn at a slower rate and therefore work best in large diameter rifles or canons; while smaller granules burn at a faster rate and work best in small caliber rifles or pistols. Selecting the correct granulation is imperative for the best reliable performance of your muzzleloading firearm.

Note: When purchasing black powder make sure that the granulation or type is clearly marked on the manufacturer's container so you can assure you are purchasing the correct powder for your application.

FG (also referred to as 1Fg or Single "F")

This is a very coarse black powder best suited to very large bore rifles and shotguns (10, 8, 4 gauge) that were produced in the past. This powder is one that you will not find very much use for and as such is not often seen for sale.

FFG (also referred to as 2Fg or Double "F")


This is a popular granulation as it has a wide variety of applications. Suitable for rifles .50 caliber and over, black powder shotguns in 12, 16, and 20 gauge and sometimes in large caliber single shot pistols (larger than .50 caliber).

FFFG (also referred to as 3Fg or Triple "F")

Since it can be used in a wide variety of applications this is the most popular and available granulation of black powder. Suitable for use in rifles and single shot pistols .50 caliber and under, as well as in all percussion (cap & ball) revolvers; this powder is the most versatile black powder available.

FFFFG (also referred to as 4Fg or Four "F")

This is the finest of the commonly available black powders and with its fast burn rate has limited applications. The best and most common application of this powder is for the priming of the flash pan on a flintlock rifle. Since it has such limited applications it can sometimes be hard to find at retailers.


 WARNING: Traditional black powder is extremely flammable therefore proper handling and storage procedures from the manufacturer should be strictly followed. If you have any concerns or questions on how exactly to handle or store black powder contact the manufacturer of the powder. Additional information on black powder storage is available from the National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA. 02269. (www.nfpa.org). They can be contacted by calling 1-800-344-3555 or emailing custserv@nfpa.org. Ask for pamphlet #495 for information regarding black powder.

BLACK POWDER SUBSTITUTES

In addition to traditional black powder there are now a multitude of suitable black powder substitutes that are appropriate for use in Traditions™ muzzleloading firearms. These powders can offer advantages over traditional black powder but sometimes require specific types of ignition and it is important to consult the powder manufacturer's instruction on appropriate ignition types.


Some black powder substitutes are offered in differing granulations similar to black powder, while others are only offered in one granulation. It is important that you select the appropriate powder and granulation for your specific application and firearm.


In addition most black powder substitutes relate closely to black powder on a volume to volume basis but not by weight. For this reason black powder substitutes are measured by volume as opposed to by weight. When using you a black powder measure you must follow the powder manufacturer's instructions on adjusting the measuring of the powder charge compared to what charge you would normally use with black powder.


 WARNING: DO NOT USE PYRODEX® CTG. While Pyrodex CTG is a blackpowder substitute, it is designed to be used in cartridge firearms which use cartridges that originally used black powder as their charge. It is not safe or recommended for use in muzzleloading firearms.

TYPES OF BLACK POWDER & BLACK POWDER SUBSTITUTES

Traditions™ does not sell or endorse any specific brand of black powder or black powder substitute. Follow the safe handling and storage precautions printed on the manufacturer's container and never purchase or use any powder that has been removed from their manufacturer's original container.

 WARNING: NEVER USE SMOKELESS POWDER OF ANY TYPE OR IN ANY QUANTITY IN A MUZZLELOADING FIREARM, AND NEVER MIX POWDERS. The use of any smokeless powder will cause injury and/or death to the shooter or bystanders and damage to property.

 WARNING: NEVER EXCEED THE RECOMMENDED MAXIMUM BLACK POWDER OR BLACK POWDER SUBSTITUTE CHARGE LISTED IN THIS BOOK OR BY THE POWDER MANUFACTURER. If the recommended maximum charge is exceeded then injury or death to the shooter or bystanders can occur.

 WARNING: Follow the powder manufacturer's instructions when measuring any type of powder as not all powders are measured the same. Some are measured by weight and some by volume, and volumetric measuring can vary depending on the type and manufacturer of the powder.

19. SUGGESTED LOADS FOR SIDELOCK MUZZLELOADERS

RECOMMENDED LOADS							
Round Ball Projectiles							
	Caliber	Round Ball	Patch Thickness	Black Powder Charge*			
				Most Accurate		Maximum	
				grains	granulation	grains	granulation
Pistol	.32	.310	.012 .015	10-12	3F	20	3F
	.45	.440	.015	15-20	3F	35	3F
	.50	.490	.015	20-25	3F	45	3F
Rifle	.32	.310	.012 .015	20	3F	35	3F
	.36	.350	.015	40-50	2F	70	2F
				35-45	3F	65	3F
	.45	.440	.015	46-70	2F	100	2F
				40-65	3F	95	3F
	.50 24-28 inch	.490	.015	50-75	2F	110	2F
				45-70	3F	105	3F
.50 30+ inch	.490	.015	70-75	2F	110	2F	
.54	.530	.015	55-80	2F	125	2F	
			50-75	3F	120	3F	
.58	.562	.015	60-85	2F	135	2F	
			55-80	3F	130	3F	
Flintlock Pan					4F		

Conical Projectiles

Conical projectiles must be loaded without patches. If they are not purchased prelubricated, they must be greased with Traditions™ WonderLube or any commercial black powder bullet lube.

CAUTION: Please refer to the manufacturer's load data for proper bullet type and weight

PROPELLANTS

- 1.** Cannons or very large-caliber rifles - we recommend 1 f/fg (coarsest granulation) black powder or Pyrodex®
- 2.** .45 to .58 caliber rifles - we recommend 2 f/ffg (coarse granulation) black powder, Pyrodex®, RS or Pyrodex®.
- 3.** Revolvers, pistols, and .38 caliber - 3 f/fffg (standard granulation) black powder, Pyrodex®, P
- 4.** Flintlock primer - 4 f/ffffg (finest granulation) black powder

Store all propellants according to the manufacturer's instructions listed on each container. Local fire regulations should also be followed.

20. WARRANTY & SERVICE

LIMITED LIFETIME MECHANICAL WARRANTY

Traditions™ will warrant this muzzleloading firearm (or parts in a kit to be built) to be free of mechanical defects in materials or craftsmanship for the life of the firearm, while in the possession of the original owner except wooden plastic stocks and finishes. Traditions™ will repair or replace, at its own option, product or parts which are returned at owner's expense to the Traditions™ Customer Service Department. Call 860-388-4656 to obtain a factory issued Return Merchandise Authorization number. A full explanation of the specific problem must be given to the customer service representative.

This warranty shall remain in force unless any of the following are determined by the Traditions™ Customer Service Department:

1. Use of any propellant other than black powder or approved black powder substitutes.
2. Use of any powder charge in excess of those recommended in this booklet or by the powder manufacturer.
3. Use of any plastic patching material with round balls.
4. Modification of internal parts as they were shipped from the factory.
5. A lack of proper maintenance and thorough cleaning is evident such as rust.
6. Peeling of camo finish after 1 year of service.
7. Customer abuse.

Traditions™ specifically disclaims any and all warranties other than those listed above on this page to the fullest extent allowed under applicable law, including warranties of merchantability and/or fitness for a particular purpose.

NOTE: Proof of purchase is required to show original ownership for all warranty work.

PLEASE HELP US SERVE YOU BETTER

In the event you should have questions pertaining to the function or performance of your new Traditions™ firearm please visit our website to get answers to the most commonly asked questions. Log on to www.traditionsfirearms.com where you will find the FAQ page. This page will get you fast access to trouble shooting solutions. If you do not find an answer to your specific question on the FAQ page of our website please feel free to email info@traditionsfirearms.com and a qualified member of our team will respond to your individual question as quickly as possible.

In the event you still need assistance please do not hesitate to contact Traditions™, and a member of our Customer Service Department will be happy to assist.

In the unlikely event you need warranty service on your new firearm; we need your help to get the work done right and without delay. It's as easy as dropping us a note or picking up the telephone.


Traditions™ conveniently engraves the caliber, serial number and model name on each barrel. Take note of this information, record it on the warranty page in this manual and be prepared to state it when contacting the Traditions™ Customer Service Department with your questions.


Contact Traditions at 860-388-4656, tell us what problem you are experiencing and we'll get busy to remedy your situation. Help is just a phone call away should you experience a problem. Simply follow these four simple steps and we'll get your firearm back in perfect working order in the shortest possible time.

Steps to Return a Rifle for Service

1. Do not return your firearm to the dealer.
2. Please call us and describe the problem. Chances are we can either guide you to a solution right over the phone or when possible send you the parts you need to correct the problem. Should your gun need factory service, we will give you instructions about where to ship it and issue you a Return Merchandise Authorization number.
3. All firearms must have a factory issued Return Merchandise Authorization number (RMA) before returning to Traditions for warranty service. Firearms without an RMA number will be refused

4. Package your unloaded rifle safely and securely inside a sturdy box. The Traditions box your rifle arrived in is NOT a shipping box.
NOTE: Firearms packaged and shipped improperly are not covered under warranty if damage occurs.
5. Write your RMA # on the outside of the box so it can be easily seen when it arrives at our facility.
6. Ship your unloaded rifle to:
Traditions™
1375 Boston Post Rd. • P.O. Box 776
Old Saybrook, CT 06475-0776
Tel. 860-388-4656
Fax. 860-388-4657
Website: www.traditionsfirearms.com

 **WARNING: It is in violation of Federal Law to ship a loaded firearm. If your gun has a live cartridge, charge, and/or projectile in the chamber or barrel, please take it to a local gunsmith for removal or call Traditions Customer Service Department at 860-388-4656.**

 **ATTENTION: YOUR RIFLE MUST BE CLEANED BEFORE IT CAN BE INSPECTED. If we need to clean your rifle in order to inspect it there will be a standard cleaning, lubrication, inspection, and function test (C.L.I.F.) service fee.**

NOTE ON ACCESSORIES:

Please remove all after-market accessories from your gun prior to being sent in for repairs. This includes scopes, bi-pods, slings, etc. This will ensure that these items will not be lost, misplaced, or damaged during the return process.

FOR YOUR RECORDS

Important: Please record information here and keep for your record.

Model No. _____

Serial No. _____

Model Name _____

Caliber _____

Date Purchased _____

From _____


Registration Card mailed on _____

Please call Traditions™ Customer Service Department at 860-388-4656 with any questions or concerns.

To register your warranty online please go to www.traditionsfirearms.com/support/warranty-registration, or you can mail in the warranty card on the opposing page.

To be added to our email list for announcements, specials, and other information please visit our website at: www.traditionsfirearms.com

PREFERRED CUSTOMER WARRANTY REGISTRATION CARD



Referencing the label on the end of the carton, please write in the last 5 digits located on the right half of the UPC code into the boxes below.

UPC #

4	0	5	8	9					
---	---	---	---	---	--	--	--	--	--

Model # _____

Serial # (from barrel) _____

Name _____ Age _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Time Phone # _____ Date of Purchase _____

Purchase Price _____ Store Name _____

1. **What is your age?** ¹ Under 18 ² 18-24 ³ 25-34 ⁴ 35-44 ⁵ 45-54 ⁶ 55-64 ⁷ over 65
2. **Reason for your purchase** ¹ Hunting ² Target Shooting ³ Personal use ⁴ Gift
⁵ Raffle Prize ⁶ Other
3. **Do you own?** ¹ Other muzzleloaders ² Over/Under Shotgun ³ Side by Side Shotgun
⁴ Semi-Auto Shotgun ⁵ Pump Shotgun ⁶ Cartridge Rifle ⁷ Handgun ⁸ Bow
4. **Where purchased?** ¹ Gun Shop ² General Sporting Goods Store ³ Hardware Store
⁴ Chain Store ⁵ Mail Order Catalog ⁶ Internet Store
5. **Is this your first muzzleloader?** ¹ Yes ² No
6. **Which factors influenced your purchase?** ¹ Previously owned a **Traditions** product
² Magazine Ad/Article ³ Internet/Website ⁴ **Traditions** Catalog ⁵ Recommendation of Salesperson
⁶ Recommendation of a Friend ⁷ Price ⁸ Features ⁹ Other
7. **What type of game do you hunt?** ¹ Whitetail Deer ² Mule Deer ³ Elk ⁴ Bear
⁵ Antelope ⁶ Turkey ⁷ Small Game ⁸ Other
8. **What do you think is the best way to get information about Hunting & Hunting products?**
¹ Magazine Ads ² Internet/Website ³ Television Programs ⁴ Radio
- 9a. **Which magazine do you read?** _____
- b. **Which TV hunting show do you watch?** _____

Check here to receive a free **Traditions** catalog showing muzzleloadings' largest selection of firearms and accessories or visit our website at www.traditionsfirearms.com

To receive a **Traditions** Firearms Logo cap and catalog, send \$12.99 along with your warranty registration card.



NOTE: Return this card within 15 days of purchase in order to validate your limited lifetime warranty.

Please complete all information above and mail to:



P.O. Box 776 • Old Saybrook, CT 06475-0776

www.traditionsfirearms.com



P.O. Box 776

Old Saybrook, CT 06475-0776

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