

U.S. M1903 Springfield Rifle, Caliber .30-06

Bolt action, magazine-fed, 5 round clip-loaded rifle adopted by the U.S. Army as its primary shoulder arm in 1903. Replaced the M1892 .30-40 caliber “Krag-Jorgensen” Rifle after a decade of service. The rifle was patterned on the Mauser action of German manufacture. Originally issued with a ramrod bayonet, the “ought-three” as it was known, was soon equipped with the M1905 knife bayonet. Theodore Roosevelt complained to the Secretary of War of the ramrod bayonet: “I must say that I think that ramrod bayonet is about as poor an invention as I ever saw. As you observed, it broke off short as soon as hit with even moderate violence. It would have no moral effect and mighty little physical effect.” The rifle was loaded in its fixed box magazine with a stripper clip of five .30 caliber, Model of 1906 (or “thirty-ought six”) cartridges. The traditional carbine model was dispensed with in the issue of a standard 24” barrel on the service rifle for infantry and cavalry. The 1903 Springfield continued in service as the U.S. bolt action rifle through World War II and Korea, even with its replacement by the semi-automatic, gas-operated 8 round M1 “Garand” Rifle after 1937.



1. (Buttstock) Oiler. 2. Stripper Clip of 5 .30-06 Cartridges. 3. M1905 Bayonet and Scabbard.



4. Buttplate. 5. Bolt. 6. Receiver. 7. Barrel. 8. Handguard.



9. Magazine Spring. 10. Magazine Assembly with Trigger Guard. 11. Floorplate. 12. Spring.



M1903 Springfield



M1903A1 Springfield

1929 Modifications: A “pistol” grip was adopted for the stock rather than the straight stock of the original rifle. A checkered buttplate and serrated trigger were two other minor modifications, all intended to improve function of the rifle.



Manual of Arms

When drawing rifle from storage, first conduct inspection to insure piece is unloaded. With barrel oriented in safe direction, and upward, perform **Inspection, Arms**. Bring rifle across body with left hand grasping piece at balance of stock, and right holding piece at small or wrist of stock. Open breech by operating bolt drawing up and back to work action. With bolt open, visually inspect breech, magazine, and chamber to insure piece is empty of cartridges. Close bolt on empty chamber, and uncock piece by pulling trigger while restraining cocking piece of bolt with right thumb to cushion striking of firing pin on empty chamber.

Order, Arms. The piece is held with the right hand at the right side, barrel to the rear, trigger guard to front, bolt to right, butt on ground with toe of the butt at the right toe of shoe. The right hand clasps the piece between thumb and fingers, the left arm and hand hang naturally at left side.

Present, Arms. First Position. Lift piece with right hand, bringing rifle vertically before body, barrel to the rear. Grasp piece with left hand at balance of stock.

Second Position. Quit piece with right hand to re-grasp stock at wrist. Right hand grasps small of stock beneath sling, left hand grasps piece enclosing sling, with thumb clasped about piece. Piece held before body vertically, with muzzle at height of hat brim.

Order, Arms. Quit piece with right hand to re-grasp above left. Lower piece to right side to rest butt on ground gently, with toe of butt at toe of right shoe. Left hand, with fingers extended, joined, and steadying piece, held against rifle until secure in right hand with butt on ground. Left arm and hand dropped to hang naturally at left side.

Port, Arms. Lift piece with right hand across body, grasping rifle with left hand at balance of stock. Barrel held sloping upward diagonally to left, piece held close to, but not touching body. Re-grasp piece with right hand at small of stock, palm down.



Order, Arms. Carry piece to right side with left hand, quitting small of stock with right and re-grasping piece above left near upper sling swivel. Lower rifle to right side, barrel to rear, and rest butt on ground, toe of butt at toe of right shoe. In resting butt on ground, lower piece gently, steadying the movement with left hand, fingers joined and extended, touching rifle above right below stacking swivel. Lower left hand to hang naturally at left side.

Right Shoulder, Arms. One. Lift piece with right hand across body, grasping the rifle with the left hand at the balance of the stock, fingers enclosing the sling, thumb curled around piece. Right hand grasps piece at butt, hand clasped, and heel of butt between first two fingers.

Two. Without quitting the grip of the right hand, or changing grasp at butt, move piece to right shoulder, barrel up and piece held diagonally, inclined at 45° to rear, trigger guard in hollow of shoulder. Left hand, with fingers and thumb extended and joined is brought to touch piece at small of the stock, tip of forefinger touching bolt at cocking piece, wrist straight and elbow down. Right elbow is held near the side.

Three. Lower left hand to hang naturally at left side. Right Shoulder, *Arms* can be ordered from order, left shoulder, and present, and the movement includes the motion of Port, *Arms*.

Order, Arms. Lower piece with right hand, and bring rifle across body through position of Port, *Arms*, grasping piece with left hand at balance of stock, enclosing sling. Lower piece to rest butt gently on ground at right shoe, right hand quitting butt of piece to re-grasp stock above left. Left hand steadies piece until butt rests on ground, and then drops to left side.



Left Shoulder, Arms. Lift piece across body to position of Port, *Arms*. Carry piece with right hand to left shoulder, barrel upward, trigger guard in hollow of shoulder. Grasp piece at butt with left hand, heel between first and second fingers, and thumb and fingers closed on stock. Drop right hand and arm to hang naturally at right side. Left Shoulder, *Arms* can be ordered from order, right shoulder, or present, and the movement includes the motion of Port, *Arms*.

Order, Arms.

Parade, Rest. Move right foot six inches to rear, while bending left knee slightly. Carry muzzle of piece to front, barrel to left, bolt to rear. Grasp the piece with the left hand below the stacking swivel, and just above and touching the right hand.



Attention. Resume the position of Order, *Arms*. The left hand quits the piece as it reaches the right hip, and the right foot moves forward to attention, the butt of the piece resting at the toe of right foot.

Trail, *Arms*. Raise piece with right hand, inclining barrel to front slightly. Muzzle at 30° from vertical, held at right side.

Order, *Arms*.



Fix, Bayonet. Step six inches to rear with right foot, while bringing piece before body with right hand, as in Parade, *Rest*. Barrel facing to left, bolt to rear, and muzzle slightly inclined to left, with butt heel resting on ground. Grasp piece with left hand below stacking swivel, quitting rifle with right hand to grasp hilt of bayonet on belt at left hip. Firmly grasping bayonet handle, with back of hand to body, briskly draw bayonet from scabbard and fix it on barrel. Bayonet will “click” onto lug or stud when fixed properly. Glance at muzzle to check locking of bayonet on barrel, and resume Order, *Arms*. (The original ramrod bayonet, replaced by the knife bayonet, was twisted and drawn out 12 inches to its stop.)





Unfix, Bayonet. Execute Parade, *Rest*, grasping the handle of the bayonet with the right hand, and pressing the spring with the right forefinger. Raise bayonet from barrel of piece until about 12 inches above muzzle. Lower bayonet point to left with back of hand to body, and glancing at the scabbard, sheathe bayonet with the blade passing between the left arm and the body. Bayonet will “click” into scabbard when sheathed properly. Left hand holds piece, clasping stock just below stacking swivel, and left arm steadies bayonet scabbard at belt. Resume Order, *Arms*. (The bayonet can also be fastened to the haversack, and the left hand is then used to grasp, fix, and unfix the bayonet. The right hand clasps and steadies the piece.)





Inspection, Arms. Execute Port, *Arms*. Quitting piece at small of stock with right hand, grasp handle of bolt with thumb and forefinger, and work bolt up and draw back to expose chamber. Glance down at chamber and breech, and inspect for cartridges. Finding the chamber and magazine empty (or emptying it by working bolt to eject cartridges, first setting the safety lock up to immobilize the trigger), raise head and cast eyes to front.

Order, Arms. At Order command, push bolt forward and down, closing chamber, and uncock piece by pulling trigger, bring piece to Right Shoulder, and then to Port; at *Arms* command, complete the motion of Order, *Arms*.



With Blank (or Ball) Cartridge, Load. Face half right, stepping back with right foot to right, about a foot's distance to steady the stance of the body. Bring piece across body, clasping balance of stock with left hand with left thumb extended along stock. Muzzle held at height of breast. Right hand clasps piece at small of stock, and turns cut-off up to "on." With right hand the bolt is turned and drawn back, and the right reaches to cartridge belt to extract clip of ammunition. Clip is inserted into clip slots at rear of magazine, right thumb then rests on uppermost cartridge in clip. Right hand holds piece at magazine, thumb on cartridge and fingers clasping piece, with finger tips resting on magazine floor plate. Pressing down firmly with right thumb, magazine is charged with cartridges, sliding through stripper clip. Retrieve stripper clip from clip slots after charging magazine. Bolt is turned and closed, and safety lock is switched to "safe." Right hand clasps piece at small of stock.



For Instruction in Loading: **Simulate, Load.** As described, but with cut-off switch "off" and handling cartridges simulated. Recruits are instructed in simulating loading and firing. First dummy cartridges, and then blank cartridges may be used in familiarization with the drill for safety.

The rifle may be loaded for single shots, reserving the magazine (although this is exceptional). Magazine may be turned "off" with cut-off switch, and cartridges loaded into chamber. The magazine may be loaded without stripper clip by pressing cartridges singly down and back until loaded, with cut-off "off" or "on."



To Fire by Volley.

Ready, Aim, Fire. At “Ready” set safety lock to “Ready.” At “Aim” raise piece from Load to rest butt firmly against the hollow of the right shoulder, right thumb clasps stock above, right forefinger rests on trigger, other fingers clasp stock below. Left hand grasps piece at balance of stock, left elbow held rigid to brace piece at aim, right elbow held at shoulder height. Incline head to sight with right eye through notch of rear sight, left eye closed. At “Fire” depress trigger, squeezing with right forefinger. Immediately lower piece to “Load,” working bolt with right hand to eject spent cartridge casing, and reload thrusting bolt home to chamber fresh round. **Aim, Fire.** To continue firing, with safety lock remaining at ready through firing and loading until cartridges in magazine are expended.

Fire at Will. Independently of other troops, each soldier comes to ready, aims deliberately, and fires, continuing until ordered to *suspend* or *cease firing*.

Clip Fire. Each soldier fires until the magazine is emptied, expending entire clip of cartridges.



Suspend Firing. Firing stops, and pieces are held, loaded and locked, ready to resume firing at command.

Cease Firing. Firing stops, and pieces are lowered to load. The cut-off is turned down, and the spent cartridge casing is ejected, or the live cartridge drawn by working the bolt. The bolt is thrust home on empty chamber, and the trigger pulled to release tension. Piece is brought to the order.



Unload. The piece is lowered to the position of load. Turn up the safety lock, and work bolt alternately back and forth to eject cartridges. After emptying magazine, close chamber by thrusting bolt forward freeing it from stud holding it in place when chamber is open. Press down on follower to release bolt, and thrust bolt home, closing the chamber. Turn safety lock down, and pull trigger on empty chamber to release tension. Ease cocking piece with thumb while pulling trigger to dampen striking of firing pin on empty chamber. The cartridges ejected are then picked up, cleaned, and returned to belt. Bring piece to order.