

Ruger M77 Rifle

BY PETE DICKEY

IN 1967 Sturm, Ruger & Co. made the first of its M77 center-fire rifles that remained in full production until 1991. They have now been supplanted in Ruger's line by the evolutionary M77 Mark II's that have a three-position safety selector mounted beside the bolt sleeve in lieu of the M77's tang safety.

The M77 received enthusiastic acceptance on the market, soon taking its place along with the other "7"s, Winchester's Model 70 and Remington's Model 700. Clean, classic lines did nothing to slow down sales.

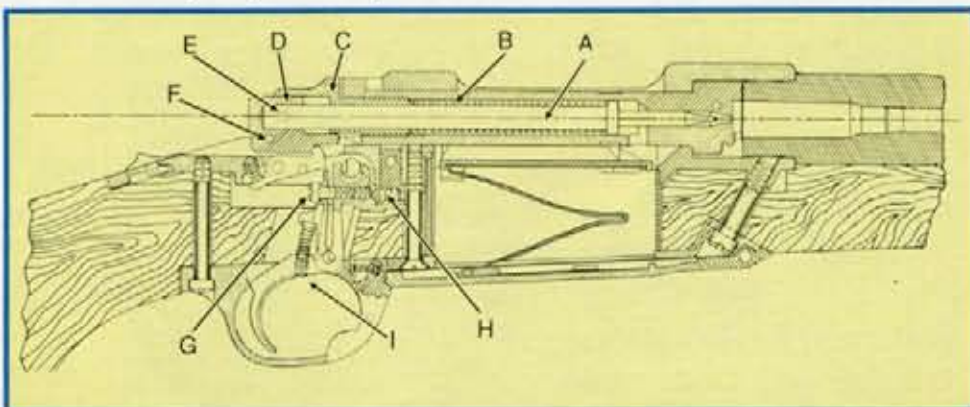
While generally based on the Mauser Model 98 principles of dual opposing lugs on the head of a one-piece bolt body and an external claw extractor, the M77 has many features that are distinctly non-98.

Among these innovations are the extensive use of investment castings (including bolt and receiver); the angled front mounting screw, a fully adjustable trigger, a swaged-in-place bolt guide lug and, of course, the centrally located, sliding tang safety. The Mauser's controlled cartridge-feed feature was dropped in favor of a stur-

dier extractor nose shaped so as to snap over a chambered round and a bolt face that encircled the head of the cartridge.

All these features plus fine workmanship, graceful lines and reasonable price did their bit to make the M77 a success by any standard; more than 1,100,000 were made and sold in two action lengths and in virtually all popular American chamberings from .223 Rem. to .458 Win. Mag. plus some "exotics."

Standard sporters were provided with and without iron sights and other variants included Ultra Light rifles and carbines, Mannlicher-style stocked International rifles and the heavy barreled Varmint rifle.



DISASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

If it is required only to remove the bolt (2) for breech-to-muzzle bore cleaning, swing out the bolt stop (4), open the bolt and withdraw it from the receiver (28).

The bolt's firing pin assembly (15) includes the firing pin (A) and spring (B), bolt sleeve (C), cocking piece (D) and fixing pin (E). As the spring is under high compression, the factory insists that disassembly of the unit not be attempted. It can, however, be removed from the bolt for complete cleaning, and this is best begun with the bolt closed in the receiver and the firing mechanism cocked.

In this mode the cocking piece extends back enough to expose the small disassembly hole (F) in its bottom surface. Insert a snugly-fitting nail or pin through hole (F) and, with the restraining nail or pin in place, open and remove the bolt as detailed above. Then the firing pin assembly can be unscrewed from the bolt body. **Note:** if the restraining nail or pin is loose in hole (F), the cocking piece will move forward and interfere with the firing pin assembly's removal.

The extractor (13) is removed by turning it free of the smaller locking lug, prying its front end up out of the bolt groove and pushing it forward off the extractor band (14). In re-assembly, the band must be compressed with a suitable tool before the extractor can be reinstalled.

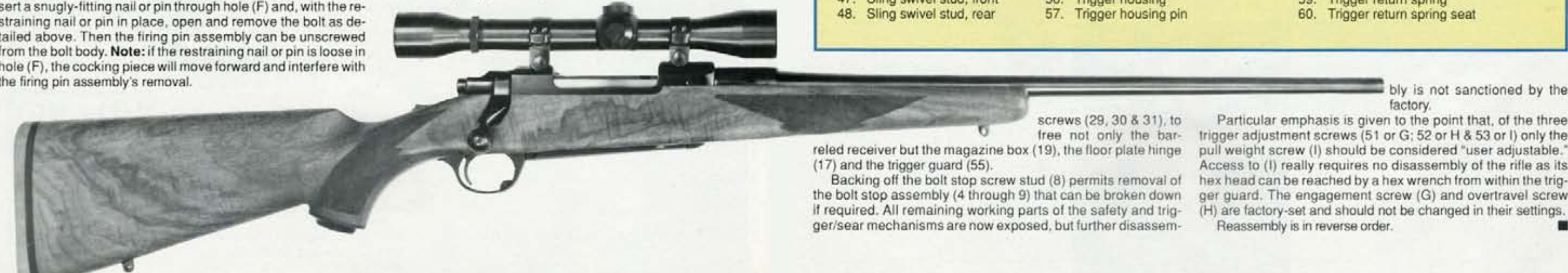
Drifting out the ejector retaining pin (11) will free the ejector (10) and its spring (12) that is under compression. Care must be taken to restrain these parts that can easily fly out to be lost or cause eye injury.

The barreled receiver is separated from the stock (49) by first depressing the magazine latch (21) and removing the follower and spring (20 & 24). Then take out the three receiver

Parts Legend

1. Barrel
2. Bolt body
3. Bolt lock
4. Bolt stop
5. Bolt stop plunger
6. Bolt stop spring
7. Bolt stop spring pin
8. Bolt stop screw stud
9. Bolt stop stud bushing
10. Ejector
11. Ejector retaining pin
12. Ejector spring
13. Extractor
14. Extractor band
15. Firing pin assy.
16. Floor plate
17. Floor plate hinge
18. Floor plate pivot
19. Magazine box
20. Magazine follower
21. Magazine latch
22. Magazine latch pin
23. Magazine latch spring
24. Magazine spring
25. Pistol grip cap
26. Pistol grip cap medallion
27. Pistol grip cap screw
28. Receiver
29. Receiver screw, front
30. Receiver screw, center
31. Receiver screw, rear
32. Recoil pad
33. Recoil pad screws (2)
34. Safety button
35. Safety link
36. Safety shaft assy.
37. Safety spring
38. Sear
39. Sear pivot pin
40. Sear spring
41. Sight base (front)
42. Sight blade
43. Sight blade plunger
44. Sight blade plunger spring
45. Sight blade screw
46. Sight (rear) assy.
47. Sling swivel stud, front
48. Sling swivel stud, rear

49. Stock
50. Trigger
51. Trigger adj. screw (engagement)
52. Trigger adj. screw (overtravel)
53. Trigger adj. screw (pull weight)
54. Trigger adj. set screw (overtravel)
55. Trigger guard
56. Trigger housing
57. Trigger housing pin
58. Trigger pivot pin
59. Trigger return spring
60. Trigger return spring seat



screws (29, 30 & 31), to free not only the barreled receiver but the magazine box (19), the floor plate hinge (17) and the trigger guard (55).

Backing off the bolt stop screw stud (8) permits removal of the bolt stop assembly (4 through 9) that can be broken down if required. All remaining working parts of the safety and trigger/sear mechanisms are now exposed, but further disassem-

Particular emphasis is given to the point that, of the three trigger adjustment screws (51 or G; 52 or H & 53 or I) only the pull weight screw (I) should be considered "user adjustable." Access to (I) really requires no disassembly of the rifle as its hex head can be reached by a hex wrench from within the trigger guard. The engagement screw (G) and overtravel screw (H) are factory-set and should not be changed in their settings.

Reassembly is in reverse order.