Important operating instructions for:

BROWNING A5®
AUTOLOADING SHOTGUNS

If you have any questions about your new firearm, this owner’s manual or other Browning products, contact:

Browning Customer Service
One Browning Place
Morgan, UT 84050-9326
Phone: (800) 333-3288
browning.com

Please use the space below to record information about your new firearm.

Model ________________________________________________________________

Serial Number ________________________________________________________

Purchased From ______________________________________________________

Date of Purchase ____________________________________________________

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING A BROWNING A5 SHOTGUN.

The A5 shotgun represents the most advanced recoil-operated technology available in autoloading shotguns. A5 shotguns combine the best of traditional Browning craftsmanship with state-of-the-art design and manufacturing. Every detail of the A5 shotgun is engineered to provide you the best in reliable operation and handling.

With a reasonable amount of care, your A5 shotgun is designed to give you many years of dependable, enjoyable service.
STATE WARNING
According to state law, California requires that firearm manufacturers, distributors and retailers include conspicuous, specific warnings with firearms sold in that state.

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

**ADVERTENCIA**
“A los niños los atraen las armas de fuego y las pueden hacer funcionar. Ellos pueden causarse lesiones graves y la muerte. Evite que los niños tengan acceso a las armas de fuego guardándolas siempre con llave y descargadas cuando no las esté utilizando. Si usted tiene una arma de fuego cargada en un lugar en que un niño tiene acceso a ella y la usa indebidamente, le pueden dar una multa o enviarlo a la cárcel.”

**WARNING: YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FIREARMS SAFETY**

**WARNING**
FAILURE TO FOLLOW ANY OF THE FOLLOWING WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

As a gun owner, you accept a set of demanding responsibilities. How seriously you take these responsibilities can be the difference between life and death.

There is no excuse for careless or abusive handling of any firearm. At all times handle this firearm and all other firearms with intense respect for their power and potential danger.

Please read and understand all of the cautions, warnings, notices, proper handling procedures and instructions outlined in this owner’s manual before using your new firearm.

1 **ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE OF YOUR FIREARM POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE CERTAIN IT IS UNLOADED.**
Never point any firearm at anything you do not intend to shoot. Be extremely alert and aware of all persons and property within the range of your ammunition.

2 **NEVER RELY TOTALLY ON YOUR FIREARM’S MECHANICAL “SAFETY” DEVICE. LIKE ANY MECHANICAL DEVICE, A “SAFETY” CAN SOMETIMES FAIL; IT CAN BE JARRED OR INADVERTENTLY MANIPULATED INTO AN UNSAFE CONDITION.**
The word “safety” describes a firearm’s trigger block mechanism, sear block mechanism, hammer block mechanism or firing pin block mechanism. Mechanical “safeties” are designed to place your firearm in a safer status, and no guarantee can be made that the firearm will not fire even if the “safety” is in the on safe position. Mechanical “safeties” merely aid safe gun handling and are no excuse for pointing your firearm’s muzzle in an unsafe direction. See “Operation of the Safety” on pages 12-13 for instructions on the operation of this firearm’s “safety.”

Remember, safe gun handling does not stop with your firearm’s mechanical “safety” devices, it starts there. Always treat this firearm with the respect due a loaded, ready-to-fire firearm.

Some firearms do not have a mechanical “safety.” Many target firearms, lever-action firearms and pistols do not have manual “safety” mechanisms. Therefore it is critical to read and understand the owner’s manual for every firearm which explains the safe operation of the firearm.

While it is a good idea to test your firearm’s mechanical “safety” periodically for proper function, never test the “safety” while your firearm is loaded or pointed in an unsafe direction.
WHENEVER YOU HANDLE ANY FIREARM, OR HAND IT TO SOMEONE, ALWAYS OPEN THE ACTION IMMEDIATELY AND VISUALLY CHECK THE FIREARM'S CHAMBER TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE FIREARM IS COMPLETELY UNLOADED.

Make certain the firearm does not inadvertently contain any ammunition. Remember, merely removing the magazine does not mean the chamber is unloaded. Always keep the chamber empty and the “safety” in the on safe position unless shooting is imminent.

ALWAYS WEAR EAR AND EYE PROTECTION WHEN SHOOTING.

Unprotected, repeated exposure to gunfire can cause hearing damage. Wear hearing protection (shooting earplugs or muff) to guard against such damage.

Wear shooting glasses to protect your eyes from flying particles. Allow proper distance (eye relief) between a scope and your eye when firing a scoped rifle, shotgun or pistol. Do not use unorthodox shooting methods that could cause the rearward travel of the slide or bolt of a firearm to contact your eyes, face or hands. Always keep a safe distance between the muzzle of your firearm and any persons nearby, as muzzle blast, debris and ejecting shells could inflict serious injury.

Always wear eye protection when disassembling and cleaning any firearm to prevent the possibility of springs, spring-tensioned parts, solvents or other agents from contacting your eyes.

KEEP ALL FIREARMS UNLOADED DURING TRANSPORT, EVEN WHEN STORED IN A HOLSTER, GUN CASE, SCABBARD OR OTHER CONTAINER.

DROPPING OR JARRING A LOADED FIREARM CAN CAUSE ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE.

This can occur even with the “safety” in the on safe position. Be extremely careful while hunting or during any shooting activity to avoid dropping any firearm.

HUNTING FROM ELEVATED SURFACES SUCH AS TREESTANDS IS DANGEROUS.

Doing so may increase the risk of mishandling a firearm. The following rules should always be observed by you and those you hunt with. Always make certain that the stand being used is safe and stable. Always make certain that your firearm is unloaded when it is being taken up and down from the stand. Always make certain that your firearm is not dropped from the stand, or dropped while it is being taken up or down from the stand. Remember, a loaded firearm may discharge when dropped, even with the “safety” in the on safe position.

STORE YOUR FIREARM AND AMMUNITION SEPARATELY, WELL BEYOND THE REACH OF CHILDREN.

Take prudent safeguards to ensure your firearm does not become available to untrained, inexperienced or unwelcome hands. Store all firearms in secure, locked cases or a gun safe. Keep your firearm unloaded when not in use.

BEWARE OF BARREL OBSTRUCTIONS.

Mud, snow and an infinite variety of other objects may inadvertently lodge in a barrel bore. It only takes a small obstruction to cause dangerously increased pressures that can damage your firearm and cause serious injury to yourself and others.

BEFORE CHECKING FOR A BARREL OBSTRUCTION, BE CERTAIN YOUR FIREARM IS COMPLETELY UNLOADED, THERE IS NOT A LIVE SHELL IN THE CHAMBER AND THE “SAFETY” IS IN THE ON SAFE POSITION.

After assuring yourself that the firearm is completely unloaded, open the breech or action and look through the barrel to be sure it is clear of obstructions. If an obstruction is seen, no matter how small it may be, clean the bore with a cleaning rod and patch as described on pages 38-41 of this owner’s manual.
10 BE ALERT TO THE SIGNS OF AMMUNITION MALFUNCTION. IF YOU DETECT AN OFF SOUND OR LIGHT RECOIL WHEN A SHELL IS FIRED, DO NOT LOAD ANOTHER SHELL INTO THE CHAMBER.

If your firearm fails to fire, keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction for a minimum of 30 seconds. Rotate the ejection area of the firearm away from you, carefully open the action and remove the shell from the chamber. If the primer is indented, the defective shell should be disposed of in a way that cannot cause harm. If the primer is not indented, your firearm should be examined by a qualified gunsmith and the cause of the malfunction corrected before further use. Glance down the barrel to make sure that no obstructions remain in the barrel. Completely clear the barrel before loading and firing again. Failure to follow these instructions can cause extensive damage to your firearm and possible serious injury to yourself and others.

11 NEVER INSERT A SHELL OF THE INCORRECT GAUGE INTO ANY FIREARM.

The gauge of your firearm is marked on the barrel. Store all shells of different gauges in completely separate and well-marked containers. Never store shells of mixed gauges in a common container or in your pockets. See pages 17-19 for more information on the correct ammunition for your firearm.

12 EXAMINE EVERY SHELL YOU PUT IN YOUR FIREARM.

We assume no responsibility for the use of unsafe or improper firearm and ammunition combinations or damage or injury caused by damaged ammunition. It is your responsibility to read and heed all warnings in this owner’s manual and on ammunition boxes. See pages 17-19 for more information on the correct ammunition for your firearm.

13 USE ONLY SAAMI APPROVED AMMUNITION.

The barrel and action of this firearm have been made with substantial safety margins beyond the pressures developed by established American commercial loads. Nevertheless, we can assume no liability for incidents which occur through the use of shells of nonstandard dimensions or which develop pressures in excess of commercially available ammunition which has been loaded in accordance with standards established by the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers’ Institute (SAAMI).

14 MAKE SURE OF ADEQUATE VENTILATION IN THE AREA THAT YOU DISCHARGE A FIREARM. LEAD EXPOSURE CAN OCCUR FROM DISCHARGING FIREARMS IN POORLY VENTILATED AREAS, CLEANING FIREARMS OR HANDLING AMMUNITION.

Lead is a substance that has been known to cause birth defects, reproductive harm and other serious injury. Wash hands thoroughly after exposure to ammunition or after cleaning a firearm.

15 DO NOT SNAP THE FIRING PIN ON AN EMPTY CHAMBER; THE CHAMBER MAY NOT BE EMPTY!

Treat every firearm with the respect due a loaded firearm, even though you are certain the firearm is unloaded.

16 KEEP YOUR FINGERS AWAY FROM THE TRIGGER WHILE LOADING AND UNLOADING UNTIL SHOOTING IS IMMINENT.

17 BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND BACKSTOP, PARTICULARLY DURING LOW LIGHT PERIODS.

Know the range of your ammunition. Never shoot at water or hard objects.

18 ALWAYS UNLOAD YOUR FIREARM’S CHAMBER BEFORE CROSSING A FENCE, CLIMBING A TREE, JUMPING A DITCH OR NEGOTIATING OTHER OBSTACLES.

Never place your firearm on or against a fence, tree, car or other similar object.

19 BE DEFENSIVE AND ON GUARD AGAINST UNSAFE GUN HANDLING AROUND YOU AND OTHERS.

Don’t be timid when it comes to firearms safety. If you observe other shooters violating any of these safety precautions, politely suggest safer handling practices.
20 BE CERTAIN YOUR FIREARM IS UNLOADED BEFORE CLEANING.
Because so many firearm accidents occur when a firearm is being cleaned, special and extreme care should be taken to be sure your firearm is unloaded before disassembly, cleaning and reassembly. Keep ammunition away from the cleaning location. Never test the mechanical function of any firearm with live ammunition.

21 TEACH AND SUPERVISE FIREARMS SAFETY TO ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY, ESPECIALLY TO CHILDREN AND NON-SHOOTERS.
Closely supervise newcomers to the shooting sports. Encourage enrollment in hunting and shooting safety courses.

22 NEVER DRINK ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR TAKE ANY TYPE OF DRUGS BEFORE OR DURING SHOOTING.
Your vision, motor skills and judgment could be dangerously impaired, making your gun handling unsafe to you and to others.

23 READ AND HEED ALL WARNINGS IN THIS OWNER’S MANUAL, ON AMMUNITION BOXES AND WITH ALL ACCESSORIES THAT YOU INSTALL ON YOUR FIREARM.
It is your responsibility to secure the most up-to-date information on the safe handling procedures of your Browning firearm. We assume no liability for incidents which occur when unsafe or improper firearm accessories or ammunition combinations are used.

24 PRACTICE PERIODIC MAINTENANCE, AVOID UNAUTHORIZED SERVICING.
Your firearm is a mechanical device which will not last forever, and as such, is subject to wear and requires periodic inspection, adjustment and service. Browning firearms should be serviced by a Browning Recommended Service Center or by our Service Facility in Arnold, Missouri. We assume no responsibility for injuries suffered or caused by unauthorized servicing, alterations or modifications of Browning firearms.

25 WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE SERVICE ON FIREARMS THAT HAVE BEEN ALTERED, ADDED TO OR SUBSTANTIALLY CHANGED.
Removal of metal from the barrel, or modifications of the firing mechanism and/or operating parts, may lead to a refusal of service on such firearms. We will charge you for parts and labor to return the firearm to original specifications.

DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, ALTER THE TRIGGER, SAFETY OR OTHER PARTS OF THE FIRING MECHANISM OF THIS OR ANY OTHER FIREARM. FAILURE TO OBEY THIS WARNING MAY RESULT IN INJURY OR DEATH TO YOURSELF OR OTHERS.

BE CAREFUL!

GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND OPERATION
The Browning A5 is a recoil-operated autoloading shotgun capable of quickly firing up to five shells (with the three-shot adaptor removed, using 2¾" loads), one shell at a time, with each successive pull of the trigger. Upon firing, recoil acts upon the slide assembly and compresses the recoil spring. When the energy from the recoil spring is released, the energy causes the slide to travel rearward, unlocking the bolt from the barrel and cycling the action. As the slide assembly moves rearward, it cocks the hammer and ejects the fired shell. After full rearward travel, the slide assembly returns forward, picks up a new shell from the magazine and chambers it. After the last shell has been fired, the slide assembly locks to the rear for faster reloading.

FIGURE 1
NOMENCLATURE

In conventional firearm terminology the position and movement of firearm parts are described as they occur with the firearm horizontal and in the normal firing position: i.e., the muzzle is forward or in front; the buttstock is rearward or to the rear; the trigger is downward or underneath; the rib is upward or on top. For general parts nomenclature, refer to Figure 1 on page 9. For specific parts names related to disassembly, refer to Figure 2.

SERIAL NUMBER

The serial number of your A5 shotgun is found on the right side of the receiver, below the bolt release button. Record this number in the space provided at the front of this owner’s manual for future reference.

INITIAL CLEANING

Please take note of the following information before cleaning your firearm.

CLEANING PARTS WITH SPECIAL FINISHES

Be especially careful when cleaning firearms with camouflage, Dura-Touch® Armor Coating and other special finishes. Always prevent these surfaces from coming in contact with cleaning solvents, barrel scrubbers and other strong chemicals. It is preferable to clean these surfaces with a lightweight gun oil containing no solvents, or with a damp cloth and mild dish soap (be sure to keep water out of the action). When cleaning your firearm’s bore and action, protect the external finishes from any contact with chemicals used. Also, avoid any contact between external finishes and other strong chemicals like those found in DEET-containing insect repellents, sunscreens, etc. Damage to camouflage, Dura-Touch and other finishes caused by chemicals is irreversible and not repairable.

CLEANING

Various exposed metal parts of your new firearm have been coated at the factory with a rust preventative compound. Before assembling your shotgun, clean the anti-rust compound from the inside of the barrel, receiver and the action/chamber areas. A high-quality lightweight gun oil is ideal for removing this compound, and for giving your new firearm its first lubrication. Place a drop of lightweight gun oil on both sides of the inside of the receiver on the rails on which the slide assembly moves (Figure 3). Clean the barrel using a cleaning rod and patch as explained under “Cleaning the Barrel” on pages 39-40.
The “safety” can be reversed from right- to left-handed by a qualified gunsmith. When installed, the left-handed “safety” will have the “safety” button’s red warning band on the right side of the trigger guard.

**BOLT LATCH**

The A5 shotgun features a bolt latch mounted just forward of the trigger guard, on the bottom of the shotgun. The bolt latch performs two functions:

- Allows the slide assembly to be locked in the open position when the magazine is unloaded.
- Releases a shell from the magazine to be loaded into the chamber.

In order to lock the slide assembly in the open position or release a shell for the magazine to be chambered, the bolt latch must be slid rearward before pulling the bolt handle completely rearward.

**ASSEMBLY**

Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. Before starting assembly procedures, visually inspect the chamber and magazine to be absolutely certain the firearm is completely unloaded. Place the “safety” in the on safe position. Failure to follow this warning could result in serious injury or death.

The A5 shotgun is delivered in the box with the barrel removed from the receiver. Assemble the A5 according to the following procedures.

1. Lock the slide assembly rearward by first sliding the bolt latch to the rear, then pulling the bolt handle fully to the rear as explained above.
2 Unscrew the magazine cap by turning it counterclockwise.
3 Remove the forearm from the magazine tube.

**NOTICE**

DO NOT SQUEEZE HARD ON THE OPEN REAR END OF A WOOD FOREARM. TOO MUCH PRESSURE COULD CAUSE THE WOOD TO SPLIT.

4 Remove the forearm retainer by sliding it forward and out of the forearm (Figure 6). Save the forearm retainer for future use as it helps prevent damage to the receiver and forearm when the barrel is not installed on the shotgun.

5 Angle the front of the forearm over the barrel bracket slightly, then push the forearm completely onto the barrel bracket (Figure 7, page 14). When the forearm is completely on the barrel bracket, press the rear of the forearm into place on the barrel (Figure 8, page 14).

**NOTICE**

NEVER ALLOW THE ACTION TO SLAM CLOSED BY PRESSING THE BOLT RELEASE BUTTON WITHOUT THE BARREL INSTALLED. IF THE SLIDE ASSEMBLY IS RELEASED FORWARD WITH THE BARREL REMOVED, THE BOLT HANDLE WILL STRIKE THE RECEIVER AND CAUSE DAMAGE.

6 Slide the barrel and forearm over the magazine tube. Align the barrel extension and forearm studs with the recesses in the front of the receiver. The barrel extension should slip solidly into the receiver (Figure 9).

7 Continue to apply pressure on the barrel, pushing it into the receiver, while installing the magazine cap by turning it clockwise (Figure 10).
**DISASSEMBLY**

**WARNING**

ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION. BEFORE STARTING DISASSEMBLY PROCEDURES, OPEN THE ACTION AND VISUALLY INSPECT THE CHAMBER AND MAGAZINE TO BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THE FIREARM IS COMPLETELY UNLOADED. PLACE THE “SAFETY” IN THE ON SAFE POSITION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS WARNING COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

1. Lock the slide assembly rearward by first sliding the bolt latch to the rear, then pulling the bolt handle fully to the rear as explained on page 13.

**NOTICE**

NEVER ALLOW THE ACTION TO SLAM CLOSED BY PRESSING THE BOLT RELEASE BUTTON WITHOUT THE BARREL INSTALLED. IF THE SLIDE ASSEMBLY IS RELEASED FORWARD WITH THE BARREL REMOVED, THE BOLT HANDLE WILL STRIKE THE RECEIVER AND CAUSE DAMAGE.

2. Unscrew the magazine cap by turning it counterclockwise.

3. Remove the forearm and barrel together by pulling them forward and off the magazine tube.

4. Remove the forearm from the barrel by carefully pulling the rear of the forearm away from the barrel slightly as shown in Figure 11 (page 17), then sliding the forearm to the rear and off the barrel bracket.

**WARNING**

WHEN REMOVING THE FOREARM DO NOT PULL THE REAR OF THE FOREARM MORE THAN 1" FROM THE BARREL, OR SLIDE THE FOREARM OFF THE REAR OF THE BARREL BEFORE PULLING IT AWAY FROM THE BARREL, YOU MAY DAMAGE THE FOREARM. WHEN REMOVING, DO NOT REMOVE THE FOREARM AS SHOWN IN FIGURE 12 ON PAGE 17.

DO NOT SQUEEZE THE OPEN REAR END OF A WOOD FOREARM. TOO MUCH PRESSURE COULD CAUSE THE WOOD TO SPLIT.

5. For cleaning, follow the guidelines in “Cleaning and Maintenance Suggestions” beginning on page 38.

For storage, install the forearm retainer into the front of the forearm. Slide the forearm over the magazine tube and install the magazine cap. You will then have two compact units: the barrel, and the action with stock and forearm.

**NOTICE**

AFTER THE BARREL HAS BEEN REMOVED, LEAVE THE SLIDE ASSEMBLY IN THE REARWARD POSITION. DO NOT PRESS THE BOLT RELEASE BUTTON. IF THE SLIDE ASSEMBLY IS RELEASED FORWARD WITH THE BARREL REMOVED, THE BOLT HANDLE WILL STRIKE THE RECEIVER, CAUSING DAMAGE.

**AMMUNITION**

**WARNING**

USE ONLY SHELLS OF THE CORRECT GAUGE AND LENGTH. THE GAUGE AND LENGTH OF THE CHAMBER IS INSCRIBED ON THE SIDE OF THE BARREL. DO NOT USE AMMUNITION OTHER THAN WHAT IS INSCRIBED ON THE SIDE OF THE BARREL. EXAMINE EVERY SHELL YOU PUT IN YOUR SHOTGUN. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS WARNING COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.
USE SHELLS OF THE CORRECT LENGTH. DO NOT USE 3" OR 3½" SHELLS IN A BARREL WITH A 2¾" CHAMBER, OR 3½" SHELLS IN A BARREL WITH A 3" CHAMBER. DOING SO CAN RESULT IN A BUILDUP OF DANGEROUSLY HIGH PRESSURES. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS WARNING COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

DO NOT PUT A 16 OR 20 GAUGE SHELL IN A 12 GAUGE SHOTGUN. DO NOT PUT A 28 GAUGE SHELL IN A 20 GAUGE SHOTGUN. DO NOT PUT A .410 BORE SHELL IN A 28 GAUGE SHOTGUN. NEVER PUT METALLIC CARTRIDGES OF ANY KIND IN A SHOTGUN. SPECIFICALLY, NEVER PUT CENTERFIRE RIFLE OR PISTOL CARTRIDGES IN A SHOTGUN CHAMBERED FOR .410 BORE. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS WARNING COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

**NOTICE**

USING INCORRECT AMMUNITION MAY CAUSE YOUR FIREARM TO MALFUNCTION AND COULD SEVERELY DAMAGE YOUR FIREARM. ALWAYS TAKE CARE TO USE THE CORRECT AMMUNITION IN YOUR FIREARM.

The most certain way to bulge or rupture a shotgun barrel is to load a smaller gauge shell into a larger gauge chamber. The smaller gauge shell will not fall completely through the barrel; its rim is caught by the front of a larger gauge chamber or at the larger gauge’s choke. Your shotgun will misfire (with the chamber appearing to be empty). It is then possible to load the correct gauge shell behind the smaller gauge shell. If the shotgun is then fired, the result will be a so-called “12-16, 12-20, 20-28 or 28-.410 burst” which can cause extensive damage to your shotgun and possible serious injury to you and others.

We can assume no responsibility for incidents which occur through the use of shells of nonstandard dimension or those developing pressures in excess of SAAMI (Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers’ Institute) established standards.

A5 12 gauge, 3" chamber models will shoot all 1 oz. and heavier factory lead and steel 12 gauge, 2¾" and 3" field loads. A5 12 gauge, 3½" chamber models will shoot all 1½ oz. and heavier factory lead and steel 12 gauge, 2¾", 3" and 3½" field loads.

A5 16 gauge models will shoot all 1½ oz. and heavier factory lead and steel 16 gauge, 2¼" field loads.

However, due to variations in the manufacture of ammunition, and to help ensure reliability, always use ammunition that is powerful enough to cycle the action completely.

**MAGAZINE CAPACITY**

With the magazine three-shot adaptor (plug) removed, A5 3" shotguns will hold four 2¾" or three 3" shells in the magazine. A5 3½" shotguns will hold four 2¾" shells, or three 3" or 3½" shells in the magazine.

**THREE-SHOT ADAPTOR (PLUG)**

**WARNING**

ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION. BEFORE REMOVING OR INSTALLING THE THREE-SHOT ADAPTOR (PLUG), COMPLETELY UNLOAD THE SHOTGUN. OPEN THE ACTION AND VISUALLY INSPECT THE CHAMBER, FEED MECHANISM AND MAGAZINE TO BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THE FIREARM IS COMPLETELY UNLOADED. PLACE THE “SAFETY” IN THE ON SAFE POSITION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS WARNING COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

WEAR EYE PROTECTION WHEN REMOVING OR INSTALLING THE THREE-SHOT ADAPTOR (PLUG) TO PREVENT SPRINGS, SPRING-LOADED PARTS, SOLVENTS OR OTHER AGENTS FROM CONTACTING YOUR EYES, RESULTING IN INJURY.

The A5 is delivered with the magazine three-shot adaptor (plug) installed in the magazine, limiting magazine capacity to two shells in compliance with federal migratory bird regulations. If you do not wish to be limited to three shots, when it is not required by law, you can remove (or reinstall) the three-shot adaptor (plug) as follows.

Note: The accompanying photos show the barrel removed for clarity purposes. Removing the barrel is not necessary to remove the three-shot adaptor (plug).
If the barrel and forearm are on the shotgun, hold them to prevent them from falling out of the receiver while pointing the magazine tube down to allow the three-shot adaptor (plug) to fall out of the end of the magazine tube. Grasp and remove it (Figure 14, page 20).

5 Reinstall the magazine cap as explained previously.

**INSTALLING THE THREE-SHOT ADAPTOR (PLUG)**

If you need to install the magazine three-shot adaptor (plug) to limit the magazine to three shells, again perform the following operation:

1 Lock the slide assembly rearward by first sliding the bolt latch to the rear, then pulling the bolt handle fully to the rear as explained on page 13. Ensure the firearm is completely unloaded and the “safety” is in the on safe position.

**NOTICE**

NEVER ALLOW THE ACTION TO SLAM CLOSED BY PRESSING THE BOLT RELEASE BUTTON WITHOUT THE BARREL INSTALLED. IF THE SLIDE ASSEMBLY IS RELEASED FORWARD WITH THE BARREL REMOVED, THE BOLT HANDLE WILL STRIKE THE RECEIVER AND CAUSE DAMAGE.

2 Remove the magazine cap as explained previously.

3 The A5 features the TurnKey Magazine Plug which is quickly and easily removed by inserting a key or standard screwdriver into the slot in the end of the magazine tube. To remove the three-shot adaptor (plug), press inward and turn the key or flat-blade screwdriver a quarter-turn to align the three-shot adaptor (plug) with the slot in the end of the magazine (Figure 13). This unlocks the three-shot adaptor (plug), allowing it to be removed.

4 Insert a key or flat-blade screwdriver into the slot in the end of the magazine tube. Press inward and turn the three-shot adaptor (plug) a quarter-turn to secure in the magazine (Figure 15).

5 Reinstall the magazine cap as explained previously.
LOADING

WARNING

WHEN LOADING YOUR SHOTGUN ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION, ALWAYS PLACE THE “SAFETY” IN THE ON SAFE POSITION AND KEEP YOUR FINGERS AWAY FROM THE TRIGGER. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

DO NOT CARRY YOUR SHOTGUN WITH A SHELL IN THE CHAMBER TO AVOID ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE. WHEN FIRING IS NO LONGER IMMINENT, MAKE SURE THE “SAFETY” IS IN THE ON SAFE POSITION AND UNLOAD THE CHAMBER. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

TAKE CARE WHEN LOADING THE MAGAZINE. THE EDGES OF THE CARRIER ARE SHARP AND MAY CAUSE INJURY TO FINGERS OR DAMAGE GLOVES.

SPEED LOADING

1 If shooting is imminent, lock the slide assembly rearward by first sliding the bolt latch to the rear, then pulling the bolt handle fully to the rear as explained on page 13. Ensure the firearm is completely unloaded and the “safety” is in the on safe position.

2 Insert a shell into the magazine (Figure 16, page 23). The shell will be automatically cycled from the magazine to the chamber.

WARNING

KEEP YOUR FINGERS CLEAR OF THE EJECTION PORT WHEN LOADING THE SHOTGUN USING THE SPEED LOADING PROCEDURE. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS WARNING COULD RESULT IN INJURY.

3 If desired, load the magazine to full capacity by inserting a shell of proper gauge and length through the loading port at the bottom of the receiver up into the magazine, using your thumb to position it fully forward in the magazine tube. Make sure the rim of the shell engages the shell stop and is held fully inside the magazine tube. It will make an audible click when fully inserted.

LOADING THE MAGAZINE

1 Lock the slide assembly rearward by first sliding the bolt latch to the rear, then pulling the bolt handle fully to the rear as explained on page 13. Ensure the firearm is completely unloaded and the “safety” is in the on safe position.

2 Close the slide assembly by pressing the bolt release button.

3 Insert a shell of the proper gauge and length through the loading port at the bottom of the receiver up into the magazine, using your thumb to position it fully forward in the magazine tube (Figure 16). Make certain the rim of the shell engages the shell stop and is held fully inside the magazine tube. It will make an audible click when fully inserted.

4 If desired, continue loading the magazine until it is full.

LOADING THE CHAMBER MANUALLY FROM THE MAGAZINE

1 With the slide assembly closed, depress the carrier with the front of a shell and, using your thumb, push the shell into the magazine until the shell is held in place by the shell stop.

2 If desired, continue to load the magazine, as explained previously.

3 If shooting is imminent, a shell can now be moved from the magazine to the chamber by sliding the bolt latch to the rear to release a shell from the magazine, pulling back fully on the bolt handle and releasing it, allowing it to move forward. A shell will be
fed automatically to the chamber as the slide assembly closes. Another shell can then be inserted into the magazine to load it to full capacity.

**WARNING**

**THE SHOTGUN IS NOW READY TO FIRE BY SIMPLY MOVING THE “SAFETY” TO THE OFF SAFE POSITION AND PULLING THE TRIGGER.**

**LOADING THE CHAMBER THROUGH THE EJECTION PORT**

1. Lock the slide assembly rearward by first sliding the bolt latch to the rear, then pulling the bolt handle fully to the rear as explained on page 13.
2. Visually inspect the chamber, feed mechanism and magazine to make sure they are clear of any obstructions.
3. If shooting is imminent, insert a shell of the proper gauge and length through the ejection port into the open breech (Figure 17).
4. Press the bolt release button to deliver the shell into the chamber.

**WARNING**

**KEEP YOUR FINGERS CLEAR OF THE EJECTION PORT WHENEVER CLOSING THE ACTION WITH THE BOLT RELEASE BUTTON. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS WARNING COULD RESULT IN INJURY.**

**THE SHOTGUN IS NOW READY TO FIRE BY SIMPLY MOVING THE “SAFETY” TO THE OFF SAFE POSITION AND PULLING THE TRIGGER.**

5. With a shell in the chamber, you may load the magazine to full capacity. To load the magazine, insert a shell of proper gauge and length through the loading port at the bottom of the receiver up into the magazine, using your thumb to position it fully forward in the magazine tube. Make sure the rim of the shell engages the shell stop and is held fully inside the magazine tube. It will make an audible click when fully inserted.

**FIRING**

**WARNING**

**NEVER LOAD A SHELL INTO THE CHAMBER OR PLACE THE “SAFETY” IN THE OFF SAFE POSITION UNLESS SHOOTING IS IMMINENT. ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.**

1. Place the “safety” in the on safe position.
2. Load a shell into the chamber as explained previously.
3. With a shell in the chamber, you need only move the “safety” to the off safe position to fire the shotgun.
4. When ready to fire, move the “safety” into the off safe position, take aim and squeeze the trigger.

After a shell is fired, energy from the fired shell operates the slide assembly, ejects the fired shell, picks up a loaded shell from the magazine and automatically chambers it. You may continue to fire the shotgun until the magazine is empty by pulling the trigger to fire each shell. After the last shell is fired, the breech of the shotgun remains open, with the slide assembly locked to the rear. This allows convenient and fast reloading.

If you are done shooting, leave the slide assembly locked to the rear, with the breech in the open position so that you may visually inspect the chamber, bore, carrier and magazine to be sure they contain no shells.
27

**WARNING**

**AFTER FIRING, OR WHEN SHOOTING IS NO LONGER IMMINENT, IMMEDIATELY PLACE THE “SAFETY” IN THE ON SAFE POSITION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.**

**EVEN WITH THE SLIDE ASSEMBLY LOCKED OPEN AFTER SHOOTING, DO NOT ASSUME THE SHOTGUN IS UNLOADED. ALWAYS INSPECT THE CHAMBER, BARREL, FEED MECHANISM AND MAGAZINE TO BE CERTAIN THE SHOTGUN IS COMPLETELY UNLOADED. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.**

**UNLOADING**

**WARNING**

**WHEN UNLOADING YOUR SHOTGUN ALWAYS PLACE THE “SAFETY” IN THE ON SAFE POSITION. KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION AND YOUR FINGERS AWAY FROM THE TRIGGER. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.**

**ALWAYS INSPECT THE CHAMBER, BARREL, FEED MECHANISM AND MAGAZINE CAREFULLY AFTER UNLOADING TO BE SURE ALL LIVE SHELLS ARE CLEARED FROM THE FIREARM.**

**SPEED UNLOADING**

1. Place the “safety” in the on safe position.
2. Pull rearward on the bolt handle to eject the shell from the chamber. Allow the bolt to close on the empty chamber.
3. Turn the shotgun over so the trigger guard is facing up, then push the carrier down with your finger as far as it will go.
4. Shells are retained in the magazine by the shell stop, which catches the rim of the shell base. Locate the shell stop inside the receiver (Figure 18, page 27) on the right side of the loading port (visually to the left side when looking down into the loading port).
5. Push in on the shell stop to release a shell from the magazine. When the shell stop is pressed, a shell is forced out of the magazine under spring pressure. Catch the shell as it comes out.
6. Press the stop again to release the next shell. Continue to do this until the magazine is empty. Be careful not to pinch your finger on the carrier.
7. Using your finger, feel the opening of the magazine to make sure there are no shells that have not been fed from the magazine and ejected. Visually inspect the chamber, feed mechanism and magazine to assure there are no shells remaining.
8. Lock the slide assembly rearward by first sliding the bolt latch to the rear, then pulling the bolt handle fully to the rear as explained on page 13. Ensure the firearm is completely unloaded and the “safety” is in the on safe position.

**UNLOADING BY CYCLING THE ACTION**

1. With the “safety” in the on safe position, slide the bolt latch to the rear, grasp the bolt handle and cycle the action. Repeat sliding the bolt latch to the rear and pulling the bolt handle rearward until all shells are transferred from the magazine to the chamber and then ejected. Lock the bolt assembly in the rearward, open position as explained previously. Take care to avoid letting shells fall to the ground.
2. After the last shell in the magazine has been cycled through the chamber and out the ejection port, use your index finger to feel the opening of the magazine to make sure there are no shells that have not been fed from the magazine and ejected. Visually inspect the chamber, feed mechanism and magazine to assure there are no shells remaining.
INTERCHANGEABLE CHOKE TUBE SYSTEM

WARNING

NEVER ATTEMPT TO REMOVE OR INSTALL A CHOKE TUBE IN A LOADED FIREARM. WHENEVER REMOVING OR INSTALLING A CHOKE TUBE IN A SHOTGUN ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION. OPEN THE ACTION AND MAKE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THE SHOTGUN IS COMPLETELY UNLOADED, ALWAYS PLACE THE “SAFETY” IN THE ON SAFE POSITION AND KEEP YOUR FINGERS AWAY FROM THE TRIGGER. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

CAUTION

BROWNING INVECTOR-DS CHOKE TUBES ARE FOR USE ONLY IN BROWNING SHOTGUNS WITH BACK-BORED BARRELS, AND ARE NOT INTERCHANGEABLE WITH BROWNING STANDARD INVECTOR OR INVECTOR-PLUS CHOKE TUBES. DO NOT USE INVECTOR-DS TUBES IN BARRELS THREADED FOR INVECTOR-PLUS OR STANDARD INVECTOR TUBES. DO NOT USE BROWNING INVECTOR-DS, STANDARD INVECTOR OR INVECTOR-PLUS CHOKE TUBES IN ANY SHOTGUN BARRELS NOT SUPPLIED BY BROWNING. DO NOT USE ANY OTHER CHOKING DEVICE IN ANY SHOTGUN BARREL SUPPLIED BY BROWNING.

USE ONLY THE APPROPRIATE GAUGE OF INVECTOR-DS CHOKE TUBE IN THIS SHOTGUN. DO NOT FIRE THIS SHOTGUN WITHOUT THE CORRECT CHOKE TUBE INSTALLED. DAMAGE MAY RESULT TO THE THREADS INSIDE THE BARREL.

FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS INFORMATION COULD RESULT IN DAMAGE TO YOUR SHOTGUN OR POSSIBLE INJURY.

NOTICE

USE ONLY THE INVECTOR-DS CHOKE TUBE T-WRENCH SUPPLIED WITH YOUR SHOTGUN TO INSTALL AND REMOVE INVECTOR-DS CHOKE TUBES. USING ANY OTHER WRENCH MAY DAMAGE THE THREADS IN THE BARREL.

Current production A5 shotgun barrels are threaded to accept the Invector-DS choke system. Confirm the choke system of your shotgun by looking on the right side of the barrel where the specifications are inscribed. Invector choke tubes are identified in Figure 19 (flush mount tubes are shown).

The constriction of each choke tube is indicated twice on the choke tube: On the side of the tube, and indicated with a “notch” code on the top rim of the tube. The included choke tube T-Wrench is used to remove and install choke tubes.

Some target shotguns include premium extended choke tubes. The constriction of premium choke tubes is indicated twice on the choke tube: On the side of the tube, and indicated with an abbreviation in the colored band. The constriction of flush fit choke tubes is indicated twice on the choke tube: On the side of the tube, and indicated with a “notch” code on the top rim of the tube. The included choke tube T-Wrench is used to remove and install choke tubes.

Invector choke tubes are compatible with factory ammunition that has been loaded in compliance with SAAMI specifications, including magnum lead and steel shot loads, sabots and shotgun slug loads.

Replacement and additional tubes and wrenches are available from your Browning dealer, or by contacting our Consumer Department. See “Service or Repair” on page 56 for contact information.

CHOKE TUBE SELECTION

To help you choose the correct choke tube for each hunting and shooting situation, all Browning Invector choke tubes are inscribed on the side with the patterns they produce with both lead and steel shot. Each Invector tube also has notches in the top rim of the tube.
These notches are a code to identify the choke designation while the tube is installed. Rim notches refer specifically to lead shot. Use the chart on page 30 to cross-reference from lead to steel, and determine the appropriate tubes for your ammunition and hunting/shooting situation.

Several choke tubes are supplied with your shotgun. The choke tubes listed are also available as accessories. Remember, Standard Invector, Invector-Plus and Invector-DS tubes are not interchangeable. Invector-Plus and Invector-DS tubes are for Browning shotguns with back-bored barrels only. Before removing or installing tubes, or reading the rim notch code, make sure the shotgun is fully unloaded.

**CHOKE TUBE REMOVAL**

1. Place the “safety” in the on safe position. Always make sure the shotgun is completely unloaded. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
2. Use the choke tube T-Wrench to loosen the tube, turning it counterclockwise (Figure 21). Finger-twist the tube the rest of the way out of the barrel.

**NOTICE**

**USE ONLY THE INVECTOR-DS T-WRENCH SUPPLIED WITH YOUR SHOTGUN TO INSTALL AND REMOVE INVECTOR-DS CHOKE TUBES. USING ANY OTHER WRENCH MAY DAMAGE THE THREADS IN THE BARREL.**

**CHOKE TUBE INSTALLATION**

1. Place the “safety” in the on safe position. Always make sure the shotgun is completely unloaded. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.

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* Not for use with steel shot. Using an over-tight choke constriction with steel shot will result in an ineffective “blown” pattern.

** When more than one choke designation is listed for a given steel shot pattern, use the more open choke listed for high velocity, larger shot size steel loads.
2 Before installing a tube, check the choke tube threads in the muzzle, as well as the threads on the choke tube to be sure they are clean. If dirty, clean the tube with a nylon brush and gun solvent. Lightly oil the choke tube and threads with a high-quality, lightweight gun oil.

3 Using your fingers, screw the appropriate tube into the muzzle end of the barrel, threaded end outward. When it becomes finger-tight, use the choke tube T-Wrench to firmly seat the tube.

USE ONLY THE INVECTOR-DS T-WRENCH SUPPLIED WITH YOUR SHOTGUN TO INSTALL AND REMOVE INVECTOR-DS CHOKE TUBES. USING ANY OTHER WRENCH MAY DAMAGE THE THREADS IN THE BARREL.

THE CHOKE TUBE SHOULD BE PERIODICALLY CHECKED TO ASSURE THAT IT IS TIGHT AND FIRMLY SEATED. BEFORE CHECKING, FOLLOW ALL THE CHOKE TUBE REMOVAL AND INSTALLATION SAFETY GUIDELINES PREVIOUSLY OUTLINED.

ADJUSTING LENGTH OF PULL

The buttstock can be adjusted for length of pull by adding or removing spacers (available separately) to the rear of the stock. One ¼” and one ½” thick spacers are included with the A5 (Figure 22). A maximum of ¾” of spacers can be added with the screws provided to extend length of pull. With longer screws (not provided), more than ¾” can be added to extend length of pull.

Spacers can be ordered through your Browning dealer or by calling our Customer Service Department at (800) 322-4626.

WARNING

BEFORE PERFORMING ADJUSTMENT PROCEDURES, PLACE THE “SAFETY” IN THE ON SAFE POSITION. OPEN THE ACTION AND MAKE CERTAIN YOUR SHOTGUN IS COMPLETELY UNLOADED. KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

INSTALLING A SPACER

IMPORTANT: Before loosening the buttstock to install spacers, the trigger group should be in position in the receiver. This aligns the buttstock and makes assembly easier.

1 Use a #2 cross tip or Phillips screwdriver to remove the recoil pad at the end of the buttstock (Figure 23). Place a small amount of petroleum jelly on the screw access slits on the top and bottom of the rear of the buttstock to prevent damaging the recoil pad. Insert the screwdriver into each of the two access holes. Make sure the tip of the screwdriver engages the head of the screw. Turn the screw counterclockwise until the screw is completely loose from the stock. When both screws are free, remove the recoil pad.

2 Add or subtract spacers to fit your firearm to your specifications (Figure 24). After making an adjustment hold the shotgun to your
shoulder to determine if the new length feels comfortable. Remember to always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, with the “safety” in the on safe position and make certain the shotgun is completely unloaded.

3 When you are satisfied with the length of pull, start the screws through the pad and spacer(s) into the holes in the stock.

4 Attach the recoil pad to the stock using the screwdriver. Turn the screws clockwise to tighten. Do not overtighten the screws.

**ADJUSTING CAST AND DROP AT COMB**

**WARNING**

**BEFORE PERFORMING ADJUSTMENT PROCEDURES, PLACE THE “SAFETY” IN THE ON SAFE POSITION. OPEN THE ACTION AND MAKE CERTAIN YOUR SHOTGUN IS COMPLETELY UNLOADED. KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.**

Six shims are included with your new shotgun (Figure 25). The shims fit between the buttstock and receiver, allowing customized adjustments to the comb and heel. Each shim is labeled/stamped for a specific amount of adjustment. The neutral shim, No. 2, is already installed on your shotgun.

Drop at comb is defined as the place on the comb that your cheek rests when taking aim. If drop at comb is correct, your eye naturally falls in line with the sight. Shims marked 1, 2 and 3 do not give any cast on or off. The stock remains straight. They only adjust drop at comb.

These shims with their respective stamps are further clarified here:

- Shim 1 raises the comb approximately 1/16", and the heel approximately 1/8".
- Shim 2 is neutral. This shim is already installed on the firearm.
- Shim 3 lowers the comb approximately 1/16", and the heel approximately 1/8".

Cast is the offset of the buttstock from the longitudinal center line of the firearm. Some right-handed shooters like the stock to angle away (cast off) from their face, making their line of sight more directly in line with the barrel. Angling the stock to the left for left-handed shooters is “cast on.” Shims marked 1R1L, 2R2L, and 3R3L, will all adjust drop at comb the same amount as shims 1, 2 and 3, and will also adjust the cast right or left approximately 1/8". You will notice that the two opposing edges of these spacers are different in thickness. For right-handed shooters, install shims between the receiver and the stock with the R facing the end of the buttstock, so its thicker side is on the left side. This casts the stock slightly to the right, away from the face of a right-handed shooter. If you turn the shim around so the L is facing the end of the buttstock, and it will cast the stock to the left. These shims with their respective stamps are further clarified here:
• Shim 1R1L raises the comb approximately 1/16", and the heel approximately 1/8" and will adjust the cast on or cast off approximately 1/8".

• Shim 2R2L adds the same amount of cast to the stock as shim 1R1L with neutral drop like shim 2.

• Shim 3R3L adds the same amount of cast to the stock as shims 1R1L and 2R2L, and lowers the comb approximately 1/16" and the heel approximately 1/8".

**INSTALLING A SHIM**

**IMPORTANT:** Before loosening the buttstock to install shims, the trigger group should be in position in the receiver. This aligns the buttstock and makes assembly easier.

1. Make sure your shotgun is completely unloaded and the “safety” is in the on safe position.

2. Use a #2 cross tip or Phillips screwdriver to remove the recoil pad from the buttstock (Figure 23, page 33). Place a small amount of petroleum jelly on the screw access slits on the top and bottom of the rear of the buttstock to prevent damaging the recoil pad. Insert the screwdriver into each of the two access holes. Make certain the tip of the screwdriver engages the head of the screw. Turn the screw counterclockwise until the screw is completely loose from the stock. When both screws are free, remove the recoil pad.

3. Remove the stock insert to access the stock bolt nut (Figure 26, page 35).

4. Use a ½" socket wrench to remove the stock bolt nut and stock bolt washer. (Figure 27, page 35).

5. Completely remove the buttstock from the receiver, along with the existing shim, and install the shim you have selected (Figure 28, page 37). Make certain you have the proper shim installed and in position before reattaching the buttstock and recoil pad.

6. When you are satisfied with the fit, reattach the buttstock to the receiver with the washer and the nuts.

7. Snug the nut with the ½" socket wrench, do not overtighten.

8. Reinstall the stock insert.

9. Reinstall the recoil pad with care, so as not to scratch or mar the finish of the stock.

**EXTRA BARRELS**

**WARNING**

**BEFORE INSTALLING AN ACCESSORY BARREL ON YOUR SHOTGUN, READ THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES TO ENSURE THE BARREL/SHOTGUN COMBINATION IS SAFE. PLACE THE “SAFETY” IN THE ON SAFE POSITION. OPEN THE ACTION AND MAKE CERTAIN YOUR SHOTGUN IS COMPLETELY UNLOADED. KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.**

The versatility of your new shotgun can be extended with an extra barrel. A5 shotgun barrels are interchangeable within a given gauge and chamber length. No special fitting is required. However, some important restrictions must be observed:

• Never use a barrel with a 3½" chamber on a shotgun designed for barrels with a 3" chamber.

• Never use a barrel with a 3" chamber on a shotgun designed for barrels with a 3½" chamber.

• Never use any other barrel from any other manufacturer on your shotgun. Some other brands may seem similar, but the barrels are not interchangeable.

• Never use a barrel from any other Browning shotgun.
CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE SUGGESTIONS

Please take note of the following information before cleaning your firearm.

Cleaning Parts with Special Finishes
Be especially careful when cleaning firearms with camouflage, Dura-Touch® Armor Coating and other special finishes. Always prevent these surfaces from coming in contact with cleaning solvents, barrel scrubbers and other strong chemicals. It is preferable to clean these surfaces with a lightweight gun oil containing no solvents or with a damp cloth and mild dish soap (be sure to keep water out of the action). When cleaning your firearm’s bore and action, protect the external finishes from any contact with chemicals used. Also avoid any contact between external finishes and other strong chemicals like those found in DEET-containing insect repellents, sunscreens, etc. Damage to camouflage, Dura-Touch and other finishes caused by chemicals is irreversible and not repairable.

⚠️ WARNING
Before performing cleaning procedures, place the “safety” in the on safe position. Open the action and make certain your shotgun is completely unloaded. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. Failure to follow these warnings could result in serious injury or death.

⚠️ WARNING
Wear eye protection when disassembling and cleaning your shotgun to prevent springs, spring-loaded parts, solvents or other agents from contacting your eyes, resulting in injury.

⚠️ WARNING
Keep all ammunition away from the cleaning area. Never test the mechanical function of your shotgun with live ammunition. Failure to follow these warnings could result in serious injury or death.

Cleaning the Barrel
Your A5 shotgun will function better and more reliably over a longer period of time if it is properly maintained and kept clean. You should clean your shotgun after every day of shooting, and more often if it becomes excessively dirty. At a minimum the barrel should be cleaned and the action wiped clean and oiled after every day of shooting. The slide assembly should require only occasional cleaning.

Normal maintenance can be accomplished with the barrel still attached to the receiver (oiling and wiping down). More careful cleaning requires removal of the barrel from the receiver (cleaning the barrel) and the removal of the slide assembly. A complete cleaning requires removal of the slide assembly and trigger group.

If a malfunction occurs, perform a thorough cleaning to see if it solves the problem before seeking the services of a Browning Recommended Service Center, the Browning Service Facility in Arnold, Missouri, or a qualified gunsmith.

1. Place the “safety” in the on safe position. Open the action and inspect the chamber and magazine to make certain they do not contain any shells. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.

2. Remove the forearm and barrel as explained under “Disassembly” on pages 16-17.

3. Using a shotgun cleaning rod with tip and patch large enough for a snug fit in the bore, insert the rod and a lightly oiled patch in the breech end of the barrel and run back and forth through the bore several times. Remove and clean the choke tube and choke tube barrel threads with a nylon brush and lightly oil.

Browning offers a complete line of products to make cleaning your firearm fast and easy. Be sure to follow the manufacturers' instructions when using any product to clean your firearm.
4 Inspect the bore from both ends for leading and plastic residue that often remains in the bore from the shot cups in modern shells. Leading and plastic residue will appear as longitudinal streaks and is usually more predominant near the muzzle and just forward of the chamber. A normal amount of either is common and not serious.

5 If leading or plastic residue seems excessive you can remove it by brushing the bore with a bronze brush. Soak the brush or spray the bore with a powder solvent first. Scrub until clean. To prevent bristles from breaking off, push the brush fully through the barrel each time before pulling it back through.

**WARNING**

MOST SOLVENTS ARE HIGHLY FLAMMABLE. WEAR EYE PROTECTION AND PRACTICE APPROPRIATE SAFETY MEASURES WHEN WORKING WITH SOLVENTS TO AVOID SERIOUS INJURY.

6 After all leading and plastic residues have been removed, run a clean, dry patch through the bore. Follow this with a final, lightly oiled patch to help prevent corrosion.

7 Reassemble the shotgun and wipe all exposed metal surfaces with an oiled cloth making sure to wipe away all finger marks where moisture could accumulate.

8 Inspect the barrel and chamber. Remove any cleaning patches or debris that remain.

9 Lightly oil your firearm at the points described under “Periodic Oiling” below. Regular, light oiling is extremely important to the durability and reliable operation of your shotgun.

10 The wood surfaces can also be wiped with a quality, lightweight gun oil or they can be polished with any quality furniture wax (but not both).

**PERIODIC OILING**

The metal parts of a firearm should receive a light film of oil after the firearm has been exposed to weather or handling.

Occasionally, a drop of lightweight gun oil may be placed inside the receiver on the rails on which the slide assembly slides (Figure 3, page 11). This reduces friction for smooth operation.

If the firearm has been exposed to excessive dust, dirt, mud or water, the principal working parts including slide assembly, should be wiped clean and lubricated with a light film of quality, lightweight gun oil.

**NOTICE**

DO NOT PLACE LARGE QUANTITIES OF OIL INTO THE ACTION. EXCESS OIL WILL RUN BACK INTO THE WOOD OF THE STOCK SOFTENING THE WOOD, WITH CONSEQUENT LOOSENING OF THE STOCK.

**REMOVAL OF THE TRIGGER GROUP**

**WARNING**

BEFORE REMOVING THE TRIGGER GROUP, PLACE THE “SAFETY” IN THE ON SAFE POSITION. OPEN THE ACTION AND MAKE CERTAIN YOUR SHOTGUN IS COMPLETELY UNLOADED. KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

**WARNING**

WEAR EYE PROTECTION WHEN DISASSEMBLING AND CLEANING YOUR SHOTGUN TO PREVENT SPRINGS, SPRING-LOADED PARTS, SOLVENTS OR OTHER AGENTS FROM CONTACTING YOUR EYES, RESULTING IN INJURY.

**WARNING**

KEEP ALL AMMUNITION AWAY FROM THE CLEANING AREA. NEVER TEST THE MECHANICAL FUNCTION OF YOUR SHOTGUN WITH LIVE AMMUNITION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

The trigger group can be removed if the action becomes excessively dirty or wet. If this occurs, disassemble the action for a complete cleaning as explained in the following sections. The trigger group of your A5 shotgun can be removed in the field with only a small punch.
Disassembly of the action involves the removal of the slide assembly and the trigger group. Disassembly beyond this point should only be performed by a qualified gunsmith.

REMOVING THE TRIGGER GROUP

1. Place the slide assembly in the forward position by holding the bolt handle and depressing the bolt release button.

2. Use a non-marring punch or similar object to push inward on the trigger guard pins, taking care not to scratch the receiver (Figure 29). Trigger group pins may be removed from either side of the receiver. Push the trigger group pins through the receiver. Pull on them from the opposite side to remove them.

3. Grasp the trigger guard and pull it up and out of the receiver (Figure 30, page 43).

4. Perform any cleaning of the parts and receiver cavity as necessary. We suggest cleaning the trigger group with a quality aerosol gun solvent. Allow it to dry and then very lightly oil the moving parts.

DO NOT DISASSEMBLE THE TRIGGER GROUP BEYOND THIS POINT.

REINSTALLATION OF THE TRIGGER GROUP

1. Make sure the slide assembly is in the forward position.

2. Insert the rear of the trigger group into the receiver.

3. Press the bolt release button.

4. Insert the front of the trigger group into the receiver.

5. Align the holes in the trigger group with the holes on each side of the receiver.

6. Insert the trigger guard pins and gently tap them into place with a plastic or wooden mallet, again using caution not to scratch the receiver.

MAINTENANCE OF THE SLIDE ASSEMBLY

The slide assembly can be removed if the action becomes excessively dirty or wet. If this occurs, disassemble the action for a complete cleaning as explained in the following sections. The slide assembly of your A5 shotgun is designed to be removed in the field, without special tools.

Disassembly of the action involves the removal of the slide assembly and the trigger group. Disassembly beyond this point should only be performed by a qualified gunsmith.

BEFORE REMOVING THE SLIDE ASSEMBLY, PLACE THE “SAFETY” IN THE ON SAFE POSITION. OPEN THE ACTION AND MAKE CERTAIN YOUR SHOTGUN IS COMPLETELY UNLOADED. KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

WEAR EYE PROTECTION WHEN DISASSEMBLING AND CLEANING YOUR SHOTGUN TO PREVENT SPRINGS, SPRING-LOADED PARTS, SOLVENTS OR OTHER AGENTS FROM CONTACTING YOUR EYES, RESULTING IN INJURY.


**WARNING**

KEEP ALL AMMUNITION AWAY FROM THE CLEANING AREA. NEVER TEST THE MECHANICAL FUNCTION OF YOUR SHOTGUN WITH LIVE AMMUNITION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

The slide assembly should occasionally be removed for cleaning and lubrication. Follow the instructions in this section to remove the slide assembly.

1 Lock the slide assembly rearward by first sliding the bolt latch to the rear, then pulling the bolt handle fully to the rear as explained on page 13.
2 Remove the barrel and forearm as explained previously.
3 Carefully place the slide assembly in the forward position by retaining the bolt handle and pressing the bolt release button.

**NOTICE**

NEVER ALLOW THE ACTION TO SLAM CLOSED BY PRESSING THE BOLT RELEASE BUTTON WITHOUT THE BARREL INSTALLED. IF THE SLIDE ASSEMBLY IS RELEASED FORWARD WITH THE BARREL REMOVED, THE BOLT HANDLE WILL STRIKE THE RECEIVER AND CAUSE DAMAGE.

4 Remove the bolt handle by pulling the bolt handle outward (Figure 31, page 45).
5 Slide the slide assembly forward and out of the receiver (Figure 32, page 45).

**IDENTIFY THE SLIDE ASSEMBLY**

Prior to disassembly, you must first identify the slide assembly in your A5. There are two types of slide assemblies in A5 shotguns. To identify the slide assembly in your A5, follow these guidelines:

Type A: This slide assembly utilizes a firing pin spring within the slide assembly. The Type A slide assembly is readily identified by pressing on the rear of the firing pin and feeling spring resistance.

Type B: This version does not use a firing pin spring within the slide assembly. The Type B slide assembly is readily identified by pressing on the rear of the firing pin and noting the lack of spring resistance.

**DISASSEMBLING/REASSEMBLING THE SLIDE ASSEMBLY**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THIS PROCEDURE BE PERFORMED BY A COMPETENT GUNSMITH. SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO PERFORM THIS PROCEDURE, STRICTLY ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING STEPS.

FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS INFORMATION COULD RESULT IN DAMAGE TO YOUR SHOTGUN OR POSSIBLE INJURY.

**TYPE A DISASSEMBLY PROCEDURE**

Figure 33 on page 46 shows the Type A slide assembly completely disassembled with parts labeled for reference. Follow the instructions in this section to disassemble the slide assembly.

1 Remove the slide assembly as explained previously.
2 Press the firing pin completely into the rear of the slide assembly and retain it in this position.
Remove the firing pin and firing pin spring (Figure 36).

5 Using a punch, press inward on the unlocking pin from the left side of the slide assembly and remove the unlocking pin (Figure 37).

6 Remove the bolt from the front of the slide assembly.

7 Remove the recoil spring from the front of the slide assembly.

Clean the parts of the slide as necessary using a quality aerosol gun solvent. Allow the parts to dry and then lightly oil the parts.

**TYPE A REASSEMBLY PROCEDURE**

1 Insert the recoil spring into the front of the slide assembly.

2 Insert the bolt into the front of the slide assembly (Figure 38). Be sure the extractor is on the right side of the bolt slide. Align the hole in slide assembly with the cut in the bolt.

3 Insert the unlocking pin into the hole in the right side (bolt handle side) of the slide assembly and push it through the bolt. Ensure the hole in the
SHOTGUN WILL FIRE WHEN THE BOLT IS RELEASED TO THE FORWARD POSITION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

TYPE B DISASSEMBLY PROCEDURE

Figure 41 shows the Type B slide assembly completely disassembled with parts labeled for reference. Follow the instructions in this section to disassemble the slide assembly.

1. Remove the slide assembly as explained previously.
2. Place the bolt, bottom side up, on an armorer's block or a block of wood. Align the roll pin hole with the hole in the armorer's block or on the edge of the block of wood. Insert a small roll pin punch into the roll pin hole in the bottom of the slide assembly and use a small gunsmithing-type hammer to drive the firing pin retaining roll pin out the top of the slide assembly until it falls free from the slide assembly (Figure 42).

WARNING


4. Insert the firing pin spring and firing pin into the opening at the rear of the slide assembly until the rear end of the firing pin is almost flush with the rear of the slide assembly (Figure 40).

IMPORTANT: Do not push the rear end of the firing pin into the slide assembly opening beyond a position that is flush.

IMPORTANT: Do not force the firing pin into the opening. If the firing pin will not easily go into the slide assembly, the hole in the unlocking pin may need to be aligned.

5. Holding the firing pin in this position in the slide assembly, insert the firing pin retaining pin into the hole in the top of the slide assembly.

FIGURE 39
Install the unlocking pin as shown. The hole must align with the firing pin.

FIGURE 40
Push in the firing pin until it is almost flush with the rear of the slide assembly, then install the Firing Pin Retaining Pin.

FIGURE 41
The Type B slide assembly shown disassembled for cleaning.

FIGURE 42
Tap out the firing pin retaining roll pin.
3 Using a punch, press inward on the unlocking pin from the left side of the slide assembly and remove the unlocking pin (Figure 37, page 47).

4 Remove the bolt from the front of the slide assembly.

5 Remove the recoil spring from the front of the slide assembly. Clean the parts of the slide as necessary using a quality aerosol gun solvent. Allow the parts to dry and then lightly oil the parts.

**TYPE B REASSEMBLY PROCEDURE**

1 Insert the recoil spring into the front of the slide assembly.

2 Insert the bolt into the front of the slide assembly (Figure 38, page 47). Be sure the extractor is on the right side of the bolt slide. Align the hole in the slide assembly with the cut in the bolt.

3 Insert the unlocking pin into the hole in the right side (bolt handle side) of the slide assembly and push it through the bolt. Ensure the hole in the unlocking pin is facing forward to allow the firing pin to pass though (Figure 39, page 48).

4 Insert the firing pin into the opening at the rear of the slide assembly. To get the firing pin to the correct depth prior to installing the firing pin retaining roll pin, first place the bolt in the rear most position in the bolt slide. Next, place your finger on the face of the bolt, covering the hole the firing pin extends from. Push the firing pin from the rear until you can feel the firing pin protruding through the bolt face with your finger (Figure 43). This is the correct depth for the firing pin.

**WARNING**

**IF THE FIRING PIN PROTRUDES FROM THE BOLT FACE WITHOUT BEING PRESSED FROM THE REAR, THE FIRING PIN HAS BEEN INCORRECTLY INSTALLED. IMMEDIATELY DISASSEMBLE THE SLIDE ASSEMBLY AND REASSEMBLE IT FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS SECTION. IF THE BOLT IS INSTALLED IN THE SHOTGUN WITH THE FIRING PIN IMPROPERLY PROTRUDING FROM THE BOLT FACE AND THE CHAMBER IS LOADED, THE SHOTGUN WILL FIRE WHEN THE BOLT IS RELEASED TO THE FORWARD POSITION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.**

**INSTALLING THE SLIDE ASSEMBLY**

1 Turn the shotgun upside down to make it easier to align the slide link and the socket in the recoil spring follower.
2 Align slide assembly rails with the grooves in the receiver. Insert the slide assembly into the receiver, slide link end first.

3 Insert the bolt handle into the slot in the slide assembly.

4 Carefully open and close the action several times to make sure the slide link and recoil spring follower are properly engaged (Figure 45, page 51).

**NOTICE**

NEVER ALLOW THE ACTION TO SLAM CLOSED BY PRESSING THE BOLT RELEASE BUTTON WITHOUT HAVING THE BARREL INSTALLED. DAMAGE WILL RESULT TO THE RECEIVER AND BOLT HANDLE.

5 Install the trigger group in the receiver as explained previously.

**CLEANING THE ACTION**

1 When the action becomes excessively dirty, remove the trigger group and slide assembly from the receiver as explained under “Removal of the Trigger Group” (pages 41-43) and “Removal of the Slide Assembly” (pages 43-51). Clean with a gun solvent as necessary. Use a nylon brush to loosen caked-on grime.

Wipe the receiver cavity clean. Lightly oil the cavity and wipe it dry. No further disassembly is required for cleaning.

2 Reassemble the trigger group, slide assembly, and the barrel and forearm to the receiver as explained previously, making sure the barrel and action have no cleaning patches inadvertently left in them. Then wipe all exposed metal surfaces with an oiled cloth, making sure to wipe clean all finger marks where moisture could accumulate.

**LUBRICATING THE ACTION TUBE AND SPRING**

**WARNING**

BEFORE LUBRICATING THE ACTION TUBE AND SPRING, PLACE THE “SAFETY” IN THE ON SAFE POSITION. OPEN THE ACTION AND MAKE CERTAIN YOUR SHOTGUN IS COMPLETELY UNLOADED. KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION.

FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

**WARNING**

WEAR EYE PROTECTION WHEN DISASSEMBLING AND LUBRICATING YOUR SHOTGUN TO PREVENT SPRINGS, SPRING-LOADED PARTS, SOLVENTS OR OTHER AGENTS FROM CONTACTING YOUR EYES, RESULTING IN INJURY.

KEEP ALL AMMUNITION AWAY FROM THE CLEANING AREA. NEVER TEST THE MECHANICAL FUNCTION OF YOUR SHOTGUN WITH LIVE AMMUNITION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

If you frequently use your shotgun in inclement weather conditions, oiling the action tube and spring will aid in maintaining the performance and reliability of your firearm.

**IMPORTANT:** Before loosening the buttstock to lubricate the action tube and spring, the trigger group should be in position in the receiver. This aligns the buttstock and makes assembly easier.

1 Remove the recoil pad and buttstock as explained previously.

2 Place a few drops of high-quality lightweight gun oil in the opening in the rear of the action tube (Figure 46).

**WARNING**

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REMOVE THE ACTION SPRING FROM THE ACTION TUBE. THE ACTION TUBE IS EASILY DAMAGED AND THE ACTION SPRING IS UNDER SPRING TENSION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS WARNING COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DAMAGE YOUR SHOTGUN.
MAINTENANCE OF OIL FINISH STOCKS

Keeping the oil-finished wood surface on your firearm looking its best requires only a small amount of maintenance. When the surface becomes spotted or dull, the affected area(s) can be treated using rubbing alcohol on a soft, lint free cloth and allowed to dry. A small amount of a linseed oil-based finish, such as Watco® Danish Oil Finish, Deft® Danish Oil Finish, or Formby’s® Tung Oil Finish should then be applied to the surface of the wood with a soft, lint free cloth according to the manufacturer’s instructions. To treat the checkering, a small amount of oil-based finish can be applied and then distributed evenly using a toothbrush or other soft bristled brush.

MODELS WITH SPECIAL FINISHES

As with any firearm, the only way to preserve its pristine condition and collector appeal is to never handle or fire it, which in turn would deprive you of much of the enjoyment that comes with owning a fine Browning firearm.

While special finishes such as engraving and gold plating greatly enhance the aesthetic appeal of your shotgun, please be aware that they are no more durable, and in some cases may even be slightly less durable than more common firearm finishes.

As you use your shotgun, you can expect special finishes to wear in much the same manner as any other firearm finish. These marks are the honest product of the hours spent enjoying your firearm and each scuff and scratch will probably have a good story to go along with it.

3 Hold the shotgun with the muzzle down. Cycle the action using the bolt handle to operate the action several times to evenly disperse the oil on the spring and inside the action tube.

**NOTICE**

**DO NOT USE EXCESSIVE LUBRICANT. USING TOO MUCH LUBRICANT CAN INTERFERE WITH THE FUNCTIONING OF YOUR SHOTGUN. DO NOT SPRAY SOLVENT INSIDE THE ACTION TUBE.**

4 Carefully rest the shotgun vertically on a rag with the action tube down for 15 minutes to allow excess oil to drain out of the action tube. Wipe away any excess oil.

5 Lightly lubricate the external surface of the action tube.

6 Install the buttstock and recoil pad as explained previously.

**NOTICE**

**NEVER ATTEMPT TO TAKE YOUR FIREARM APART FURTHER THAN EXPLAINED IN THIS OWNER’S MANUAL. YOUR FIREARM IS A SPECIALIZED, FINELY FITTED MECHANISM. YOU MAY PERMANENTLY DAMAGE IT BY ATTEMPTING TO DISASSEMBLE THE INNER MECHANISM ASSEMBLIES. IF FURTHER DISASSEMBLY FOR SERVICE OR CLEANING IS REQUIRED, TAKE YOUR FIREARM TO A QUALIFIED GUNSMITH, OR CONTACT OUR ARNOLD, MISSOURI SERVICE FACILITY AS EXPLAINED UNDER “SERVICE OR REPAIR” ON PAGE 56.**
SERVICE OR REPAIR

If your firearm should require service or repairs, we suggest you first contact a local recommended Browning Firearms Service Center. To locate a service center visit browning.com, contact our Customer Service Department or your Browning firearms dealer for the address of the Service Center nearest you. Otherwise, you may send your firearm directly to our Service Department in Arnold, Missouri.

Parts listings, Firearm Service Center lists, service procedures, service/repair form and general product information are also found on the internet at: browning.com. For technical questions about your firearm or service, contact:

United States customers contact:        Canadian customers contact:
Browning Firearm Status and Technical Service Browning Canada Sports Ltd/Ltée
3005 Arnold Tenbrook Rd                  5583 Chemin St-François
Arnold, MO 63010-9406                    St-Laurent, Quebec H4S 1W6
Phone: (800) 322-4626                    Phone: (514) 333-7261

When returning your firearm for servicing, you must do the following:
1 Be sure it is completely unloaded.
2 Remove the scope or other optics.
3 Package it securely in a cardboard container.
4 Enclose the service/repair form available at browning.com or a letter that clearly describes the trouble experienced, the ammunition used and the repairs desired. Also include your name, e-mail address (if possible) and a daytime phone number where you can be reached.
5 If convenient, send a copy of the service/repair form or letter to us separately.
6 Never return ammunition with your firearm. It is against postal and most commerce regulations.