

# Break-In and cleaning instructions



## Break-In:

A new barrel's bore does not have its final surface quality even after the best lapping one can do. There is a certain roughness, that would lead to an unnecessarily high amount of copper fouling. To provide your barrel with the maximum resistance against fouling, you should follow a break-in routine. By carrying out this procedure you smoothen the surface of the bore to its final quality by repeated shooting and cleaning. Our experience has shown, that the following pattern is ideal for most barrels:

- 5 x 1 shot
- 3 x 3 shot
- 1 x 5 shot

You should clean after every group (i.e. at the beginning after every shot) according to the cleaning instructions mentioned below. While doing this, you should take care of removing the copper fouling completely after each group. If you leave any fouling in the bore, it gets pushed into the surface of the bore and leads to more fouling later. Stick to this routine in your own interest, it pays off in the long run and you will have a good shooting barrel for a longer time.

## Cleaning:

To keep up the performance of your cut rifled and hand-lapped barrel as long as possible, it is very important to clean in a very careful manner. Depending on the caliber, you should clean after every 20-25 rounds.

For cleaning you should use a bronze brush in the right size, a suitable bore-cleaner and cotton patches. Cleaning cords or similar equipment is not good, because it would bring dirt into the chamber in the long run.

Suitable bore cleaners are non-abrasive and free from ammonia. Various oils are not suitable. Oil is oil and no bore-cleaner. The reason is, that oil becomes sticky and could influence the mechanic of your rifle (most of all the trigger). We had good experiences with the ammonia-free version of Shooters Choice as well as with Forrest Foam. Both bore-cleaners can stay in the barrel overnight without causing any harm.

You can push (or pull) the bronze brush through the barrel in both directions - that's what more or less all benchrest shooters do as well. The important thing is, that the brush comes out of the bore completely and does not get reversed too early. A good rule of thumb for the count of brush-strokes is one time in and out per fired round.

If you have carried out the break-in routine well, you can expect the 2nd or 3rd patch to be clean when whipping out the barrel.

Best regards

Your Bix'n Andy Team