



## **MASTERPIECE ARMS MFG., INC. MODEL MPABA Rifle Manual**

### **Firearms Safety Procedures**

Firearm safety is every gun owner's responsibility. Since the start of our company, Masterpiece Arms has advocated the safe use, handling, secure storage and proper education that accompany responsible firearms ownership. Both general and specific firearms safety rules and information have always been packaged with every Masterpiece Arms firearm. Masterpiece Arms encourages everyone to store all guns under lock and key, and to take special precautions to keep guns out of the reach of children.

Masterpiece Arms firearms have always been and will continue to be distributed in full compliance with the letter and spirit of all applicable laws pertaining to their sale. All sales are made only to the federally licensed professional firearm dealers with fixed retail storefronts. Failure to follow these instructions or failure to obey any safety warnings may result in injury to yourself or others, or cause damage to your gun.

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's no excuse for careless or abusive handling of any firearm. At all times handle your rifle with intense respect for its power and potential danger. This product is classified as a lethal weapon. The failure to read and properly execute the instructions and warnings contained in this manual could result in serious injury or death or damaged property. Remember that firearm ownership and use is a responsibility that no one should take lightly. Most firearm accidents would not occur if the following rules are observed

1. Consider every firearm loaded at all times. Never point the muzzle at anything you do not intend to shoot. Always do this even though you are certain the gun is unloaded. Be extremely alert and aware of all persons or property within the range of your ammunition.

2. Learn the mechanical and handling characteristics of the firearm you're using. Always assume that your gun can be fired at anytime, even with all safety mechanisms engaged. Like any mechanical device, a safety can sometimes fail; it can be jarred or inadvertently manipulated into an unsafe condition. Mechanical safeties merely aid safe gun handling and are no excuse for pointing your gun's muzzle in an unsafe direction. Safe gun handling does not stop with your gun's mechanical safety devices - it starts there. Always treat all firearms with the respect a loaded, ready to fire gun deserves.

3. Use the correct ammunition of the caliber and type intended for the firearm. The Masterpiece Arms barrel and action has been made with substantial safety margins over the pressures developed by established American commercial loads. Nevertheless, Masterpiece Arms, assumes no liability for incidents which occur through the use of nonstandard cartridges which develop pressures in excess of industry standard ammunition. No warranty is expressed for the use of reloaded ammunition in our firearms.

4. Make sure your barrel is always free from any obstruction including mud, dirt, snow, grease, heavy oil or other foreign matter. Always be alert to the signs of ammunition malfunction. If you detect an off sound or light recoil when the cartridge fires, do not load another cartridge into the chamber before checking for obstructions.

5. Always wear eye and ear protection when shooting. Unprotected, repeated exposure to gunfire can cause hearing damage. Wear hearing protection, shooting earplugs or muffs, to guard against such damage. Wear shooting glasses to protect your eyes from flying particles. Also, wear eye protection when disassembling and cleaning all firearms to prevent the possibility of springs, spring tensioned parts, solvents or other agents from contacting your eyes.

6. When not in use, store unloaded guns and ammunition separately under lock and key. Store your firearm and ammunition separately well beyond the reach of children. Take all safeguards to insure that any firearm does not become available to untrained, inexperienced or unwelcome hands.

7. Never climb a fence or tree or jump a ditch with a loaded gun. Never lean or place any loaded firearm on or against a fence, tree, car or other similar object. If this is done the gun may inadvertently fire, causing the gun to fire accidentally. Never store a loaded firearm, all firearms should be unloaded and cleared before storage.

8. Never pull a gun toward your body by the muzzle. If this is done, and there is an accidental discharge, you will surely be injured or fatally wounded.

9. Keep your fingers away from the trigger, while unloading or loading, until you are ready to shoot.

10. Be sure of your target and beyond before you shoot. Never use hard flat surface or water as your backstop. Especially during low light conditions. Know the range of your ammunition. Never fire at water or hard objects as ricochets may occur.

11. If repairs are necessary or indicated, contact Masterpiece Arms Mfg., Inc. for further instructions. Do not, under any circumstances, alter the trigger, safety or other parts of the firing mechanism on this or any other firearm outside of their normal adjustments. Failure to obey this warning may result in injury or death to yourself or others.

12. Never loan your gun to anyone unfamiliar with these precautions. Supervise and teach 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/shooting safety courses. The National Rifle Association's Eddie Eagle program is a great starting point.

13. Be defensive and on guard against unsafe gun handling around you and others. Don't be timid when it comes to gun safety. If you observed other shooters violating any of the safety precautions, politely suggest safer handling practices.

14. Never drink alcoholic beverages or take any type of drugs before or during shooting. Your vision and judgment could be dangerously impaired, making your gun handling unsafe to you and to others.

15. Don't neglect periodic maintenance. Avoid unauthorized servicing. Your new firearm is a mechanical device, and as such, is subject to wear and requires periodic inspection, adjustment, and service. Masterpiece Arms firearms should only be serviced by an authorized gunsmith or sent back to the factory. Masterpiece Arms cannot assume any responsibility for injuries suffered or caused by unauthorized servicing, alterations or modifications.

Important: Before firing, thoroughly clean the inside of the barrel and chamber to remove any grease oil or other possible obstructions.

**Table of Contents:**

Specifications	3
The Safety	4
Install Bolt Assembly	4
Remove Bolt Assembly	4
Trigger Assembly	4
Barrel	4
Chamber Information	5
Loading the Firearm	5
Unloading the Firearm	6
Threaded Barrel	6
Crown	7
Barrel Care and Life	7
Chassis	8
Warranty Information	9
Warranty Card	11

**Specifications:**

Caliber	Various
Chamber	Throated for a Specific Match Grade Ammo – Marked on the Barrel
Overall Length	48" Typical
Barrel Length	24" Typical (Other lengths available)
Barrel Muzzle Thread	5/8-24 tpi
Barrel Twist	Marked on the Barrel
Barrel Material	416Rq Stainless Steel
Overall Weight	Depends on Barrel Profile
Chassis Material	6061 Aluminum
Chassis Supplier	Masterpiece Arms
Barrel Supplier	Masterpiece Arms
Action Supplier	Stillers Precision/Big Horn/Defiance/Kelblys/Curtis
Trigger Supplier	Timney Triggers/Rifle Basix Triggers/Trigger Tech
Magazine Type	AW or AICS
Chassis Coating	Cerakote
Scope Rail	20 MOA Base
Front Rails	Standard Picatinny Type

## **The Safety**

The safety mechanism provides protection against accidental or unintentional discharge under normal usage when properly engaged and in good working order. The safety mechanism is not a substitute for following the rules of safe gun handling. To engage the safety mechanism, pull the safety mechanism fully to the rear toward the 'S' position. Always put the safety mechanism in the 'S' position before handling, loading or unloading the firearm. When you are ready to fire the firearm, push the safety mechanism forward towards the 'F' position to disengage the safety mechanism. Do not touch the trigger while moving the safety mechanism. Your fingers and all other objects should be kept outside of the trigger guard and away from the trigger until you are actually ready to fire by pulling the trigger. Never pull the trigger when the safety mechanism is in the 'S' position.

WARNING! The firearm will fire when the trigger is pulled and the safety mechanism is in the 'F' position. Even when the safety mechanism is in the 'S' position, careless handling can cause the firearm to fire.

### **To Install Bolt Assembly:**

The bolt assembly locks the cartridge into the chamber.

1. Always point the firearm in a safe direction.
2. Put the safety mechanism in the 'S' position.
3. Align the lugs on the bolt assembly with the receiver.
4. Slide the bolt assembly into the receiver and push all the way in.
5. To place the bolt assembly in closed position, push the bolt handle down.

### **To Remove Bolt Assembly:**

1. Always point the firearm in a safe direction.
2. Put the safety mechanism in the 'S' position.
3. Do not touch the trigger while moving the safety mechanism.
4. Raise the bolt handle.
5. Pull the bolt handle all the way back.
6. Push bolt stop release on the upper left side of the action – to the left of the bolt handle.
7. Slide the bolt assembly from the firearm.

## **The Trigger Assembly**

Pulling the trigger fires the firearm.

Your MPA BA Series rifle is equipped with either a Trigger tech/Timney 510/Calvin Elite/Rifle Basix L1 or LV1 Trigger assembly. This is an adjustable trigger that will permit the gun user to adjust the trigger pull. For Trigger Adjustment information please contact Manufacturer.

## **The Barrel**

The inside of the barrel must be clean and free of obstructions.

I. TO CHECK THE INSIDE OF THE BARREL:

1. Always point the firearm in a safe direction.
2. Put the safety mechanism in the 'S' position.
3. Raise the bolt handle.
4. Pull the bolt all the way back.
5. Remove any ammunition from the chamber or magazine.
6. Remove the bolt.
7. Look through the inside of the barrel from the chamber end to the muzzle.

#### II. TO REMOVE OBJECT FROM INSIDE THE BARREL:

1. Use correct size cleaning rod.
2. Push cleaning rod from the chamber end all the way through the barrel, until the rod comes out of the muzzle.
3. If an object cannot be easily pushed out of the barrel with a cleaning rod, return the firearm to the factory or to an authorized gunsmith.

WARNING! NEVER try to remove an object from the barrel by loading another cartridge and firing. This may cause the barrel to burst or a cartridge case to rupture and cause serious personal injury or death.

#### **Chamber Information**

The MPABA Rifle series, as it is shipped from the factory, is chambered and throated a specific caliber and for Match Grade ammo. The caliber is marked on the barrel.

The MPABA Series Rifle is a precision rifle capable of extremely high levels of accuracy and consistency in its shooting performance. The chamber is a "custom" chamber designed specifically for a type and range of ammo. The ammo selection is very high-performance type of ammo and is readily available in the USA and International.

If you would like to have your chamber re-throated to match your specific type of ammo, grain size, bullet type, length, etc, please contact Masterpiece Arms. We can re-throat your chamber to your specifications.

Other barrel configurations are also available. Contact MPA or visit our website for more details.

#### **To Load the Firearm:**

##### Box Magazine Loading

1. Always point the firearm in a safe direction.
2. Put the safety mechanism in the 'S' position.
3. Raise the bolt handle.
4. Pull the bolt handle all the way back
5. Pull the magazine latch inward and pull the magazine box from the firearm.
6. Load the magazine up to, but not exceeding, the magazine capacity, with the correct caliber, one at a time, into the magazine box, pushing the cartridges to the rear of the magazine. Keep the bullets aligned toward the chamber.

7. Place the magazine box into the trigger guard opening and push it until the latch snaps into the fully latched position.

8. Push the bolt handle down to lock the cartridge into the chamber.

THE CHAMBER AND MAGAZINE ARE NOW FULLY LOADED.

9. To prepare to fire, put the safety mechanism in the 'F' position.

THE FIREARM IS READY TO FIRE.

WARNING: Always check the cartridge for the correct caliber before loading the firearm.

### **To Unload the Firearm**

1. Always point the firearm in a safe direction.

2. Put the safety mechanism in the 'S' position.

3. Raise the bolt handle.

4. Put one hand over the top of the ejection port.

5. Slowly pull the bolt handle rearward with your other hand to remove the cartridge from the chamber.

6. Depress the magazine catch to release magazine box.

7. Remove all cartridges from the magazine box.

8. Replace the magazine box.

WARNING! Check the chamber and the magazine to make sure there are no cartridges in the firearm.

### **Threaded Barrel**

MPA BA Rifles come standard from the factory with a threaded barrel. On all versions, unless requested by the customer, the muzzle threads are 5/8-24 tpi. It is highly recommended that you protect these threads and the shoulder behind the threads at all times. You should either use a thread protector or a muzzle brake when shooting or transporting the rifle. Damaging the threads or the shoulder behind the threads will affect the accuracy of the rifle if a muzzle device is attached.

Also, when attaching a Muzzle Brake or other muzzle device that requires "timing" of the ports, you must use ground shims to achieve your timing orientation. DO NOT USE a crush washer to do this. This will cause damage to the barrel and also misalignment to the muzzle device. If your muzzle device does not require "timing", then simply install it completely up to the shoulder behind the threads, without the use of ground shims.

When attaching a silencer or suppressor to the threaded barrel, make sure the device threads all the way up to the shoulder behind the threads.

The shoulder behind the threads is machined and held to a very tight perpendicularity tolerance to the thread diameter and the bore and parallel to the face of barrel. Any muzzle device must be 'shouldered' to ensure proper alignment with the barrel and bore so no loss of accuracy occurs.

### **Crown**

Always protect the Crown at the muzzle end of the barrel. If you notice any dings, or gauges on the crown of the barrel due to accident or misuse, contact a local gunsmith to correct this issue. A damaged Crown will certainly affect the accuracy of the rifle. Keep the crown free of excess carbon build up.

### **Barrel Care and Life**

The Masterpiece Arms MPABA Rifle is a precision piece of equipment and must be treated properly to ensure a long life of extreme accurate performance. Here are a few items to keep in mind to ensure this long term performance.

#### Barrel Break In and Cleaning

Breaking in the barrel is a critical step to ensure a long and accurate to the barrel. However, if done incorrectly, you can ruin your barrel in a hurry.

Proper barrel break-in procedures are often utilized for top accuracy and performance. **More barrels are damaged by cleaning rods than by any amount of regular shooting a person may do.** If not done correctly, one can do more harm than good.

**A. Bore guides- If you don't have one, get one!** Without a good bore guide you are just wasting your time trying to break-in a barrel or cleaning it for that matter. **More rifle barrels are destroyed by cleaning without a bore guide than by shooting!** There are many types and brands of bore guides available on the market and range in price from \$5.00 to \$50.00. The only one we recommend is the Boretech. They are the best insurance you can buy for that new barrel.

**B. Solvents** - We recommend Boretech products, specifically the Eliminator or the Copper and Carbon solvent for copper and powder fouling and for cleaning/storing your rifle for the next match or season.

**C. Procedure for "Break-in"** - Before firing that first shot, clean the barrel as if it had been shot by following these simple steps.

**Step 1.** Insert bore guide into receiver and chamber-

**Step 2.** Run one wet patch through the bore and let soak for approximately 30 seconds. Do not patch this out.

**Step 3.** Next run dry patches through repeatedly until they come out with little to no residue.

**Step 4.** In some cases the barrel may require several wet patches followed by dry patches. Remember we are not looking to strip every bit of fouling out, just the excess.

The actual barrel break in procedure can be argued many ways. With the quality of machining in modern precision rifle barrels the old school recommendation to fire, clean, fire, clean, fire, clean... is simply not needed. We do however recommend cleaning more frequently during the first 100 to 200 rounds as the barrel settles in. This can be done every 10 or 20 rounds at first then lengthened to every 50 or more.

#### **D. Additional Barrel Break-in and Cleaning Tips -**

1. Remember that everytime you clean the rifle you are setting that barrel back in an unusual state. It may take several rounds after that cleaning for complete accuracy to return.

2. Cleaning habits can vary depending upon use. PRS style shooters may clean very seldom in comparison to hunters base

### **Don't Overheat Your Barrel.**

Use the temperature strip that is included with each MPA Rifle. We recommend never shooting the rifle when the strip shows a reading of 122 degrees. Repeated firing on a hot barrel can burn out the throat and ruin the accuracy of the MPABA. The erosion of a rifle bore can be broken down into three distinct but interrelated processes: thermal, chemical and mechanical. All of these happen sooner when the barrel is overheated. No barrel will last forever but avoiding firing the rifle when the barrel is overheated will extend the life of the barrel dramatically.

Remember, your investment in the MPABA Rifle is for a lifetime. This rifle must be maintained properly in order to achieve optimum results.

### **Chassis**

The MPABA Chassis System is built by Masterpiece Arms at our facility in Comer, GA.

The body of the chassis and buttstock are CNC machined to exacting accuracies. Both the main chassis and buttstock are produced from 6061 Aluminum.

The chassis is designed to accept both AW and AICS type magazines. If you are having difficulty using a specific type of magazine with your MPABA, please contact MPA to discuss.

The Buttstock has several unique features:

- Adjustable Length of Pull via thumbwheel or set screw adjustment
- Adjustable Cheek Riser via thumbwheel or set screw adjustment. The cheek rise thumbwheel is numbered notched to ensure relocation back to the shooters preferred location in case the riser must be moved for any reason. The set screws can also be used to ensure it is locked in place once properly adjusted.
- Built in Monopod can be opened to the vertical position with height adjustment in the quick travel mode (via push button) or fine adjustment mode through rotation of the monopod body. The Monopod can also be tucked into the slot in the buttstock body when not in use. If desired, the monopod can also be removed by unscrewing the magazine catch, which will allow the entire monopod assembly to come off the buttstock body.
- The bag rider can be adjusted forward or back and can also be upgraded to the Ultimate Bag Rider.
- Adjustable recoil pad for height and cant.

The Front Bridge is designed to attach to the chassis when night vision or other tactical accessories are used in front of your standard optic. Simply attach using the included Socket Head Cap Screws.

The RAT rail system is designed for quick attachment and forward and back adjustment of accessories such as bipods and bags.

The front spigot is double sided and can be used for RAT rail (Arca rail) or standard pic rail attachment.

The Barrier Stop can be moved to either location on the bottom of the chassis.

The chassis utilizes a "V-Bedding" system to interact with the round Action to ensure no distortion to the rifle or the action occurs during firing. Although the system can allow the end user to "glass bed" the action if desired, this is not necessary



with the Action that is provided with your MPABA rifle. The actions we use have a very tight roundness and cylindricity tolerance and while matched with the MPA V-Bedding system, no distortion should occur.

Warranty Information:

Model \_\_\_\_\_ Serial # \_\_\_\_\_ Date Purchased \_\_\_\_\_  
Purchased From \_\_\_\_\_ Price Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Remember to complete and return the Firearm Warranty Registration Card in order to obtain full benefit of your Limited Lifetime Warranty.

A WORD ON THE MAINTENANCE AND CARE OF YOUR MASTERPIECE ARMS FIREARM

Don't Alter or Modify Your Gun and Have it Serviced Regularly.

Your firearm has been designed to operate according to certain factory specifications. You'll jeopardize your safety and that of others around you by attempting to alter its trigger, mechanical safety or other mechanisms. So never alter or modify your firearm in any way.

Like any mechanical device, a firearm is subject to wear. It must be maintained and periodically serviced to assure optimum safety and performance. Only a qualified Gunsmith should service, repair or modify your Masterpiece Arms firearm – or you can send the rifle back to MPA for these requirements.

## Conditional Lifetime Warranty

To Original Purchaser

**Masterpiece Arms** Firearms in 9mm, 5.7-28, 45 Cal, 5.56 (.223), 300Blackout, Suppressors & Bolt Action Rifles all come with a conditional lifetime warranty (conditions listed below). Warranty covers any defect or malfunction due to poor workmanship or materials.

Warranty applies only to the original purchaser. The original purchaser is to fill out the warranty card located on the inside of the last page of the owner's manual provided with every **Masterpiece** Firearm or online at [www.masterpiecearms.com](http://www.masterpiecearms.com) at the bottom of our home page.

**Warranty will not be valid unless warranty card is on file.**

If firearm appears to be defective or malfunctions for any reason, contact MPA to help determine the problem. Many times the solution can be determined over the phone and shipping in the firearm may not be necessary. If the problem requires the firearm be sent in for warranty repair, Masterpiece Arms will provide a RMA # (Return Authorization). An RMA # is required for the firearm to be accepted for warranty work.

Once the RMA # has been provided, simply return the unit to **Masterpiece Arms** with a short note describing the problem. Owner will be expected to cover the shipping cost to MasterPiece Arms. **Masterpiece Arms** will pay for return shipping, repair work and all replacement parts required.

**Masterpiece Arms** reserves the right to inspect and determine if the problem is due to misuse, abuse or neglect, which are not covered by this warranty. **Masterpiece Arms** must perform all warranty evaluations and repairs, no consideration or reimbursements will be made for any repairs not performed by **Masterpiece Arms**.

**Warranty will not cover any of the following conditions:**

- Damage incurred from use with an unauthorized attachment or accessory
- Modification of the unit by persons other than MasterPiece Arms
- Unit returned by persons other than the original purchaser
- Firearms used as rental equipment or for commercial use
- Improper installation of parts
- Weather damage
- Abuse
- Barrel Wear

Our liability is limited to the price paid for the product. In no event will **Masterpiece Arms** or their resellers be liable for any indirect, special, incidental or consequential damages resulting from performance or failure to perform under this agreement. All ammunition must be of the proper caliber for the firearm and must meet the provisions of C.I.P. or SAAMI in size and gas pressure. Use of improper ammunition voids the warranty and releases the producer from any product liability and or warranty.

By acceptance of this product, the purchaser agrees to all terms of warranty.

Respectfully,  
Masterpiece Arms

**Masterpiece Arms**  
4904 Hwy 98 East. Comer GA 30629  
866-803-0000  
[www.masterpiecearms.com](http://www.masterpiecearms.com)



**Defender Series**

**Warranty Registration Card**

MasterPiece Arms Serial # \_\_\_\_\_ Date Purchased: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner: Mr./Mrs./Ms.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Company:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Street Address:  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Purchaser's Name if different from Owner:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dealer:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address:  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Return this card with copy of sales slip to:

MasterPiece Arms, Inc., PO Box 67, Comer, GA 30629

Or Fax to: 706-783-5800

Or Submit your Warranty Card online at

[www.masterpiecearms.com](http://www.masterpiecearms.com)