

WILSON COMBAT® MAGAZINES

Congratulations, you have just purchased one of the finest 1911 Auto magazines available. Like other mechanical devices, your Wilson Combat® magazine may be a little stiff when first used. This is normal and should not effect its feeding capabilities, however you will notice that as you use your magazine it will become easier to load and seat in your pistol and it will function even more smoothly over time. If you wish to expedite the break in process simply leave your new magazine loaded to capacity for a day or two, this will pre-set the spring to normal operating tension. Wilson Combat® magazines are designed to feed a wide variety of ammunition, but all 1911 Autos will feed better with certain bullet types. We have found that following the guide lines below in selecting your ammo will save you both time and money. Whatever type of ammo you use, reload or factory, you should always function test your pistol and ammo combination to insure complete reliability. Our gun shop test fire procedure will help to find out if your pistol/ammunition combination is compatible without expending vast quantities of ammo. First lock your pistol slide to the rear, insert a fully loaded (broken in) magazine and chamber a round off the top. If this first round feeds smoothly, you can usually count on that load to feed well in your pistol with that magazine. For most accurate results, try this several times. **WARNING** - This exercise should only be done at the range with your pistol pointed in a safe direction. If you are reloading your ammunition, cartridges with an overall length of 1.240" - 1.260" will provide the best feeding angle and timing for most 1911 Autos. We have found handloads consisting of the following give **MAXIMUM** feeding reliability (H&G #68 200gr. L-SWC, OAL 1.250", .468" taper crimp). The following lengths are optimal lengths for the various calibers, however, due to the variety of bullet weights and styles you may find it necessary to experiment, finding the exact overall length that will provide optimal feeding reliability and accuracy for your particular gun.

Most any high quality factory ammo meeting these guidelines may be used, but should still be tested to insure complete reliability.

Reload Overall Length

.45 ACP 1.250" .38 Super 1.260"

On some frames, the angled feed ramp cut may not be sufficiently deep to insure a smooth feeding cycle. In the event that the cartridge nose dives, due to the heavy spring tension on the first 1 - 2 rounds when the magazine is loaded to full capacity, it is important that the bullet nose contacts the feed ramp, which acts as a deflector and guides the cartridge into the barrel chamber. If the feed ramp cut is not deep enough, the bullet nose will hit the frame beneath the feed ramp and get lodged. Therefore, to facilitate reliable feeding, the feed ramp cut should be at least .350" deep as measured from the top of the frame (rails).

CAUTION - Always wear safety glasses when working on magazines. The spring is under tension and could cause serious eye injury.

Maintenance Your Wilson Combat® magazine is designed to require very little maintenance, however occasionally it is a good idea to disassemble and clean your magazine, especially if exposed to dirt or other contaminants that may cause your magazine to fail. To clean your magazine, follow these easy steps.

Step 1 The base pad is held in place with a retaining plate. To remove the base pad, you must first insert the end of a paper clip or similar object into the hole in the bottom of the base pad. Push in with the paper clip relieving the tension of the retaining plate against the base pad. At the same time, you must push the base pad forward in the direction of the rounded front. You should be able to completely remove the base pad from the magazine at this point. Once this is accomplished, you

will be able to remove the retainer plate and spring from the bottom of the housing and the follower will come out of the top or bottom of the magazines depending on the model of magazine you have. With practice, you will learn to finesse the follower into the proper position for removal and insertion. When properly positioned the follower can be easily removed, if excessive force is required, you do not have it in position and you could damage the follower. The proper follower position for removal is shown in figure (A).

All Wilson Combat® Magazines:

The follower should be removed from the top of the magazine by rotating the follower in the housing so the rounded portion is pointed upward toward the top of the magazine tube. Once this is accomplished, the follower is easily removed from the top forward portion of the magazine housing as shown in figure (A)

Fig. A



Step 2 Now that the magazine is completely disassembled, use a clean rag or paper towel to remove any dirt or debris from all component parts. It is important to thoroughly clean the inside of the magazine housing. This operation is easily accomplished with various types of swabs or by using your rag and a pistol cleaning rod or a pencil to push the rag through the housing. It is not absolutely necessary to lubricate your magazine prior to assembly, however a thin film of dry graphite or light oil will provide for slightly smoother follower movement. Do not use grease, excessive amounts of lubricant or penetrating oil. This could entrap contaminants inside your magazine leading to erratic feeding behavior, or deactivate the primers of your ammunition.

Step 3 Reassembly is accomplished in the reverse order of assembly; however, you must be certain to note the following.

1) Make sure the curved end of the spring is placed inside the follower with the curve of the spring positioned in the curved forward position of the follower as shown in figure (B).

NOTE: Some magazine springs have a bend on each end. The smooth round bend goes in the follower and the squared bend goes to the bottom toward the floor plate.

2) The raised tab on the retainer plate is used to lock the base pad in place. When reassembling your magazine make sure this tab is facing down toward the base pad as shown in figure (B).

Fig. B



Wilson Combat® magazines come in a wide variety of capacities and base pad heights. If you have an application that calls for a different base pad height or if you have any questions about your new magazine, please feel free to contact our technical staff at (870) 545-3618. We hope you enjoy your magazine.

*Registered trade name of other company not owned, associated or to be confused with Wilson Combat® Scattergun Technologies™.

For information on these or other quality Wilson Combat® products contact your local Wilson dealer or call 1-800-955-4856.