

Safety Considerations for the Mauser Bolt

The genius of Paul Mauser is reflected in every facet of the Mauser rifle, even in small but important details.

For example, you cannot insert the bolt into the receiver if the bolt is in a 'fired' condition; that would be dangerous because the firing pin would be fully forward and could fire the rifle if there was a round left inadvertently in the chamber. The receiver will not accept the bolt in a 'fired' condition for the reason stated above.

Prior to removing the bolt from the rifle, you must put the safety in the upright (vertical) position. It is, however, possible to remove the bolt from the rifle with the safety lever in the full left firing position and that is quite all right because it is still safe. Realize though, that this makes the rifle ready to fire when you close the bolt into the receiver.

It is not possible to remove the bolt from the rifle in an unsafe condition because the act of opening the bolt cocks the firing pin and is evidenced by the rear, visible, cocking piece. It will be fully extended to the rear of the safety lever by about $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Note that dimension.

IF FOR ANY REASON, the cocking piece protrudes only about $\frac{1}{4}$ ", you will know that the firing pin is in a fired position and you will also know because you won't be able to insert the bolt into the receiver. This could be because the bolt was disassembled for cleaning by you and inadvertently re-assembled in the fired position ...or,,perhaps it was dropped during re-assembly. The reason doesn't matter...the bolt must be in a cocked position to go back into the receiver.

It is not a particularly fun thing to do but here's how you do it:

1. Fully re-assemble (screw-in) the firing pin assembly into the bolt body.
2. Grasp firmly the bolt body in your strong hand and hook the protruding sear flat surface that is on the bottom of the cocking piece against a solid metal surface (that won't move).
3. Force the bolt body forward against the very strong firing pin spring for about 1". At the same time, move the safety lever to the vertical position. It may take a little movement by your strong hand to enable the safety lever to turn into the vertical position.
4. Once vertical, relieve pressure by your strong hand.
5. You're done! You can now properly insert the bolt into the receiver in a safe condition.

Paul Mauser wanted to make his rifle 'soldier-proof' and he was eminently successful. The Mauser K98 is the longest serving combat rifle in history!