

15 Minute Practical Trigger Job for the AR-15

By AFreeMan

Medcop was shooting Urodoji's CAR-15 and had commented to him on the excellent, smooth trigger. I was asked to send Medcop a description of how this was done. Urodoji got Medcop in touch with me, and I did some sketches, and described to Medcop how to do it. I thought this was common knowledge, but I was asked on AR15.com's Chat to write this up for posting. So here goes...

Disclaimer: If you can't follow these directions successfully, you should not be playing with guns, especially AR-15's.

Materials needed:

- Two Encyclopedias (you may sub two wood blocks, these are used to prop up the lower receiver)
- Small punch (for trigger/hammer pins)
- Large soft punch (3/8" Delrin[®] rod or 3/8" wood dowel)
- Fine compound (#7 rubbing compound or Kit Scratch Out plastic polish)
- Wire Cutters
- Jeweler's Pliers (small pliers with no teeth in the jaws)

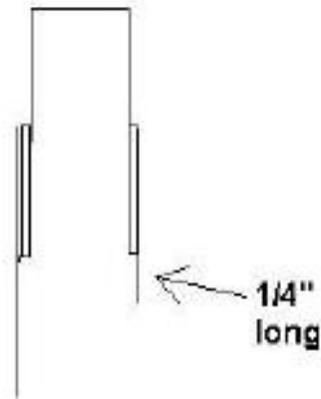
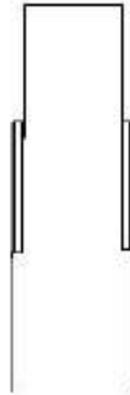
UNLOAD RIFLE AND SEPARATE UPPER RECEIVER FROM LOWER RECEIVER

I had to say this, too. If you didn't know this, you should not be handling firearms.

- 1. Remove the Safety (AR-15's have safeties, M16's have selectors) to allow easy removal of the Trigger later. Turn the Safety 45 degrees, halfway between SAFE and FIRE. Lay the Lower Receiver on its left side on the two encyclopedias (with the Web, they aren't good for anything else) or wood blocks, covered with soft rags such that the Lower Receiver is blocked up, and the Safety can be tapped out. Tap out the Safety with the large soft Delrin[®] punch or wood dowel. With the Safety halfway between Safe and Fire it will pop out without having to remove the grip and detent. Don't worry about losing the Safety Detent, as it is captured by a groove in its hole.**
- 2. Polish the sear surfaces. With the Hammer in the up, or fired position, place a dab of polishing compound on the Hammer sear surface. To prevent the hammer from striking the receiver and possibly breaking the bolt stop, place a strip of leather, rubber or plastic in front of the hammer. Cock the Hammer and pull the Trigger. Repeat this 10 times. Put another dab of compound on the Hammer's sear surface, and cock and fire 10 more times.**
- 3. Now remove the Hammer first, then the Trigger and Disconnecter, by tapping out their pins.**
- 4. Clean off every trace of compound from the Hammer and Trigger. Do it again to make sure. Clean any compound from inside the Lower Receiver.**

5. Clip the right leg of the Hammer Spring to a length of $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

Hammer Spring before



Hammer Spring after

6. Bend both legs of the Trigger Spring UP approximately 25 degrees as per the diagram. Use Jeweler's pliers for this. You do not want to leave marks in the spring. Smooth jawed pliers only!

Trigger Spring Stock



Trigger Spring Modified 25 degrees



7. Reassemble the Trigger assembly with the Trigger Pin's outer retaining groove to the LEFT side of the Receiver.
8. Install the Safety. A little trick... Hold the detent down with the end of a ¼" punch while tapping in the Safety from the other side.
9. Install the Hammer. When installing the Hammer Pin it does not matter which side the outer groove is on. Notice that the left leg of the Hammer Spring engages the outer groove of the Trigger Pin, which you installed to be on the left side, retaining it in the Receiver. (You may also want to use "Anti-Walk Pins". If you use these, install these pins so that the E-clips are away from your body to prevent the E-clips from snagging on your clothing and possibly snapping off. If you are right-handed, the E-clips should be on the right. And if you are left-handed, the E-clips

should be on the left.)

10. Lubricate all the moving lower part; making sure you put a drop of oil on the Hammer sear surface.

Caution: DO NOT modify the Trigger Spring without also modifying the Hammer Spring as described.

I have used this trigger job method for about 10 years now, and have NEVER had it fail to pop the cap. Hammer Spring force is only reduced by about 25%, and there is still plenty of power to insure good ignition. There is still full sear engagement, so the trigger is not unsafe in any way.

This trigger job DOES result in a smoother, lighter trigger pull.

If you are unhappy with your results, at the most, you have only ruined two springs, three dollars worth of parts. This slight polishing with the compound will not harm your Hammer and Trigger in any way.

Good Shooting!
A Free Man