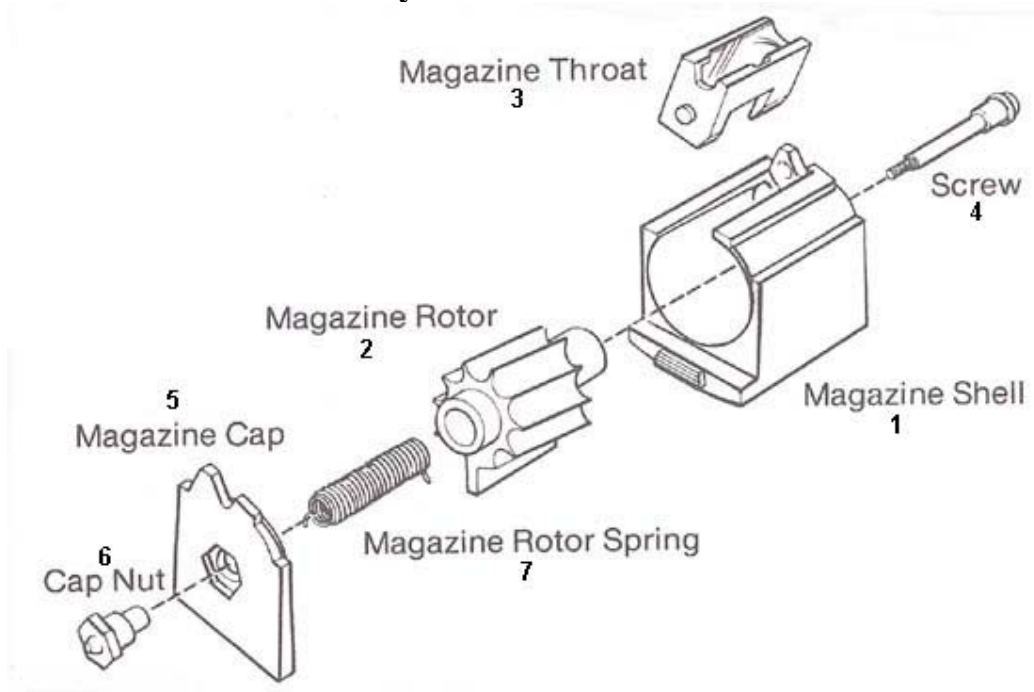


## Cleaning a Ruger 10-22 rotary feed magazine.

By Martin Russell



Like all things in the shooting world, it's inevitable that even the excellent Ruger 1022 magazine will get not only dirty but at some time become unusable because of dirt and detritus, which in turn leads to to frustration and an unhappy shooter. Most shooters will clean their firearms and forget all about the magazine. Most of the dirt I've cleaned out of my magazines apart from burnt powder residue is the waxy greasy that is applied to a lot of .22 bullet heads, which accumulates as a ring around the main body and on the rotor. So here's my way of cleaning the Ruger magazine.

Looking at the Ruger mag' you will notice at one end a hex shaped recessed cap nut (6) and at the other is a round protrusion (screw (4)) that engages into the locking knob when fitted to the rifle.

This protrusion (4) has a hollow centre that has the Allen hex slot cut into it. The Allen key required is a 9/64" "imperial" size. I have tried metric Allen keys - none fit (not even a little). Use the correct size or the slot WILL be rounded off and stripping the magazine from then on will be nigh on impossible.

I found that stripping it down was easy; ONCE you remember that the rear plate (5) that has the hex shaped cap is under tension from the spring and needs to allowed to unwind itself in a controlled manner!!

Use the Allen key and loosen the bolt/spindle. While loose tap the end to make sure the rear end plate (5) moves. Have your fingers over the plate because if the plate is moved away from the main magazine body it will spin away and parts will fly everywhere.

Completely undo and remove the screw (4).

Hold the main body (1) in one hand and the end plate (5) in the other with just two fingers. Pull the end plate (5) away from the main body (1). You should feel it trying to rotate as it clears the main body. Let it rotate SLOWLY. It should make two revolutions if it has been tensioned properly.

When it has been unwound it is merely a case of gently pulling the plate (5) completely away from the main body (1) and allowing the rotor (2) and the metal feed lips (3) to come out as well. Unless the spring (7) is gunged up leave it in the rotor body (2).

The hex cap (6) in the end plate (5) should be removed and cleaned.

The rotor (2), the inside of the main body (1), the inner side of the end plate(5) and the feed lips (3) should all be thoroughly cleaned using a plastic safe solvent or normal shooting-iron cleaning fluids. Remove all traces of wax and grease deposits.

Dry away any excess cleaning fluids with a clean cloth/tissue and make sure there are no bits that could foul the rotor (2).

Re-assembly is a reverse of taking the magazine apart except for the winding of the spring.

I found that if you fit the screw (4) and push the rotor (2) over the screw (4) then fit the metal feed lips (3) (The lips have small spigots at each end and are different sizes so it makes orientation easy as they can only fit one way).

Fit the end plate (5) and allow the end of the spring (7) to protrude through the plate. Don't let the centre spindle through too much as when you start the re-tensioning the hex cap will engage with the threads on the spindle and it will be impossible to tension the spring.

Hold the magazine so that the main body (1) and the end plate (5) are held together but your hand doesn't push the screw (4) allow this to move.

The hex cap (6) has a small hole that engages with the end of the spring (7). This should be fitted so the centre of the hex cap (6) fits through the centre of the spring (7) and rotated until the cap's hole fits with the spring.

Rotate the cap (6) until the rotor paddle (2) holds against the metal feed lips (3). Note the position of the hole in the end cap and relative position of the hex cap (6) aligned with the hex recess in the end plate (5). Holding the hex cap (6) tightly in two fingers, rotate the cap two full turns, carefully press the cap (6) into the end plate (5) and engage it into the recess.

Tighten up the screw while (4) covering the hex cap (6) making sure it isn't pushed out of the end plate.

Eh Voila! Job Done!!