

AREX *alpha*

OPERATOR'S MANUAL

9mm



AREX



SAFETY RULES

Please read this operator's manual carefully before handling your firearm. The following general firearms safety rules have been included in this manual by Arex d.o.o. as an important reminder that firearm safety is your responsibility. If mishandled, firearms can be dangerous and can be used to cause serious injury, damage to property and death.



WARNING: All firearms are loaded at all times. Even when a firearm is not loaded, treat it as if it was!

1. Never point a firearm at anyone or anything you are not willing to destroy. Be aware of the muzzle direction at all times. A **SAFE DIRECTION** means that the firearm is so pointed that it would not cause injury or unwanted damage, even if it would discharge.
2. Keep your **FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER** and outside of the trigger guard unless actually applying pressure to it (always keep your finger outside of the trigger guard while handling the firearm without intention to shoot, while loading or unloading the firearm, while pulling the firearm out of the holster or returning it to the holster).
3. When picking up or receiving a firearm always **CHECK WHETHER IT IS LOADED** or not (See Clearing, Pg. 14). Never give a firearm to or take it from anyone unless the action is open and the magazine and chamber are free of ammunition.
4. Be positive of the **TARGET AND BACKSTOP** beyond. Know that a fired bullet can penetrate the intended target as well as obstacles such as ceilings, floors, walls, doors and windows and it can ricochet off almost anything it strikes.
5. Be sure that you are using **CORRECT AMMUNITION** for the specific firearm, verify that it is factory loaded and that it is not damaged in any way (See Ammunition, Pg. 16).
6. Before firing, make sure the chamber is clear of any ammunition or empty cases and **CHECK THE BARREL** of the unloaded firearm (See Malfunction procedures, Pg. 23) for any possible obstructions.
7. Before firing any firearm, make sure that you **UNDERSTAND HOW TO OPERATE** it correctly. Lack of familiarity with the firearm can result in serious accidents. Attend a certified training course with any firearm you intend to use or with which you are not sufficiently familiar.
8. Always **WEAR HEARING AND EYE PROTECTION** when using a firearm. Hearing damage is accumulative and irreversible, severe hearing loss can result from even a single heard gunshot. A spent casing ejected at high speed from self-loading firearm, burning propellant particles and parts of bullet ricocheting backwards can cause serious injury or permanent blindness.
9. Keep all body parts, especially the hands and fingers, away from the muzzle to avoid injury or burns. Be sure that no part of either hand touches or interferes with the slide during firing. The slide moves backward with considerable speed and may cause serious injury.
10. Avoid the use of any alcoholic beverages or drugs before or during your use of a firearm.
11. Firearms should be locked and stored separately from ammunition and out of the reach of children and/or any untrained/unauthorized individuals.



WARNING: Discharging firearms in poorly ventilated areas, cleaning firearms, or handling ammunition may result in exposure to lead, a substance known to be associated with birth defects, reproductive harm and other serious injury. Have adequate ventilation at all times. Wash hands thoroughly after exposure.



STOP! Know how to clear this pistol before attempting to operate.

Clearing the Pistol -The AREX *alpha* pistol is not considered "clear" unless:

1. The magazine is removed from the pistol
2. The slide is opened and/or locked to the rear and
3. The chamber is free of ammunition or empty cases.

To clear the AREX *alpha* pistol (see Clearing, Pg. 14, for detailed explanation):

1. Make sure fingers are outside of the trigger guard and the pistol is pointed in a safe direction at all times!
2. Engage manual safety. Push the safety lever up (left or right) to its uppermost position.
3. Remove magazine. Depress the magazine release button (left or right) and remove the magazine from the pistol.
4. Open and lock slide. While pointing the pistol in a safe direction, lock the slide open by pulling the slide rearward, releasing it, pulling it back again and pressing the slide catch/release upward at the same time. Watch for a single cartridge or empty case (i.e. "brass") to be ejected from the pistol.
5. Inspect chamber. Inspect chamber for the presence of a cartridge or empty case either:
 - Visually - by looking into chamber through the open ejection port or
 - Physically - by inserting a finger into chamber through the open ejection port to check for the presence of a cartridge or empty case.
6. Remove any cartridges. Clear cartridges or empty cases from the chamber or from within the pistol.

The AREX *alpha* pistol is now considered "Clear."



WARNING: A discharging firearm has the capability of taking your life or the life of someone else! Be extremely careful with any firearm. An accident can occur at any time and is usually the result of ignoring basic safety rules.



WARNING: Read and understand all warnings in this operator's manual. Failure to follow any of the warnings listed herein could result in material damage, serious injury or death.

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AREX

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INTRODUCTION

The AREX *alpha* is the next evolutionary step in the AREX handgun family. It is a direct descendant of the AREX *alpha* and has inherited its toughness and reliability. We have listened to the practical shooters and designed and developed a pistol that excels in competitive practical shooting as well as in tactical scenarios. With the elusive and all important “shootability” being our primary goal, we decided on a steel frame in stead of an aluminum one. The grip has been reengineered completely, which results in shorter trigger reach and notably higher hand position. An undercut trigger guard and an extended beavertail complete the ergonomic transformation. The long slide houses a five inch barrel and provides a longer line of sight for faster and more accurate shots. The slide has been lightened significantly to accomplish faster cycling.

The AREX *alpha* is all about performance, which is reflected in the redesigned firing mechanism geometry. The trigger mechanism is factory fine-tuned for each pistol to deliver smooth double action pull and a short trigger reset in an out-of-the-box competition grade trigger. Nevertheless the AREX *alpha* incorporates several safety features, including a firing pin block which positively arrests the firing pin until the trigger is pressed, preventing it from contacting the primer in the event that the handgun is dropped or struck. The frame incorporates oversized ambidextrous manual safety levers that provide positive disengagement between trigger bar and the hammer thus helping prevent accidental discharges in case the trigger is inadvertently depressed. The disconnecter prevents AREX *alpha* from firing when the slide is not in battery.

The take down lever acts as a disassembly safety and precludes the AREX *alpha* from being disassembled with a round in a chamber. Unless the slide is held fully to the rear, normally clearing the chamber of a cartridge in the process, the disassembly cannot be performed. No tools are needed and the trigger is not operated when disassembling the pistol for maintenance.



WARNING: The AREX *alpha* pistol will fire with the magazine inserted or removed when there is a cartridge in the chamber, the manual safety is not engaged and the trigger is pressed.

Numbered witness holes on the back of the magazine housing allow verification of the exact number of cartridges present in the magazine without emptying it.

All vital operational controls on the AREX *alpha* handgun are ambidextrous. Safety levers are ergonomically positioned above the grip panels for manipulation using right or left thumb. A tear drop shaped extension is affixed to either side of the ambidextrous magazine release button, located at the rear of the trigger guard. The slide catch/release lever is located on the left side of the frame in front of the safety lever.

Aggressive checkering in front of the pistol’s grip enhance traction during handling and rapid fire sessions.

Milled from solid blocks of high carbon steel and surface enhanced with a corrosion resistant nitro-carburized finish, the frame and long slide of the AREX *alpha* feature full length precision rail/groove interface. The slide is equipped with a high quality, fully adjustable rear sight and a narrow front blade featuring a 1 mm optic fiber. This setup has proven to provide quick and precise target acquisition. Rear as well as front slide serrations ensure firm grip during slide manipulation.

Arex, a defense company, renowned for its technical expertise and machining capabilities, has outfitted the AREX *alpha* with its signature in-house manufactured one-piece cold hammer forged barrel. The barrel - made from chromolly steel - and its fitting ensures excellent precision and long expected service life of more than 30.000 rounds.

AREX *alpha* pistols use high quality steel magazines with 20-round capacity as standard. AREX *alpha* standard magazines will also fit the pistol. Reduced capacity magazines are available where legal restrictions apply.

Quality of the AREX *alpha* pistols is maintained by constant internal quality control according to ISO 9001: 2008 standard. AREX *alpha* pistol has shown excellent reliability with high Mean Rounds Between Stoppages counts achieved during extensive pre-manufacture testing both in-house as well as in the field. Main AREX *alpha* components undergo a nitro-carburization process which provides excellent surface hardness and corrosion protection during prolonged hard use.

The firing mechanism with exposed spurred hammer operates in classical single-and double-action modes where, pressing the trigger cocks the hammer and immediately releases it firing the first chambered cartridge. All subsequent cartridges are fired in the single-action mode as slide automatically recocks the hammer after the first and each subsequent shot is fired (hammer remains cocked after each cycling of the slide).

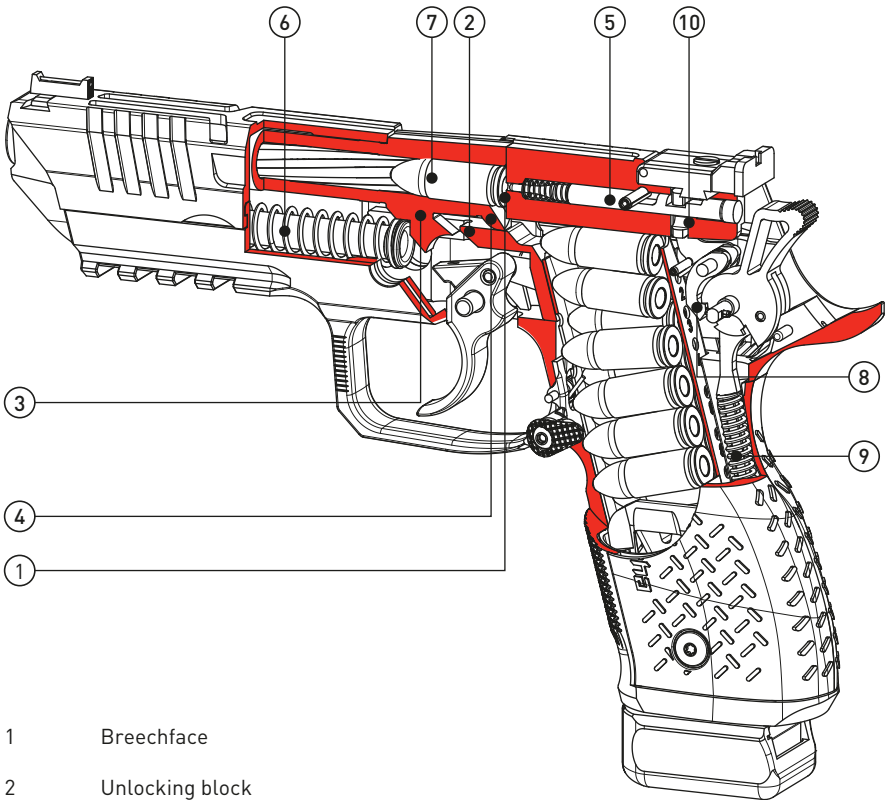
Smooth and relatively light double-action trigger pull provides excellent accuracy on first shot and competition-grade single-action trigger renders a short (1,4 mm), light take-up, followed by a clean break on all subsequent shots. Extremely short (3 mm), positive reset on trigger release allows for fast follow-up shots and a fast, lock time reducing skeletonized hammer enhances accuracy. Large trigger guard allows the pistol to be safely and effectively used even with gloves. AREX *alpha* pistol relies on our well-proven internal extractor which allows for a closed slide construction and delivers same or better reliability with fewer parts as compared to external extractor designs.

The AREX *alpha*'s extended solid steel frame provides the necessary stabilizing weight which - combined with improved ergonomics - reduces muzzle flip and felt recoil during dynamic shooting scenarios. Standardized mounting interface machined into extended dustcover of the frame can accept a wide variety of lights, laser aimers and other accessories. The strength of AREX *alpha*'s Picatinny (MIL-STD-1913) rail can support mounted accessories weighing in excess of 11 ounces (300 grams). The rails are sturdy enough to serve as a mounting interface for fixing the handgun itself during firing.

NOTE: Improperly designed or installed accessories may result in damage to the mounting interface and/or the pistol. Such damage is not covered under the limited lifetime warranty. Be certain to use only appropriate accessories and follow manufacturer's installation procedures and precautions carefully.

AREX *alpha* pistols are proudly made in Arex's factory in Slovenia, EU. The AREX *alpha* is well suited for competitive sport shooting as well as for specialized law enforcement and military applications. Covered by Arex's limited lifetime warranty, the AREX *alpha* is over-engineered and built using materials and applying technologically advanced manufacturing processes that ensure extremely long and low-maintenance life cycle.

NOMENCLATURE

Figure 1 — AREX *alpha* (cutaway view)

- 1 Breechface
- 2 Unlocking block
- 3 Barrel's guiding lug
- 4 Feed ramp
- 5 Firing pin
- 6 Recoil spring assembly
- 7 Cartridge in the chamber
- 8 Sear
- 9 Hammer strut with spring
- 10 Firing pin block

Figure 2 — AREX *alpha* (left side view)



- 1 Front sight w/ optic fiber
- 2 Slide w/ lightening cuts
- 3 Disassembly lever
- 4 Slide catch/release
- 5 Rear slide serrations
- 6 Manual safety lever, left (on safe)
- 7 Skeletonized speed Hammer, cocked
- 8 Magazine release button w/ teardrop extension, left
- 9 Checkered front strap
- 10 Grip panel, left
- 11 Magazine floorplate, "Plus 2"

Figure 3 — AREX *alpha* (right side view)



- 1 Adjustable rear sight
- 2 Manual safety lever, right - disengaged
- 3 Ejection port
- 4 Steel frame
- 5 Picatinny rail
- 6 Front slide serrations
- 7 Grip panel, right
- 8 Trigger
- 9 Trigger guard
- 10 Magazine release button w/o teardrop extension, right
- 11 Flared magwell

SECTION 3

SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	9mm Luger (9x19mm)
Operating Principle:	Short recoil
Action Type:	modified Browning linkless locking system
Trigger System:	Single- and Double-action, Hammer fired

DIMENSIONS & WEIGHT

Length	224,5 mm
Barrel Length	127 mm
Sight Radius	173,5 mm
Height	137,3 mm
Width (slide)	25,5 mm
Width (frame)	35 mm
Width (safety levers)	42,7 mm
Weight (without magazine)	1105 g
Weight (empty magazine)	1205 g
magazine capacity	20

OTHER DATA

Trigger Pull SA	1,5 kg
Trigger Pull DA	4 kg
Trigger Travel DA	14 mm
Trigger Takeup SA	1,5 mm
Reset Travel SA	up to 4 mm (adjustable)
Barrel Profile/Twist	6 grooves, right-hand twist
Barrel Twist Rate	250 mm

MISCELLANEOUS

Warranty:	Limited Lifetime Warranty for the original retail (commercial/civilian) purchaser, one year for law enforcement and military customers
Picatinny Rail:	Extended MIL-STD-1913 rail with four segments located under dust cover — rated to 11 ounces (300 grams) load for accessory light, lasers and aimers with no impact on performance
Service Life:	Up to 30.000 rounds
Safety:	Firing pin block, manual safety, hammer safety stand-off. Pistol passed drop tests according to NATO D14 test criteria
Disassembly:	No tools required for user disassembly, slide must be fully retracted and no trigger pull is necessary for disassembly. Minimal tools required for detailed, depot level disassembly

FUNCTION AND OPERATION

CYCLE OF OPERATION

The cycle of operation is a repeating sequence of mechanical events taking place during operation of a self-loading firearm. The sequence for the AREX *alpha* pistol begins with a loaded magazine inserted into the magazine well and the slide being released from its rearmost position.

1. Feeding: Removal of a round from the magazine

Racking the slide (pulling it briskly back to its rearmost position and releasing) or depressing the slide catch/release lever (if slide is locked to the rear) allows the recoil spring to expand, driving the slide forward. The bottom part of the slide's breechface (part of slide that closes the barrel), passes between the feed lips, stripping the top round from the magazine and pushing it towards the chamber. The bullet slides up the barrel's feed ramp, allowing the base of the cartridge to pivot upwards on the breechface.

2. Chambering: Placing and seating the round into the chamber of the barrel

The recoil spring continues to expand, driving the slide forward with breechface pushing the cartridge into the chamber. As the base of the cartridge pivots upwards, the slide mounted internal extractor engages the cartridge's rim. As the cartridge is completely chambered the slide's breechface comes in contact with the enlarged rear portion of the barrel and starts pushing it forward.

3. Locking: Closing and locking of the action prior to the shot

When slide pushes the barrel forward it forces the angled surfaces on its guiding lug against opposing angled surfaces on the unlocking block located in the frame. This action pivots the rear portion of the barrel upwards until its stepped forward edge engages the forward edge of the ejection port. As the enlarged rear portion of the barrel locks into slide's ejection port (the breech is locked), the frame-mounted disconnecter is allowed to pivot upwards into a relief cut milled on the bottom of the slide, thus allowing the trigger bar access to hammer and sear. The locking phase is completed when the slide reaches its forward limit of travel (i.e. slide is "in battery").

4. Firing: Ignition of the cartridge's primer and propellant

As the operator presses the trigger (moving it back), the hammer is either cocked and released (in double-action mode) or released from its cocked position (in single-action mode). As the trigger reaches its rearmost position, the firing pin block plunger is pushed up by the trigger mechanism so it unblocks the firing pin just before the falling hammer hits it. The hammer drops, driven by the expansion of the hammer spring and hits the firing pin, which is propelled forward, protruding through the hole in the slide's breechface, striking the primer. The primer detonates, igniting the propellant gunpowder in the cartridge. The bullet is pushed out of the cartridge case and forced down the barrel by the expanding gases. Rifling inside the bore "grips" the bullet, making it spin, thus gyroscopically stabilizing its flight.

5. Unlocking: Removal of the blocking mechanism to allow the opening of the breech

The force of the expanding gases causes the bullet to move forward in the barrel but also pushes the cartridge case rearward against the slide's breechface, initially pushing both the slide and barrel back in unison since the barrel's enlarged rear portion is locked in the ejection port. The slide's ejection port pushes back on the stepped forward edge of the enlarged rear portion of the barrel and after approximately 4 millimeters of travel, the barrel is pulled downward due to the engagement of the angled surfaces on the barrel's guiding lug with those located on the frame mounted unlocking block. The unlocking block disengages the barrel from the slide (after another 4,5 millimeters of conjoined travel) and stops it while the slide continues moving rearward independent from the barrel.

6. Extracting: Removal of the fired cartridge case or live round from the chamber
With the barrel now arrested by the frame mounted unlocking block, the slide continues to move towards the rear. The internal slide mounted extractor, hooked to the cartridge case's rim, pulls the fired cartridge case (or live round - if the slide is retracted manually) from the chamber.

7. Ejecting: Expulsion of the fired cartridge case or live round from the firearm
The extractor mounted inside the slide on its right side, continues to pull the cartridge case (or live round - if the slide is retracted manually) rearwards. As the slide moves rearward, the base of the cartridge case is struck against the ejector, positioned in the left side of the frame, behind the magazine well. Extractor creates a moving pivot point on the right and the frame mounted ejector creates a stopping contact point on the left, rotating the cartridge case (or live round) to the right, ejecting it outwards through the ejection port on the right side of the slide.

8. Cocking: Resetting the hammer to allow subsequent shots to be fired in single-action mode
In the first few millimeters of rearward travel, the slide passes over the disconnecter and presses it downward, disengaging the trigger bar from the hammer and sear. As the slide continues to move back towards its rearmost position it cocks the hammer compressing the hammer spring. The sear engages the hammer, holding it in cocked position, regardless of the position of the trigger (if the shot has just been fired, the operator still holds the trigger to the rear).

9. Repeating or ending of the cycle of operation
Once fully to the rear, the compressed recoil spring pushes the slide forward, closing the action and taking the next cartridge from the magazine (if a cartridge is present) into the chamber while hammer remains cocked. If the magazine is empty (e.g. the last round was fired), the magazine follower lifts the slide release into position where it blocks the forward progress of the slide and holds it open.

SAFETY FEATURES

The AREX *alpha* incorporates the following safety features:

1. Ambidextrous Manual Safety

The ambidextrous frame mounted manual safety also helps prevent accidental discharge by means of positively disengaging the trigger bar from the hammer and sear, which prevents the pistol from firing even if trigger is depressed. The manual safety is engaged or the pistol is put "on safe" if one of the AREX *alpha*'s manual safety levers, positioned on both sides of the frame, is pushed in its upper position. This can be done whether the hammer is cocked or not. If the hammer is cocked the pistol can be fired in single-action mode once the safety is disengaged (moved to its lower position). A red circular mark is visible on both sides of the slide above safety lever, signifying manual safety is disengaged and pistol can be fired when trigger is depressed. The trigger moves freely when the safety is engaged, reminding the operator the pistol is "on safe".



WARNING: Do not depend on the red color mark alone to indicate the status of the manual safety because it could be erased in time.

2. Firing Pin Safety

The slide mounted firing pin safety helps prevent accidental discharge from impact if the AREX *alpha* is struck or dropped. When at rest, the spring loaded firing pin block arrests the firing pin and blocks the firing pin from moving forward in the firing pin tunnel. Only when the trigger is pressed to its rearmost position, the trigger mechanism pushes up on the firing pin block plunger which releases the firing pin (providing the slide is in battery) allowing the firing

pin to move freely when hit by the hammer. The firing pin safety blocks the firing pin automatically as soon as the trigger is released.

3. Disconnecter

The disconnecter ensures that the AREX *alpha*'s slide must be in battery to enable the pistol to fire. When the action is open or only partially closed (i.e. slide is out of battery), the disconnecter, mounted inside the frame, is pushed downward by the slide, disengaging the trigger from the hammer and sear thus precluding firing even if trigger is depressed. In battery, a relief cut milled on the bottom of the slide allows the disconnecter to pivot upwards enabling the trigger bar to engage the hammer or sear.

4. Disassembly Safety

The disassembly safety ensures that the slide is retracted fully to the rear, prior to disassembly. The disassembly lever is designed so that the cutout on the slide will only allow it to be rotated when the slide is in its rearmost position. Having to operate the slide prior to manipulation of the disassembly lever ensures that any round present in the chamber is extracted and ejected. Disassembly is carried out without manipulation of the trigger.

5. Hammer safety stand-off

The AREX *alpha* pistol incorporates a hammer safety stand-off position. This feature is active until the trigger is depressed fully to the rear and holds the hammer away from the firing pin. When the pistol is fired, the hammer rebounds and is automatically held in a stand-off position as the trigger is released thus preventing it to contact the firing pin.



WARNING: Never rely totally on mechanical safety devices. Like any mechanical device, a safety mechanism can fail or it can be inadvertently disengaged. Always keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction and finger off the trigger when not intentionally depressing it!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

CLEARING

NOTE: Carry out this procedure whenever the firearm is picked up/handled without the intent to be fired immediately.

1. Point the muzzle of the AREX *alpha* in a safe direction.

Ensure the muzzle of the AREX *alpha* is pointed in a safe direction [See Safety rules, Pg. 2] and that the fingers are kept off the trigger and outside of the trigger guard at all times during firearm manipulation.

NOTE: It is a matter of good practice to rest the trigger finger on the frame and not on the front of the trigger guard.

2. Remove the magazine.

Depress either side of the ambidextrous magazine release button and remove the magazine from the magazine well [See Figure 4].

NOTE: Magazine will fall free from the magazine well when the magazine release button is depressed. The absence of the magazine should always be verified by inserting a finger in the magazine well at the bottom of the grip.

3. Open the action

Grasping the front or rear slide serrations, swiftly rack the slide (pulling it briskly back to its rearmost position and releasing) while keeping the muzzle pointed in a safe direction [See Figure 5]. Watch for a cartridge (or an empty case) to be ejected out through the ejection port. Retract the slide fully the second time [See Figure 6]. If another cartridge is ejected, STOP immediately and remove the magazine from the pistol (go back to step 2). You can hold the slide to the rear or lock it to the rear by pushing upwards on the slide catch/release lever at this point.

NOTE: You should use front slide serrations to manipulate the slide if the safety is engaged (recommended) during the clearing procedure.



WARNING: When using front slide serrations take extra care to keep your hands and fingers away from the muzzle while grasping the slide.

4. Inspect the chamber and magazine well.

Inspect the chamber for the presence of a cartridge or an empty case by looking through the open ejection port into the chamber, visually verifying that the chamber is indeed empty [See Figure 7]. Verify that the magazine is not present in the magazine well, if it is present, STOP immediately and remove the magazine from the pistol (go back to step 2). If visual inspection is not possible a finger should be physically inserted through the ejection port and the chamber felt for the presence of a round or an empty case.



WARNING: If the slide is closed when the finger is inside the ejection port, injury may occur.

5. Remove any ammunition.

Remove any cartridges or empty cases that were not ejected, from the chamber and from within the magazine well of the AREX *alpha* pistol.

NOTE: When the above described procedure is executed, the AREX *alpha* pistol is considered "CLEAR".

Figure 4,5,6: Clearing the AREX *alpha* pistol



Figure 4 — Remove magazine



Figure 5 — retract slide: watch for ejected cartridge

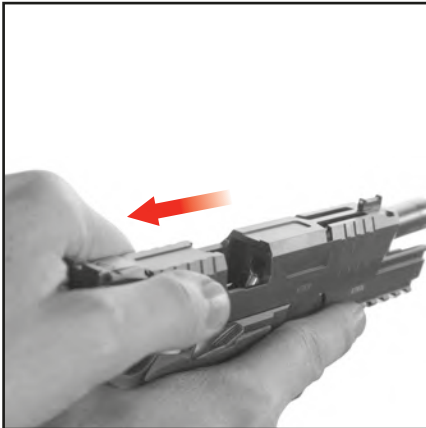


Figure 6 — fully retract slide AGAIN:
no cartridge ejected



Figure 7 — inspect chamber and magazine well:
no cartridge present

AMMUNITION



WARNING: Arex d.o.o. specifically disclaims any responsibilities for any damage or injury that should occur because of, or as a result of, the use of faulty, remanufactured, or reloaded (hand loaded) ammunition, or of cartridges other than those for which the pistol was originally chambered for.

NOTE: The AREX *alpha* pistol was designed to fire quality, factory-loaded ammunition, manufactured to European C.I.P. (Permanent International Commission for the Proof of Small Arms) or US SAAMI (Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute) specifications for use specifically in handguns.

The following guidelines should be considered when selecting the correct ammunition for your pistol:

1. Be sure the ammunition you have chosen is compatible with your pistol - proper caliber, cartridge, bullet weight, etc. Caliber markings on the AREX *alpha* pistol appear on the left side of the slide as well as on the rear portion of the barrel and are visible through the ejection port on the right side of the slide.



WARNING: Using the wrong ammunition could result in serious injury or death. Catastrophic damage to the firearm could occur.

2. Prior to loading the pistol, carefully inspect all cartridges for the following abnormalities:

- Cracked, split, dirty or corroded cases
- Improperly seated projectiles and/or primers
- Damaged projectiles
- Projectile has been forced back into the case.



WARNING: Do not attempt to load or fire any of such cartridges. Upon firing, these conditions may result in increased chamber pressure that is above safe limits.

4. Do not attempt to fire ammunition that:

- Is foreign and/or outdated military surplus
- Is assembled with corrosive primer and/or propellant
- Was exposed to oil, grease, water or direct sunlight. If possible, remove contaminants before use and cool down ammunition exposed to direct sunlight or heat. (Exposure to sources of heat could raise the chamber pressure of the cartridge above safe limits.)
- Is loaded specifically for use in submachine guns.



CAUTION: Arex firearms are designed to function safely and reliably with a wide range of quality manufactured brass-cased ammunition loaded to commercial (C.I.P., SAAMI) or military (NATO) standards. Use of cast-lead bullets is not recommended.

FILLING THE MAGAZINE

NOTE: Do not attempt to load more than the declared maximum number of cartridges into the magazine. Do not alter the shape of the magazine housing, follower or spring. To do so may cause stoppages or the magazine may not seat properly in the pistol.

To fill the magazine:

1. Hold the magazine with the back side of the magazine resting against the palm of your hand and its bottom preferably resting on a hard surface (e.g. tabletop).
2. Using the support (i.e. non-firing) hand, hold a cartridge to be loaded between the index finger and thumb with the bullet facing the palm.
3. Press the base of this cartridge down against the forward edge of the magazine follower or against the top cartridge already in the magazine with the thumb of the firing hand. Use the thumb and index finger of the support hand to prevent the cartridge from slipping to either side of the top one already in the magazine (See Figure 8).
4. Push the cartridge into the magazine all the way under the magazine feed lips with the base first.
5. Repeat steps 1-4 until the magazine is filled to capacity. The numbered witness holes in the back of the magazine allow the operator to confirm the number of cartridges loaded in the magazine (See Figure 9).

NOTE: Observe the proper orientation of the cartridges. The magazine may allow cartridges to be loaded with bullets turned backwards in which case the firearm will not function and the cartridge may jam inside the chamber if an improperly loaded magazine is inserted and slide racked.

EMPTYING THE MAGAZINE

Holding the magazine with its back side resting against the palm of your hand, exert pressure with a thumb on the base of the top cartridge and push cartridges forward and out of the magazine one at a time, until the magazine is empty (See Figure 10).



Figure 8
Filling the magazine



Figure 9
Numbered witness holes



Figure 10
Emptying the magazine

LOADING THE PISTOL

WARNING: Forcefully inserting a loaded magazine into the pistol may cause the opened slide to close, chambering a cartridge and making the pistol ready to fire. When loading the ARES *alpha*, always be sure the pistol is pointed in a safe direction with your fingers off the trigger and outside of the trigger guard. Failure to do so could cause you to inadvertently fire the pistol, resulting in serious injury or death.

Administrative Loading - Used primarily to load the pistol when it is being prepared for carry or not intended to be fired immediately.

NOTE: Slide should be forward or locked to the back, chamber empty and magazine well empty before proceeding (See Clearing, Pg. 14).

1. Safety first - Make sure the pistol is pointed in a safe direction and fingers are outside of the trigger guard at all times during loading procedure except when purposely actuating the trigger!

NOTE: The ARES *alpha* pistol was designed so that loading and/or unloading (i.e. clearing) may be performed with the manual safety engaged (i.e. pistol "on safe") at all times. This can be used as an extra precaution against accidental discharge due to inadvertent trigger manipulation. This is however not obligatory if operator ensures that the fingers are kept off the trigger and outside of the trigger guard at all times during firearm manipulation. Front serrations should be used to manipulate the slide whenever manual safety is engaged.

WARNING: When using front slide serrations take extra care to keep your hands and fingers away from the muzzle while grasping the slide.

2. Insert the magazine - Insert the magazine filled with desired number of cartridges firmly into the magazine well. Tug on the magazine floorplate to insure that it is fully seated and positively engaged (See Figure 11).

NOTE: The "Plus 2" magazine floorplate was purposely designed to allow the magazine to be grasped.

3. Chamber a cartridge - Chamber a cartridge by depressing the slide catch/release (when slide is locked to the rear) or by pulling the slide fully to the rear and releasing it (See Figure 12).

WARNING: Make sure your fingers are clear of the ejection port when the slide is released to avoid possible injury.

NOTE: Do not ride the slide forward! The pistol was designed to load a cartridge by the force of the expanding recoil spring. Slowly closing the action (i.e. easing the slide forward) might cause the pistol to jam or not load the cartridge properly.

CAUTION: The pistol is now loaded and can be fired. When the manual safety is disengaged and the trigger is pressed, the pistol will fire. **If the pistol is not to be fired immediately, proceed to the next step of the administrative loading process!**

4. Engage the manual safety or lower the hammer - Put the pistol "on safe" by moving the manual safety lever to its uppermost position (on the left or right side of the frame so it covers the red dot) or manually lower the hammer. Do this by physically blocking the hammer before actuating the trigger (See Figure 13). Always release the trigger before you start easing the hammer down. Carefully lower the hammer to its safety stand-off position. The pistol is now loaded and ready for use or safe to carry in a holster.

NOTE: To safely lower the hammer on a loaded chamber, point the pistol in a safe direction. Put the support hand thumb in front of the hammer - between the hammer and the slide - thus positively blocking its fall before pressing the trigger. Release the trigger before slowly "rolling" the thumb out of the hammer's way in order to prevent it from contacting the firing pin. Practice the procedure with an unloaded firearm.



WARNING: Risk of an accidental discharge - keep pistol pointed in a safe direction. The AREX alpha is not equipped with the decocking lever so extra care must be taken to ensure not to release the hammer prematurely when manually lowering it. The pistol might fire if the hammer is released prematurely while the trigger is depressed. This operation can be performed safely when done with competence as instructed.

5. Check the chamber is loaded - Whenever it is necessary to verify/confirm the cartridge is loaded in the chamber without clearing the pistol, partially open the slide to perform the "press check". Using front or rear slide serrations retract the slide just enough to visually or tactilely verify the presence of a cartridge. Press check can be performed with the manual safety engaged. If the hammer is cocked in this process, it should be lowered as described above or the manual safety should be engaged before the pistol is holstered.

NOTE: If the slide is retracted too much, the loaded cartridge may be ejected. In this case load the pistol (See Loading, Pg. 18) or clear it (See Clearing, Pg. 14) as the case may be.

Safe carry conditions for the AREX *alpha* pistol with a loaded chamber:

A. Decocked - With the hammer lowered the pistol may be carried without engaging the manual safety. With this carry method, the first shot will be fired in a double-action mode (long trigger motion).

B. Cocked and locked - If the safety is engaged (i.e. pistol is put "on safe") and the hammer remains cocked, the AREX *alpha* can be carried in so called "cocked & locked" condition. With this carry method, the first shot will be fired after the manual safety is pushed down (i.e. disengaged) in a single-action mode (short, light trigger motion).

C. Decocked and "on safe" - The manual safety can also be engaged when the hammer is lowered in which case the first shot will be fired in a double-action mode, after the manual safety lever is pushed down (i.e. safety disengaged).

All three carry methods are safe with the AREX *alpha* pistol provided that operator understands and appreciates their differences.



WARNING: It is considered unsafe to carry the AREX alpha or any other pistol with the hammer cocked without engaging manual safety due to the short and light single-action trigger. The hammer stand-off safety is nevertheless active when trigger is not held to the rear/depressed.



Figure 11
Inserting the magazine

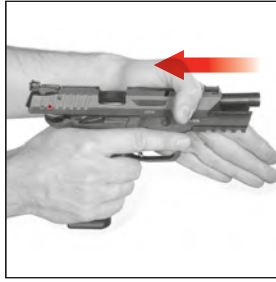


Figure 12
Front serrations may be used to retract the slide

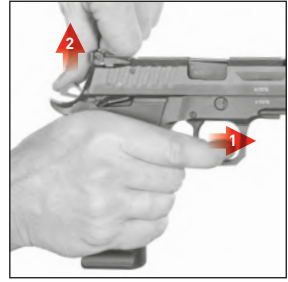


Figure 13
When decocking, always release trigger before lowering the hammer



WARNING: When using front slide serrations take extra care to keep your hands and fingers away from the muzzle.

SIGHTS AND AIMING

The AREX *alpha* is equipped with a competition-grade precision adjustable sighting system. The rear sight is operator adjustable for both windage and elevation and the front sight is equipped with a 1 mm optic fiber. Sights are installed and carefully sighted in by Arex technicians at our factory. Only a competent gunsmith should replace the AREX *alpha* sights. Figure 14 shows correct sight alignment, table below shows common aiming and impact points errors.

NOTE: Your AREX *alpha* pistol was test fired at the Arex factory for accuracy by ensuring the point of aim equals point of impact at 15 meters (17 yards). Individual results concerning accuracy and/or shot placement are affected by such factors as shooting stance, firing grip, trigger technique, ammunition and target distance.

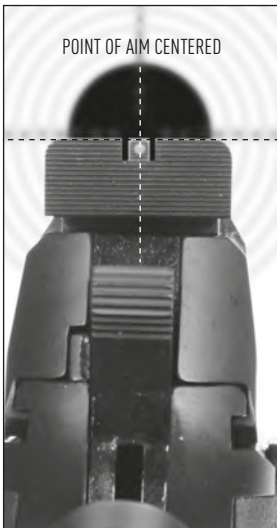


Figure 14
Correct sight alignment

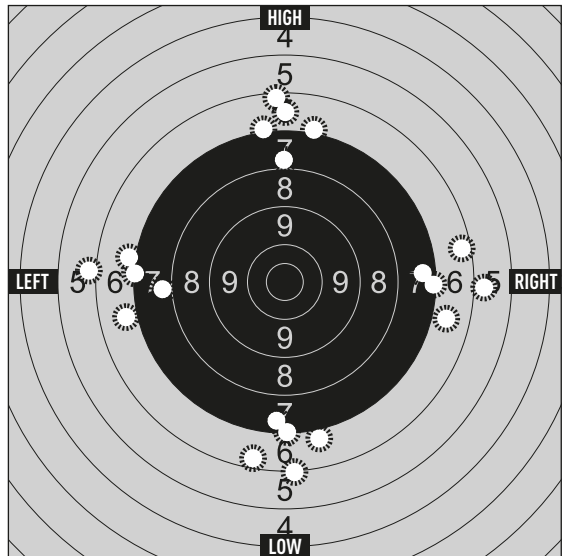


Figure 15 - Troubleshooting aiming/impact point errors

POSITION OF THE IMPACT POINT IN REGARD TO AIMING POINT (Figure 14)	POSSIBLE CAUSE	CORRECTIVE MEASURES
SHOTS HIGH ON TARGET	front sight not level with rear - too high	lower front sight in the rear sight notch
	rear sight too high	adjust the rear sight - lower
SHOTS LOW ON TARGET	front sight not level with rear - too low	elevate front sight in the rear sight notch
	rear sight too low	adjust the rear sight - higher
SHOTS LEFT ON TARGET	front sight left in the rear sight notch	center front sight in the rear sight notch
	rear sight not set correct- too left	adjust the rear sight - right
SHOTS RIGHT ON TARGET	front sight right in the rear sight notch	center front sight in the rear sight notch
	rear sight not set correctly - too right	adjust the rear sight - left



WARNING: Clear the pistol before attempting to adjust the sights (See Clearing, Pg.14).

The AREX *alpha* can be sighted in by the user to the desired distance by adjusting the rear sight for windage and/or elevation. Use appropriate flat-head screwdriver (provided) to turn the adjustment screws.

NOTE: Move the rear sight in the direction you want the point of impact to move. Always establish shot grouping on the target that represents your specific point of impact before adjusting the sights to correct it.

Elevation (See Figure 16):

Counter-clockwise rotation of the top screw (as the arrow indicates) will raise the rear sight, moving the point of impact up (do this if the pistol groups low on target). Clockwise rotation of the top screw will lower the rear sight, moving the point of impact down (do this if the pistol groups high on target). One click of the height adjustment screw will result in approximately 1 cm change of the point of impact at the distance of 25 m.

Windage (See Figure 17):

Clockwise rotation of the side screw will move the rear sight to the right (as arrow indicates), moving the point of impact right (do this if the pistol groups left on target). Counter-clockwise rotation of the side screw will move the rear sight to the left, moving the point of impact left (do this if the pistol groups right on target). One click of the windage adjustment screw will result in approximately 1/2 cm change of the point of impact at the distance of 25 m.



Figure 16
Adjusting the rear sight for elevation



Figure 17
Adjusting the rear sight for windage

FIRING



WARNING:

1. Be sure of your target and what is behind it! Without proper backstop, a bullet fired from a pistol horizontally, travels much further than normal target distances. It can easily penetrate wood or plasterboard walls or even a car door.
2. Perform basic function check (See Function check, Pg. 30) and ensure the barrel is free of obstructions.
3. Insure and check that you have the correct ammunition for the pistol.
4. Be sure that your hands and all parts of your body are kept away from the muzzle of the pistol and the slide's path.
5. Always wear eye and ear protection when firing the pistol.

Firing procedure:

1. Point the pistol at the intended target with your finger still resting on the frame.
2. Properly align the sights and acquire correct sight picture (See Figure 14).
3. Gently put the finger on the trigger at this time and slow down or pause breathing shortly while aiming.
4. Gradually press the trigger straight to the rear while keeping the sights aligned and on target.
5. Practice good follow-through after the shot breaks by maintaining sight picture and trigger pressure "throughout" the shot.
6. Keep pistol aimed at the target and continue to fire (repeat steps 2-5) as required or until the pistol is empty. Remove the finger from the trigger and rest it on the frame if you are not manipulating the trigger for the next shot or if the pistol is lowered or not pointing directly at the target.



WARNING: The slide moves backward and returns forward quickly during firing. Keep your face and hands away from its path. Hot brass and powder gas is ejected quickly and can burn you. Always wear safety glasses and hearing protectors when firing a pistol or when near a pistol being fired.

NOTE: If the hammer is cocked, the AREX *alpha* will fire in single-action mode when trigger is depressed and if the hammer is uncocked, pressing the trigger will both cock the hammer and release it, firing the pistol in double-action mode. After the first shot has been fired in either single- or double-action mode, the AREX *alpha* operates in a single-action trigger mode for all subsequent shots with recoiling slide cocking the hammer after each shot. Figure 19 shows comparison of the cocked and uncocked hammer positions.



Figure 18
Two-handed grip

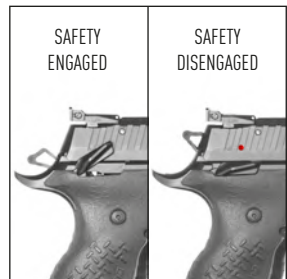


Figure 19
Hammer cocked / uncocked

UNLOADING

The slide catch locks the slide open after the last round is fired if there are no more cartridges in the magazine. The spring loaded magazine follower of an empty magazine pushes up on the tab located inside the magazine well. This pivots the slide catch upwards, so that it engages a cut-out on the bottom of the slide, locking it to the rear after the last cartridge case is ejected. If the slide is retracted manually with an empty magazine inserted, the slide will remain locked open.



WARNING: Do not rely on the slide position to determine whether the magazine is empty or not. Always check visually and physically to ensure the pistol is not loaded.

With slide locked back, the empty magazine can be removed by depressing either left or right magazine release button and visual or physical inspection of the chamber can be performed.



WARNING: Removing the magazine from the pistol does not prevent it from being fired! When there is a cartridge in the chamber, the manual safety disengaged and the trigger is pressed, the pistol will fire.

When the operator wishes to stop firing and unload the firearm before the last round is fired, the standard clearing procedure for the ARES *alpha* is to be employed:

1. **Point the muzzle in a safe direction and keep the fingers off the trigger** and outside of the trigger guard at all times during clearing.
2. **Remove the magazine** by depressing the magazine release button on either side and remove the magazine from the magazine well (See Figure 20).
3. **Retract the slide fully to the rear twice**, watch for an ejected cartridge on the first retraction and hold it back on the second (See Figure 21, if a cartridge is ejected on second retraction, go back to STEP 2).
4. **Check the chamber and magazine well** for the presence of a cartridge and/or magazine visually or physically and remove if either is present (See Figure 22).

NOTE: The slide can be held to the rear or locked open by pushing upwards on the slide catch/release lever for the purpose of inspection. Clearing procedure is explained in detail on Pg. 14.



Figure 20
Remove the magazine

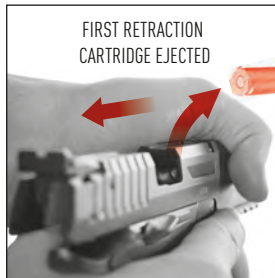


Figure 21
Briskly retract slide once:
watch for ejected cartridge

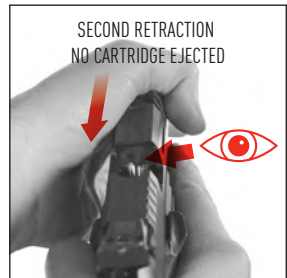


Figure 22
Retract slide AGAIN and hold
back: verify empty chamber

MALFUNCTION PROCEDURES

A stoppage (i.e. malfunction or “jam”) has occurred if:

- A cartridge fails to chamber (slide is out of battery)
- A cartridge fails to ignite
- A fired cartridge case fails to extract and/or eject from the pistol
- Unburned grains of propellant powder are present in the pistol
- A shot sounds or feels weak or abnormal



WARNING: If the pistol failed to fire upon pressing the trigger - STOP! A live cartridge may be present in the chamber! Keep the pistol pointed in a safe direction, remove your finger from the trigger, wait 30 seconds and CLEAR the pistol.

NOTE: A so called “hang fire” occurs when the trigger is depressed and a faulty round fails to fire instantly. The pistol fires eventually, but there is a delay between the time when the firing pin hits the primer and when the cartridge ignites. This may take several seconds. Do not turn the handgun away from the target and wait for at least 30 seconds to see if the round fires with delay before clearing the pistol.



WARNING: If you hear a weak “pop” sound and/or feel or observe reduced or no recoil during firing or notice unburnt powder grains in the ejection port area- STOP! A bullet may be lodged in the barre!! Keep the pistol pointed in a safe direction, remove your finger from the trigger, CLEAR the pistol and disassemble it to verify the barrel is clear of any obstructions.

NOTE: A so called “squib load”, is a faulty round failing to propel the bullet out the barrel. An alert operator should be able to realize this occurrence and not attempt to load or fire another cartridge. If a bullet is stuck in the bore, never attempt to shoot it out by using another cartridge, a blank or a cartridge from which the bullet has been removed. This can generate excessive pressure, damage the firearm and cause serious personal injury or death.

To rectify a malfunction, follow the clearing procedure:

1. Keep the pistol pointed in a safe direction while removing your finger from the trigger.
2. Remove the magazine from the magazine well, pulling it out if necessary.
3. Fully retract the slide several times if necessary to remove any cartridge or cartridge case from the chamber. Inspect the chamber and ejection port area for a cartridge or spent case and remove if either is present.
4. If you suspect a bullet remained in the bore, disassemble your pistol and check whether the barrel is blocked. If there is a bullet lodged in the bore, do not try to remove it yourself if you are not familiar with the proper procedures, take the pistol to a qualified gunsmith or return the pistol to your local Arex distributor (See details on the back cover).
5. If the pistol is clear and there is no obstruction in the barrel, you may reload the pistol to resume firing or secure it if you do not intend to fire at that time.

NOTE: The magazine floorplates have side grooves which were purposely designed to allow the magazine to be easily grasped and pulled out of the pistol in case of a jam. when simultaneously depressing the magazine release button on either side.

NOTE: There are other efficient procedures that can be followed when clearing malfunctions. Any malfunction clearing method not described herein should only be attempted with appropriate training and understanding of the specific firearm, its state and inherent risks.

TRIGGER STOP ADJUSTMENT



WARNING: Clear the pistol before attempting to adjust the trigger stop (See Clearing, Pg.14).

The trigger stop has been carefully adjusted at the factory but can be fine-tuned by the user if necessary. Non-permanent thread locking compound (such as Loctite 243) can be applied to the screw to secure its setting.

1. After clearing the pistol, remove the slide from the frame (See Disassembly, Pg. 26).
2. The adjustment screw (49, See Figure 43) is accessed from the top of the frame through the Unlocking block (28,) and is located just behind the Disassembly lever (31).
3. Use the provided Allen key (small) to turn the hex socket screw. Turning the screw clockwise will decrease the trigger's overtravel and turning it counterclockwise will increase it.
4. Reducing the overtravel can increase accuracy by minimizing the movement after the hammer is released but can also prevent trigger mechanism from functioning properly.
5. The trigger stop adjustment screw should be turned counterclockwise at least 1/4 turn after the minimal overtravel has been set and reliable single- and double-action trigger function verified at the range.

NOTE: When actuating the trigger with slide removed, hammer should be intercepted to prevent its damage.

STORAGE AND TRANSPORT

1. Store and transport the pistol without any cartridges in the chamber or in the inserted magazine, or in the place of storage/transport container.
2. Store and transport the pistol with the slide forward and the hammer down (uncocked).
3. Store or transport the pistol and its components clean and lubricated.
4. Clean and lubricate the pistol and its components at least every 12 months during storage.
5. Store the pistol and its components in a clean, dry, dust-free environment with stable room temperature.
6. Store the pistol and ammunition separately and securely locked.

SELECTION AND USE OF A HOLSTER



WARNING: The pistol must never be returned to the holster unless proper procedures have been followed or injury or death could occur.

When putting the AREX *alpha* pistol into the holster (i.e. holstering) the pistol must be "SAFE" or "CLEAR". The pistol is considered safe to be holstered when:

- fingers are off of the trigger and out of the trigger guard AND
- the pistol is "SAFE" - hammer down (uncocked) or manual safety "on safe" (in uppermost position) OR
- the pistol is "CLEAR" - no magazine or rounds present inside the firearm (See Clearing, Pg.14)

Selection - When selecting a carrying holster for the AREX *alpha* pistol, it is important to consider the following points:

1. The holster must not make contact with trigger or actuate any of the operating controls during holstering/unholstering or during carry. This includes the slide catch/release lever, magazine release buttons and ambidextrous safety levers.
2. The slide must not move back/out of battery when the pistol is being holstered.
3. If the pistol is equipped with an accessory mounted on the dustcover this must be taken into account when selecting a holster.
4. If possible, choose a holster designed specifically for the AREX *alpha* pistol. A list of manufacturers that make adequate holsters will be available at the Arex website or by contacting your local Arex distributor (See details on the back cover).

DISASSEMBLY & ASSEMBLY

DISASSEMBLY

The level of user disassembly described herein (also referred to as “field stripping”) is sufficient to allow for proper cleaning & maintenance of the AREX *alpha* pistol. Further disassembly should only be done by a qualified gunsmith or certified Arex armorers



WARNING: Before attempting to disassemble the AREX *alpha* pistol, make sure it is completely unloaded - clear. This includes the magazine and chamber.

1. Clear the AREX *alpha* [See Clearing, Pg.14]!
2. With magazine removed, hold the slide to the rear and lock it open by pushing upwards on the slide catch/release lever [See Figure 23]
3. Rotate the disassembly lever, located on the left hand side of the frame, clockwise until the lever is pointing downwards [See Figure 24].



Figure 23 — locking the slide Figure 24 — Rotating the disassembly lever downwards

4. Hold the lever at approximately seven o'clock position in order to clear the slide during its removal. Hold the slide firmly and pull it slightly rearward so that slide catch disengages then ease it forward, removing the slide with barrel and recoil spring assembly from the frame [See Figure 25].



WARNING: Slide is under recoil spring tension. Maintain control during slide removal to prevent injury. Wear eye protection.



Figure 25 — Removing the slide from the frame by sliding it forward

5. Turn the slide upside down and carefully push the recoil spring guide forward a few millimeters and carefully lift it out of slide along with the recoil spring - do not let go until the recoil spring is fully extended and clear of the slide (See Figure 26).

WARNING: The recoil spring and guide are under spring tension and not firmly attached to the slide. If released prematurely, these parts can be expelled from the pistol causing injury or damage. Point the recoil spring guide away from the face and eyes. Wear eye protection.

6. With the slide still upside down, take the barrel out of the slide by pushing up on the rear portion of the barrel through the ejection port, lifting it out, and separating it from the slide.

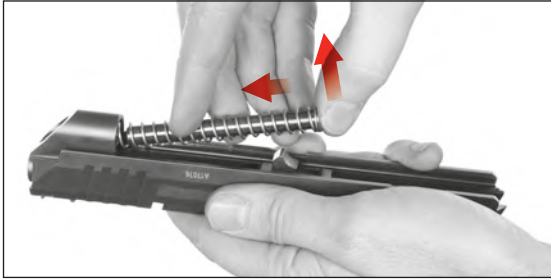


Figure 26 — Removing the recoil spring assembly. Caution: spring under tension!

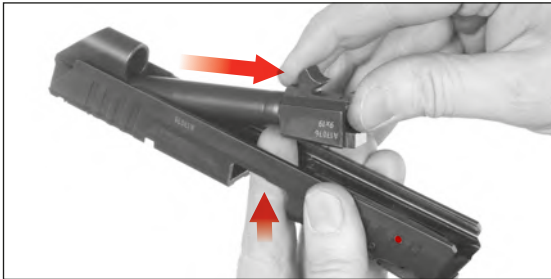


Figure 27 — Removing the barrel from the slide by lifting it up

WARNING: Do not attempt to disassemble your pistol beyond the point explained in this manual.

MAGAZINE DISASSEMBLY



CAUTION: Be aware the magazine spring is under tension when removing and installing the magazine floorplate. Keep the base of the magazine pointed away from the face and eyes at all times during disassembly and reassembly. Wear eye protection.

Disassembly of regular-capacity magazines

1. Use the tip of your thumb or thumbnail to slide the slotted locking plate tab located on the back side of the magazine away and clear of the magazine floorplate and hold it there (See Figure 28).
2. While pressing the locking plate by the tab against the back side of the magazine, slowly slide the floorplate forward off the magazine housing (See Figure 29).
3. Place the palm of either hand over the base of the magazine to control the expansion of the magazine spring and locking plate Gradually allowing the locking plate and magazine spring to expand out of the magazine housing (See Figure 30).
5. Remove the locking plate, magazine spring and magazine follower from the magazine housing.

NOTE: This level of disassembly is sufficient to allow a thorough cleaning of the magazine components.

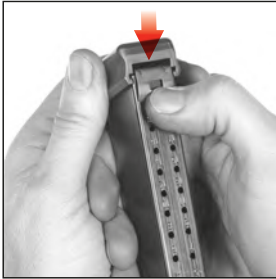


Figure 28
Pulling on the locking plate tab to free the floorplate



Figure 29
Sliding the floorplate forward
Caution: spring under tension!



Figure 30
Removing the locking plate with spring and follower



Figure 31
18-round + 2 (standard capacity)
magazine components

ASSEMBLY

1. Turn the slide upside down and insert the barrel into the slide, muzzle first, with the flat side of the enlarged back portion facing downwards until it seats into the slide's ejection port [See Figure 32].
2. Insert the exposed end of the recoil spring into the opening in front of the slide, below the barrel [See Figure 33].
3. Push the guide and the recoil spring forward into position, carefully compressing the recoil spring and positioning the back of the recoil spring guide in front of the barrel's guiding lug [See Figure 34].



WARNING: The recoil spring and guide are brought under tension in this process. If released prematurely, these parts can be expelled from the pistol causing injury or damage. Point the recoil spring guide away from the face and eyes. Wear eye protection.

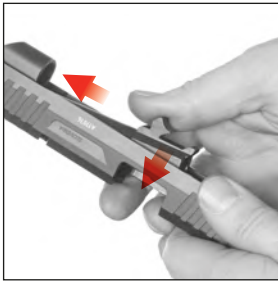


Figure 32 — Inserting the barrel into the slide



Figure 33 — Inserting the exposed end of the recoil spring into the front of the slide



Figure 34 — Compressing the recoil spring, positioning the recoil spring guide in front of barrel's guiding lug

4. Ensure that NO magazine is present in the magazine well and that the disassembly lever is pointing downwards.
5. Mount the slide onto the frame, ensuring that the recoil spring is centered underneath the barrel and aligning the slide grooves with the frame guides [See Figure 35].

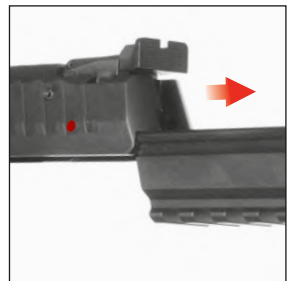


Figure 35 — Mounting the slide on the frame
(frame guides aligned with slide grooves)

6. Pull the slide back all the way to its rearmost position then ease it forward while observing that the disassembly lever has automatically returned back to its horizontal position. If necessary, push up on slide catch/release lever thus locking the slide back and pivot the

disassembly lever counter clockwise to its horizontal position manually, then gently close the slide by moving it back so that the catch disengages and easing it forward (See Figure 36).

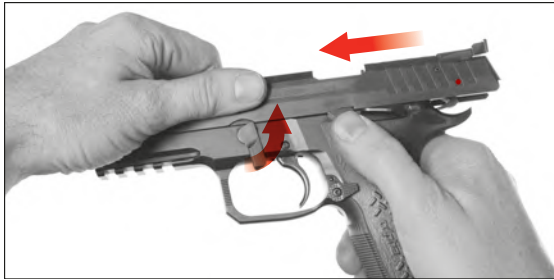


Figure 36 — Pull the slide all the way back (or release slide catch) then ease it forward while disassembly lever automatically returns to its horizontal position

MAGAZINE ASSEMBLY

Start at step 3 if the magazine follower and the locking plate are already attached to the spring.

1. Place the magazine spring in the magazine follower so the hook at the narrower end of the spring snaps in the hole at the bottom of the follower from left side (top front part of the follower is pointing up).
2. Place the locking plate onto the wider end of the magazine spring by guiding the spring through the loop in the plate orienting the slotted tab towards the back of the magazine.
3. Insert the follower and magazine spring into the magazine housing compressing the magazine spring (See Figure 37).

WARNING: The magazine spring is brought under tension in this process. If released prematurely, it can be expelled from the magazine body causing injury or damage. Point it away from the face and eyes. Wear eye protection.

4. Hold the locking plate against the bottom of the magazine housing with slotted tab on the outside of the back side of the magazine (See Figure 38).
5. Align the floorplate onto guides and slide it from the front all the way until the locking plate slips into the floorplate arresting it (See Figure 39).

NOTE: Check the magazine for proper function by insuring that the follower slides up and down within the magazine housing freely under spring tension. Also, check that the magazine follower rests at the top of the magazine housing, with its highest edge almost in line with the magazine feed lips.



Figure 37-Insert the spring with follower and locking plate attached to it



Figure 38-Hold the locking plate while sliding the floorplate onto guides



Figure 39-Check the floorplate is arrested by the locking plate

FUNCTION CHECK

It is essential that a basic function check be performed on the AREX *alpha* every time after assembly to ensure that the firearm's components have been installed correctly. Below sequence is not random but can be changed if operator knows and understands the pistol's functions.

1. Clear the AREX *alpha* (see Clearing, Pg.14)!
2. Slide action - Ensuring that fingers are off the trigger and outside the trigger guard, rack the slide (pulling it briskly to its rearmost position and releasing) three or four times. The slide should be able to glide smoothly back and snap forward, under the tension of the recoil spring, without binding or locking up.
3. Hammer cocking - Return the slide to battery and check the hammer - it should be cocked.
4. Single-action trigger - Keeping the unloaded pistol pointed in a safe direction, press the trigger of the AREX *alpha* - hammer should fall and rebound away from the firing pin slightly (single-action mode). Keep the trigger fully depressed and try to push on the hammer from behind - it should move forward touching the firing pin.
5. Disconnecter function - While maintaining backward pressure on the trigger, rack the slide to the rear and release it, holding the trigger to the back, until the slide returns to battery. Release the trigger - it should reset (audible and felt "click") after moving forward 3 mm - the hammer should remain cocked.
6. Slide catch-release function - Insert an empty magazine in the magazine well and rack the slide to rear. The slide should lock open with an empty magazine inserted. Depress the magazine release button (left or right) and remove the magazine from the pistol. Push down on the slide catch/release lever. The slide should snap forward and return to battery (close completely).
7. Manual safety function (cocked) - Engage the safety (i.e. push the safety lever to its upper position - "on safe") and press the trigger. The trigger should move freely and hammer should remain cocked.
8. Manual safety function (decocked) Disengage the safety (i.e. push the safety lever to its lower position) and press the trigger. The hammer should fall. Re-engage the safety (i.e. put the safety back "on safe") and press the trigger. The trigger should move freely and hammer should remain uncocked.
9. Double-action trigger - Disengage the safety while keeping the unloaded pistol pointed in a safe direction, press the trigger of the AREX *alpha* - hammer should first cock then drop, rebounding away from the firing pin slightly (double-action mode). The trigger should return to its forward position when released.



WARNING: Never use a firearm that shows signs of damage or fails a function check. If the condition or function of the pistol or magazine is suspect, return the pistol or magazine to your local Arex distributor (See details on the back cover).

Contact your local Arex distributor (see details on the back cover) or Arex Customer Service Department by email: info@arex.si if you encounter any problems attempting to disassemble, assemble, and/or conduct a function check on the AREX *alpha* pistol.

CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

CLEANING

NOTE: The service life and performance of your AREX *alpha* pistol is dependent upon proper care and maintenance.

Materials Required - we suggest you use at least the following cleaning set and materials to properly clean the AREX *alpha* pistol:

- Appropriate cleaning rod with handle
- Patch holder
- Nylon bore brush (in the appropriate caliber)
- Bronze bore brush (in the appropriate caliber)
- Cotton bore mop
- Nylon brush
- Cleaning patches
- Lint-free wiping rag
- Cleaning solvent/lubricant

Cleaning Intervals - Regular and Extensive are the two types of operator cleaning for the AREX *alpha* pistol.

Regular Cleaning - Performed after each firing or every twelve (12) months.

Extensive Cleaning - Often referred to as "detailed cleaning." Performed after the firing of every 500 cartridges or when the pistol has been exposed to or immersed in sand, dust, water (especially seawater) or other foreign contaminants.



WARNING: Wear eye protection and follow other precautions stipulated by the manufacturer when using cleaning solvents/lubricants.

Regular Cleaning Barrel

- Saturate the bronze or nylon bore brush with solvent and push it through the bore from chamber to muzzle one or two passes, one direction preferably.
- After applying the solvent, set the barrel aside while cleaning slide and frame.
- After leaving the solvent in the bore for 5-10 minutes, run the bronze or nylon bore brush through the bore from chamber to muzzle at least five passes, one direction preferably, to remove any fouling.
- Use patch holder to run cleaning patches through the bore from chamber to muzzle, removing fouling or solvent residue. Change the patches until a clean one emerges from the muzzle end of the barrel.
- Moisten the cotton bore mop with lubricant and run it through the barrel to apply a thin oil film.
- Brush or wipe the exterior of the barrel with the nylon brush and rag moistened with solvent to remove fouling.



CAUTION: Never use a stainless steel bore brush to avoid scratching the bore thus reducing accuracy. If the cleaning solvent is not safe for the skin, it is not recommended for use with the AREX *alpha* pistol.

Slide

- Gently brush all internal surfaces of the slide using the nylon brush moistened with solvent.
- Remove all surface fouling from internal and external surfaces of the slide using a rag.

Recoil spring assembly

- Remove all visible fouling using solvent and a nylon brush or a rag.

Frame

- Scrub all visible internal surfaces where carbon fouling is present using the nylon brush moistened with solvent.
- Using a rag and cleaning patches, remove all fouling from accessible internal and all external surfaces of the frame.

Magazine

- Scrub the magazine follower and feed lips, using the nylon brush moistened with solvent.
- Using a rag, remove all fouling from all external surfaces of the magazine.

Extensive Cleaning

Extensive cleaning is the same as regular cleaning except that:

- The magazine is disassembled for cleaning.
- All parts should be either rinsed with or completely immersed in cleaning solvent and thoroughly scrubbed with a nylon brush. Compressed air should then be used to remove the loose fouling/contaminants and excess solvent and to dry all assemblies and components.

NOTE: The ARES *alpha* pistol can be cleaned using an ultrasonic cleaning solution. However, the use of ultrasonic cleaning can result in the unwanted removal of colored safety reference markings on the slide. Use of ultrasonic cleaning is normally neither necessary nor recommended when using standard factory ammunition. All components must be thoroughly dried and properly lubricated after being immersed in solvents or cleaning solutions of any kind before reassembly. For additional cleaning recommendations after use in extreme environments, please contact your local Ares distributor (See details on the back cover) or Ares Customer Service Department by email: info@ares.si

INSPECTION

During and after cleaning, visually inspect the pistol and its components for any irregularities that may cause problems or stoppages/jams during operation. Generally, you should always keep an eye on any of the discrepancies listed below.

 **WARNING:** Always clear the pistol before conducting an inspection!

Check for:

- Damaged or missing parts
- Improper assembly or function
- Absence of free movement, where expected
- Absence of spring tension, where expected
- Unexpected tolerances, movement and looseness
- Parts exhibiting signs of cracks, burrs, dents or obvious signs of damage or stress
- Lack of stops or tactile clicks, where expected
- General overall cleanliness
- Presence of inadequate or heavy lubrication
- Presence of corrosion or degradation of surfaces.



CAUTION: The AREX *alpha* was designed to achieve optimal safety and exceptional speed and accuracy in a reliable and durable pistol. Do not try to “improve” the pistol by altering any of its components. Altering any part of the AREX *alpha* or its magazines may cause serious injury or death and will void manufacturer’s warranty on the product.

LUBRICATION

Metal surfaces of the AREX *alpha* pistol are treated with advanced corrosion and wear resistant finishes. This does not mean that it is maintenance free. It is imperative to properly lubricate the pistol to achieve reduced friction between interacting surfaces and ensure proper functioning. Any type of high-quality oil, specifically designed for use on firearms will work well on the AREX *alpha*. Do not use lubricants that claim to be able to “creep” or penetrate metal as these substances may incapacitate primers in ammunition. Figure 40 shows areas on the pistol requiring particular attention to proper lubrication

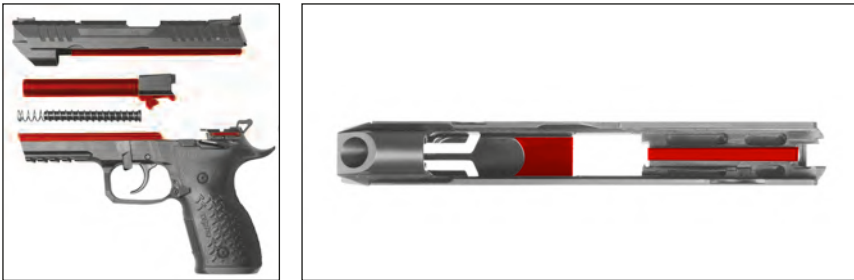


Figure 40 — Main components with medium lubrication points marked [right: slide underside]

Where and How Much

No lubrication (surface feels dry and is not slippery to the touch).

- All plastic components
- Ammunition
- Sights
- All external operating levers
- External accessories (e.g. lights, lasers)

Light lubrication (surface lubrication is visible but feels only slightly lubricated to the touch).

- Bore, chamber and exterior of barrel
- All metal parts
- All internal parts in slide and frame
- Magazine spring
- Recoil spring assembly
- Magazine housing

Medium lubrication (surface feels slippery to the touch, but oil does not run down vertically held surfaces).

- The enlarged rear portion of the barrel: stepped forward edge and guiding lug
- Barrel unlocking block in the frame
- Slide grooves and frame guides
- Extractor
- Trigger axle, firing mechanism

Heavy lubrication (oil runs down the surface when it is held in a vertical position).

No heavy lubrication is required on the AREX *alpha* pistols.

Re-apply lubricant periodically after firing the pistol as the heat will evaporate it. Apply lubricant using clean cotton swabs, patches or a rag. A spray bottle of lubricant may also be used directly when compressed air is used afterwards to circulate the lubricant into all parts and to remove the excess from the pistol.

TROUBLESHOOTING PROBLEMS AND REPAIR

Common causes of problems that are often overlooked include:

- Fouled, unlubricated or improperly lubricated pistol
- Bad ammunition
- Damaged magazines
- Operator error.

MALFUNCTION	CAUSE	CORRECTION
FEED		
No round fed into the chamber	Magazine not properly inserted	Insert magazine properly
	Magazine is deformed or dirty	Replace magazine
	Incorrect or defective ammunition	Inspect and replace ammunition
Slide does not close easily or completely	Pistol or cartridge is fouled (dirty) or pistol is too heavily lubricated	Clean and lubricate pistol and/or replace the ammunition
	Incorrect ammunition	Replace ammunition
	Pistol requires service	Return to your local Arex distributor
IGNITION		
Hammer drops but round does not fire	Faulty ammunition	Press the trigger again or rack the slide to cycle next round
	Firing pin obstructed	Pistol requires cleaning/service
	Pistol requires service	Return to your local Arex distributor
EXTRACTION/EJECTION		
After firing, the case stays in the chamber or is jammed in the ejection port	Insufficient recoil due to dirt	Clean and lubricate the pistol
	Slide movement is slowed /blocked by the firing grip	Correct firing grip
	Light hold or limp wrist	Apply solid grip, rigid hold
	Low-powered ammunition	Change ammunition
	Fouling in the extractor area	Clean the extractor area
	Damaged or broken extractor	Replace, pistol requires service
Pistol requires service	Return to your local Arex distributor	

SERVICE POLICY

If your AREX *alpha* pistol still fails to function after applying malfunction procedures (See Pg. 23) and troubleshooting problems (See above table), please contact your local Arex distributor (See details on the back cover) or Arex Customer Service Department by email: info@arex.si for the name and address of your nearest Authorized Repair Facility. Law enforcement users, contact your unit armorer or local Arex distributor (See details on the back cover).

WARRANTY REGISTRATION

New AREX firearms are covered by Arex's Limited Lifetime Warranty. To inquire about warranty registration, please contact your local Arex distributor (See details on the back cover) or Arex Customer Service Department by email: info@arex.si

AREX *alpha* ACCESSORIES

RAIL MOUNTED ACCESSORIES

The AREX *alpha* has an extended full length MIL-STD-1913 (Picatinny) interface rail machined in the dustcover (the front, lower portion of the frame). This interface allows the operator to mount a wide variety of lights, laser aimers and other accessories to the handgun by means of the simple and proven Picatinny system (See Figure 41).



Figure 41 — Installing accessory weapon light/laser module onto the rails



WARNING: Always ensure the AREX *alpha* pistol is “clear” before installing or removing accessories.

To avoid damage to the accessory and the AREX *alpha*, carefully follow the instructions of the manufacturer for installing, operating, and removing a particular accessory from the mounting rails. Most lights, laser aimers, and similar accessories are installed by sliding them onto the front of the rail system while depressing a locking mechanism or clipping them on from the bottom.

NOTE: Weight of any frame (dust cover) mounted accessories should not exceed 11 ounces (300 grams) to ensure reliable function. The accessory might not fit correctly if it was not manufactured specifically for the MIL-STD-1913 (Picatinny) interface mounting.



Figure 42 — Accessory light and laser aiming module mounted on AREX *alpha*

For a list of accessories that fit the AREX *alpha* pistol, contact your local Arex distributor.



CAUTION: Improperly designed or installed accessories may result in damage to the rail system and/or the pistol. Such damage is not covered under warranty.

NOTE: If after reviewing this manual you still have questions, please contact your local Arex distributor (see details on the back cover) or Arex Customer Service Department by e-mail info@arex.si.

SECTION 9

PARTS LIST & EXPLODED VIEW

Parts Policy

Arex Customer Service Department maintains a full complement of replacement parts. Even though most gunsmiths have the knowledge, training, and the ability to make necessary repairs to your firearm, the skill and workmanship of any particular gunsmith is simply beyond our control.

NOTE: Should your firearm ever require service, we strongly recommend that you return it to your local Arex distributor (see details on the back cover, see Pg. 34 - Service Policy). The AREX *alpha* pistol is a precision instrument built to highest standards and tight tolerances so original replacement parts will generally require minimal amount of fitting.

If any part is ordered without returning the firearm to Arex, the customer takes full responsibility for ensuring that the part supplied is correct for their particular firearm and is properly installed and fitted by a qualified gunsmith.

AREX d.o.o. CANNOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FUNCTIONING OF ANY FIREARM WHICH IS MODIFIED IN ANY WAY OR IN WHICH REPLACEMENT PARTS ARE INSTALLED BY THIRD PARTIES.



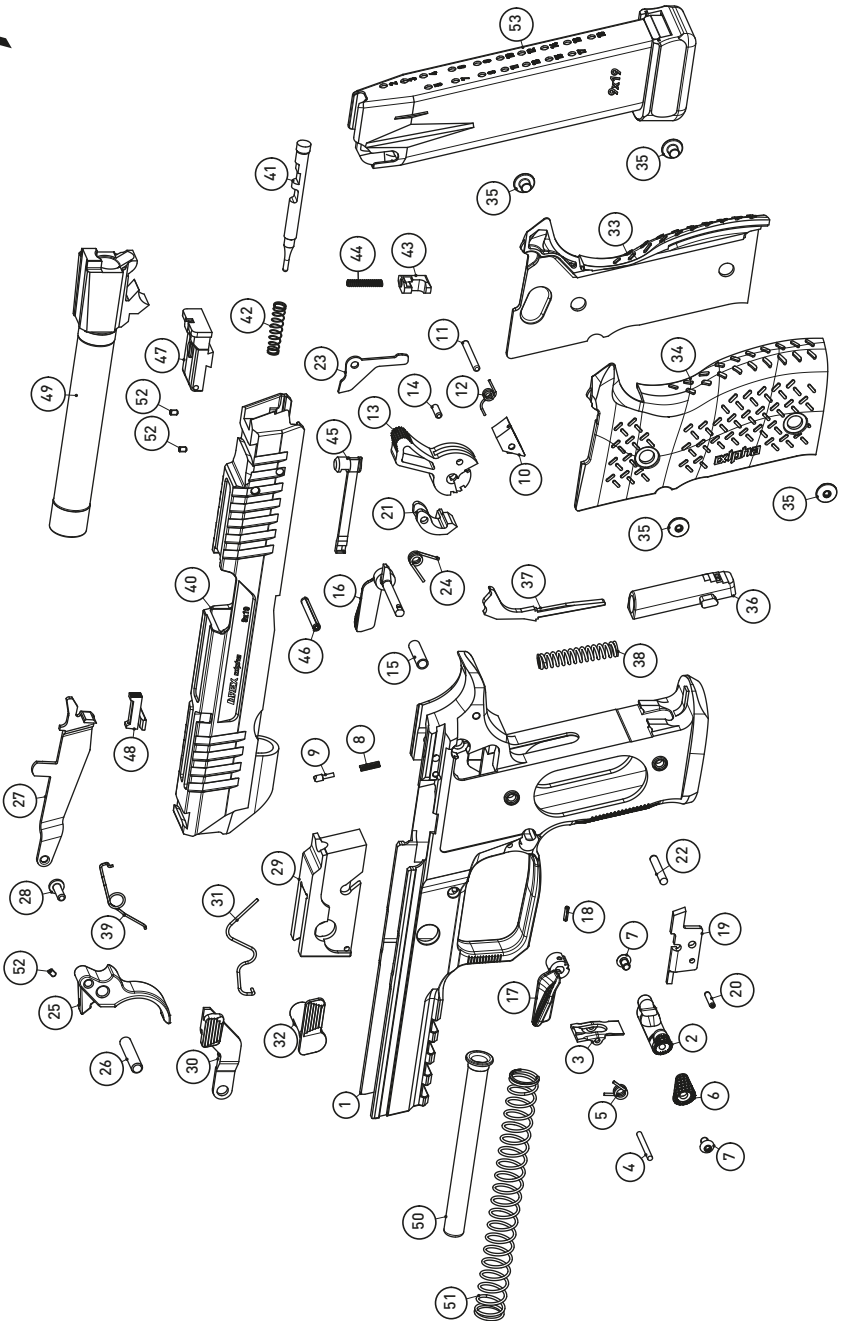
WARNING: It is the purchaser's responsibility to be absolutely certain that any parts ordered from the factory are correctly fitted and installed. Firearms are complicated mechanisms and improper installment of parts or any modification may result in a dangerous malfunction, damage to the firearm, and serious injury to the shooter and other persons. The purchaser and installer of parts accepts full responsibility for the correct adjustment and functioning of the firearm after such installation or modification.

PARTS LIST (see Pg. 37 — exploded view — Figure 43)

ITEM DESCRIPTION	CODE	ITEM DESCRIPTION	CODE	ITEM DESCRIPTION	CODE	ITEM DESCRIPTION	CODE				
1	FRAME	502524	17	LH SAFETY LEVER	402466	33	RIGHT GRIP PANEL	502454	49	BARREL	502444
2	MAGAZINE RELEASE BUTTON	502440	18	SAFETY LEVER PIN	402035	34	LEFT GRIP PANEL	502454	50	RECOIL SPRING GUIDE	501798
3	MAGAZINE CATCH	402046	19	EJECTOR	501820	35	GRIP PANEL SCREW	402067	51	RECOIL SPRING	402515
4	MAGAZINE CATCH AXLE	501405	20	SPRING LIMITING PIN	402008	36	HAMMER SPRING REST	502483	52	TRIGGER STOP & REAR SIGHT SCREW	402392
5	MAGAZINE CATCH SPRING	402048	21	SEAR	502449	37	HAMMER STRUT	502455	53	MAGAZINE COMPLETE 9X19 20 RD	402063
6	MAGAZINE RELEASE BUTTON EXTENSION	402469	22	SEAR AXLE	501398	38	HAMMER SPRING	402472			
7	MAGAZINE RELEASE BUTTON EXTENSION SCREW	402486	23	FIRING PIN BLOCK LEVER	502574	39	TRIGGER BAR SPRING	402473			
8	SAFETY LEVER SPRING	402036	24	SEAR SPRING	402023	40	SLIDE	502441			
9	SAFETY LEVER INDEXING PLUNGER	501793	25	TRIGGER - ADJUSTABLE AFTERTRAVEL	502523	41	FIRING PIN	501791			
10	REST	402026	26	TRIGGER AXLE	501796	42	FIRING PIN SPRING	402010			
11	REST PIN	501392	27	TRIGGER BAR	501814	43	FIRING PIN BLOCK	502575			
12	REST SPRING	402031	28	TRIGGER BAR PIN	501684	44	FIRING PIN BLOCK SPRING	402514			
13	HAMMER	402468	29	UNLOCKING BLOCK	501790	45	EXTRACTOR	501810			
14	HAMMER STRUT PIN	501394	30	SLIDE CATCH	402471	46	LOCK PIN	402013			
15	HAMMER AXLE	501794	31	SLIDE STOP SPRING	402017	47	REAR SIGHT	402319			
16	RH SAFETY LEVER	402467	32	DISASSEMBLY LEVER	402186	48	FRONT SIGHT	502453			

Figure 43 — ARES *alpha* Exploded Diagram

ARES *alpha*





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