



## **DA/SA Semi-Automatic Pistol All Types - Right Handed Operator**

**Always Keep your Firearm pointed in a Safe Direction, throughout the drill**

**Begin with an UNLOADED FIREARM, UNLOADED MAGAZINE DUMMY ROUNDS (2 minimum) and NO AMMUNITION IN THE ROOM. The drill is begun with an (Unknown) Firearm State. Unloaded, unloaded magazine inserted, hammer down, placed on a horizontal surface, ejection port facing up (visible)**

### **UNLOADING (Make it Safe):**

- 1. Pick up the pistol with your LEFT hand**
  - a. Keep the firearm pointed in a safe Direction
  - b. Nothing enters the trigger Guard
  - c. Do not place any part of your hands and body in front of the Muzzle
- 2. Place the pistol GRIP in your RIGHT Hand**
  - a. High and Tight on the Backstrap, No space above your hand at the beavertail
  - b. RIGHT Index Finger ON the FRAME,
  - c. Wrap your 3 Lower Fingers around the Front of the Grip
- 3. Keeping the Firearm pointed in a SAFE DIRECTION, locate the MAGAZINE RELEASE (Push button, Paddle Release, or Bottom of Grip)**
  - a. Press the MAGAZINE RELEASE with either Thumb (button), Index Finger (paddle), or Left Thumb (bottom of Grip).
  - b. If your pistol has a PADDLE RELEASE (Lever at the BOTTOM REAR of the trigger guard), you can use EITHER THUMB or your Right Index Finger.
  - c. Remove the MAGAZINE with your left hand or let it fall to the floor/ ground.
    - i. If on the ground, do not pick it up until the end of the drill.
  - d. If the Magazine is in your left hand, Examine the MAGAZINE to see if there are any rounds in it
  - e. Place the MAGAZINE on a Surface if possible
- 4. Keeping the Firearm pointed in a SAFE DIRECTION, locate the SLIDE RELEASE (Catch). Adjust your RIGHT-HAND grip so your RIGHT THUMB SITS UNDER THE SLIDE RELEASE.**



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5. Keeping the Firearm pointed in the **SAME SAFE DIRECTION**, turn your body so your **LEFT Shoulder** is facing the **SAFE DIRECTION**. Bring the Firearm to your **WORKSPACE** (Chest High, 6 to 8 Inches from your body)
6. Move your **LEFT HAND OVER** the **TOP** of the Firearm, Palm facing down. Do **NOT** move your left hand in front of the **MUZZLE**.
7. Place your **LEFT Thumb** on the **REAR LEFT SIDE** of the **SLIDE**, on the **Serrations** (non-slip area).
8. Place your **RIGHT INDEX** and **MIDDLE FINGERS** on the **REAR RIGHT SIDE** of the **SLIDE**, on the **Serrations**, **Across** from your **RIGHT Thumb**. **Pinch** the **SLIDE**.
9. Rest the **LEFT EDGE** of your **LEFT Hand** on the **TOP** of the **SLIDE**, making sure that you do **NOT** extend your hand over the front of the slide by the **Muzzle**.
10. With the **SLIDE FIRMLY GRIPPED** in your **LEFT Hand** and the **GRIP** Firmly Seated in your **RIGHT Hand**, press **UPWARD** on the **SLIDE RELEASE** with your right thumb, Move the slide to your **RIGHT**, and the **GRIP** to the **LEFT**. The **SLIDE RELEASE** will move **UPWARD** into a *notch* at the end of the **SLIDE** travel. Keeping pressure upward with your **RIGHT Thumb**, relax your arms and the Slide will remain open. ***Repeat this until it is learned.*** Proceed to Step 11.
  - a. If there is **NO SLIDE RELEASE** on the pistol, **KEEP THE FIREARM POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION** move the **SLIDE** to the rear, Examine the **EMPTY CHAMBER** while the slide is to the rear, and let the slide move forward.
    - i. Once the **EMPTY CHAMBER** is seen, Place the Pistol on a Surface, locate an **EMPTY MAGAZINE**, Insert into the pistol, and Operate the **SLIDE** again. If so Equipped with an **INTERNAL Slide Release**, the Pistol will remain Open. Ensure that you see an Empty chamber and remove the magazine.
11. **KEEP THE FIREARM POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION**, place the **UNLOADED** Pistol in your **LEFT Hand**, remove your **RIGHT hand**, and place the pistol **RIGHT SIDE UP**, on a Surface with the **EMPTY CHAMBER FACING UP**. This allows others to see that the pistol is unloaded.
12. If there is a **MAGAZINE** or **CARTRIDGE** on the **Floor/ Ground**, pick it up and empty it if needed, placing the **EMPTY MAGAZINE** on the **Surface**. If it has gotten **sandy/ dirty/ wet**, wipe it off before using it.



**LOADING:**

- 13. Pick up an EMPTY Magazine with your LEFT Hand. Orient the MAGAZINE so that the Open End is near your LEFT Thumb, Square REAR Edge is in your palm, and the Rounded FRONT Edge is resting INSIDE your Closed Fingers.**
  - a. Place the Closed Bottom (Base) of the MAGAZINE on the Surface, or if none is available, against your abdomen.
- 14. Looking at the Cartridges, pick up a CARTRIDGE with your Right hand, SQUARE END Exposed.**
  - b. The SQUARE End of the CARTRIDGE will be placed in the Magazine First, so the BULLET (Round end) is exposed and facing FORWARD in the magazine. The Round EDGE of the MAGAZINE Will Face the MUZZLE when it is inserted into the Firearm.
- 15. Press down on the MAGAZINE FOLLOWER (plastic or metal plunger under spring pressure) with the square end of the CARTRIDGE. When it stops, slide it into the magazine (to the LEFT). REPEAT if Necessary.**
- 16. Place the FILLED MAGAZINE on the Surface. Both Hands should be empty.**
- 17. Pick up the pistol with your LEFT hand**
  - a. Keep the firearm pointed in a **SAFE DIRECTION**
  - b. Nothing enters the trigger Guard
  - c. Do not place any part of your hands and body in front of the Muzzle
- 18. Place the pistol GRIP in your Right Hand**
  - a. High and Tight on the Backstrap, No space above your hand at the beavertail
  - b. RIGHT Index Finger ON the FRAME,
  - c. Wrap your 3 Lower Fingers around the Front of the Grip
- 19. Pick up the FILLED MAGAZINE with your LEFT Hand. INDEX the front edge of the magazine with your left index finger, so the TIP OF YOUR INDEX FINGER is at the TOP (OPEN) END of the magazine.**
- 20. Insert the OPEN END (cartridge exposed) into the Pistol with the Round Edge facing the MUZZLE (Forward).**
  - a. Continue inserting the magazine until you feel and hear an audible click.  
**TAP the Magazine Bottom with the HEEL OF YOUR LEFT HAND to**
  - b. *Make sure that the magazine is fully inserted.*
- 21. PRESS THE SLIDE RELEASE DOWNWARD WITH EITHER YOUR LEFT OR RIGHT THUMB. The slide will move forward rapidly, stripping the top**



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cartridge off the top of the magazine and pushing it up the ramp into the chamber.

### **OPERATING:**

- 22. Keep the Firearm pointed in a SAFE DIRECTION, Acquire a TWO-HANDED GRIP by placing the INSIDE OF YOUR LEFT HAND OVER YOUR GRIPPED RIGHT FINGERS.**
- 23. SLIDE your LEFT HAND upward so that the BOTTOM OF YOUR LEFT INDEX FINGER touches the BOTTOM OF THE TRIGGER GUARD.**
- 24. EXTEND YOUR ARMS TO ALIGN WITH THE TARGET (Safe Direction).**
  - a. This provides the basis for a two handed “Isosceles” Grip.
  - b. Your left hand will slide rearward so the thick, lower part of your thumb will come to rest on the side of the pistol grip in the area not covered by your right fingertips, filling the void. Your left hand **MUST** be in this position whenever you are firing the pistol with two hands.
- 25. LET YOUR LEFT THUMB FALL SO THAT IT COMES TO REST ON THE BOTTOM KNUCKLE OF YOUR RIGHT INDEX FINGER.**
  - a. **DO NOT PLACE OR PRESS YOUR LEFT THUMB ON THE PISTOL FRAME OR SLIDE.** This will reduce aiming accuracy problems and prevent the impeding of slide movement during recoil cycling.

### **SINGLE ACTION:**

- 26. KEEP THE PISTOL POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION, Using your LEFT THUMB, COCK THE HAMMER (to the rear) and return your hand to the proper position, with the bottom your left thumb touching the grip.**
- 27. KEEP THE PISTOL POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION, Insert your RIGHT FINGER into the TRIGGER GUARD, so that the trigger is touching your finger JUST ABOVE the JOINT CREASE.**
- 28. When your SIGHTS are ALIGNED WITH THE TARGET (*SIGHT PICTURE*), BEGIN TO SLOWLY BRING YOUR FINGER REARWARD, taking up any slack in the trigger pull. Stop when you feel resistance. This is “THE WALL”.**
- 29. When your finger stops at the wall and keeping a proper *SIGHT PICTURE*, slowly increase the pressure on the Trigger, BIT BY BIT. *THINK: “TOP OF THE FRONT SIGHT” or “DOT IN THE MIDDLE”.* Continue this step several times until the Hammer Drops and the Pistol fires. You should **NOT** know when the pistol will fire.**
- 30. REPEAT Steps 5-8 Above.**



**DOUBLE ACTION:**

31. KEEP THE PISTOL POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION, insert your RIGHT FINGER into the TRIGGER GUARD, so that the trigger is IN THE FIRST JOINT CREASE.
32. When your SIGHTS are ALIGNED WITH THE TARGET (*SIGHT PICTURE*), BEGIN TO SLOWLY BRING YOUR FINGER REARWARD, taking up any slack in the trigger pull. Stop when you feel resistance. This is “THE WALL”.
33. When your finger stops at the wall and while keeping a proper *SIGHT PICTURE*, slowly increase the pressure on the Trigger, BIT BY BIT. *THINK: “TOP OF THE FRONT SIGHT”*. Continue this step several times until the Hammer Drops and the Pistol fires.
  - a. You should NOT know when the pistol will fire.
34. REPEAT Steps 10-12 Above.

**DECOCKING:** (*Safely lowering the HAMMER, WITHOUT firing the Pistol*):

*Be aware that decocking the Pistol may not work per this process, in the event that the slide is open (DISCONNECTOR BLOCK), the magazine is removed (MAGAZINE SAFETY), Or the pistol is equipped with a GRIP SAFETY.*

35. SPECIFIC SAFETY PRECAUTIONS NEED TO BE USED. *Begin in the Single Action State:*
36. KEEP THE PISTOL POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION and with your Right FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER, use your LEFT THUMB, and COCK THE HAMMER (to the rear).
37. Place your LEFT THUMB FIRMLY on the REAR of the PISTOL SLIDE IN FRONT OF THE HAMMER.
38. Place your RIGHT THUMB LESS FIRMLY on the HAMMER SPUR (REAR of the HAMMER), enough to stop any movement of the hammer, but NOT too much so the HAMMER is NOT pressed down to the maximum rearward position.
39. WITHOUT MOVING YOUR THUMBS, insert your RIGHT FINGER into the TRIGGER GUARD, so that the trigger is touching your finger JUST ABOVE the JOINT CREASE.
40. BEGIN TO SLOWLY BRING YOUR FINGER REARWARD, KEEPING YOUR THUMBS IN THEIR SLIDE-HAMMER POSITIONS, the Hammer will “break”, moving forward but stopping while putting pressure on your left thumb,



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- 41. REMOVE YOUR RIGHT FINGER FROM THE TRIGGER GUARD, WITHOUT MOVING YOUR THUMBS, and RETURN YOUR FINGER TO REST ON THE SIDE OF THE FRAME ABOVE THE TRIGGER GUARD.**
- 42. WHILE KEEPING PRESSURE on the HAMMER SPUR with your RIGHT THUMB, slowly remove your left thumb from in front of the Hammer and lower it to rest as far forward as it will allow.**
- 43. Repeat DECOCKING above until 3 SUCCESSFUL operations are demonstrated.**

**It is CRITICAL to ensure that the Trigger Finger is removed from the TRIGGER GUARD and placed on the FRAME BEFORE EITHER THUMB IS MOVED FROM THE HAMMER AREA.** This ensures that any internal safety mechanisms are not deactivated by rearward trigger movement.

Some modern handguns are equipped with a decocking lever. They may be ambidextrous or not, located on the rear of the slide (Beretta 92 or 84 / S&W Gen 1,2,3 Semi-Automatics) , at the rear of the frame near the slide (THUMB SAFETY) or in front of the slide Release (SIG/ REX Decocker). In the event that the Pistol is equipped with a Decocking Lever....

### **UNLOADING (Make it Safe)**

- 44. Keeping the Firearm pointed in a SAFE DIRECTION, locate the MAGAZINE RELEASE (Push button, Paddle Release, or Bottom of Grip)**
  - a. Press the MAGAZINE RELEASE with either Thumb (button), Index Finger (paddle), or Left Thumb (bottom of Grip).
  - b. Remove the MAGAZINE with your left hand or let it fall to the floor/ ground.
    - i. If on the ground, do not pick it up until the end of the drill.
  - c. If the Magazine is in your left hand, Examine the MAGAZINE to see if there are any rounds in it
  - d. Place the MAGAZINE on a Surface if possible
- 45. Keeping the Firearm pointed in a SAFE DIRECTION, locate the SLIDE RELEASE (Catch). You may have to adjust your RIGHT hand Grip, so your RIGHT Thumb is underneath the SLIDE RELEASE.**
- 46. Keeping the Firearm pointed in the SAME SAFE DIRECTION, turn your body so your LEFT Shoulder is facing the SAFE DIRECTION. Bring the Firearm to your WORKSPACE (Chest High, 6 to 8 Inches from your body)**



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47. Move your **LEFT HAND OVER** the **TOP** of the Firearm, Palm facing down. Do **NOT** move your left hand in front of the **MUZZLE**.
48. Place your **LEFT Thumb** on the **REAR LEFT SIDE** of the **SLIDE**, on the **Serrations** (non-slip area).
49. Place your **RIGHT INDEX** and **MIDDLE FINGERS** on the **REAR RIGHT SIDE** of the **SLIDE**, on the **Serrations**, **Across** from your **RIGHT Thumb**. **Pinch** the **SLIDE**.
50. Rest the **LEFT EDGE** of your **LEFT Hand** on the **TOP** of the **SLIDE**, making sure that you do **NOT** extend your hand over the front of the slide by the **Muzzle**.
51. With the **SLIDE FIRMLY GRIPPED** in your **LEFT Hand** and the **GRIP** Firmly Seated in your **RIGHT Hand**, press **UPWARD** on the **SLIDE RELEASE** with your right thumb, Move the slide to your **RIGHT**, and the **GRIP** to the **LEFT**. The **SLIDE RELEASE** will move **UPWARD** into a *notch* at the end of the **SLIDE** travel. Keeping pressure upward with your **RIGHT Thumb**, relax your arms and the Slide will remain open. *Repeat this until it is learned*. Proceed to Step 11.
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