PM170

# INSTRUCTION MANUAL FOR



# RUGER VAQUERO<sup>®</sup> & BISLEY<sup>™</sup> RUGER VAQUERO<sup>®</sup> single-action revolvers



# – RUGGED, RELIABLE FIREARMS® –



#### READ THE INSTRUCTIONS AND WARNINGS IN THIS MANUAL CAREFULLY BEFORE USING THIS FIREARM

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#### For Service on This Model Please Call: (336) 949-5200 (See p. 26)

THIS INSTRUCTION MANUAL SHOULD ALWAYS ACCOMPANY THIS FIREARM AND BE TRANSFERRED WITH IT UPON CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP, OR WHEN THE FIREARM IS LOANED OR PRESENTED TO ANOTHER PERSON

### RUGER.COM

# **State-By-State Warnings**

Certain states require by law that their own specified warning notices in larger-than-normal type be conspicuously included by the manufacturer, distributor or retailer with firearms sold in that state. Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc. sells its products in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Because our products may be sold in these states, we include the following:

## <u>California:</u>

# A WARNING

"Firearms must be handled responsibly and securely stored to prevent access by children and other unauthorized users. California has strict laws pertaining to firearms, and you may be fined or imprisoned if you fail to comply with them. Visit the Web site of the California Attorney General at https://oag.ca.gov/firearms for information on firearm laws applicable to you and how you can comply.

Prevent child access by always keeping guns locked away and unloaded when not in use. If you keep a loaded firearm where a child obtains and improperly uses it, you may be fined or sent to prison.

If you or someone you know is contemplating suicide, please call the national suicide prevention lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255)."

# ADVERTENCIA

"Las armas de fuego deben manipularse de manera responsable y segura para evitar el acceso de niños y otros usuarios no autorizados. California tiene leyes estrictas relacionadas con armas de fuego, y usted puede ser multado o encarcelado si no las cumple. Visite el sitio web del Procurador General de California en https://oag.ca.gov/firearms para obtener información sobre las leyes de armas de fuego que le son aplicables y cómo puede cumplirlas.

A los niños los atraen las armas de fuego y las pueden hacer funcionar. Ellos pueden causarses lesions graves y la muerte. Evite que los niños tengan accesso a las armas de fuego guardándolas siempre con llave y descargadas cuando no las esté utilizando. Si usted tiene un arma de fuego cargada en un lugar en que un niño tiene acceso a ella y la usa indebidamente, le pueden dar una multa o enviarlo a la carcel.

Si usted o alguien que conoce está pensando en suicidarse, llame a la línea nacional de prevención del suicidio al 1-800-273-TALK (8255)."

# **Connecticut:**

"UNLAWFUL STORAGE OF A LOADED FIREARM MAY RESULT IN IMPRISONMENT OR FINE."

## Florida:

"IT IS UNLAWFUL, AND PUNISHABLE BY IMPRISONMENT AND FINE, FOR ANY ADULT TO STORE OR LEAVE A FIREARM IN ANY PLACE WITHIN THE REACH OR EASY ACCESS OF A MINOR UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE OR TO KNOWINGLY SELL OR OTHERWISE TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OR POSSESSION OF A FIREARM TO A MINOR OR A PERSON OF UNSOUND MIND."

# Maine:

"ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD IS A CRIME. IF YOU LEAVE A FIREARM AND AMMUNITION WITHIN EASY ACCESS OF A CHILD, YOU MAY BE SUBJECT TO FINE, IMPRISONMENT OR BOTH. KEEP FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION SEPARATE. KEEP FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION LOCKED UP. USE TRIGGER LOCKS."

## Maryland:

"WARNING: Children can operate firearms which may cause death or serious injury. It is a <u>crime</u> to store or leave a loaded firearm in any location where an individual knew or should have known that an unsupervised minor would gain access to the firearm. Store your firearm responsibly!"

## Massachusetts:

"WARNING FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS ATTORNEY GENERAL: This handgun is not equipped with a device that fully blocks use by unauthorized users. More than 200,000 firearms like this one are stolen from their owners every year in the United States. In addition, there are more than a thousand suicides each year by younger children and teenagers who get access to firearms. Hundreds more die from accidental discharge. It is likely that many more children sustain serious wounds, or inflict such wounds accidentally on others. In order to limit the chance of such misuse, it is imperative that you keep this weapon locked in a secure place and take other steps necessary to limit the possibility of theft or accident. Failure to take reasonable preventive steps may result in innocent lives being lost, and in some circumstances may result in your liability for these deaths."

"IT IS UNLAWFUL TO STORE OR KEEP A FIREARM, RIFLE, SHOTGUN OR MACHINE GUN IN ANY PLACE UNLESS THAT WEAPON IS EQUIPPED WITH A TAMPER-RESISTANT SAFETY DEVICE OR IS STORED OR KEPT IN A SECURELY LOCKED CONTAINER."

### **New Jersey:**

"IT IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE TO LEAVE A LOADED FIREARM WITHIN EASY ACCESS OF A MINOR."

### New York:

"THE USE OF A LOCKING DEVICE OR SAFETY LOCK IS ONLY ONE ASPECT OF RESPONSIBLE FIREARM STORAGE. FOR INCREASED SAFETY, FIREARMS SHOULD BE STORED UNLOADED AND LOCKED IN A LOCATION THAT IS BOTH SEPARATE FROM THEIR AMMUNITION AND INACCESSIBLE TO CHILDREN AND UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS."

## North Carolina:

"IT IS UNLAWFUL TO STORE OR LEAVE A FIREARM THAT CAN BE DISCHARGED IN A MANNER THAT A REASONABLE PERSON SHOULD KNOW IS ACCESSIBLE TO A MINOR."

### Texas:

"IT IS UNLAWFUL TO STORE, TRANSPORT, OR ABANDON AN UNSECURED FIREARM IN A PLACE WHERE CHILDREN ARE LIKELY TO BE AND CAN OBTAIN ACCESS TO THE FIREARM."

## Wisconsin:

"IF YOU LEAVE A LOADED FIREARM WITHIN THE REACH OR EASY ACCESS OF A CHILD YOU MAY BE FINED OR IMPRISONED OR BOTH IF THE CHILD IMPROPERLY DISCHARGES, POSSESSES, OR EXHIBITS THE FIREARM."

Please check with your licensed retailer or state police for additional warnings which may be required by local law or regulation. Such regulations change constantly, and local authorities are in the best position to advise you on such legal matters.

#### FIREARMS SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

#### SAFETY MUST BE THE FIRST AND CONSTANT CONSIDERATION OF EVERY PERSON WHO HANDLES FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION.

This instruction manual is designed to assist you in learning how to use and care for your RUGER VAQUERO<sup>®</sup> revolver properly. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Only when you are certain you fully understand the manual and can properly carry out its instructions should you practice loading, unloading, etc. with live ammunition. If you have any doubts about your ability to handle or use a particular type of firearm safely, you should seek supervised instruction. Such personalized instruction often is available from local firearm retailers, gun clubs or police departments. If none of these sources can help, visit <u>nra.org</u> or write to the following address:

> National Rifle Association 11250 Waples Mill Road Fairfax, VA 22030-7400

The person possessing a firearm has a full-time job. You cannot guess; you cannot forget. You must know how to use your firearm safely. Do not use any firearm without having a complete understanding of its particular characteristics and safe use. Remember: There is no such thing as a foolproof firearm.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
State-By-State Warnings	2
New Model Revolver Mechanism	8
Nomenclature	9
Locking Device Installation Instructions	
General Information and Mechanical Characteristics	
Ammunition	14
Handling	15
To Load and Fire	15
To Uncock (Decock) The Revolver	18
To Unload or Eject Cartridge Cases	
Disassembly	
Reassembly	21
Check Your Revolver's Function	
Care and Cleaning	23
Care of Stainless Steel Revolvers	
Care of "Color Case Finished" Frames	24
Fixed Sights	24
Storage	25
Service and Parts Policy	
Shipping Firearms for Repair	
Ordering Parts	
Parts List	
Exploded View	
The Basic Rules of Safe Firearms Handling	
Warranty Information	

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# WARNINGS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE ARE FOUND ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES:

Locking Devices	10	Safe Carrying Position	17
Alterations	12	Disassembly	21
Lead Exposure	13	Lubrication	23
Ammunition	14	Storage	25
Handling	15	Shipping Firearms	26
Firing	16	Parts Purchasers	27
0		WARNINGS APPFAR	21

#### IND WAKN THROUGHOUT THE MANUAL.

# NEW MODEL REVOLVER MECHANISM

The Ruger<sup>®</sup> single-action revolver mechanism is illustrated below. The same basic mechanism is found in the entire line of Ruger<sup>®</sup> single-action revolvers – New Model Single-Six<sup>®</sup>, New Model Blackhawk<sup>®</sup>, New Model Super Blackhawk<sup>®</sup>, Bisley<sup>™</sup>, Ruger Vaquero<sup>®</sup>, Bisley<sup>™</sup> Ruger Vaquero<sup>®</sup>, Hunter Models, and Ruger<sup>®</sup> Wrangler<sup>™</sup>.

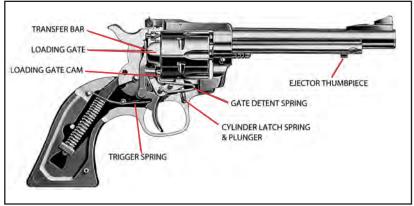


Figure 1. Mechanism shown at rest. Transfer bar is not in line between hammer and firing pin. This is the carrying position.

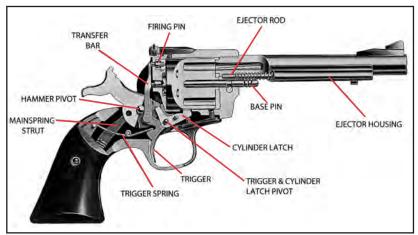


Figure 2. Mechanism shown with trigger pulled and hammer beginning to fall. Transfer bar is in firing position, between hammer and firing pin.

# NOMENCLATURE

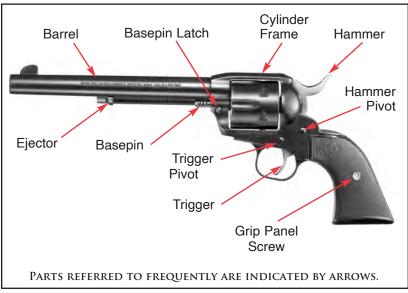


Figure 3a

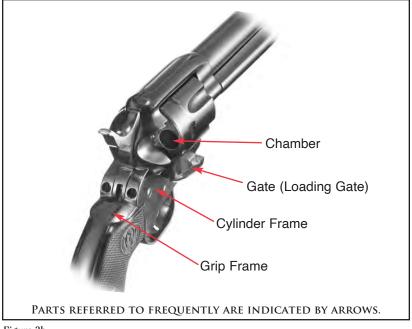


Figure 3b

### LOCKING DEVICE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS



It is important to use the locking device on your Ruger<sup>®</sup> firearm when the firearm is stored or immediate use is not planned.

Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and your fingers outside the trigger guard at all times!

#### To Install the Factory-Supplied Locking Device:

- 1. Be sure the firearm and its cylinder are completely unloaded and contain no cartridges or cartridge cases!
- 2. Press and hold the base pin latch and completely remove the base pin and cylinder. Refer to the "Disassembly" section on p. 20.

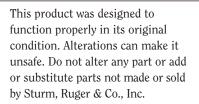
- 3. Loop the cable through the cylinder frame. Thread the cable through the cylinder as shown in Figure 4.
- 4. To lock: With the key turned to the farthest clockwise position, insert the loose end of the cable into the padlock. Turn the key counterclockwise and remove it from the lock.
- 5. Once the lock is securely closed, pull firmly on the lock to test the connection and be sure it is locked. Do not leave or store your firearm with the key in the lock! Store your locked unloaded firearm and the key in secure, separate locations, away from ammunition, children, and unauthorized adults.



Correct installation of the lock on a Ruger Vaquero® revolver.

### FIREARMS ARE DANGEROUS WEAPONS. READ THE INSTRUCTIONS AND WARNINGS IN THIS MANUAL THOROUGHLY AND CAREFULLY BEFORE USING.

# WARNING-ALTERATIONS



#### DO NOT ALTER ANY FIREARM

#### **IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTE**

OWNERS OF ALL "OLD MODEL" (PRE-1973) RUGER SINGLE-ACTION REVOLVERS, INCLUDING BEARCATS WITH SERIAL NUMBERS BELOW 93-00000, SHOULD WRITE FOR DETAILS CONCERNING OUR FREE SAFETY CONVERSION, WHICH CAN HELP PREVENT ACCIDENTS CAUSED BY A BLOW TO THE HAMMER IF THE USER HAS FAILED TO TAKE THE BASIC SAFETY PRECAUTION OF KEEPING AN <u>EMPTY</u> CHAMBER UNDER THE HAMMER. See Page 28.

# GENERAL INFORMATION AND MECHANICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The mechanism of the RUGER VAQUERO<sup>®</sup> revolver may differ significantly from other single-action revolvers. The information and instructions which follow apply only to RUGER VAQUERO<sup>®</sup> and BISLEY<sup>™</sup> RUGER VAQUERO<sup>®</sup> revolvers marked "New Vaquero."

The RUGER VAQUERO<sup>®</sup> revolver has fixed sights and either a high-gloss stainless, blued or "color case hardened" finish which evokes the classic single-actions of yesteryear. Its cylinder frame and grip frame are slightly smaller than the original Ruger Vaquero<sup>®</sup>.

The RUGER VAQUERO<sup>®</sup> revolver is a single-action revolver, which means it utilizes the same mechanism as the Ruger<sup>®</sup> New Model Blackhawk<sup>®</sup> revolver. It incorporates an additional new "reverse indexing cylinder mechanism" for ease of loading and reloading.

The patented Ruger<sup>®</sup> single-action revolver mechanism incorporates a transfer bar. The transfer bar – which is raised into firing position as the trigger is pulled to the rear – transmits the energy of the hammer blow to the firing pin. This transfer bar mechanism makes a "safety" notch unnecessary.

The loading gate can be opened only when the hammer and trigger are fully forward. Opening the gate immobilizes the trigger, hammer, and transfer bar. When the gate is opened, the cylinder is unlatched and can be turned for loading or ejection. When the gate is closed, the cylinder latch functions in the normal manner. The loading notch is therefore unnecessary in the New Model design.

Unlike earlier single-action revolvers which have four hammer positions – "cocked," "loading," "safety" and "all the way forward" – these revolvers have only two hammer positions – "cocked" and "all the way forward."

The mechanism of the RUGER VAQUERO<sup>®</sup> revolver provides maximum security against accidental discharge. As with any other firearm, however, singleaction revolvers must be used with strict attention to correct safety practices. In addition, the revolver should be inspected frequently to assure that it is working properly.





Discharging firearms in poorly ventilated areas, cleaning firearms, or handling ammunition may result in exposure to lead and other substances known to the State of California to cause birth defects, reproductive harm, and other serious physical injury. Have adequate ventilation at all times. Wash hands thoroughly after exposure.

SHOOTING OR CLEANING FIREARMS MAY EXPOSE YOU TO LEAD

# AMMUNITION

The table below shows the correct type of ammunition for use in each of the revolvers listed.

Model	Caliber	Ammunition
Ruger Vaquero®	357 Magnum	357 Mag and 38 SPL
Ruger Vaquero <sup>®</sup>	45 Colt	45 Colt
Ruger Vaquero®	44 Special (no longer in production)	44 SPL

**Notes on Cartridges listed in the table above:** 357 Mag is 357 Magnum; 45 Colt is also called 45 Long Colt; 38 SPL is 38 Special; and 44 SPL is 44 Special.



### AMMUNITION (CARTRIDGES) NOTICE

WE SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY DAMAGE OR INJURY WHATSOEVER OCCURRING IN CONNECTION WITH, OR AS THE RESULT OF, THE USE IN RUGER REVOLVERS OF FAULTY, OR NONSTANDARD, OR "REMANUFACTURED" OR HANDLOADED (RELOADED) AMMUNITION, OR OF CARTRIDGES OTHER THAN THOSE FOR WHICH THE FIREARM WAS ORIGINALLY CHAMBERED.

# HANDLING

CARRYING: Unlike "old model" single action revolvers, which should always be carried with the hammer down on an empty chamber to prevent accidental discharges caused by a blow to the hammer, the Ruger Vaguero<sup>®</sup> may be carried with all chambers loaded. When the hammer and trigger are fully forward at the same time, the transfer bar is lowered out of firing position and the hammer rests directly on the frame, not on the firing pin.



Any time the revolver is loaded, the hammer is cocked and the trigger is pulled and held to the rear, it will fire. Cocking the firearm or pulling the trigger should only be done when you are ready to fire immediately.

NEVER DROP OR STRIKE ANY REVOLVER -COCKED OR UNCOCKED. CARRY AND HANDLE THE REVOLVER IN SUCH A MANNER THAT THE HAMMER WILL NOT BE STRUCK.

#### NEVER CARRY ANY REVOLVER WITH THE HAMMER COCKED.

# TO LOAD AND FIRE

#### ALWAYS KEEP THE REVOLVER POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION!

#### 1. Do not load the revolver until you are ready to use it.

- 2. Note The loading gate cannot be opened unless the hammer and trigger are fully forward, and the hammer cannot be cocked once the gate is opened.
- 3. Open the gate. This permits the cylinder to rotate.
- 4. Turn cylinder clockwise, by hand, and insert cartridges in chambers.
- 5. Align a chamber with the barrel and close the gate. The revolver is now in its normal carrying condition – hammer and trigger fully forward and transfer bar lowered out of firing position.
- 6. NOTE: The revolver has a cylinder latch that locks the rotation of the cylinder before a shot is fired. This cylinder latch rides on the outside circumference of the cylinder where the stop notches are cut in the cylinder. The cylinder latch is designed to leave a line around the outside of the cylinder between the notches. This is normal and is an indication that your revolver is funtioning properly.

To help prevent scoring of the cylinder, when closing the loading gate be sure that a chamber is directly aligned with the barrel. This can be achieved by rotating the cylinder so that a cylinder flute is equally spaced on either side of the topstrap, closing the loading gate, and then verifying that the cylinder is locked in place.

- 7. Cocking To fire the revolver, the hammer must first be manually cocked. When cocking the hammer, have a firm hold on the grip with the shooting hand, and DO NOT TOUCH THE TRIGGER WHILE COCKING THE HAMMER. TOUCH THE TRIGGER ONLY WHEN YOU ARE READY TO FIRE. With the fore portion of your thumb firmly on the hammer spur, draw the hammer fully to the rear until it stops. Then permit the hammer to move forward (it will only move slightly) until the trigger engages in the hammer at full cock.
- 8. Firing Once the hammer has been cocked, a light pressure on the trigger will disengage the trigger from the hammer. The hammer will fall forward striking the transfer bar and the revolver will fire.
- 9. After firing, the hammer will remain down. To fire subsequent shots, fully release the trigger and repeat steps 7 & 8 above for each shot.

**CAUTION:** The recoil of any centerfire caliber causes the muzzle of the firearm to flip upward with substantial force. The shooter need not be apprehensive, but be prepared. Keep a firm grip on the revolver and hold it away from your face when firing.

# WARNING-FIRING

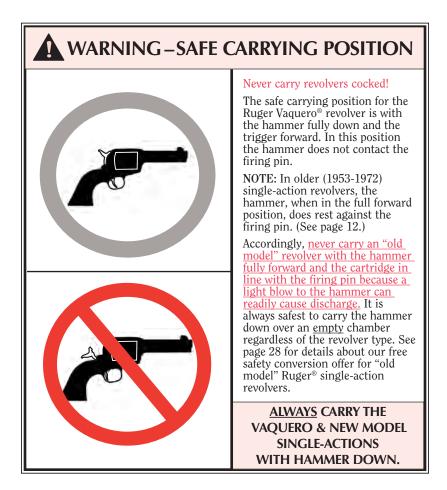


When firing any revolver, be sure all persons are a safe distance to the rear of the shooter. When fired, all revolvers discharge gas and particles through the clearance gap between the cylinder and the rear of the barrel. These particles of lead, powder grains or lubricant are projected broadly sideways at high speed and thus can injure a person who is standing too close to the revolver. When firing any revolver, always be certain that nothing – including either of your hands - is in the path of the hot gas and particles which are discharged from the front and sides of the cylinder. When shooting, adequate eye protection is essential. Shooters and bystanders must wear shooting glasses. Hearing protection must also be worn. Exposure to shooting noise can damage hearing.

#### HOT GASES EXIT BARREL/CYLINDER GAP

DRY-FIRING: Going through the actions of cocking, aiming, and pulling the trigger of an <u>unloaded</u> firearm is known as "Dry Firing." It can be useful to learn the "feel" of your revolver. Be certain the revolver is unloaded and that the firearm is pointing in a safe direction even when practicing by dry-firing. Ruger<sup>®</sup> new model single-action revolvers can be dry-fired without damage to the firing pin or other components.

"FANNING": NEVER fan any revolver. Fanning is an unsafe way to fire a firearm and it is abusive to the revolver mechanism.



# TO 'UNCOCK' (DECOCK) THE REVOLVER

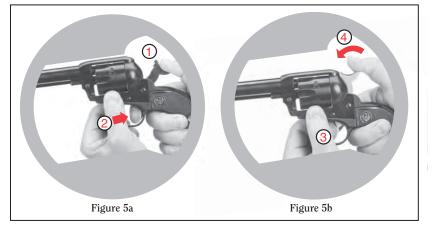
If your revolver is cocked, and you wish to let the hammer down to its forward position (against the frame), proceed as follows: USE EXTREME CARE WHEN ATTEMPTING TO DECOCK THE REVOLVER, AS THE THUMB SLIPPING DURING THIS PROCESS CAN RESULT IN AN ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE IF THE TRIGGER IS HELD TO THE REAR.

- 1. <u>Make certain that the revolver is pointing in a safe direction (see Rule 2, Page 31).</u>
- 2. Make certain both hands are dry and not impeded in any way (i.e., by gloves, bandages, cold, etc.).
- 3. Grasp the revolver (if right handed) so that the thumb and forefinger of your left hand are firmly holding the cylinder frame below the middle of the cylinder (see Figures 5a & 5b below). Your left hand (if right-handed) should support the full weight of the revolver, allowing you to use your right hand to manipulate the hammer and trigger as outlined below.
- 4. Place your right thumb firmly on the hammer spur and, with your thumb securely in control of the hammer, squeeze the trigger only enough to permit the hammer to 'break free' of the trigger. At that instant, IMMEDIATELY RELEASE THE TRIGGER and then slowly permit the hammer, STILL SECURE UNDER YOUR THUMB, to move fully forward to its resting position against the frame.

**NOTE:** It is imperative that finger pressure be removed from the trigger just as soon as it is free of the hammer. Then, properly, the trigger and hammer will move towards their fully forward rest positions together (see Figure 5b, below).

Practice this important firearm handling skill with an unloaded revolver until you have developed the proper control and 'touch' to decock your revolver safely. The key to safe decocking is having the weight of the revolver controlled with one hand, while the thumb and forefinger of the 'shooting hand' control the hammer and trigger.

### DECOCKING (UNCOCKING) THE REVOLVER



The revolver is now in its normal carrying condition – hammer and trigger fully forward and transfer bar lowered out of firing position.

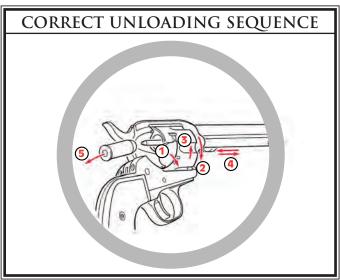
**CAUTION:** The hammer must be carefully eased fully forward before the hammer is drawn back to the full-cock position for the first shot. The hammer should be drawn with a firm positive motion to the full-cock position for each shot, thus actuating the working parts for complete indexing. Unless this procedure is followed in any single-action revolver, the cylinder is apt to be out of index when fired.

# TO UNLOAD OR EJECT CARTRIDGE CASES

Keep revolver pointed in a safe direction! Do not attempt to unload when the hammer is cocked.

If the hammer is cocked, it must first be decocked. (See "To Uncock The Revolver," p. 18.) Then:

- 1. Open the loading gate. This permits the cylinder to rotate.
- 2. Turn cylinder clockwise, by hand, to align a chamber with the ejector rod assembly. Your RUGER VAQUERO<sup>®</sup> is equipped with a specially designed reverse indexing cylinder mechanism. This unique device will ease and hasten unloading by allowing you to reverse rotation of the cylinder (counter-clockwise until it stops) and automatically align a chamber with the ejector rod and loading gate cutout in the frame. See "Correct Unloading Sequence," below.
- 3. Push the ejector rod rearward, by means of the thumb-piece on its forward end, so that it slides through the chamber to push out the cartridge or fired case. Release the spring-loaded ejector rod. Repeat until all chambers are empty.
- 4. Check to be certain that <u>all</u> cartridges or casings have been removed, then close the loading gate.



Do not eject unfired cartridges onto any surface where the cartridge primer might strike a solid object and discharge the cartridge.

# DISASSEMBLY

(MAKE SURE REVOLVER IS UNLOADED!)

The user of a RUGER VAQUERO® revolver should carefully read all disassembly directions and study all the illustrations and the Parts List in this manual before attempting to take the firearm apart. Know the names and location of the parts before removing any of them. Although the RUGER VAQUERO® revolver mechanism is composed of only a few parts, it is essential that the disassembly and reassembly operations be carried out with knowledge and care.

An on-line video demonstrating the disassembly and reassembly of RUGER<sup>®</sup> SINGLE-ACTION revolvers can be viewed by going to **Ruger.com/TechTips**.

- 1. With the revolver pointed in a safe direction, open the loading gate (this lowers the cylinder latch into the frame) and rotate the cylinder. Examine every chamber in the cylinder to be certain the revolver is unloaded. Leave the loading gate open.
- 2. Press in fully on the left side of the base pin latch, and, while holding it in that position, withdraw the base pin by pulling it forward, in line with the barrel, until it is removed.
- 3. Remove the cylinder from the loading gate side of the frame. This is as far as you need to go for routine cleaning.



**WARNING**: Never remove, replace or carry a loaded cylinder that is not installed in a revolver. The cartridges can fire if their primers are struck.

The revolver is disassembled as far as it needs to be for major cleaning and maintenance. However, if it is necessary to go beyond the above steps, the following cautions and suggestions should be useful:

**Ejector Assembly/Ejector Housing:** Wrap one hand firmly around the barrel and housing when loosening the ejector housing screw. Remove the ejector housing screw by turning it counter-clockwise, then carefully lift the housing (which contains a compressed spring and ejector rod) away from the barrel. **NOTE:** The ejector housing screw is installed with a thread-locking adhesive. If the screw is removed it is recommended that a non-permanent thread-locking adhesive be reapplied to the screw.

**Base Pin Latch/Nut and Spring:** The nut must be held firmly (with jaw-protected pliers) while the latch is being unscrewed. Do not lose the spring. When reassembling, be certain the nut and spring are on the left side of the frame. (See Exploded View, p. 30.)



#### REASSEMBLY (Again, Make Sure The Revolver is Unloaded!)

- Open the loading gate, withdraw the base pin, and install the cylinder. Reinsert the base pin and be certain it is fully seated and locked in position. Rotate the cylinder until the cylinder latch drops into a stop notch.
- 2. Before loading cartridges into the chamber, cycle the revolver several times. Check to be sure that the cylinder rotates and locks correctly, that the trigger returns in a positive manner when released, and that the loading gate opens and closes normally.

### CHECK YOUR REVOLVER'S FUNCTION (Again, Make Sure The Revolver is Unloaded!)

Periodic inspection of any firearm is important to ensuring its safe operation. It is important to clean and inspect your firearm after each range session or whenever the firearm has been exposed to sand, dust, moisture, humidity, or other adverse conditions. Proper maintenance increases the longevity of your firearm and will allow early detection of worn or broken parts.

Prior to each use, visually inspect the firearm to ensure no components are damaged, missing, loose, bent, cracked, chipped, or peened. If you observe excessive wear, you should stop using your revolver and contact customer service or a trained, certified gunsmith to evaluate its condition and replace any worn parts, if necessary.

After reassembly and as part of the regular periodic inspection of your revolver, please perform the following function checks to ensure the revolver is functioning properly.

#### FIRST, BE SURE THAT EVERY CHAMBER OF THE CYLINDER IS UNLOADED AND ALWAYS KEEP THE REVOLVER POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION!

- a. With the revolver pointing in a safe direction, open the loading gate and rotate the cylinder. The cylinder should spin clockwise freely with distinct "clicks" when the chambers are indexed by the pawl. Cylinder movement should be smooth without binding.
- b. With the loading gate open, attempt to rotate ("cock") the hammer. You should not be able to cock the hammer.
- c. Close the loading gate and cock the hammer. The hammer should rotate fully to the rear and the cylinder should rotate one-sixth of a revolution without you feeling any unusual drag or require more force than normal.
- d. With the hammer cocked, attempt to open the loading gate. It should not open.
- e. Making sure the firearm is completely unloaded and pointed in a safe direction, dry fire the firearm. The hammer should fall completely.

If you feel some drag, if it is impossible to cock the hammer when you should be able to do so, or the newly-assembled firearm fails any of these checks, first ensure that the base pin is fully seated into the cylinder frame. It may be necessary to remove the base pin, reposition the cylinder slightly, and then reinsert the base pin in order to fully seat the base pin.

If any of the above function checks fail or if you are uncertain, please consult a competent gunsmith or contact Ruger Customer Service at 336-949-5200 for further firearm inspection before using the firearm.

### CARE AND CLEANING MAKE SURE FIREARM IS UNLOADED!

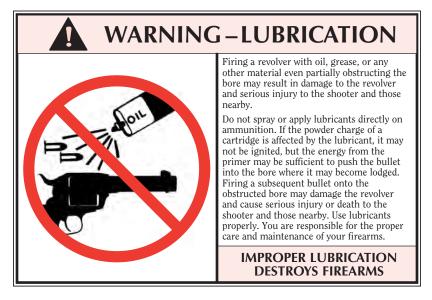
Always be certain the revolver is completely unloaded before cleaning. At regular intervals or when the revolver has been exposed to sand, water or other adverse conditions, disassemble, clean and oil it.

To clean the revolver after firing:

- 1. Remove the cylinder as described in the "Disassembly" section on p. 20.
- 2. Clean the barrel from the muzzle by running a cleaning rod with a solvent coated patch through the bore several times. A bronze wire brush, of a size appropriate to the bore, attached to the cleaning rod should then be pushed the full length of the bore several times.
- 3. Again swab the bore with a solvent coated patch. Then wipe the rod clean and, using a dry patch, swab the bore until it is clean.
- 4. Repeat the above procedure for each of the six chambers.
- 5. Run a lightly oiled patch through the bore and each chamber.

Some cartridges with lead bullets deposit metal fouling in the chamber throats, in the forcing cone of the barrel and in the bore. If 'leading' is noted in your revolver, clean it out before it builds up and interferes with reliable functioning and accuracy. A special 'lead removing' cleaning tool (for bore and chambers) is available from firearm stores.

The revolver's internal mechanism can be lubricated without disassembly. A few drops of light oil recommended as suitable for firearms, applied periodically about the various frame openings, will work its way into the mechanism parts. The exterior of the revolver should be cleaned with a solvent and then wiped with an oily cloth.



# CARE OF STAINLESS STEEL REVOLVERS

Firearms made of stainless steel are relatively more resistant to corrosion than blued steel firearms. However, you should still inspect it frequently and clean, lubricate and apply an appropriate rust preventative as required.

Sometimes surface discoloration may be noted, particularly in the grip area of stainless steel handguns, resulting from perspiration. Contact with some types of holsters can also cause stains or rusting. Rusting may also occur as a result of the handgun being exposed to moisture, humidity, salt air or chemicals.

Minor discoloration can usually be removed by rubbing the stained area with an abrasive ink eraser, crocus cloth, or a "metal polishing" compound. When using any of these abrasives, proceed with care and use light pressure to achieve a blending of 'color' with those areas that are not discolored.

Exposed surfaces on the firearm should be cleaned and wiped dry after use or after exposure to adverse conditions. If the firearm is to be stored, coat it with a light film of oil or preservative. Where the firearm is in continuing use, and the presence of oil or grease would be objectionable, then the external surfaces can be coated (after cleaning and drying) with a paste wax formulated for use on metals. Apply the wax sparingly, allow time for it to dry hard, then buff lightly with a soft cloth. When applying the wax, take care that it does not get into the mechanism or on the functioning parts such as the cylinder latch, trigger or cylinder locking notches. A properly applied hard wax coating will not interfere with comfortable firearm handling, and it will provide a measure of protection against the formation of rust.

### CARE OF "COLOR CASE FINISHED" FRAMES (ON REVOLVERS SO EQUIPPED)

The special finish process used to simulate the old-time "color case hardened" frames of antique revolvers is quite durable, but not as wear-resistant as a conventional blued steel finish. <u>DO NOT USE ABRASIVE CLEANERS ON ANY</u> <u>"COLOR CASE FINISHED" FRAMES.</u> This finish is provided for those who prefer its mottled "old west" appearance. Lightly oil the "color case finish" regularly to prevent rusting.

# FIXED SIGHTS

RUGER VAQUERO<sup>®</sup> revolvers feature a blade front sight and a fixed rear sight. They are factory set to be on target at 15 yards.

#### STORAGE FIREARMS SHOULD NOT BE STORED LOADED!

### USE THE LOCKING DEVICE SUPPLIED WITH THE REVOLVER TO RENDER IT INOPERATIVE FOR SAFE STORAGE. (See Page 10)

*Do not* keep your revolver in a leather, fabric or canvas holster when it is stored. These materials attract moisture, even though the holster may appear to be perfectly dry.



# SERVICE AND PARTS POLICY

If you have any questions with regard to the performance of your RUGER VAQUERO<sup>®</sup> revolver please contact our Customer Service online at **Ruger.com** or call the Customer Service Dept. at 336-949-5200. Fully describe all circumstances and conditions involved. If you should need to return your revolver to the factory for repair, or order parts for it, please comply with the following suggestions for prompt service:



WARNING: BEFORE SHIPPING ANY FIREARM, BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT IT IS UNLOADED. DO NOT SHIP CARTRIDGES WITH A FIREARM.

# SHIPPING FIREARMS FOR REPAIR

**NOTE:** You must obtain a **Repair Authorization Number** before returning your firearm. An authorization number can be obtained by contacting Customer Service online at **Ruger.com** or calling the Customer Service Dept. at 336-949-5200. Firearms should be sent prepaid. <u>We will not accept collect shipments</u>. **RUGER VAQUERO®** revolvers returned to the factory for repair should be sent to: Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc., Customer Service Department, 411 Sunapee St., Newport, NH 03773.

The Federal Gun Control Act, as well as the laws of most states and localities, do not prohibit an individual (who is not otherwise barred from purchasing or possessing a firearm) from shipping a firearm directly to the manufacturer for repair. However, before you ship your firearm to us, be certain that your state or locality does not have a law or regulation which will prohibit you from receiving the firearm from us after repair. If such receipt is prohibited, please have a federally licensed firearms dealer ship the firearm to us. If your firearm is sent to us by a dealer, it will be returned to that dealer after being repaired. If a handgun (pistol or revolver) is shipped by an individual who does not hold a Federal Firearms License, it must be shipped for overnight delivery via U.P.S., Federal Express, or other, similar private overnight service. **NOTE:** Persons who do not hold a Federal Firearms License are prohibited by Federal law from shipping a handgun by U.S. Mail. Handguns mailed in violation of the law may be impounded or confiscated by the Post Office and the non-FFL may be subject to prosecution.

Please do not include any cases, telescopic sights, or custom accessories with a firearm being shipped to the factory for service. DO NOT SEND FIREARM BOXES OR LITERATURE THAT YOU CONSIDER TO BE COLLECTOR'S ITEMS – THESE ARE INVARIABLY DAMAGED OR DESTROYED IN SHIPMENT. Always insure your shipment.

Enclose a letter which includes your name, address, telephone number, firearm serial number and model, and repair authorization number. Describe in detail the trouble you have experienced with your firearm, or the work you wish to have done. Merely stating that the firearm "needs repair" is inadequate information. Please include copies of any previous correspondence.

All work performed is subject to a minimum labor charge and charges for shipping and handling. Most models can be reblued, but custom gunsmithing service or nonstandard alterations are NOT AVAILABLE from Ruger Customer Service Departments. Please contact the Customer Service Department for pricing information.



# ORDERING PARTS

Please contact the Newport, New Hampshire Customer Service Department for parts availability and current prices. All parts orders for **RUGER**<sup>®</sup> **VAQUERO**<sup>®®</sup> revolvers should be sent to: Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc., Customer Service Department, 411 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH, 03773, 336-949-5200.

We cannot comply with open account or C.O.D. orders. Payment in full via credit card (Visa or MasterCard only), money order or certified bank check (no personal checks or cash, please) is required before any service will be performed. Please provide your credit card number, your name as it appears on the credit card, the expiration date, and the 3-digit security code. All parts orders are subject to a minimum charge and charges for shipping and handling. Order parts by **Part Name and specify the model and entire serial number** of the firearm for which the parts are being ordered. There is a minimum labor charge plus a shipping and handling charge if the parts are factory fit. All factory fit parts are fit on an exchange basis only. We will not return the replaced parts. Please contact the Customer Service Department for pricing information.

Because it is a serial numbered part, the cylinder frame of RUGER VAQUERO<sup>®</sup> revolvers is defined as a 'firearm' by Federal Law and is not offered for sale as a component part.

Parts designated by an (\*) must be factory fit. These parts are fit on an exchange basis only. We will not return the replaced parts. We will not return any part that is broken, malfunctioning, badly worn, or has been modified. See "Warning – Parts Purchasers," above.

IMPORTANT – WHEN ORDERING PARTS, BE SURE TO STATE WHETHER YOUR REVOLVER IS BLUED OR STAINLESS. ALSO, INCLUDE THE COMPLETE SERIAL NUMBER AND SPECIFY THE CALIBER AND BARREL LENGTH.

**CYLINDER NOTE:** Cylinders are only available for installation in the model in which they were manufactured and fitted.

**NOTE**: All revolvers are marked with a safety message informing the user that they should read this instruction manual before using the firearm.

Barrels, cylinders and a number of other component parts must be fit at the factory. Company policy is to proof-test and/or function fire all barrels after fitting to the receivers in which they are to be used. This procedure ensures maximum protection to our customers. The special proof-test ammunition used in this testing is sold only to bonafide firearms manufacturers and is not available to firearm shops, gunsmiths or individuals.



WARNING: A firearm containing broken, malfunctioning or badly worn parts should not be fired.

### SHIPPING REVOLVERS FOR INSTALLATION OF A SAFETY CONVERSION KIT:

If you would like to have any "old model" (pre-1973) Bearcat<sup>®</sup>, Single-Six<sup>®</sup>, Blackhawk<sup>®</sup>, or Super Blackhawk<sup>®</sup> revolver factory fitted with a free Conversion Kit (to help prevent accidents caused by a blow to the hammer if the user has failed to keep an <u>empty</u> chamber under the hammer) please write to Ruger, Conversion Dept., 411 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773 for a box and shipping instructions. Be sure to include information as to model, caliber, and serial number. **Please do not send your old model single action revolver until you receive shipping instructions and a box from us.** Please note that the Kit will be fitted at our Newport, New Hampshire facility. All other servicing of "old model" single actions will also be performed at our Newport facility, but only after a Conversion Kit is first installed.

This safety conversion does not apply if the revolver is marked "Vaquero," "New Vaquero," "Bisley<sup>™</sup>," "New Bearcat," "New Model," or "Wrangler" on the frame.

## RUGER VAQUERO® REVOLVER Parts list

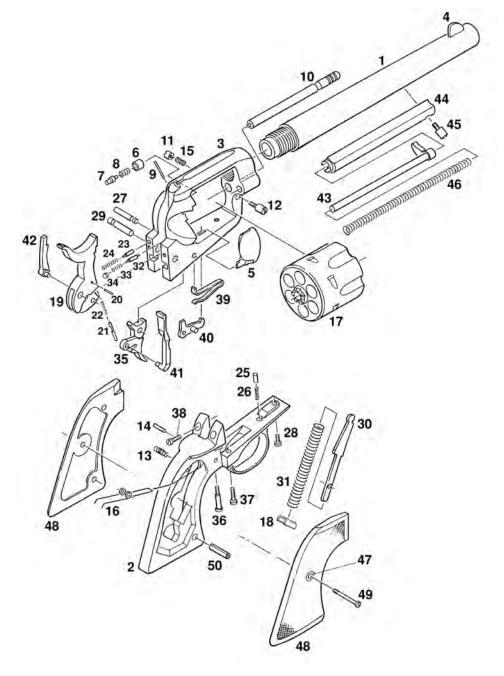
Design, prices and specifications subject to change without notice. SPECIFY MODEL, CALIBER AND SERIAL NO. WHEN ORDERING (See Exploded View on Page 30)

Key	Part Name	Key	Part Name
* 1	Barrel	26	Cylinder Latch Spring
2	Grip Frame	27	Trigger Pivot Pin
† 3	Cylinder Frame	28	Grip Frame Screw – A – Front
4	Front Sight Blade	29	Hammer Pivot Pin
5	Loading Gate	30	Hammer Strut
6	Recoil Plate	31	Mainspring
7	Firing Pin	32	Ejector Alignment Pawl
8	Firing Pin Reboind Spring	33	Cylinder Rotation Stop Spring
9	Recoil Plate Cross Pin	34	Cylinder Rotation Stop Screw
10	Base Pin Assembly	35	Trigger
11	Base Pin Latch Nut	36	Grip Frame Screw & Pivot Lock
12	Base Pin Latch Body	37	Grip Frame Screw – C – Bottom
13	Trigger Spring Retaining Pin	38	Grip Frame Screw – B – Back,
14	Trigger Spring Pivot Pin		2 Req'd
15	Base Pin Latch Spring	39	Gate Detent Spring
16	Trigger Spring	40	Cylinder Latch Assembly
* 17	Cylinder	41	Transfer Bar
18	Mainspring Seat	42	Pawl
	Hammer Assembly –	43	Ejector Rod Assembly
	(Includes Key Nos. 19 - 22)	44	Ejector Housing
19	Hammer, only	45	Ejector Housing Screw
20	Hammer Plunger Cross Pin	46	Ejector Housing Spring
21	Hammer Plunger	47	Grip Panel Ferrule
22	Hammer Plunger Spring	48	Grip Panels –
23	Pawl Spring Plunger		Sold in Pairs Only
24	Pawl Spring	49	Grip Panel Screw
25	Cylinder Latch Spring Plunger	50	Grip Panel Dowel

\* Parts so marked must be factory fit.

† The cylinder frame is a serial-numbered part and is not offered for sale.

# RUGER VAQUERO® REVOLVER EXPLODED VIEW



# THE BASIC RULES OF SAFE FIREARMS HANDLING

We believe that Americans have a right to purchase and use firearms for lawful purposes. The private ownership of firearms in America is traditional, but that ownership imposes the responsibility on the gun owner to use his firearms in a way which will ensure his own safety and that of others. When firearms are used in a safe and responsible manner, they are a great source of pleasure and satisfaction, and represent a fundamental part of our personal liberty.

Firearms do not cause accidents! Firearms accidents are almost always found to have been the result of carelessness or ignorance on the part of the shooter of the basic rules of safe gun handling.

The following rules must be observed by gun users at all times. Safe gun handling is not just desirable, it is absolutely essential to your safety, the safety of others, and the continuation of gun ownership and sport shooting as we know it today.

#### 1. LEARN THE MECHANICAL AND HANDLING Characteristics of the firearm you are using.



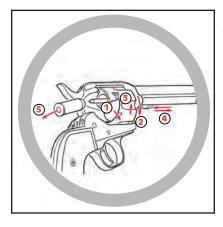


Not all firearms are the same. The method of carrying and handling firearms varies in accordance with the mechanical provisions for avoiding accidental discharge and the various proper procedures for loading and unloading. No person should handle any firearm without first having thoroughly familiarized himself with the particular type of firearm he is using, and with safe gun handling in general.

#### 2. ALWAYS KEEP THE Muzzle pointed in a Safe direction.

Be sure of the bullet stop behind your target, even when dry-firing. Never let the muzzle of a firearm point at any part of your body or at another person. This is particularly important when loading or unloading a firearm. In the event of an accidental discharge, no injury can occur as long as the muzzle is pointing in a safe direction. A safe direction means a direction that will not permit a discharged bullet to strike a person, or to strike an object from which the bullet may ricochet. A safe direction must take into account the fact that a bullet may penetrate a wall, ceiling, floor, window, etc., and strike a person or damage property. Make it a habit to know exactly where the muzzle of your gun is pointing whenever you handle it, and be sure that you are always in control of the direction in which the muzzle is pointing, even if you fall or stumble. Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot!

# 3. FIREARMS SHOULD BE UNLOADED WHEN NOT IN USE.



Firearms should be loaded only when you are in the field or on the target range or shooting area, ready to shoot. Firearms and ammunition should be securely locked in safes, racks or cabinets, or by using the locking device supplied with the firearm, when not in use. Ammunition should be safely stored separate from firearms. Store your firearms out of sight of visitors and children. It is the gun owner's responsibility to be certain that children and

persons unfamiliar with firearms cannot gain access to firearms, ammunition, or components.

# 4. BE SURE THE BARREL IS CLEAR OF OBSTRUCTIONS BEFORE SHOOTING.

Even a bit of mud, snow or excess lubricating oil or grease in the bore may cause the barrel to bulge, or even burst on firing, and can cause serious injury to the shooter and bystanders. Be sure that you are using ammunition of the proper caliber and loading for the gun you are using. If the report or recoil on firing seems weak, or doesn't seem quite right, CEASE FIRING IMMEDIATELY, unload your firearm, and check to be sure that no obstruction has become lodged in the barrel.





#### 5. BE SURE OF YOUR Target before you Shoot.

Don't shoot unless you know exactly where your bullet is going to strike. Be sure of the bullet stop behind your target, even when dry-firing with an unloaded gun. If you are in the field hunting, do not fire at a movement or noise. Take the time to be absolutely certain of your target before you pull the trigger.

#### 6. WEAR SHOOTING Glasses and hearing Protection when You shoot.

All shooters should wear protective shooting glasses and adequate hearing protection when shooting. Exposure to shooting noise can damage hearing, and wearing adequate eye protection when shooting is essential.





#### 7. NEVER CLIMB A TREE OR FENCE WITH A Loaded Firearm.

Put the firearm down carefully before climbing a fence, and unload it before climbing or descending a tree or jumping over a ditch or other obstruction. Never pull or push a loaded firearm toward yourself or another person. When in doubt, or whenever you are about to do anything awkward, unload your gun!

#### 8. DON'T SHOOT AT A HARD SURFACE OR AT WATER.

Bullets can glance off many surfaces like rocks or the surface of water and travel in unpredictable directions with considerable velocity.





# 9. NEVER TRANSPORT A LOADED FIREARM.

Firearms should always be unloaded before being placed in a vehicle. A suitable carrying case or scabbard should be used to carry an unloaded firearm to and from the shooting area.

#### 10. AVOID ALCOHOLIC Beverages when Shooting.

Don't drink until the day's shooting is over. Handling firearms while under the influence of alcohol in any form, or medications that could affect your judgment or coordination, constitutes a criminal disregard for the safety of others.



### A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF AN EXTRAORDINARY Achievement: Ruger® FireArms

Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc., had its beginning in a small machine shop occupying a rented frame building in Southport, Connecticut. In January, 1949, with an initial investment of only \$50,000 and an idea, William B. Ruger and Alexander M. Sturm started production of a .22 caliber autoloading pistol–a design which was so successful that it became the cornerstone upon which one of the most comprehensive lines of sporting firearms ever made in America was established. After Alex Sturm's death in 1951, William B. Ruger continued to direct the Company until his death in 2002. William B. Ruger, Jr. continued to provide guidance, which helped make this Company a sound and successful enterprise, until his retirement in 2006. The Company has continued to prosper, under new management and guidance from our Board, with new products and fresh perspectives.

Ruger, in this relatively short time, has established itself as a leading small arms design organization, developing a unique and broad line of fine quality sporting, military and police firearms to become one of the world's most famous producers of revolvers, pistols, rifles and shotguns. Since 1949, Ruger craftsmen have built many millions of firearms.

During its five decades of growth and progress under the leadership of William B. Ruger, the Company developed a business philosophy and implemented policies which represent a constructive influence in the life of modern America. From the beginning, Ruger played a positive role in conservation efforts and has supported the interests of shooters through such groups as the National Rifle Association, National Shooting Sports Foundation, and many regional sportsmen's organizations.

The Company has always endeavored to market its firearms for constructive and recreational purposes, to emphasize the traditional and responsible aspects of shooting, to render meaningful public services, and to encourage shooters in constructive, responsible, and safe participation in the shooting sports. Its motto, "Arms Makers For Responsible Citizens<sup>®</sup>," exemplifies this Company philosophy.

Today, Ruger<sup>®</sup> is particularly mindful of those elements which have contributed to the creation of its success, and extends heartfelt thanks to its many loyal employees and customers.

Instruction manuals for all Ruger<sup>®</sup> firearms, can be downloaded from our website at: **Ruger.com** 

### WHY NO WARRANTY CARD HAS BEEN PACKED WITH THIS NEW RUGER® FIREARM

The Magnuson-Moss Act (Public Law 93-637) does not require any seller or manufacturer of a consumer product to give a written warranty. It does provide that if a written warranty is given, it must be designated as "limited" or as "full" and sets minimum standards for a "full" warranty. Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc. has elected not to provide any written warranty, either "limited" or "full", rather than to attempt to comply with the provisions of the Magnuson-Moss Act and the regulations issued thereunder. There are certain implied warranties under state law with respect to sales of consumer goods. As the extent and interpretation of these implied warranties varies from state to state, you should refer to your state statutes. Sturm, Ruger & Company wishes to assure its customers of its continued interest in providing service to owners of Ruger® firearms.



# STURM, RUGER & COMPANY, INC. 411 Sunapee Street Newport, New Hampshire 03773 U.S.A. Ruger.com

### **ARMS MAKERS FOR RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS®**

#### A COPY OF THE INSTRUCTION MANUAL FOR ANY RUGER® FIREARM IS AVAILABLE FROM THE FACTORY FREE ON REQUEST, OR IT MAY BE DOWNLOADED FROM OUR WEBSITE AT RUGER.COM. THESE INSTRUCTION MANUALS CONTAIN IMPORTANT WARNINGS WHICH MUST BE UNDERSTOOD BEFORE USING THESE FIREARMS.

The Following are Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc. Trademarks: "All-Weather," "Bisley," "Gold Label," "I'm a Ruger American," "LC6," "LCR-357," "LC380CA," "LC Carbine," "Mark II," "Mark III," "Mark IV," "MAX-9," "Model 96," "P345," "P345D," "P345PR," "P85," "P89," "P90," "P91," "P93," "P94," "P95," "P97," "PC Carbine," "R.I.O.S.," "Ruger-5.7," "Ruger Marksman Adjustable," "Ruger 77/50," "Ruger 10/17," "Security-Six," "Service-Six," "77/357," "SFAR," "Single-Seven," "Speed-Six," "SR45," "SR-556C," "SR-556VT," "Super Bearcat," "Target Grey," "10/22-FS," "This is Ruger. This is America.," "Tri-Flex," "22 Charger," "22/45, "22/45 RP," and "Your Next Handgun."

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