ROHRBAUGH R9 PROCEEDURES

Photographs by “TW”
Stills assembly and commentary, R9SCarry

[The Rohrbaugh Forum]
Welcomes all interested parties, owners of the R9 or those contemplating ownership.
It is an independent forum and not part of Rohrbaugh Firearms itself.

The very first stage has to be safety oriented as with work on any firearm. It is down to the individual to be scrupulous over this.

Therefore, remove the magazine and then as shown here, rack the slide and inspect the chamber to ensure it is clear.

Once that is done - we may proceed.

The first step in takedown will be the removal of the main pin and here we see Eric using a very efficient one-handed hold to keep the slide in position, in preparation.

By gripping the slide with efficient pressure of thumb and fingers, it is possible for the web of the hand to hold against the rear of the frame. This then permits a short-term secure hold sufficient to achieve a result.

Maintaining a one-hand hold, a suitable punch may be brought up to the gun with the spare hand.

Having established that the pin hole in the slide is centered over the pin, then on the right side of the slide (the smaller hole) apply the punch. It may be possible to push the pin out or if needed, use can be made of a small hammer on the punch to drive it out.

Here we see that the pin has been pushed or driven out, and it is now on the table.

The stage is set ready to withdraw the punch - easing it out while attempting to still retain some control on the slide.

This is to minimize marring of the hole in the slide or the hole in the (softer) aluminum frame, as well as not letting the slide escape!

With the punch removed, it is an easy matter to withdraw the slide forwards on the frame - thus separating the two parts.

That done - we have the two items now as discrete entities.

On the left the frame and on the right the slide.

Note - the slide of course still has within, the barrel and the entire recoil assembly.

The next stage is to remove the recoil assembly and for this the hold shown in the photograph is probably the best.

Holding the slide in one hand - apply pressure towards the front of the slide with other hand's index finger against the rear disk.

As that clears the barrel lug, begin to ease it away.

Once the rear disk is clear of the barrel lug then slowly allow the spring tension to release - taking care to avoid any parts flying into distant corners of your room!.

When springs are relaxed, continue to then remove the assembly from the hole in the front of the slide. Place to one side.

We now have the main dissassembly complete and so have the parts shown here.

At top the slide (and the punch), then below that is the barrel.

Next below that is the recoil assembly, split into its three main components. The end cap, main spring and, the guide rod section. Finally below further, the pin.

Once basic takedown dissassembly is complete, the next job is to get things cleaned up.

Here the frame is being degreased fully, which means removing old grease and grime from both the slide rails and, the interior, particularly where the barrel chamber is normally located.

Be thorough with this.

The barrel next - and this must be cleaned of course externally, including the barrel lug slot.

Also the bore and chamber require cleaning.

Use of a good phosphor-bronze brush and some cleaner such as Hoppes #9 will deal with fouling, after which a jag and dry patch should be put through repeatedly, until coming out clean.

Now, we can progress to lubricating all the critical areas, prior to reassembly.

Here a syringe containing Superlube (with PTFE) is being used to apply a small deposit of grease, on the upper inside surface of the slide.

It may look generous but this is partly to help it be seen and also, some surplus will be wiped off after all parts are reassembled.

Again using the syringe of grease, we apply two small deposits onto the slide rails, one each side. Here seen just forward of the ejection port and close to Eric's index finger tip.

These can be, prior to reinstallation of the slide onto the frame, slightly dispersed by use of a brush, which will be seen in use later.

Now, we are switching to another syringe, this time of oil. Mobil 1 is probably the ideal although the main thing to note is, not to use any oil with low viscocity like "3-in-1".

Here it is being applied to the underside of the firing pin housing, an area which under recoil during cycling, bears/slides on the hammer.

Once that oil has been applied, it can be usefully distributed as a modest film with the index finger as shown here.

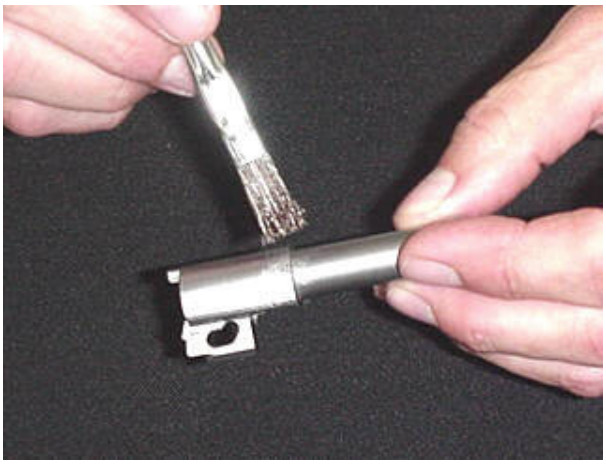
If you look forward of this, ahead of the ejection port, you will again just about see the deposits of grease we talked about earlier - one on top of inside of slide, and two on the slide rail surfaces, one each side.

The barrel is next to receive lubrication attention.

First we place a small bead of grease around the area immediately in front of the barrel chamber area.

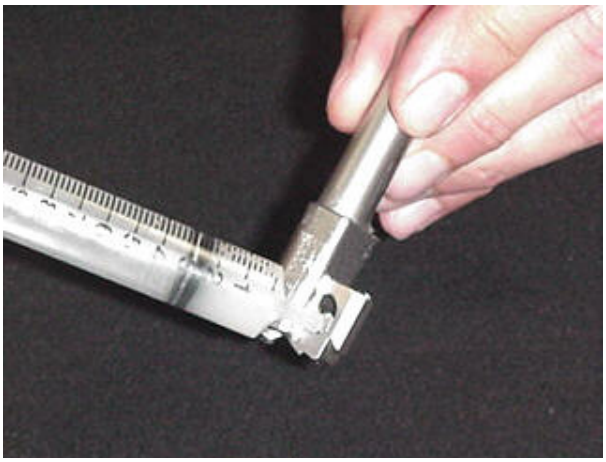
This can initially be quite liberal.

Having deposited the grease the next stage is to spread it with a brush - so as to include the entire circumference.

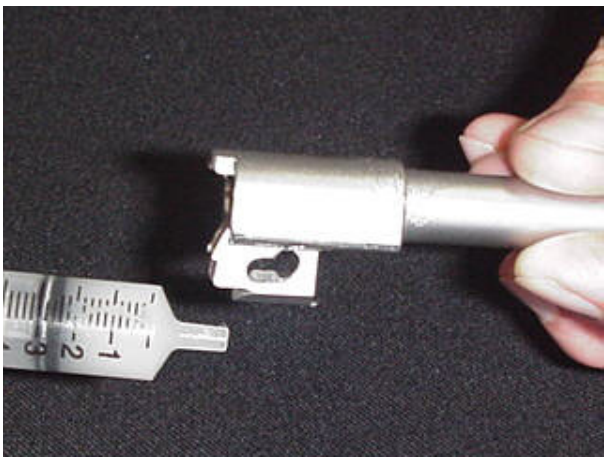


Moving on - we need to apply grease to the barrel lug slot. This is most important as it rides over the pin during operation.

Be fairly generous.



Here we see the fresh deposit of grease, ready for distribution.



Using the brush again, we distribute the grease evenly over entire surface of the barrel lug slot, and even over the lug itself.

Now the rest of the barrel.

Concentrating partly on the muzzle end where there is the taper, distribute a film of grease all around the entire barrel circumference.

We can now replace the barrel into the slide.

Let the muzzle go a small way through the hole in the end of the slide and then lower the entire unit into the slide until parallel, finally bringing back the chamber mouth to contact the breech face.

Here is the barrel fully inserted in to the slide.

This can be now placed to one side while we deal with lubrication of the recoil assembly.

Taking the guide rod assembly in one hand, apply a small quantity of oil to the inner guide rod and smaller spring.

This is best done as shown here, immediately adjacent to the rear of the main guide rod so that oil can gain entry to the interior.

Place a small drop of oil on the main guide rod.

Now, distribute that oil all over the circumference of the main guide rod.

This is going to ‘’prime’’ the surface in readiness for grease

Apply a fairly generous amount of grease to the main guide rod.

Using again the brush approach, distribute the grease over the entire surface of the main guide rod.

Time now to replace the large recoil spring over the main guide rod.

It cannot be emphasized enough how important the correct orientation is.

The **CLOSED** coil of the spring goes on first - facing to the **rear** of the gun. The **OPEN** coil therefore remains exposed toward the **front**, onto which will be placed the end cap, not shown here.

The frame can now be relubricated.

Once more good use can be made of the brush - distributing a grease film over the areas to each side of where the barrel chamber will be located.

Also a grease film on the ‘’floor’’ of the frame where again, the barrel chamber will be located

Finally, with the frame, the rails need to be lubricated - fairly generously. The brush makes distribution of the grease a lot easier and helps avoid local areas of excess.

Just another view of brush-distributing grease, over the rails on the frame.

To replace the complete recoil assembly is best achieved by use of Channel Lock pliers.

Please note however - these must be in good condition and have crisp undamaged jaws.

Notice from the picture how they are setup to enable jaws to be parallel - important to ensure a firm secure and safe hold.

With the recoil assembly secure in the pliers, offer up the end of the main recoil guide rod to go through the hole in the slide end.

Once that is achieved, lower the rear disk into place to contact the front of the barrel lug as pressure is slowly released.

Continue to ensure rear disk is well onto barrel lug as pliers are finally removed.

We now have the slide complete with barrel and recoil assembly, and can move toward refitting the complete slide to the frame.

Notice here, where the punch is pointing, the profile of the frame into which the recoil assembly rear disk must travel.

It may not be totally obvious but, the alignment is not quite ideal but needs to be to ensure an easy fitting.

To check adjustment and location of the rear disk on the barrel lug - view the assembly as shown here, and a look from the side can be useful too.

The aim is to have the assembly lined up parallel to slide when side viewed and, central left and right. Here the disk is too high, and we can also incidentally perhaps just see where punch is pointing, a small amount of grease.

The disk position has now been lowered slightly - bringing it parallel to slide long axis - and it can also be seen that left and right positioning is good.

With alignment adjusted, we can now offer the slide up to the frame once more.

Where the punch is pointing can now be seen to be in near perfect alignment - permitting the slide to go onto the frame with minimal problem.

If it will not go with a slight jiggling, then re-check the alignment. Do not force it.

This is where (punch pointing) the rear disk of the recoil assembly impinges on the frame.

Providing alignment in the previous stage is correct then the slide should reach its full location position satisfactorily.

Again, if this proves difficult with just modest jiggling, re check alignment. With the gun having such tight tolerances, this has to be done right and not forced.

So - we are nearly there!

Using the previously described one-handed hold, set up the slide relative to the frame, so as to bring into alignment the pin holes in the slide and the frame, this from the left side.

The barrel can be given slight critical positional adjustment here with the other hand - ensuring barrel lug slot is also going to be in suitable alignment.

With slide and frame holes aligned and barrel lug slot in suitable position, replace the pin.

This may be possible to push in my hand but if too tight once started then use judicious taps with a soft headed hammer, brass or nylon.

To finalize the set of the pin, use the end of the punch once more, making sure pin end is finally clear of the hole in the slide. Release grip and check for full slide freedom.

The last section we will cover is the trigger linkage internals beneath the right grip panel.

This is not, or should not have to be done every takedown for interim regular cleaning. Carry conditions and passage of time will be determining factors.

Use ONLY a top quality Allen wrench of full 1/16” (0.0625”) - an undersize inferior wrench will quickly ruin the screw heads.

With screws removed, the panel can be prized off, using a non-metallic tool.

Here Eric has a piece of nylon rod, shaped at one end like a screwdriver, and this can be carefully pressed along the panel edge/seam until a slight lift is achieved.

Once that is done the panel may be removed quite easily. Be alert in case anything wants to come out with it!

Using the aforementioned nylon tool, we see here the relief that is machined out of the right grip panel.

This panel is 'structural' to the gun and that is why those grip screws need checked at times as loosening could be very prejudicial to trigger function.

Medium Loctite (222) is recommended for screw reinstallation.

Here then is what lies beneath the right grip panel.

Truly a work of art - more so in its amazing simplicity.

The trigger transfers motion via its pivot pin, to a transfer bar, at the end of which is the butter smooth equivalent of a hammer notch and sear. Beneath that is a trigger return spring.

Bringing out once more the syringe with oil, a small amount of lubrication is applied to the hammer release mechanism

Then, again a small amount of oil, is applied to the transfer bar pivot point. Probably too a minute amount would not go amiss to the trigger pivot pin itself.

For the most part with oil - ''less is more'' - there is no advantage in flooding a gun's internals.

Lastly we can apply another small amount of oil, to the coiled area of the trigger return spring.

Replacement of the right grip panel is straightforward but it can again be emphasised that a good quality Allen wrench be used.

Cinch up the screws after applying some Loctite 222 - very firm but not over tight.

Before we leave this description of proceedures for the R9, it might be of interest to see how grip tape can be applied. Here to the rear of the frame grip area.

There are several types of tape available but the common factor is, a slightly abrasive surface with an adhesive backing.

Many people find they get perspiration on their hands, added to which the grips are small. Here is the front application of tape.

The overall improvement in gun control can make this addition a worthwhile proposition for many owners and it is easy to do.

To end our tour of R9 proceedures, it seems fitting to leave you with a picture of Eric Rohrbaugh himself, seated at the table where he showed all the stages we have seen in pictures.

His patience and TW's camera work made this all possible.

It is hoped it will help R9 owners old and new better deal with the gun's maintainance.