



Casey's School of the Soldier: Load in Nine Times, By The Motion. An Illustration.

by

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INSPECTION ARMS

Author's Notes:

This version of the document has been updated to illustrate the proper hand position when returning the rammer.



**The soldier being at
Shoulder Arms
to
LOAD IN NINE TIMES**

***Instructions
163-177***

1. LOAD.
One time and one motion.

Instruction
163

1. LOAD.
One time and one motion.

163.

1. Grasp the piece with the left hand as high as the right elbow, and
2. bring it vertically opposite the middle of the body,
3. shift the right hand to just below the upper band,
4. place the butt between the feet, the barrel to the front;
5. seize it with the left hand near the muzzle, which should be eight inches from the body;
6. carry the right hand to the cartridge-box.

LOAD



163.4

163.1



163.5

163.2



163.3



163.6



***2. Handle-CARTRIDGE.
One time and one motion.***

***Instruction
164***

2. Handle-CARTRIDGE.
One time and one motion.

164.

1. Seize the cartridge with the thumb and next two fingers, and
2. place it between the teeth.

CARTRIDGE



164.1 & 164.2



164.1



164.2



3. Tear-CARTRIDGE.
One time and one motion.

Instruction
165

3. Tear-CARTRIDGE.
One time and one motion.

165.

1. Tear the paper to the powder,
2. hold the cartridge upright between the thumb and first two fingers, near the top;
3. in this position place it in front of and near the muzzle- the back of the hand to the front.

CARTRIDGE



161.1 & 165.2



165.3



165.1



165.2



165.3



**4. Charge-CARTRIDGE.
One time and one motion.**

***Instruction
166***

4. Charge-CARTRIDGE.
One time and one motion.

166.

1. Empty the powder into the barrel:
2. disengage the ball from the paper with the right hand and the thumb and first two fingers of the left; insert it into the bore, the pointed end uppermost, and press it down with the right thumb;
 - (We don't load a bullet, so we don't execute this step.)
3. seize the head of the rammer with the thumb and fore-finger of the right hand, the other fingers closed, the elbows near the body.

CARTRIDGE



166.1



166.3



CARTRIDGE



166.1



166.3



5. Draw-RAMMER.
One time and three motions.
Instructions
167 - 169

5. Draw-RAMMER.
One time and three motions.

167. (First motion.)

1. Half draw the rammer by extending the right arm;
2. steady it in this position with the left thumb;
3. grasp the rammer near the muzzle with the right hand, the little finger uppermost, the nails to the front, the thumb extended along the rammer.

RAMMER



167.1 & 167.2



167.3



RAMMER



167.2



167.3



5. Draw-RAMMER.
One time and three motions.

168. (Second motion.)

1. Clear the rammer from the pipes by again extending the arm; the rammer in the prolongation of the pipes.

168.1



5. Draw-RAMMER.
One time and three motions.

169. (Third motion.)

1. Turn the rammer, the little end of the rammer passing near the left shoulder;
2. place the head of the rammer on the ball, the back of the hand to the front.

169.1



169.2



6. Ram-CARTRIDGE.
One time and one motion.

Instruction
170

6. Ram-CARTRIDGE.
One time and one motion.

170.

1. Insert the rammer as far as the right, and
2. steady it in this position with the thumb of the left hand;
3. seize the rammer at the small end with the thumb and fore-finger of the right hand,
4. the back of the band to the front –
5. press the ball home, the elbows near the body.

CARTRIDGE



170.1 & 170.2



170.3



170.4



170.2



7. Return-RAMMER.
One time and three motions.

Instructions
171 - 173

7. Return-RAMMER.
One time and three motions.

171. (First motion.)

1. Draw the rammer half-way out, and
2. steady it in this position with the left thumb;
3. grasp it near the muzzle with the right hand, the little finger uppermost, the nails to the front, the thumb along the rammer:
4. clear the rammer from the bore by extending the arm, the nails to the front, the rammer in the prolongation of the bore.

RAMMER

171.1 & 171.2

171.3

171.4



171.2



171.3



7. Return-RAMMER.
One time and three motions.

172. (Second motion.)

1. Turn the rammer,
2. the head of the rammer passing near the left shoulder, and
3. insert it in the pipes until the right hand reaches the muzzle, the nails to the front.

172.1



172.2



173.3



173.3



173.3



173.3



7. Return-RAMMER.
One time and three motions.

173. (Third motion.)

1. Force the rammer home by placing the little finger of the right hand on the head of the rammer;
2. pass the left hand down the barrel to the extent of the arm, with-out depressing the shoulder.

173.1



173.1 & 173.2



Remarks Regarding Hand Position When Loading and When Returning the Rammer

When returning the rammer into the pipes, do NOT use the same hand position that is used to load the cartridge. Doing so places the majority of the hand directly above the muzzle.

When loading the musket and when returning the rammer, the instructions position the hand such that only the soldier's fingers are positioned directly above the muzzle. These positions minimize the damage to the soldier's hand should the musket fire prematurely while loading or while returning the rammer.

Incorrect Technique



Correct Technique



Incorrect



**To return the rammer properly,
the palm should be facing the front,
thumb up, and
the nails to the front.**

Correct



8. PRIME.

One time and two motions.

Instructions

174 - 175

8. PRIME. One time and two motions.

174. (First motion.)

1. With the left hand raise the piece till the hand is as high as the eye,
2. grasp the small of the stock with the right hand;
3. half face to the right;
4. place, at the same time, the right foot behind and at right angles with the left;
5. the hollow of the right foot against the left heel.
6. Slip the left hand down to the lower band, the thumb along the stock, the left elbow against the body;
7. bring the piece to the right side the butt below the right fore-arm –
8. the small of the stock against the body and two inches below the right breast,
9. the barrel upwards, the muzzle on a level with the eye.

PRIME



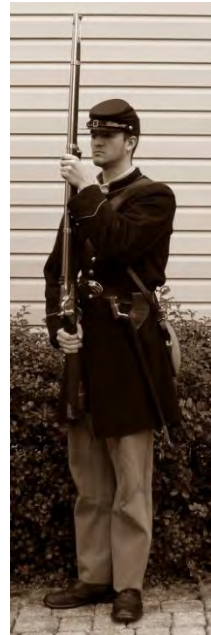
174.1



174.2



174.3



174.4 & 174.5



174.6



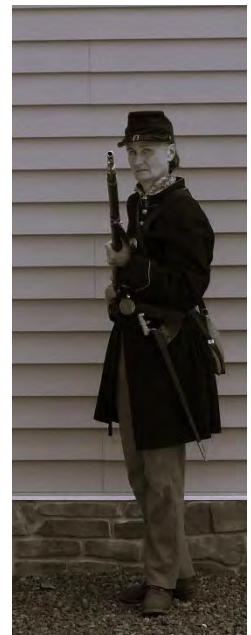
174.7



174.8



174.9



8. PRIME.
One time and two motions.

175. (Second motion.)

1. Half cock with the thumb of the right hand, the fingers supported against the guard and the small of the stock
2. remove the old cap with one of the fingers of the right hand, and
3. with the thumb and forefinger of the same hand, take a cap from the pouch,
4. place it on the nipple, and
5. press it down with the thumb;
6. seize the small of the stock with the right hand.

175.1



175.2



175.3



175.3



175.4



175.5



**9. Shoulder-ARMS.
One time and two motions.**

Instructions
176 - 177

9. Shoulder-ARMS.
One time and two motions.

176. (First motion.)

1. Bring the piece to the right shoulder and support it there with the left hand,
2. face to the front;
3. bring the right heel to the side of and on a line with the left;
4. grasp the piece with the right hand as indicated in the position of shoulder arms.

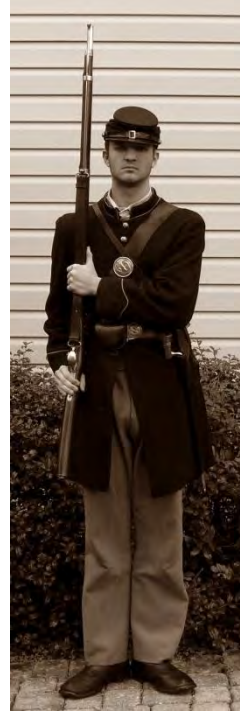
ARMS



176.1



176.2 & 176.3



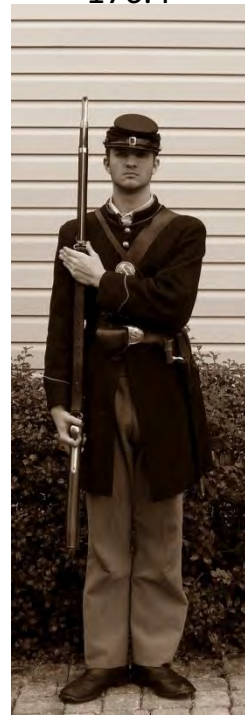
176.4



176.4



176.4



9. Shoulder-ARMS.
One time and two motions.

177. (Second motion.)

1. Drop the left hand quickly by the side.

177.1



READY.
One time and three motions.

Instructions
178 - 180

READY.

One time and three motions.

178. (First motion.)

1. Raise the piece slightly with the right hand,
2. making a half face to the right on the left heel;
3. carry the right foot to the rear, and place it at right angles to the left, the hollow of it opposite to and against the left heel;
4. grasp the piece with the left hand at the lower band and detach it slightly from the shoulder.

READY



178.1



178.2 & 178.3 & 178.4



Ready.
One time and three motions.

179. (Second motion.)

1. Bring down the piece with both hands, the barrel upward, the left thumb extended along the stock, the butt below the right fore-arm the small of the stock against the body and two inches below the right breast, the muzzle as high as the eye, the left elbow against the side;
2. place at the same time the right thumb on the head of the cock the other fingers wider and against the guard.

179.1



179.1



179.2



Ready.
One time and three motions.

180. (Third motion.)

1. Cock, and seize the piece at the small of the stock without deranging the position of the butt.

Author's Note:

As reenactors, we do not bring the piece to full cock until ordered to aim. This is a reenactor's safety precaution.

How is this a safety precaution?

If we had gone to full cock at the command READY and instead of commanding AIM and FIRE the Officer in charge decides to command *Shoulder ARMS*, or *Shoulder ARMS* followed by *Order ARMS*, or *Shoulder ARMS* followed by *Forward MARCH*, there is a higher probability of the musket discharging as the soldier manipulates the musket or is jostled while marching, or if the soldier tries to change the hammer from full-cock to half-cock.