



Casey's School of the Soldier: Inspection Arms, By The Motion. An Illustration.

by

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Version 2.0

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INSPECTION ARMS

Author's Notes:

The instructions for Inspection Arms are taught in the School of the Soldier (S.S.) *after* the soldiers have been taught to load and fire. The instructions for Inspection Arms reference the instructions learned during Loading and Firing. The relevant referenced instructions have been copied here into the appropriate sections.

Since the 7th MD uses the rifle musket, these instructions have been tailored using the instructions for the rifle musket.

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



**The soldier being at
Order Arms and
having the bayonet in the scabbard
to cause pieces to be brought to
Inspection Arms.**

***Inspection-ARMS.
One time and two motions.***

***Instructions
235 - 237***



Preparing for Inspection

***Instructions
235 - 237***

From **Order Arms** to **Inspection Arms**.
Mechanisms of the First Motion.

S.S. 236. (First motion.)

1. Seize the piece with the left hand below and near the upper band,
2. carry it with both hands opposite the middle of the body, the butt between the feet, the rammer to the rear, the barrel vertical, the muzzle about eight inches from the body;
3. carry the left hand reversed to the bayonet,
4. draw it from the scabbard and fix it on the barrel;
5. grasp the piece with the left hand below and near the upper band,
6. seize the rammer with the thumb and fore-finger of the right hand bent, the other fingers closed.

ARMS



236.1



236.2



236.3



236.4



236.4



236.5



236.6



236.6



From **Order Arms** to **Inspection Arms**.
Mechanisms of the Second Motion.

S.S. 237. (Second motion.)

Draw the rammer as has been explained in loading, (S.S. 167-169)

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.
4. Clear the rammer from the pipes by again extending the arm; the rammer in the prolongation of the pipes.
5. Turn the rammer, the little end of the rammer passing near the left shoulder;
6. place the head of the rammer on the ball
 1. (For reenactors: Place the head into the top of the muzzle bore to simulate placing the head on the ball.)
7. the back of the hand to the front.
8. And let it glide to the bottom of the bore,
9. replace the piece with the left hand opposite the right shoulder, and
10. retake the position of ordered arms.

TWO

237.1

237.2

237.3

237.3

237.4

237.5



237.6

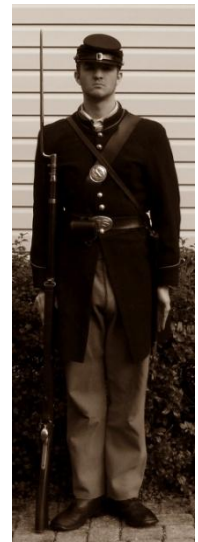
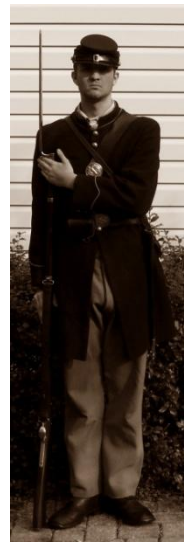
237.7

237.8

237.9

237.10

237.10



The soldier being at Order Arms

Inspection-ARMS.
One time and two motions.
Instructions
235 - 237

Inspection –

ARMS

TWO



Starting Position



End of 1st Motion



End of 2nd Motion



Presenting the Musket for Inspection

Instruction
238

**The soldier being at Order Arms
Presenting the Musket to the Inspector.
*Mechanisms of the Motion.***

S.S. 238. The instructor will then inspect in succession the piece of each recruit, in passing along the front of the rank. Each, {soldier} as the instructor reaches him, will

1. raise smartly his piece with his right hand,
2. seize it with the left between the lower band and guide sight, the lock to the front,
3. the left hand at the height of the chin, the piece opposite to the left eye;

238.1



238.2



238.3





Inspecting the Musket

Words of Caution About the Inspection

- Inspectors
 - Never try to force the musket to fail the half-cock by pushing the back of the hammer toward the cone.
 - Never try to force the musket to fail the half-cock by excessive pressure on the trigger pull.
 - 10-12 pounds pressure, no more
 - Every Gunsmith I have spoken with has told me that these actions will damage the internal mechanisms.
 - Repairing the internal mechanisms is expensive!
 - For example:
 - Parts (as of June 2026 Lodgewood Mfg. Ltd. Prices)
 - 1861 Armisport Springfield Complete Lock: \$210
 - 1861 Armisport Springfield Tumbler: \$79
 - 1861 Armisport Springfield Main Spring: \$70
 - 1861 Armisport Springfield Sear Spring: \$20 - \$45
 - 1861 Armisport Springfield Sear: \$35
 - Plus the gunsmith's fees to install
- Soldiers
 - If you ever see an inspector trying to force a hammer to fail,
 - DO NOT PRESENT YOUR MUSKET FOR INSPECTION!!!
 - IF HE ALREADY HAS YOURS, TAKE IT BACK!!!!
 - Are they going to pay for it when they break it?

Inspecting the Musket

S.S. 238. ...

the instructor will take it {the musket} with the right hand at the handle and, after inspecting it, will return it to the recruit,



Author's Notes for the Soldier:

- The soldier does not push the musket to the Inspector.
 - The soldier raises the musket such that the left hand is “at the height of the chin” and the piece is “opposite to the left eye”.
 - That position makes it easy for the inspector to “take it with the right hand at the handle”.
 - The soldier keeps the elbow against the body.
 - The soldier lets the Inspector take the musket.
- Should the Inspector desire to inspect the musket,
 - The inspector takes the musket from the soldier as described in the instruction.
 - The soldier resumes the Position of the Soldier while the Inspector inspects the musket.

S.S. 238. ...

the instructor will take it {the musket} with the right hand at the handle and, after inspecting it, will return it to the recruit,

Author's Notes for the Inspector:

The manual does not describe what the inspector should be looking for.

The following are items to check and may be a reason for you to fail the inspection:

- Ensure the tip of the bayonet scabbard is in place.
- Ensure the bayonet fits securely on the barrel
 - Verify that the socket fits over the front sight.
 - Verify that the clasp secures the bayonet to the barrel.
 - Verify that the clasp-screw is in place and sufficiently tight.
- Ensure the barrel is clean.
 - Gently drop the ramrod onto the bottom of the chamber. You should hear a metal on metal 'ping'.
- Ensure the hammer and trigger function properly:
 - Take the hammer to half-cock. It should stay at half-cock.
 - Ensure the cone is in place and not loose.
 - Gently, pull the trigger. The hammer should not fall.
 - NEVER force the hammer to fail by pulling hard on the trigger.
 - Doing so will damage the tumbler and/or the sear spring.
 - NEVER push or hit the hammer with your hand or palm.
 - Doing so will damage the tumbler and/or the sear spring.
 - Take the hammer to full-cock. It should stay at full-cock.
 - Ease the hammer back onto the cone by holding the hammer and pulling the trigger.
- Ensure the cleanout screw (if the musket has one) is in place and secure.
- Ensure the lockplate screws are in place.
- Ensure the barrel bands are in place.



Receiving the Musket from the Inspector

Instruction
238

Inspecting the Musket

S.S 238. ...

the instructor will take it {the musket} with the right hand at the handle and, after inspecting it, will return it to the recruit,

1. who will receive it back with the right hand, and
2. replace it in the position of ordered arms.

238.1



238.2



238.2





**Return the rammer,
unfix the bayonet, and
resume the
position of ordered arms**

Instruction

239

S.S. 239. When the instructor shall have passed him, each recruit will retake the position prescribed at the command inspection, return the rammer, unfix the bayonet, and resume the position of ordered arms.

1. retake the position prescribed at the command inspection

- a. Per instruction S.S. 236: the butt between the feet, the rammer to the rear, the barrel vertical, the muzzle about eight inches from the body;

2. return the rammer, (S.S.: 171-173)

- a. S.S. 171.
 - a. Draw the rammer half-way out, and
 - b. steady it in this position with the left thumb;
 - c. grasp it near the muzzle with the right hand,
 - d. the little finger uppermost, the nails to the front, the thumb along the rammer:
 - e. clear the rammer from the bore by extending the arm,
 - f. the nails to the front, the rammer in the prolongation of the bore.
- b. S.S. 172.
 - a. Turn the rammer, the head of the rammer passing near the left shoulder, and
 - b. insert it in the pipes until the right hand reaches the muzzle,
 - c. the nails to the front.
- c. S.S. 173.
 - a. Force the rammer home by placing the little finger of the right hand on the head of the rammer;
 - b. pass the left hand down the barrel to the extent of the arm, with-out depressing the shoulder.

3. unfix the bayonet, (S.S.: 209-210)

- a. S.S. 209
 - a. Per instruction S.S. 198: The musket should be positioned opposite the middle of the body, with the butt between the feet; the rammer to the rear, the barrel inclined forward, the muzzle eight inches from the body; seize it with the right hand at the upper band, and-
 - b. turn the clasp of the bayonet by pressing against it with the thumb of the left hand, and
 - c. then grasp the socket of the bayonet with the left hand, the shank resting between the thumb and fore-finger, the thumb pointed up.
- b. 210.
 - a. Wrest off the bayonet,
 - b. turn it to the right, bringing the point of the bayonet down;
 - c. change the position of the hand without quitting hold of the shank of the socket,
 - d. return the bayonet to the scabbard, and
 - e. seize the piece with the left hand, the arm extended.

4. resume the position of ordered arms.

retake the position prescribed at the command inspection
Mechanisms of the Motion

239



236.1



236.2



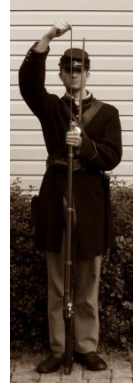
171.a



171.a



171.b



171.c



171.d



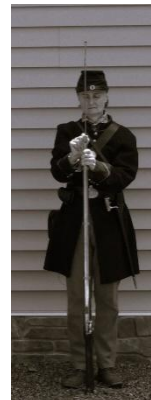
172.a



172.b



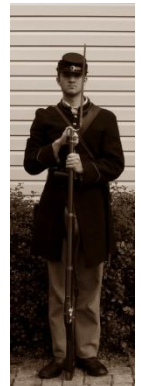
172.b



173.a



173.a



209.a



209.b



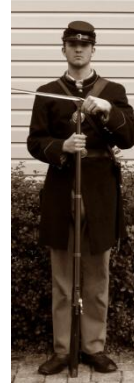
209.c



210.a



210.b



210.c



210.d



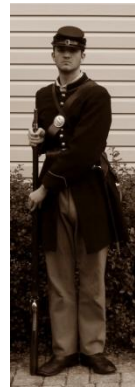
210.d



210.e



239.4



239.4



239.4





**The soldier being at
Order Arms and
having the bayonet in the scabbard
to
Fix Bayonet.**

Fix-BAYONET.

***Instructions
240 - 241***

**The soldier being at Order Arms
To Fix Bayonet.
*Mechanisms of the Motion.***

S.S. 240. If, instead of inspection of arms, the instructor should merely wish to cause bayonets to be fixed, he will command:

Fix-BAYONET.

S.S. 241. Take the position indicated No. 236, fix bayonets as has been explained,
S.S. 236:

1. Seize the piece with the left hand below and near the upper band,
2. carry it with both hands opposite the middle of the body,
3. the butt between the feet, the rammer to the rear, the barrel vertical, the muzzle about eight inches from the body;
4. carry the left hand reversed to the bayonet,
5. draw it from the scabbard and fix it on the barrel;
6. grasp the piece with the left hand below and near the upper band,
7. and immediately resume the position of ordered arms.

BAYONET



236.1



236.2



236.3



236.4



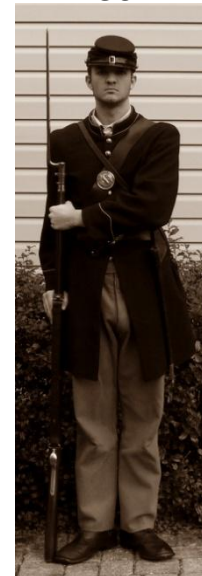
236.5



236.6



236.7



236.7





**The soldier being at
Order Arms and
having the bayonet in the scabbard
to
Spring Rammers.**

Spring-RAMMERS.

***Instructions
242 - 244***

**The soldier being at Order Arms
to ascertain whether the pieces have been discharged
*Mechanisms of the Motion***

Note, Per the manual, the prerequisite for issuing the command *Spring-RAMMERS* is the soldier is at the position of *Order-ARMS*.

Note: S.S. 243. Refers the instructor to the instructions for motions described in Inspection Arms which in turn reference the instructions for motions described in loading. Relevant instructions have been incorporated here.

S.S. 242. If it be the wish of the instructor, after firing, to ascertain whether the pieces have been discharged, he will command:

Spring-RAMMERS.

S.S. 243.

1. Put the rammer in the barrel, as has been explained above,

A. S.S. 236. {Position the piece}

1. Seize the piece with the left hand below and near the upper band,
2. carry it with both hands opposite the middle of the body, the butt between the feet, the rammer to the rear, the barrel vertical, the muzzle about eight inches from the body;
- ~~3. carry the left hand reversed to the bayonet,~~
- ~~4. draw it from the scabbard and fix it on the barrel;~~
5. grasp the piece with the left hand below and near the upper band,
6. seize the rammer with the thumb and fore-finger of the right hand bent, the other fingers closed.

B. S.S. 237. Draw the rammer as has been explained in loading,

1. S.S. 167.
 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,
 4. the little finger uppermost, the nails to the front, the thumb extended along the rammer.
2. S.S. 168.
 1. Clear the rammer from the pipes by again extending the arm; the rammer in the prolongation of the pipes.
3. S.S. 169.
 1. Turn the rammer, the little end of the rammer passing near the left shoulder; place the head of the rammer on the ball {in the muzzle}, the back of the hand to the front.
 4. and let it glide to the bottom of the bore,
 5. replace the piece with the left hand opposite the right shoulder,

2. and immediately retake the position of ordered arms.

244. The instructor, for the purpose stated, can take the rammer by the small end, and spring it in the barrel, or cause each recruit to make it ring in the barrel.

The soldier being at Order Arms
to ascertain whether the pieces have been discharged
Spring-RAMMERS

RAMMERS



236.1



236.2 & 236.5



236.6



167.1



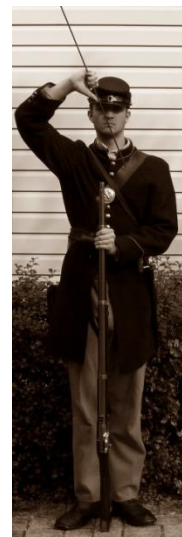
167.2



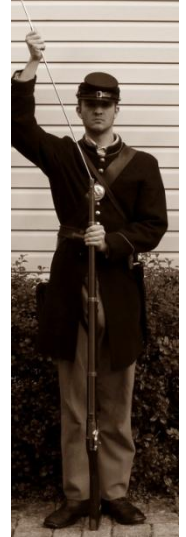
168.1



169.1



169.2



237.4



237.4



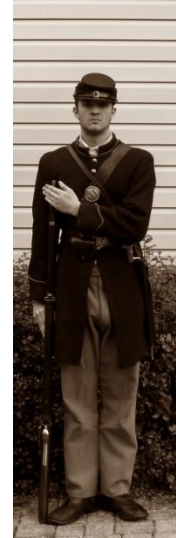
237.5



237.5



243.2



243.2





**The soldier being at
Spring Rammers
to
Return Rammers.**

Return-RAMMERS.

***Instruction
245***

**The soldier being at Order Arms
and having the ramrod in the barrel
*Mechanisms of the Motion***

S.S. 245. Each recruit, after the instructor passes him, will return rammer, and resume the position of ordered arms.

A. S.S. 236. {Position the piece}

1. Seize the piece with the left hand below and near the upper band,
2. carry it with both hands opposite the middle of the body, the butt between the feet, the rammer to the rear, the barrel vertical, the muzzle about eight inches from the body;
- ~~3. carry the left hand reversed to the bayonet,~~
- ~~4. draw it from the scabbard and fix it on the barrel;~~
5. grasp the piece with the left hand below and near the upper band,
6. seize the rammer with the thumb and fore-finger of the right hand bent, the other fingers closed.

B. S.S. 171-173. (Return the Rammer))

1. S.S. 171.
 1. Draw the rammer half-way out, and steady it in this position with the left thumb;
 2. grasp it near the muzzle with the right hand, the little finger uppermost, the nails to the front, the thumb along the rammer:
 3. clear the rammer from the bore by extending the arm, the nails to the front, the rammer in the prolongation of the bore.
2. S.S. 172.
 1. Turn the rammer, the head of the rammer passing near the left shoulder, and
 2. insert it in the pipes until the right hand reaches the muzzle, the nails to the front.
3. S.S. 173.
 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.

2. and resume the position of ordered arms.

The soldier being at Order Arms
and having the ramrod in the barrel
Return-RAMMERS

RAMMERS



236.1



236.2 & 236.5



236.6



171.1



171.2



171.3



172.1



172.2



172.2



173.1



173.1



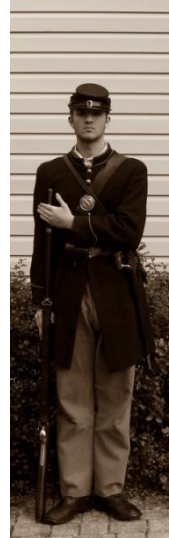
173.2



245.2



245.2



245.2



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

