



SLAP, ROLL & RACK

Effectively Clearing Type 1
Malfunctions





EFFECTIVELY CLEARING TYPE 1 MALFUNCTIONS

YES, I TOTALLY understand that different instructors use different terms for what I am about to describe. I was trained to call this the Type 1 Malfunction. I have also heard it called a Phase 1 Malfunction. We are talking about a simple failure to fire. You have this type of malfunction when you press the trigger and you get a click instead of a bang. On the range that is an annoyance. In a gunfight that can lead to you becoming ventilated—an outcome you are likely not hoping for.

There can be any number of reasons for the Type 1 Malfunction: bad ammo, dirty gun, you name it, but don't name it now. In a gunfight we don't care WHY the pistol malfunctioned, we only want to get that malfunction fixed as quickly as possible. Here is how: Slap. Roll. Rack.

So, despite your best efforts, you have ended up in a gunfight, meaning it is already a bad day. Now, you come up on target and you press the trigger and get a click instead of a bang. Your day just got worse and you need to make it better quickly or you die.

When the gun goes click instead of bang, first move to cover. Then take the following steps:

Slap: Firmly strike the base plate of your magazine to ensure the magazine is seated.

Roll: Tilt your rearm to the right so the ejection port is pointing to the ground.

Rack: Firmly grasp the slide and pull it all the way to the rear and let go.

This sequence will ensure your ammunition supply is in the right place and should remove the unfired round from your chamber and insert a new round into

the launch tube. Following this sequence, you may emerge from cover and get back into the fight.

The best way to train for this type of malfunction is to buy several dummy rounds and go to the range with a friend. Have your friend load your magazines and insert one or more dummy rounds. When you get to a dummy round you will get a click instead of a bang and should immediately start your clearance drill. Do I need to remind you to keep the pistol pointed in a safe direction up in front of your face?

Let's look at the steps a little

more closely. First off, we should know that most problems with autoloading rearms are magazine-related. If the magazine is not fully seated and securely in place, the slide will not strip a round off the top of the magazine and insert it into the chamber. I suggest shoving the magazine in firmly during every reload, but who knows what happened between the time you last inserted the magazine into your concealed carry gun and the time you needed to draw that pistol in defense of your life. You could have bumped the magazine release. So start with the ammo supply. Slap that magazine firmly home.

The Roll portion of this sequence should not be required because your properly maintained pistol **SHOULD** eject the round when you yank back on the slide. **BUT**, we are faced with a critical malfunction at an important time so we are taking the extra step of ensuring that unfired round (if one is in there) falls free of the chamber. Complete the Roll, just to make sure.

Racking the slide should be second nature, but remember there is a right way and a wrong way to do it. Reach across the top of the slide with all four fingers behind the ejection port and retract the slide briskly. When I say briskly, I mean yank that sucker hard. Then let go and let the slide go forward—driven by the recoil spring as John Browning intended. (I don't care whose pistol you use, John Browning invented the recoil spring.)

Now your pistol should be reloaded and ready to return to the fight. If it is not, you have bigger problems—we will address them next...

STEP 1

Pull pistol close to your chest and, keeping your eyes on the bad guy, slap the base of the magazine hard.



STEP 2

Roll the pistol to the side to allow gravity to help the bad round exit the ejection port...



STEP 3

...and grab the slide with all four fingers. Draw it quickly to the rear and let go. The slide should move forward under the power of the recoil spring.



NOW WHAT? HOW TO CLEAR A TYPE 2 MALFUNCTION

The Phase Two malfunction is something a lot more pressing. You move directly to Phase Two if your Tap, Roll, Rack sequence from Phase One does not work.

Well, that is not entirely true. The first step in correcting any pistol malfunction is to move to cover. If your pistol is not working you had better not be working on that pistol out in the open. Hell, you had better not be fighting from out in the open, but if you are, at least have a gun that works.

So, you suffer a malfunction and complete the Phase One sequence and, upon returning to the fight, you find that your gun still is not functioning. Here is what you do:

Move to cover.

Strip out the magazine.

Rack the slide at least twice.

Insert a fresh, fully-loaded magazine.

Rack the slide again.

Return to the fight.

I wish there was a catchy acronym for that, but there is not. Take some time and memorize the sequence.

After you move to cover, the Phase Two malfunction sequence begins with stripping out the magazine, because the magazine or ammo supply is usually the root of the problem. At the same time, when the magazine is out of the pistol, the slide will rack freely to help extract any fired brass or unfired round that may be left in the chamber.

When you strip out that magazine, do so with authority! The reason for lashing out at the bad magazine is this: you may be suffering from a failure to extract and the resultant double feed. That is where the fired round is not pulled from the chamber of the pistol and the next round in

the magazine is pushed into the back of the shell casing. This binds up the action. It also makes the magazine very difficult to extract. You need to hit the magazine release and yank down hard on the magazine baseplate. If that doesn't work you will need to pull the slide to the rear and use the slide lock lever to lock the slide open. As you rip out the magazine you will likely notice a loose round bouncing around the chamber area and the magazine well. With the magazine out the round can fall out through the well.

Now that that is done, rack the slide several times to make double and triple sure any round left in the chamber is extracted.

Now grab a new magazine, insert it briskly and rack the slide to chamber a live round.

You may now return to your previous life-saving activities. If, after running the Phase Two malfunction sequence, your pistol still does not fire you have two choices: if you live in an area where it is legal you can reach for your backup gun and press the fight. If you are without said backup gun, bail out! Flee. Cut and run. You are out of the fight and your pistol needs more work than an immediate action drill can provide you.

Run this sequence until it is burned into your memory. This is a skill you will only need under the direst of circumstances. At that point you want the movements to be automatic.

Stay safe. Train hard.



STEP 1

Strip the magazine out of the firearm. Do not rely on just hitting the magazine release—GRAB IT and PULL IT out of the firearm. Once you've got it out of the mag well, drop it on the ground.



STEP 2

Rack the slide several times. Semi-autos should not be babied—pull the slide all the way to the rear and release it, allowing the extractor to do its job.



STEP 3

Insert a fresh magazine, rack the slide, and resume life-saving activities.

A black and white portrait of David Jackson, a Black man with glasses and a goatee, looking slightly to the right. The portrait is set against a yellow background that has a torn paper effect.

**“I SAID, PLEASE,
MY KIDS ARE
HERE ... PLEASE
DON'T SHOOT!”**

**Forced to pull the trigger
to defend his children**

David Jackson, USCCA Member



David jumped into action and saved his children and innocent bystanders from two armed robbers. Without the self-defense education, training and legal protection of USCCA Membership, David's story could have ended very differently.

When the smoke cleared, David's gun was confiscated, and he was taken to the police station for questioning. With his USCCA Membership, David was able to get connected with an experienced criminal defense attorney AND get the funds he needed to replace his permanently confiscated gun. After all, **doing the right thing shouldn't cost you everything.**



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