

Old School is still the BEST School

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From a 22 long rifle to a 410 shotgun, my Father (in a very safe and deliberate way) began teaching me, as a 10 years old (yes - *this was a very very long time ago*), how to safely and properly respect and use a firearm. That was the first important lesson.

As I said, this was a long time ago, but I can tell you that as a life-long hunter, former military, former reserve deputy and as a responsible gun owner, these lessons have **ALWAYS** stayed with me.

The second most important lesson he taught me was how to *PROPERLY* clean and maintain a firearm so that it was always reliable and ready when needed.

“Never put a gun away if it is not ready to be used again.” – my Pop

Almost every person I know that responsibly uses a firearm puts in the time and effort required to clean and maintain their firearms. They want to know it will always be ready to go. The others I know, well let's just say they are odd.

So, we all know cleaning and maintaining a firearm is critical and the thousand reasons why. We all agree on that however, where most of us disagree is on what products to use to clean your firearms.

Everyone of us has our favorite, go to products and at TLN Tactical, we are no different. One thing that we do agree on is it has to be good old Hoppe's No. 9 😊

Now, for the record, we are not supported or sponsored by Hoppes No. 9 (or anyone else for that matter) and I am sharing with you my experiences and history using the only product I trust – and I have tried some of the other products out there and always go back to Hoppe's No. 9.

Hoppe's No. 9 has been used in gun care since 1903 for cleaning and maintaining firearms. You don't stay in business for over a century if your product is not very very good!

But with the many new cleaning and lubricating products available today, is Hoppe's still the best?

Our opinion is **YES**.

What's inside the bottle of Hoppe's No. 9 that make it so damn good?

Hoppe's No. 9's remarkable effectiveness comes from its special blend of ingredients. Although the exact amounts of each ingredient are kept confidential, the main components include Kerosene, Ethanol, Oleic acid, Amyl acetate, Ammonium hydroxide in addition to small amounts of other chemicals, such as citronellal, which adds a citrusy scent.

This carefully balanced combination of solvents, lubricants, and cleaning agents works together to effectively clean firearms and protect them from corrosion and has for many years.

Simple Steps, Great Results:

Hoppe's No. 9 is designed to be easy to use, making it suitable for both new and seasoned gun owners.

1. Safety First: Always make sure your firearm is unloaded and clear before you begin cleaning.

Tip – Always always do this no matter how confident you are that it is safe!

2. Apply the Bore Cleaner: Apply Hoppe's No. 9 Gun Bore Cleaner to a bore brush or cleaning patch. For barrels, run the brush or patch through the bore from the breech (the end where the cartridge is loaded) to the muzzle (the end where the bullet exits), repeating this several times.

Tip – Do not dip the brush or a used patch in the bottle of bore cleaner – that just introduces debris into the bottle and eventually onto your firearm!

· If you are using a BoreSnake, which streamlines the cleaning and lubricating process, apply a small amount of Hoppe's No. 9 to the head and a few drops of lubricating oil to the tail. Drop the BoreSnake through the barrel and pull it through to clean and lubricate the bore in one easy step.

3. Let it Soak: Allow the bore cleaner solvent to soak for a few minutes to help loosen any stubborn fouling.

Tip – Set a timer for a couple minutes. Do not let it sit for too long as it can damage your firearms finish in some cases.

4. Remove the Bore cleaner: Use clean patches to remove the bore cleaner solvent and fouling from the bore. Keep repeating this step until the patches come out clean.

Tip – A dry white patch in and a dry white patch out means you got it clean!

5. Lubricate: Once the firearm is clean, apply a thin, light coat of Hoppe's lubricating oil to all metal surfaces. This helps prevent rust and ensures that all the moving parts work smoothly.

Tip – a LIGHT coat means a light amount! Don't be an overachiever here!

All these years later, that simple process that my Pop taught me still works and is highly effective in cleaning and maintaining your firearm! It does not get much easier than that. *Feeling a little nostalgic at the moment actually!*

Advantage/Disadvantage:

For the skeptics out there, Hoppe's No. 9 has both advantages and disadvantages:

Advantages – What makes it good:

Effective Cleaning: Hoppe's No. 9 is highly effective at removing powder residue, lead, and metal fouling, ensuring your firearm remains in top condition.

Rust Prevention: It serves as a strong rust inhibitor, protecting your firearms from corrosion.

Ease of Use: These cleaners and lubricants are simple to apply and does not require any special tools or techniques, making it suitable for all levels of experience.

Versatility: Hoppe's No. 9 can be used on all types of firearms, including rifles, pistols, and shotguns.

Industry Standard: It's widely recognized as the industry standard for gun cleaning solvents. The one everyone else wants to be.

Classic Scent: The distinctive smell of Hoppe's No. 9, primarily due to the amyl acetate ingredient, has become synonymous with gun cleaning and care. This has been true since I was 10 years old 😊 – Thank you Pop!

Affordable: Hoppe's No. 9 is a cost-effective option compared to many other gun cleaning products.

Disadvantages – Why some don't like it:

Strong Odor: While some find the classic scent nostalgic, others may find it overpowering or unpleasant.

Potential for Damage: If left on for extended periods, Hoppe's No. 9 can damage certain firearm finishes, so it's important to follow the instructions and wipe it off promptly.

Not Ideal for Copper Fouling: While Hoppe's No. 9 can remove some copper fouling, dedicated copper solvents are more effective for this purpose.

Cautions - Safety Cautions and a Recommendation:

Use Hoppes No. 9 in a well-ventilated area, as it can irritate the skin and should be kept out of your eyes - always. We recommend wearing nitrile gloves to protect your hands (as we do). Be aware that spills may cause stains.

Our Choice / Your Choice:

Like everyone reading this, you have your go to products for cleaning and protecting your firearms, but for us, it is good old school Hoppe's No. 9 because we have never gone wrong with it and it just simply works well!

If you have never tried it, give it a shot (pun intended) and make up your mind for yourself.

Happy Cleaning!

Source Links:

www.hoppes.com