

Lever Lock Installation Instructions for 1866 and 1873 Model Uberti

Always make sure the rifle is unloaded before making any modifications. There are dozens of variables when installing the Lever Lock on any 1873 model Uberti (levers, links, bolts, hammers, triggers, side plates, frames, etc.) Although this is a drop-in part, some minor modifications to the rifle or part may be necessary for optimal operation. The Lever Lock should only be installed in properly functioning rifles (i.e., no worn links, pins, screws, etc.) and headspace should be within industry standards. Please read all instructions before proceeding with installation, which should be done only by a qualified gunsmith.

(Installing Lever Lock in a model 66 is the same as the model 73 except for one major difference: The side plate retaining screw is of smaller diameter and sits farther back. To install Lever Lock, material on frame directly behind side plate retaining screw must be removed until clearance is achieved (Figure 6)).

INSTALLATION

1. Remove side plate screw, left side plate, left toggle link and link pin. Lay rifle on bench right side down and support the right side plate, keeping it in place. Check lever to frame clearance (point A, figure 1) which must be .095 inches or more (feeler gauges work well here). If necessary, reduce the radius at end of the lever to achieve clearance. Remove any burrs (point B, figure 1), and check that side plate screw moves freely in Lever Lock. Polish screw if needed.
2. Position Lever Lock as shown in figure 2. Install side plate screw through lever lock. Do not tighten. Install just tight enough to check functionality and make adjustments. Start with hammer cocked, then operate lever through its arc **slowly**. The Lever Lock will prevent initial movement of lever. Raise the Lever Lock up while moving lever to position (figure 2). Make sure it doesn't bind (point A). DO NOT FORCE! Polish or reduce radius of the end of lever if it binds). Continue moving lever to end of arc. Confirm that lever moves through its arc freely, then install link pin only—not left link.
3. Again, with hammer cocked, operate lever through its arc slowly! Check that Lever Lock is not interfering with bolt travel. If there is interference, remove metal from squared area at back end of bolt (point B, figure 3). Now, with the lever in the closed position, check that Lever Lock falls in behind the lever. If it does not, either remove material from nose of Lever Lock (figure 3, point A) or file a flat spot on back side of lever (figure 4).
4. Remove Lever Lock and install 3/8" screw into upper hole in Lever Lock with hex facing front of rifle. The screw activates the Lever Lock when the hammer falls, moving Lever Lock up out of the way of the lever. Start with the screw almost flush with front of the Lever Lock (figure 5, point A). With action closed, hammer cocked, and left link removed, re-install Lever Lock. Lower hammer slowly, adjust the screw so that the hammer can reach its forward-most position raising the Lever Lock, but not jamming it into frame (point A, figure 2). After adjustments, check that lever does not hit activation screw at end of lever cycle. Next, remove the side plate screw, install the left toggle link and cock hammer. Place a punch, nail or similar device through right side of the plate screw hole and Lever Lock. Position left side plate and push side plate screw through and tighten.
5. DO NOT PULL THE TRIGGER YET! With a small screwdriver, follow the face of the hammer down until it contacts the Lever Lock. With light pressure, the Lever Lock should move freely and return on its own. If it's binding, back the side plate screw off ½ to ¾ turn and check results. If it now moves freely, check for interference (point B, figure 2) at the rear of the frame. Also check that Lever Lock is not being pinched between the side plates. Use Dykem or a marker pen to reference the area of concern. If there's interference (point B, figure 2), reduce the diameter of Lever Lock at the area identified in figure 5, or relieve material from the rear of the frame (figure 1, point B). If

Lever Lock is being pinched between the side plates, reduce the width of Lever Lock by taking equal amounts of material from both ends.

6. Optional Lever Lock screw. The optional lower screw on the Lever Lock is used for trigger activation of Lever Lock instead of or in conjunction with hammer activation screw. It is also used as a failsafe override in the event of a main spring failure. Adjust the screw so that the Lever Lock clears the end of lever when the trigger is fully depressed in much the same way as adjusting the hammer activation screw. Check that the lever does not contact the upper or lower Lever Lock activation screws at any point in lever's arc. Reduce the length of screws if interference occurs.

7. Reassemble and check the operation by dry firing with snap cap. Check that the action will open with the hammer resting on primed case. If all is well, take the Lever Lock out one more time and place a small amount of Loctite on the activation screws. Test fire with live ammo to confirm successful installation. If a loaded rifle should need to be unloaded, do so by removing the magazine end cap. CAUTION: Never let individuals operate the firearm empty or loaded unless they understand how the Lever Lock functions (i.e., think who is on unloading table).

ADJUSTMENTS

After initial installation of the Lever Lock, minor adjustments can be made for individual shooting styles. Refer to the installation instructions often, while making these adjustments. (It is of great help to have a video made of yourself to determine at what point during the cycling of lever that problems arise.)

Ejecting rounds before action is closed could mean that the Lever Lock is not positioning itself behind the lever. In this case, it will be necessary to shorten the nose of the Lever Lock until it slips in behind the lever (figure 3, point A). Remove small amounts of material, checking results often.

The distance that lever can move with the hammer cocked, action closed, can be increased by reducing length of the nose of the Lever Lock until desired results are achieved. CAUTION! Once this adjustment is made, it CANNOT be reversed.

If the Lever Lock stops initial movement of lever after the trigger is pulled, the hammer/trigger has not moved the Lever Lock up out of way of the lever. This could mean that trigger is being pulled late, or that the trigger is being pulled while trying to open the action. Turn the top or bottom activation screws in ½ turn and retest results. Make sure action still opens with hammer resting on primed case, and that the upper adjusting screw is not turned in so far that it prevents the hammer from reaching the forward-most position. Damage to Lever Lock could result.

In some instances, the trigger sear can be tripped when the lever is stopped by the Lever Lock resulting in a slow hammer fall. Check that the trigger sear cannot be tripped while the trigger safety lock is in position. Make sure you are not putting pressure on the lever with your hand while pulling trigger. Forcefully operating the action could result in the Lever Lock jumping over the radius at the end of the lever. Prevent this by filing a flat spot on back side of lever (figure 4).

Because the Lever Lock has a small spring to keep it in position, it may be necessary to increase the main spring tension to insure reliable primer ignition. Check that the hammer does not rebound after firing. If the hammer rebounds too far, it could reset the Lever Lock. (Video footage is indispensable here). An increase of main spring tension, or decrease of firing pin return spring tension, may be necessary to insure proper function.

**Buyer/user hereby assumes the entire responsibility for installation, adjustments, and maintenance of lever lock. In no event shall seller be liable for incidental, consequential, or special damages. Buyer/user hereby assumes the entire liability for any and all claims for damage or injury of any kind or nature whatsoever.