



ATF Guidebook -  
Importation & Verification of Firearms,  
Ammunition, and Implements of War  
  
Terminology & Nomenclature

# Terminology & Nomenclature Overview

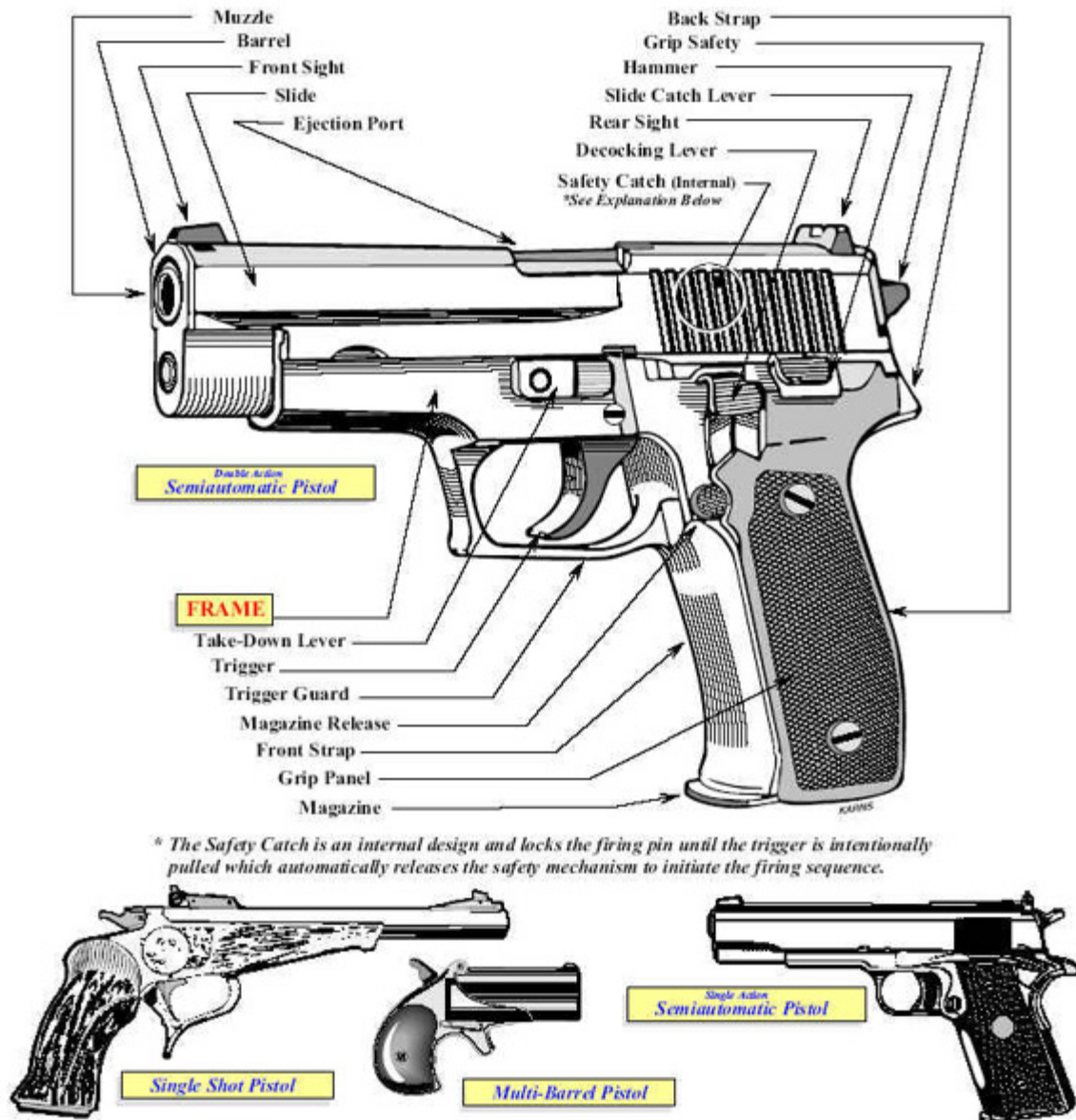
The following terminology and nomenclature apply to the verification of firearms:

- [Handgun – Pistol](#)
- [Handgun – Revolver](#)
- [Bolt Action](#)
- [Lever Action](#)
- [Self-Loading Action \(Semiautomatic\)](#)
- [Slide/Pump Action](#)
- [Top Break Action](#)

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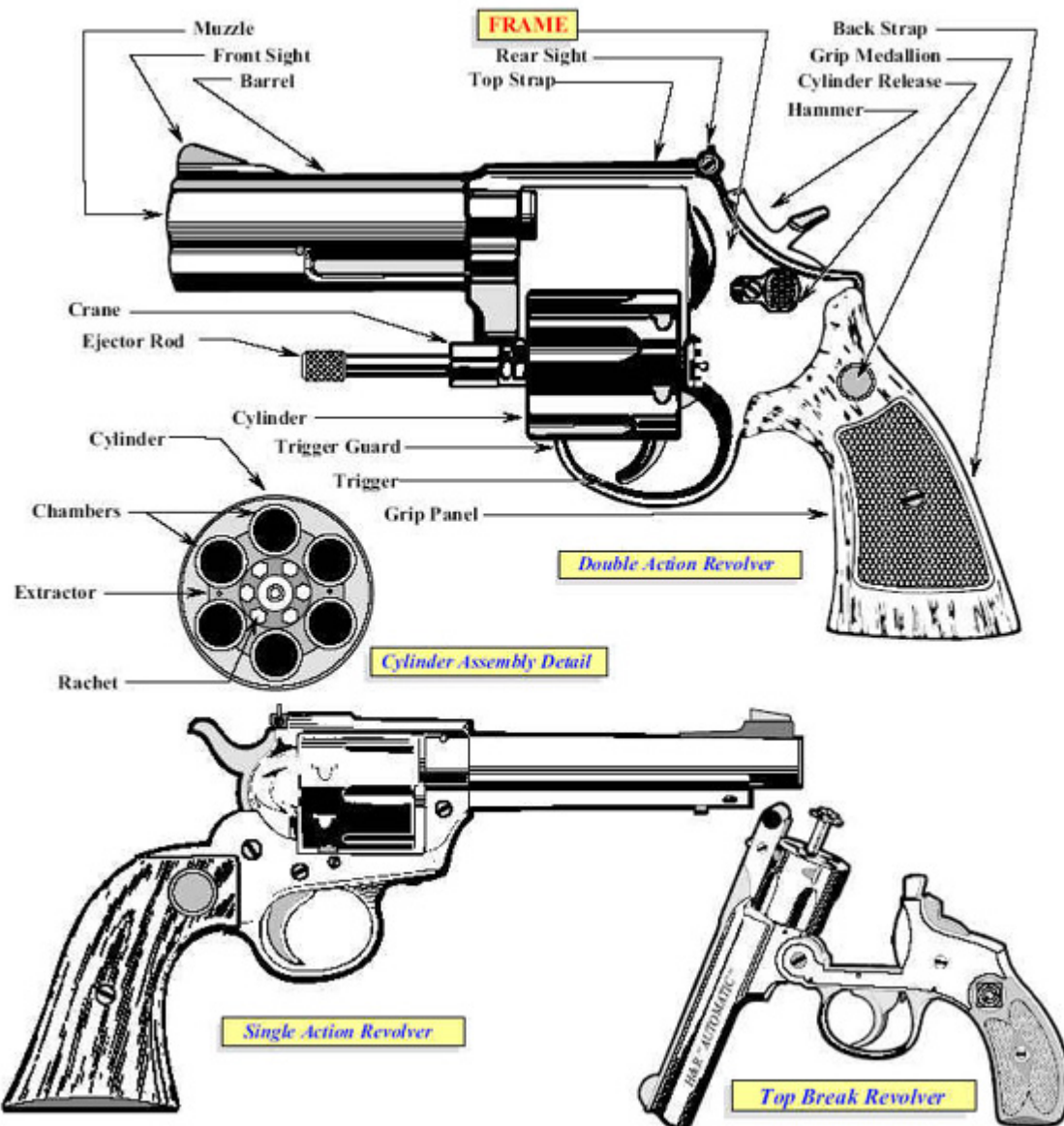
## Handgun - Pistol

**NOTE:** This illustration shows the primary characteristics exhibited in the Pistol category. Since pistol configurations differ significantly, various models in this classification may exhibit any of the illustrated components in a revised configuration, but not necessarily all components shown will be incorporated in any one given design.



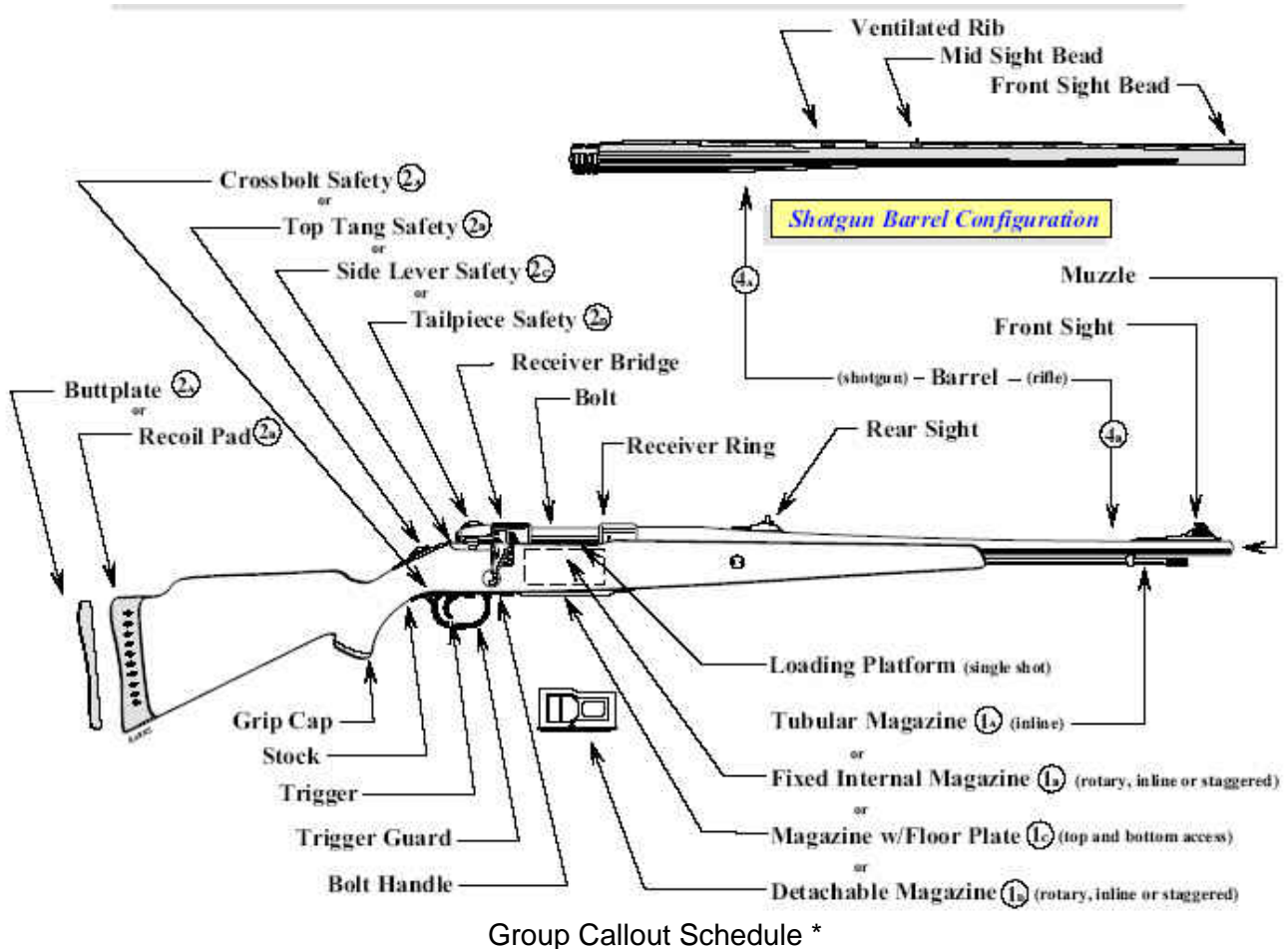
## Handgun - Revolver

**NOTE:** This illustration shows the primary characteristics exhibited in the Revolver category. Since revolver configurations differ significantly, various models in this classification may exhibit any of the illustrated components in a revised configuration, but not necessarily all components shown will be incorporated in any one given design.



## Bolt Action

**NOTE:** The Bolt action is utilized in the design and function of rifles, shotguns and pistols including single shot and magazine-fed repeating models. This illustration exhibits the primary characteristics of a rifle, but most component parts are applicable in a revised configuration.



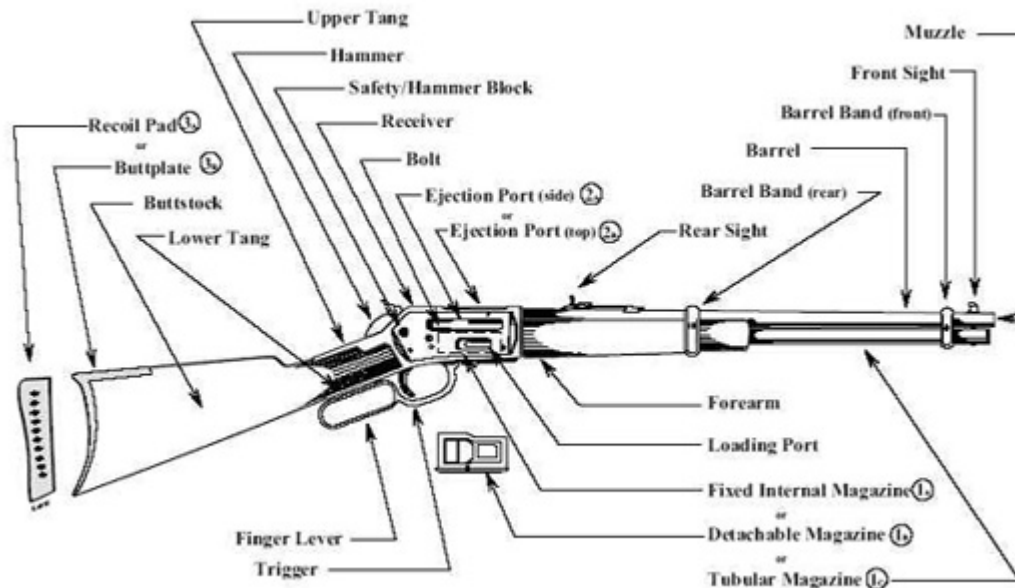
- Group (1)** Four magazine configurations available on the repeating models of this type action.  
A-Tubular, B-Fixed Internal, C-Bottom Access Floorplate, D-Detachable
- Group (2)** Four various safety configurations which may appear on the available models.  
A-Crossbolt, B-Top Tang, C-Side Lever, D-Tailpiece Safety
- Group (3)** Two buttstock appointments available in this group.  
A-Butt Plate, B-Recoil Pad
- Group (4)** Two barrel configurations which may appear on this type action.  
A-Rifled, B-Smooth Bore

\* Group callouts identify various configurations of a specific component which may be incorporated in the function of the various models employing the bolt action in their design. However, only one type component from each callout group will appear on any given subject firearm.

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## Lever Action

**NOTE:** The Lever action is utilized in the design and function of rifles, shotguns and pistols. This illustration exhibits the primary characteristics of a rifle. Although most component parts are applicable in a revised configuration to both the shotgun and pistol categories, relatively few representative models exist in those categories.



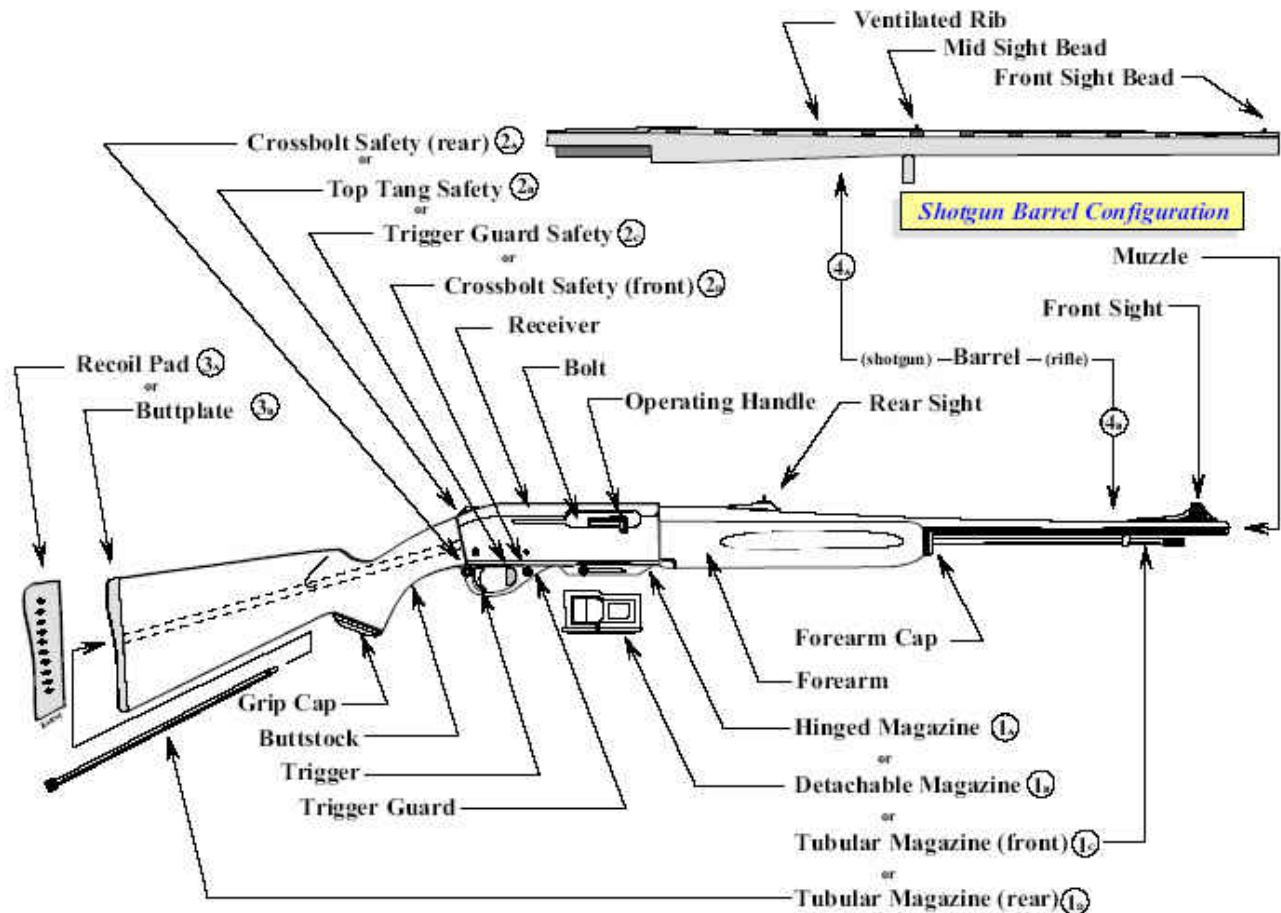
Group Callout Schedule \*

- Group (1)** Three magazine configurations available on this type action.  
A-Fixed Internal (rotary), B-Detachable (inline or staggered feed), C-Tubular
- Group (2)** Two ejection port configurations are available in this group.  
A-Side Port Ejection, B-Top Port Ejection
- Group (3)** Two buttstock appointments appear on the available models  
A-Recoil Pad, B-Buttplate

\* Group callouts identify various configurations of a specific component which may be incorporated in the function of the various models employing the lever action in their design. However, only one type component from each callout group will appear on any given subject firearm.

## Self-Loading Action (Semiautomatic)

**NOTE:** The Self-loading action is utilized in the design and function of rifles, shotguns and pistols. This illustration exhibits the primary characteristics of a rifle but most component parts are applicable in a revised configuration to both the shotgun and pistol categories. The pistol configuration does differ significantly (see separate illustration).



Group Callout Schedule \*

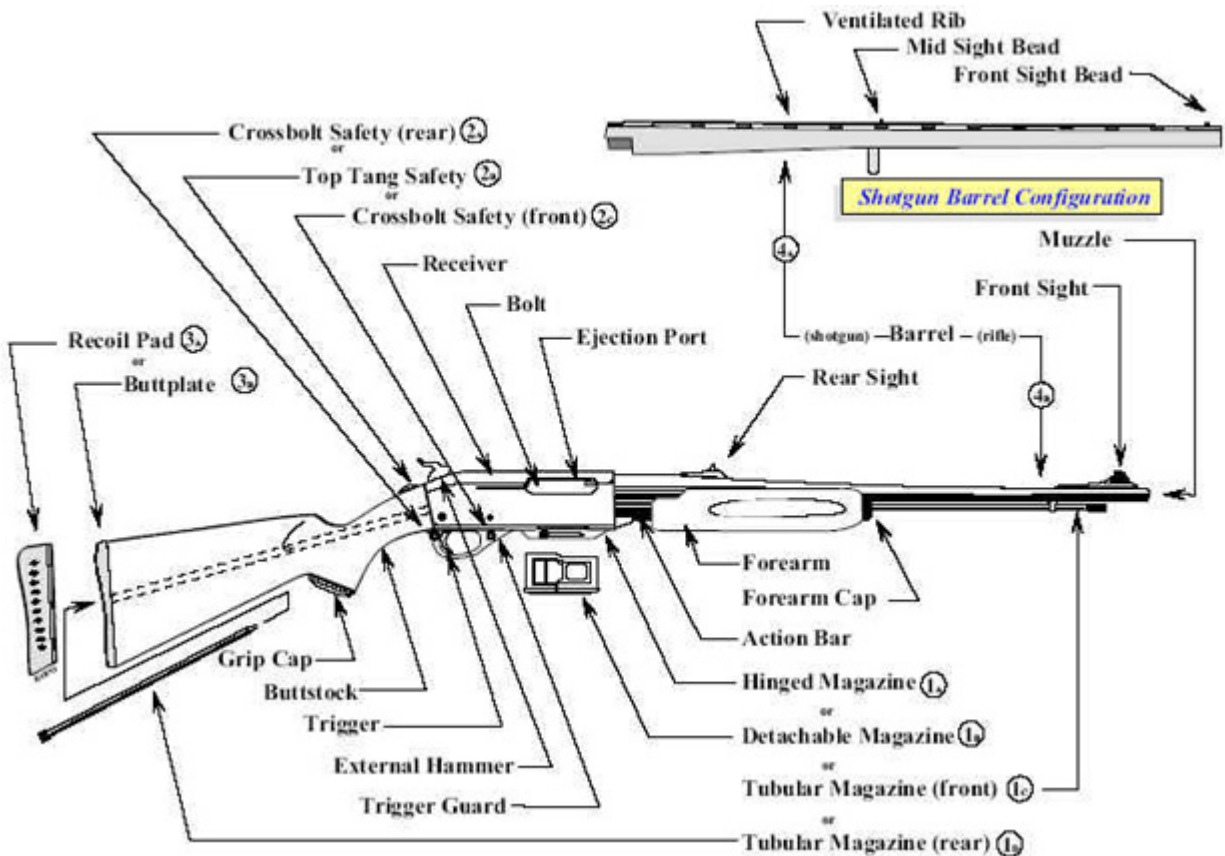
- Group** Three magazine configurations available on this type action.  
**(1)** A-Hinged, B-Detachable, C&D-Tubular (Front and Rear)
- Group** Four various safety configurations which may appear on the available models.  
**(2)** A-Crossbolt (front or rear), B-Top Tang, C-Trigger Guard
- Group** Two buttstock appointments available in this group.  
**(3)** A-Recoil Pad, B-Buttplate
- Group** Two barrel configurations which may appear on this type action.  
**(4)** A-Smooth Bore, B-Rifled

\* Group callouts identify various configurations of a specific component which may be incorporated in the function of the various models employing the autoloading action in their design. However, only one type component from each callout group will appear on any given subject firearm.



## Slide/Pump Action

**NOTE:** The Slide/Pump action is utilized in the design and function of rifles and shotguns. This illustration exhibits the primary characteristics of a rifle but most component parts are applicable in a revised configuration to the Pump/Slide Shotgun category.



Group Callout Schedule \*

- Group (1)** Three magazine configurations available on this type action.  
A-Hinged, B-Detachable, C&D-Tubular (Front and Rear)
- Group (2)** Four various safety configurations which may appear on the available models.  
A-Crossbolt (front or rear), B-Top Tang
- Group (3)** Two buttstock appointments available in this group.  
A-Recoil Pad, B-Buttplate
- Group (4)** Two barrel configurations which may appear on this type action.  
A-Smooth Bore, B-Rifled

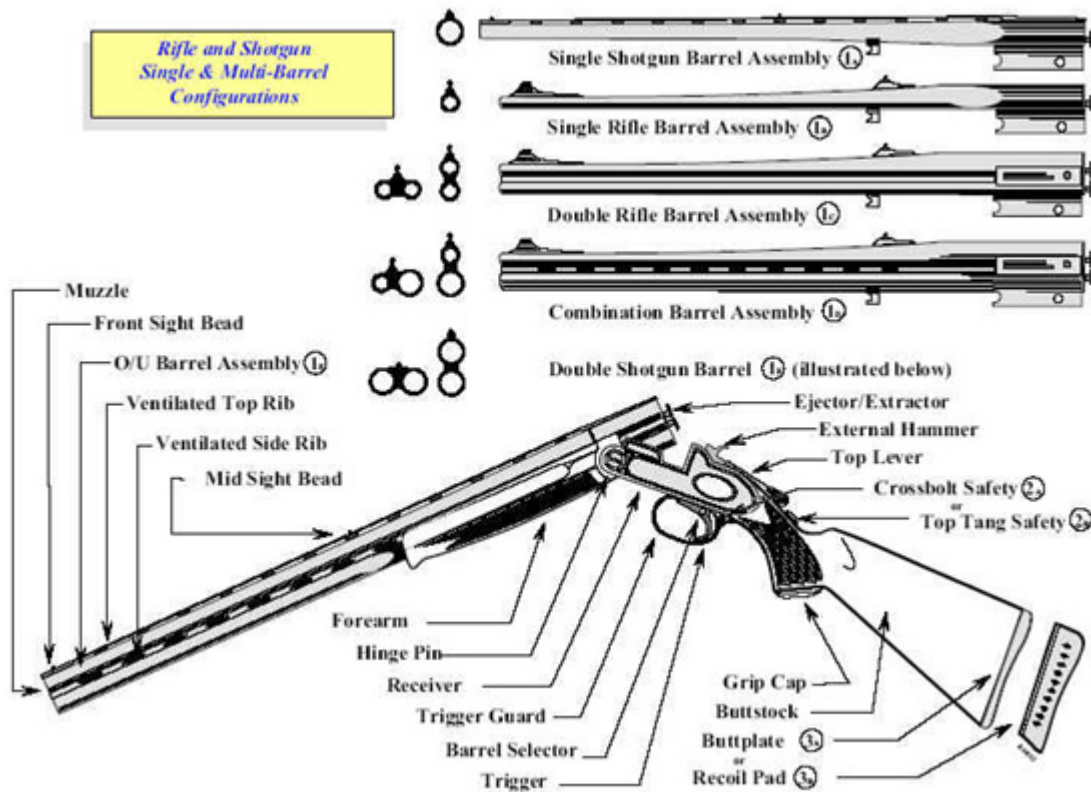
\* Group callouts identify various configurations of a specific component which may be incorporated in the function of the various models employing the pump/slide action in their

design. However, only one type component from each callout group will appear on any given subject firearm.

 [ATF Internet](#)

## Top Break Action

**NOTE:** The Top Break action is utilized in the design and function of rifles, shotguns and pistols. This illustration exhibits the primary characteristics of a shotgun but most component parts are applicable in a revised configuration to the rifle and pistol categories.



Group Callout Schedule \*

- Group (1)** Various barrel configurations which may appear on this type action.  
A-Single Shotgun, B-Single Rifle, C-Double Rifle, D-Combination, E-Double Shotgun
- Group (2)** Two safety configurations which may appear on the available models.  
A-Crossbolt, B-Top Tang
- Group (3)** Two buttstock appointments available in this group.  
A-Buttplate, B-Recoil Pad

\* Group callouts identify various configurations of a specific component which may be incorporated in the function of the various models employing the break open action in their design. However, only one type component from each callout group will appear on any given subject firearm.