

With autoloading action rifles (like the Remington Model 7400) the first cartridge is manually inserted into the chamber and the action is closed by depressing the bolt release. A magazine or clip is fed into the receiver which contains additional cartridges. After firing, the autoloading mechanism then extracts and ejects the fired cartridge and feeds a new cartridge into the chamber.

Deleted: automatic

Deleted: and continues to feed successive cartridges into the chamber, and fire them with successive pulls of the trigger.

Take a moment to try this yourself. Click on the trigger to see how this works. When you are finished, click the green arrow button in the control menu to continue.

Autoloaders are sometimes inappropriately called "automatics." The more appropriate term is "semi-automatics" due to the fact that the trigger must be released between shots. Due to the speed of the autoloading feature, autoloaders are extremely popular among deer hunters and generally deliver less "felt" recoil.

Lever Action

Lever action guns were popular in the old west, and are often associated with cowboy action shooting, though many hunters still use the lever action rifle for hunting today.

With the lever action gun, cartridges are loaded into a magazine tube or blind magazine. Cartridges are then fed into the chamber by the use of the lever which when pulled opens the chamber and feeds a shell from the magazine and cocks the hammer. When the lever is pushed to its closed position the cartridge is locked in the chamber, and ready to fire. After firing, the lever opens the chamber, extracts and ejects the shell and loads another cartridge.

Three other less common types of Centerfire rifles are:

Break Action

Break Action guns are extremely rare and were often used for big game Safari hunters of the past. Break actions tend to appeal to certain hunting purist who enjoy the challenge of a single or double shot at their prey.

Break Action rifles come in single barrel, or double barrel configurations. Double barrel rifles can be configured in side by side or over and under just like shotguns. These guns have also been configured in combination barrels with one rifle barrel and one shotgun barrel.

Falling Block

Falling Block rifles generally feature a lever which drops the back of the chamber (block) so a single cartridge can be inserted. When the lever is returned to its original position the block is closed and the gun is ready to fire. All Falling Block rifles are single shot.

Rolling Block