

# BL-22™ RIFLE



OWNER'S  
MANUAL





## **Important operating instructions for:**

### **BROWNING BL-22™ RIMFIRE RIFLES**

If you have any questions about your new firearm, this owner's manual or other Browning products, contact:

Browning Consumer Information

One Browning Place

Morgan, UT 84050-9326

Phone: (801) 876-2711

[www.browning.com](http://www.browning.com)

Please use the space below to record information about your new firearm.

Model \_\_\_\_\_

Serial Number \_\_\_\_\_

Purchased From \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Purchase \_\_\_\_\_

### **THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING A BROWNING BL-22 RIFLE.**

The Browning BL-22 is one of the finest rimfire rifles ever produced with an excellent reputation for craftsmanship, accuracy, dependability and handling. The short-throw lever-action is fast cycling and prevents pinching your finger between the trigger and the lever. The smartly designed BL-22 is certainly worthy of the Browning name.

With a reasonable amount of care, your BL-22 rifle is designed to give you many years of dependable, enjoyable service.

Specifications within this owner's manual are correct at the time of printing and subject to change without notice.



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## STATE WARNING

According to state law, California requires that firearm manufacturers, distributors and retailers include conspicuous, specific warnings with firearms sold in that state.

### **WARNING**

Firearms must be handled responsibly and securely stored to prevent access by children and other unauthorized users.

California has strict laws pertaining to firearms, and you may be fined or imprisoned if you fail to comply with them. Visit the Web site of the California Attorney General at <https://oag.ca.gov/firearms> for information on firearm laws applicable to you and how you can comply.

Prevent child access by always keeping guns locked away and unloaded when not in use. If you keep a loaded firearm where a child obtains and improperly uses it, you may be fined or sent to prison.

### **ADVERTENCIA**

Las armas de fuego deben de ser manipuladas responsablemente y almacenadas en sitios seguros para prevenir el acceso a ellas por parte de niños y personas sin autorización.

California cuenta con leyes estrictas sobre las armas de fuego, y puede ser multado y encarcelado si no las obedece. Visite la página web de California Attorney General, <https://oag.ca.gov/firearms> para más información sobre cómo cumplir con las leyes de armas de fuego.

Prevenga el acceso de los niños a las armas de fuego manteniéndolas siempre en un lugar seguro, bajo llave y descargadas cuando no estén en uso. Si usted deja un arma cargada al alcance de un niño, y éste la utiliza indebidamente, usted podría ser multado e incluso enviado a la cárcel.

## WARNING: YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FIREARMS SAFETY

### **WARNING**

**FAILURE TO FOLLOW ANY OF THE FOLLOWING WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.**

As a gun owner, you accept a set of demanding responsibilities. How seriously you take these responsibilities can be the difference between life and death.

There is no excuse for careless or abusive handling of any firearm. At all times handle this firearm and all other firearms with intense respect for their power and potential danger.



Please read and understand all of the cautions, warnings, notices, proper handling procedures and instructions outlined in this owner's manual before using your new firearm.

**1 ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE OF YOUR FIREARM POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE CERTAIN IT IS UNLOADED.**

Never point any firearm at anything you do not intend to shoot. Be extremely alert and aware of all persons and property within the range of your ammunition.

**2 NEVER RELY TOTALLY ON YOUR FIREARM'S MECHANICAL "SAFETY" DEVICE. LIKE ANY MECHANICAL DEVICE, A "SAFETY" CAN SOMETIMES FAIL; IT CAN BE JARRED OR INADVERTENTLY MANIPULATED INTO AN UNSAFE CONDITION.**

The word "safety" describes a firearm's trigger block mechanism, sear block mechanism, hammer block mechanism or firing pin block mechanism. Mechanical "safeties" are designed to place your firearm in a safer status, and no guarantee can be made that the firearm will not fire even if the "safety" is in the on safe position. Mechanical "safeties" merely aid safe gun handling and are no excuse for pointing your firearm's muzzle in an unsafe direction. See "Operation of the Hammer" on pages 11-14 for instructions on the operation of this firearm's "safety."

Remember, safe gun handling does not stop with your firearm's mechanical "safety" devices, it starts there. Always treat this firearm with the respect due a loaded, ready-to-fire firearm.

Some firearms do not have a mechanical "safety." Many target firearms, lever-action firearms and pistols do not have manual "safety" mechanisms. Therefore it is critical to read and understand the owner's manual for every firearm which explains the safe operation of the firearm.

While it is a good idea to "test" your firearm's mechanical "safety" periodically for proper function, never test the "safety" while your firearm is loaded or pointed in an unsafe direction.



**3 WHENEVER YOU HANDLE ANY FIREARM, OR HAND IT TO SOMEONE, ALWAYS OPEN THE ACTION IMMEDIATELY AND VISUALLY CHECK THE FIREARM'S CHAMBER TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE FIREARM IS COMPLETELY UNLOADED.**

Make certain the firearm does not inadvertently contain any ammunition. Remember, merely removing the magazine does not mean the chamber is unloaded. Always keep the chamber empty and the "safety" in the on safe position unless shooting is imminent.

**4 ALWAYS WEAR EAR AND EYE PROTECTION WHEN SHOOTING.**

Unprotected, repeated exposure to gunfire can cause hearing damage. Wear hearing protection (shooting earplugs or muffs) to guard against such damage.

Wear shooting glasses to protect your eyes from flying particles. Allow proper distance (eye relief) between a scope and your eye when firing a scoped rifle, shotgun or pistol. Do not use unorthodox shooting methods that could cause the rearward travel of the slide or bolt of a firearm to contact your eyes, face or hands. Always keep a safe distance between the muzzle of your firearm and any persons nearby, as muzzle blast, debris and ejecting cartridges could inflict serious injury.

Always wear eye protection when disassembling and cleaning any firearm to prevent the possibility of springs, spring-tensioned parts, solvents or other agents from contacting your eyes.

**5 KEEP ALL FIREARMS UNLOADED DURING TRANSPORT, EVEN WHEN STORED IN A HOLSTER, GUN CASE, SCABBARD OR OTHER CONTAINER.**

**6 DROPPING OR JARRING A LOADED FIREARM CAN CAUSE ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE.**

This can occur even with the "safety" in the on safe position. Be extremely careful while hunting or during any shooting activity to avoid dropping any firearm.



## **7 HUNTING FROM ELEVATED SURFACES SUCH AS TREESTANDS IS DANGEROUS.**

Doing so may increase the risk of mishandling a firearm. The following rules should always be observed by you and those you hunt with. Always make certain that the stand being used is safe and stable. Always make certain that your firearm is unloaded when it is being taken up and down from the stand. Always make certain that your firearm is not dropped from the stand, or dropped while it is being taken up or down from the stand. Remember, a loaded firearm may discharge when dropped, even with the “safety” in the on safe position.

## **8 STORE YOUR FIREARM AND AMMUNITION SEPARATELY, WELL BEYOND THE REACH OF CHILDREN.**

Take prudent safeguards to ensure your firearm does not become available to untrained, inexperienced or unwelcome hands. Store all firearms in secure, locked cases or a gun safe. Keep your firearm unloaded when not in use.

## **9 BEWARE OF BARREL OBSTRUCTIONS.**

Mud, snow and an infinite variety of other objects may inadvertently lodge in a barrel bore. It only takes a small obstruction to cause dangerously increased pressures that can damage your firearm and cause serious injury to yourself and others.

**BEFORE CHECKING FOR A BARREL OBSTRUCTION, BE CERTAIN YOUR FIREARM IS COMPLETELY UNLOADED, THERE IS NOT A LIVE CARTRIDGE IN THE CHAMBER AND THE “SAFETY” IS IN THE ON SAFE POSITION.**

After assuring yourself that the firearm is completely unloaded, open the breech or action and look through the barrel to be sure it is clear of obstructions. If an obstruction is seen, no matter how small it may be, clean the bore with a cleaning rod and patch as described on pages 24-26 of this owner’s manual.



**10 BE ALERT TO THE SIGNS OF AMMUNITION MALFUNCTION. IF YOU DETECT AN OFF SOUND OR LIGHT RECOIL WHEN A CARTRIDGE IS FIRED, DO NOT LOAD ANOTHER CARTRIDGE INTO THE CHAMBER.**

If your firearm fails to fire, keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction for a minimum of 30 seconds. Rotate the ejection area of the firearm away from you, carefully open the action and remove the cartridge from the chamber. If the cartridge rim (primer) is indented, the defective cartridge should be disposed of in a way that cannot cause harm. If the cartridge rim (primer) is not indented, your firearm should be examined by a qualified gunsmith and the cause of the malfunction corrected before further use. Glance down the barrel to make sure that no obstructions remain in the barrel. Completely clear the barrel before loading and firing again. Failure to follow these instructions can cause extensive damage to your firearm and possible serious injury to yourself and others.

**11 NEVER INSERT A CARTRIDGE OF THE INCORRECT CALIBER INTO ANY FIREARM.**

The caliber of your firearm is marked on the barrel. Store all cartridges of different calibers in completely separate and well-marked containers. Never store cartridges of mixed calibers in a common container or in your pockets. See pages 14-15 for more information on the correct ammunition for your firearm.

**12 EXAMINE EVERY CARTRIDGE YOU PUT IN YOUR FIREARM.**

We assume no responsibility for the use of unsafe or improper firearm and ammunition combinations or damage or injury caused by damaged ammunition. It is your responsibility to read and heed all warnings in this owner's manual and on ammunition boxes. See pages 14-15 for more information on the correct ammunition for your firearm.

**13 USE ONLY SAAMI APPROVED AMMUNITION.**

The barrel and action of this firearm have been made with substantial safety margins beyond the pressures developed by established American commercial loads. Nevertheless, we can



assume no liability for incidents which occur through the use of cartridges of nonstandard dimensions or which develop pressures in excess of commercially available ammunition which has been loaded in accordance with standards established by the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturer's Institute (SAAMI).

**14 DISCHARGING FIREARMS IN POORLY VENTILATED AREAS, CLEANING FIREARMS OR HANDLING AMMUNITION MAY RESULT IN EXPOSURE TO LEAD AND OTHER SUBSTANCES KNOWN TO CAUSE BIRTH DEFECTS, REPRODUCTIVE HARM AND OTHER SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURY. HAVE ADEQUATE VENTILATION AT ALL TIMES. WASH HANDS THOROUGHLY AFTER EXPOSURE.**

**15 DO NOT SNAP THE FIRING PIN ON AN EMPTY CHAMBER; THE CHAMBER MAY NOT BE EMPTY!**

Treat every firearm with the respect due a loaded firearm, even though you are certain the firearm is unloaded.

**16 KEEP YOUR FINGERS AWAY FROM THE TRIGGER WHILE LOADING AND UNLOADING UNTIL SHOOTING IS IMMINENT.**

**17 BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND BACKSTOP, PARTICULARLY DURING LOW LIGHT PERIODS.**

Know the range of your ammunition. Never shoot at water or hard objects.

**18 ALWAYS UNLOAD YOUR FIREARM'S CHAMBER BEFORE CROSSING A FENCE, CLIMBING A TREE, JUMPING A DITCH OR NEGOTIATING OTHER OBSTACLES.**

Never place your firearm on or against a fence, tree, car or other similar object.

**19 BE DEFENSIVE AND ON GUARD AGAINST UNSAFE GUN HANDLING AROUND YOU AND OTHERS.**

Don't be timid when it comes to firearm safety. If you observe other shooters violating any of these safety precautions, politely suggest safer handling practices.



## **20 BE CERTAIN YOUR FIREARM IS UNLOADED BEFORE CLEANING.**

Because so many firearm accidents occur when a firearm is being cleaned, special and extreme care should be taken to be sure your firearm is unloaded before disassembly, cleaning and reassembly. Keep ammunition away from the cleaning location. Never test the mechanical function of any firearm with live ammunition.

## **21 TEACH AND SUPERVISE FIREARMS SAFETY TO ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY, ESPECIALLY TO CHILDREN AND NON-SHOOTERS.**

Closely supervise newcomers to the shooting sports. Encourage enrollment in hunting and shooting safety courses.

## **22 NEVER DRINK ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR TAKE ANY TYPE OF DRUGS BEFORE OR DURING SHOOTING.**

Your vision, motor skills and judgment could be dangerously impaired, making your gun handling unsafe to you and to others.

## **23 READ AND HEED ALL WARNINGS IN THIS OWNER'S MANUAL, ON AMMUNITION BOXES AND WITH ALL ACCESSORIES THAT YOU INSTALL ON YOUR FIREARM.**

It is your responsibility to secure the most up-to-date information on the safe handling procedures of your Browning firearm. We assume no liability for incidents which occur when unsafe or improper firearm accessories or ammunition combinations are used.

## **24 PRACTICE PERIODIC MAINTENANCE, AVOID UNAUTHORIZED SERVICING.**

Your firearm is a mechanical device which will not last forever, and as such, is subject to wear and requires periodic inspection, adjustment and service. Browning firearms should be serviced by a Browning Recommended Service Center or by our Service Facility in Arnold, Missouri. We assume no responsibility for injuries suffered or caused by unauthorized servicing, alterations or modifications of Browning firearms.



## **25 DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, ALTER THE TRIGGER, "SAFETY" OR OTHER PARTS OF THE FIRING MECHANISM OF THIS OR ANY OTHER FIREARM EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE DESCRIBED IN THIS MANUAL.**

We reserve the right to refuse service on firearms that have been altered, added to or substantially changed. Removal of metal from the barrel, or modifications of the firing mechanism and/or operating parts may lead to a refusal of service on such firearms. You will be charged for parts and labor to return the firearm to original specifications prior to servicing your firearm.

With respect to **AFTERMARKET PARTS OR COMPONENTS** (including, for example, aftermarket trigger systems, barrels, muzzle brakes, suppressors, magazines, etc.), **USE AT YOUR OWN RISK**. Browning firearms are designed and engineered to meet stringent safety standards. Browning is not responsible for personal injuries or property damage caused by alterations to a firearm. This includes the incorporation of aftermarket parts or components that may or may not satisfy Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute (SAAMI) standards (for example, an aftermarket trigger system may not satisfy SAAMI minimum trigger pull standards, etc.) or may create other dangerous conditions. These conditions may or may not be apparent to the user (for example, installing an aftermarket barrel may have the effect of altering critical firearm dimensions, including headspace, and may create an unsafe firing condition, etc.). Aftermarket parts or components that do not satisfy SAAMI standards, or that could create other dangerous conditions, should not be used.

**FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS WARNING COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH, AS WELL AS CAUSE DAMAGE TO YOUR FIREARM.**

# **BE CAREFUL!**



## GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND OPERATION

The Browning BL-22 is a lever-action repeating rifle capable of firing a single cartridge fed from a tubular magazine each time the finger lever is cycled and the trigger is pulled. Operation of the finger lever is through a short arc which ejects the empty case, cocks the hammer and chambers a loaded cartridge (Figure 1). The rifle is then ready to fire the next cartridge with a pull of the trigger. This operation may be followed until both the magazine and chamber are empty.

FIGURE 1



The finger lever in the fully down position.

A “safety” interlock prevents the rifle from firing until the lever and breech bolt are fully closed. Another built-in “safety” feature prevents the rifle from firing even if the trigger is depressed while the lever is closing. Should this occur, release finger pressure from the trigger and the rifle will be ready to fire with the next squeeze of the trigger.

## NOMENCLATURE

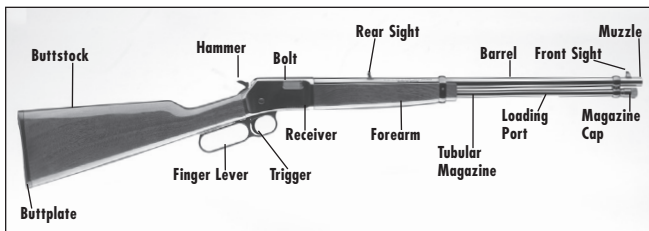
In conventional firearm terminology the position and movement of firearm parts are described as they occur with the firearm horizontal and in the normal firing position: i.e., the muzzle is forward or in front; the buttstock is rearward or to the rear; the trigger is downward or underneath; the sights are upward or on top. For general parts nomenclature, refer to Figure 2, page 11.

## SERIAL NUMBER

The serial number of your BL-22 rifle is found on the right side of the receiver, toward the front. Record this number at the front of this owner’s manual for future reference.



FIGURE 2



## INITIAL CLEANING

Various exposed metal parts of your new firearm have been coated at the factory with a rust preventative compound. Before assembling and firing your rifle, clean the anti-rust compound from the inside of the barrel, receiver and action/chamber areas. It is not necessary to disassemble your rifle to perform these operations. A high-quality lightweight gun oil is ideal for removing this compound, and for giving your new firearm its first lubrication. Clean the barrel using a cleaning rod and patch as explained under “Cleaning and Maintenance Suggestions” on pages 24-26.

## OPERATION OF THE HAMMER

### **⚠WARNING**

**ALWAYS KEEP THE HAMMER IN THE DROPPED POSITION UNLESS SHOOTING IS IMMINENT. ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.**

Like many lever-action rifles with an exposed hammer, the BL-22 does not have a separate manual “safety.” While you should never rely on the dropped hammer position to function as a “safety,” the exposed hammer itself is an ideal safety status indicator since it alerts you when the rifle is cocked and ready-to-fire or when the hammer is in its dropped position. The hammer has three positions: Full-cock, half-cock, and dropped or fired.



## FULL-COCK POSITION

The hammer is in the full-cock position when it is fully to the rear (Figure 3). At this point, any pull or force on the trigger could allow the hammer to fall, firing the rifle. The hammer can be placed in this position in either of two ways:

- Every time the lever is cycled, the hammer is placed in the full-cock position.
- The hammer may also be placed at full-cock by manually moving it rearward with your thumb until it engages the full-cock notch.

FIGURE 3



The hammer shown in the full-cock position.

### **⚠ WARNING**

**WHEN COCKING THE HAMMER WITH YOUR THUMB, BE SURE TO KEEP YOUR FINGERS AWAY FROM THE TRIGGER. ALWAYS KEEP THE HAMMER IN THE DROPPED POSITION UNLESS SHOOTING IS IMMINENT. ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.**

## HALF-COCK POSITION

The half-cock notch (Figure 4, page 13) on the hammer is a specific feature designed to help protect against accidental discharge of the rifle in the event the hammer slips from the thumb while the hammer is being cocked.

### **⚠ WARNING**

**THE HALF-COCK HAMMER POSITION IS NOT A RECOMMENDED HAMMER POSITION WHEN CARRYING, HANDLING OR STORING YOUR RIFLE. ALWAYS KEEP THE HAMMER IN THE DROPPED POSITION UNLESS SHOOTING IS IMMINENT. ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.**



FIGURE 4



The hammer shown in the half-cock position.

FIGURE 5



The hammer shown in the dropped or fired position.

## DROPPED OR FIRED POSITION

In this position the hammer is fully down (Figure 5). This is the position of the hammer after a cartridge is fired and it is the recommended position when carrying the rifle in the field and for storage. Using your thumb the hammer may be easily and quickly moved to the full-cock position from the dropped position whenever desired.

## LOWERING THE HAMMER

### **⚠ WARNING**

**WHEN THE TRIGGER IS DEPRESSED, THE HALF-COCK NOTCH WILL NOT CATCH THE HAMMER IF IT SHOULD ACCIDENTALLY SLIP DURING THIS OPERATION.**

**ALWAYS KEEP THE HAMMER IN THE DROPPED POSITION UNLESS SHOOTING IS IMMINENT. ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION.**

**NEVER USE A HAMMER EXTENSION (HAMMER SPUR) ON YOUR BL-22. USING A HAMMER EXTENSION CAN RESULT IN A MALFUNCTION AND POSSIBLY CREATE A HAZARDOUS CONDITION.**

**FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.**



In order to move the hammer from full-cock to the dropped position, the trigger must be depressed during the entire forward travel of the hammer. A little practice with the rifle unloaded will enable you to become adept at using your thumb in this manner. If a cartridge has already been chambered, you need only thumb the hammer back to its full-cock position to prepare the rifle for firing. Otherwise, operate the lever in the usual manner to cock the rifle and feed a cartridge from the magazine into the chamber. When lowering the hammer to the dropped position, perform the recommended procedure:

FIGURE 6



**Use your thumb as a cushion when lowering the hammer from the full-cock position to the dropped position.**

- 1 Place the point of the thumb in the “V” space between the hammer and the firing pin so that it can act as a cushion against accidental hammer fall (Figure 6). The thumb can be easily withdrawn as the hammer approaches the dropped position. When a scope is mounted on the rifle, it is necessary to insert the tip of the thumb from the side.
- 2 While firmly holding the hammer with your thumb, squeeze the trigger to release the hammer.
- 3 Slowly ease the hammer to the dropped position.

## AMMUNITION

### **▲WARNING**

**DISCHARGING FIREARMS IN POORLY VENTILATED AREAS, CLEANING FIREARMS OR HANDLING AMMUNITION MAY RESULT IN EXPOSURE TO LEAD AND OTHER SUBSTANCES KNOWN TO CAUSE BIRTH DEFECTS, REPRODUCTIVE HARM AND OTHER SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURY. HAVE**



**ADEQUATE VENTILATION AT ALL TIMES. WASH HANDS THOROUGHLY AFTER EXPOSURE.**

**DO NOT USE AMMUNITION OTHER THAN WHAT IS INSCRIBED ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE BARREL. EXAMINE EVERY CARTRIDGE YOU PUT IN YOUR FIREARM.**

**FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.**

The barrel and action of this rifle have been made with substantial safety margins over the pressures developed by established American loads. However, we assume no responsibility for incidents which occur through the use of cartridges of nonstandard dimension or those developing pressures in excess of SAAMI (Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute) established standards.

The BL-22 must be used only with 22 rimfire ammunition as designated on the barrel (22 Short, Long or Long Rifle).

## **MAGAZINE CAPACITY**

The magazine will hold any combination of 22 Short, 22 Long or 22 Long Rifle cartridges. Magazine capacity with 22 Long Rifle cartridges is 15.

Magazine capacity with 22 Long cartridges is 17. Magazine capacity with 22 Short cartridges is 22.

## **LOADING**

### **▲WARNING**

**WHEN LOADING YOUR RIFLE ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION, ALWAYS LOWER THE HAMMER TO THE DROPPED POSITION AND KEEP YOUR FINGERS AWAY FROM THE TRIGGER. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.**



FIGURE 7



Depress the latch and pull the magazine tube out.

FIGURE 8



Pull the magazine forward until the follower clears the loading port.

**DO NOT CARRY YOUR RIFLE WITH A CARTRIDGE IN THE CHAMBER TO AVOID ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE. WHEN FIRING IS NO LONGER IMMINENT, IMMEDIATELY UNLOAD THE RIFLE AND LOWER THE HAMMER TO THE DROPPED POSITION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.**

## **LOADING THE MAGAZINE**

The BL-22 utilizes a tubular magazine positioned directly under the barrel.

- 1 Open the action to make sure the chamber is empty.
- 2 Close the action and lower the hammer in the dropped position.
- 3 With the muzzle pointing in a safe direction, hold the rifle upside down at its balance point with one hand.
- 4 Depress the latch on the knurled end of the magazine assembly with the thumb and forefinger of the opposite hand (Figure 7) and pull the magazine assembly in the direction the muzzle is pointing, until the cartridge follower at the rear end of the assembly clears the loading port in the outer magazine tube (Figure 8).
- 5 Raise the muzzle slightly, but not so high that the magazine slides back down the tube and blocks the loading port. Insert the cartridges into the loading port, with the bullet end toward the



muzzle, allowing them to slide toward the receiver until a cartridge is visible in the loading port (Figure 9). The magazine is then loaded to full capacity.

- 6 Reinsert the magazine assembly until it locks in place.

### **LOADING THE CHAMBER FROM THE MAGAZINE**

- 1 Open the action to make sure the chamber is empty.
- 2 Close the action and lower the hammer to the dropped position.
- 3 Load the magazine as explained previously.
- 4 Load the chamber by cycling the finger lever fully down and returning it to the fully closed position.

#### **⚠ WARNING**

**THE RIFLE IS NOW READY TO FIRE BY SIMPLY PULLING THE TRIGGER.**

- 5 Unless shooting is imminent, immediately lower the hammer to the dropped position.

### **LOADING THE RIFLE TO FULL CAPACITY**

- 1 Open the action to make sure the chamber is empty.
- 2 Close the action and lower the hammer to the dropped position.
- 3 Load the magazine as explained previously.
- 4 Load the chamber by cycling the finger lever fully down and returning it to the fully closed position.

#### **⚠ WARNING**

**THE RIFLE IS NOW READY TO FIRE BY SIMPLY PULLING THE TRIGGER.**

FIGURE 9



The magazine is full when a cartridge is visible in the loading port.



- 5 Unless shooting is imminent, immediately lower the hammer to the dropped position.
- 6 Load a single cartridge into the magazine as explained previously.

### **SINGLE-SHOT LOADING**

- 1 Open the action to make sure the chamber is empty.
- 2 Close the action and lower the hammer to the dropped position.
- 3 Load a single cartridge into the magazine as explained previously.
- 4 Load the chamber by cycling the finger lever fully down and returning it to the fully closed position.

#### **▲WARNING**

**THE RIFLE IS NOW READY TO FIRE BY SIMPLY PULLING THE TRIGGER.**

- 5 Unless shooting is imminent, immediately lower the hammer to the dropped position.

### **FIRING**

#### **▲WARNING**

**NEVER CHAMBER A CARTRIDGE OR MOVE THE HAMMER FROM THE DROPPED POSITION UNLESS SHOOTING IS IMMINENT. ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.**

- 1 Load the chamber by cycling the finger lever fully down and returning it to the fully closed position as explained previously. If there is already a cartridge in the chamber, simply pull the hammer fully rearward to the full-cock position.

#### **▲WARNING**

**THE RIFLE IS NOW READY TO FIRE BY SIMPLY PULLING THE TRIGGER.**

- 2 When ready to fire, take aim and squeeze the trigger.
- 3 After a cartridge is fired, cycle the action by swinging the finger lever fully downward to eject the fired case.



4 Close the action by returning the finger lever fully up. This picks up a loaded cartridge from the magazine, chambers it and leaves the hammer in the full-cock, ready-to-fire position. You may continue to load and fire the rifle in this manner until the magazine is empty.

5 If you wish to continue shooting, repeat steps 2-4. If you are finished shooting go immediately to step 6.

You may continue shooting until the magazine is empty, at which time you will need to either reload the magazine with cartridges (if shooting is imminent), or fully unload your rifle (if shooting is completed) as explained in the next section.

6 When firing is completed or when shooting is no longer imminent, immediately place the hammer in the dropped position. Under no circumstances should you move on or continue to hunt with the hammer in the full-cock position.

#### **▲WARNING**

**AFTER FIRING, OR WHEN SHOOTING IS NO LONGER IMMINENT, IMMEDIATELY LOWER THE HAMMER TO THE DROPPED POSITION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.**

## **UNLOADING**

#### **▲WARNING**

**WHEN UNLOADING YOUR RIFLE ALWAYS LOWER THE HAMMER TO THE DROPPED POSITION. KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION AND YOUR FINGERS AWAY FROM THE TRIGGER. ALWAYS INSPECT THE CHAMBER, BARREL AND MAGAZINE CAREFULLY AFTER UNLOADING TO BE SURE ALL LIVE CARTRIDGES ARE CLEARED FROM THE FIREARM. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.**

There are two ways to unload cartridges from the BL-22: Using the lever and unloading from the magazine.



## UNLOADING THE RIFLE USING THE LEVER

- 1 Carefully unload the rifle by cycling the finger lever fully down and returning it to the fully closed position repeatedly until all cartridges have been individually ejected. Take care to prevent damaging the cartridges or dropping them on the ground.

### **WARNING**

**ALWAYS WORK THE LEVER SEVERAL TIMES AFTER THE LAST UNFIRED CARTRIDGE HAS BEEN EJECTED TO MAKE SURE NO CARTRIDGES REMAIN IN THE CHAMBER OR MAGAZINE. VISUALLY CHECK, HOLDING THE ACTION OPEN, TO MAKE SURE THE CHAMBER IS EMPTY AND THAT THERE ARE NO CARTRIDGES IN THE MAGAZINE.**

- 2 When you are certain the rifle is completely unloaded return the finger lever to the fully up position and lower the hammer as explained on pages 13-14.

## UNLOADING FROM THE MAGAZINE

- 1 Carefully unload the chamber by cycling the finger lever fully down. Keep the bolt open and the lever down.
- 2 With the bolt open, hold the rifle upside down at the balance point with either hand keeping the muzzle elevated slightly and pointed in a safe direction.
- 3 Remove the magazine assembly by pulling it completely out of the outer magazine tube. Place the magazine assembly under the arm that is holding the rifle, or in another convenient place.
- 4 Lower the muzzle of the rifle and empty the cartridges. Take care to prevent damaging the cartridges or dropping them on the ground.

### **WARNING**

**THE LAST CARTRIDGE IN THE MAGAZINE WILL NOT SLIDE OUT OF THE MAGAZINE, BUT WILL BE HELD IN POSITION FOR CHAMBERING. BE SURE TO UNLOAD THIS LAST CARTRIDGE BY CYCLING THE BOLT WITH THE FINGER LEVER.**



- 5 Reinsert the magazine assembly until it locks into place.
- 6 With the rifle pointed in a safe direction, open the action by swinging the finger lever fully down. Keep the bolt open and the lever down and visually inspect the rifle with the action open, to be certain the chamber and magazine are empty.

**▲WARNING**

**ALWAYS WORK THE LEVER SEVERAL TIMES AFTER THE LAST UNFIRED CARTRIDGE HAS BEEN EJECTED TO MAKE SURE NO CARTRIDGES REMAIN IN THE CHAMBER OR MAGAZINE. VISUALLY CHECK, HOLDING THE ACTION OPEN, TO MAKE SURE THE CHAMBER IS EMPTY AND THAT THERE ARE NO CARTRIDGES IN THE MAGAZINE.**

- 7 When you are certain the rifle is completely unloaded return the finger lever to the fully up position and lower the hammer as explained on pages 13-14.

## **SIGHT ADJUSTMENT**

**▲WARNING**

**BEFORE ADJUSTING THE SIGHTS, ALWAYS OPEN THE ACTION, MAKE CERTAIN YOUR RIFLE IS COMPLETELY UNLOADED AND LOWER THE HAMMER TO THE DROPPED POSITION. KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.**

### **UP OR DOWN ELEVATION ADJUSTMENTS**

The BL-22 rifle is provided with a folding adjustable rear sight and comes from the factory set for a distance of 50 yards. White graduation marks are etched into the body of the sight to assist with the zeroing or sighting-in processes. One graduation moves the point of impact approximately two inches at 50 yards.

- 1 Loosen the two small locking screws in the face of the sight with a fine blade screwdriver (Figure 10, page 22).



- 2 Move the plate with the “U” shaped notch up or down as necessary.
  - To raise the point of impact move the plate up.
  - To lower the point of impact move the plate down.
- 3 Tighten the two screws lightly, but firmly.

## **RIGHT OR LEFT WINDAGE ADJUSTMENTS**

Windage adjustment should be correct at the time you purchase your rifle. However, if a change ever appears necessary, adjustment may be accomplished by moving either the front or rear sight to the right or left. The sights are secured to the barrel in dovetail slots. By tapping the sight at its base, it can be moved in the direction desired. A wood dowel or comparable nonmetallic material should bear against the sight during tapping to avoid marring the finish (Figure 11). When making horizontal adjustments, keep these simple rules in mind:

- The rear sight should be moved the same direction you wish the point of bullet impact to move.
- The front sight should be moved in the opposite direction you wish the point of the bullet impact to move.

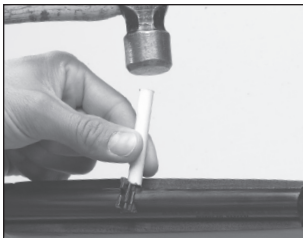
All sight adjustments are a matter of trial and error. Fortunately, it is seldom necessary.

**FIGURE 10**



Use a small blade screwdriver to make vertical corrections to the rear sight.

**FIGURE 11**



Tap the rear sight to adjust for windage.



## MOUNTING A SCOPE

### **▲WARNING**

**BEFORE MOUNTING A SCOPE, SIGHT OR OTHER ACCESSORIES TO YOUR RIFLE, ALWAYS OPEN THE ACTION, MAKE CERTAIN YOUR RIFLE IS COMPLETELY UNLOADED AND LOWER THE HAMMER TO THE DROPPED POSITION. KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.**

The receiver of the BL-22 is designed to accept  $\frac{3}{8}$ " groove or tip-off type scope mounts and receiver sights. These mounts are available for  $\frac{3}{4}$ " or 1" scopes. See your Browning dealer to purchase the scope mount bases and rings designed for the BL-22.

### **NOTICE**

**ALWAYS USE THE CORRECT BASES FOR THIS RIFLE. DAMAGE COULD OCCUR TO THE RIFLE.**

- 1 Place your rifle in a gun vise or on a table or other safe/secure location with the top of the receiver upward. Protect the rifle's finish with rags or other padding.
- 2 Mount your scope rings and scope as outlined in the instructions supplied with your scope rings and/or scope. Always make sure you have the proper eye relief.

## TRIGGER ADJUSTMENT

The BL-22 trigger is a two-stage design for added safety. The trigger mechanism is pre-set at the factory to provide a short, crisp pull.

### **NOTICE**

**NO ATTEMPT SHOULD EVER BE MADE TO ALTER THE TRIGGER PULL BY ANYONE OTHER THAN A RECOMMENDED BROWNING FIREARMS SERVICE CENTER OR BROWNING'S SERVICE DEPARTMENT IN ARNOLD, MISSOURI. ANY ATTEMPT TO TAMPER WITH THE TRIGGER MAY DAMAGE IT BEYOND REPAIR.**



## CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE SUGGESTIONS

### **⚠WARNING**

BEFORE PERFORMING CLEANING PROCEDURES, ALWAYS OPEN THE ACTION, MAKE CERTAIN YOUR RIFLE IS COMPLETELY UNLOADED AND LOWER THE HAMMER TO THE DROPPED POSITION. KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

### **⚠WARNING**

WEAR EYE PROTECTION WHEN DISASSEMBLING AND CLEANING YOUR RIFLE TO PREVENT THE POSSIBILITY OF SPRINGS, SPRING-TENSIONED PARTS, SOLVENTS OR OTHER AGENTS FROM CONTACTING YOUR EYES, RESULTING IN INJURY.

### **⚠WARNING**

KEEP ALL AMMUNITION AWAY FROM THE CLEANING AREA. NEVER TEST THE MECHANICAL FUNCTION OF YOUR RIFLE WITH LIVE AMMUNITION. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

## CLEANING PROCEDURES

Your BL-22 rifle will function better and more reliably over a longer period of time if it is properly maintained and kept clean. Clean your firearm after every day of shooting, and more often if it becomes excessively dirty. A minimum cleaning includes wiping down the firearm and oiling key parts. Regular maintenance will also include cleaning the barrel.

If you encounter a function problem be sure to give your firearm a thorough cleaning to see if it solves the problem before seeking the services of a Browning Recommended Service Center or our Service Facility in Arnold, Missouri, or a qualified gunsmith.

- 1 Open the action using the finger lever (Figure 12, page 25). It may be necessary to raise the lever about five degrees to lower the carrier below the chamber to accommodate cleaning.



- 2 Use a cleaning rod with a tip and patch large enough for a snug fit in the bore. Insert the rod and patch into the barrel at the muzzle and run it back and forth several times. Care should be exercised to ensure that the cleaning rod does not strike the crown of the muzzle, as damage to this area can affect the accuracy of your rifle. We recommend purchasing a muzzle guard to prevent the cleaning rod from striking the muzzle.

FIGURE 12



**Open the action slightly for cleaning.**

- Browning offers a complete line of products to make cleaning the bore of your firearm fast and easy. Be sure to follow all instructions when using any product to clean your firearm.
- 3 Inspect the chamber and bore for powder fouling. A normal amount of powder residue can be expected and is not serious. It can usually be removed with a patch saturated with nitro solvent. If, or when, fouling should become heavy, it can be removed with a brass bore brush. Dip or spray the brush with nitro solvent and scrub the chamber and bore until the fouling is removed. To prevent brass bristles from breaking off, the brush should be pushed completely through the barrel before being withdrawn.
- 4 After all fouling has been removed, the chamber and bore should be wiped dry. When the bore is dry, pass a slightly oiled patch through it for preservation. A fine, light gun oil is recommended.
- 5 Inspect the barrel and chamber to be certain no patches have inadvertently been left in them. Remove any that remain.
- 6 Use a small brush or rag to remove dirt or other foreign matter from inside the receiver and other parts of the action. Lightly lubricate all moving parts with a high-quality, light gun oil. Use oil sparingly, a very light film is sufficient. A fine, light gun oil is ideally suited for this purpose.



### **NOTICE**

**DO NOT POUR LARGE QUANTITIES OF OIL INTO THE RECEIVER OR OTHER PARTS. IT CAN DRAIN DOWN TO THE WOOD AND SOFTEN IT, CAUSING PERMANENT DAMAGE AND LOOSENING OF THE STOCK.**

- 7 Wipe all exposed metal surfaces with a lightly oiled cloth making certain that all finger marks are removed. Finger marks provide a place where moisture can accumulate. The metal of the gun should receive a light film of oil any time the rifle has been exposed to weather or handling.
- 8 Wood surfaces can also be wiped with a quality, lightweight gun oil or they can be polished with any quality furniture wax (but not both).

### **NOTICE**

**NEVER ATTEMPT TO TAKE YOUR FIREARM APART FURTHER THAN EXPLAINED IN THIS OWNER'S MANUAL. YOUR FIREARM IS A SPECIALIZED, FINELY FITTED MECHANISM. YOU MAY PERMANENTLY DAMAGE IT BY ATTEMPTING TO DISASSEMBLE THE INNER MECHANISM ASSEMBLIES. IF FURTHER DISASSEMBLY FOR SERVICE OR CLEANING IS REQUIRED, TAKE YOUR FIREARM TO A QUALIFIED GUNSMITH, OR CONTACT OUR ARNOLD, MISSOURI SERVICE FACILITY AS EXPLAINED ON PAGE 28 UNDER "SERVICE OR REPAIR."**



## **MAINTENANCE OF OIL-FINISH STOCKS**

Keeping the oil-finished wood surface on your firearm looking its best requires only a small amount of maintenance. When the surface becomes spotted or dull, the affected area(s) can be treated using rubbing alcohol on a soft, lint free cloth and allowed to dry. A small amount of a linseed oil-based finish, such as Watco® Danish Oil Finish, Deft® Danish Oil Finish or Formby's® Tung Oil Finish should then be applied to the surface of the wood with a soft, lint free cloth according to the manufacturer's instructions. To treat the checkering, a small amount of oil-based finish can be applied and then distributed evenly using a toothbrush or other soft bristled brush.

## **MODELS WITH SPECIAL FINISHES**

As with any firearm, the only way to preserve its pristine condition and collector appeal is to never handle or fire it, which in turn would deprive you of much of the enjoyment that comes with owning a fine Browning firearm.

While special finishes such as engraving and gold plating greatly enhance the aesthetic appeal of your rifle, please be aware that they are no more durable, and in some cases may even be slightly less durable than more common firearm finishes.

As you use your rifle, you can expect special finishes to wear in much the same manner as any other firearm finish. These marks are the honest product of the hours spent enjoying your firearm and each scuff and scratch will probably have a good story to go along with it.



## SERVICE OR REPAIR

If your firearm should require service or repairs, we suggest you first contact a local recommended Browning Firearms Service Center. To locate a service center visit [browning.com](http://browning.com), contact our Customer Service Department or your Browning firearms dealer for the address of the Service Center nearest you. Otherwise, you may send your firearm directly to our Service Department in Arnold, Missouri.

Parts listings, Firearm Service Center lists, service procedures, service/repair form and general product information are also found on the internet at [browning.com](http://browning.com). For technical questions about your firearm or service, contact:

United States customers contact:  
Browning Firearm Status and  
Technical Service  
3005 Arnold Tenbrook Rd  
Arnold, MO 63010-9406  
Phone: (800) 322-4626

Canadian customers contact:  
Browning Canada Sports Ltd/Ltée  
5583 Chemin St-François  
St-Laurent, Quebec H4S 1W6  
Phone: (514) 333-7261

When returning your firearm for servicing, you must do the following:

- 1 Be sure it is completely unloaded.
- 2 Remove the scope or other optics.
- 3 Package it securely in a cardboard container.
- 4 Enclose the service/repair form available at [browning.com](http://browning.com) or a letter that clearly describes the trouble experienced, the ammunition used and the repairs desired. Also include your name, e-mail address (if possible) and a daytime phone number where you can be reached.
- 5 If convenient, send a copy of the service/repair form or letter to us separately.
- 6 Never return ammunition with your firearm. It is against postal and most commerce regulations.







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