

SPECIFICATIONS:

barrel length 21 1/2"
 totale length 41"

weight empty 9 lbs., 10 oz. approx.

capacity 8 rounds in magazine + 1 in the chamber

double safety system: quick employment safety on left side of trigger guard
 cross-bolt safety in front part of trigger guard.

ONE YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY

All A.A. guns are warranted to the original retail customer for one year from date of purchase against defects in material and workmanship. All parts and labor or replacement (at our option) are covered.

Transportation to and from our repair facilities, damage caused by failure to perform normal maintenance, sales outside the United States, damage due to use of high velocity, high pressure, reloaded or other nonstandard ammunition, or any unauthorized repair, modification, misuse, abuse, or alteration of the product is not covered by this Limited Warranty. Any implied warranties, including the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, are limited to one year from date of original retail purchase. Consequential or incidental damages or expenses, or any other expenses are not covered by this warranty.

To obtain warranty performance send your product with proof of retail purchase, freight prepaid, to: American Arms Inc. - 715 E Armour RD - N. Kansas City, Missouri 64116.

YOUR OWNER'S MANUAL

This manual contains important warnings which must be understood BEFORE using this firearm. Always keep it with the firearm.

When you lend, give or sell the firearm, be sure the manual goes with it. You can get a copy of this manual from A.A. on request.

C.J.Cooney

4800980670



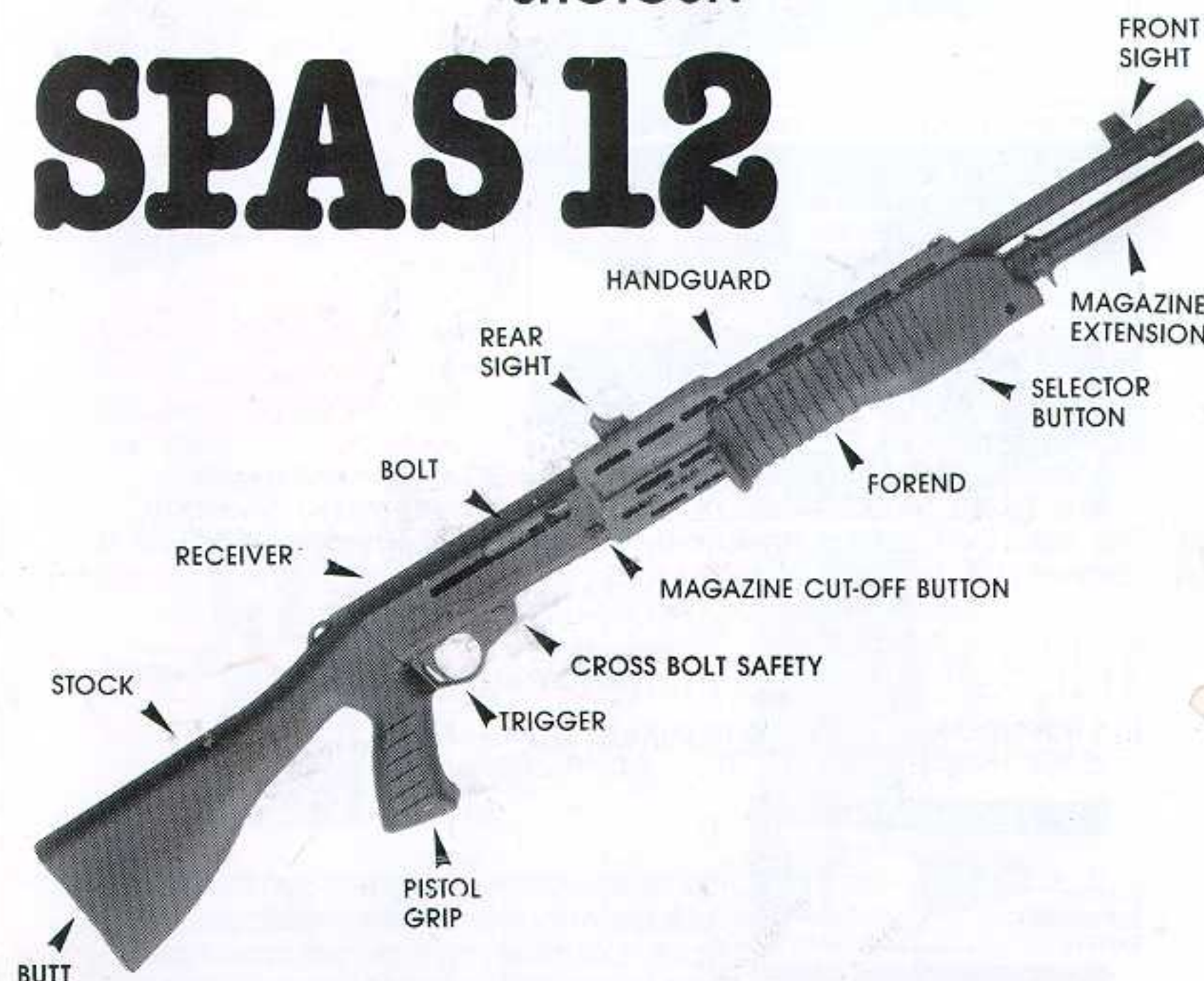
American Arms, Inc.

2607 NE INDUSTRIAL DRIVE
 N. KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64117
 PHONE (816) 474-3161 • FAX (816) 474-1225
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FRANCHI 12 GAUGE PUMP/SEMIAUTOMATIC SHOTGUN

SPAS 12



HONESTLY NOW...

have you read this Owner's Manual?

1 HOW TO USE THE SAFETIES

There are 2 safeties on your SPAS 12.

1. **Cross-bolt safety** (for general use)
2. **Quick employment safety** (for competition use, and for tactical situations)

Use one or both of them at all times. Do not take off both safeties until the moment of firing, to help protect against accidental firing and possible injury or death of yourself or others.

THE CROSS-BOLT SAFETY

This large button is in front of the trigger. Push it to the **LEFT TO FIRE** and to the **RIGHT FOR "ON SAFE"**. When it is "off safe" you can see a red band on the left side of the safety. When it is "on safe" the red band is inside the trigger guard where you cannot see it. It is your main safety, blocking the hammer. Use it until ready to fire or until switching over to the quick employment safety.



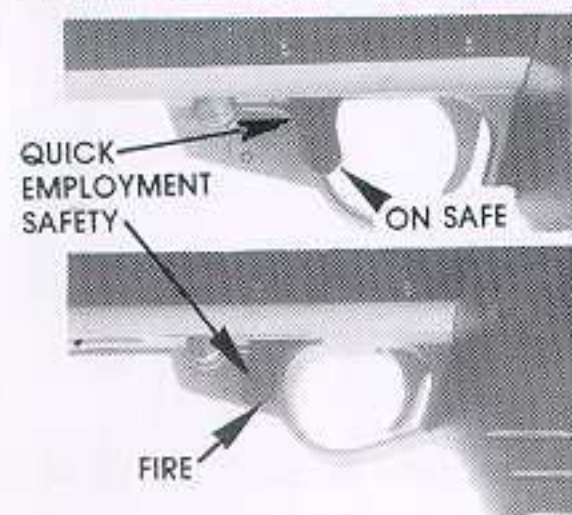
WARNING

The shotgun will be **LOADED AND COCKED** before either safety can be put "ON SAFE". When loading use **EXTREME CAUTION**, keep finger off trigger, and **PUT ONE OR BOTH SAFETIES "ON SAFE" IMMEDIATELY**.

The cross-bolt safety should only be engaged when the SPAS 12 is cocked. **With bolt closed and hammer UNCOCKED**, engaging the cross-bolt safety prevents opening the bolt and cocking the gun.

THE QUICK EMPLOYMENT SAFETY

This flat blade on the left side of the trigger guard is **FORWARD TO FIRE** and **BACK FOR "ON SAFE"**.

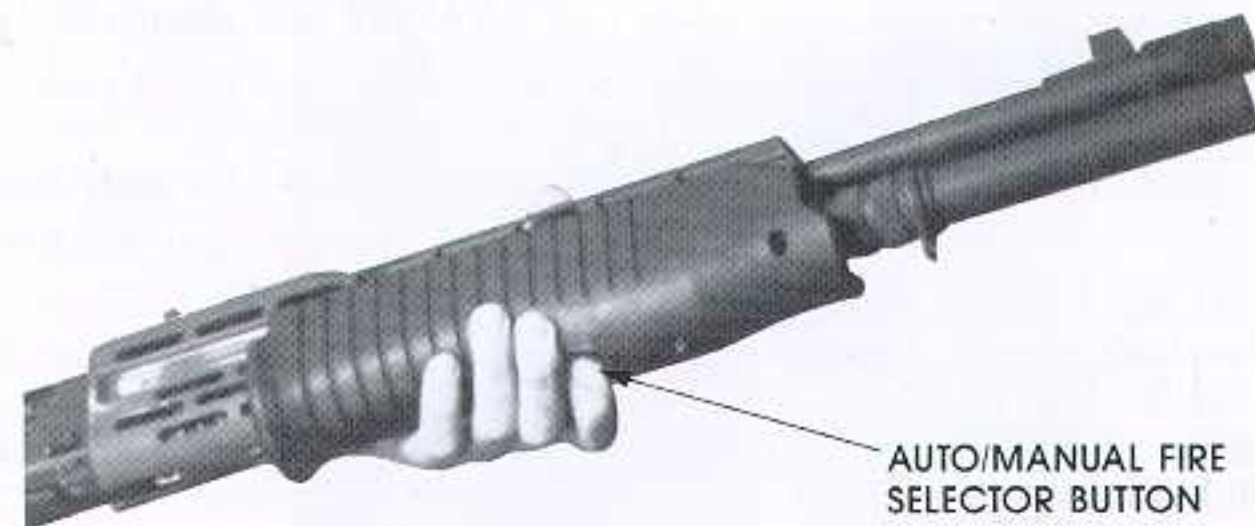


It disconnects the trigger. It can be moved "off safe" very quickly with the trigger finger. It provides safety even when instant readiness is needed. You can have it "on safe" while the carry safety is "on safe" so it will already be "on" when you disengage the carry safety.

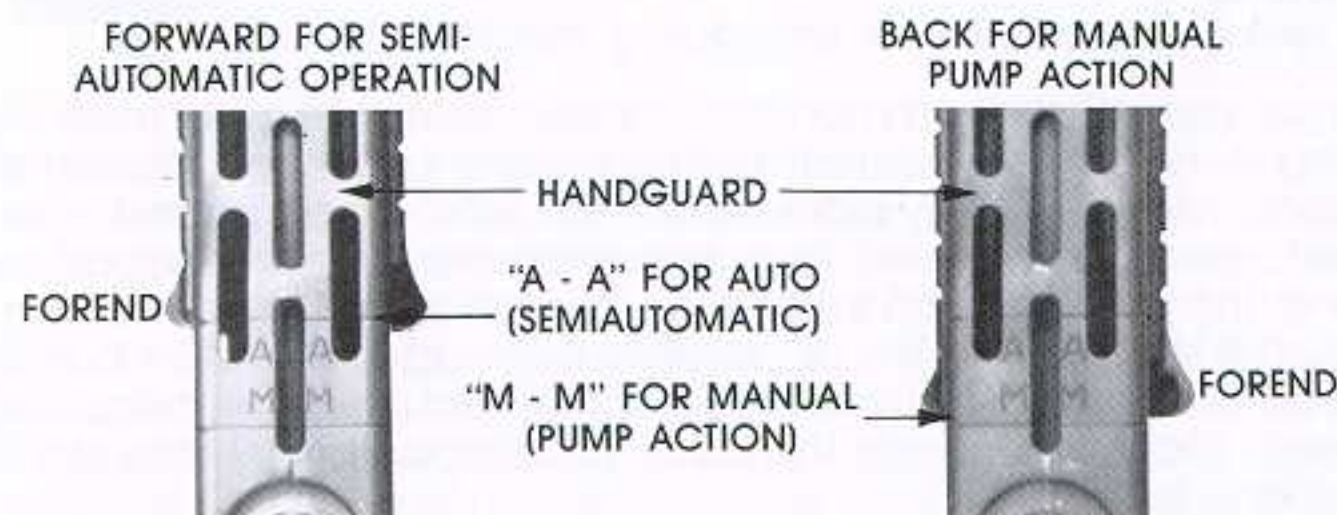
THE BOLT When the action is cocked and the bolt is closed the bolt is **LOCKED SHUT** for maximum safety. Firing (or dry firing) unlocks the bolt so the action may cycle. To unlock the bolt without firing, move the quick employment safety back to "ON SAFE" and the bolt may be opened.

2 HOW TO SWITCH BETWEEN PUMP ACTION AND SEMIAUTOMATIC

If the bolt is open, close it by pressing the carrier latch button on the left side of the receiver.



The auto/manual fire selector button is on the bottom of the forend. It can be pressed with a finger of your non-firing hand without changing your normal grip on the shotgun.



To switch from semiautomatic mode to pump mode, push in the selector button and slide the forend back so the rear of the forend lines up with the "M - M" line on TOP of the handguard.

To switch from pump mode to semiautomatic mode, push in the selector button and slide the forend forward so the rear of the forend lines up with the "A - A" line on TOP of the handguard.

Release the Auto/Manual Fire Selector button. It will snap back to a position flush with the forend. If it hesitates, jiggle the forend slightly to achieve proper alignment.

3

HOW TO LOAD AND UNLOAD

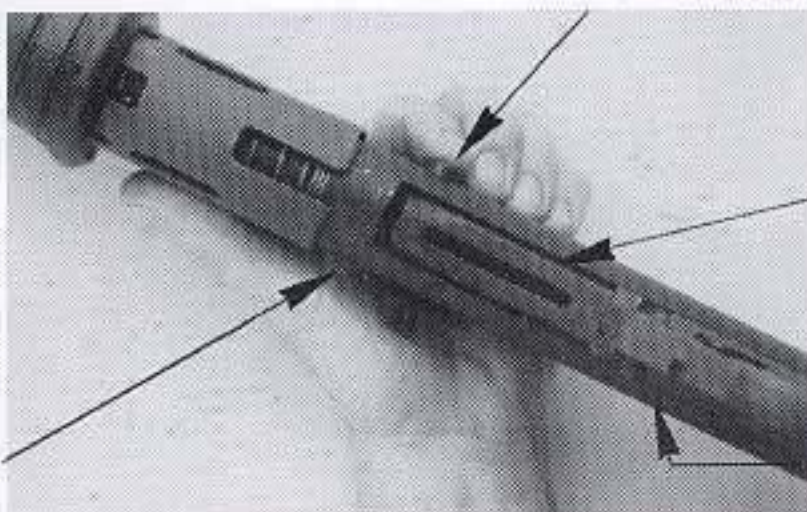
The shell carrier (Part No. 93) has 2 spring tensions. With the hammer cocked, it is easy to move, but with the hammer uncocked it is more difficult. **YOU WILL FIND LOADING MUCH EASIER WITH THE GUN COCKED, but be very careful to be sure the chamber is empty for safety.**

PRESS IN THE
CARRIER LATCH BUTTON

SHELL CARRIER
(PART NO. 93)

CROSS BOLT SAFETY
"ON SAFE"

MAGAZINE
CUT-OFF BUTTON



With the carry safety "on safe" hold the SPAS 12 upside down, press the carrier latch button and push **8** 12 ga. 23/4" shells into the magazine to load it fully.

TO UNLOAD

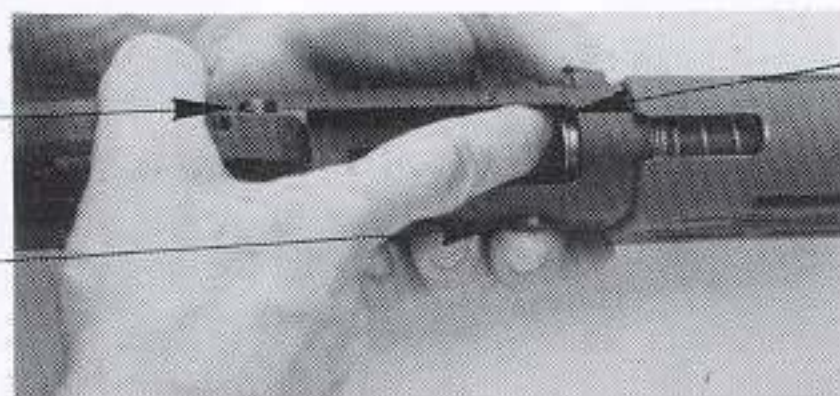
There are two methods for unloading the SPAS 12.

You may cut off the ammunition supply from the magazine by pressing the magazine cut-off button in until it catches. Move the quick employment safety back to the "on safe" position and open the bolt, ejecting the shell from the chamber. Close the bolt by pressing the carrier latch button on the left side of the receiver. Holding the shotgun bottom up, release the magazine cut-off button and press the carrier latch button. Reach in and press the magazine shell latch (part no. 13) with the tip of your finger, and let the shells slip out one by one.

MAGAZINE
SHELL LATCH
(INSIDE OF RECEIVER
PART NO. 13)

MAGAZINE
CUT-OFF BUTTON

CARRIER LATCH
BUTTON



Or simply eject the shells manually, using the pump mechanism or semiautomatic mode to cycle them through the chamber. **Use caution when doing this. To unlock the bolt after it closes each time, engage the quick employment safety. Keep the carry safety "on safe" all during this procedure.**

CHANGING THE CHAMBERED CARTRIDGE

When you wish to fire a type of shell not in the magazine, you need not cycle all remaining shells through the action to clear the chamber. Press in the magazine cut-off button. Flip the quick employment safety back to its "on safe" position. Open the bolt with the operating handle (in semiautomatic) or by pumping the forend, to eject the shell in the chamber. Place the desired shell in the receiver and **close the bolt by pressing the carrier latch button on the left side of the receiver, NOT THE MAGAZINE CUT-OFF BUTTON.** A jam will occur if you disengage the cut-off button before the bolt closes.

Firing the shot will release the magazine cut-off button.

STEEL AIR COOLED HANDGUARD

Even when the barrel is hot from repeated rapid firing, you may safely hold the SPAS 12 upside down for loading or unloading. Your hand is protected from direct contact with the barrel by the perforated steel handguard.

MAGAZINE PLUG

The SPAS 12 comes with a nylon rod which limits the magazine to a capacity of 2 shells. To install it, unscrew the magazine extension and insert the narrow end toward the receiver, inside the large magazine spring. Place the magazine extension over the wide end of the rod and screw it back onto the magazine tube. **Be sure to tighten the magazine extension very firmly.**

4

AMMUNITION

Because of the dangers of poor or nonexistent quality control standards among some companies and people who make reloaded ammunition, and the well known fact that dangerous overloads and underloads (squib loads) sometimes occur, we recommend that only good quality factory ammunition be fired in the SPAS 12. If you prepare your own handloads do not exceed recommended pressures in line with those generated by factory loads as manufactured by Remington, Winchester, Sovereign, Federal or other reputable companies.

When firing in PUMP MODE you can use any kind of 23/4" shell from the lightest target load to the heaviest buckshot, rifled slug, and magnum loads.

However, when firing in SEMIAUTOMATIC MODE you must use loads which provide sufficient energy to ensure reliable operation.

These may be 23/4" standard or magnum bird shot, buckshot or slug loads, so long as they contain at least 1 1/4 oz. of shot and 3 1/4 - 3 1/2 dram equivalent of powder. You may wish to test various combinations of shot charges and powder charges to find a load (or set of loads) which appeals to you.

5 HOW TO PREPARE FOR FIRING

Activate one or both safeties.

Select pump or semiautomatic firing mode.

The chamber of the SPAS 12 can be loaded in three different ways:

- The chamber may be loaded before loading the magazine by opening the bolt, placing a shell in the receiver and closing the bolt.
- The chamber may also be loaded by loading the magazine, then operating the bolt to feed a shell from the magazine into the chamber, then loading another shell into the magazine.
- Or the chamber may be loaded by loading the magazine, pushing the magazine cut-off button, opening the bolt, placing a shell in the receiver, and closing the bolt by pushing the carrier latch button on the left side of the receiver.

IF YOU RELEASE THE MAGAZINE CUT-OFF BUTTON BEFORE CLOSING THE BOLT THE GUN WILL JAM.

If you leave the magazine cut-off button engaged, the firing of a shot will release it automatically, or you may do it manually AFTER the bolt is closed.

With magazine and chamber loaded you are ready to select a safe target, move the safeties to "off safe" and fire. Be sure you have a safe backstop.

THINK! What will you **HIT** if you **MISS** the target?

INSTANT LOADING

The SPAS 12 may be carried with the bolt open, chamber empty, and magazine loaded yet still be instantly readied for firing. In semiautomatic mode, engage the magazine cut-off button. Open the bolt. It will lock open. When you strike a fairly hard glancing blow to the magazine cut-off button a shell will be released from the magazine, lifted into position and loaded into the chamber as the bolt closes.

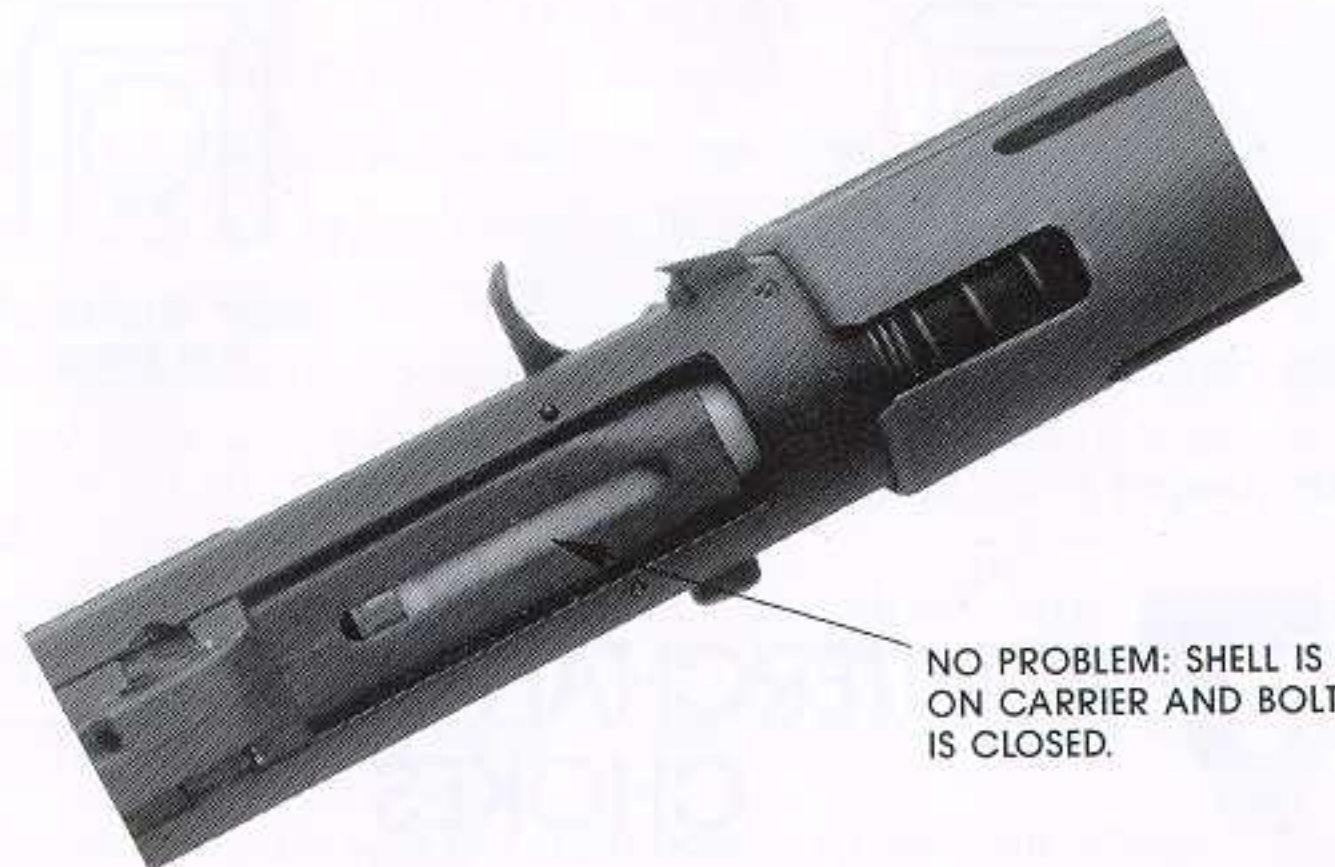
But use caution. Unless you first put the carry safety lever in the "on safe" position the shotgun is ready to fire when the bolt closes.

SOME TIPS ON FIRING

In SEMIAUTOMATIC MODE the SPAS 12 requires firm resistance to the recoil of the gun, for continuous functioning. Place the extended stock solidly against your shoulder.

LIGHT LOADS SHOULD BE AVOIDED IN SEMIAUTOMATIC MODE.

PUMP MODE allows firing of any loads from the lightest to the heaviest. Use a quick, vigorous pumping stroke to cycle the action.



NO PROBLEM: SHELL IS ON CARRIER AND BOLT IS CLOSED.

If you see that a shell has slipped out of the magazine, under the closed bolt resting on the shell carrier, THIS IS NOT A JAM. Simply fire the gun or cycle the action by hand and the SPAS 12 will feed that shell into the chamber without allowing another shell to come out of the magazine. You need not use the magazine cut-off button or do anything else. The next shell will feed normally.

Although it is rare when using properly loaded ammunition, if you do experience a jam in semiautomatic mode you can switch to pump mode without releasing your firing grip on the gun. Keep your firing hand on the pistol grip. With your nonfiring hand switch the forend back to "M-M" for manual operation, and pump the action to clear the jam and reload the chamber.

6

HOW TO USE THE THREE SIGHTS

The SPAS 12 is equipped with a fixed front post sight and two fixed rear sights: a large aperture (peep) for firing buckshot or birdshot shells, and a "U" notch for firing rifled slugs. The oversized aperture allows fast target acquisition and sight alignment. The "U" notch at the bottom of the aperture is for more precise aiming with slugs, and it lowers the impact point since slugs tend to hit high if you center the front sight in the large aperture.



SIGHT ALIGNMENT
FOR SHOTSHELLS



SIGHT ALIGNMENT
FOR SLUGS

7

INTERCHANGEABLE CHOKES



THREAD PROTECTOR
(CYLINDER BORE)



EXPOSED MUZZLE



OPTIONAL FULL OR
MODIFIED CHOKE

Franchi Variomix chokes fit all SPAS 12 shotguns. They are available in full and modified chokes, both of which are 4" long and add 2 1/2" of effective barrel length. To change chokes, unscrew the thread protector or choke, and screw on the desired replacement.

POLICE AGENCY NOTE: FOR COMPATIBLE
LAUNCHER CAPABILITY CONTACT A.A.I.
CORPORATION, COCKEYSVILLE, MARYLAND

DON'T RELY ON YOUR GUN'S SAFETY

Treat every gun like it can fire at any time, even without touching the trigger. The "safety" on a gun is a mechanical device, which, like any device can stop working at the worst possible time. Besides, by mistake, the safety may be "off" when you think it is "on". The safety adds to proper gun handling, but cannot serve as a substitute for common sense. You should never handle a gun carelessly and assume that it won't fire just because the "safety is on".

WARNINGS

READ THIS AND BE A SAFE SHOOTER

Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.

Never point a gun at any person or thing you don't intend to shoot.

Treat every gun as if it is LOADED ... ALL THE TIME!

Get instructions from a competent firearms instructor before using any gun.

Children don't really believe that guns can kill. Keep every gun secure so kids can't get at it. If a child finds your gun and plays with it, **tragedy may result.**

Never rely on a gun's "safety" to protect you from unsafe gun handling. A safety is only a mechanical device, not a substitute for common sense.

Keep your finger **off the trigger** until you are actually aiming at the target ready to shoot.

Don't alter or modify your gun, and have guns serviced regularly.

Be certain the gun is unloaded before cleaning.

Always empty guns before entering a house, car, truck, boat, RV, camp or any building.

Never leave a loaded gun unattended.

Store guns and ammunition separately **beyond the reach of children.**

DON'T DROP YOUR GUN. If it falls it may fire even with the safety on. If you do drop it, unload it and check if it works correctly before using it again.

Be sure of your target and backstop before you shoot.

When receiving a gun always open the action and check that it's unloaded.

If your firearm has seen a lot of use, don't forget, just like any mechanical device, parts may wear. Since a firearm could become dangerous and even fire unexpectedly with worn parts, you should have your gun checked by our factory or a good gunsmith regularly.

Guns and alcohol or drugs don't mix. Don't take them before or during shooting activities.

Never pull a gun towards you by the muzzle. Don't climb a tree or cross a fence or ditch with a loaded gun.

8

FIELD STRIPPING AND MAINTENANCE

The forend must be in the forward semiautomatic position, lined up with the "A - A" line on the top of the handguard.

"A - A" FOR AUTO
(SEMI-AUTOMATIC)



With the magazine and chamber empty, pull the bolt back to the open position and leave it open. Unscrew the magazine extension and remove the magazine spring.

Pull the barrel/forend assembly forward to separate it from the receiver.

HOLDING THE OPERATING HANDLE FIRMLY, GENTLY close the bolt. Do not let it slam forward without the barrel securely in place. Permanent damage to the receiver could result.

Notice that the breech block now slides back and forth freely about 1/2". Holding the cocking slide and piston, compress the action spring a little so you can center the operating handle in its slot in the breech block.

Pull the operating handle out and slowly ease the tension of the action spring.



Slide the piston, cocking slide, spring and bolt assembly forward and out of the receiver. WATCH HOW THEY COME APART! You will be trying to figure out how to get them back together in a few minutes.



The black "O" goes on the magazine tube in front of the gas piston. If it comes off during cleaning be sure to put it back in place.

TRIGGER ASSEMBLY
RETAINING PINS



The trigger assembly can be removed by using a proper size punch to drive out the two retaining pins. Disassembly of the trigger mechanism is not recommended and not necessary for cleaning.

CLEANING

Use nitro solvent and a light gun oil to clean and lubricate the bore. Clean the bolt assembly and upper receiver with solvent, then apply a light coat of oil. Put a small amount of oil on the magazine tube and the steel sleeve inside the front part of the forend.

A small brush will work better than a cleaning patch in some areas, such as the receiver and the trigger group.

Too much oil can eventually become gummy and cause sticking of parts and malfunctions. You must oil the steel surfaces to guard against rust, but do so sparingly.

REASSEMBLY

Put the action spring back onto the magazine tube. Slide the piston into place.

Fit the cocking slide to the piston, and the reassembled bolt to the cocking slide, and slide it into the receiver.

Flip the quick employment safety back to its "on safe" position.

Carefully pull back on the operating handle until the bolt locks open. Fit the barrel/forend assembly over the magazine tube and into the receiver.

Replace the magazine spring and screw on the magazine extension.

WARNING

SCREW THE MAGAZINE EXTENSION ON TIGHT! THIS IS WHAT HOLDS THE GUN TOGETHER! Check the magazine extension from time to time to be sure it is tight. If it loosens, the bolt will remain locked shut after firing and the gun will require simple disassembly to clear it and unlock the bolt. If there are shells in the magazine, the magazine spring will be under extra tension, so use caution when unscrewing the magazine extension. DO NOT USE TOOLS TO TIGHTEN MAGAZINE EXTENSION.

CHECK FOR PROPER REASSEMBLY

Be sure the magazine extension is screwed on all the way. Close the bolt.

If properly assembled the bolt will lock and it will not be possible to open it until you move the quick employment safety to "on".

WARNING

THIS GUN WAS MANUFACTURED TO PERFORM PROPERLY WITH THE ORIGINAL PARTS AS DESIGNED. IT IS YOUR DUTY TO MAKE SURE ANY PARTS YOU BUY ARE INSTALLED CORRECTLY AND THAT NEITHER REPLACEMENTS NOR ORIGINALS ARE ALTERED OR CHANGED. YOUR GUN IS A COMPLEX TOOL WITH MANY PARTS THAT MUST RELATE CORRECTLY TO OTHER PARTS. PUTTING A GUN TOGETHER WRONG OR WITH MODIFIED PARTS CAN RESULT IN A DAMAGED GUN, DANGER, AND INJURY OR DEATH TO YOU AND OTHERS THROUGH MALFUNCTION. ALWAYS LET A QUALIFIED GUNSMITH WORK ON YOUR GUN OR AT LEAST CHECK ANY WORK NOT PERFORMED BY A GUNSMITH. WE AT A.A. THINK THIS IS A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR FIREARM SAFETY.

FIELD STRIPPING

- set the slide action sleeve in semi-auto fire position (sleeve forward position A)
- open the breech block
- unscrew the magazine extension (photo 10) and take away the magazine spring (nr. 20)



d) separate the barrel assembly from the receiver (photo 11)

e) close gently the breech block. **DO NOT LET IT SPRING FORWARD WITHOUT THE BARREL: A DAMAGE TO THE RECEIVER MAY RESULT.**

f) position the operating handle (nr. 26) in the middle of its slot by moving the breech block. Keep one hand on the cocking slide (photo 12) in order to prevent the recoil spring from violently pushing forward the parts. When the handle is in the middle of the slot, take it away by pulling outward (photo 12)

g) release gently the cocking slide and the breech block, piston and slide will fall out (photo 13)

h) disassemble the trigger mechanism operating as shown in photo 14.

PULIZIA E MANUTENZIONE

- GRUPPO CANNA** - Pulire la canna ed il cilindro con olio per armi. Introdurre alcune gocce di olio nella valvola. Per facilitare la lubrificazione ruotare alcune volte la valvola stessa.
- GRUPPO DI SCATTO** - Pulire con solvente aiutandosi con un pennello. Lubrificare molto leggermente con olio per armi.
- ALTRE PARTI** - Come al punto 2).

RIMONTAGGIO

Operare in senso opposto all'operazione di smontaggio. Dopo aver rimontato l'arma è consigliabile effettuare i seguenti controlli:

- far scattare in avanti l'otturatore in posizione di chiusura
- accertarsi che sia debitamente agganciato
- se debitamente agganciato non sarà possibile aprirlo senza agire sulla leva di sicura rapida (n° 114) (foto 3)

CARTUCCE DA IMPIEGARE

Sparando con l'arma predisposta per il funzionamento manuale (a pompa) è possibile utilizzare ogni tipo di cartuccia cal. 12 da 70 mm.

Quando l'arma è predisposta per il funzionamento semi-automatico a sottrazione di gas bisogna utilizzare una cartuccia che possa fornire, in ogni caso, assieme all'energia necessaria per lanciare la carica di piombo, quella per garantire tutte le funzioni dell'arma (estrazione, espulsione, alimentazione ecc.). Si consigliano quindi cartucce di energico caricamento, con almeno 32-34 grammi di piombo.

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

- BARREL ASSEMBLY** - Clean the barrel and cylinder with gun oil. Introduce some drops of oil in the valve and valve seat (front of forend)
- TRIGGER ASSEMBLY** - Clean with solvent with the help of a small brush. Lubricate very slightly with gun oil.
- OTHER PARTS** - Same as in point 2).

ASSEMBLY OPERATION

Operate in the opposite sense than the stripping. To make sure that the weapon is properly assembled it is suggested to make the following checks:

- let the breech block spring forward in close position
- be sure it is properly locked
- if properly locked it will not be possible to open it unless you operate the quick safety lever (nr. 114) (photo 3)

SUGGESTED LOADS

When firing by pump action you can use any kind of load in 12 ga. with maximum length of 2" 3/4.

When shooting by semi-automatic it is very important to use a cartridge which is capable to supply the necessary power to guarantee all the mechanical functions of the weapon (such as extraction, ejection, feeding and so on). For this reason use cartridges loaded with at least 1 1/4 oz. - 1 1/2 oz. of pellets and 3 1/4 - 3 1/2 powder dram equivalent.



Ask the man who owns one ...

4541 N.W. 133rd STREET
OPA LOCKA, FL 33054

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THE CARRY SAFETY

This large lever on the right side of the trigger guard points **FORWARD TO FIRE** and **BACK FOR "ON SAFE."** It is your main safety, blocking the hammer. Use it until ready to fire or until switching over to the quick employment safety.



The carry safety should only be engaged when the SPAS 12 is cocked. With bolt closed and hammer **UNCOCKED**, engaging the carry safety prevents opening the bolt and cocking the gun.

THE QUICK EMPLOYMENT SAFETY

This flat blade on the left side of the trigger guard is also **FORWARD TO FIRE** and **BACK FOR "ON SAFE."**



It disconnects the trigger. It can be moved "off safe" very quickly with the trigger finger. It provides safety even when instant readiness is needed. You can have it "on safe" while the carry safety is "on safe" so it will already be "on" when you disengage the carry safety.

IT UNLOCKS

THE BOLT When the action is cocked and the bolt is closed the bolt is **LOCKED SHUT** for maximum safety. Firing (or dry firing) unlocks the bolt so the action may cycle. To unlock the bolt without firing, move the quick employment safety back to "ON SAFE" and the bolt may be opened.

6

HOW TO USE THE FOLDING STOCK



BUTT PLATE FOLDED FLAT

PULL BACK ON LATCH

BUTT PLATE
DETENT BUTTON

STOCK
DETENT
BUTTON

BUTT PLATE
DETENT BUTTON

The stock latch automatically locks into the rear sight when the stock is folded. To extend the stock pull back on the latch and swing the stock up and back. Press the stock detent button and lower the stock to its locked position. Press the butt plate detent button and rotate the butt plate down until it locks.

To fold the stock you may straighten the butt plate before or after relatching the stock.

THE BUTT HOOK

The butt hook can be inserted in the hole in the end of the butt plate. **PUSH HARD** to compress the spring inside the butt plate and rotate the hook once its retaining pin is inside the butt plate.

In its forward position the butt hook is a convenient carrying handle.

With the folding stock extended it is out of the way when firing from the shoulder.

For one hand firing either right or left-handed rotate the hook to the right or left position.

This allows you to fire around a corner or barricade without exposing yourself to view. When doing this it is difficult to provide enough resistance to recoil, to allow functioning in semiautomatic mode.

You may have to thrust the gun forward as you pull the trigger because your bent arm acts like a shock absorber and permits the gun to recoil excessively.



RIGHT HAND
FIRING

LEFT HAND
FIRING