Instructions for Disassembling the Rock River Arms AR-15

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Introduction to Disassembling the Rock River Arms AR-15

The Rock River Arms AR-15 (AR-15) is a widely used rifle available for civilian use and ownership in the United States. The purpose of this instruction manual is to explain how to prepare for disassembling the Rock Rivers Arms AR-15 (.566 cal.). This instruction manual also includes step-by-step instructions with pictures explaining the correct way to disassemble the AR-15 and troubleshooting procedures while disassembling the AR-15. Figure 1 below shows the disassembled AR-15 with key pieces labeled. You may refer to this picture while disassembling if you are not familiar with the names of each component. Common reasons for disassembling an AR-15 rifle include cleaning (which is required periodically to ensure safe use), repair and maintenance checks, and shipping purposes.

Use the following chart (Figure 1) to help with the disassembling of your AR-15.

Figure 1 - The AR-15 completely disassembled

Some of the major components of the Rock River Arms AR-15 are:

1. Buttstock
2. Sights
3. Buffer and buffer-spring
4. Upper receiver
5. Bolt carrier
6. Bolt
7. Charging handle
8. Lower receiver
Materials Needed While Disassembling the Rock River Arms AR-15
To properly and efficiently disassemble the Rock River Arms AR-15 you need the following materials:

- Rock River Arms (.556 cal.) AR-15 rifle
- Rag or paper towel
- Flat, clear workspace
- Coin or flat-head screwdriver
- Pen, cleaning rod, or other hard, rod-shaped object

Preparing to Disassemble the Rock River Arms AR-15
Ensure that your weapon is not loaded. Lay your materials across your flat work area, keeping your rag or paper towel in reaching distance, but out of reach for children and pets. Carefully and completely read the safety rules and warnings. Keep the safety rules and warnings in mind as you proceed with disassembling the Rock River Arms AR-15 and any other time you handle the rifle.

Observing Safety Rules
Any person handling the Rock River Arms AR-15 should observe the following safety rules:

- Treat every weapon as a loaded weapon.
- Never point a weapon at anything you do not intend to shoot.
- Keep your finger off the trigger unless you intend to fire.

⚠️

WARNING: THIS IS A FIREARM AND IF IMPROPERLY HANDLED, UNINTENTIONAL DISCHARGE COULD RESULT IN INJURY, DEATH, OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY OR SELF.

WARNING: THIS RIFLE COULD CHAMBER A ROUND IF YOU DROP OR HIT THE RIFLE WHEN A LOADED MAGAZINE IS IN PLACE.

Disassembling the Rock River Arms AR-15

Removing the Attachments

Removing the Magazine

1. Push the magazine release button shown in Figure 2.

2. Pull the magazine downwards out of the magazine well, while pushing the magazine release button, as seen in Figure 3.

Removing the Sights

1. Unscrew the two screws, displayed in Figure 4, on the side of the sights, using your fingers. The screws will stop when they are out all the way.

2. Pull the sights off of the upper receiver rails.
Removing the Flashlight
1. Locate the screw on the bottom of the flashlight. Figure 5 shows the location of the screw.

![Figure 5](image1)

2. Unscrew the flashlight with a coin or your fingers. You should rotate the screw counterclockwise until it does not rotate anymore.
3. Pull the flashlight off of the upper receiver rails by rocking the flashlight back-and-forth and pulling away from the weapon upward displayed in Figure 6.

![Figure 6](image2)

Removing the Adjustable Buttstock
1. Pull all the way down on the buttstock lever, located on the bottom of the buttstock, as illustrated in Figure 7.

![Figure 7](image3)
2. Pull the buttstock, to the rear, off of the lower receiver. The two are apart in Figure 8.

![Figure 8](image)

**Separating the Lower Receiver from the Upper Receiver**

**Detaching the Lower Receiver from the Upper Receiver**

1. Orient the weapon so that the barrel is pointing left and the handgrip is closest to you.
2. Locate the two side pins that mate the lower receiver to the upper receiver, shown in Figure 9.

![Figure 9](image)

3. Push the two side pins in as far as your fingers can push them. If you have difficulties pushing the two side pins through, refer to the troubleshooting steps on page 11.
4. Flip the AR-15 over.
5. Pull the two side pins out as far as they will pull. The side pins will not completely detach from the upper receiver and should be in the position as in Figure 10.

![Figure 10](image)
6. Separate the lower receiver from the upper receiver by pulling the two apart, which should look like Figure 11. If you have difficulties, see Trouble Shooting Section.

Disassembling the Lower Receiver

Removing the Buffer and Buffer-spring

1. Push down on the small buffer retaining pin that holds the buffer and buffer-spring in the buffer-spring cavity found in Figure 12. If you have difficulties pushing this pin, see the troubleshooting steps on page 12.

2. Lift the buffer over the retaining pin and allow the force of the spring to push it outwards, the direction shown in Figure 13.
3. Pull the buffer and buffer-spring completely out of the buffer cavity, as in Figure 14.

![Figure 14](image)

4. Separate the buffer and buffer-spring by pulling them apart.
5. Set lower receiver, buffer, and buffer-spring aside, on your work surface.

**Disassembling the Upper Receiver**

**Removing the Bolt Carrier Group and Charging Handle**
1. Hold the upper receiver upside down to expose the inside of the upper receiver.
2. Locate the charging handle that protrudes from the back of the rifle, on the opposite end of the barrel.
3. Pull the charging handle to the rear, as displayed in Figure 15. You should pull the charging handle about half or three-quarters of the way out of the upper receiver.

![Figure 15](image)

4. Pull the bolt carrier group off to the rear of the charging handle to remove it from the upper receiver. This step is pictured below in Figure 16

![Figure 16](image)
5. Remove the charging handle from the upper receiver by pulling and lifting it out as seen in Figure 17.

![Figure 17](image)

6. Set the charging handle and upper receiver aside, on your work surface.

**Disassembling the Bolt Carrier Group**

**Removing the Firing Pin**

1. Pull the cotter pin displayed in Figure 18 completely out from the side of the bolt carrier as seen in Figure 19. If you have difficulties removing the cotter pin, refer to the troubleshooting steps on page 11.

![Figure 18 (Upper), Figure 19 (Lower)](image)

2. Set the cotter pin aside on your rag or paper towel.

3. Hold the bolt carrier group vertically with the bolt facing upwards. Figure 20 shows the firing pin automatically falling out of the vertically oriented bolt carrier.
4. Remove the firing pin from the bolt carrier. If the firing pin fails to fall out automatically you can remove it by lightly tapping the bottom of the bolt carrier on your hand or your work surface. Figure 20 and Figure 21 show how to remove the firing pin from the bolt carrier.

![Figure 20](image1.png) ![Figure 21](image2.png)

5. Set the firing pin aside on your rag or paper towel.

**Removing the Bolt**

1. Push the bolt inwards, as illustrated in Figure 22, with the palm of your hand, to ensure that the bolt retaining pin is accessible.

![Figure 22](image3.png)

2. Rotate the bolt retaining pin 90° in either direction. Figure 23 shows the bolt retaining pin before rotation, and Figure 24 shows the bolt retaining pin after rotation.

![Figure 23](image4.png) ![Figure 24](image5.png)
3. Pull the bolt retaining pin out of the groove completely, as seen in Figure 25.

4. Set the bolt retaining pin aside on your rag or paper towel.
5. Pull the bolt out of the bolt carrier out as viewed in Figure 26.

6. Set the bolt and bolt carrier on your rag or paper towel.
Troubleshooting for Disassembling the Rock River Arms AR-15

Troubleshooting for Separating the Lower Receiver from the Upper Receiver

1. Locate the two side pins pictured in Figure 9 on page 5.
2. Push the pins through with a pen, cleaning rod, or other hard rod-shaped object, as pictured in Figure 27 and Figure 28.

![Figure 27 (Upper), Figure 28 (Lower)](image)

3. Flip the rifle over, once the pins are partially pushed through.
4. Pull the two side pins as far out as they go. The side pins will not completely detach from the upper receiver.
5. Separate the lower receiver from the upper receiver by pulling the two apart.

Troubleshooting for Removing the Firing Pin Cotter Pin

1. Stick the tip of a pen or other pointed object into the small hole of the cotter pin, as Figure 29 shows below.

![Figure 29](image)
2. Pry the cotter pin out with a pen until it is out far enough that you can pull it with your fingers.
3. Pull the cotter pin completely out from the side of the bolt carrier.

**Troubleshooting for Removing the Buffer and Buffer-Spring**

1. Push the buffer-spring retaining pin down with a pen, cleaning rod, or other hard rod-shaped object as seen in Figure 30.

2. Lift the buffer over the retaining pin to allow the force of the spring to push the buffer outwards.

**Cleaning Up After Disassembling the Rock River Arms AR-15**

Refer to Figure 1 (page 1) to ensure that you still have all components of the AR-15. After disassembling your Rock River Arms AR-15, you can thoroughly inspect and clean each individual component. You can learn more about cleaning your Rock River Arms AR-15 by reading the *Instructions for Cleaning the Rock River Arms AR-15* instruction manual. Once you have inspected and cleaned your rifle, we recommend assembling your rifle immediately to avoid lost parts. When assembling your rifle, refer to the *Instructions for Assembling the Rock River Arms AR-15* instruction manual.