

*J. C. Higgins*  
OUR OWN TRADE MARK



**MODEL 20  
PUMP ACTION  
SHOTGUN**

**WITH OR WITHOUT  
VENTILATED RIB AND POW-ER-PAC**

**J. C. Higgins Products are Sold  
Only by Sears, Roebuck and Company**

April 1949

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR OPERATION AND CARE

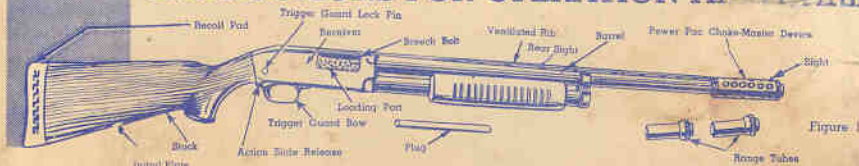


Figure 1

Gun is shipped, assembled as in Figure 1.

**IMPORTANT:**—Before firing this gun, be sure to clean thoroughly inside of barrel of all grease or of any obstruction.

**CLEANING AND LUBRICATING:**—Exclusive use of Sears ammunition eliminates need of cleaning barrel. Should powder residue accumulate in barrel, it may be easily removed. Open action fully, turn gun with trigger guard up, rest heel of stock butt on chair or floor, grasp gun barrel with left hand near muzzle, as in Figure 2. Push a brass cleaning brush saturated with solvent through barrel muzzle end. Wipe dry, oil thoroughly with cloth saturated with gun oil for storing gun. (Make sure gun is empty.)

**TO MAKE GUN SAFE:**—Safety is located in guard bow forward of trigger. (See Figure 3). With hammer cocked push safety bar from left to right until red band is covered. This movement locks trigger and gun cannot be fired. Always lock the trigger when carrying a loaded gun.

**TO RELEASE SAFETY:**—Push safety from right to left exposing red band and gun is ready to fire.



Figure 2

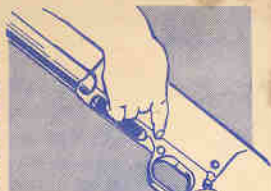


Figure 3

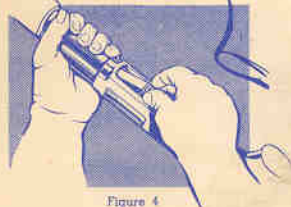


Figure 4

**TO LOAD BARREL:**—Open action fully by pulling back on fore-end. (Should gun be cocked, press in action slide release located on rear left side of guard bow. (See Figure 1.) Drop shell in loading port (See Figure 1.) Close action. Gun is now loaded and ready to fire.

**TO LOAD MAGAZINE:**—With safety locking trigger, insert shells upward into bottom of receiver as in Figure 4, push forward into magazine tube past cartridge stops. Repeat until magazine is full. Magazine holds 5 shells. Two with 3-shot plug in magazine.

**CARTRIDGE (MAGAZINE) CUT-OFF:**—Is located on the left side of the receiver. To lock the loaded shells in the magazine, push cut-off button down. This movement locks the shells in the magazine tube.

**TO OPERATE:**—Make sure cartridge cut-off is in "on" position. When gun is fired, (the action automatically unlocked) draw fore-end slide fully back, then forward. This operation extracts and ejects the fired shell, cocks the hammer and carries loaded shell into chamber. Gun is now loaded, double-locked and ready to fire. Always lock trigger to prevent accidental firing.

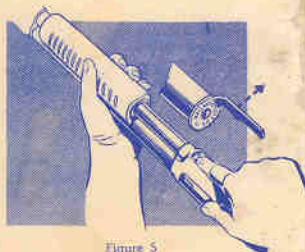


Figure 5

**TO REMOVE LOADED SHELL FROM BARREL WITHOUT FIRING:**—Lock trigger, Press in action slide release button and open action slowly until shell is opposite ejection port. Brace gun stock against your body with elbow, slightly tip gun to right, place palm of your hand just over port opening and pull back on fore-end. Shell will drop out.

**TO REMOVE LOADED SHELLS FROM MAGAZINE:**—Turn gun trigger guard up, barrel pointed to left, press back left cartridge stop as in Figure 5; this releases shell in magazine. Remove shell, repeat until magazine is empty.

**PLUGGING MAGAZINE FOR 3 SHOTS:**—Remove magazine band screw. Move magazine band to one side. (See Figure 6). Remove both magazine tube locking screws while holding magazine cap firmly. Remove magazine cap being careful to hold back magazine spring which is under tension. Insert wooden plug and reassemble. This reduces magazine capacity to only 2 shells and one shell in barrel, allows 3 shells in gun.

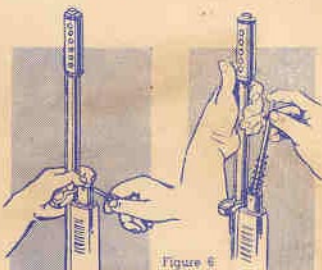
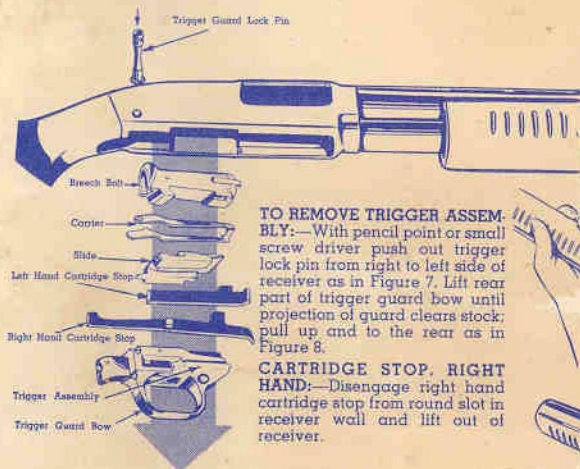


Figure 6

## TO DISMANTLE GUN (Do Only When Necessary)



**TO REMOVE TRIGGER ASSEMBLY:**—With pencil point or small screw driver push out trigger lock pin from right to left side of receiver as in Figure 7. Lift rear part of trigger guard bow until projection of guard clears stock; pull up and to the rear as in Figure 8.

**CARTRIDGE STOP, RIGHT HAND:**—Disengage right hand cartridge stop from round slot in receiver wall and lift out of receiver.

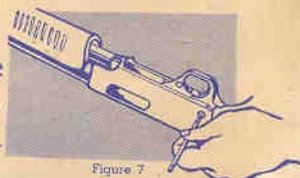


Figure 7

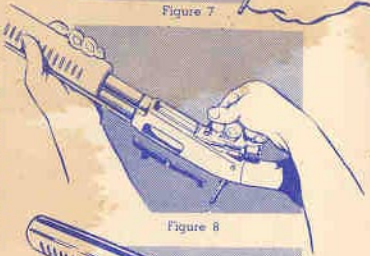


Figure 8

**ACTION SLIDE:**—Move fore-end rearward until all shoulders of slide are centered in the square cuts in receiver. Then while pulling slide upward move fore-end fully forward. Action bar is now free from slide. Hold slide up, make sure it is disengaged from breech block by moving breech block forward and lift slide out of receiver. (See Figure 9).

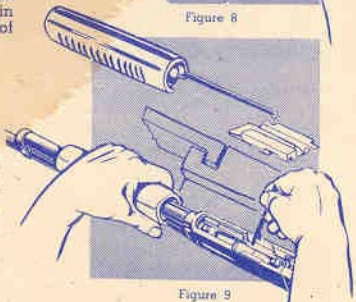


Figure 9

**CARRIER AND BREECH BOLT:**—Push fore-end to rear and slide breech bolt forward inside receiver. Using cartridge stop as tool disengage the right side of the carrier from hole in receiver. Then disengage left side, and lift carrier out of receiver as in Figure 10. With fore-end forward, slide breech bolt fully to the rear, and holding it at the rear, lift up and out of receiver as in Figure 11.

## ASSEMBLING

1. **BREECH BOLT:**—With round side of breech bolt facing receiver opening and extractors forward, insert into receiver bottom and slide forward.
2. **CARRIER:**—Move fore-end fully to the rear, grasp front and sides of carrier as in Figure 12, flat side up, slightly squeeze carrier sides, engage hinge ends in proper holes in receiver. Raise front end of the carrier, then lower to rest over breech bolt.
3. **SLIDE:**—Move breech bolt to the rear centered in square cuts in receiver. Move fore-end rearward until action bar hook is slightly back of the forward square cut in receiver, place slide over receiver cuts and drop into receiver. (Make sure action bar hook has engaged the corresponding cut in slide.)
4. **CARTRIDGE STOP, R.H.:**—Insert right hand cartridge stop, round stud side into stud opening in receiver.
5. **TRIGGER ASSEMBLY:**—With fore-end fully forward and the hammer of the trigger assembly in a cocked position, hold cartridge stop flush with receiver walls, insert front end of trigger guard with guide prongs fitting into guide grooves in receiver walls, push forward and down. See Figure 13.
6. **TRIGGER GUARD LOCK PIN:**—Push small end of pin into receiver from left to right. (Before attempting to drive in pin, carefully align trigger guard until pin hole shows clear passage.)

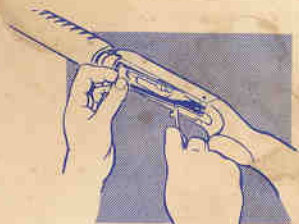


Figure 10

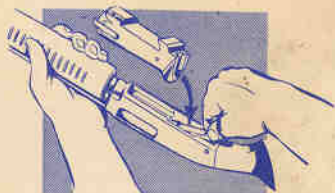


Figure 11

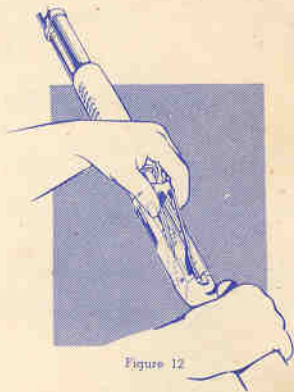


Figure 12

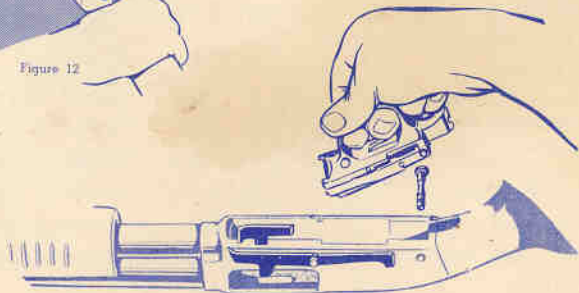


Figure 13

## 3-WAY-SAFE OPERATION

1. CONVENTIONAL TRIGGER SAFETY.
2. AUTOMATIC TRIGGER LOCK.
3. HAMMER CANNOT STRIKE FIRING PIN UNTIL BREECH BOLT IS DOUBLE LOCKED.

PLUS

### CARTRIDGE CUT-OFF — CONVENIENTLY QUICK IN CHANGING LOADS, ETC.

The new J. C. Higgins Model 20 is built for dependability and durability . . . excellently balanced, it shoots and handles supremely well with its fast 3-way-safe action.

As you open the action for reloading, the trigger lock sets forward the trigger lock pawl, automatically locking the trigger. Not until the breech bolt is fully closed and double locked at the breech and action slide, can the gun be fired.

On that quick, flashing swing and second reload for an unexpected shot in thick cover in the act of closing the action, should the trigger be pulled accidentally, the gun will not (can not) fire until the breech bolt is double locked, the trigger released and squeezed again. Note also that while in the act of reloading and not releasing the trigger, the hammer follows the breech bolt and gun will not fire.

Also for extra safety, the J. C. Higgins Model 20 is double locked. When the gun is closed with hammer cocked, the breech bolt is locked up in the receiver shoulder and the action slide is locked by the action slide lock. After the hammer falls, the breech bolt and slide are automatically unlocked by recoil—if the gun has been fired—or by a forward push on the fore-end if gun has not been fired.

## SPECIFICATIONS

This is one of the famous growing line of J. C. Higgins firearms. Experts pronounce the J. C. Higgins Model 20 'The finest repeater ever offered at a low price.' Its short fore-end stroke, perfect balance, precision built, hard hitting qualities meet every shooter's requirement for a shotgun with dependability, split-second firing and ease of handling.

- \* Built to last a lifetime . . . of the finest materials and workmanship
- \* Lightning-fast breech action . . . 6 shots in 3½ seconds (by actual test)
- \* High quality proved barrels . . . individually proof-tested
- \* Triple safe . . . automatic trigger lock, double locked bolt, trigger safety
- \* 'Interlocked' barrel for perfect alignment . . . will never shoot loose
- \* Richly finished solid walnut stock and fore-end . . . rubber recoil pad



**LIST OF PARTS AND ASSEMBLIES FOR  
J. C. HIGGINS MODEL 20 PUMP ACTION SHOTGUN  
12 GAUGE  
MODEL NUMBERS**

583.55 — 583.56

This is the Model Number of your Shotgun. It will be found on the left side of barrel, just forward of receiver. Always mention this Model Number when communicating with us regarding the gun or when ordering parts.

**HOW TO ORDER REPAIR PARTS**

All parts listed herein may be ordered through any Sears retail or mail order store. In ordering parts by mail from the mail order store which serves the territory in which you live, always be sure to follow instructions below. Save this list—it is valuable.

**WHEN ORDERING REPAIR PARTS AND/OR ASSEMBLIES**

Please specify Model No., Reference No., Parts No. and Part Name. When ordering barrels be sure to identify as to type of choke required. All parts identified with an asterisk (\*) must be fitted to the gun by gunsmiths in the Sears mail order houses or by qualified gunsmiths.

Ref. No.	Part No.	PART NAME	Ref. No.	Part No.	PART NAME
1	100 B	Action Slide	15	109	Carrier Operating Cam Retaining Pin
2	101 B	*Action Slide Release Lever	16	196-M	Cartridge Cut-Off Lever Assembly
3	101B-M	*Action Slide Release Lever Assembly	17	198	Cartridge Cut-Off Lever Screw
4	102 B	*Action Slide Release Lever Operating Pin (Not Illustrated)	18	199	Cartridge Cut-Off Lever Spring
5	103 B	*Action Slide Release Lever Spring	19	112 B	Cartridge Stop, L.H.
6	176 B	Action Slide Spring	20	111-M	Cartridge Stop and Trunnion Assembly R.H.
7	104	*Barrel	21	115 B	Ejector
8	104C	*Barrel for Compensated Gun w/ventilated rib and Compensator	22	116 B	Ejector Screw
9	105 A	*Bolt	23	119	Extractor Hinge Pin
10	105A-M	*Bolt Assembly	24	118 B	Extractor, L.H.
11	106 B	*Butt Stock	25	117 B	Extractor, R.H.
12	106B-M	*Butt Stock Assembly	26	122	Extractor, Spring, L.H.
13	107 B	Carrier	27	190	Extractor, Spring, R.H.
14	108	Carrier Operating Cam	28	123	Firing Pin
			29	124	Firing Pin Retaining Pin

Ref. No.	Part No.	PART NAME	Ref. No.	Part No.	PART NAME
30	125	Firing Pin Spring	56	187	POWERPac Long Range Tube
31	126B-M	Forehand Assembly	57	186	POWERPac Medium Range Tube
32	126 B	*Forehand Operating Handle	58	185	POWERPac Short Range Tube
33	128 B	*Forehand Operating Sleeve Front Nut	59	115D	POWERPac Wrench
34	129B-M	*Forehand Operating Tube Assembly	60	150	Receiver Tang
35	130	Front Sight	61	151B-M	Recoil Pad
36	131 B	*Hammer	62	152	Recoil Pad Screw
37	132	*Hammer Hinge Pin	63	153 B	Safety Button
38	133	*Hammer Spring	64	154 B	Safety Plunger
39	134	*Hammer Spring Guide	65	155 B	Safety Plunger Spring
40	135	*Hammer Spring Retaining Pin	66	156	Stock Bolt
41	136	*Hammer Strut	67	179	Stock Bolt Lock Washer
42	131B-M	*Hammer and Strut Assembly	68	182	Stock Bolt Washer
43	137	*Hammer Strut Pin	69	157 B	*Trigger
44	178	Initial Plate	70	158 B	*Trigger Guard
45	140 B	Magazine Cap	71	158B-M	Trigger Guard Assembly
46	142 B	Magazine Follower	72	159 B	Trigger Guard Retaining Pin
47	139 A	Magazine Band	73	160	*Trigger Guard Retaining Pin Spring
48	143 A	Magazine Band Screw	74	161 B	*Trigger Lock
49	145	Magazine Spring	75	162 B	*Trigger Lock Pawl
50	146B-M	Magazine Tube Assembly	76	163	*Trigger Lock Pawl Spring
51	147 A	Magazine Tube Locking Screw	77	164	*Trigger Lock Pin
52	188 B	Pistol Grip Cap	78	165 B	*Trigger Lock Spring
53	189	Pistol Grip Cap Screw	79	166	*Trigger Pin
54		POWERPac Assembly Complete	80	167 B	*Trigger Spring
55	183-M	POWERPac Cage & Adapter Assembly	81	181	Ventilated Rib Sight
			82	180	Wood Plug
			83	113 B	Cartridge Stop Pin