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Most surplus ammo on the market today is corrosive. Usually the primer is the culprit, when fired it coats the inside of the firearm with corrosive salt residue. When the salts combine with moisture, damage starts to occur to the metal surfaces. Oils or petroleum based products will not break down the corrosive salts and therefore are ineffective in cleaning or neutralizing the salt compounds.

I have read that modern bore solvents will break down the salts and I have spoken with chemist friends that tell me that this is not true. Alkaline based solvents will break down the salts, as well as simple soap and water or just plain water. Ammonia will not break down the corrosive salts and can cause damage to the bore if left in too long. Ammonia will remove metal deposits such as copper from the bore.

I for the longest time mixed an ammonia and water based concoction that I used to clean the bolt, bore, and any other effected areas. I then spoke to a friend of mine that said to just use simple ammonia based window cleaner.



As I am fairly cheap to begin with, I opt for the generic brands of cleaner that are supposed to be a substitute for Windex with Ammonia. The spray bottle as show in **figure 1** makes for a great applicator.



I am kind of paranoid about my mil-surp rifles and don't want to risk any chance of corrosion. Some folks stop at the bore and the bolt face. I take it one step further and clean the disassembled bolt as well as the

receiver.

Start with removing the bolt from the rifle.



Next, completely disassemble and layout the bolt parts on a towel (as shown in **figure 3**).



Spray a very light coat of the ammonia cleaner on all of the surfaces of the bolt parts.



Pay special attention to the bolt face.



Use a clean rag to wipe down all of the bolt parts, removing any residue and excess cleaner.



Clean the bolt parts as you normally would after shooting.

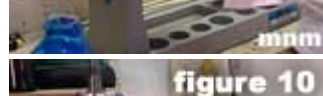
I place them in a bucket and pour enough [Ed's Red Homemade Solvent](#) to cover the parts. I then set the bucket aside while I tackle the rest of the rifle.



Lightly spray a patch with the window cleaner.



Using a cleaning rod and cleaning jag, push the patch through the barrel.



Push the patch through the barrel

and remove at the muzzle end.



Now take a short cleaning rod (pistol) with a cleaning patch loop attached to it. Place a patch in the loop and lightly spray it with the window cleaner. Then swab the inside of the bore and receiver.



Take your long cleaning rod and jag and clean the rifle's barrel thoroughly as you normally would using your gun solvent.

I am not going to go into detail on the cleaning regiment as you can read about it at the following link - [Cleaning the Bolt Action Rifle](#).



Note: I think it is important to use a cleaning jag when cleaning a rifle's barrel. It pushes the cleaner or solvent with any removed residues and dirt out of the barrel more efficiently. Thus leaving less cleaner behind.



Take a short cleaning rod (pistol) with a cleaning patch loop attached to it. Place a patch in the loop and coat it with your gun cleaning solvent. Swab the inside of the bore and receiver.



Then run a few dry patches throughout the rifles internal surfaces.



Afterwards run a oil soaked patch over all of the internal surfaces, followed by clean patches to sop up any excess.



Assemble the bolt and coat it lightly with gun oil.



Return the bolt to the rifle and you are now finished cleaning.

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