

Partial Disassembly for Cleaning the AWA Lightning Rifle

By Deadeye Dallas

First, make sure the rifle is empty.

Step 1

Remove magazine tube

Be careful of spring tension



Step 2

Remove stock and forearm slide grips.

Use a 3/32 allen wrench to remove set screw



Step 3

Open action and release hammer. Then cock hammer by hand and move slide back half way. Make sure carrier is down.



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Step 4

Remove both receiver screws.



Step 5

Tap on bottom of frame to move bottom assembly forward. See arrow in photo below right. Move forward and then down and out. The rifle is ready for cleaning.



Step 6

This takes the bolt out for more extensive cleaning.

Move the bolt back until the small screw is visible in the hole.



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You will need a very small screw driver. Make sure fit is good and it will turn in the hole. Once the screw is removed, the locking brace will separate from the bolt.



Step 7 Reassembly.

This is the hardest part. See photo at right below. When mating the two assemblies, the bottom of the locking brace has to go in this cutout in the slide. This will have to be done by feel. Slice the bolt back into frame and re-attach the locking brace.

Push slide forward and release hammer, then hand cock hammer and move slide back about half way. Angle the slide assembly into bottom of frame. As you lift up slightly, move the slide back and forth, but **NOT** enough to go forward and lock.



You will know you have it right when the bolt will move back and forth with the slide. If it is not right, it may move the bolt back but it will not follow slide forward. When you have it, push the assembly up and back into place. Replace screws and cycle a couple times to check.



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Final Steps.

Replace magazine tube. You must align the hole and threads by moving tube or sliding the tube cap back and forth. Don't forget the washer.

Replace screw and it should be almost flush as in the photo.



Now replace forearm slide and stock and you are done.

On the stock, align the long screw up and insert and tighten it first. If you need to reposition the wood a little for a good fit, do this next. Then put set screw in.

Other makes of the Lightning rifle are similar in take down. The AWA is the only make I know of that uses a screw instead of a pin in the locking brace. Uberti, Beretta and Pedersoli have made changes to the original design.

I hope this has been helpful.

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