

# Cleaning the AR500, Like Cleaning an AR, Only It's Easier

So how do you clean the AR500 [Rifle](#) or [Pistol](#)? Just like an AR-15. End of article, let's go shooting!

Ok, just kidding. Of course, the process is almost identical to cleaning an AR, but it's actually easier than your standard Armalite pattern rifle. We put together some info and useful tips on how to clean your AR500 to keep it running at its awesomely powerful peak performance.

## **Safety First**

Before getting started, the obligatory “don't poke your eye out” safety briefing. Make sure the gun is unloaded/chamber empty and the magazine removed, gun on safe. Ok, moving on!

## **Fully Disassemble and Clean, or Quick and Sort of Dirty?**

How much cleaning you want to do will determine the level of disassembly needed. Let's look at the easiest first, which is no disassembly required!



*To clean the barrel, you can leave the rifle fully assembled, just lock the bolt back and clean from the breach with a pull-through cleaning kit, or a cleaning rod from the muzzle with a bore guide.*

If you just want to clean the barrel, it's as simple as propping up the rifle on a bipod or in a gun vise of some sort, locking the bolt back, and cleaning the barrel,

preferably from the breech end. Clean your AR500 upright so solvent and oil don't run down into the gas block and gas tube.

Fortunately, there are several products that make cleaning from the breach end a breeze without disassembling the rifle. Using either a Bore Snake or some sort of pull-through cleaning kit like the ones made by Otis, it is simple to clean the barrel while protecting the muzzle.



*A "pull-through cleaning system" like the Hoppes Bore Snake or Otis cleaning kit are two styles of systems that let you clean from the breach-to-muzzle.*

Simply prepare each of these following their instructions, slide or drop them through the barrel starting at the breach until it comes out the muzzle, grab, and then "pull-through."

### **Cleaning From The Muzzle**

If you have to use a rigid cleaning rod, it's best to separate the upper and lower receiver, remove the bolt assembly, and clean from the breach. If you can't do that, just make sure you use a cleaning rod with a muzzle/crown guard. The muzzle brake on the AR500 will help to keep the rod from contacting the crown or rifling, but a muzzle guard of some sort is still recommended.

Regardless of what system you choose, use your favorite sequence of patches, brushes, jags, etc. We recommend using a couple of patches soaked in your favorite bore solvent, then gently scrubbing with copper or nylon bore brush followed by a few more wet patches, then dry patches, until the solvent is removed. Then apply a very light coat of oil. Big Horn Armory barrels are stainless steel, so you don't have to worry too much about corrosion, but a light coat of oil is still recommended.

### **Some Disassembly May Be Required**

If you want to clean more than just the barrel, you'll have to take down the AR500 into its basic components or even further depending on what you want to clean. Just like a standard AR rifle, push out the takedown pins and separate the upper and lower receiver, pull back on the charging handle and slide the bolt assembly out rearward and remove the charging handle.



*Separate the upper and lower receiver and remove the bolt assembly and charging handle.*





*If possible, put the upper receiver in some sort of gun vise or cradle to make cleaning easier.*

With the upper receivers separated and the bolt assembly removed, put the upper receiver in a vise or stand or cradle, right side up, and clean the barrel as described above.



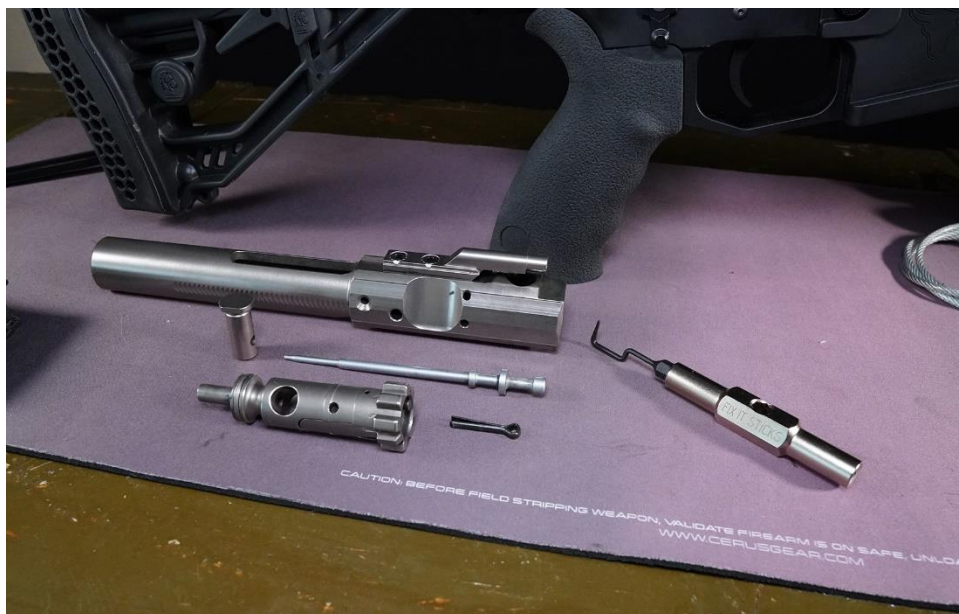
*The nitride finish on the AR500's stainless steel bolt assembly make it easy to just wipe off any carbon build-up.*

With the barrel cleaned you can now turn your attention to the bolt assembly. The AR500 bolt assembly is made from stainless steel to resist corrosion. It also has a

nitride finish which makes removing any carbon build-up simple, just wipe it off with a patch dampened with solvent or even oil.



For a more thorough cleaning after an extended number of rounds, taking the bolt apart and cleaning each piece of the assembly may be desired. Simply remove the cotter pin from the left side of the bolt carrier, let the firing pin slide out the back, then remove the cam pin from the top of the bolt carrier, and pull the bolt out from the front.



*Bolt assembly parts separated for thorough cleaning.*

Clean each of the bolt assembly parts using a patch lightly dampened with your favorite solvent or oil and wipe them down to remove dirt or debris. Dry the parts with a dry patch or lint-free cloth. Then apply a light coat of oil. Some sort of pinpoint-type oiler like the one shown below is perfect for putting the lubricant where you want it and not where you don't want it.



*Pinpoint oilers are excellent for putting oil where you want it.*

With the bolt assembly cleaned, take a patch dampened with solvent and wipe the inside of the upper receiver where the bolt slides back and forth, then wipe with a dry patch. Also, do this for the locking lug portion of the barrel extension.

For the lubricant, there are many fantastic formulas available and what you want to use will mainly be your personal preference. If you plan on using your rifle in extreme cold, stay away from grease-type lubricants as they tend to thicken or “gum up” in extreme cold and can make the action sticky. A very light gun oil is best in this application. Otherwise, any good-quality firearms lubricant will work great.

With everything clean, now reassemble the gun and you're ready to go. Hopefully, this helps. If you have any questions, definitely contact us via [email](#) or social media and we'll be glad to provide answers.



©2021 Big Horn Armory Inc.  
[www.bighornarmory.com](http://www.bighornarmory.com)