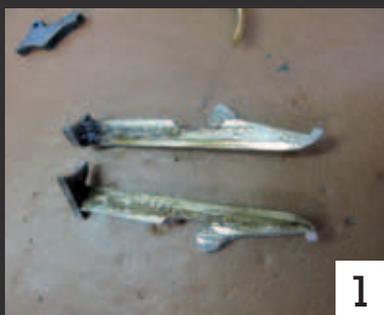


# NEGLECTED EJECTORS

Continuing his series on gun cleaning, this month **Tim Greenwood** focuses on the vital yet off-overlooked process of ejector cleaning



**Tim Greenwood** has more than 30 years' gunsmithing experience and is relied on by many of the top names in clay shooting

**I**n last month's article I covered basic gun barrel cleaning techniques for those who have never had the basics explained.

I have already received several emails on the subject, but there is one I feel I have to especially bring to your attention. One of our readers emailed me to say that the best way he has found to get his gun clean was to use Autosol metal polish, which he puts on a patch on his jag and runs up and down in the barrel to clean off the lead and plastic fouling. While I have never tried this, it will probably work as Autosol is a fine abrasive polish. However, if he was to follow the method I outlined last month using a decent barrel cleaner solvent, all that rubbing could be avoided as the fouling would fall off in the barrel. 'Making life easy' is my motto, and getting Autosol behind the ejectors if you pull the rod out rather than pushing it through could leave a build up of the dried cream, leading to an ejector cracking. This brings us nicely to this month's subject: cleaning your ejectors.

How often do you remove your ejectors from the barrel and clean them? Do you know how? A lot of you out there, judging by the amount of dirt I find behind ejectors when I receive your guns to service, never take your ejectors out. Picture [1] shows a pair of ejectors that I recently took out of a relatively new Perazzi to show the customer how easy it is to clean them. The build up of dirt and un-burnt powder can cause the head of the ejector to crack and break if it is not removed regularly. Barrels should be cleaned after every shoot; your ejectors should be removed and cleaned every three or four.

Once you have been shown, with all the top makes, it is a very easy job to do and can save you between £80 and £200 for a replacement ejector, as well as the inconvenience of losing your gun to your local gunsmith to have the work done.

So, let us start with Beretta. This applies to all Beretta O/U models, from SOs to the humble, but almost indestructible, 686.

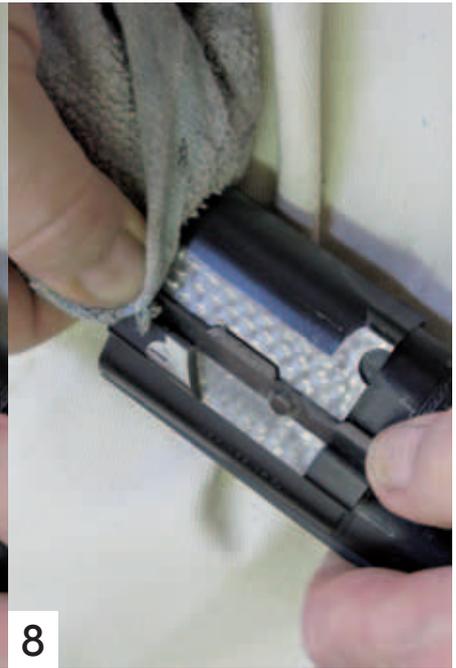
Lay the barrels across your lap or workbench and hold them with your left hand. Using a piece of rag (not your wife's newest tea towel), push the ejector into the barrel [2] until the lobe on the



6



7



8

ejector stem is lined up with the gap in the side flats of the barrel. Make sure you use a piece of rag as all ejectors can have razor sharp edges on them which can cause severe cuts if the ejector jumps out unexpectedly. Twist the ejector away from you and the barrel towards you and the lobe should start to lift out of the bottom of the gap in the slot the ejector moves in [3]. Gradually release the pressure on the ejector until the spring is fully relaxed [4]. The whole ejector leg will lift away from the action.

Remove the spring and guide, and begin to clean by using WD40 or any oil with an old toothbrush or cotton buds [5]. Once clean, I always apply a little grease to the ejector spring, the guide, and the ejector slot before re-assembly [6].

Some gunsmiths say you should only put oil around the ejectors, but I have always preferred grease. Ejectors are exposed to the wet when the gun is opened in the rain, and there are many nooks and crannies in which water can lay. Good quality grease stays where it is put, protects the metal and does not run off into your action when the gun is stored, avoiding damage to the head of your stock.

Re-fitting the ejector is the reverse of dismantling it, but first you need to locate the top edge of the ejector in the slot [7] while applying pressure to the ejector spring. When the lobe is aligned with the gap [8], twist the ejector towards you and the barrel away from you and the ejector should slot back into place. Gently relax the pressure on the head of the ejector and



9



10

## The Gunsmith

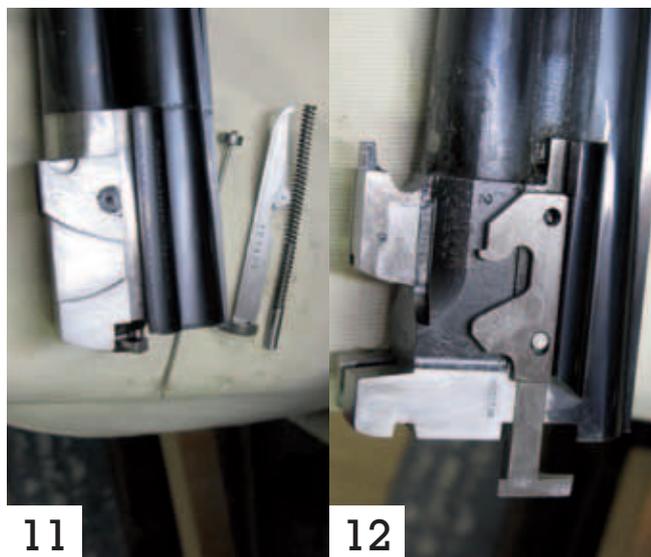
check the ejector moves in and out freely. It is that easy. Now all you have to do is repeat the process on the other side.

Perazzi ejectors are even easier to remove. In your spares kit, which either comes with a new gun or is easily obtainable from any main Perazzi dealer, there should be a plain, thin, metal rod. This has two uses: helping fit a new V spring in an MX8 action and, yes you have guessed, removing the retaining button in the ejectors.

Compress the ejector against the edge of a workbench [9] until the button is fully exposed. Push the metal rod into the centre of the button and lift it away from the action [10]. Relax the pressure on the spring slowly and all the parts will lift away [11], then just clean them and apply grease as already described.

Japanese Brownings and Mirokus share a common ejector system, which is, in my opinion, the easiest to remove and clean because you are not working against the ejector springs. The springs are not behind the ejectors, but contained within the forend. They operate a kicker system, rather than the previously seen ejector springs used by Beretta and Perazzi.

Once again, lay the barrels across your lap or on a bench and pull the ejector out [12] until you can see the small screw head



11

12



14



13

exposed in the rear hole in the ejector [13]. Use an appropriately sized flat-head screwdriver to undo the screw, then turn the barrel over and wiggle the ejector backwards and forwards until the screw has fallen out of its hole and the ejector comes out freely [14]. Once again, clean as previously described then re-assemble by reversing the process.

Ejectors are not difficult to remove, yet are so often ignored in your regular cleaning regime. If you neglect them, one day they will let you down, and it will always be at that very important shoot you have waited months for. You must never fire a gun from which the ejector is missing or the head is broken off. Apart from taking out your spent shell, they also act as support to the cartridge head when it detonates. If the head of the ejector isn't there or is badly worn, the cartridge can bulge and jam, and even split. Don't take the risk, look after your ejectors.

Should you have an ejector system not covered by this article, please email me on [asktheexperts@blazepublishing.co.uk](mailto:asktheexperts@blazepublishing.co.uk), preferably with the make of your gun and photos of it, and I will gladly explain how to remove the ejectors. ■

### What can Tim Greenwood do for you and your gun?

- Tim offers a full gunfitting service and free help and advice
- He can do anything required to your stock, barrels or action
- He specialises in wooden stock extensions matched to your existing stock
- Tim will also make any specialist parts as required and offers full servicing and maintenance services
- Visit the website: [www.greenwoodgunsmiths.co.uk](http://www.greenwoodgunsmiths.co.uk) or ask Tim's advice by emailing: [asktheexperts@blazepublishing.co.uk](mailto:asktheexperts@blazepublishing.co.uk)