

# Colt 1911 Series

## Similar/Identical Pattern Guns

The same basic assembly/disassembly steps for the Colt 1911 also apply to the following guns:

AMT Combat Government Model  
AMT Skipper

Auto-Ordnance M1911A1 Thompson  
Colt Combat Grade Government  
Colt Gold Cup  
Colt Mark IV Series 70  
Colt Super 39  
Detonics Scoremaster  
Federal Ordnance Ranger M1911A1  
Llama Model IXA  
Llama Model XV  
M-S Safari Arms Model 81 BD

Olympic/Safari Arms Enforcer

Randall Curtis LeMay Four Star  
Springfield Armory M1911A1

Springfield Armory M1911A1 Defender

AMT Hardballer  
Argentine Model 1927

Colt Combat Commander  
Colt Commander  
Colt Gold Cup 38 Special  
Colt Mark IV Series 80  
Colt National Match 45  
Essex Model 1911A1  
Llama Model IIIA  
Llama Model XA  
M-S Safari Arms Enforcer  
M-S Safari Arms Model 81  
BP Super  
Olympic/Safari Arms  
Matchmaster  
Randall Raider  
Springfield Armory  
M1911A1 Commander  
Vega 45

AMT Long Slide  
Auto-Ordnance M1911A1  
Pit Bull  
Colt Combat Elite  
Colt Delta Elite  
Colt Lightweight Commander  
Colt Model 1911  
Colt Officers ACP  
Falcon Portsider  
Llama Model VIII  
Llama Model XI  
M-S Safari Arms Model 81  
M-S Safari Arms Model 81  
NM  
Randall Compact Service  
Model  
Randall Service Model  
Springfield Armory M1911A1  
Compact



**Data:** Colt Model 1911  
**Origin:** United States  
**Manufacturer:** Colt's Manufacturing Company, LLC  
Hartford, Connecticut  
**Cartridge:** 45 ACP, 38 Super,  
9mm Luger  
**Magazine capacity:** 45—7 rounds  
38/9mm—9 rounds  
**Overall length:** 8<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches  
(Commander—8 inches)  
**Height:** 5<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches  
**Barrel length:** 5 inches  
(Commander—4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches)  
**Weight:** 40 ounces

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Our standard military pistol from 1911 to 1985, the Colt 45 Auto is so well known that it really needs no comment or background data here. The target model, the Gold Cup, has one or two small differences in the internal mechanism. The Series 80 versions have an added firing pin block safety system, consisting of a lever in the frame and a plunger and spring in the slide. These are not complicated, and should cause no takedown problems. The old Government Model has also been copied many times over the years, and the instructions will generally apply to all of these.

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## Field Strip:

1. With the magazine removed and the hammer down, depress the checkered button below the barrel and turn the barrel bushing toward the right side of the gun until the plug and recoil spring are free to come out. **CAUTION:** *The recoil spring is under tension, so keep strong pressure on the checkered end of the plug and ease it out.* The barrel bushing can ordinarily be turned easily with the fingers, but on some tight older guns, and especially on the new Mark IV Series 70 guns with the barrel-gripping bushing, a special wrench may be necessary.



2. After easing out the plug, remove it from the end of the spring. In rare cases, it may be locked on by an internal tab, and a slight turn will be necessary to free it.

3. Cock the hammer, and move the slide back until the small semi-circular cut at its lower edge aligns with the top rear of the slide stop.



4. Push the end of the slide stop shaft, on the right side of the gun, and remove the slide stop from the left side.



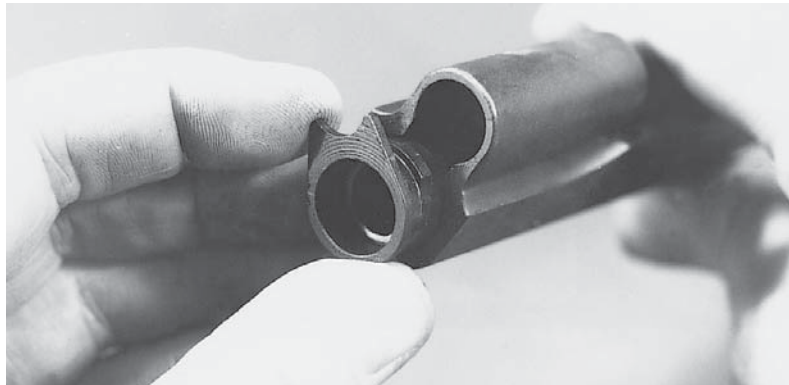
5. The slide assembly can now be run forward off the frame.



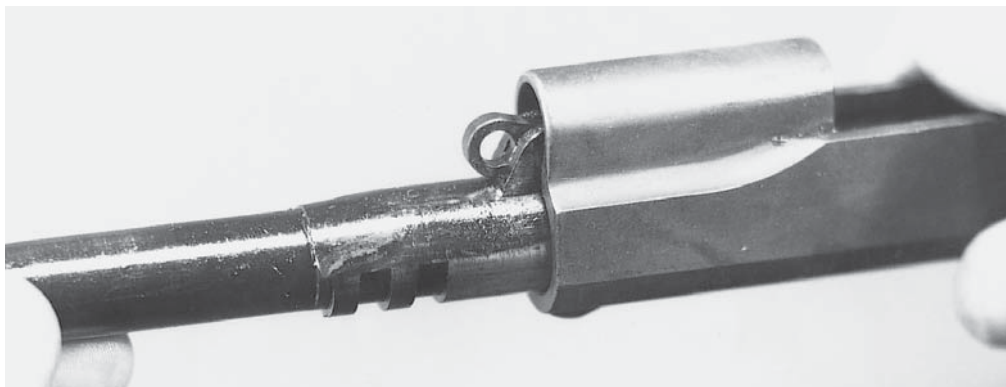
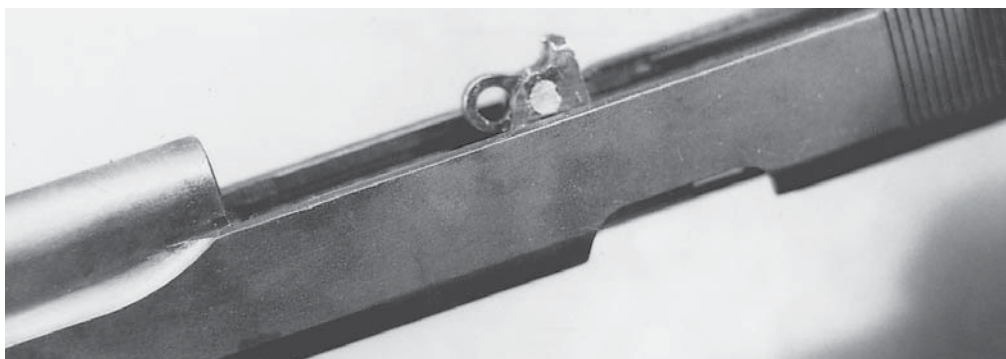
6. Remove the recoil spring and its guide from the slide, together or separately.



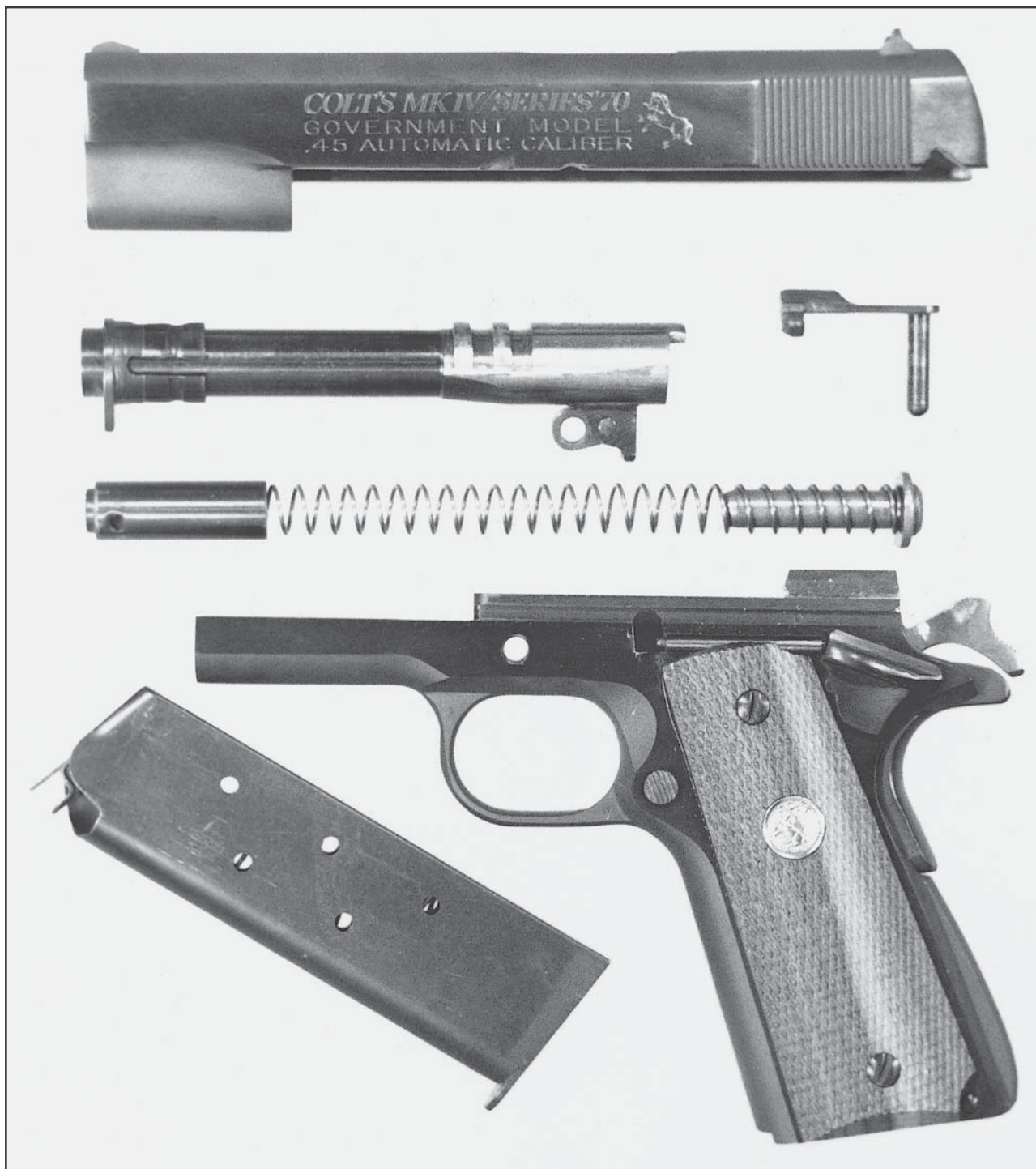
7. Turn the barrel bushing back toward the left side of the slide, until its lug aligns with the opening, and remove the bushing from the front of the slide.



8. Tip the barrel link over forward to clear the recoil spring tunnel.



9. Remove the barrel from the front of the slide. **Gun is now field-stripped.**



Colt Mk IV/Series 70 field-stripped

## Detail Strip:

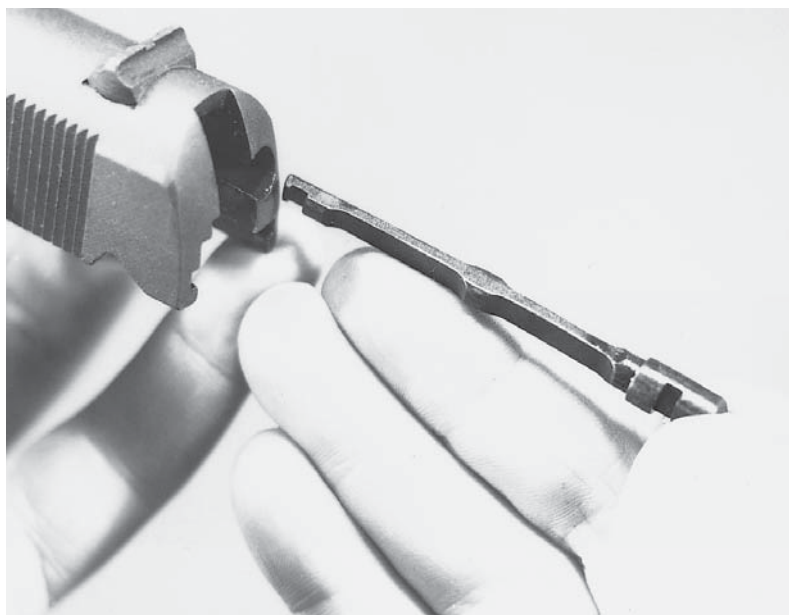
- 10.** With a tool of appropriate size, depress the firing pin and slide the retainer downward to free the firing pin. **CAUTION:** *The firing pin spring is under some compression, and can eject the firing pin with force when the retainer is removed.*



- 11.** After the retainer plate is removed, the firing pin and its return spring can be taken out.



- 12.** Removal of the firing pin retainer plate also frees the extractor. With a small screwdriver pry it gently out, straight to the rear of the slide.



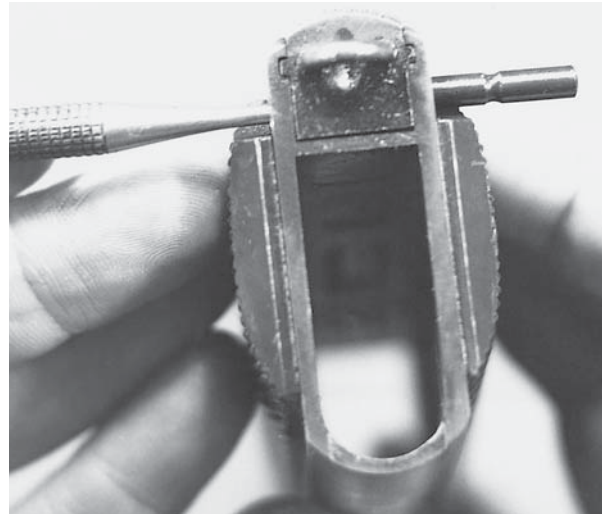
- 13.** When the extractor is pried out past its round headpiece, it can be easily grasped with the fingers and removed from the slide. The rear sight can be drifted out of its dovetail slot from left to right.



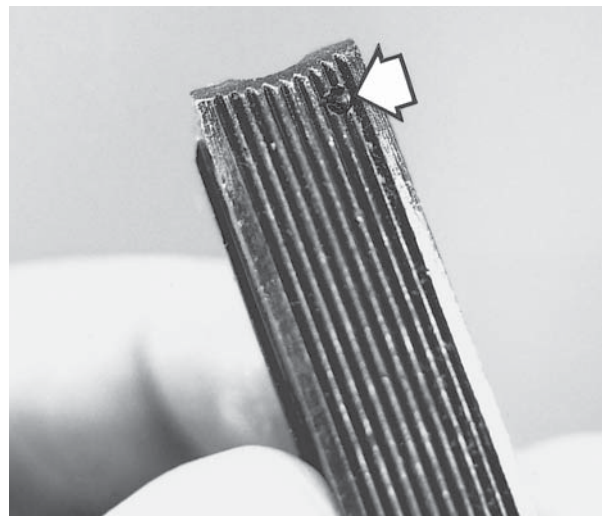
- 14.** The initial takedown key for the frame is the mainspring housing retaining pin, located at the lower rear edge of the grip frame.



- 15.** With the hammer at rest, use a drift of the proper size to drive out the mainspring housing retainer pin.



- 16.** The mainspring housing can now be slid down off the frame. If it is tight, cocking the hammer will put pressure on it through the mainspring and help to ease it out.

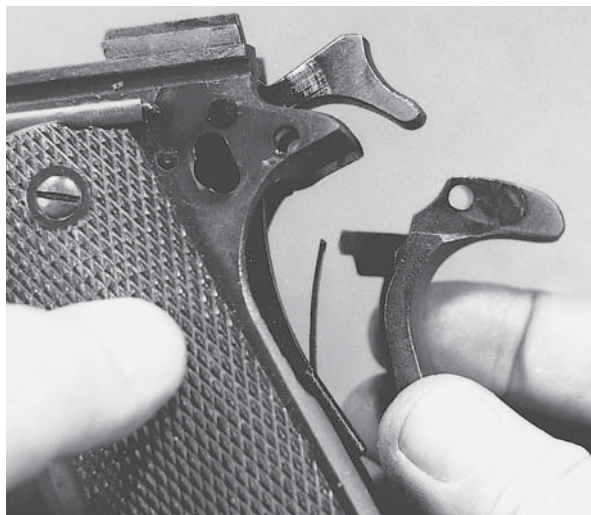


- 17.** Viewing the mainspring housing from the rear, there is a small pin (arrow) at upper right which can be drifted out toward the inside to free the mainspring and its plunger. **CAUTION:** The mainspring is under quite a bit of tension and can cause injury when released. Use a heavy shop cloth to catch it when driving out the pin.

- 18.** With the hammer cocked, move the safety almost to the on-safe position while exerting slight outward pressure toward the left. When its internal projection aligns with its cut in the frame, it can easily be taken out.



- 19.** Removal of the safety frees the grip safety and this is now removed to the rear.



- 20.** The combination leaf spring which powers the sear, trigger, disconnecter, and grip safety can now be lifted out at the rear of the grip frame.



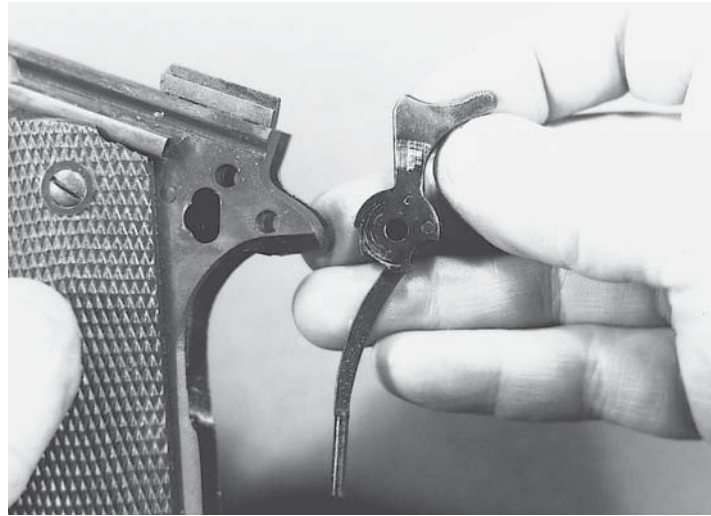
- 21.** Pushed from the front with a drift of proper size, the spring and plungers which supply tension to the slide stop and manual safety can now be removed from the rear of its tunnel above the left grip. The spring tunnel is riveted in place inside the magazine well and it is difficult to remove and replace without special tools. Unless removal is absolutely necessary, it should be left in place.



- 22.** Started from the right with a drift of the proper size, the hammer pin is removed from the left side of the grip frame.



- 23.** The hammer can now be lifted out of the frame.



- 24.** Removal of the small pin at lower rear of the hammer will free the hammer strut. Note the direction of its curve, and replace it in the same position.



- 25.** Starting from the right side with a drift, remove the sear/disconnector pin from the left side.

- 26.** The sear and disconnecter can now be removed from the rear of the frame. Note their relationship for proper reassembly.



- 27.** With a small screwdriver, turn the slotted head of the magazine release retainer to the left, while keeping the magazine release depressed to the level shown.



- 28.** With the retainer locked into its slot in the magazine release, the release can be taken out toward the right side of the gun. After removal, turning the retainer back to the right will free the retainer and its spring from the release body. These are small parts, so take care that they aren't lost.

- 29.** After the magazine release is taken out, the trigger is free to be removed toward the rear of the frame. The grip screws can be taken out to free the grips.



## Reassembly Tips:

When installing the combination spring, slide the mainspring housing partially into the frame to hold the spring in place while replacing the grip safety.

During reassembly, the most difficult operation is often the alignment of the barrel link with the slide latch hole in the frame. The hole is large enough that the proper alignment can be seen, and the link can be edged into position by moving the slide back and forth a very small distance until it drops into place. Don't try aligning the link and the clearance cut for the top of the latch at the same time. Get the latch shaft through the link, then swing the latch up and align it with the clearance cut.