

# Owner's Manual

## Yugo Model 59/66 Rifle, Cal. 7.62x39mm



Congratulations on your purchase of a historic Yugo Model 59/66 Rifle. With proper care and handling it will give you long, reliable service. The Yugo Model 59/66 rifle is a semi-automatic rifle chambered for the 7.62x39mm cartridge with a ten-round capacity fixed magazine. It is equipped with a NATO-specification 22mm grenade launcher, a flip-up ladder-style grenade sight, standard SKS sights with a front flip-up orange-dot night sight, folding bayonet and rubber butt pad.

We specifically disclaim any responsibility for damage or injury whatsoever, incurring as a result of the use of faulty, non-standard or remanufactured ammunition, any modifications or changes made to the firearm; improper use or unsafe handling of the weapon. FIREARMS SAFETY IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SHOOTER. ALWAYS TREAT ALL FIREARMS AS IF THEY WERE LOADED.

Distributed by:  
Century International Arms, Inc.  
236 Bryce Boulevard, Fairfax, VT 05454  
[www.centuryarms.com](http://www.centuryarms.com)  
Sales: 1-800-527-1252 - 1-561-998-1997

**IMPORTANT! READ ALL  
INSTRUCTIONS AND WARNINGS IN THIS  
BOOKLET BEFORE USING THIS FIREARM.**





## IMPORTANT SAFETY MESSAGE

Children are attracted to, and can operate firearms which can cause severe injuries or death. Prevent child access by always keeping guns locked away and unloaded when not in use. If you keep a loaded firearm where a child obtains and improperly uses it, you may be fined or sent to prison.

### Firearm Safety Depends on You!

A gun is only as safe as the person operating it. You can never be overly careful when handling a firearm. Carelessness is often the cause of shooting accidents, such as failing to keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, not being sure of your target and what is behind it, failing to engage the safety properly, leaving ammunition in the chamber or using improper loads. Since a bullet can never be called back once fired, such errors in gunhandling can result in the loss of life, severe injury or property damage. It is thus crucial for your safety and the safety of those around you that you learn the principles of safe gun handling and storage before you begin to use your new rifle. Be a safe shooter - please read this instruction book thoroughly even if this is not your first firearm purchase as not all firearms are the same. The first step in being a safe shooter is to learn the rules for the safe operation and handling of firearms. There is nothing more important in gunhandling than safety.

### THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF FIREARM SAFETY

The Ten Commandments of Firearm Safety must be etched into your memory before you begin to handle firearms. These rules are intended to be followed by all persons handling firearms in the field, on the range, or at home. Please read, review and understand these rules before you begin to use or even take your new rifle out of its box. Remember, firearms safety depends on you!

#### **Commandment #1**



##### **Always Keep the Muzzle Pointed in a Safe Direction.**

This is the most basic and most important safety rule. A safe direction is one in which an accidental discharge will not cause injury to yourself, to others or property damage. This is particularly important when loading or unloading your firearm. Never point your gun at anything you do not intend to shoot. Treat every gun as if it were loaded at all times.

#### **Commandment #2**



##### **Firearms Should Be Unloaded When Not Actually in Use.**

Firearms should only be loaded when you are in the field or on the target range or shooting area, ready to shoot. When not in use, firearms and ammunition should be secured in a safe place, separate from each other. Remember to unload your firearm completely, so that there is no ammunition in the chamber or magazine. Before handling this or any firearm, or handing it to someone else, visually check the chamber, receiver and magazine to ensure they do not contain ammunition. Always keep the gun's action open when not in use. Never assume a gun is unloaded - even if you were the last person to use it. Never cross a fence, climb a tree, wade through a stream, or perform any awkward movement with a loaded gun. When in doubt, unload your gun!

Never pull or push a loaded firearm toward yourself or another person. And never carry a loaded gun in a scabbard, a holster not being worn, or a gun case. Common sense prevails in gun safety!

**Alcohol, Drugs and Guns don't mix. Make no mistake about it!** Never handle firearms after consuming alcohol or taking drugs which can affect your judgment.

### Commandment #3



#### **Don't Completely Rely on Your Gun's Safety.**

**Treat every gun as though it could fire at any time, even if you are not applying pressure to the trigger.** The "safety" on a firearm is a mechanical device which, like any such device, can become inoperable at the worst possible time and fail to function. By mistake, you may think the safety is "on" when it actually is not. Or you may think your gun is unloaded when there is actually a round of ammunition in it. The safety serves as a supplement to proper gun handling but cannot serve as a substitute for common sense. Never handle a gun carelessly and assume that the gun won't fire, just because "the safety is on." Never touch the firearm's trigger until you are ready to shoot. Keep your fingers away from the trigger when loading or unloading. Never pull the trigger when the safety is engaged or when the safety is positioned between the "safe" and "fire" positions. Never place your finger on the trigger unless you intend to fire.

### Commandment #4



#### **Be Sure of Your Target - And What Is Beyond It!**

**Once fired, a bullet (or shot charge) can never be called back, so before you shoot know where the bullet is going and what it will strike.** Be certain your shot will not injure someone or strike something beyond the target. Never fire in the direction of noise, a movement, or at any object you cannot positively identify. Be aware that a .22 Short bullet can travel over 1-1/4 miles. A centerfire cartridge, such as the .30-06, can send its bullet over 3-miles. Shotgun pellets can travel 500-yards and a shotgun slug has a range of over a half-mile. Make sure your shot has a backstop such as a hillside. Keep in mind how far the bullet will travel if it misses your intended target.

### Commandment #5



#### **Use the Correct Ammunition.**

**Every firearm is designed to use a certain caliber or gauge of ammunition. It is important that you use the correct ammunition for your firearm.** Information on the correct ammunition to use with your firearm appears in the firearm's instruction manual and the manufacturer's markings on the firearm itself. Use of the wrong ammunition or improperly reloaded ammunition can result in the destruction of the firearm, serious personal injury and/or death.

Form the habit of examining every round of ammunition before you put it into your gun to ensure it is of the proper gauge or caliber and that it is in good condition.

### Commandment #6



#### **If Your Gun Fails to Fire When the Trigger Is Pulled, Handle With Care.**

**If a cartridge or shell does not fire when the trigger is pulled, follow Commandment #1 and keep the firearm's muzzle pointed in a safe direction.** Keeping the muzzle pointed away from your face and anything you do not intend to shoot, wait at least 20-seconds (to ensure that the ammunition is not delayed in firing) before carefully opening the action, unloading the firearm and disposing of the ammunition safely.

### Commandment #7



#### **Always Wear Eye & Ear Protection When Shooting.**

**Exposure to shooting noise can permanently damage hearing and flying debris, such as powder residue and ejected cartridge cases can injure your eyes.** Thus, it is only common sense to wear both eye protection (such as shooting glasses) and ear protection (such as a sound muffling headset) whenever shooting. Also, wear eye protection when cleaning or disassembling your gun to ensure that cleaning solvent and tensioned parts (such as springs), do not come into contact with your eyes.



## **Commandment #8**



### **Be Sure the Barrel Is Clear of Obstructions Before Shooting.**

**Discharging a firearm with an obstruction in the barrel can result in personal injury, property damage or death.** Before you load your firearm, check the chamber and magazine to ascertain that no ammunition is inside. Also, check the inside of the barrel (called the "bore") to ensure it is free of obstructions. Even a small amount of mud, snow or excess lubricating oil or grease in the bore can cause excessive pressures resulting in a bulged or burst barrel which can injure or kill the shooter and bystanders. It's a good idea to make a habit of cleaning the bore and checking for obstructions with a cleaning rod just before each shooting session. If the noise or recoil experienced upon firing seems low or weak, or something doesn't feel "right", cease firing immediately and check to make sure that there is no obstruction in the barrel. Placing an undersized shell or cartridge into a gun (such as a 20-gauge shell in a shotgun chambered for 12-gauge ammunition) can result in the smaller round of ammunition falling into the barrel and acting as an obstruction. When a round is subsequently fired, the barrel may burst causing injury to the shooter and bystanders. For reference, re-read Commandment #5.

## **Commandment #9**



### **Do Not Alter or Modify Your Gun and Have It Serviced Regularly.**

Firearms are complex mechanisms that are designed to function properly in their original condition. Any alterations or changes made to a firearm after its manufacture can make the gun unsafe and will void its warranty. Do not jeopardize your safety or the safety of others by altering the trigger, mechanical safety or other mechanisms of your firearm. You should have your firearm periodically checked for proper functioning and serviced by a qualified gunsmith.

## **Commandment #10**



### **Learn the Mechanical and Handling Characteristics of Your Firearm.**

Not all firearms operate the same way. The method of carrying, handling and operating firearms varies with the mechanical characteristics of each gun. Thus, you should never handle any firearm until you become familiar with the safe handling, loading, unloading and carrying procedures for that particular firearm, as well as the rules for safe gun handling in general.



**WARNING!** Discharging firearms in poorly ventilated areas, cleaning firearms or handling ammunition may result in exposure to lead and other substances known to cause birth defects, reproductive harm and other serious injury. Have adequate ventilation at all times when shooting. Wash hands thoroughly after exposure.

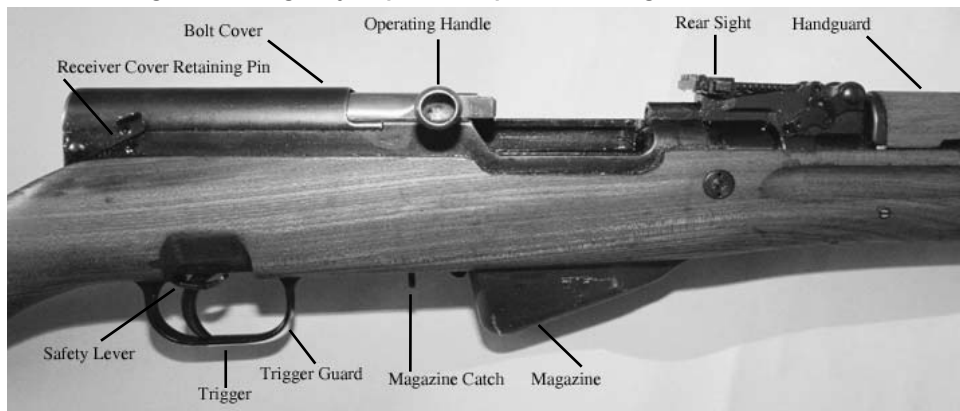
## **Basics of Safe Gun Handling**

1. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
2. Firearms should be unloaded when not actually in use.
3. Don't totally rely on your gun's safety.
4. Be sure of your target and what's beyond it.
5. Use the correct ammunition for your firearm.
6. If your gun fails to fire when the trigger is pulled, handle with care.
7. Always wear eye and ear protection when shooting.
8. Be sure the barrel is clear of obstructions before shooting.
9. Don't alter or modify your firearm and have your firearm(s) serviced regularly.
10. Learn the mechanics and handling characteristics of the firearm you are using.

**Safe gun handling depends on you! A safe shooter is a knowledgeable shooter.**

There is one other rule that must be strictly observed when handling firearms - **Shoot Sober!** Alcohol, certain kinds of drugs and firearms don't mix. Safe firearms handling requires alertness and concentration on one's actions. You cannot handle a firearm safely after consuming alcohol. Never consume anything that can impair your judgement or physical coordination when handling a firearm.

**Illustration # 1**  
**Diagram showing major operational parts of the Yugo Model 59/66 Rifle.**



Note: The picture above shows the main operational parts of the Yugo Model 59/66 Rifle.  
**Study of this picture will aid you in understanding the instructions in this book.**



**IMPORTANT NOTICE!** The Yugo Model 59/66 Rifle is a surplus firearm. Like all surplus products, it should be carefully inspected before use, preferably by a competent gunsmith! This is to ensure your safety and the safety of those around you.

**Yugo Model 59/66 Rifle background** - This rifle was designed by the famous Russian arms designer, Sergei Gavrilovich Simonov, who was born in 1894 in Fedotow, Russia. The rifle's original military designation is (*7.62 Samozaradnya Vientovka Sistyemi Simonova Obrazets 1945g*) meaning 7.62 Simonov System Self-loading Carbine Model 1945. It was designed in 1945 and adopted in 1946 by the Russian military to replace the Tokarev Semi-Automatic and Mosin-Nagant bolt-action style rifles. Simonov, who worked at the famous Tula arsenal, specialized in the design of semi-automatic firearms and the Model 1945 carbine was the design for which he was best known.

Originally planned to serve as the new standard-issue arm for the Soviet military forces, alongside Mikhail Kalashnikov's then-new AK-47, the advantages of the easier to produce and greater magazine capacity AK rifles readily became apparent and the SKS carbine was soon phased out of production, although it remained in use through the 1980s. The design was produced by former Eastern Bloc nations and other countries, including Yugoslavia, where it was produced as the Model 59/66 with the addition of the grenade launcher and grenade launcher sights. Designwise, the SKS shares elements of the earlier SVT-40 (semi-auto firepower) and the M-44 Mosin-Nagant (small, fast-handling size and integral bayonet) rifles that it replaced. The Yugo Model 59/66 is a real collector's gem with a wealth of history behind it!

**Operational Characteristics:**

The Yugo Model 59/66 rifle is a gas-operated, integral box magazine-fed arm distinguished from other SKS variants by the prominent spigot-style grenade launcher permanently attached to the muzzle and a folding grenade launcher sight. Equipped with a spring-loaded operating rod, a gas rod works the action via gas pressure. It also has a "tilting bolt" action locking system. The 10-round magazine is loaded from the top either manually (one round at a time) or with the use of a 10-round stripper clip. It is chambered for the 7.62x39mm cartridge.

**To load the rifle :**

**WARNING!** Before loading, make sure the inside of the barrel is free of dirt or other obstructions.

**WARNING!** Always check each cartridge to ensure it is of the correct caliber before loading the firearm.

**WARNING!** Keep your fingers away from the trigger while loading.

**WARNING!** Keep muzzle pointed in a safe direction.



1. Place the safety lever in the "ON" or "SAFE" position. The safety lever is in the "ON" position when it is moved to its complete forward 'up' position where it is lying horizontally-aligned with the stock and above the trigger. See Illustration #2.

**NOTE:** When the safety lever is in its rearmost vertical position (vertically aligned with the trigger) the safety lever is in the "FIRE" position. Pulling the trigger when the safety lever is in the vertical position will result in the rifle firing a round. To avoid serious injury, death or causing property damage, make sure you know the "SAFE" and "FIRE" positions of the safety lever before attempting to load your rifle!

2. Pull the operating handle rearward until it locks to the rear. This action will expose the top of the magazine for loading.

3. Load ammunition of the correct caliber into the top of the magazine either by manually inserting single rounds or by the use of the correct-model stripper clip. The magazine can hold a maximum of ten (10) rounds of 7.62x39mm ammunition. See illustration #3.

4. Pull the operating handle fully-rearward and then release it. The bolt carrier assembly will fly forward to the closed position, stripping the first round from the magazine and moving it into the chamber, readying the rifle for firing.



**WARNING!** The rifle is now loaded and will fire if the safety lever is moved to the "OFF" or "FIRE" position and the trigger is pulled! Handle with extreme caution and keep the muzzle (the end of the barrel) pointed in a safe direction!

#### To Fire the Rifle:

1. Keeping the 10 Commandments of Shooting Safety in mind, aim the rifle downrange at the target.

2. The gas cutoff knob of the rifle must be positioned to the far right position in order for the rifle to function (see illustration #4).

3. Release the safety lever by moving it rearward to its vertical position.

4. Place the trigger finger inside the trigger guard and on the trigger.

5. After aligning the sights on the target, slowly press the trigger back to fire the first round.

6. Being a semi-automatic, after the first round is fired, the rifle's action (its moving parts) will cycle and as the bolt moves rearward, the extractor will pull the empty cartridge case from the chamber and eject it from the rifle (**make sure there are no bystanders near the sides of the rifle's action who could get hit and injured by an ejected cartridge case**). As the bolt then travels forward, it will automatically strip the next cartridge from the magazine and position it in the chamber, ready for firing.

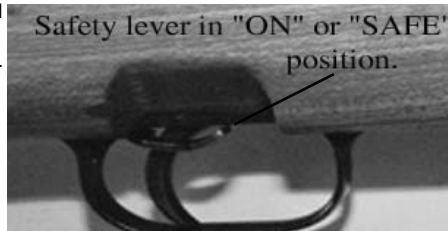
7. **Note: If the trigger is again pressed, the rifle will fire!**

8. To continue to fire, aim the rifle at the target and press the trigger. The procedure is followed until you desire to cease firing or the magazine is emptied.

9. When firing is finished, first place the safety lever in its "ON" or "SAFE" position by rotating it full forward until it is horizontally aligned with the stock and above the trigger. Then, pull the operating handle rearward until it locks fully to the rear.

Illustration #2

Safety lever in "ON" or "SAFE" position.



Safety Lever in the horizontal "ON" or "SAFE" position

Illustration #3



With the operating handle locked in its rearward position and the safety lever in the "ON" position, load rounds into the top of the magazine either manually (one at-a-time) or with the aid of a stripper clip.

Illustration #4

Gas Cutoff knob positioned in right-side slot.



The Gas Cutoff knob must be set in the right-hand slot for the rifle to function. The left positions were used only when launching grenades.

## Unloading the Rifle:



**WARNING!** Keep muzzle pointed in a safe direction.

1. Place the safety lever in the "ON" or "SAFE" position.
2. Pull the operating handle rearward until it locks.
3. Look into the open action to ensure

there are no remaining cartridges in either the barrel chamber or the magazine.

4. Open the magazine by pulling the magazine catch rearward until the magazine cover pops open. Look into the magazine to ensure no loaded rounds of ammunition remain.
5. Lock the magazine cover back into place by pressing it back into position.
6. When storing the rifle, it is a good idea to keep the safety lever in the "ON" or "SAFE" position and the bolt locked open.

Illustration #5



To release the magazine cover, pull the magazine catch rearward until the magazine cover pops open.

## Cleaning the Rifle:



**WARNING!** You should wear eye protection, such as shooting glasses or goggles when cleaning your firearm to protect your eyes from tensioned parts, such as springs, that may become dislodged during disassembly.

**WARNING!** Before beginning the cleaning process, check to ensure the rifle is unloaded.

To do so, while keeping the rifle's muzzle pointed in a safe direction, place the safety lever in the "ON" or "SAFE" position by moving it to its most forward 'up' position where it is positioned horizontally aligned with the stock and lying above the trigger. See illustration #2. Check the chamber and magazine by pulling the operating handle fully rearward until it locks into position. Visually inspect the barrel chamber and the magazine for cartridges. Next, release the magazine cover by pulling the magazine catch rearward. Inspect the inside of the magazine for ammunition cartridges. Firearms can inflict death or serious injury. You can never be 'too safe'.

## TO CLEAN THE BARREL

1. Though an auxiliary cleaning rod is positioned beneath the barrel, obtain a good quality rifle cleaning kit and thoroughly review the instructions provided therein.
2. Lock the rifle's bolt in the open position by pulling the operating handle fully to the rear.
3. In general, to clean the barrel, select the correct caliber cleaning brush and attach it to a cleaning rod.
4. Dampen the brush with gun cleaning solvent and then push the brush through the barrel several times.
5. Remove the brush and attach a correctly-sized cloth cleaning patch to the cleaning rod and push it through the barrel several times to remove loosened fouling.
6. Repeat this process with the brush and cleaning patches until a patch comes out clean after swabbing the bore.
7. Repeat the procedure just followed to clean the bolt, and other action parts (swab with brush followed by cloth cleaning patches).
8. Remove all shooting residue from the outside of the rifle by wiping outside surfaces with a piece of soft cloth dabbed in solvent.
9. Wipe down the outside surfaces with a dry cloth. Finally, wipe down all outside surfaces with a soft cloth dipped in a good quality metal preservative oil.



**WARNING!** There may be sharp edges on parts of the firearm. Keep fingers protected, such as by wearing a pair of gloves, when cleaning.

**WARNING!** Excessive use of cleaning solvents or lubricants can adversely affect the functioning of your rifle. Always wipe out the inside of the barrel before firing to ensure it is dry.

**WARNING!** This firearm should be checked periodically for worn or damaged parts by a competent gunsmith. This will help ensure its safe functioning and a long service life.

## Operation of the Bayonet

1. To deploy the bayonet, press downward on its knurled surface toward the butt of the rifle. This will allow the bayonet to be swung forward out of its slot in the handguard until it is in the fully forward position where it will lock into place.

2. To fold the bayonet, press upward on its knurled surface to unlock it and then swing it back through its arc until it locks into position beneath the barrel. See illustration #6.

### The Grenade Launcher and its Sight

Since grenades are not available on the commercial market, the rifle's attached grenade launcher is of no practical purpose. The rifle's grenade launcher sight is deployed by moving the gas cutoff knob to its left position. The sight may now be brought up into position. After folding the sight to its retracted position, move the gas cutoff knob back to its right-hand position to lock the sight into position and ensure reliable function of the rifle when firing. (illustration #7)

### The Folding Front Sight

Your Yugo Model 59/66 rifle (in addition to a standard front post sight), is furnished with an auxiliary flip-up orange dot front sight for firing under low light conditions. To deploy the auxiliary sight, simply flip it upright from its folded position. Fold the sight back downward when it is not needed.

### Disassembly

1. To disassemble the rifle, first ensure the rifle is unloaded by following the procedures previously outlined, including checking the barrel's chamber and the magazine.
2. Unlock the bayonet and let it hang vertically. After disengaging the head of the cleaning rod from the front sight base, pull the cleaning rod out of the rifle.
3. Rotate the receiver cover retaining pin (see illustration #1) to a vertical position and pull it out as far as possible. Note: It may be necessary to pry the receiver cover pin handle away from the receiver before it can be rotated.
4. Move the receiver cover to the rear and pull the driving spring assembly out of the bolt carrier.
5. Open the magazine by pulling the magazine catch lever (see Figure #5) to the rear. Pull the operating handle fully rearward, and lift the bolt carrier and bolt out of the receiver. Separate the bolt from the bolt carrier.
6. Rotate the gas cylinder tube lock (situated next to the rear sight) to its uppermost position and lift the rear of the handguard to remove the gas cylinder tube and the gas piston. The tube can be opened and the piston will slide out.
7. If necessary, the trigger group can be removed by depressing the catch located behind the loop of the trigger guard and pulling the trigger group down and out of the rifle. The safety lever must be in the "SAFE" or "ON" position before the catch can be depressed. No further disassembly is necessary or desirable.

### Re-assembly

1. Invert the rifle and engage the pins at the front of the trigger group with the notches behind the magazine box. Swing the trigger group into position in the stock and seat it by a blow of the hand on the loop of the trigger guard. Move the safety to the fire position to insure that the catch is fully engaged.
2. Slide the gas piston, small end first, into the gas cylinder tube; fit the large end of the tube over the gas cylinder.
3. Swing the rear end of the gas cylinder tube into the rear sight base and turn the gas cylinder lock downward.
4. Place the bolt into the receiver, with the extractor to the right front, and position the rear of the bolt about three-eighths of the inch from the inner rear wall of the receiver. Lay the bolt carrier on the bolt and while pressing down on the carrier, move it slightly back and forth until it mates with the bolt. Slide the bolt and bolt carrier fully forward in the receiver. Insert the driving spring assembly, steeped end first, into the bolt carrier.
5. Insure that the receiver cover pin is pulled fully out to the right, then slide the receiver cover into place from the rear. Secure it with the receiver cover pin and rotate the pin down to the locked position. Close the magazine, and replace the cleaning rod.

### STORAGE

When putting your rifle away for storage, it should be thoroughly cleaned and lightly lubricated. Outside surfaces should be wiped with a light coat of good quality gun oil. CHECK TO ENSURE YOUR FIREARM IS UNLOADED BEFORE PUTTING IT AWAY FOR STORAGE BY VISUALLY EXAMINING BOTH ITS CHAMBER AND MAGAZINE. When the rifle is to be reused, remove all excess lubrication before firing. Make certain that the bore (inside of barrel) is dry and free of obstructions before firing.

Illustration #6



Illustration #7



The grenade launcher sight is deployed by moving the gas cutoff knob to the left position and unfolding the sight to its vertical position. The sight is equipped with anti-personnel (on the left side) and anti-tank scales (on the right).