

TEST REPORT

M-Pro 7 Gun Cleaner

If you want to spark a lively debate just ask any number of shooters which of the many gun cleaning solvents on the market is the best and what is the most correct method of cleaning a rifle's barrel.

With so many available, it is almost impossible to select a particular brand and label it as the 'number one'. Recommendations from friends and personal preferences play an important role in a person's choice. One fact is very clear though – all gun users need solvents that can remove carbon, powder and copper fouling, as well as contain preservatives or gun oils to protect against rust.

The so-called CLPs are basically three-in-one cleaners that will remove carbon and copper, and protect against rust but they are actually meant for field use or quick maintenance. They do not include enough of the necessary chemicals to do proper jobs on carbon and copper and should always be used in combination with proper carbon and copper removers.

For the past six months I have been using M-Pro 7 carbon and copper cleaners, manufactured by Pantheon Chemical of Arizona. Unlike many gun cleaners, M-Pro 7 products are completely biodegradable, non-toxic and virtually odourless. And a real bonus is that the copper remover does not contain any ammonia at all. Ammonia dissolves copper and most copper removers on the market are ammonia-based. The M-Pro 7 copper remover will not harm steel, wood or synthetic material.



Manufacturers of ammonia-based copper removers always warn that one should not soak a barrel in it for more than 15 minutes because once the copper has dissolved, ammonia aggressively attacks naked steel and soon causes rust. Forget to remove ammonia and it will ruin a barrel completely in just a few days. To test the manufacturer's claims that M-Pro 7 Copper Remover is harmless to steel, I tested it in an old .22 pistol (which I was about to have destroyed) by soaking the barrel and the outside of the breech area thoroughly with solvent before putting it away for 16 days. When I then

examined it, there was no rust on the breech and after running a dry patch through the bore, and inspecting it with a bore light, I was convinced that it too was free of rust.

The M-Pro 7 Copper Remover works very well in my rifles but it is not as aggressive as some ammonia-based copper removers and I do use the latter on occasion to ensure that my rifles' barrels are squeaky clean. In their literature, Pantheon Chemical state that when bullets pass through a barrel at velocities higher than 3000fps a "metal-to-metal" adhesion or bonding takes place between the copper and bore steel and the copper is then more difficult to remove. Pantheon therefore recommends the use of an ammonia-based copper remover in addition to their product when shooting fast calibres. In my rifles, a .243, 7x57, .308, .30-06 and .375 the M-Pro 7 Copper Cleaner gets rid of all the copper about 90% of the time. I have only on occasion found small traces of copper fouling in my .243 and .30-06 during 'proper' clean up operations with ammonia-based solvents.

The M-Pro 7 carbon remover, called Gun Cleaner is an excellent product. Although mainly a carbon cleaner, it will remove some copper fouling. As far as carbon cleaners go, this one is probably the best I have used. To test it, I first cleaned my .30-06 (after a long shooting session) with the two different carbon cleaners I normally use. When the patches came out virtually clean, I soaked the barrel with the M-Pro 7

product, gave it 10 minutes to work, then ran a patch through the bore; it came out very dirty. Subsequent tests showed that the M-Pro 7 Gun Cleaner is definitely superior to those I have been using.

I also appreciate the fact that the M-Pro 7 solvents are virtually odourless. My wife cannot stand the smell of ammonia and whenever I cleaned my rifles, she would leave my gun room, not anymore.

Currently M-Pro 7 products are available from LA Arms in Pretoria (012-329-5990) and will soon be available at selected gun shops in Cape Town and Durban. The Gun Cleaner retails at R95 for 125ml and the Copper Remover at R110. The initial launch of the products was under the international M-Pro 7 label but the importers are developing a 'private' label for use in South Africa which should be in place by the end of the year. I rate the M-Pro 7 products highly and recommend them without hesitation.

Second Opinion

M-Pro 7 for Black Powder Guns

By Roger Ingle

When surveying the seemingly endless range of gun care oils and bore cleaners, one may be forgiven for wondering if new products on the shelves of our gun shops are perhaps gilded mousetraps. But technology moves on and there are definitely new developments in this field. M-Pro 7 is a case in point. The manufacturer of this product makes significant claims with regard to its superior cleaning and corrosion resisting qualities.

Like Break-Free, it has won some USA defence and law enforcement contracts, which is always a convincing qualification. M-Pro 7 however, is clearly different from the rest of the field. The formulation, not disclosed by the manufacturer, is a complete departure from typical bore cleaning fluids which use highly penetrative petroleum distillates to dissolve the combustion residues and dislodge bullet metal attachments in the bore.

I have found the following in various combinations in a range of traditional products – amyl acetate, acetone, sulphuric ester, nitrobenzene, alcohol and ammonia. The distillates are all toxic. Ammonia is often added to help dislodge metal fouling. The problem is it can leave electrolytic salts in the bore which will cause rust. So moisture

displacing oils are usually included in the solutions to stop this.

M-Pro 7 on the other hand has none of these chemicals. It is non-toxic, has no odour and is biodegradable. It appears to be a very special detergent capable of removing powder residues, dislodging copper and lead adhesions while leaving rust inhibiting agent in the bore. The manufacturers tabulate many comparisons with other well-known products in the sales literature which show it to be a superior product. How does one substantiate these claims?

After some limited testing with smokeless powder and black powder in two rifles and a pistol, my conclusion is that it is indeed a very effective bore cleaner. Some old MP 300, known for its burnt residues, was used for the nitro test in a .44 Magnum Black Hawk. The black powder test was done in a Martini Henry and Snider rifle. All were very effectively cleaned. I then left a tarnished five cent coin in a saucer of M-Pro 7 for an hour and was surprised to find it completely clean and as new. It was not etched because there was no effervescence.

Most metal fouling in barrels is mechanically cemented to the surface steel by carbon deposits imbedded in micro pores in the steel. M-Pro 7 will certainly remove this type of fouling. Molecular bonded copper and lead fouling, sometimes found in very high velocity rifle barrels may be more difficult to deal with. The exceptional quality of M-Pro 7 to dislodge tightly adhering dirt was fully borne out. I have no doubt that in time the rust inhibiting element will be equally proved. This is an excellent product. ■