

## Introduction

During the late 1800's and early 1900's it was the custom of handgun manufacturers to publish handbooks for each new model of firearm offered on the market. Outwardly, it would appear that these were prepared for propaganda purposes (many of them did contain excessive "puffing") but one must bear in mind that this was the pioneering era for most automatic pistol designs. In the same time period, too, vast strides were being made in the development of ammunition; new cartridges, bullets, propellants, etc., were being announced with mind-boggling rapidity. In short, makers could not be sure that their wares would be used properly unless they provided comprehensive instructions. The usual little "operator's manual" thus evolved into a complete "shop manual" detailing takedown procedures, parts, maintenance, adjustments and re-assembly. Then, over the years, attrition took its toll: manufacturers went out of business, or were merged with others, or specific models were discontinued or replaced by newer, improved versions. By 1940 much of this invaluable firearms literature had disappeared in spite of the fact that many of the firearms were still in use.

Today, police labs, gunsmiths, collector's etc., report that they come into contact with unusual old models with increasing regularity. Some pieces are so ingeniously assembled they defy takedown. Others pose identification problems and, with some, even the question of cartridge or caliber is clouded.

Long aware of the manual-publishing practices of turn-of-the-century gunmakers we blithely resolved to gather selected manuals and translate them, re-printing them in book form. Ha! Try to find the original manuals!

By letter or phone we contacted all of our usual sources and, in the end, we didn't come up with enough material to make one good-sized pamphlet!

We were on the verge of abandoning the idea when Richard Horlacher scored a breakthrough — he came up with a European collector who wasn't interested in collecting the guns... only the literature that came with them! At the same time he learned of a military archive that contained literally hundreds of the old small arms manuals. Between the two we could pick and choose the most interesting specimens for republication.

The only problem remaining had to do with translating each manual into English; not for a moment did we suspect we'd have much trouble on this score. First, we found that the manuals that interested us most came in a variety of languages. Then we found that we could not use the services of any of the usual translators simply because they were not familiar with firearms or firearms terms. Our initial attempts with non-gun translators produced hilarious results. We had little choice but to seek out translators who were experienced with firearms, having our editors examine every word that was written. As a result, volume one of this series was two years in preparation and this, volume two, required a similar length of time.

Were it not for the enthusiastic response given our first effort, we don't think we could have mustered up the energy to go on with the series.

### The Publisher



Manufacturer  
UNCETA & CO.,  
S.A., Spain

# Astra

## Automatic Pistol Model 3000

### Calibre 7.65 and 9 mm Corto (.380)

#### Instructions

For many decades now our firm has been producing firearms. Based on experience gathered in this sector, and thanks to ultra modern manufacturing processes, we have been able to create the Astra 3000 auto pistol, a top model that through simple but ingenious design has finally solved technical and ballistic problems to a degree not solved by any other pistol.

The Astra 3000 is guaranteed to function consistently without a hitch even when subjected to continual use under ruthless conditions. The Spanish Government appreciated the fine properties of the Astra pistol, subsequent to gruelling trials, and issued it to the

Army  
Navy  
Air Force  
Guardia Civil (Police)  
Customs  
Border Patrol  
Prison Wardens  
Government Agents  
etc.

Many foreign armies and police departments are likewise equipped with the Astra 3000.

#### Special features

Supreme accuracy  
Excellent pointability  
Thumb safety, which blocks the trigger  
Grip safety  
Cartridge indicator  
*this is an important safety precaution, since the indicator can be seen or felt in the dark when a cartridge is in the firing chamber*

Slide stop  
*when the last shot has been fired, that is, when the magazine is empty, the slide remains open, indicating to the firer that the pistol must be re-loaded*

The mechanics of the pistol is extremely simple, consisting of only a few parts, which greatly facilitates stripping and reassembly. There are no sprung pins or screws. All working parts are in the slide and receiver, protected against corrosive powder gases, dust, dirt and snow.

#### Loading

Depress the magazine catch on the left side of the receiver, and the magazine will slide out



The Astra 3000 is  
compact and light.  
Elegant shape.

of the handle, via spring pressure. Hold your left hand under the magazine, so that it cannot fall out. Or hold the pistol flat. The fresh magazine is pushed all the way up the well, until the magazine catch audibly engages. To chamber the first cartridge open the action by grasping the serrations on the slide and pulling the slide as far back as it will go. When the slide is released it will fly forward under spring pressure, and while returning to battery the breechface will ram a cartridge into the firing chamber. The pistol can then be fired.

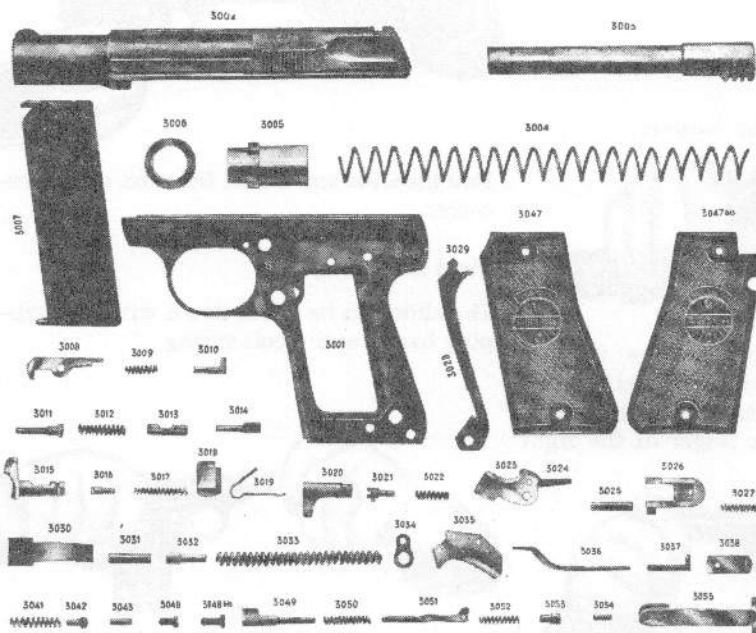
The cartridges in the magazine are fired one after another, that is, each time the trigger is squeezed *one* shot is fired. As soon as the last

opened first, another cartridge will be chambered before the magazine is removed. A forgotten cartridge is the cause of most accidents.

### Safety catches

The grip safety functions automatically once one's grip on the handle is relaxed. The thumb safety catch engages when pushed up into the horizontal ("S" visible). Once the catch is thumbed down, the trigger is operational again.

### Component parts of the Astra 3000 Calibre 7.65 mm and 9 mm Corto



- 3001 Receiver
- 3002 Slide
- 3003 Barrel
- 3004 Recoil spring
- 3005 Barrel bushing
- 3006 Barrel-bushing lock
- 3007 Magazine
- 3008 Extractor
- 3009 Extractor spring
- 3010 Extractor pin
- 3011 Firing pin
- 3012 Firing-pin spring
- 3013 Firing-pin extension
- 3014 Firing-pin retainer
- 3015 Safety catch
- 3016 Safety-catch spring plunger
- 3017 Safety-catch spring
- 3018 Slide stop
- 3019 Slide-stop spring
- 3020 Magazine catch
- 3021 Magazine-catch bolt
- 3022 Spring for above
- 3023 Hammer
- 3024 Hammer lever
- 3025 Hammer axle
- 3026 Sear
- 3027 Sear spring
- 3028 Grip safety
- 3029 Grip-safety dog
- 3030 Grip-safety spring
- 3031 Grip-safety pin
- 3032 Mainspring plunger
- 3033 Mainspring
- 3034 Retainer plate
- 3035 Trigger
- 3036 Trigger bar
- 3037 Trigger pin
- 3038 Disconnecter
- 3041 Trigger spring
- 3042 Spring plunger
- 3043 Trigger-bar pin
- 3047 Grips
- 3048 Grip screws
- 3049 Cartridge indicator
- 3050 Spring for above
- 3051 Cartridge-indicator bar
- 3052 Spring for above
- 3053 Plunger for 3051
- 3054 Pin for 3051
- 3055 Cover plate

cartridge has been fired, the action remains open, indicating that the pistol is empty. Once a fresh magazine has been inserted, the open slide must be pulled against its abutment. The slide will now close and chamber the first round in the manner described earlier.

### Unloading

First remove the magazine, then slowly open the action to eject the cartridge lodged in the firing chamber, if any. It is of *greatest importance* that the magazine is *first* removed, then the action opened. If the action is

## ASTRA

### AUTOMATIC PISTOL MODEL 3000

#### Technical data

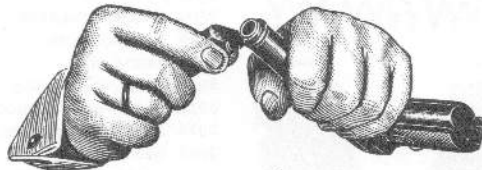
Magazine capacity 7.65 mm	.....7 cartridges
9 mm Corto (.380)	.....6 cartridges
Length of pistol	.....160 mm
Height of pistol	.....103 mm
Length of barrel	.....98 mm
Weight of pistol, with magazine	.....620 gm

	7.65 mm	9 mm Corto
Muzzle velocity	.....297 mps	277.4 mps
Muzzle energy	.....21.2 mkg	23.65 mkg
Gas pressure	.....1650 atm	1200 atm
<b>Cartridges</b>		
Powder charge	......165 gm	.20 gm
Bullet weight	.....4.8 gm	6 gm

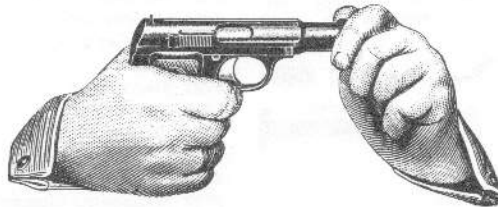
1 mm = .0394 in.  
 1 gm = 15.432 grains  
 1 mps = 3.2808 ft/sec.  
 1 mkg = 7.2331 ft.pds  
 1 atm = 14.6959 lb/sq. in.

#### Field Stripping "A"

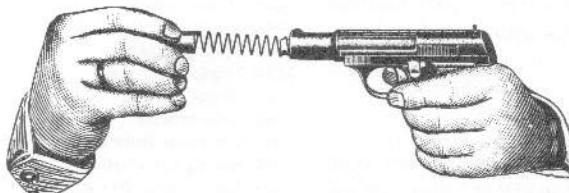
##### Removing slide from the receiver



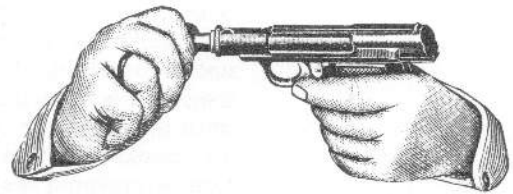
After withdrawing the magazine, use the floorplate to press against the barrel bushing and rotate the barrel-bushing lock  $\frac{1}{4}$ -turn, with thumb and index finger of the right hand.



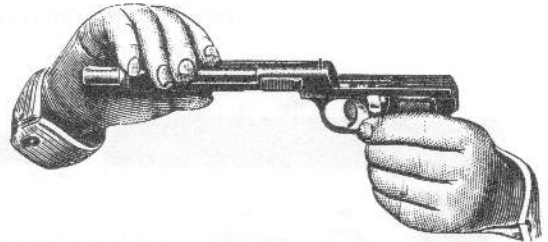
Be careful that the recoil spring does not catapult the barrel bushing and barrel-bushing lock across the room.



Gently lift the barrel bushing away from the barrel, at the same time drawing out the recoil spring.



Open the action far enough for the marker on the slide to align with the marker on the right side of the receiver. The barrel can then be rotated  $\frac{1}{4}$ -turn, and moved out of its bearing.



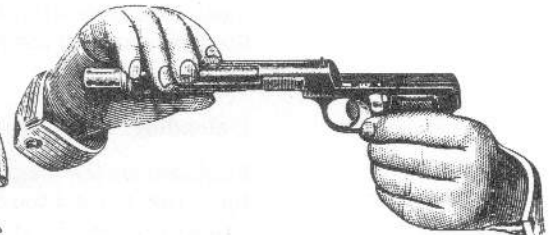
Pull the slide and barrel forward, off the receiver.

#### Field Stripping "B"

The slide can be taken down without stripping barrel and recoil spring.



Remove the magazine. Align the two markers as described above, and rotate the barrel  $\frac{1}{4}$ -turn. Draw the slide/barrel assembly forward, off the receiver.



The pistol can be cleaned and oiled for routine maintenance.

## **Extensive Stripping "C"**

### **Grips**

The grips can be removed by undoing the screws with the aid of a small coin.

### **Cartridge indicator and firing pin**

To take down the cartridge indicator, stick the point of the cleaning rod in the hole on the right side of the rear sight (when viewed from the front). Press up the cover plate and pull it out of its guides. The cover plate can be gently tapped with the handle of the cleaning rod.

Use the cleaning rod to pry out the firing-pin extension. Place your left index finger in the rear opening of the slide, to prevent the firing-pin extension from flying out. The cartridge indicator can then be easily removed. Careful knocking on the vertical slide will release the firing-pin assembly.

### **Extractor**

The L-shaped retainer pins that hold the extractor and firing pin are under the right serration of the slide. Use a small screwdriver or the tip of the cleaning rod to pry them out.

### **Safety catch**

Thumb the catch down into its vertical position. Drift the catch out of the receiver by applying pressure with the cleaning rod against its spindle, from the opposite side of the receiver. By turning the receiver up side down, the spring and plunger will drop out of their bearing.

### **Hammer mechanism Magazine catch**

Press in the magazine catch flush with the receiver, and on the other side of the receiver rotate the magazine-catch bolt  $\frac{1}{4}$  turn by means of a small screwdriver.

Insert the firing pin or a similar instrument into the hole at the bottom end of the trigger bar, so that the hammer will not slam forward when the hammer axle is removed.

Hold the pistol in your left hand, squeeze the handle and pull the trigger, at the same time holding back the hammer with your right index finger. The hammer has thus been disengaged from the mainspring, and can be lifted out of its bearing, together with its lever, once the hammer axle has been removed.

### **Slide stop**

With a thin screwdriver or something similar pry out the spring under the rear third, and lift out both parts.

### **Grip safety**

The grip safety is connected to the retainer plate. After the grip safety has been dismantled, push out the bolt of the retainer plate with the cleaning rod.

### **Trigger assembly**

After the safety catch has been taken down, pry out the trigger pin with the point of the cleaning rod. The trigger and trigger bar can then be easily withdrawn from the receiver. Once the trigger-bar pin has been knocked out, the trigger spring and plunger can also be removed.

### **Sear**

Use the cleaning rod to pry the sear forward out of its guide grooves.

### **Reassembling the Pistol**

If only the slide, barrel and recoil spring were stripped, reassemble these parts as follows. Slip the barrel into the slide, with the recesses pointing downwards. As soon as the chamber is adjacent to the ejection port in the slide, rotate the barrel  $\frac{1}{4}$ -turn to the *left*, so that the cutout for the extractor head points downwards.

Mount the slide on the receiver, pushing slide back far enough to line up the two markers. Then twist the barrel  $\frac{1}{4}$ -turn to the *right* so that the locking ribs engage in their corresponding recesses in the receiver. Thumb the safety catch into its vertical position, and let the slide return to battery.

### **Re-mounting the recoil spring**

Twist the recoil spring down over the barrel, into the slide. Place the barrel-bushing lock over the barrel bushing, with the lugs aligned, and cap the end of the recoil spring. Press the spring into the slide, engaging the lugs of the barrel bushing and barrel-bushing lock in the recesses in the slide. Rotate  $\frac{1}{4}$ -turn to lock.



## **ASTRA**

### **AUTOMATIC PISTOL MODEL 3000**

#### **Reassembling pistol after extensive stripping**

##### **Trigger**

After fitting the trigger mechanism together, consisting of trigger, trigger bar, pin, spring and plunger, push the unit into the receiver via the opening in the trigger guard, and fasten with the pin.

##### **Sear**

Press the trigger bar downwards, and insert the sear, flat side downwards in its bearing, while the spring is pushed back.

##### **Grip safety**

The grip safety is connected to the retainer plate. Insert the grip safety into the backstrap of the pistol, and align the hole of the grip safety with that in the receiver. Then place the retainer plate, from the left side, in the opening.

##### **Slide stop**

Insert the slide stop in its bearing on the right side of the receiver. Stick the long end of the spring into its orifice in the stop, and the bent end into its bearing in the receiver. Use a small screwdriver.

##### **Hammer mechanism**

Slip the mainspring with plunger down into its bearing. Compress the mainspring with the cleaning rod until the top plunger comes to lie under the bore-hole that is just under the lower end of the trigger bar. Insert a nail or something similar to keep the spring compressed. Follow up by installing the hammer, making sure that the hammer lever engages with the top plunger. Slip in hammer axle, and withdraw nail to release mainspring.

##### **Magazine catch**

Insert the magazine catch in its appropriate opening, and push in flush against the receiver. Rotate the catch bolt  $\frac{1}{4}$ -turn to the right with a small screwdriver.

##### **Safety catch**

Insert the spring in its bearing, with the guide bolt turned upwards. Slip in the safety catch. Hold the pistol in your left hand, and practise pushing in the spring with the tip of

the cleaning rod, until the spindle of the safety catch can be pushed completely home.

##### **Cartridge indicator and firing pin**

Insert the cartridge indicator and pertinent parts in bearing, and press the firing-pin retainer into its hole, but *do not* knock home so that the firing pin can be easily installed. Fit firing pin and spring in appropriate bearing, then the firing-pin extension. Press the cartridge indicator rearwards, and knock home the retainer pin.

Align the lugs of the cover plate and snap the plate into position.

##### **Extractor**

Pop the spring into its bearing, following up with the extractor. While holding the extractor in place with your left index finger insert the retainer pin into forward hole.

##### **Grips**

Place the grips over the handle, making sure that the cutouts perfectly match, and tighten the screws.

##### **Replacing the magazine**

Push the magazine all the way up its well in the handle of the pistol, until the magazine catch is heard to engage.

##### **Important**

Make sure that the pistol is always clean and the barrel well oiled. Whenever the pistol has been fired run a dry patch down the bore and lubricate with special gun oil. Each Astra 3000 is sold with a cleaning rod.



Manufacturer  
UNCETA & Co.,  
S.A.,  
Spain