

Weatherby

VANGUARD RIFLE

OWNER'S OPERATING MANUAL

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the growing family of hunters who have chosen the Weatherby Vanguard rifle. You will discover, as they have, that this Weatherby is not a purchase but an investment. An investment in value, pride of ownership, reliability and an investment in success of all your future hunts – for a lifetime.

To ensure that this Vanguard will remain one of your most cherished possessions, we ask that you read this manual thoroughly including all safety precautions.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

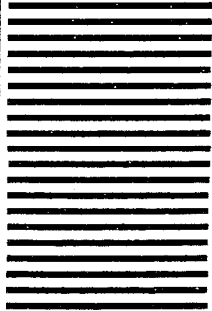
Almost all firearms accidents happen because someone didn't observe basic safety precautions. The following safety rules are to protect you and your fellow shooter.

WARNING: Use only the cartridge inscribed on the barrel. The use of any cartridge not as inscribed on the barrel could result in serious personal injury to you or others or damage to your firearm.



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CAUTION

NEVER attempt to repair, alter, or modify your firearm. Repairs should be performed by an expert gunsmith or, preferably, the Weatherby factory or authorized warranty service center. Alterations or modifications could affect factory-built safety features and could possibly cause injury to you or damage to your gun.

NEVER turn the safety to "off" until you are ready to fire. Check your safety frequently during field travels. The chance for accidental discharge increases when the safety is "off."

NEVER load or chamber a round until you are sure the barrel is free of obstruction.

NEVER transport a loaded gun. Movement increases danger of accidental discharge.

NEVER leave a loaded gun unattended. Someone else could pick it up thinking it was unloaded.

NEVER climb a fence or obstruction while carrying your firearm. Open bolt and either hand it to a friend or set it down flat on the other side of the obstruction *before* climbing. Your climbing movements could accidentally cause a discharge.

NEVER fire in the direction of a sound. It could be livestock or, even worse, another hunter. Be sure of your target before firing.

ALWAYS follow hand-loading data *to the letter*. Experimentation can be dangerous. Although Weatherby sells empty cartridge cases for reloading purposes it assumes no liability in the use of hand-loaded ammunition in its firearms. Handloading is subject to human error over which Weatherby has no control.

SPECIFICATIONS

Receiver

We believe the Vanguard features one of the safest, strongest bolt action receivers ever designed. There are two massive locking lugs plus a completely enclosed bolt face, gas ejection ports and fully enclosed bolt sleeve. Each receiver is specially heat-treated to insure maximum strength, then tested at pressures far in excess of normal. The bolt, receiver and all moving parts have passed rigorous inspection to assure you of continuing quality. Finally after inspection, the receiver is polished to a high luster and immersed in a special bluing solution, producing the most durable blue-black finish found on any piece of highly polished steel the world over (photo #1).

Barrel

The barrel of your rifle is 24" in length (20" on VGL models) with four sets of lands and grooves, except for six in the .25-06 and .223 Rem. Vanguard rifles in calibers .243 Win., .25-06 Rem., .270 Win., 7mm Rem. Mag., .30-06, .300 Win. Mag. and .308 Win. have barrels with a one in 10" twist. The twist on the .22/250 cal. is one in 14", and one in 12" on the .223 Rem. The rifling is produced by the new revolutionary hammer-forged method, another Weatherby first. This swaging process gives the special high-chrome content steel barrel the smoothest, most durable bore ever developed, thus assuring longer bore life with greatest accuracy.

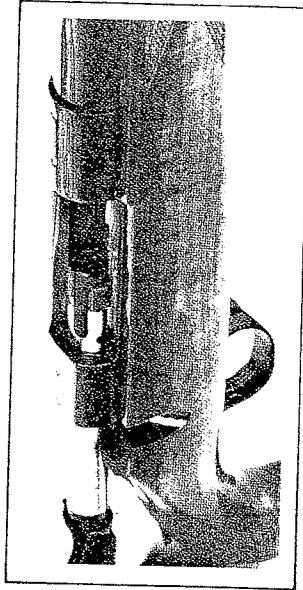


Photo #1: Opened receiver showing recessed bolt face and locking lugs.

Stock

The distinctively shaped stock of the Vanguard VGX is made of California walnut, hand bedded to assure you precision accuracy. This model has a high lustre finish, is equipped with a Weatherby/recoil pad, rosewood 45° fore end tip with white spacers and pistol grip cap with the traditional Weatherby white diamond inlay, and is hand checkered by skilled artisans.

The Vanguard VGS and VGL models also have stocks of California walnut, but with a non-glare satin oil finish. They also feature fine line hand checkering and are hand bedded. Both of these models are equipped with black butt pads with black spacers. The two magnum calibers feature full black recoil pads.

OPERATING DIRECTIONS

Loading

Before loading your rifle, always be sure there are no obstructions in the barrel such as grease, dirt, cleaning patches, etc. With bolt open, lay cartridge on magazine follower, and press into magazine until held by side walls. The magazine of your Vanguard will hold three to five cartridges depending on the caliber. An extra cartridge may then be loaded directly into the chamber by holding down the top cartridge in the magazine and closing the bolt on the chambered cartridge.

Safety

The safety, which is located on the right side between the receiver and the stock, cannot be operated unless the firing pin is cocked. To engage, move safety as far back as it will go. To fire, push safety forward and pull trigger.

To unload

To remove live cartridge from the chamber, open bolt and pull bolt rearward slowly until the cartridge can be grasped with the fingers before it clears the receiver. To remove cartridges from the magazine, open hinged floor plate by depressing the button in front of trigger-guard and cartridge will drop out.

DISASSEMBLY OF BOLT

No special tools are needed in order to field strip the Vanguard. To remove bolt, unload chamber and magazine of all ammunition. With bolt open and drawn rearward, depress latch on left side of receiver and remove bolt (photo #2).

To field strip bolt

Holding the bolt body stationary, rotate the bolt sleeve in a clockwise direction (looked at from the rear). The firing-pin bolt-sleeve assembly will automatically separate with approximately a 170° rotation. Withdraw the assembly from the bolt body. Further disassembly is not recommended since the parts are under great spring pressure and if disassembled incorrectly, the parts could fly apart with sufficient force to cause injury. Reassemble by inserting the firing-pin bolt-sleeve assembly into the bolt (photo #3) and aligning the square boss on the bolt sleeve shank with the longitudinal indexing groove in the bolt (photo #4). Compress spring by pushing forward on the bolt sleeve and rotate counter-clockwise until the cocking piece falls into the detent near the cam opening.

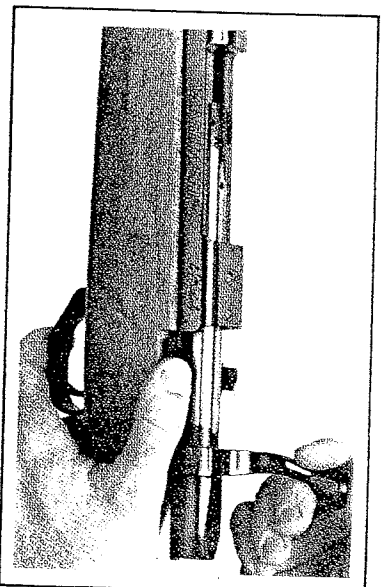


Photo #2: Depress release latch to remove bolt.

To replace bolt
To reassemble, align the locking lugs with the channels in the receiver and push bolt fully forward.

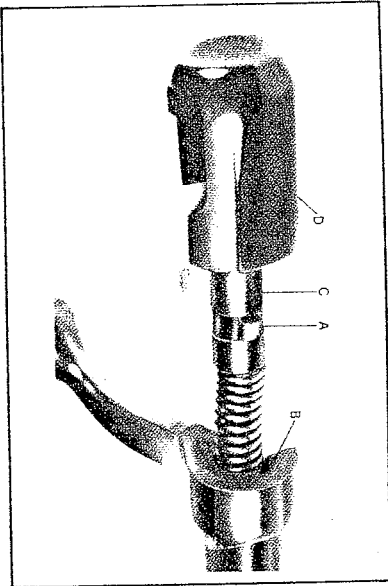


Photo #3. (A) Square boss, (B) Indexing groove, (C) Bolt sleeve shank, (D) Bolt sleeve.

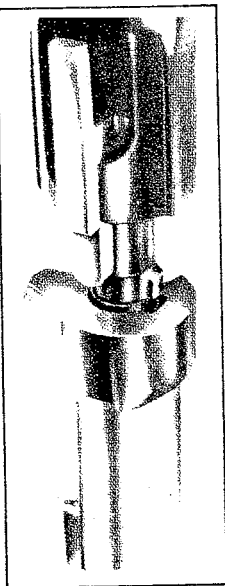


Photo #4. Square boss correctly positioned and about to be inserted in indexing groove.

The bolt of your Vanguard rifle is packed separately in the shipping carton.

SUGGESTIONS FOR GETTING TOP PERFORMANCE FROM YOUR VANGUARD

1. Your Vanguard is guaranteed to be accurate with factory ammunition. This guarantee is supported by test firing each rifle at the factory. Each Vanguard rifle must shoot a 3-shot group at 100 yards measuring $1\frac{1}{2}$ " or less before leaving the factory. This group is shot from a cold barrel simulating actual field conditions.
2. Make sure that both trigger guard screws are tight before firing your rifle. Always tighten the front guard screw first and the rear screw last. Loose trigger guard screws not only contribute to inaccuracy but can also cause stock damage. Check these screws periodically as recoil and changes in atmospheric conditions can cause them to work loose.
3. Be sure your scope is secure. Loose mount screws are a definite source of inaccuracy. If your scope was mounted at our factory, you may be sure the mounting screws will "stay put" as they were treated with a special thread sealer that resists recoil vibrations.
4. If there should ever occur a noticeable change in point of impact or opening of groups, and you have checked all the above sources of inaccuracy, it is possible that there has been a slight dimension change in the stock due to atmospheric variations. (This can happen to any wood stock no matter how well sealed.) The remedy is usually minor rebedding of the barrel. Consult the factory before returning the rifle.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CARE AND CLEANING

Most modern ammunition is completely noncorrosive and can not harm your rifle's bore. However, moisture **can** form in the bore especially after the bore is hot, and this can cause rust if left unattended.

It is just good sense and a simple precaution after firing to run a patch soaked with a powder solvent through the bore, then a dry patch followed by a lightly oiled one. Heavy greases should be used only if the rifle is to be stored for a long period and, of course, should always be removed before firing. In cleaning the bore, it is highly advisable to remove bolt and insert rod from breech. Before cleaning, be sure rifle is unloaded.

The action and all metal parts should be cleaned off after exposure to rain or dampness and even after being handled (perspiration can be very corrosive). Wipe off parts such as bolt, receiver and magazine parts with a slightly oily cloth. To insure smooth bolt movement, give exterior of bolt a thin coat of light oil. To restore gloss to external metal and wood, polish with silicone cloth.

To protect bore while hunting in rain or dust, cover the muzzle with Scotch tape. Rifle may be fired without removing tape. Tape should always be removed from the rifle after the hunt. Never plug muzzle with any obstruction during storage.

Sighting in tips

When hunting, the important first two or three shots are fired from a "cold" barrel . . . therefore, always sight in your Vanguard from a cold barrel. Remember that Vanguard rifles are lightweight hunting rifles, and though they possess target accuracy, do not expect small tight groups if the barrel is overheated. Firing 10 to 20 rounds in rapid succession **will** overheat the barrel and may cause change of impact. If it has been some time since your rifle has been sighted in, it is always a good idea before a hunting trip to take a few sighting shots to check zero. Keep ammunition away from heat. High temperature increases pressure which in turn affects point of impact.

If you anticipate a hunt in extremely cold weather, where temperatures sometimes reach 50 degrees below zero, you should send your bolt to our factory for winterizing. Any trace of lubricants will be removed and replaced with a special graphite.

WARNING

Never place sand bags directly behind the pistol grip or use a fixed, or immovable type rest when shooting this rifle. Portions of the stock, including the pistol grip may directly contact the rest. On firing, recoil can drive the rifle back into the rest or sand bags with great force, transmitting recoil energy to all points of contact. Unrepairable damage to the pistol grip and/or stock may result. Such damage is **NOT COVERED UNDER WARRANTY.**



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Pioneer in High-Velocity Magnums

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Product Purchased _____ S/N _____

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Is this your first Weatherby Product? Yes No

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