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FM 23-35

WAR DEPARTMENT

BASIC FIELD MANUAL



**AUTOMATIC PISTOL
CALIBER .45
M1911 AND M1911A¹**

FM 23-35

BASIC FIELD MANUAL



**AUTOMATIC PISTOL, CALIBER .45
M1911 AND M1911A1**

**Prepared under direction of the
Chief of Cavalry**



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FM 23-35, Automatic Pistol, Caliber .45, M1911 and 1911A1, is published for the information and guidance of all concerned.

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BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
CHAPTER 1. MECHANICAL TRAINING.		
SECTION I. Description -----	1- 2	1-5
II. Disassembling and assembling --	3- 4	5-8
III. Care and cleaning -----	5- 11	8-11
IV. Functioning -----	12- 14	11-14
V. Spare parts and accessories ----	15- 16	14-15
VI. Ammunition -----	17- 24	15-18
VII. Individual safety precautions ---	25- 26	18-20
CHAPTER 2. MANUAL OF THE PISTOL, LOADING AND FIRING, DISMOUNTED AND MOUNTED.		
SECTION I. General -----	27	21
II. Dismounted -----	28- 37	22-24
III. Mounted -----	38- 44	24-25
CHAPTER 3. MARKSMANSHIP, KNOWN-DISTANCE TARGETS, DISMOUNTED.		
SECTION I. Preparatory training -----	45- 51	26-50
II. Courses to be fired -----	52- 54	50-52
III. Conduct of range practice -----	55- 61	52-61
IV. Known-distance targets and ranges; range precautions ----	62- 64	61-65
V. Small-bore practice -----	65- 69	65-66
CHAPTER 4. MARKSMANSHIP, KNOWN-DISTANCE TARGETS, MOUNTED.		
SECTION I. Preparatory training -----	70- 72	67-73
II. Courses to be fired -----	73- 74	73
III. Conduct of range practice -----	75- 78	74-79
IV. Known-distance targets and ranges; range precautions ----	79- 81	79-80
V. Small-bore practice -----	82- 84	80
CHAPTER 5. FIRING AT FIELD TARGETS.		
SECTION I. Dismounted -----	85- 88	81-82
II. Mounted -----	89- 93	82-85
CHAPTER 6. ADVICE TO INSTRUCTORS.		
SECTION I. General -----	94- 95	86-87
II. Mechanical training -----	96-101	88-89
III. Manual of the pistol -----	102	89
IV. Marksmanship -----	103-106	90-92

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CHAPTER 1

MECHANICAL TRAINING

	Paragraphs
SECTION I. Description.....	1-2
II. Disassembling and assembling.....	3-4
III. Care and cleaning.....	5-11
IV. Functioning.....	12-14
V. Spare parts and accessories.....	15-16
VI. Ammunition.....	17-24
VII. Individual safety precautions.....	25-26

SECTION I

DESCRIPTION

■ 1. GENERAL.—*a.* The automatic pistols, caliber .45, M1911 and M1911A1, are recoil-operated, magazine-fed, self-loading hand weapons (figs. 1 and 2). The gas generated in a cartridge fired in the pistol is utilized to perform the functions of extracting and ejecting the empty cartridge case, cocking the hammer and forcing the slide to the rearmost position, thereby compressing the recoil spring. The action of the recoil spring forces the slide forward, feeding a live cartridge from the magazine into the chamber, leaving the weapon ready to fire again.

b. The M1911A1 pistol is a modification of the M1911 pistol. The operation of both models of pistols is exactly the same. The changes consist of the following (fig. 2):

(1) The tang of the grip safety is extended better to protect the hand.

(2) A clearance cut is made on the receiver for the trigger finger.