

2. Bring up the firelock with a quick motion from the shoulder, and seize it with the left hand, just above the lock, so that the fingers grip the stock, elbows down, the little finger resting upon the featherspring (hammer spring), the thumb gripping the stock; the firelock must not be held too far from the body, and the left hand must be of equal height with the eyes. The musket must be directly in front of the face. You should be looking over your left index finger which is at eye level.

2. COCK your - FIRELOCKS

1. Turn the barrel towards your face, and place your right thumb upon the cock (mistakenly called the hammer), raising the elbow square at this motion.
2. Cock your firelock, by drawing your elbow down, leaving your thumb on the cock screw until the following command. As soon as the flashguard is safely pointed upward the thumb may be removed from the cock and you may grip normally. (Ed. Note: This is for safety; the real manual calls for the thumb to drop and again grip the wrist of the stock.)

3. PRE - SENT

1. Step back about six inches to the rear with the right foot, the toe pointing to the right, bringing the body $\frac{1}{4}$ around, keeping the left toe to the front; at the same time the butt end of the firelock must be brought tightly against the meat of the shoulder (ball), placing the left hand on the swell, and the fore-finger of the right hand on the trigger, raising the muzzle to a safe position in the air. (Ed. Note: For safety reasons it is extremely important to hold the weapon firmly against the shoulder when firing - even with blanks. Hold it level unless ordered otherwise or you see a safety problem.)

NOTE: for position of ranks in Present, see RAPID FIRE instructions.

4. FIRE NOTE: for position of ranks in Fire, see RAPID FIRE instructions.

1. Pull the trigger briskly (make sure your musket fired!), and immediately after bring the right foot up even with the left, come to the priming position, with the lock in front of the right breast, the muzzle even with the top of the cap plate, keeping firm and steady. At the same time seize the cock (top jaw screw) with the fore-finger and thumb of the right hand, the back of the hand turned up.

5. HALF COCK your - FIRELOCKS

1. Briskly bring the cock back to the first stop (click) with a draw back of the right elbow, bringing the elbow close to the butt of the firelock.
2. Firmly grasp the firelock with the right hand at the small (wrist of the stock).

6. HANDLE your - CARTRIDGE

1. Bring your right hand with a short motion round to your cartridge box, slapping it hard; open it and seize the cartridge, and bring it with a quick motion to your mouth; bite the top well off and bring the hand even with the chin, with the elbow out. (Ed. Note: Tap the powder down with your fingers as you bring the cartridge up. Bite as close to the powder as possible without eating any.)

7. PRIME

1. Shake a little powder into the pan, placing the last three fingers behind the hammer, with the cartridge held by the thumb and fore-finger. Do not overfill the pan (h full is plenty). Too much powder in the pan can clog the touch hole and cause misfires. It can also prevent the hammer from closing properly over the pan resulting in lost priming as you complete the loading process.

8. SHUT - PANS

1. Shut your pan briskly, by drawing the right elbow to the right, holding the cartridge fast in your hand, as in the former position.
2. With the left hand, turn the piece nimbly round to the loading position with the lock to the outside. The barrel should be down, and the muzzle the height of the chin. Firmly hold with the left hand, at the same time bring the right hand with cartridge to the muzzle. Both feet must be kept in place during this motion.

9. CHARGE with - CARTRIDGE

1. Turn up your hand and put the open end of the cartridge into the muzzle, quickly shaking the powder into the barrel. If loading with live ball, insert the ball and paper into the muzzle.

(Ed. Note: Make sure your fingers never get in front of the muzzle where an accidental discharge could hurt you. Do NOT insert the paper cartridge in the muzzle.)

2. Sharply throw away the empty cartridge paper with a quick motion of the right hand and arm.

3. Place your right hand, closed, with a quick and strong motion, upon the rammer, with the rammer between the thumb and fore-finger just below the head.

(Ed. Note: The palm of the hand should be forward - away from the face. This "back handed" motion prevents the hand from being placed above the muzzle of a loaded musket. The rammer should be started, but not more than 2".)

10. DRAW your - RAMMERS

1. Draw the rammer with a quick motion; half out, seizing it again at the muzzle back-handed.

2. Draw it out, turn it around, and enter the flared (large) end into the muzzle. If loaded with ball, push it down about 1/2 to 3/4 inch into the muzzle to give a good start..

(Ed. Note: The drawing of the rammer is a two count movement ! Done properly, it looks sharp. Otherwise it is a wretched fumbling. The head should remain erect throughout the process.)

11. RAM DOWN your - CARTRIDGE

1. Ram the cartridge well down the barrel, with a quick motion, instantly recovering and seizing it back-handed at the center, turning it about and entering it as far as the lower pipe, placing at the same time the edge of the hand on the butt end of the rammer so as to keep the hand from being over the muzzle, with the fingers extended.



12. RETURN your - RAMMERS

1. Return the rammer with a quick motion of the hand, bringing up the piece with the left hand to the shoulder, seizing it with the right hand behind the cock, keeping the left hand fast at the swell, keeping your body square to the front. The trigger guard should be in your left armpit.

13. SHOULDER your - FIRELOCKS

1. Release with the left hand and with it grasp the butt of the musket.
2. Release with the right hand and bring it straight down the right side.

(Ed. Note: The position of SHOULDER your FIRELOCKS is the normal position for carrying the musket on the march. To rest the troops, this may be varied by marching at the SUPPORT, ADVANCE, TRAIL, or SLOPE ARMS position.

14. REST your - FIRELOCKS

1. Same as Poise
2. Same as Poise
3. Step briskly back with your right foot, placing it at a slight angle a hand's breath distance from your left heel (not a big step!), at the same time bring down the firelock, as quick as possible to your Rest, sinking it down as far in front of the left knee as your right hand will permit without stretching; your left little finger on the feather spring; and your right with fingers extended held under the guard, taking care to draw in the muzzle well toward your body, and to dress in a line with the butt end. The firelock should be about a "fist" distance in front of the chest.

(Ed. Note: It is important that the barrel be held as straight up and down as possible - and as still as possible.)

15. ORDER your - FIRELOCKS

(from the Rest position only)

1. Nimble place your firelock against your right shoulder with your left hand.
2. Release the firelock with the right hand, and sinking the firelock at the same time with your left, seize it at the muzzle, while holding it close against your right side.
3. Lift up your right foot, and place it by your left. At the same time throw back your left hand by your left side, and with your right bring down the butt end to the ground, placing it even with the toe of your right foot; the thumb of your right hand lying upon the bayonet stud, and the muzzle kept at a little distance from the body.

16. GROUND your - FIRELOCKS (from the Order position only)

1. Face (turn) $\frac{1}{4}$ to the right by turning the right foot upon the heel, and at the same time turn the firelock so that the lock points to the rear, and the flat of the butt-end lies against the inside of your foot, at the same time slipping the right foot behind the butt, the right toe pointing to the right and the left toe to the front.

2. Step directly forward with your left foot, about as far as the swell of the firelock, while sliding the right hand down the barrel, and lay it upon the ground, your left hand supporting your accoutrements, and your right foot kept fast with the butt-end of your firelock against it.

(Ed. Note: It is important to keep your head erect while doing this to avoid losing your bearskin.)

3. Raise yourself up again nimbly, bringing back your left foot to its former position, keeping your body facing $\frac{1}{4}$ to the right.

4. Turn again to the left (so as to come to your proper front) keeping both hands against the sides and without motion.

(Ed. Note: These movements should be timed according to the individual to your right.)

17. TAKE UP your - FIRELOCKS

1. Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ to the right upon the heel of the right foot.

2. Sink your body down and come to the position described in motion #2 of Grounding, and grasp the firelock about the swell.

3. Raise yourself and the firelock, bringing it close to your right side while sliding the right hand up the barrel to the proper position with the thumb upon the bayonet stud.

4. Come to your proper front, turning the firelock at the same time and coming to the Order.

(Ed. Note: These movements should be timed according to the individuals to your right.)

