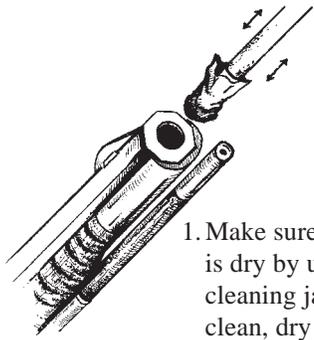
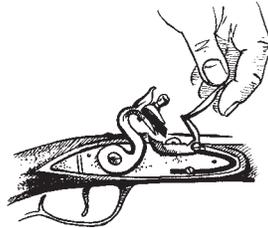


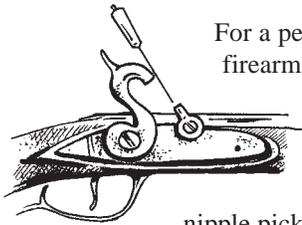
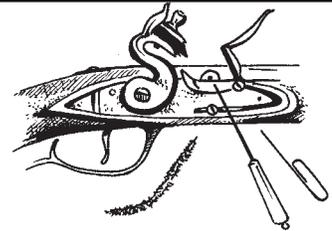
How to Load a Muzzleloader ©2003



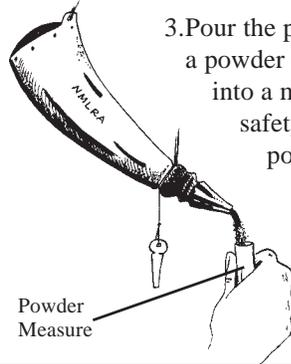
1. Make sure the bore is dry by using a cleaning jag and a clean, dry patch.



2. With the hammer down for safety, clean the frizzen, pan, and flint (watch out for the sharp edges on the flint). Be sure the flash hole is clear of obstruction by inserting a vent pick, paper clip, or pipe cleaner. Load a flintlock with the frizzen and hammer all the way forward.



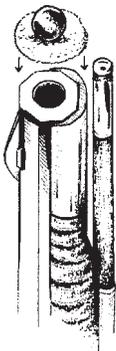
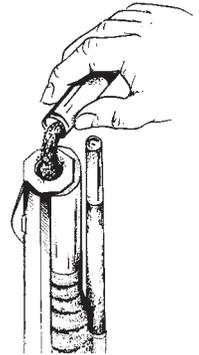
For a percussion firearm, inspect the nipple for obstruction by using a nipple pick or paper clip. With an unloaded firearm snap a cap or two. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.



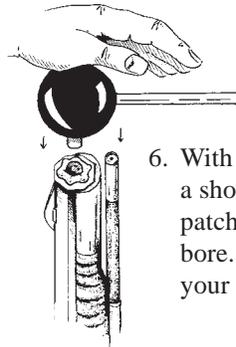
Powder Measure

3. Pour the powder from a powder horn or flask into a measure. For safety, never pour powder directly into the bore from a horn or flask.

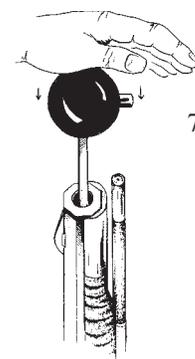
4. Pour the measured powder charge down the bore. Avoid placing hands or face directly over the muzzle.



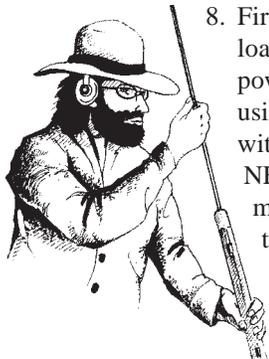
5. Center a lubricated or moistened patch over the bore and place the lead ball onto the patch.



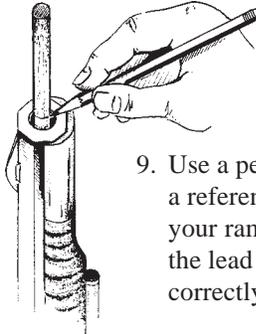
6. With the short end of a short starter, set the patched ball into the bore. Use the palm of your hand.



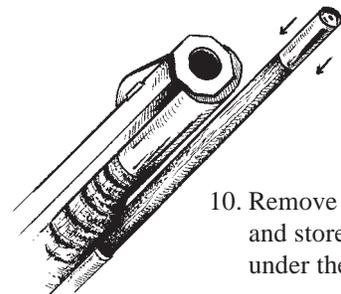
7. Push the ball deeper with the long end of the short starter by using the palm of your hand.



8. Firmly seat the load against the powder charge by using short strokes with your ramrod. NEVER fire a muzzleloader if the ball is not firmly seated on the powder charge.

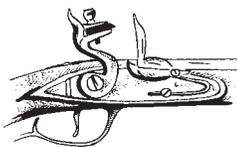


9. Use a pencil to make a reference mark on your ramrod when the lead ball is correctly loaded.

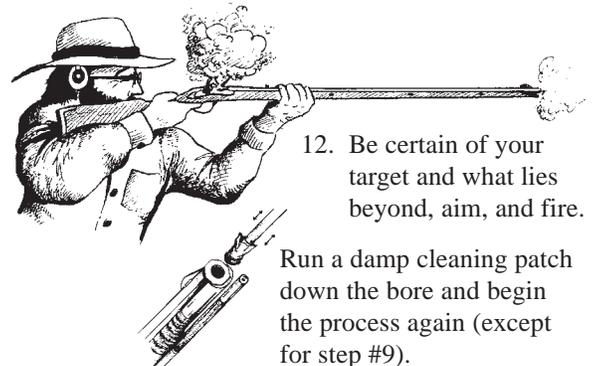


10. Remove ramrod and store it under the barrel.

11. For a flintlock, fill the pan 1/4 to 1/3 full of priming powder, close frizzen, and place hammer into the half-cock position until ready to fire. When ready to shoot, bring the hammer into the full cock position.



For a percussion-type muzzleloader, place a cap firmly onto the nipple and bring the hammer into the half-cock position. When ready to shoot, place the hammer into full cock.



12. Be certain of your target and what lies beyond, aim, and fire.

Run a damp cleaning patch down the bore and begin the process again (except for step #9).