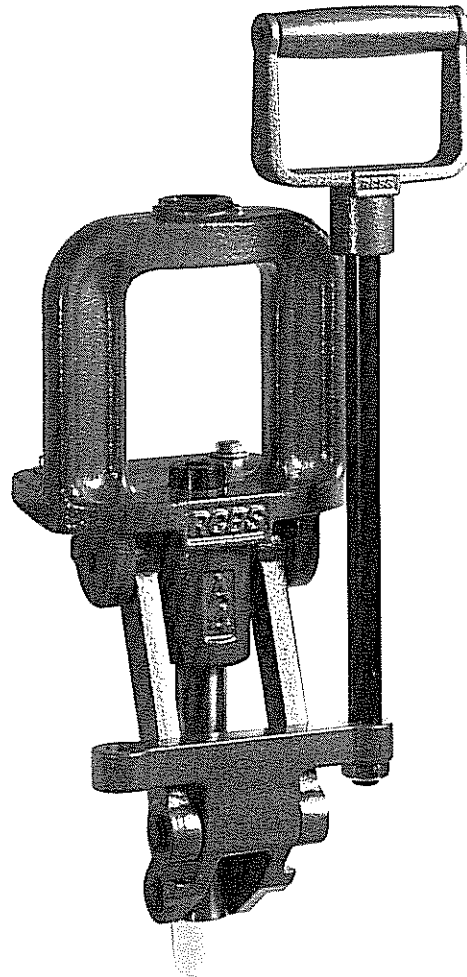




# **BIG MAX<sup>T.M.</sup>**

## **HEAVY-DUTY RELOADING PRESS INSTRUCTIONS**



# SAFETY

Reloading is an enjoyable and rewarding hobby that is easily conducted with safety. But carelessness or negligence can make reloading hazardous. This Press has been designed from the beginning with the user's safety in mind.

As when loading with any other reloading press, some safety rules must be followed. By observing these few rules, the chance of a hazardous occurrence causing damage or injury becomes extremely remote.

## GENERAL

1. Use the reloading equipment as the manufacturer recommends. Study the instructions carefully and become thoroughly familiar with the operation of the tool. Don't take short cuts.
2. Observe "good housekeeping" in the reloading area. Keep tools and components neat, clean and orderly. Promptly and completely clean up primer and powder spills.
3. Reload only when you can give your undivided attention. Do not reload when fatigued or ill. Develop a reloading routine to avoid mistakes. Avoid haste—load at a leisurely pace.
4. Always wear adequate eye protection. You assume unnecessary risk when reloading without wearing safety glasses.
5. If any unusual resistance is encountered when moving the operating handle, STOP IMMEDIATELY and investigate the cause. To proceed against unusual resistance may damage equipment and/or cause serious injury!

## LOADING DATA

1. Use only laboratory tested reloading data. We highly recommend the use of the SPEER Reloading Manual.
2. OBSERVE ALL WARNINGS ABOUT THE USE OF MAXIMUM LISTED LOADS.

## PRIMERS AND POWDER

1. Store primers and powder beyond the reach of children and away from heat, dampness, open flames and electrical equipment.
2. DO NOT use primers of unknown identity. To destroy unwanted primers, soak in oil for a few days and then bury.
3. Keep primers in original factory container until ready to use. Return unused primers to the same factory packaging for safety and to preserve their identity.
4. DO NOT store primers in bulk. The blast of just a few hundred primers is sufficient to cause serious injury to anyone nearby.
5. DO NOT force primers. Use care in handling primers.
6. DO NOT use any powder unless its identity is positively known. Discard all mixed powders and those of uncertain or unknown identity.
7. If you use a Powder Measure, replace the lids on both the Powder Hopper and powder can after the Powder Hopper has been filled.
8. Before charging cases, settle the powder in the Powder Hopper. Throw and check the weight of at least ten charges. This will assure you that the correct powder charge is being thrown.
9. After a reloading session ends, pour the remaining powder back in its original factory container. This will preserve the identity and shelf life of the powder.
10. DO NOT smoke while handling powder or primers.

## RECORD KEEPING

1. Keep complete records of reloads. Apply a descriptive label to each box showing the date produced, and the primer, powder and bullet used. Labels for this purpose are packed with SPEER bullets.

Since Omark Industries has no control over the choice of components, the manner in which they are assembled, the use of this press, or the guns in which the resulting ammunition may be used, no responsibility, either expressed or implied, is assumed for the use of ammunition reloaded with this press.

Unpack the press carefully and look for the following:

1. Press without Handle
2. Handle Assembly
3. Accessory Pack consisting of
  - a) Ammunition Catcher Box
  - b) Resizing Lubricant
  - c) Shell Holder Adaptor Assembly
  - d) Ram Priming Unit
  - e) Pin Wrench
  - f) Primer Bottle
  - g) Outers Gunslick® Lubricant

Report any shortage to your dealer immediately.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

You have just purchased the finest single stage reloading press available. The BIG MAX Press design is the evolutionary result of over 40 years experience in the production and personal use of reloading equipment and extends the line of the famous RCBS Model "A" Press series. Its esoteric design features will become apparent to you with use. No expense has been spared in the materials, production or assembly of this high quality, precision reloading press. The strength, power and utility of the BIG MAX Press are unsurpassed. Our goal has been to produce the ultimate single stage reloading tool for the knowledgeable and discriminating reloader.

This instruction manual is limited to the operation of the BIG MAX Press. Beginning reloaders desiring specific instructions on reloading procedures, loading data and ballistic information can find such information in the SPEER Reloading Manual available at your dealer.

## INSTALLATION

The press should be bolted to your bench using 3/8 inch bolts installed through the drilled holes on the rear flange. Position the press with the antitorque blocks against the bench prior to locating the holes. Because there is no underswing of the linkage during press operation, the BIG MAX Press may be mounted on flush-front benches (see fig. 1).

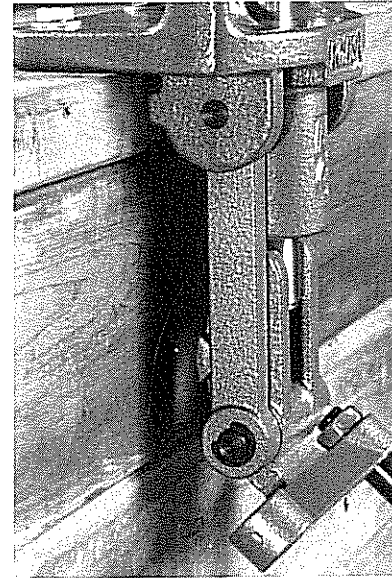


Fig. 1

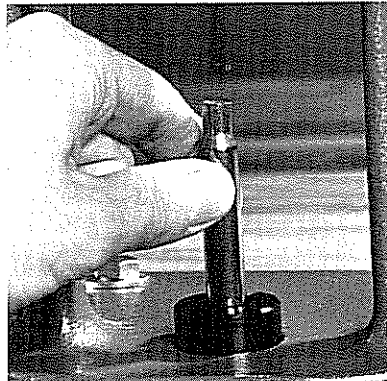


Fig. 2

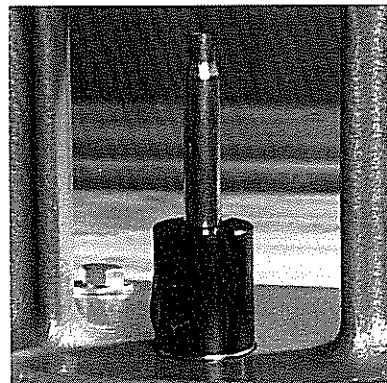


Fig. 3

The handle may be mounted on the right or left side, depending on your preference. Tighten the handle nut securely to avoid damage or injury. You will experience the more natural positioning of your hand with the horizontal rotating grip produced from genuine American Black Walnut. This design eliminates blisters and greatly eases the effort required for reloading.

## SHELL HOLDERS

Your BIG MAX Press was assembled with the Automatic Shell Holder installed. This Shell Holder is suitable for most popular cartridge sizes. Certain cartridges with unusually thick rims or large rim diameters such as the .45 Auto Rim and .45-70 are not adaptable. Cartridges not suitable for use with the Automatic Shell Holder may be reloaded using the Shell Holder Adaptor provided, and an appropriate size conventional Shell Holder.

The Automatic Shell Holder is automatic in function. The extractors are cammed open near the bottom of the ram stroke and close upon the up stroke. Simply place the cartridge in the top recess (see fig. 2) and within 1/2 inch of the ram stroke the extractors will secure the cartridge case (see fig. 3). The unit is self-centering, therefore, it is not necessary to position, guide or support the case.

Cartridges that fit RCBS Shell Holders #5, #8, #13, #14, #22, #24, #29, and #31 are not suitable for use in the Automatic Shell Holder. Notable cartridges within that group are:

.25 ACP (.25 Auto)  
.45 Auto Rim  
7.62mm Russian  
.348 Winchester  
.405 Winchester

.43 Mauser  
.45-70 U.S. Government  
.460 Weatherby Magnum  
.50-70 U.S. Government

The Shell Holder Adaptor is provided for use of the supplied Ram™. Priming Unit as well as conventional Shell Holders, Extended Shell Holders, Primer Pocket Swaging units or other accessory items (see fig. 4).

A Pin Wrench is supplied to tighten and loosen both the Automatic Shell Holder and Shell Holder Adaptor (see fig. 5).

## DIE ADJUSTMENT

The Automatic Shell Holder is dimensioned identically to conventional Shell Holders utilizing the industry standard .125 inch headspace. Sizer Dies should be adjusted to just contact the Automatic Shell Holder when the ram is at the top of the stroke. Then lower the ram very slightly. Screw the Sizer Die down approximately one-eighth turn more and set the Die Lock Ring. When properly adjusted, slight resistance should be felt when the Automatic Shell Holder contacts the Die before the linkage "cams over center" and contacts the mechanical stops.

## DECAPPING

When decapping, using either the Automatic Shell Holder or conventional Shell Holders, spent primers will pass directly through the hollow ram to be retained in the Primer Bottle. Residue build-up associated with milled slots in conventional press rams is thereby eliminated. The Primer Bottle should be emptied after each reloading session or when full. Large quantity reloaders may appreciate the convenience of omitting the Primer Bottle and placing a waste basket directly beneath the press to catch spent primers.

**Decapping live primers is extremely dangerous and is not recommended.**

## PRIMING

Many experienced reloaders have primed cases "off-press" with one of the hand-held or bench mounted priming tools. Some reloading presses simply do not have sufficient mechanical advantage at the priming position of the stroke to adequately seat primers.

Your BIG MAX Press is supplied with an accessory Ram™ Priming unit. The installation and operational procedure to "seat primers by feel" is as follows:

1. Install Shell Holder Adaptor in ram.
2. Insert Primer Rod Holder in the Adaptor.
3. Screw the Ram Priming Body into the press, positioning it so the Hex Lock Nut is even with the top of the threads of the body and so the shell holder slot is facing the front. Secure by tightening the 7/8-14 Hex Lock Nut.

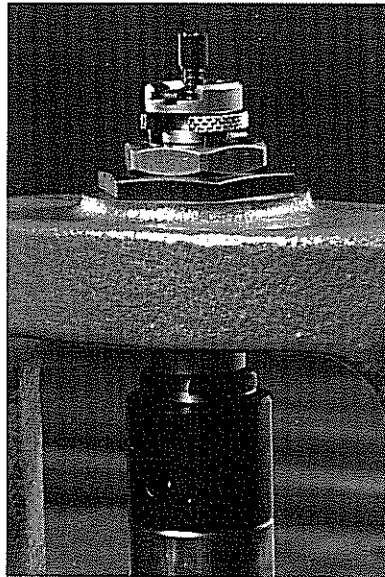


Fig. 6



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

4. Insert appropriate Shell Holder (not supplied) into Ram Priming Body.
5. Assemble large or small Primer Rod Assembly as appropriate. To assemble the Primer Rod Assemblies: Select the correct Primer Plug and Sleeve (large or small). Drop the Primer Plug through the Sleeve. Place the Spring on top of the Primer Rod. Screw the Primer Plug into the top of the Primer Rod. Tighten the assembly with a small nail or straightened paper clip through the hole in the Primer Plug. Do not over tighten.
6. Position the ram at the top of its stroke and drop the Primer Rod Assembly through the Shell Holder. It should come to rest extending approximately 1/2 inch above the Shell Holder (see fig. 6).

To prime, simply place the primer into the extended Primer Rod Assembly (see fig. 7). Raise the operating handle slightly so that the Primer Rod Assembly has dropped below the Shell Holder level. Insert deprimed cartridge case (see fig. 8) and lower the operating handle until the primer is seated.

Proper primer seating requires that the primer be seated between .002 inch and .006 inch below the case head. Both insufficient and excessive primer seating depth greatly decrease primer sensitivity and can result in misfires. Due to the tremendous mechanical advantage of this press, it is possible to over-seat or crush primers during seating. Great care must be exercised until you learn the proper "feel."

An optional, and perhaps more precise method of primer seating known as "seating primers to a positive stop" is as follows:

7. Repeat steps 1-6.
8. Untighten 7/8-14 Hex Lock Nut and unscrew Ram Priming Body approximately 1/2 inch until proper primer seating is achieved exactly at the end of ram stroke. Proper adjustment can be achieved only by trial and error.

Subsequent primer seating depth using the "seating primers to a positive stop" method will vary only as much as the variation in the rim thickness of your cartridge cases.

Priming should be accomplished following either procedure precisely.

Note that the actual priming of either procedure takes place upon the handle down stroke, as do all other functions on the BIG MAX Press. This improved design deletes the requirement of using a heavy bench bolted to the floor.

If you desire the convenience of an automatic primer feed, the RCBS Automatic Priming Tool is so equipped. It is produced to the same high quality and performance standards as your BIG MAX Press and is available from your dealer.

## MAINTENANCE

This press was pre-lubricated at the factory. It is necessary, however, to periodically re-lubricate all movable parts. The Ram should be lubricated with the Resizing Lubricant supplied. Light gun oil is adequate for other parts such as the extractors and various pins. Extreme care should be taken not to apply oil where it could come in contact with cartridge case primer pockets or primers. Oil will deactivate primers.

It is a good practice to clean the press and parts prior to lubrication to remove grit and other residue. You will note the ease at which the epoxy enamel paint wipes clean. This new finish is impervious to oil and is extremely chip and fade resistant.

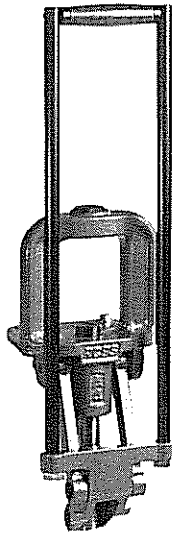
The press should not require disassembly for cleaning. Only persons with machinist or gunsmith capabilities should attempt to disassemble the Automatic Shell Holder.



Fig. 7

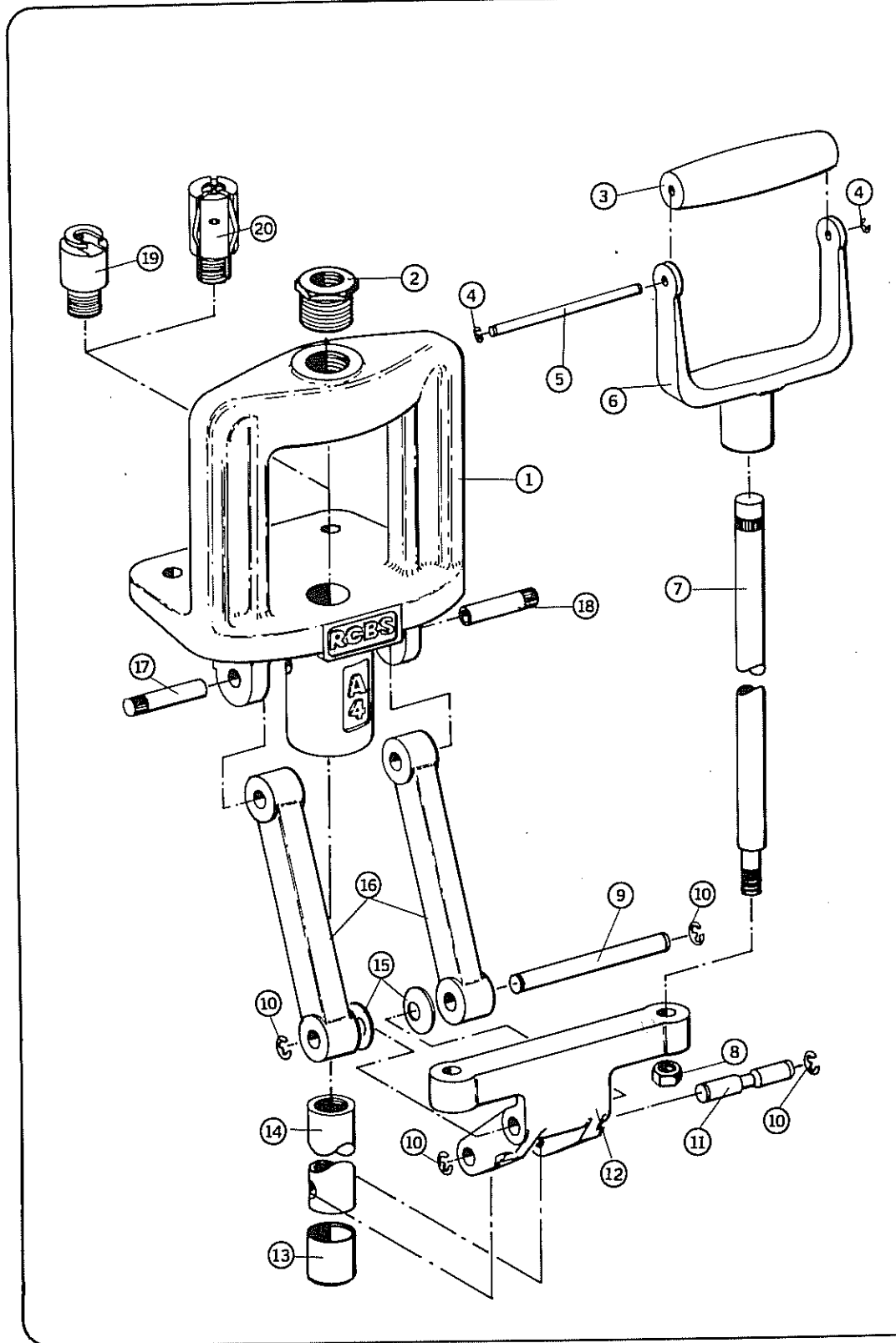


Fig. 8



## ACCESSORIES

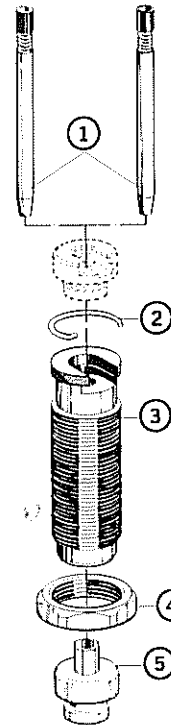
A Special Duty Kit (Part Number 09178) is available for extremely heavy-duty specialized use. It consists of a dual mounted, extra length operating handle with a Blank Bushing and Ram Adaptor for custom modification to mount bullet swaging tooling, etc. The Special Duty Kit may be ordered from your dealer.



# BIG MAX™ PRESS PARTS LIST

KEY	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	09148	Frame
2	09161	Bushing
3	09160	Handle Grip
4	86733	Retaining Ring (2)
5	09155	Handle Grip Pin
6	09153	Handle Grip Fork
7	09152	Handle Shaft
8	09136	Hex Nut 5/8 - 18
9	09157	Toggle Block Pin
10	09105	Retaining Ring (4)
11	09156	Ram Pin
12	09149	Toggle Block
13	09167	Primer Bottle
14	09151	Ram
15	09144	Bow Washer (2)
16	09150	Link Arm (2)
17	09127	Link Pin, Left
18	09128	Link Pin, Right
19	09169	Shell Holder Adaptor
20	09159	Automatic Shell Holder
*	86625	Ammunition Catcher Box
*	09301	Resizing Lubricant
*	09164	Pin Wrench

\*Not Shown



## RAM™ PRIMING UNIT

KEY	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	09471	Primer Rod Assembly, Lg. & Sm.
2	09111	Shell Holder Spring
3	09175	Ram Priming Body
4	09021	Hex Lock Nut 7/8 - 14
5	09176	Primer Rod Holder

Standard Shell Holder not supplied with Ram Priming Unit.