

Scope Mounts

Scope mounts of the grip replacement variety are fairly easy to get around. Sometimes they do not have to be removed at all. The type that bolts to the lower dust cover frequently must be removed before you can get the slide off. That is, if the gun still has a rear sight installed. If there are no sights on the slide, the slide may be able to slip underneath.

Each installation should be evaluated to make a judgement before proceeding. Count on additional work of some type if the frame has a scope mount attached to it. If one does need to remove a scope mount, count on it being difficult prior to beginning. Select only screwdrivers, or wrenches that are high quality, and that fit the fastener properly.

You will probably also need a clean soldering iron, or small propane torch to heat screws that are held in with Loctite®. Three hundred degrees will soften any Loctite® product and will not hurt the frame finish or gun steel if confined to the screw area. The soldering iron is great for this spot work. If we use the propane torch, we keep it pointed directly at the screw in question, and hold it there for about 15 seconds. If that doesn't work, try another 15 seconds. Do not ruin the screw by twisting its slot out before the Loctite® has a chance to soften.

Thumb Guards

Some designs are simply held on by the grip panel. There are also types that replace the entire plunger tube. They would not be easily removed, nor would there be any need to. Neither type usually cause any problems in disassembly.

Custom Sights

Normally, the home workman should not need to remove the sights for any maintenance work. Such work is best left to the gunsmith, or hobbyist work covered elsewhere in this book.

Slide Buffers

These polyethylene washers are sort of like a shock absorber on a car. At the point where the slide impacts the frame, they offer a cushion to prevent metal to metal contact. They simply slip over the spring recoil plug between the spring and head with a friction fit. The only caution here is to make sure to check them often for wear or damage. Usually, they last over 1000 rounds, but we have seen occasions where they split and come apart much sooner. If this happens, the loose part could cause a malfunction by increasing slide friction, or worse, wedging in between the slide and frame.