

Review of 5 Star lubricant as gun cleaner

Reviewed by:

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Forward

After working in the firearms and ammo industry for the past 20 years as an ammunition developer, pro shooter, firearms instructor and serving in Law Enforcement in the early 90s. Firearms maintenance has been at the forefront of the performance of my job. Serving in the Army's 75th Ranger Regiment in 1989 to 1993 firearms and weapons systems maintenance was not just part of the job but a way of life.

Keep your gun clean and it will save your life. That's the mission statement on how I clean every one of my firearms.

In the past 20 years I have seen firearms maintenance items come and go some great some not. In the past 10 years there are lots of great companies that have risen to the top with lots of great products. They all work well some better than others.

In the Military the gun cleaner of the day was CLP (Cleaner Lubricating Preservative). Good stuff but not the be all end all they had envisioned it to be. I have yet to find one that does all the cleaning duty's that are required of a firearms total maintenance. Most that say they are good for cleaning, lubrication, and preserving are but fall short in one basic area. That is cleaning heavy Copper/Gilding metal (Bullet Jacket Material) deposits from the barrel. That is mostly to me anyway reserved to solvents dedicated to that purpose alone.

The following review is the based on my experience in the last 30 years of cleaning and maintaining all types of firearms.

Review

Over the past six months and the use of 1/2 gallon of the 5 Star oil I have found the following:

Removing carbon fouling from AR15/M4 rifles:

Excellent in removing carbon fouling from bolt and bolt carrier group as well as the receiver and chamber area. After a general saturation of each part the carbon fouling was removed with a nylon bristle brush or Scotch Bite pad with relative ease. The chamber area was easy to clean after wetting a copper brush or cotton cloth and brushing or wiping the area clean. The receiver was easily cleaned with a cotton cloth. Cleaning the barrels of these types of firearms was ok the 5 Star removed any carbon or burnt powder residue with copper brush and cleaning patch. After looking at each barrel with a bore scope it was found that metal fouling that builds up after high round counts in a day's firing 300 to 500 rounds had not been removed. This removal of metal fouling is not uncommon at all with other gun cleaners.

In a similar test with a Black Powder rifle the brunt black powder residue came off very easy with the 5 Star but some lead build up had remained. Even after soaking the barrel the lead had to be scrubbed away with repeated passes of a copper bore brush. This removal of metal fouling is not uncommon at all with other gun cleaners.

Removing carbon fouling from firearms is the single hardest part of cleaning in my opinion so the 5 Star is again Excellent at this task.

AR15/M4/M16 type rifles are what's known as direct gas impingement operating systems. That means the gun uses the hot gas created by the burning gun powder to operate the action. This system although very good is also very dirty. Anyone that has fired a few hundred rounds from these types of guns will tell you that the carbon fouling is the worst and gets baked on the bolt and bolt carrier.

Cleaning pistols be they Semi Autos or Revolvers the 5 Star does an **Excellent** job as it did on the AR15 types of firearms. With a Semi Auto pistol, it has a lot more finer places like slide rails and trigger group parts that get fouled with carbon. Soaking the parts or spraying the 5 Star on these parts made the carbon fouling wipe away.

Removing dirt and surface rust from the outside of AR15, Semi Auto Pistols and Semi Auto Shot Guns.

Excellent: Cleaning guns is not just cleaning the internal parts that get dirty from firing but the outside that takes abuse from the elements as well as firing. Rain, mud, sand, humidity and a person's own sweat are enemies of a firearms finish and working components.

Removal of dirt in general from the metal, wood and plastic that are what most firearms are made of is easy and not as messy with the 5-Star oil than some other cleaners. The 5 Star is a very thin type of oil and penetrates the dirt very well. Once wiped or brushed off the 5 Star leaves behind a very light film of protection that helps prevent rust and other corrosion from forming.

The removal of light surface rust that can happen to the best firearms is easy as well. The oil is very thin and penetrates the corrosion helping to lift it from the metal surface without hurting the finish.

An application of the 5 Star oil before hard use of a firearms in humid weather or plain old rain will also help in the prevention of rust from moisture.

Cleaning Shot Guns:

Excellent,

Cleaning shot guns that fire a lot of trap & skeet loads can be a different animal due to the removal of not only carbon but plastic that can build up in barrels and choke tubes. The plastic comes from the plastic wad inside the shotgun shell that holds or contains the shot. When fired the plastic can be melted somewhat and smeared on the inside of the barrel. My trap shot guns can see 300 rounds in a weekend and my 3 gun semi auto can see very hard use getting wet, muddy and dusty seeing the same number of rounds fired in a 2-day match. The 5 Star oil has cleaned my shot guns with out any problem at all. Removing dirt, carbon, plastic and even surface rust. Some minor scrubbing is needed in places but that's perfectly normal.

My over all take of using the 5 Star oil in the past 6 mos. has left me with a liking for it. There are lots of other GREEN gun cleaners out there and they do pretty good. They however do not act like a penetrating oil. 5 Star does.

As a lubricant only 5 Star is a bit light and thin. So, for heavy use parts like bolt carriers in a M16/AR15 I like a thicker oil. That's for general use. I like to use the 5 Star when breaking in a new firearm and had 3 new ones during this review. Also, for sandy or dirty shooting environment 5 Star shines as a lubricant. Heavy oils can help build up dirt and sand that will stop a gun from running especially semi autos.

On the Green aspect of 5 Star it has no bad smell and will not hurt your skin at all! At least it didn't on mine. I'm no chemist so the folks that make 5 Star can attest to that information.

I will be and have already added 5 Star oil to my 4 different shooting bags that cover me for all of my different equipment needs!

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SinterFire, Inc.

New Product Development & Pro Shooter