

HOW TO BECOME A GUNSMITH

THE COMPLETE GUIDE
by HENRY BRASHER

TOPONLINEGUNSMITHINGSCHOOLS.COM

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for downloading “*How to Become a Gunsmith*” and welcome. I hope you find this to be a very useful resource on your journey to becoming a gunsmith.

Let me tell you a bit about myself. My name is Henry Brasher and I’m from Tennessee. Since I was little, I’ve been fascinated by firearms. I never explored this fascination, though. I loved hunting, I loved tagging along with my dad to the range, I loved buying my first shotgun.

But my relationship with firearms was more casual than I’d have liked. That is, until recently. I’ve finally started exploring my interest in firearms, which eventually led to me wanting to become a gunsmith myself.

While I was researching the trade and learning about various schools and programs for learning to become a gunsmith, I thought everything I was finding might be useful to other people. That’s why I started

TopOnlineGunsmithingSchools.com.

That’s also why I’m writing this guide. I’m giving it away for free and I’ll update it as I learn more. When I started out, I wished there was one place I could go to learn everything I needed to know to become a gunsmith. I hope for you, this book can be that place.

Thanks for reading,

Henry Brasher

<http://toponlinegunsmithingsites.com>

WHAT IS GUNSMITHING?

Simply put, gunsmithing is the designing, building, modifying, decorating, and repairing of firearms. Like a blacksmith, whitesmith, or locksmith, a gunsmith is a highly skilled artisan.

Gunsmithing requires that a gunsmith is proficient across a variety of disciplines. For example, a gunsmith is a metalworker, a woodworker, a mathematician, a ballistics expert, and a chemist. When it comes to designing and decorating a firearm, a gunsmith is also an engraver, an artist, and a materials engineer.

Gunsmiths most commonly perform tasks like:

- Cleaning, inspecting and lubricating a firearm
- Repairing dented shotgun barrels
- Fabricating wooden stocks to customer specifications
- Fabricating replacement parts from metal stock
- Remove corrosion and touchup finish
- Replace defective parts with factory-made replacements
- and lots of other things.

GUNSMITHING SPECIALTIES

Most gunsmiths are general practitioners, taking on a wide variety of duties. Some gunsmiths choose to specialize. Some gunsmithing specialties include:

STOCKMAKER

The stockmaker works primarily fabricating wooden stocks and fitting them to the metal parts of the firearm. His tools include saws, chisels, gouges, rasps, and files.

CHECKERER

The checkerer may choose to specialize exclusively in checkering or he may also work as a stockmaker. A

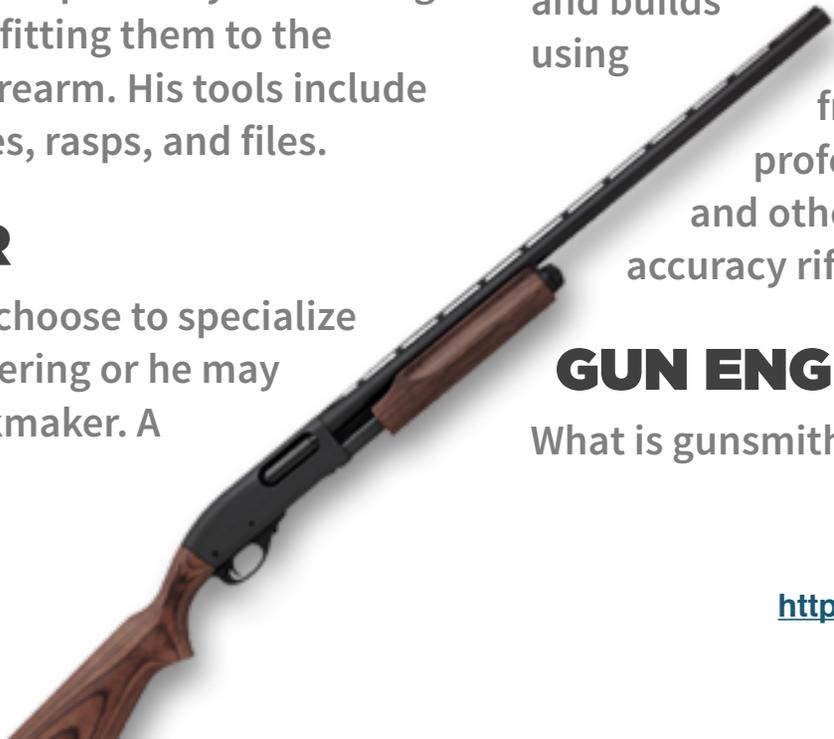
checkerer works to engrave the wood in small, intricate diamond patterns which provide texture, grip, and beauty to the overall firearm design.

CUSTOM BUILDER

The custom builder is the most skilled gunsmith. He has a working knowledge of all aspects of the gunsmithing process as well as machining in order to manufacture individual components. The builder designs and builds a firearm from scratch or using factory parts. He's frequently hired by professional target shooters and others who demand high accuracy rifles.

GUN ENGRAVER

What is gunsmithing? An art. And in no



position is that more obvious than with a gun engraver. The gun engraver uses hand-gravers or die-sinkers to chisel intricate pictures and patterns into the metal of a firearm. Such designs, provided they are of the highest quality, add significant value to a firearm.



WHERE TO GET YOUR GUNSMITH TRAINING

A gunsmith can acquire his knowledge in a few different ways:

- **Local or online gunsmithing schools** – This is the most common way gunsmiths learn their craft. If this interests you, check out the best online gunsmithing school.
- **The military** – The Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps all train small arms or combat arms experts.
- **An apprenticeship** – You can reach out to practicing gunsmiths in your area and request the opportunity to be trained on the job in exchange for helping around the shop.
- **National Rifle Association** – The NRA offers and sponsors many courses in professional gunsmithing.

ONLINE OR OFFLINE?

Some gunsmithing programs are available online and some are only available offline. Which is right for you? Both styles of learning have advantages and disadvantages. Let's take a look at both so you can make an informed choice about how you should acquire your gunsmithing education.

ONLINE

Advantages:

- Convenient
- Self-Paced
- Highly Affordable

Disadvantages:

- No hands-on with tools
- No direct guidance under expert gunsmith

OFFLINE

Advantages:

- Hands-on with all tools and machinery
- More thorough learning experience
- Learn directly under an expert gunsmith

Disadvantages:

- Location restrictive
- Very expensive
- Strict Schedule

THE TOP GUNSMITHING SCHOOLS

There are lots of online gunsmithing schools with a few new ones being added each year. Be sure to subscribe to the newsletter at toponlinegunsmithingschools.com to get the latest, greatest reviews of every program. Here are the top that I've currently reviewed:

- [Modern Gun School](#)
- [American Gunsmithing Institute](#)
- [Penn Foster](#)
- [Murray State College](#)
- [Murray State College NRA School](#)
- [Ashworth College](#)

CAREER OUTLOOK

It's all good and fine to have a passion about guns and working on them, but does this hobby translate into a good career?

Yes it does! The average gunsmith earns around \$14 per hour, or almost \$40,000 per year. Top gunsmiths can earn up to \$60,000 per year.

Some gunsmiths work for gunshops and firearms manufacturers, but over 50% of gunsmiths own their own businesses and have been in business an average of 19 years. Is there enough room in the market for more gunsmiths? Absolutely! 97% of gunsmiths surveyed have a backlog of projects to be done. And in a nation of 330 million firearms, there's always plenty of work to do.

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If you have any questions or any suggestions for this book, email me at onlinegunsmithingschools@gmail.com

Thanks for reading! I really hope you've found this helpful in your journey to becoming a gunsmith.