



Required Student Supplies

The following supplies (#1-12) are important to bring to PGS. Some are typical household items that you may already own. Others you can partner with fellow students to buy in quantity and split the cost. You may want to check the local dollar store for bargains.

We estimate the cost to purchase items #1-12 to be approximately \$180 - \$200. This cost is included in the Semester 1 Course Materials, Tools & Supplies costs provided to prospective students.

1. Blue Shop Towels (or possibly Bounty Paper Towels). Student preferences vary.
2. Q-Tips (with paper sticks, not plastic) for soldering flux and cleaning parts
3. Old bath towels or cotton shop towels (for protecting bluing projects after bluing)
4. Cotton makeup remover pads
5. Plastic Containers with lids
 - a. Approximately 6" x 9"
 - b. Other containers of various sizes (for storing gun parts after disassembly)
6. Pens, Pencils and a Permanent Marker (sharpie brand markers work well)
7. Leather and/or Rubber Sheet Scraps (to make vise jaw covers; protect polished metal parts); available at stores such as Hobby Lobby or Michaels.
8. WD-40 (used for wet sanding metal; 1 gallon is sufficient)
9. Acetone (comes in gallons; students use approximately three gallons in Semester 1)
10. Lock for student locker – also available in our PGS school store
11. Petroleum Jelly (for use with a coarse sharpening stone to reduce leakage of honing oil)
12. Chemical Resistant ZEP Spray Bottle: 1 or 2 in quantity (32 oz.); \$4.98 on Lowes.com

The following items are ones you may want to consider; instructors and students have found them useful. They can always be purchased later on in Semester 1, if you wish to do so.

13. Bergeon 5444 Abrasive Block – Polishing Cleaning Rust Removal (5444-A: Fine; 5444-B: Medium; 5444-C: Coarse). Found on E-Bay for under \$30/block; available other sources, too.
14. Dremel Rotary Tool - with advanced attachments
15. Suggested books to start your personal library:
 - a. Brownell's Catalog – free with purchase, sign up for a student discount after you start
 - b. Numrich (Gun Parts Corp.) Catalog – contains many exploded views; a source for parts
 - c. Cartridges of the World
 - d. Gun Digest Assembly/Disassembly Series – numerous volumes

Firearms Required for Semester 1

PGS does not operate a gunshop, therefore all work performed by students comes from their personal collection and/or from family and friends. Please do your best prior to enrollment to gather as many firearms as you can for required projects. PGS suggests you bring a minimum of 8-10 firearms for Semester 1 projects. Please read this entire document for guidance on the types of firearms to gather. If you have an abundance of a particular type of firearm, you can trade with other students.

In Semester I you'll complete 16 firearm projects. The firearms should be of various types, such as bolt action, lever action, pump shotguns, single shot rifles & shotguns, revolvers, and semi-automatic pistols & rifles.

A critical firearm to bring is a Centerfire Bolt Action Rifle. See page 3 for the specific projects (listed by semester) that this bolt action rifle will be used for throughout our program.

A Howa 1500 (or similar centerfire bolt action rifle) can be used for 6 of the 16 projects in Semester 1. Mossberg 500 or Remington 700/870 are also good options for the first and second semester projects.

For each of the 16 projects, you will research, write down, analyze and explain to your instructor how each firearm goes through its Cycle of Operations, consisting of 8 different steps. That is why having a variety of firearms will enhance your education, but to repeat – you can trade firearms with other students to expand your project variety, learn about many different firearms, and make Semester 1 a valuable foundation of knowledge you can build upon.

If you already own or have access to the following firearms, bring them. However, they cannot be repurposed for Semester 2 Stockmaking course requirements due to the project difficulty for a beginning Gunsmith: *bolt action shotguns, Savage 340, Mosin-Nagant, Carcano, Ruger 77, Ruger American, American Mossberg 100 ATR, Savage Axis, Tikka T3.*

A few important points about all the firearms:

- Must be in reasonable, safe, working condition and not excessively rusted or pitted.
- Remember you are learning basic skill sets, therefore inexpensive military surplus firearms are not recommended; in fact, PGS strongly discourages their use for projects.
- All firearms must be approved by the instructor before project work is started.

We advise students **not** to bring all their guns at once, if possible, and to purchase a safe storage device. If a regular gun safe will be difficult to move into your apartment, perhaps a lightweight Stack On (or similar brand) will do the trick; their security cabinets come in a range of sizes, and can hold from 10 to 22 firearms, depending on the Stack On model.

PGS cannot insure your personal firearms, therefore, we supply no storage facilities for any firearms. **Because of this, you will want to purchase a renter's insurance policy with adequate policy riders,** not only to safeguard all your firearms but also the personal belongings in your apartment just in case of fire, theft or other major calamity.

We also frequently receive questions as to how to transport the firearms to school. Again, if possible, we recommend you do not bring them all at once. Store firearms you are transporting securely and safely in the trunk of your vehicle, individually cased or wrapped. Do not bring ammunition. Do bring your PGS Acceptance Letter and Confirmation Letter (stating specific enrollment date), should you need them. Obey all posted speed limits. Be mindful of the states you are traveling through and their specific firearm laws.

As always, please contact our staff with questions at 412-766-1812. We look forward to your enrollment at PGS!



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What and how many firearms should I bring to school?

Preparing to join us at PGS is an exciting time for our incoming students, but you are not alone if you are uncertain as to what types of personally procured firearms to use as projects. We recommend bringing as many different types as possible, and a variety of styles and conditions. As to quantity, we encourage a minimum of 8 to 10, or more firearms to accompany you to the program. They can be personally owned, or borrowed from friends, family or local gun shops that are interested in supporting you as a student. When planning various projects for many firearms, it is important to consider how best to preserve the historical and monetary value; our curriculum and instructional staff will assist you in learning this.

The Lesson

It's also important to understand the why of what we do. Being a gun enthusiast is great, but being a competent Gunsmith is the goal. A thorough understanding of the Cycle of Operations is one of the most important fundamentals a Gunsmith can possess. Disassembly and reassembly of all styles of firearms is critical to this learning process. Bolt action, lever action, pump action, single shot, side by side, falling block and semi auto are all examples of firearms our students should work on and feel comfortable with at the conclusion of our program. Many times, students do not have access to every one of these; fellow PGS students often bring an abundance of firearms to school and thus may present opportunities for others to borrow and gain exposure from them.

Why a Centerfire Bolt Action Rifle? (How a single firearm provides so much experience and project grades)

This rifle platform is a common custom rifle platform in the industry today. Gunsmiths have long been trusted by American hunters and shooters to customize and keep their firearms in good repair.

Let's look at some of the course requirements to see where the bolt action rifle fits in:

1st Semester- Alternative Finishes and Bluing

1. Parkerizing
2. Coating (Gunkote, Cerakote)
3. Matte Finish Bluing
4. Hand Polish Bluing
5. Machine Polish Bluing
6. Mirror Bluing

2nd Semester Stockmaking and Advanced Techniques

1. 1 Piece Stock (Sporter Style)
2. 1 Piece Stock extra credit (Thumbhole, Target, etc.)
3. Pillar Bedding
4. Action Bedding
5. Adjustable Cheek Piece
6. Adjustable Butt Plate
7. Sling Swivel Installation
8. Checkering and Engraving

3rd Semester Machine Tool and Chambering

1. Recoil Lug Alignment Tool
2. Firing Pin Disassembly Tool
3. Action Turning Mandrel
4. Stock Making Guide Pins
5. Action Truing Jig
6. Dummy Shank and Chamber Practice

4th Semester Custom Gun Making and Repairs

1. Custom Gun 1 (Blueprint Action, Re-barrel, Custom Stock)
2. Repair- Trigger Job
3. Repair- Muzzle Crown
4. Repair- Bolt Timing
5. Repair- Extractor Upgrade
6. Repair -Thread Barrel
7. Drill and Tap 8x40TPI
8. Jewel Bolt
9. Custom Bolt Knob
10. Custom Muzzle Brake