

Safety

First let's talk about basic firearms safety. Here's a list of most of the NRA basic pistol safety rules.

1. Keep the muzzle of your gun pointed in a safe direction.
2. Keep finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
3. Make sure your gun is safe to operate.
4. Know how to safely use the gun.
5. Use the correct ammunition for the gun.
6. Know your target and what is beyond it.
7. Wear appropriate eye and ear protection.
8. Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting.
9. Always check first to be sure the gun is unloaded.
10. Check the barrel for obstructions before loading it.
11. Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.

If you follow these rules you will probably never have an accidental discharge of your firearm. I know some seasoned, skilled, veteran pistol shooters that have had accidental discharges. It is extremely easy to become complacent as you become more familiar with your firearms. Complacency can lead to accidents. If you have an accidental discharge (AD) and are following rule number one, it will just be frightening. If you're not following rule number one it may be catastrophic. So please be careful as you learn to handle a pistol in a safe and efficient manner.

Next let's talk about safety during dry-fire practice. You need to have a safe place to practice. As a general rule, household walls are **not** bulletproof. You can't just go into any room of your house and practice safely. You need a solid backstop to set your targets against. I know, we're not actually going to be shooting, but in order to follow rules 1 and 6 you have to be aiming at a bulletproof area. If you have a basement you are in luck as a concrete wall is an acceptable backstop for pistol caliber rounds. If you live in an apartment or all above ground house, this is a more difficult problem to solve. I suggest that you decide which room is the most convenient for your practice and then make a backstop that is capable of stopping your bullet if you have an AD.

Once you have a place to practice you need to follow the rules above and in particular:

Have no loaded ammunition in the vicinity!

Make sure your magazines are empty or are loaded with dummy rounds. Dummy rounds are simulated rounds that are not capable of being fired. **They should not look like standard ammunition.**

When doing magazine changes make sure your finger is out of the trigger guard.

When doing any movement exercises make sure your finger is out of the trigger guard.

Remember, we are playing with real firearms. Handled properly they can be great fun. Handled improperly they can ruin or end your life. Keep this in mind whenever you are handling any firearm.