

CLEANING DAMAGE

You may have heard that more rifles are ruined by cleaning than are by shooting. This is true. Cleaning-rod wear, caused by the rod rubbing the rifling, is the most common cause of barrels being ruined by poor cleaning technique. This is particularly true when a cheap rod is used to clean from the muzzle. Soft aluminum rods pick up grit and become a file. When trying to force a tight patch through the bore, the rod flexes and “files” away at the muzzle crown. It doesn’t take much to ruin a rifle. When the damage is advanced, the barrel may have to be cut off to correct the problem.



Above: Bore damage can result from sloppy cleaning.