Small Arms...

Not All Cleaning Tanks, Solvents Bad

THE HEADLINE 'NO CLEANING TANKS' IN PS 617 (APR 04) HAS MISLED SOME SMALL ARMS FOLKS.

A BETTER HEADLINE WOULD HAVE BEEN 'NO ULTRASONIC CLEANING TANKS.'

AS THE ARTICLE POINTED OUT, ULTRASONIC CLEANING TANKS CAN DO TOO GOOD A JOB, DAMAGING A WEAPON'S ADHESIVES, SYNTHETIC FIBERS, PROTECTIVE FINISH, AND LOOSENING PRESSURE-FIIT COMPONENTS. THAT RESULTS IN A RUINED WEAPON.

A NORMAL CLEANING TANK CAN DO A GOOD JOB CLEANING A WEAPON. YOU JUST HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT AFTER A WEAPON GOES THROUGH A CLEANING TANK IT MUST BE DISASSEMBLED AND LUBED COMPLETELY. OH, CMON!

IF A WEAPON IS STORED WITH NO LUBRICATION AFTER GOING THROUGH A CLEANING TANK, IT WILL HAVE NO PROTECTION AGAINST CORROSION BECAUSE THE CLEANING TANK REMOVES ALL LUBE. THAT CAN RESULT IN A RUINED WEAPON.

IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER NOT TO MIX UP PARTS IF SEVERAL WEAPONS ARE CLEANED AT THE SAME TIME.

IF YOU GET THE WRONG BARREL ON A MACHINE GUN, IT RUINS THE HEADSPACE, WHICH IS DANGEROUS.

SOMETIMES IT'S EASY TO TELL RIGHT FROM WRONG... SOMETIMES IT ISN'T!

THE ONLY CLEANER TO USE IN A CLEANING TANK IS WHAT THE WEAPON'S TM RECOMMENDS, WHICH IN MOST CASES IS A DRY CLEANING SOLVENT LIKE PD-680.

MANY OF THE CLEANING SOLUTIONS THAT COME WITH THESE CLEANING SYSTEMS ARE WATER-BASED OR HAVE CHEMICALS IN THEM THAT CAN HARM WEAPONS.

ALWAYS CHECK A WEAPON'S .233P TM TO SEE IF THE GUN HAS ANY PARTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE SUBMERGED IN SOLVENT BEFORE PUTTING IT IN A CLEANING TANK.

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