



Basics of loading a Muzzle Loader (Flintlock / Percussion Cap Lock)

1. Ensure the gun is unloaded & clean. Make sure the barrel is free from oil & moisture by running some dry patches, small natural fabric pieces cut to suit barrel diameter, through the barrel using a ram rod with cleaning jag. Then dry fire the gun with a couple of percussion caps or priming powder charges, this will confirm the ignition hole is clear. ***(Always point the gun down range whenever firing).***



2. Prepare the powder charge by pre-measuring the powder into vials ***(never load powder directly into the barrel from a powder container / flask)***. Select a suitable size patch & ball. The patch needs to be lubricated with a suitable substance to aid reduction of fouling.
3. Check the hammer on the gun is either down or in the half cock position. Hold the gun vertically with the barrel pointing up. Take your vial with the pre-measured powder charge & pour down the barrel.

4. Now take the lubricated patch & place over the end of the barrel. Place the ball on the patch & seat into the neck of the barrel. Take your starter, a short round rod that suits barrel diameter & push the patch / ball into the barrel.



- Once sufficiently below the neck of the barrel, take your ramrod & push the patch / ball all the way to the bottom of the barrel on top of the powder charge. Make sure the patch & ball are firmly in contact with the powder charge, with no air gap ***(an air gap can cause the barrel to bulge or even burst when fired)***.



5. Bring the gun into a horizontal position. Hold the gun firmly with one hand while pointing down range. With the hammer in the half cock position, fit the percussion cap to the nipple or apply priming powder to the pan & close the frizzen.



6. Bring the gun up into the aim & bring the hammer into the full cock position. The gun is now ready to fire.

It is strongly advised that you join a home office approved shooting club, like BRPC & obtain training in the safe use of a firearm before attempting to load & fire any type of firearm.

Pictures & source information courtesy of www.wikihow.com