

Smith & Wesson 459

Similar/Identical Pattern Guns

The same basic assembly/disassembly steps for the Smith & Wesson 459 also apply to the following guns:

Smith & Wesson Model 439

Smith & Wesson Model 469

Smith & Wesson Model 639

Smith & Wesson Model 645

Smith & Wesson Model 659

Smith & Wesson Model 669



Data: Smith & Wesson
Model 459

Origin: United States

Manufacturer: Smith & Wesson,
Springfield, Massachusetts

Cartridge: 9mm Luger

Magazine capacity: 14 rounds

Overall length: 7¹/₁₆ inches

Height: 5¹/₁₆ inches

Barrel length: 4 inches

Weight: 28 ounces

Except for the fully adjustable rear sight in its protective mount, the Model 459 and 439 pistols look very much like the Models 59 and 39 which they replaced. Inside, though, there were extensive mechanical changes which make the takedown and reassembly very different in some areas. One of the most notable additions is an automatic firing pin block safety system. This series of S&W pistols is now being referred to as the “second generation.” In addition to the models mentioned above, it also includes Model 639 and 659 (stainless steel), the compact versions, Models 469 and 669, and the 45 ACP, Model 645.

Field Strip:

1. Remove the magazine and cock the hammer. Move the slide toward the rear until the slide-latch notch in its lower edge is aligned with the pivot of the slide latch, and hold it there.



2. Use a non-marring tool to push the right tip of the slide-latch cross-piece toward the left.

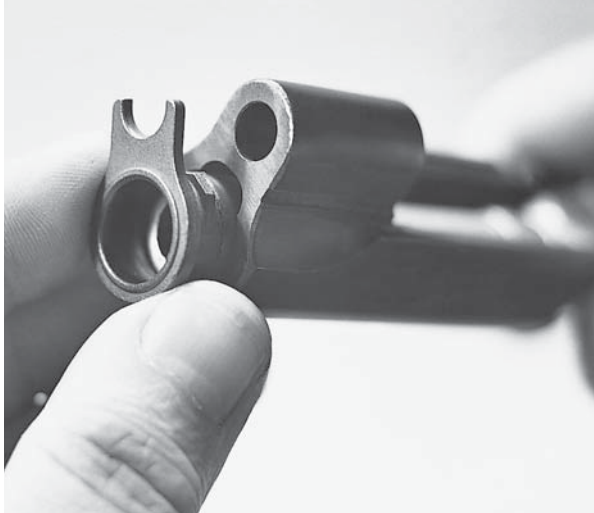


3. Remove the slide-latch toward the left. Move the slide back to its normal position, and use the safety to drop the hammer to the fired position. Return the safety to off-safe, and move the slide assembly forward off the frame.

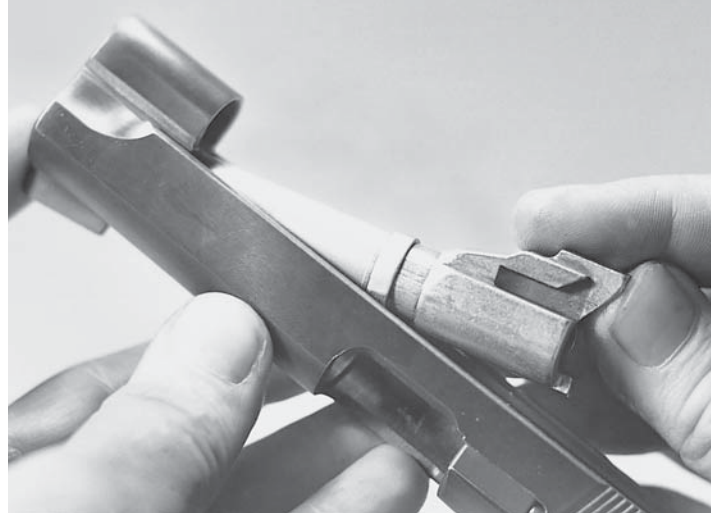


4. Grip the recoil spring and guide firmly to control the spring tension, and lift the spring assembly away from the barrel, removing it toward the rear. The slide-latch plunger and spring, mounted inside the rear of the recoil spring guide, are staked in and should not be disturbed.

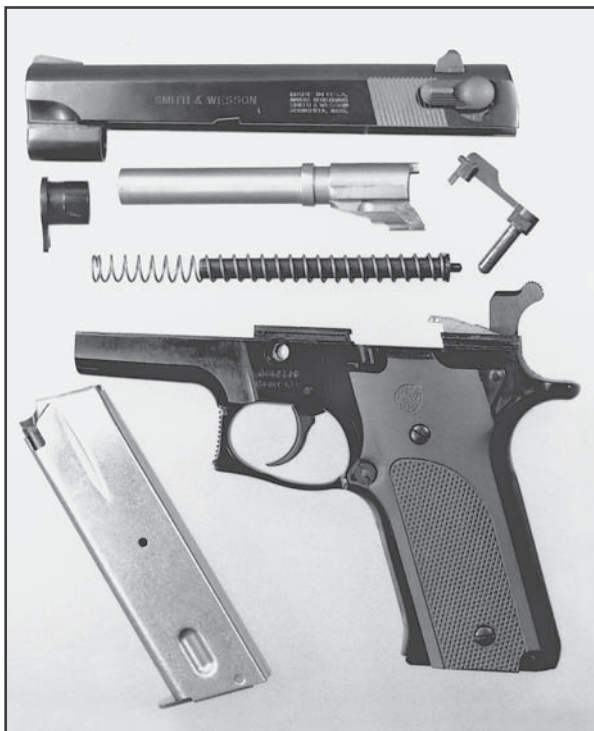
5. Turn the muzzle bushing counterclockwise (front view) until it stops, then remove it toward the front.



6. Move the barrel slightly forward, then tip it downward at the rear and remove it from the bottom of the slide. **Gun is now field-stripped.**



Smith & Wesson 459 field-stripped

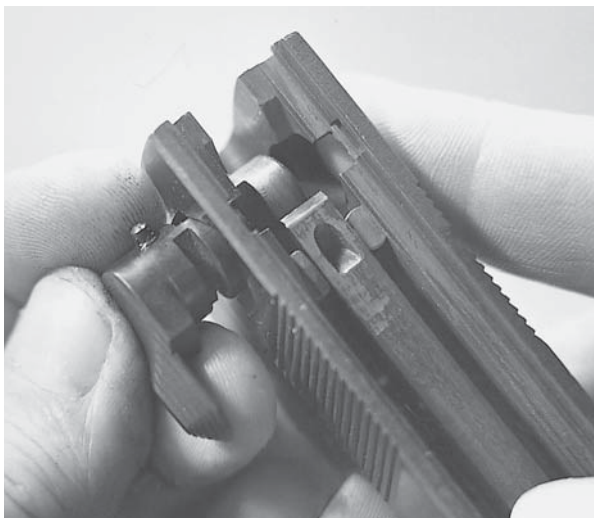


Detail Strip:

7. Depress the firing pin safety block, on the underside of the slide at the right, and use a slim tool to push the firing pin forward until it stops. Release the safety block, and the firing pin will be held forward.



- 8.** In its forward position, the firing pin head will still protrude slightly into the safety cross-piece. Insert a tool to depress it to clear the safety, and push the safety, in off-safe position, toward the left. The small positioning plunger and spring at the lower rear of the safety cross-piece will be released as the safety moves out of the slide, but they will usually stay in their recess. Remove the safety toward the left.



- 9.** Restrain the firing pin at the rear, and once again depress the firing pin safety block. The firing pin and its spring will be released for removal toward the rear.

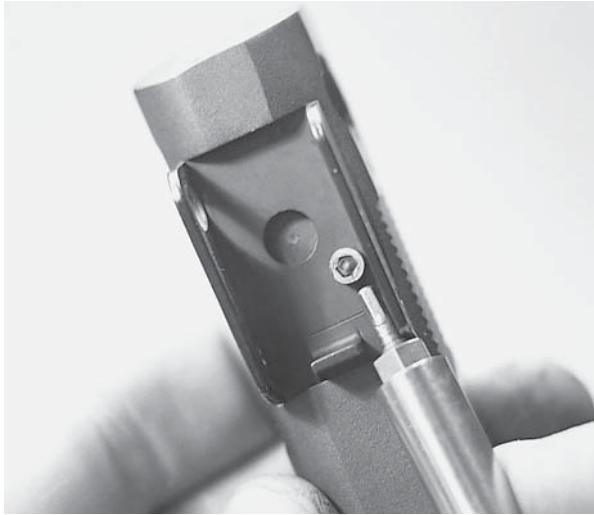


- 10.** Alternately depress the rear sight hinge plungers on each side.

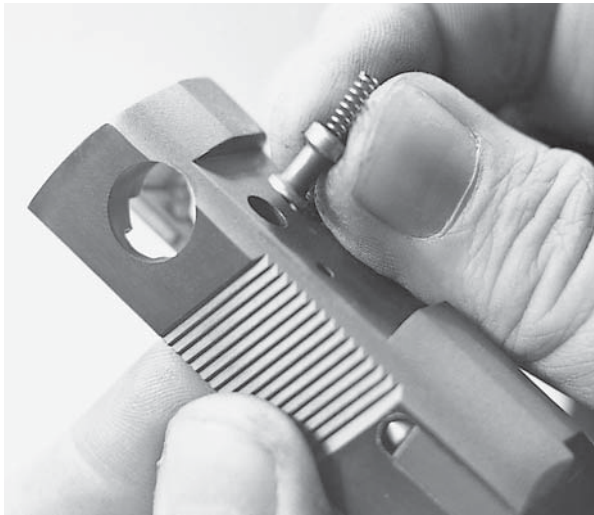
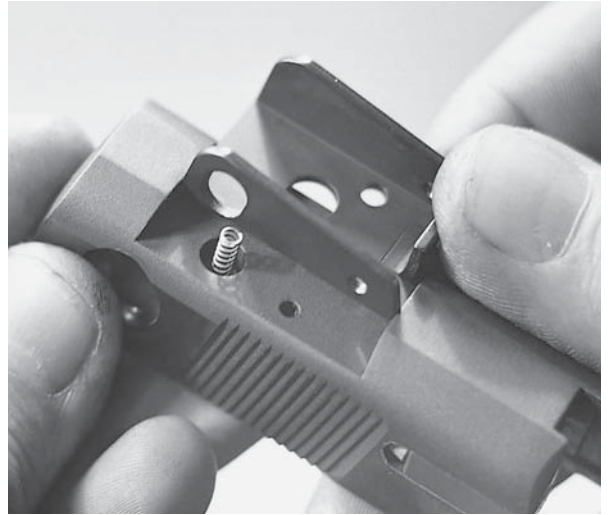


- 11.** Restrain the plungers as they clear the sides of the sight mount, and remove the sight upward and toward the rear. Disassembly of the sight itself is not recommended.

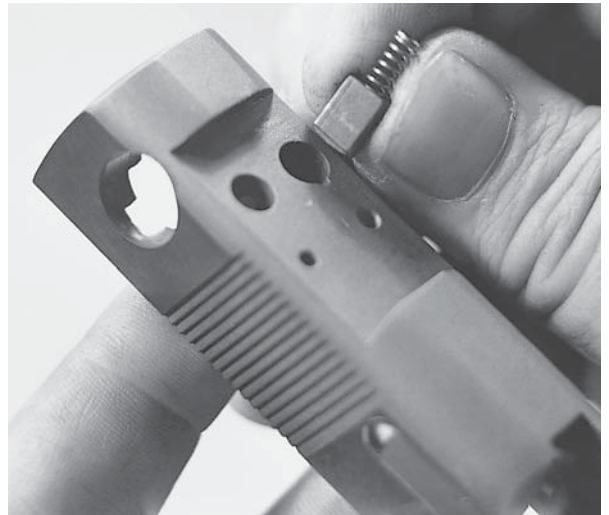
- 12.** With an Allen wrench or screwdriver bit, remove the screw on the left, inside the rear sight mount.



- 13.** Slide the rear sight mount out of its dovetail in the slide, and restrain the two vertical coil springs that will be cleared.

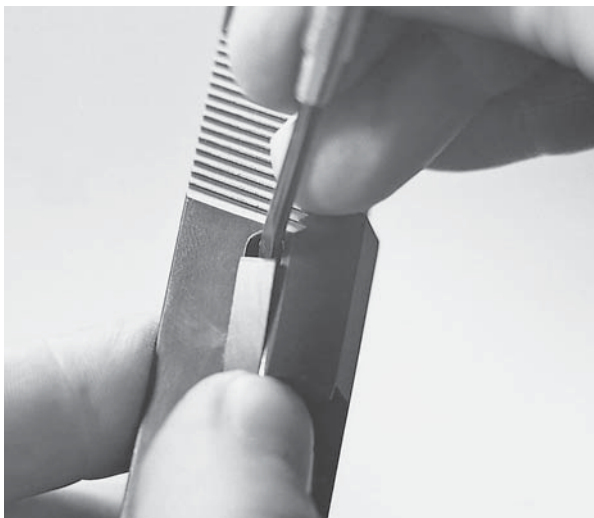


- 14.** Remove the firing pin safety block and its spring from the top of the slide.

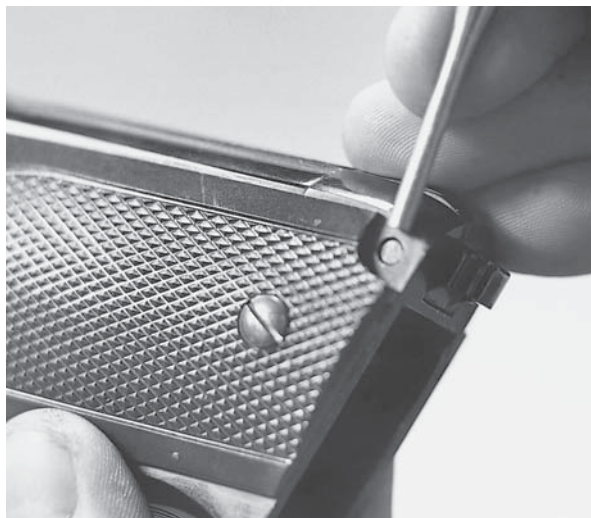


- 15.** Remove the magazine safety plunger and spring from the top of the slide.

- 16.** Insert a small sharp screwdriver between the extractor and its plunger, and turn the blade slightly, forcing the plunger toward the rear, and lever the extractor out of its recess. Keep the plunger under control, and ease the spring and plunger out toward the front.



- 17.** With the hammer in the fired position, drift out the cross-pin at the lower rear of the grip frame.

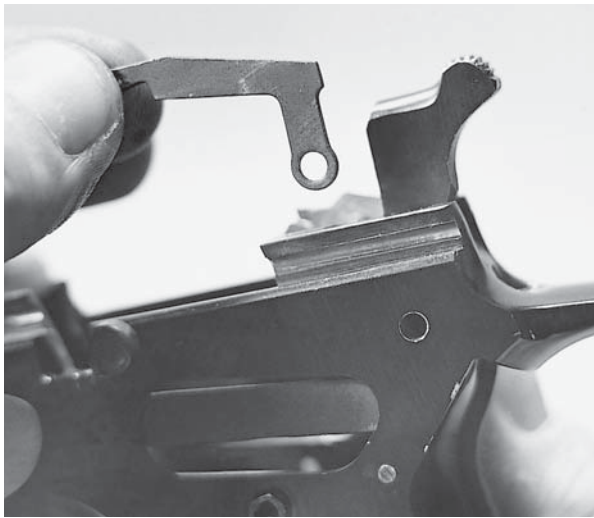


- 18.** Push the lower end of the backstrap insert back until it clears its frame shelf, and it will be forced downward by the pressure of the hammer spring. Remove the insert downward and toward the rear.



- 19.** Remove the hammer spring plunger and the spring from the hammer strut.

- 20.** Remove the grips. Push the hammer pivot about one-third of its length toward the right. Remove the ejector upward, and take out the ejector spring from its well in the frame.



- 21.** Remove the hammer pivot toward the right, and take out the hammer upward. A roll cross-pin joins the strut to the hammer, and this can be removed to separate them, if necessary.

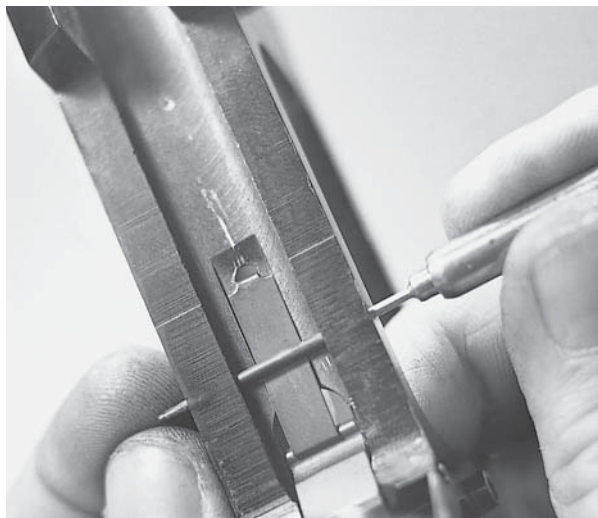


- 22.** Move the sear trip lever slightly toward the left, then remove it upward.



- 23.** Move the firing pin block lever slightly to the left, then rearward, and take it out upward. Remove the spring that powers these two parts from its well in the frame.

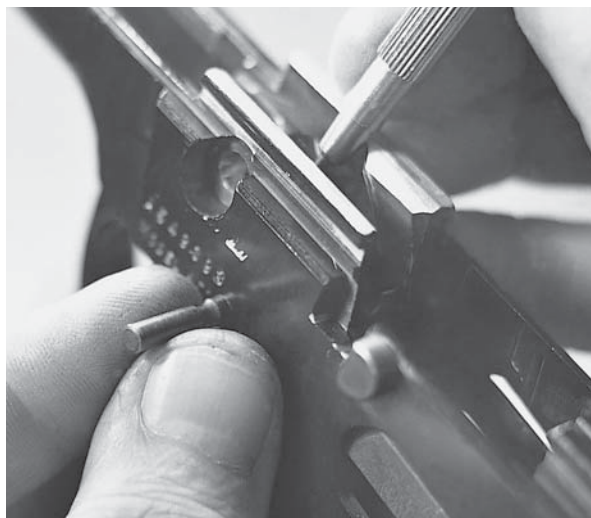
- 24.** Drift out the small cross-pin that retains the sear spring, inside the backstrap. This must be drifted out toward the right. Remove the spring toward the rear.



- 25.** Push out the sear cross-pin toward either side, and remove the sear downward.



- 26.** Turn the disconnecter very slightly toward the right, to clear the trigger bar, and remove the disconnecter downward.



- 27.** Insert a small screwdriver to restrain the trigger spring plunger, and push the trigger pivot pin out toward either side.

- 28.** Allow the trigger to move downward, slowly release the tension of the trigger spring and plunger, and remove the trigger bar toward the rear. The trigger play spring, riveted in place on top of the trigger bar, should not be disturbed.



- 29.** Remove the trigger plunger and spring toward the rear. Move the trigger to the rear of the guard, tilt it forward, and take it out upward. The trigger pivot retaining plunger and spring are mounted inside the trigger, and are retained by a small cross-pin. In normal takedown, these parts are best left in place.



- 30.** Depress the magazine release retainer, and unscrew the release button from the magazine catch cross-piece (counterclockwise, left side view). There is a tool slot in the button, but in most cases the button can be unscrewed with the fingers. The button, retainer, and spring are taken off toward the left, and the catch piece toward the right.

Reassembly Tips:

When replacing the sear cross-pin, note that the reduced tip must go on the right, to mate with the hole in the hammer pivot plate.

When moving the rear sight mount into place, alternately depress the two springs to avoid deformation.

- 1.** When replacing the slide assembly on the frame, the ejector and the two small levers on the right must be depressed to go under the slide.

