



SureShell®
Shotshell
Carrier
Sidemount
Installation
Manual



**MESA
TACTICAL**

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SureShell shotgun carriers overview

All Mesa Tactical SureShell shotgun carrier assemblies are comprised of three basic components:

- The yoke
- The backplate or bracket
- The retention tubing

Yoke

The yoke is the component that holds the shotshells. The yoke can hold four, six or eight shells, and is made out of machined aluminum or injection-molded glass-filled nylon. Either 12 gauge or 20 gauge shells are supported, depending on application. The yoke is secured to the backplate or bracket with between four and ten #6 Phillips head screws.

Backplate or bracket

The backplate or bracket is the platform specific part of the assembly. It is designed to fit onto particular shotgun models and may include a Picatinny rail profile, integrated reflex sight mount or a simple plate for mounting onto the side of a shotgun receiver. This manual is specific to the latter application.

Retention tubing

One (with aluminum yokes) or two (with polymer yokes) synthetic rubber tubes run the length of the assembly, sandwiched between the yoke and the backplate. This tubing is what secures the shotshells in place in the yoke.

For most users, the factory-installed tubing will perform a lifetime of service; but frequent use of the SureShell shotgun carrier may result in wear of the tubing. For this reason, the tubing can be thought of as a consumable that in some cases may have to be replaced from time to time. Replacement tubing is available from Mesa Tactical, free of charge, though agencies are encouraged to purchase Spares Packs.

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The SureShell shotshell carrier package includes a stiffer tubing (white) that can provide more secure shell retention than the factory installed (black) tubing. If necessary, the black tubing can be replaced with the white tubing by disassembling the SureShell shotshell carrier assembly by removing the screws securing the yoke to the backplate. Of course, worn tubing can be replaced in the same way at any time.

Mounting hardware

The mounting hardware is packaged in a zip poly bag and is specific to the SureShell shotshell carrier application. Simple installation tools, such as hex keys or Torx wrenches, are often included with the mounting hardware.

Package contents

The SureShell shotshell carrier package includes:

- This Installation Manual;
- A SureShell shotshell carrier assembly (yoke, retention tubing and backplate or bracket);
- Mounting hardware kit in a zip poly bag;
- Synthetic rubber backplate gasket;
- One or two spare white retention tubes;
- Mesa Tactical sticker.

If you are missing any items, please contact Mesa Tactical support as described at the end of this Installation Manual.

Installation

Most Mesa Tactical products require no gunsmithing or special tools to install. They usually can be attached to your shotgun or stock at home with tools you have around the house.

Tools required for installation

The SureShell Sidemount Carrier includes all the hex keys necessary to install the shell carrier on a supported shotgun. However, the following tools could make installation easier:

- Higher quality hex keys than those included in the package;
- Scissors or a razor blade for trimming the gasket material, if necessary;
- A brass hammer or rubber mallet for drifting out factory trigger pins;
- Needle nose pliers or flathead screwdriver for removing Remington 870 pin retainer wire, if necessary;
- A flathead screwdriver for removing the Mossberg 500 ejector screw;
- A vise.

Using a thread lock such as non-permanent Thread lock® is not necessary, but is recommended.

Forend compatibility

SureShell shotshell carriers are compatible with many factory semi-automatic shotgun forends. However, pump shotgun shotgun forends often feature significant receiver overlap when the bolt is pulled back. These forends will need to be cut down or replaced with aftermarket “tactical” forends to be used with some SureShell shotshell carriers, such as a Mesa Tactical Truckee® forend, available on some shotgun models.

Before you install a SureShell shotshell carrier, measure your forend’s receiver overlap and compare it to the furthest forward point of the shotshell carrier. Then cut any potential overlap or interference off the end of the forend with a miter saw, a rotary arm saw or a rotary tool for a perfect fit.

Chicago screws

Sidemount SureShell shotshell carriers use custom fasteners called Chicago screws. These are paired male and female fasteners that, when

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screwed together, meet at their respective shoulders for a precise fit on the specific platforms they are made for (each shotgun platform will use different length and sometimes different diameter Chicago screws). Ideally, when the Chicago screws are tightened against each other, they also secure the shell carrier without pinching the receiver.



It is important to realize that once the Chicago screws are tightened against each other, they are not going to get any tighter, and applying too much torque will snap them at the center. It is useful to practice tightening them outside the shotgun before installation, to get a feel for how tight they can get, and also to clean the threads of any dirt or debris.

Because manufacturing Chicago screws to a perfect size is impossible, your Chicago screws may sometimes be slightly oversized. When this occurs, your shell carrier will remain only loosely attached even when the Chicago screws are fully tightened, and some minor fitting is required. To remedy this, remove the female Chicago screw and rub the end on a file a few times, then re-install. Repeat this until the shell carrier is tightly secured when the Chicago screws have been screwed together tightly.



Often there is an extra pair of Chicago screws included in the hardware kit, in case the first set is broken during initial installation. Usually the installer will learn from that experience to watch his strength and additional replacement hardware will not be required.

Before you begin the installation, carefully thread all the threaded fasteners together, to ensure they work smoothly. Then separate them.

Remington 870 and Remington 870 Tac-14

The following instructions can also be used to install the SureShell shotgun carriers on Remington 1100 and 11-87 shotguns.

1. **Ensure the weapon is unloaded and pointed in a safe direction.** You know the drill. No live ammunition should be present.
2. **Apply the adhesive-backed rubber gasket to the rear of the shell carrier assembly.**

You might need to trim the gasket so it does not overlap the edge of the backplate. This is easier to do, with scissors, before the gasket has been applied.

3. **Install a front Chicago screw.**

Slip a washer over the buttonhead Chicago screw and use it to drift the front trigger pin out from the ejection port side of the shotgun.



Sometimes the Chicago screw will not slide through the trigger group. It hangs on the pin retainer wire that is visible if you look through the hole. If this happens, remove the trigger group (you will have to remove the rear trigger pin) to get access to the pin retainer wire. Remove the pin retainer with a needle nose pliers or even a flathead screwdriver.



Reinstall the trigger group and put the buttonhead Chicago screw and washer through from the ejection port side.

Put the factory trigger pin in a safe place with the pin retainer, if it was removed.

4. Install the rear standoff.

The standoff is the stainless steel pin that is threaded on the inside. This will replace the rear trigger pin in your Remington 870 shotgun. Use the standoff to drift out the rear trigger pin, replacing it in the receiver.

Some standoffs have machined rings or cannelures at one end. Ignore these, they are not functional in any way. Both ends of the standoff are chamfered to allow it to move through the receiver easily.



Slip a washer over one of the buttonhead screws and thread it into the ejection port side of the standoff.

Put the factory trigger pin in a safe place with the other parts you have removed from the shotgun.

5. Attach the shell carrier to the shotgun.

Place the SureShell shotshell carrier assembly over the trigger pin holes and use the flat head screws to secure the bracket to the shotgun. As you tighten the screws on the one side, make sure the screws are tight on the other side as well. Generally, you can make the screw finger tight with the long arm of the hex key. A drop of non-permanent thread lock on each screw will keep it in place.



If the Chicago screws are tight, but the shell carrier is not, consult the section on Chicago screws at the front of this manual.

6. Four-shell right-side carrier installation

Four-shell shotgun carriers for the Remington 870 designed to fit on the right side of the receiver, behind the ejection port, include two sets of mounting hardware in the hardware kit:

- One for installing the shell carrier alone;
- One for installing the shell carrier with a shell carrier on the opposite side of the receiver (shotshell carriers installed on both sides simultaneously).

The difference is the longer combination of flathead Chicago screws is used with two shell carriers; and the shorter combination of flathead and buttonhead Chicago screws is used if the carrier is mounted alone.

The rear stainless steel standoff pin is the same in both configurations, though two flathead screws are used with two shotgun carriers mounted; while a flathead and a buttonhead are used if only one carrier is mounted.

Mossberg 930/940; Remington V3; Remington Tac-13

These shotgun platforms require both trigger pins to be replaced with Chicago screw pairs.

1. **Ensure the weapon is unloaded and pointed in a safe direction.** You know the drill. No live ammunition should be present.
2. **Apply the adhesive-backed rubber gasket to the rear of the shell carrier assembly.**

You might need to trim the gasket so it does not overlap the edge of the backplate. This is easier to do, with scissors, before the gasket has been applied.

3. **Install the ejection port side Chicago screws**

Slip washers over the buttonhead Chicago screws and use them to drift the trigger pins out from the ejection port side of the shotgun.



Put the factory trigger pins in a safe place.

4. Attach the shell carrier to the shotgun.

Place the SureShell shotshell carrier assembly over the trigger pin holes and use the flat head screws to secure the bracket to the shotgun. As you tighten the screws on one side, make sure the screws are tight on the other side as well. Generally, you can make the screw finger tight with the long arm of the hex key. A drop of non-permanent thread lock on each screw will keep it in place.



If the Chicago screws are tight, but the shell carrier is not, consult the section on Chicago screws at the front of this manual.

Mossberg 500/590; Mossberg 590 Shockwave; Maverick 88

For the Mossberg 500 and 590 platforms, the front of the SureShell carrier is in the same location for both sizes (4-shell and 6-shell). Factory field forends will have to be modified, but the SureShell carrier can be used with any “tactical” style forend, such as the classic “corncob” forend.

1. Ensure the weapon is unloaded and pointed in a safe direction. You know the drill. No live ammunition should be present.

2. Apply the adhesive-backed rubber gasket to the rear of the shell carrier assembly.

If the gasket overlaps the keyhole on the bracket near the front of the shell carrier assembly, it will need to be trimmed so the keyhole is not covered. This is easier to do, with scissors, before the gasket has been applied.

3. Install the rear Chicago screw.

Slip a washer over the male Chicago screw and use it to drift the trigger pin out from the ejection port side of the shotgun.



Put the factory trigger pin in a safe place

4. Replace the ejector screw

Find the ejector screw inside the receiver of the weapon and replace it with the included button head cap screw. If the screw head interferes with the weapon's action, it has not been screwed far enough into the receiver. It is best to use a drop of non-permanent thread lock on this screw to ensure it remains in place. Note the screw will protrude out the side of the receiver.



Put the factory ejector screw in a safe place with the factory trigger pin.

5. Install the tee nut

Once the Thread lock has cured, place the hex head tee nut over the exposed end of the new ejector screw, flat side facing out, and finger tighten. Make sure the top and bottom flats of the hex head are parallel with the top of the receiver. Back off the nut if necessary, it does not need to be tight.



6. Attach the shell carrier to the shotgun.

Place the shell carrier assembly over the hex head tee nut so that the nut fits inside the keyhole in the backing plate; then slide the assembly forward until the hole in the rear of the backing plate is aligned with the trigger pin.



While holding the shotgun so the shell carrier assembly is facing up, slip the female Chicago nut through the SureShell bracket and into the trigger pin hole. The screws have been sized so that they can be firmly tightened with the hex keys without fear of squeezing the action. You can make the screw finger tight with the long arm of the hex key. A drop of purple or blue thread lock on each screw will keep it in place. Be sure to check for loose screws every time you use your shotgun.

If the Chicago screws are tight, but the shell carrier is not, consult the section on Chicago screws at the front of this manual.

Support and Warranty

If you have any problems or questions, please feel free to contact Mesa Tactical for assistance at 775-333-9800. Sending an e-mail to support@mesatactical.com automatically opens a support ticket.

Mesa Tactical warrants that all products are free from defective material and workmanship and, subject to the conditions set forth below, agrees to repair or replace any part of a product that proves defective by reason of improper workmanship or materials without charge for parts and labor.

In no event will Mesa Tactical be liable for damages, lost revenue, lost wages, lost savings or any other incidental or consequential damages arising from purchase, use or inability to use this product.

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