

Mortar Drill Addendum

Intro

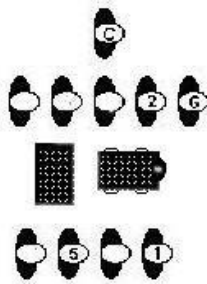
While keeping the core drill intact, the standard NCWAA drill can be adapted for use with most artillery. These adaptations and deviations for reenacting use with Civil War mortars are presented below. By keeping the core drill the same, these small pieces may be integrated into our gun lines while keeping confusion to a minimum and maintaining a uniform drill and look on the gun lines. This drill is not meant to be historically correct, but it allows these artillery pieces to be used with the NCWAA standard core drill for Civil War reenacting.

Note: Before implementing these adaptations for the mortar, the standard drill should be mastered. This drill is for blank firing only! Always use well-made blank rounds rolled in foil; never use loose powder or look down the bore at any time. A small inspection mirror may be used for safety inspections of the bore, if necessary.

Mortar Adaptations and Deviations.

I. When Marching to the Piece: The box may be carried by the cannoneers at the rear of the column. If needed, the mortar may be carried by the front four cannoneers. At the gun line, the box and the mortar (if transported) are placed in the gun line using standard spacing and precautions. Equipment is then distributed as per the standard. drill.

Detachment, Attention Post on the limber March



Distribute Equipment

II. Post on the Piece: This step follows the std. drill **except** only Number 1 and 2 advances to the mortar. Numbers 1 and 2 locate themselves on the right and left sides of the mortar behind the front edge of the mortar base or bed. All servicing of the mortar will be done by 1 and 2.

Take Implements



Attention Detachment, Load by Detail Load or Load (Type of Round & Range can be inserted)

III. Tend the Piece or Vent: while being careful to keep their bodies away from the bore and vent area, Numbers 1 and 2 kneel by the piece. Number 1 will act as both Number 1 and 3. Using his gloved right hand to perform Number 1's duties and his left hand w/ thumbstall, the duties of Number 3. Number 2 will act as both Numbers 2 and 4. Using his gloved left hand for Number 2's duties, he will later act as Number 4 for the priming and firing the piece.

Note: Numbers 1 and 2 will be working from the kneeling position for all servicing of the piece.



IV. Worm/Sponge: Kneeling beside the mortar, Number 2 works with his gloved left hand to service and worm the piece. Number 1 works from the kneeling position to double sponge with his gloved right hand, while keeping the vent stopped with the thumbstall on his left hand.

V. Advance the Cartridge or Round: Number 2 remains in the kneeling position used to worm and service the piece. He accepts the round from Number 5 and places it in the bore. If the worm is to be used to indicate “round in”, Number 2 will raise the worm upright above his head and call “round in”.

VI. Ram: While observing the std. safety precautions for ramming, Number 1 works With his gloved right hand to ram the cartridge. After completing this step, Number 1 holds the ram upright over his head and calls “Rammed”. As per the standard drill, Number 1 continues to keep the vent stopped with the thumbstall on his left hand.

VII. Ready the Piece: Number 1 (acting as #3) punctures the cartridge with his left hand and continues to work from the kneeling position. The ram should remain above his head, but can be temporarily lowered if he has difficulty performing this task. This step proceeds as normal, with Number 2 (acting as #4) taking extra care that he does not expose any part of his body to the vent while the primer is being placed. (Number 2 should place the worm on the ground as he assumes the duties of #4.)

VIII. The Piece is Ready: Number 2 moves to the firing position but remains kneeling. When satisfied that all steps have been completed and it is safe to proceed, Number 2 then nods to number 1 indicating he is about to report the piece “Ready”. Number 1 stands and takes position to observe the vent and downrange in front of the Piece. At this point, Number 1 should have the ram held upright above his head, indicating “HOT TUBE”. *When the piece is reported “Ready” Number 1 may assume the Ready to Fire Position, standing well clear of the muzzle and vent.*

VII. Prepare Positions: When the “Prepare” command is given, Number 2 lowers his hand and prepares to fire. He should follow all standard safety precautions outlined in the standard drill before discharging the piece.
Number 1 lowers the Ram across his chest, covers the ear toward the muzzle and leans into his prepare stance, if he has not already assumed this position.



Fire

X. Misfire Drill: Numbers 1 and 2 remain kneeling and perform their duties as per the standard NCWAA misfire drill. Number 1 completing the duties of 1 and 3 and Number 2 those of both 2 and 4.

Note: With short crews, Number 2 may also perform the duties of Number 5 or the Gunner may choose to act as both Gunner and Powder Monkey. A minimum detachment of three is acceptable for static operation but a full crew is desirable.