

Instructions for Installation and Use of Wolff Colt Longslide Pistol Recoil Springs.

Be sure that your pistol is UNLOADED before working on it. Always wear high quality safety eye glasses when installing these or any springs in your firearms.

Please read these instructions completely before proceeding. If you are not comfortable with performing the steps below, have a qualified Gunsmith install the spring for you.

When fitting your longslide recoil spring, proper fit is determined by the number of coils in the spring, not the physical free length of the spring.

With the slide back in full recoil position, determine the exact internal full recoil space in inches for your particular pistol. It may be helpful to mark the full recoil position of the slide and frame with masking tape or a pencil that will not permanently mark or damage the finish.

If you are unable to determine the exact internal recoil space of your pistol, you will have to cut coils a few at a time until the spring fits properly. If your longslide pistol has a recoil spring in it, you can use it as a guide by counting the number of coils in it as a starting point and adding several coils before proceeding.

If your pistol has a full recoil space of 3 inches or more, all recoil springs can be installed without fitting. If the full recoil space is less than 3 inches, then fitting of the spring is required. The standard 1911 Government pistol (non-longslide) has a full recoil space of 1.625 inches and the factory recoil spring will have approximately 32 coils. Most longslides will have a greater space and require additional coils.

If fitting is required, coils should be removed from the open end of the recoil spring. To determine the approximate maximum number of coils that will fit in your pistol, divide the recoil space determined above by the wire diameter. If there are too many coils in the spring, the spring will go solid before the slide reaches the full recoil position. It is always better to start with a few extra coils and have to cut more off than to cut too many coils off at a time.

Wire diameters for Wolff Longslide Recoil Springs are:

#1 (Strongest) = .047" #2 = .046" 3 = .045" #4 = .043" #5 (Lightest) = .042"

After you have cut and installed your spring - **DO NOT FIRE THE GUN**. You need to determine that the slide is able to move to the full recoil position first. You do not want the spring to go solid before the slide has hit the slide stop and is in the full recoil position. This may cause damage to the spring and your your pistol. Again, this can be determined by the markings you made earlier. The slide should have a solid sound and feel at full recoil. If it feels "mushy" at the point that the slide stops, the spring is probably going solid and another coil or two should be removed.

We also recommend installing a Wolff extra power firing pin spring in your pistol. After the above steps have been completed, you can fire your pistol. Proper function will be determined by using the correct spring and having the proper number of coils. This is a trial and error process. We always recommend working with a stronger spring first and working down to avoid damage to your pistol. If you have any questions, please contact W. C. Wolff Company for additional information.

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