SOFTWARE & TECH

Savage Fox Model B Parts

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Introduction: The Enduring Appeal of the Savage Fox Model B

The Savage Fox Model B is more than just a shotgun; it is a piece of American firearms history. Manufactured by Savage Arms beginning in the late 1930s, this side-by-side double barrel shotgun earned a reputation for reliability, balance, and affordability. For decades, it served as a trusted companion for bird hunters, skeet shooters, and sportsmen who valued a rugged, no-frills firearm. Today, these shotguns are cherished by collectors and shooters alike, and keeping a Fox Model B in working order requires access to quality **Savage Fox Model B Parts**. Whether you are restoring a family heirloom or maintaining a shooter you have owned for years, understanding the anatomy of the Model B and knowing where to find the right components is essential. This article will guide you through the history of the Savage Fox Model B, its key parts, common replacements, and the best practices for sourcing authentic parts so that your classic shotgun continues to perform for generations.

History and Overview of the Savage Fox Model B

The Fox Model B Lineage

The Fox Model B was introduced by Savage Arms after the company acquired the A.H. Fox Gun Company in 1930. The original A.H. Fox shotguns were high-end, custom-grade doubles, but Savage aimed to produce a more affordable version that retained the classic side-by-side action. The Fox Model B debuted in the late 1930s and quickly became a popular choice for hunters on a budget. Over the years, the Model B underwent several design changes, including the transition from a hammerless boxlock action to a more streamlined trigger plate system. These shotguns were chambered in 12, 16, and 20 gauge, with barrel lengths typically ranging from 26 to 30 inches. Production continued until the early 1980s, with total numbers reaching well over half a million units. This wide production run means that while many parts are still available, some variations require careful identification.

Why Parts Are Sought After

The demand for **Savage Fox Model B Parts**stems from several factors. First, many of these shotguns were used heavily in the field and have decades of wear. Common issues include broken firing pins, weak springs, cracked stocks, and worn extractors. Second, the Model B is a classic American shotgun that is still widely used for hunting and clay targets, so owners want to keep them functional. Third, because Savage produced the Model B in several variants (e.g., the early "Brasslite" models and later models with different forend attachments), specific parts are not always interchangeable. Collectors and shooters alike need reliable sources for both original and high-quality reproduction components.

Key Components of the Savage Fox Model B

Barrels and Chokes

The barrels on a Savage Fox Model B are typically made from steel, with a matte or blued finish. They are joined by a rib and soldered together. Most barrels feature fixed chokes, such as modified or full, although some export models had interchangeable choke tubes. The barrel assembly is one of the most critical parts of the shotgun. If your barrels are pitted, dented, or have thin walls, you may need to replace them. However, finding a matched set of original barrels can be challenging. Some aftermarket barrel makers offer replacements, but they are rare. For

most owners, maintaining the original barrels through careful cleaning and occasional reaming is the best approach.

Action and Trigger Group

The heart of the Savage Fox Model B is its boxlock action with a single trigger (most models) and automatic ejectors on later versions. The trigger group includes the trigger, sear, hammer, and associated springs. Over time, these parts can wear or break, causing misfires or double firing. The **trigger group parts** are among the most commonly needed **Savage Fox Model B Parts**. Because the Model B uses a unique design, many of these parts are specific to the model and not interchangeable with other Savage shotguns. The action also includes the top lever, which locks the barrels closed. A worn top lever can cause headspace issues. Rebuilding the action with fresh springs and replacing worn pins can restore crisp function.

Stock and Forend

The stock of the Savage Fox Model B is usually made from American walnut, with a pistol grip and a rubber or plastic buttplate. The forend is a splinter style that attaches to the barrels via a metal latch. Wood is prone to cracking, especially around the receiver and the wrist area. Also, the forend latch assembly (the metal piece that surrounds the forend) can break. Finding a replacement stock that fits properly can be tricky because there is slight variation between early and later models. Many owners opt to repair the original wood or purchase a reproduction stock from a specialist. The forend iron (the metal bracket) is often salvaged from donor guns, but new old stock (NOS) pieces appear occasionally.

Sights and Extras

Most Fox Model B shotguns have a single brass bead at the muzzle. Some target models had a middle bead. Beads are easily replaced with press-in or screw-in versions. Other extras include the action screws (which are slotted and can be stripped), the trigger guard (which is steel on early models and plastic on later ones), and the safety slide (located on the tang). When ordering parts, always check the part number or compare with an original schematic.

Finding and Identifying Authentic Savage Fox Model B Parts

Serial Numbers and Markings

Before purchasing any **Savage Fox Model B Parts**, it is vital to identify your shotgun's production era. The serial number is located on the water table of the receiver (under the barrels) and also on the barrel flats. Early Model Bs have serial numbers starting with a letter, while later ones are purely numeric. Savage also stamped the model designation "Model B" on the barrels or receiver. Knowing the approximate year of manufacture helps you find the correct style of forend latch, trigger guard, and stock dimensions. For example, early guns (pre-1940s) had a different firing pin design than post-war models. Cross-referencing the serial number with online resources or a knowledgeable gunsmith is a good first step.

Original vs. Reproduction Parts

When sourcing parts, you have two main options: original factory parts (new old stock or used) and aftermarket reproductions. Original parts are preferred for collector-grade restorations because they maintain historical accuracy. However, they can be expensive and hard to find. Reproduction parts are more readily available and often made from improved materials (e.g., CNC-machined springs that last longer). Many shooters find that high-quality reproductions work perfectly for daily use. Be wary of cheap, poorly made parts that may not fit or could cause safety issues. It is always best to buy from a reputable dealer who specializes in vintage Savage shotguns.

Common Replacement Parts and Upgrades

Firing Pins and Springs

The firing pins on the Savage Fox Model B are prone to breakage, especially if the gun has been dry-fired extensively or if the pins are old and brittle. Replacement firing pins are available from several sources. It is wise to replace both firing pins at the same time, along with the firing pin springs. The hammer springs (mainsprings) also lose tension over time, leading to light strikes. Upgrading to modern, stainless steel springs can improve reliability. Always have a qualified gunsmith install these parts to ensure proper headspace and timing.

Extractor and Ejector Parts

On early Model Bs, the extractors were simple manual extractors that lifted the shells slightly. Later models featured automatic ejectors that threw the spent shells clear. Both systems have small parts like ejector trips, sears, and springs that can wear or become bent. Ejector issues are a common reason owners seek **Savage Fox Model B Parts**. Rebuilding the ejector mechanism requires patience and the correct diagrams. Many gunsmiths recommend replacing the entire ejector set if possible, as individual parts are often unavailable. If your gun has manual extractors, they rarely need replacement, but they can become loose and fail to lift the shells.

Stock Repair and Refinishing

If the wood on your Fox Model B is cracked, chipped, or oil-soaked, you may need to replace or repair the stock. Full replacement stocks are available from a few custom stock makers, but they require fitting. Alternatively, you can repair cracks with epoxy and dowel pins, then refinish the wood. The forend is also a common breakage point. Many owners choose to replace the forend entirely because the original latch system can be fragile. For those who want a period-correct look, NOS stocks appear occasionally at gun shows and online auction sites.

Maintenance and Care for Your Fox Model B

Cleaning and Lubrication

Proper maintenance extends the life of your shotgun and reduces the need for replacement parts. After each use, clean the barrels with a bore brush and solvent, paying attention to the chamber and forcing cone. Remove the forend and barrels from the action to clean the receiver internals. Use a good gun grease on the hinge pin and locking surfaces. Avoid over-lubricating, as dirt can accumulate. Keep the trigger group clean and free of old oil that can gum up. Many **Savage Fox Model B Parts** fail because of neglect rather than simple wear.

Storage

Store your Fox Model B in a dry, temperature-controlled environment. High humidity can rust the barrels and springs. Use silicone-treated gun socks or a safe dehumidifier. Avoid storing the shotgun with the action closed, as the springs may lose tension over many years. For long-term storage, back off the mainspring tension slightly. Also, periodically inspect the screws and ensure they are tight – loose screws can cause the action to loosen up and lead to part failure.

Where to Buy Savage Fox Model B Parts

Specialized Dealers

Several online retailers focus on vintage American shotguns and carry a wide selection of **Savage Fox Model B Parts**. Companies like Numrich Gun Parts (Gun Parts Corp), Jack First Inc., and Poppert's Gun Parts have extensive inventories of original and reproduction parts for the Model B. They often offer exploded diagrams to help

you identify exactly what you need. Another good source is the Savage Fox Collectors Association, which provides links to member vendors and classified ads.

Online Forums and Auction Sites

For hard-to-find parts, online forums such as the "Savage Fox Shotguns" group on Facebook or the Shotgunworld.com community can be invaluable. Collectors often sell spare parts or trade with others. Auction sites like eBay (filter by "Savage Fox Model B") sometimes list genuine parts, but be cautious of counterfeit or incorrectly described items. Always ask for detailed photos and measurements. Gun shows are also excellent for finding parts, as many vendors bring boxes of old shotgun parts. Establish a relationship with a reputable gunsmith who specializes in side-by-side shotguns – they often have a stash of parts acquired over decades.

Conclusion: Preserving a Classic

The Savage Fox Model B is a timeless side-by-side shotgun that deserves to stay in the field and on the range. With the right **Savage Fox Model B Parts**,

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