



## **Saiga Trigger Guard Replacement**

### **Intro:**

These are the installation instructions to be used on the Saiga .223 rifle, 7.62x39 rifle and .410 Shotgun.

### **What's included:**

You will find a centerpunch, 3 cobalt drill bits, trigger guard, 2 nuts and screws (8x32), allen wrench and 6 nylon plugs.

The cobalt bits are nice as they have a thicker web and are much more durable than high speed steel.

### **Instructions:**

#### **Note:**

Photos of the 7.62x39 rifle will accompany the instructions but the installation is the same on the .223 rifle and .410 Shotgun.

**These instructions are not intended to cover all aspects of the conversion; rather they are intended to describe the trigger guard installation.**

A well written account of a COMPLETE Saiga conversion (with photos too) can be found on the internet at: [http://www.cross-conn.com/Saiga\\_Conversion](http://www.cross-conn.com/Saiga_Conversion).

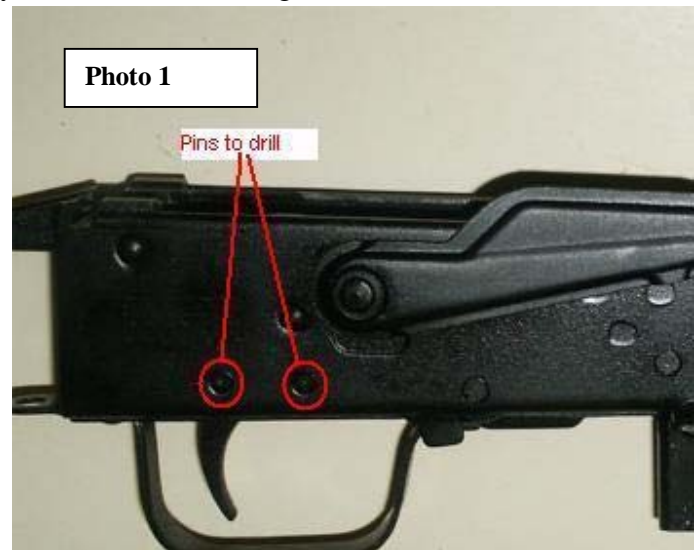
The title of the site is: **Converting a Saiga to Pistol Grip Configuration.**

Many of the photos used in this installation are from that web site. Since it is not copyrighted I am not violating the original author's rights. I do want to acknowledge their source.

**Step 1.** The first step is to remove the dust cover and buttstock. New buttstocks can be very tight. Make sure you remove all THREE screws. It is easy to miss the one under the recoil spring if you don't know about it.

The method I have used to remove the buttstock is to hold it between some soft sole shoes while holding the handguard with both hands and pulling. Be careful and put a small pillow or folded towel in front of the barrel so you don't end up hitting your chest with the end of the barrel. You can move the buttstock gently side to side while pulling. DO NOT MOVE IT UP AND DOWN OR YOU MAY PERMANENTLY DAMAGE THE REAR TRUNNION.

**Step. 2.** It is best to use a drill press for all drilling operations. You can use a hand drill if you do not have access to a drill press but take your time. Use the largest carbide drill

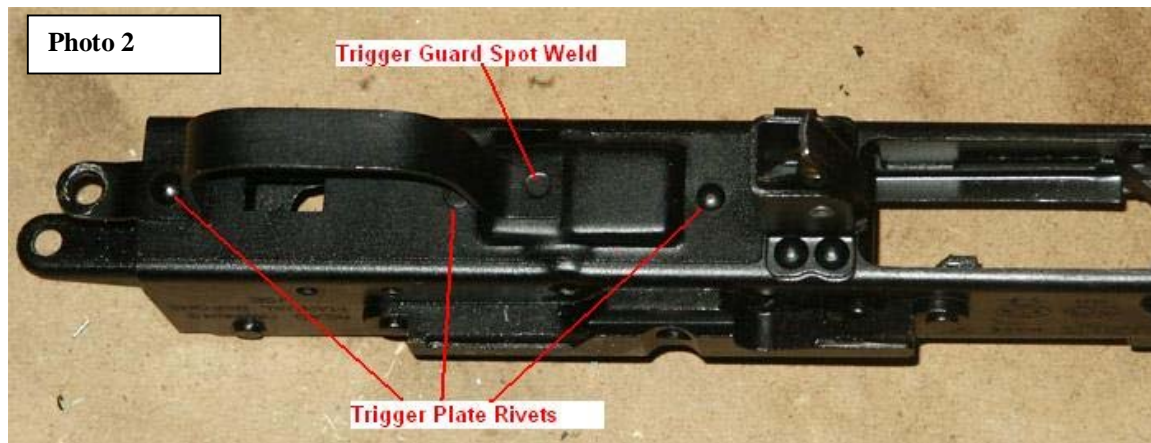


bit in the kit to drill out the trigger and hammer axles shown in photo.

After drilling the head off of the pins remove the remaining pins. This will allow you to remove the trigger assembly and hammer assembly.

**Step 3.** It is time to remove the rivets. You need to flatten the heads of the 3 rivets holding the trigger plate. (See Photo 2.)

A flat bastard file or small triangular file will work best because you want to create a good flat spot on top of the rivets so you can centerpunch and drill them.



Remove the top and bottom rivets first.

Use the centerpunch to make a good deep divot. You may want to strike the centerpunch twice because this divot is important. It will keep the drill bit from wandering.

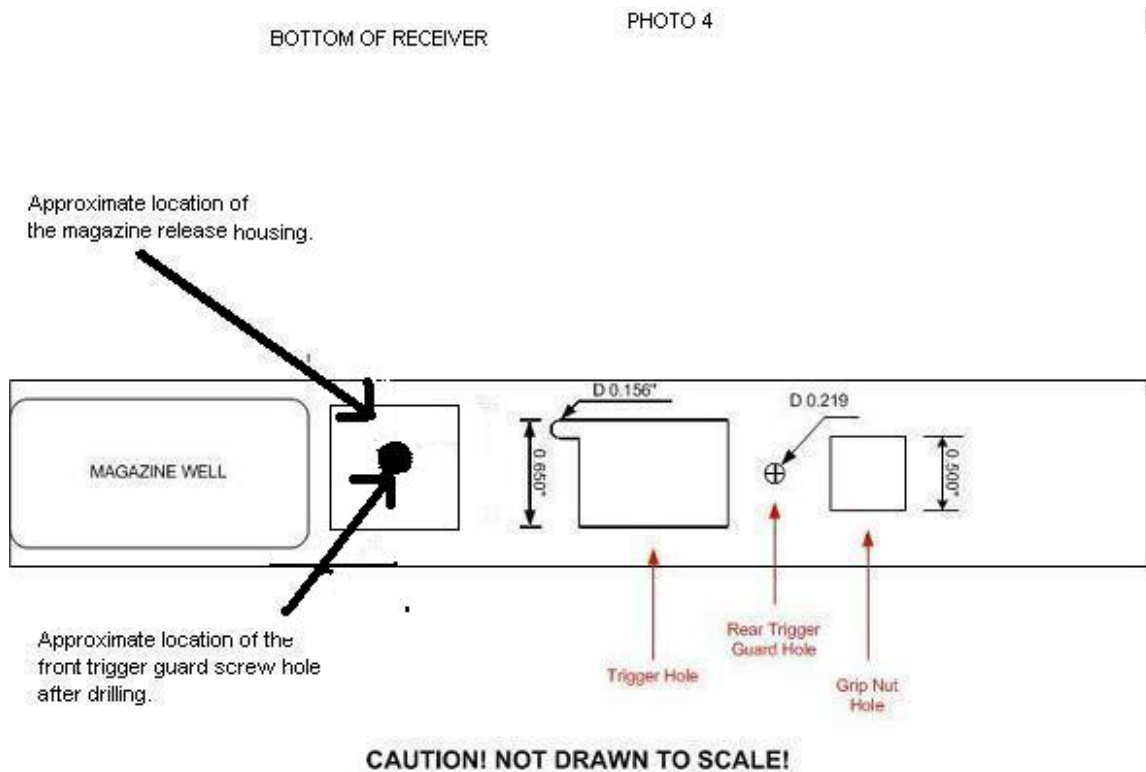
Drill through each rivet center. You will notice a small dark circle form where the rivet is breaking away from the receiver. Sometimes the rivet will fall through by itself. If it doesn't then use the centerpunch. I use a deep well socket to support the inside receiver when the rivet is being removed with the centerpunch. With a good hit or two punch the rivet out with blows to the centerpunch.

You will repeat this on the other top or bottom rivet.  
When you are ready to do the center rivet, just bend the trigger guard out of the way and remove the last rivet.

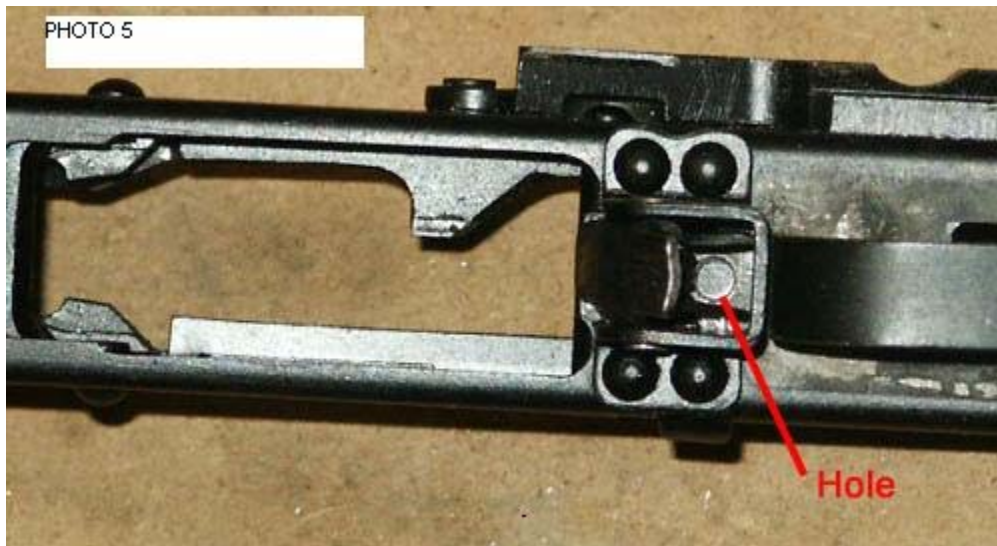
You don't even have to mess with the "weld" that eats drill bits and wastes time. **You have a replacement trigger guard**, so trying to salvage your old one is not necessary. With the last rivet removed the bottom of the receiver looks like this. See Photo 3



**Step 4.** You are now ready to install your new trigger guard. Using the diagram from the same website as the photos; see Photo 4.



The hole just in back of the trigger hole (in the receiver) is the hole for the rear of the trigger guard to attach. To attach the front with a screw you will need to drill a hole through the receiver and inside of the magazine release housing. **See photo 5**



The magazine release is protected by a 3 sided housing. The front of the trigger guard just fits under the housing and extends into the center. Slide the front of your new trigger guard under the magazine housing and into the center but don't attach it yet. Move the rear of the trigger guard so the hole in the guard and the hole in the receiver line up and then attach it with one of the screws and nuts in the kit. (You may have to bend the trigger guard just a little to get it so the two rear holes are directly aligned.)

Some guys leave the front of the trigger guard alone and do not attach it. I like to attach mine so I have included a drill bit for the 8/32 screws that are in the kit.

Have the receiver placed so you can get lots of light into the magazine release housing area. Make sure your magazine release will move back and forth without touching the trigger guard.

Once you have the trigger guard where you want it drill through the receiver through the inside of the magazine release housing. See Photo 6



It is better to place the top of the screw inside the magazine release housing, and the nut inside the receiver. I have found it very handy to use a telescoping magnet for situations like these. I place the screw on the end of the magnet with it standing on end. I get the nut where I need it on the inside and hold it in place with one finger.

I take the screw (with magnet) and carefully pass it through the magazine release housing and up to the nut.

I am able to turn the telescoping magnet and thereby turn the screw to get it started into the nut. Once it is started the tightening is easy.



Before tightening the trigger guard screws completely, take a look at the trigger guard aligned with the receiver and barrel. The holes in the trigger guard are a little over sized to allow you to move the front and back just a little to get the best alignment.

The trigger guard is installed. It has been sprayed with DuraCoat so you don't need to worry about it rusting for decades, but if you get oil on it that's not a problem either.

**You are done** (with the trigger guard).