Airsoft Review: GNG SOC16 Rifle

Contributed by Fox

The GNG SOC 16, at first glance looks like a pretty sturdy airsoft gun…. Guess what? You’re right. This airsoft rifle looks and feels solid. It boasts of metal parts (most of it’s components are made of metal and has a very nice plastic stock that doesn’t creak when handled). It has nice details and the engravings on it looks ok (not as nice as Tokyo Marui’s M14/SOC 16 engravings though).

Battery compartment is at the butt-end of the stock and is capable of holding a really big battery (the biggest size I could fit in inside a Tokyo Marui M14 is a 9.6V, 2400 mah with some modification on the stock). The disadvantage of this is that the battery will tend to move around inside the stock when you are moving around during airsoft skirmishes, which is really annoying. Though it could easily be remedied by putting foam inside the battery compartment to hold the battery packfirmly into place.

Disassemly

Note:

I’m assuming that you already know your way around the basics of airsoft AEG disassembly and wouldn’t go into step by step detail on how to dissemble the unit, IF NOT…. I wouldn’t even suggest that you go about opening and modifying an airsoft aeg unit unless you have someone who have the technical experience to help/guide you to prevent you from damaging some parts or components of the aeg rendering it non-functional.

Takedown of this airsoft AEG unit is very simple and pretty much straight forward (compared to the Tokyo Marui M14/SOC16 version). To access the gearbox/mechbox, You just have to separate the rifle body from the rifle stock (a users manual would help you with this), with the magazine well facing upwards pull the trigger guard upward to release the trigger mechanism (trigger mechanism also locks the rifle stock to the rifle body). When you manage to separate the rifle stock from the rifle body, it’s just a matter of removing the barrel assembly by removing a pin and 2 screws that holds the outer barrel on the metal upper body. Then to remove the rifle upper rifle metal body you just have to remove the pin on the bolt catch lever and remove the screws the metal body on the gear box/mechbox.

GNG SOC16 Spring Decock/Decompress Feature

The GNG version of the SOC16 has this spring decock feature which seems cool and convenient. But this has been reported by users to damage internal components (especially for units that use higher rating/heavier springs) damaged components range from piston bodies to tappet plates.

So far users who have upgraded their GNG SOC16 opt not to use the spring decock/decompress feature or play it “safe” by disabling this feature.

Damaged tappet plate caused by using the spring decocker

To disable spring decocker of this airsoft rifle is not exactly rocket science, it is a pretty straight forward replacement of the “latch” part of the anti-reverse latch assembly. The procedure includes disassembly of the anti-reverse

latch and replacement of the “funky” looking latch with a regular “latch” from a donor anti reverse latch of any version 2-3-4-6-7 airsoft gun/aeg (the stock GNG SOC16 latch has an extension that resembles a tail where the cam of the shaft of the selector lever mechanism engages to it to release it from stopping the bevel gear from reversing due to spring compression).

After replacing it assemble the gearbox/mechbox back together (lubricate the internal components like the gear sets and re-grease the piston head o-ring and cylinder before closing the gearbox/mechbox using non-petroleum base lubricants and grease).

Test the gearbox/mechbox by mounting the trigger assembly to the mechbox and hook it up to a battery. Using a pair of pliers “gently” turn the fire selector knob and pull the trigger to see if everything is working properly. Also try using it at semi and auto fire mode just to check before final assembly of the airsoft gun.

With the spring decock/decompress feature disabled you no longer have to worry about wrecking your internals. You just have to decompress the spring the old fashion way… by firing your airsoft gun/aeg at semi-auto mode 2-3 times.

Here are some pics taken during this procedure

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Additional notes from the author:

The Project airsoft gun featured was a first generation GNG SOC16 (the ones that came with scopes). The bugs with this airsoft gun (aeg) is.... The Hi-cap magazine that came with it has misfeeding issues. It can be fixed by removing some material from the passageway of the bbs in the mag. THis can be done by using some sand paper (this is a bit of a hassle since you have to do this by trial and error till you get it right).... Anyway the later generation GNG SOC 16 magazines are a lot better and don't have the misfeeding problem, but still have seen damaged internals caused by the spring decocker..... The last one i've seen was a damaged spur gear (i don't see this a lot). Happened while the owner was test firing his new unit then accidentaly activating the spring decocker while trying to shift the fire selector. So I still think that disabling this feature is still needed to prevent anymore problems down the road.