

RULES APPLICABLE TO RESEARCHED ARTICLES, AND SUPPLEMENTS TO RESEARCHED ARTICLES

By Joseph Reichert

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INTRODUCTION

On our Free Resources page, a series of articles appear which address specific technical issues. These articles are supported by citations to published sources. To distinguish such articles from our other published materials, such as posts and informal notes, we have designated them “researched articles”. We are pleased to publish researched articles authored by anyone who wishes to write on our topic, provided that the submissions conform to our stated requirements, and contain information which materially advances the purposes of this website. The same considerations apply to any supplements to the researched articles we publish. A supplement is a short statement commenting on the subject matter of a researched article, and will be appended to it. As with the researched articles themselves, supplements may be submitted for consideration by any person who can add value to a published researched article.

Please note that you are free to submit relevant ideas and observations in other formats, such as posts to our Posts Page, and dispense with citations. It is not our intention to restrict our correspondents to the highly structured requirements attached to researched articles, but only to give our readers a source of more exact and well scrutinized information, similar to a journal or professional periodical.

The following rules are presented to inform those who wish to submit researched articles and supplements for consideration and possible publication. However, before stating these rules, it is necessary to briefly elaborate upon the objectives of researched articles, which are essential to the objectives of this site.

The purpose of every researched article is to concisely state accurate information concerning the design, fabrication and testing of small arms, and the ammunition for small arms. This objective is informed by an additional consideration, to not only communicate manufacturing processes in such a way that they can be carried out by the students of this technology, , but to devise the means to carry out these operations on a small scale, taking advantage of those cutting-edge technologies which are trending towards small footprint manufacturing.

Those technologies include three-dimensional printing (“additive manufacturing”), metal cutting machines reduced in size from those used in traditional machine tool practice, especially small scale CNC lathes and mills, increasingly sophisticated CAD/CAM software, metal sintering technology, and similar small scale methods.

A supplement should cogently expand the information contained in a researched article it addresses, or suggest new avenues of inquiry into its subject, or even refute statements in that researched article which the author of the supplement believes to be erroneous or incomplete. By this process, every subject raised on this site can be examined in an ongoing way, expanding and distributing knowledge of these studies.

All researched articles are intended to be works in progress, and most will eventually display the efforts of multiple authors by dint of ongoing supplementation. The standards to be observed in producing them are clear and easily followed. We not only state these rules, but explain how they are to be applied, and provide examples which authors may find helpful.

Please read these rules in their entirety before sending a proposed researched article or supplement to us. We will try to repair promising articles and supplements which do not meet the standards outlined here, but we would prefer to avoid the extra effort which extensive editing entails.

RULES, WITH EXPLANATIONS AND EXAMPLES

Rule I

Every Researched Article And Supplement Must Display The Name Of Its Author, Email Contact Information For The Author, The Date Of Publication Of The Article Or Supplement, A Copyright Notice In The Name Of The Author, And Should Bear A Title Which Succinctly Communicates Its Subject Matter.

Our researched articles are intended to be works in progress, and most will eventually display the efforts of multiple authors. One of our important objectives is to promote the discussion and free exchange of information among all serious students of small arms technology, and the posting of authors’ names and contact information will advance such communication.

When a researched article is published, it will bear the name of the author who originated it, and the names of all persons who thereafter submitted supplements to it, provided such supplements are approved and published on our site. It will also bear contact information (email addresses) for any and all persons so identified. In the first instance, this information will appear directly beneath the title of the article, and before the body of the article itself.

Every researched article and supplement must also bear a copyright claim in the name of the author. This measure is designed to protect us from claims of infringement, to verify that the

person making the submission is indeed the author of the material we are invited to use, and to protect the author himself by putting the public on notice of his claim.

The text of each supplement will appear in chronological order of publication, directly following the body of the researched article to which it refers, and must contain the author's name, contact information as it appeared at the opening of the article, and a copyright claim in the author's name.

Every researched article, and each and every supplement, must have a title to identify its subject matter. The titles should be concise, but contain enough information to alert potential readers concerning what they may expect to find inside.

The following is an example of how all this information will appear, excluding required subsections and references:

**TESTS OF THE DURABILITY OF BARRELS
FABRICATED FROM 4140 STEEL**

By Martin G. Ward

mgw@wardshop.com

© 2020 Martin G. Ward

Published: October 18, 2020

(Here follows the text of Mr. Ward's article)

**SUPPLEMENT:
SOME OVERLOOKED STUDIES CONCERNING THE
DURABILITY OF 4140 STEEL**

By James Hanrahan

© 2020 James Hanrahan

hanrahanj@fabrica.com

Published: December 4, 2020

(Here follows the text of Mr. Hanrahan's supplement)

**SUPPLEMENT:
EROSION OF 4140 STEEL BY CERTAIN PRIMER
CONSTITUENTS**

By John Henry Scott
© 2021 John Henry Scott
author@gunwriter.com
Published: February 11, 2021

(Here follows the text of Mr. Scott's supplement)

Name and contact information will be entered by us, as editors, at the time of first publication of a researched article, and to each supplement as added to it. It is obvious that publication dates cannot be made by authors at the time of submission, but they should be aware that these entries will appear on such of their articles as we agree to publish; however, they must provide their names, email addresses and copyright claims to us when submitting.

Take note that neither researched articles nor supplements bear any notices of the dates on which they have been updated. This is because the supplements are themselves the only "updates" contemplated by this system.

Rule II

Every Researched Article Must Begin With A Statement Of The Scope Of That Article, Which Identifies The Issue It Addresses.

Every researched article must address a specific, identified issue, clearly outlined in a concise statement of scope. The subject of the article is best stated in the form of a question (e.g., "What process controls must be implemented to produce consistent, high quality black powder for use in small arms?" "What is the present state of development of electrochemical erosion technology as applied to the rifling of small arms barrels?") The article fulfills its objective when it answers the question presented in a concise way. It exceeds expectations if it convincingly suggests new avenues of experimentation and inquiry which may reveal ways to apply relevant technologies on a small scale.

Rule III

A Summary Of Conclusions Must Immediately Follow The Statement Of Scope Of A Researched Article.

The introductory section of a researched article must be followed by a concise statement of the conclusions, as drawn from the author's experiments, inquiries, and from data found in source documents deemed reliable. It is not expected that the stated conclusions will always take the form of definite findings, because many articles will address vexing technical problems which have thus far resisted satisfactory solutions. Where definite instructions cannot be issued, it will be appropriate if the conclusion section attempts to identify the obstacles which stand in the way of a desired advance in technology, or includes cogent suggestions for solving such preliminary issues. As with supplements, educated speculation and conjecture is allowed.

This format, which places conclusions immediately after the statement defining the scope of the article, is intended to allow the reader to determine if a full reading of it will be useful for his or her purposes. If the conclusions point to processes the reader finds useful, he can follow up by studying the detailed discussion which follows.

Rule IV

The Summary Of Conclusions Must Be Followed By A Discussion, In The Form Of An Essay, Explaining The Information Which The Author Believes To Support Those Conclusions.

The discussion takes the form of an essay, and must contain a detailed account of how the author derived the stated conclusions, referencing any facts deemed to support them. It should refer to experimental results, trial and error processes, modifications of existing technologies, novel applications of established principles, and research into relevant literature. It should exclude assertions that smack of rumor, hearsay, legend and unproven assumptions. To the greatest extent possible, the discussion should show that the conclusions derive from actual experience, whether of the author or of other experimenters who have accurately recorded their findings in records accessible to the author.

The discussion portion of a researched article should display the author's reasoning on his or her chosen subject, and clearly reveal the writer's evaluation of the sources. For example, where sources are in disagreement concerning some point, the discussion should clearly inform the reader if the author finds one source more convincing than the other. The exposition must also be structured to make it intelligible, with subheadings added if required for clarity.

As far as length is concerned, brevity is a virtue, and the discussion should only contain the words needed to effectively communicate its substance. Although no exact measure can be stated, we think it reasonable that most articles fall in the range of 5 to 15 pages in length,

exclusive of any reference list or illustrations. However, longer or shorter articles may be found suitable, the measure being the number of words required to meaningfully explain the subject addressed.

Rule V

Sources Relied Upon In The Discussion Must be Revealed, And Properly Cited From A Reference List Composed In Accordance With The Numeric Method.

Because it is fact based, the discussion section of the researched article must contain proper references to the publications it cites, and do so in a way that allows the reader to readily locate those publications and review them firsthand. To facilitate this, citations must follow a prescribed format. This format is implemented by composing a table of references, organized in alphabetical order by the last names of the authors of those references. Each reference must also state the year of publication; the title of the book, the edition or volume in question; place of publication, and the name of the publisher. The items appearing on the list are then numbered sequentially, from first to last, and cited in the text of the discussion by their assigned numbers. (This means that the numbers may not be sequential as they appear in the text.)

This is a short example of a reference list created by this method:

- (1) Baker, C. F., 1997, *Ordnance Manufacturing Practices*, New York, Armamenta Press.
- (2) Dickinson, J. P., 2001, *Experimental Methods in Projectile Design*, Charleston, Ballista Corporation.
- (3) Edwards, J., 1995, *Consolidated Tables of Ballistic Coefficients*, Vol. 2, Denver, Lobo Publications.

A text reference to a work included in this list might then appear as follows:

According to Dickinson, the stability problems inherent in large cast projectiles have never been fully corrected. [2, pp. 166-171]

This reference system is commonly known as the "numeric method", and is briefly mentioned as a recognized system in *The Chicago Manual Of Style* (The University of Chicago, 2017, Chicago, The University of Chicago Press, pp. 50, 743). It is explained in detail in the U.S. edition of *Technical Writing A-Z* (Young, Trevor M., 2009, New York, ASME, pp. 36-37, 180-182). The numeric method is mandated on this website because it is easily implemented in short articles of the sort we wish to publish, while permitting readers to easily locate cited sources for their own review and evaluation.

As with any organized set of rules governing citation of sources, questions will arise concerning how to apply this method in special instances, for example, how to list multiple authors in a citation entry, how to cite periodicals, how to properly attribute a work when no author is identified, etc. Most questions of this sort can be resolved by consulting *Technical Writing A-Z*, the guide we rely upon most heavily. If that provides no clear answer, the next step should be to consult *The Chicago Manual Of Style*. If the author is still perplexed, the ultimate remedy is to submit the proposed article with the references composed as the author thinks most proper; if we decide to post it, we will exercise our editorial powers to render it in the form we deem acceptable.

Rule VI

The Purpose Of Supplements, Who May Submit Them, And The Form Of Citation To Be Used In Them.

Supplements are comments appended to the end of original researched articles, with the purpose of clarifying the article, submitting new findings related to it, correcting what the author of the supplement perceives to be an error in the original article, or even sharing speculations or conjectures which the author of the update believes may lead to fruitful experimentation. Supplements may directly contradict assertions appearing in the article, provided that the foundations of the author's contrary position are revealed,

Any statement of fact in a supplement should be referenced to the source where the factual assertion is found, or else it must be referred to experimental results produced by the person submitting the update. However, such justifications are not required for basic facts which are commonly known.

A supplement may be submitted by anyone who has discovered or compiled useful knowledge germane to our subject matter, and who wishes to share it with others. The author of a researched article may thereafter supplement his own work, the only requirement being that his proposed supplement must follow these rules, as required of any other author. This system also contemplates that a supplement may also comment on a prior supplement appearing in the same stream of comment.

The numeric method of citation is not followed in supplements, because it is anticipated that they will be very short, making a table of references unnecessary. Any works referred to in a supplement should be fully identified in the text of the supplement itself (by author, year of publication, title, publisher, and place of publication).

Rule VII

By Submitting A Researched Article Or A Supplement To An Article, The Author Gives Certain Guarantees And Agrees To Be Bound By Certain Stated Provisions.

By submitting a researched article or a supplement to an article, the person submitting warrants that:

1. He or she is submitting his or her own original work, and that the submission does not contain plagiarized material. A writer may quote the works of others, but such adaptations from the writings of others should not exceed what is commonly known as "fair use". We are resolved to adhere scrupulously to the copyright laws, and will reject any material that infringes on the rights of others.
2. Joseph Reichert, Inc., is granted the right to edit any submission, to bring it into conformity with the rules stated herein, to clarify it, to support it by the inclusion of additional references, to otherwise improve it, and to incorporate into it comments upon it. However, these editorial changes shall not alter or limit the author's copyright claims in that submission, which shall endure unimpaired.
3. By submitting a researched article or supplement to this site, the author seeks no payment or other remuneration for that submission, but gives Joseph Reichert, Inc., permission to publish the material submitted, and to display said material on its website indefinitely. However, the author of such materials retains the right to publish his or her product elsewhere, with the understanding and agreement that external publication will not deprive Joseph Reichert, Inc., of the right to display them on its own website.
4. Joseph Reichert, Inc., may reject any submission, for any reason, and may at any time remove articles and updates already published. Removal will be swift and certain in cases of demonstrated plagiarism or violation of the copyright laws. Articles will be rejected if they are not deemed to advance the purposes of this site, if they contain abusive language, or if they contain expressions of social, political or moral opinion. All content must relate solely to the advancement of technology.
5. These rules may be revised at any time, provided, however, that any revisions shall only apply to articles and supplements submitted after the date of those revisions.
6. Any author wishing to submit material to this web site with the intent of seeing it published must accompany the submission with a statement that he or she agrees to abide by all the terms of this rule (Rule VII). The required statement must be submitted with the text of the submission, as follows: ***I agree to be bound by all the terms and conditions set by Joseph Reichert, Inc., as stated on the company's web site (www.josreichert.com) in the document captioned "Rules Applicable To Researched Articles, And Supplements To Researched Articles".***

CONCLUSION

To clarify the application of all the foregoing rules, the following outline of a typical researched article, with supplements, is presented. If you submit a researched article or supplement to a researched article to us and it is published, it will appear online in the form exemplified below. However, we do not require submitting authors to be overly concerned with typesetting, line spacing, or other niceties of appearance.

RESEARCHED ARTICLE: TESTS OF THE DURABILITY OF BARRELS FABRICATED FROM 4140 STEEL

By Martin G. Ward

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© 2020 Martin G. Ward

Published: October 18, 2020

SCOPE OF ARTICLE

Here appears a statement of the subject matter of the article. The best statement is one which sets out the question or questions which the article will examine.

CONCLUSIONS

Here appears a statement summarizing the conclusions drawn concerning the subject examined; that is, answers are given to the questions posed in the Scope Of Article.

DISCUSSION

This section explains how the answers stated in the preceding section, Conclusions, were determined, and what evidence supports those answers. This section may also include suggestions for avenues of inquiry and experiments which the author has reason to think may prove fruitful. Make sure to draw a clear line between factual statements and speculation. Citations to sources should be made in conformity with the numeric method, as prescribed by Rule V, preceding.

TABLE OF REFERENCES

The table of references must follow the numeric method, as per Rule V.

**SUPPLEMENT:
SOME OVERLOOKED STUDIES CONCERNING THE
DURABILITY OF 4140 STEEL**

By James Hanrahan
© 2020 James Hanrahan
hanrahanj@fabrica.com
Published: December 4, 2020

Here appears the text of the supplement, a short statement setting out material which enhances, improves, clarifies, or contradicts statements appearing in the main article.

Recall that the numeric method of citation is not followed in supplements, (see Rule VI, preceding). Any works referred to in a supplement should be fully identified in the text of the supplement itself (by author, year of publication, title, publisher, and city of publication).

**SUPPLEMENT:
EROSION OF 4140 STEEL BY CERTAIN PRIMER
CONSTITUENTS**

By John Henry Scott
© 2021 John Henry Scott
author@gunwriter.com
Published: February 11, 2021

This supplement follows the same format as that which preceded it.