



FLOAT TUBE

After confirming gas tube alignment **8**. Thread the (degreased) forend tube retaining nut all the way onto the barrel nut, and **9./10.** degrease the barrel nut threads and apply "blue" glue. **11.** Thread on the float tube so it engages both sets of threads and the front of the tube is approximately at the edge of the gas block shoulder on the barrel.

Even though there's a retaining nut, I still use glue to make sure the tube stays put. Heat and handling can loosen the retaining nut, especially if there's a vertical grip installed on the tube (along with a lot of accessories), and you do not want a float tube coming loose. The glue is medium-duty "blue" Permatex threadlocker.



CLEARANCE & ALIGNMENT

Since there is a good deal of room for the tube to shift back and forth (threading it farther on or backing it off) it's important to check its position.

Remove the upper receiver from the block and mount it onto a lower receiver. Pivot the upper down as you would to maintain the rifle. **12.** Make sure the forend tube isn't touching the lower. If it is, thread the tube forward. This doesn't affect function but will mar the finishes. If install rail covers that increase the height of the rail, some contact won't hurt because it will be cushioned.

Then slip on the gas block or manifold and run it fully back to its shoulder on the barrel. **13.** There has to be clearance between the tube and the block if any portion of the block might be able to contact the tube. It can be very close, just not touching.



The tube now has to be aligned. There are different ways to do this but the rail alignment tool from Brownell's is the best I've seen. Otherwise, it can be eyeballed or set with a bubble-style level. I use the Brownell's tool because I have one, and it's one I really wouldn't want to be without. The Brownell's tool is height-adjustable to allow mounting on the upper receiver rail and then extend it downward to connect with the rail on a float tube. I use it also to set rail-topped gas blocks dead straight. It's sturdy and doubles, for me, as a clamp to secure the part in alignment while its then tightened down.

With the tool in place, **14./15.** tighten the retaining nut against the back of the tube using the YHM spanner wrench. If you don't have a spanner, tap it in place using a flat blade screwdriver (and then touch up paint..).

