Our Hawken fullstock flint rifle is a project of moderate complexity, since it does not require rib installation, nor the lock to breech fitting of a halfstock percussion Hawken rifle.

Assembly requires the skilled use of a drill press, to drill and tap for the lock bolt, tang bolts, and other screws. If this is your first gun building project, you will need some experience with tools, or the guidance of an experienced gun builder. A mentor is a valued friend.

Due to the wide variety of possible combinations, no step-by-step assembly manuals exist for these American made gun parts kits. We offer a full scale plan drawing of the Hawken rifle.

We recommend the instruction book: Art of Building the Pennsylvania Longrifle. Our favorite gun building book is Recreating the American Longrifle. The older book Modern Kentucky Rifle has informative photos showing hand inletting technique, step-by-step, to guide the hand of the novice gun maker.

One secret to success with a pre-inlet stock, is to pencil centerlines on the stock, and check all part placements against your marks. It is often necessary to favor one side of the mortise, when shaving and scraping the last tiny amount of wood. Your goal is both a tight fit, and the proper placement of the part.

Machine inlets are a tiny bit undersize, to allow final fitting by hand. Be careful when enlarging the ends of the trigger mortise. It is very easy to overcut slots in curved surfaces. Other cuts, such as our barrel channel, are machine inlet to true size, for an easy correct fit.