

Opportunities in Gunsmithing

As we travel around the country, people often ask . . .

“What are the opportunities in Gunsmithing?”

It’s a tremendous market. There are more than 60 million firearms owners in the U.S. These firearms owners have over 200 million firearms of all types. This market includes hunters, sport shooters, law enforcement professionals, gun collectors, and the booming self defense market. Since late 2008 tens of millions of citizens have become new gun owners and the firearms manufacturers have been working around the clock to try to catch up with this increased demand.

Even with new, restrictive gun laws making it harder to buy new guns, people need someone to keep their personal guns in good working order. All this adds up to a tremendous opportunity for trained, competent gunsmiths.

In fact, there are probably thousands of firearms within a few miles of where you live. If you maintained just a fraction of those, you’d be busier than you could ever imagine.

But don’t just take our word for it . . . In a recent Brownells Gunsmith Newsletter it says, “. . . *the news is that repair work is at an all time high, many shops are not able to keep up. There seems to be a real shortage of competent gunsmiths, with many shops asking where they can find more . . .*”

Brownells Gunsmiths Newsletter

Work for Yourself or For Someone Else . . . Full Time or Part Time!

After you become a certified AGI gunsmith, you will have a number of career options. Although most of our students prefer the freedom and financial rewards of working for themselves, you also have the option of working for someone else. Either way, as an AGI certified gunsmith, you’ll be well prepared for whatever career choice you make.

Your Own Business

If you’ve ever dreamed of being in business for yourself, you’ll find gunsmithing is the perfect part or full time business. You’ll enjoy the freedom and prestige of working for yourself.

Whether your business is part or full time, as a professional gunsmith you will make money almost immediately. If you’re a federal firearms dealer (or would like to be), you can now offer your Professional Gunsmithing services to anyone who buys a firearm through you! With every gun you sell, you’re creating a new customer.

Gunsmith Shops

There are plenty of full or part time jobs available for well trained gunsmiths. Once you become an AGI certified gunsmith, you'll have the opportunity to work full time or part time for other gunsmiths or gun shops. You can earn a very good hourly wage or receive a percentage of the repair costs. Many people find this a great way to break into the field as they build their own clientele.

Firearms Dealers

There are currently over 50,000 FFL's (federal firearms license holders) in the U.S. Many of these dealers employ gunsmiths or need gunsmiths for contract work. They can refer a great deal of business to you.

Earning Potential

Gunsmithing is a satisfying and rewarding field. Earnings of \$30-\$80 per hour are not unusual for a trained pro.

It can add up fast. Let's say you're asked to install a recoil pad and install a choke. That one job could bring in a hefty \$200 or more! Imagine getting paid that kind of money in a field that is so enjoyable.

As a skilled craftsman you will earn an impressive hourly rate. Here is just a small sample of some of the most common gunsmithing services and the average fees charged by gunsmiths:

Routine troubleshooting	\$25-\$50
Strip/Cleaning	\$25-\$50
Smoothing and tuning a revolver	\$65-\$90
Accuracy tuning	\$85-\$300
Sight installation	\$50-\$75
Swivel installation	\$15-\$30
Choke installation	\$90-\$190
Recoil pad installation	\$50-\$90
Patterning a shotgun	\$50-\$90
Bedding a barrel/action	\$50-\$150
Repairs to receiver	\$50-\$100
Repairing firing pin	\$25-\$50
Trigger assembly/repair	\$50-\$90
Repair safety	\$25-\$50
Fitting a new trigger	\$45-\$95

* These rates above do not include parts costs.