

Linstock Drill Variations

For field guns in use prior to the War Between the States (1860s), Linstocks were used to ignite the powder charge instead of friction primers. The following are the variations to the muzzle-loading artillery drill when using linstocks. The information is taken from the drills for the Texas Revolution (1835-1836), but can be used for any pre-friction primer artillery.

Commands.

For Texas Revolution artillery, the commands are essentially the same, but in Spanish. The following are the Spanish artillery commands and calls.

English	Spanish
Clear	Claro
Load	Cargue
Ready	Listo
Fire	Fuego
Failed Primer.....	Cartilla Fallada
Do Not Advance	No Avanza
Advance	Avance
Retire the Piece	Retire el Canon
Three Minutes Have Elapsed	Tres Minutos Han Pasado

Use of Linstock For Firing the Cannon.

LOAD

While the piece is being serviced, Number 3 will ensure the Linstock is lit and will move well to the right of the gun to ensure that no stray sparks are near the powder.

READY

Number 4 pricks the cartridge and then primes the piece by either:

1. Inserting a quill or quick match; or,
2. Tearing open a priming cartridge and pouring the vent full of powder, then drawing a line with the remaining powder toward the muzzle from the vent

FIRE

Number 3 steps up to the side of the right wheel, clear of the hub, and, reaching over the wheel with the Linstock, applies the spark to the primer (or to the powder trail forward of the vent if using a priming cartridge).

If the gun fires successfully, Number 3 hands the Linstock to the Gunner, and joins Number 4 at the trail to lift the trail and move the cannon back to the firing line.