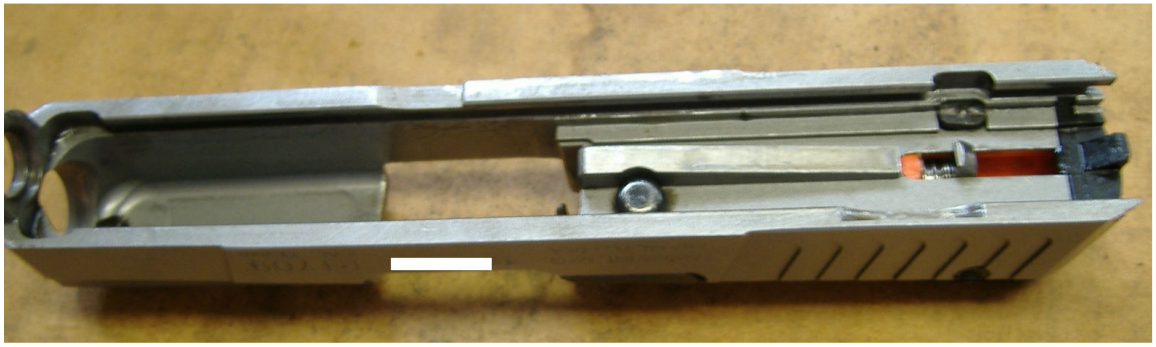
PT 709 firing pin and extractor removal.

Disclaimer: My Taurus manual says not to take this apart (just flush it with cleaner).

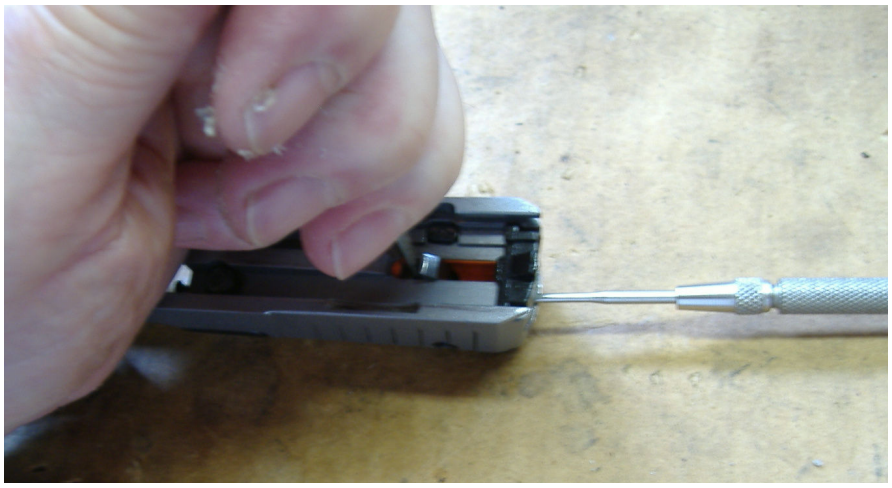
But several list members have done this without ill effect. So here goes:

Field strip the pistol and start with the slide upside down like this (assuming you are right handed).

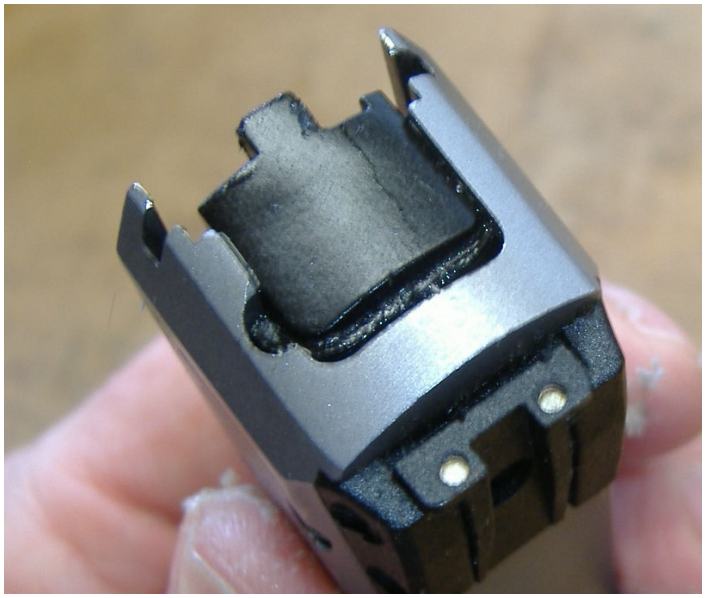


With a tiny screwdriver slide the back cap slightly away from the sights (up, in this orientation). It won't move much, you just want a small crack so you can get a tiny screwdriver into it in the next step.

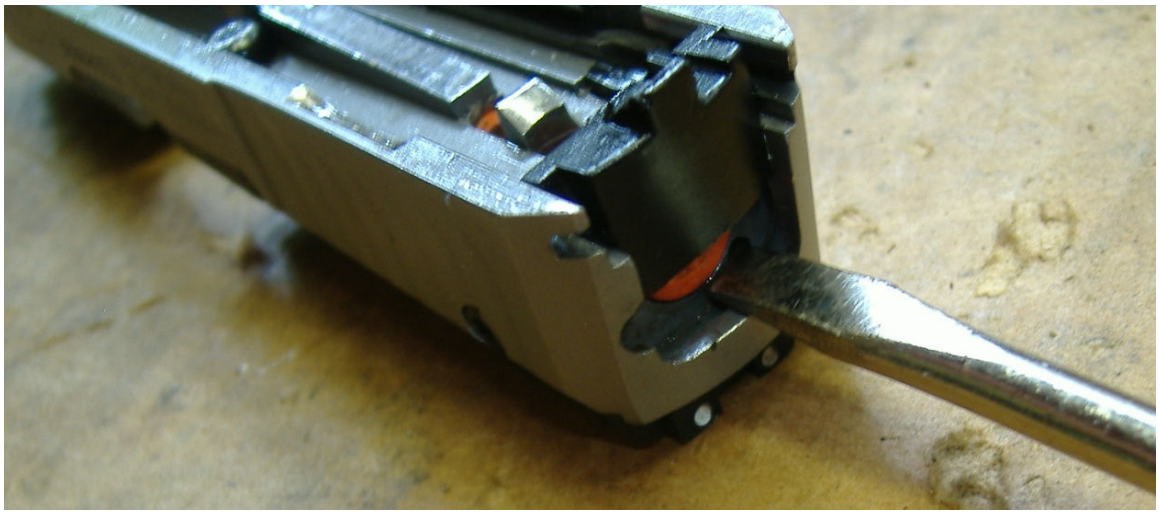
Here's where three hands would come in handy. While pressing down with the heel of your left hand (to keep the slide stationary) use a punch or small screwdriver to slide the orange firing-pin sleeve slightly (maybe 1/16 in) to the left. At the same time, pry up on the back cap with a tiny screwdriver in the crack we just created. You don't need to move it much.



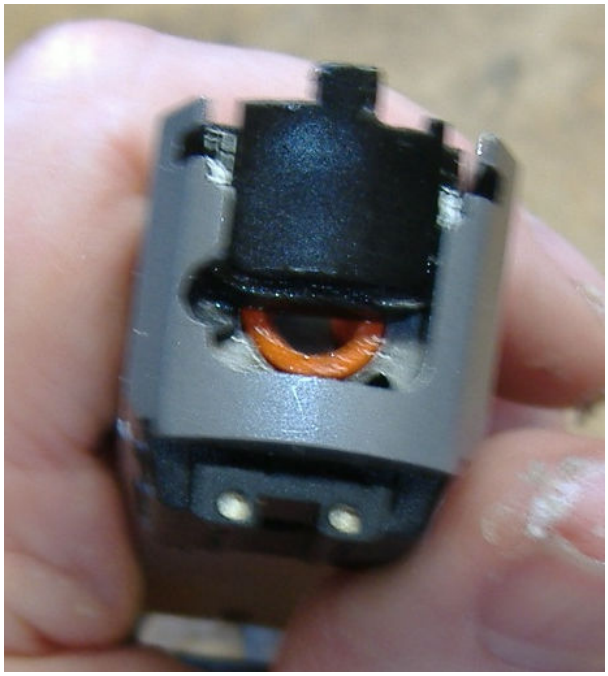
Here's the back cap after the previous step. You only need to move it enough to "get over the hump" where the firing-pin sleeve rests in a detent inside the back cap.



Now you can use a normal-sized screwdriver (and/or fingers) to slide the back cap the rest of the way off.



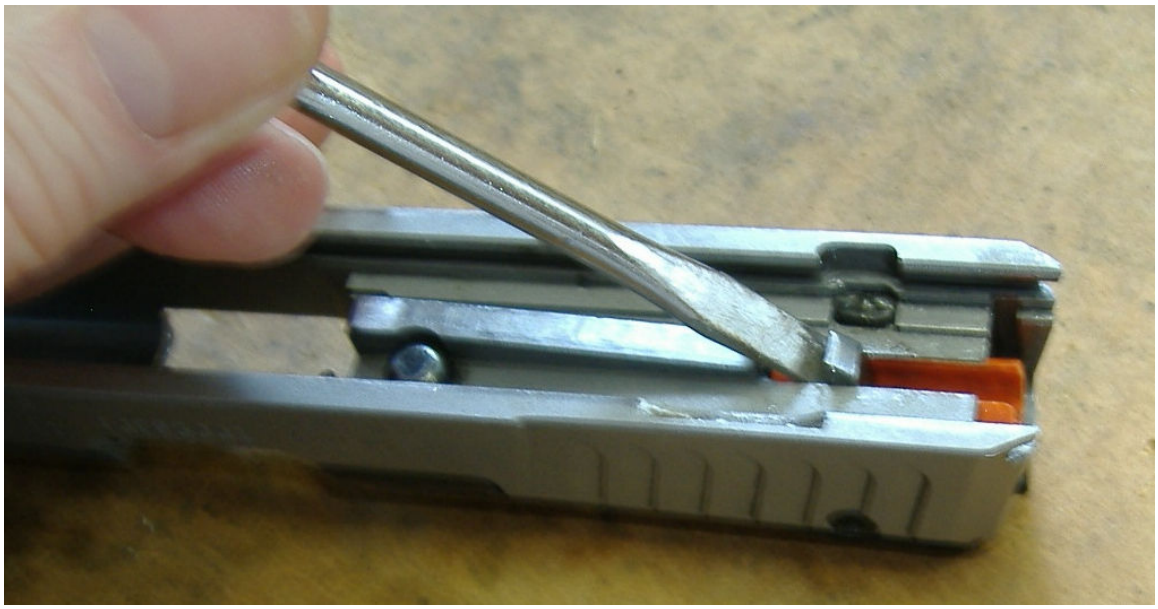
As the cap slides off, you'll see the end of the orange sleeve as well as the piston that provides tension for the extractor. The piston is captive and the sleeve has lots of friction so you don't have to worry about any parts jumping out at this point; just slide the cap off.



Before continuing, note the inside of the back cap. There is a circular recess that locks against the orange sleeve under spring tension. Also the cap is reinforced with a piece of metal.

Here's the back of the slide with the cap removed. Note how both the orange sleeve and the extractor piston now stick out under spring pressure.

Now, you can just push out the firing pin assembly. This thing can be stiff so you'll probably need to "work it out" a bit at a time. The whole business comes out as an assembly.



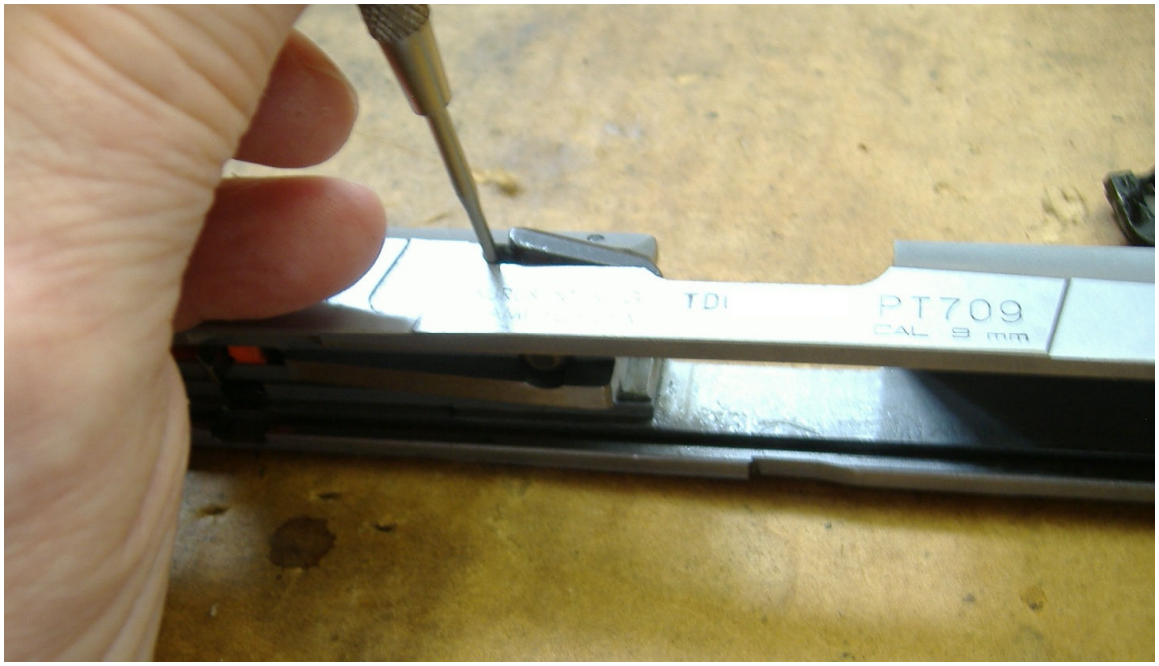
Here are two shots showing the sleeve, part-way out.

Here is the firing pin assembly out of the gun. The big spring (between the orange sleeve and the head of the firing pin) propels the striker into the primer; that same spring locks the orange sleeve into the detent in the plastic end cap we just removed. The "cutout" just behind the pointy end is part of the firing-pin block system and the hole at the top of the orange plastic sleeve is for the safety key-lock system.

Here is **one important caution before removing the extractor**. The extractor holds the firing pin block in place. So be careful not to loose that part when the extractor is out. The firing-pin block is under light spring pressure and will easily fall out if you aren't careful. Here in the firing pin block on the underside of the slide.

Here's a shot of the upper part of the firing-pin block with the extractor removed. The extractor has a "shelf" that slides into the recess (visible near the bottom of the slot) to keep firing pin block from falling out.

As soon as the back cap is off (you don't need to remove the firing pin first), removing the extractor is trivial but you need a tiny screwdriver. Removing the back cap allows the extractor piston to come part-way out and that releases most of the spring tension on the wedge that locks the extractor in place. Just slip in a tiny screwdriver behind the extractor and rock it left and right to release the extractor.



Then you just lift the extractor right out. I use my fingers for this but I posed this shot with a tweezers so my hand doesn't block your view.

Here's what the extractor look like from above. Note the small notch on the left side. A spring-loaded wedge engages that notch and that's all that holds the extractor in place. The piston, discussed above, is what pushes against the other end of the spring that presses against the wedge.

Reassembly is pretty-much the reverse. The extractor just snaps back in but make sure the wedge correctly engages the notch (the wedge can rotate to be 90 degrees from the notch so it won't engage). The firing-pin assembly just slides back in and it can only go one way.

Putting the back cap back on takes a little finesse. First, get the cap aligned with the groves in the slide . Then use a tool (like a screwdriver) to push the orange sleeve into the slide until you can move the cap over part of the sleeve. Here's what it looks like at that point.

Then use a tool to hold the extractor piston into the slide while you push the cap the rest of the way.

All done except for reassembly from the field strip.