
Pedersoli's
Blackpowder No 1.
magazine
3rd Issue, March 2010
Point of view
A policeman
behind the rifle
The Quigley
45-120 Sharps rifle
MLAIC 2010
Match invitations
Pedersoli Balist
Indoor ML training
Reloading the .44 WCF for
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Dear Shooters, Collectors, enthusiasts of firearms history all over the World,

We are presenting you the third issue of our blackpowder shooting magazine, the first one in 2010. When the hunting season ends the sportshooting season begins, this means that we will be busy the whole year. We hope that hunters, sport shooters, re-enactors and cowboy action shooters will all find our articles interesting.

Davide Pedersoli is a company that never rests. Our passion for historical shooting sports is the main driving force in developing new products, inventing new concepts. Those who visited our booth at this year's Shot Show in Las Vegas already know that we have many new things to show to the public. Now it is time for Europe to check out our new concepts. IWA 2010 in Nürnberg, and EXA 2010 in Brescia are both perfect occasions for you to meet our staff, and examine our newest concepts. So do not hesitate. Order that expo ticket today.

Good hunting and good shooting to all friends who fell in love with the smoke of blackpowder.

Pierangelo Pedersoli
editorial director

Balázs Németh
editor in chief

Pedersoli News

New Pedersoli movie

Check out the brand new Pedersoli movie on Youtube. You will get a strong impression about how the highest quality firearms replicas are made. Directed by Nicola Bandini filmed by Riccardo Filippini.

The movie lets you have a closer look at how Pedersoli arms are made with 500 years old tradition and 21st century technologies. Recreating a history of more than 150 years, our models represent for collectors, shooters and hunters a wide range of guns, short and long,

2010 World Champs webpage

The webpage of this year's MLAIC World Championship is live. Visit it to get detailed info about application and program.

M.L.A.I.C. 24th World Championship 2010

Click the logo to visit the page

MLAIC news

Check out the latest news from the secretary general of the World governing body of muzzleloading, the Muzzleloaders Associations International Committee.

The current newsletter describes important rule changes and gives information about the upcoming World Championships in Portugal.

Newsletter 2010 February

Follow up 2010 February

French Open Championship

Eurostand

From 14 - 17 July the French Olympic Shooting federation invites all muzzleloaders to take part in the MLAIC Friendship games in Volmerange-les-Mines.

4th MLAIC Grand Prix Austria

The 4th MLACI Grand Prix of Autria will be held in Eisenstadt, Burgenland from 4 - 16 May. Please visit the competition's webpage for more info. Click the logo to enter the website.

Nürnberg, Germany
12. – 15.03.2010
IWA 2010 & OutdoorClassics

Visit our booth at this year's IWA 2010 exhibition in Nürnberg. Our booth is located in hall 4/4-220. If you are looking for more info about the expo, please click the logo above.

BACK TO TOMBSTONE

It has been a long time since cowboy action shooters were waiting for a high quality external hammer coach gun for those classic western stages. Now, Pedersoli is presenting a scatter gun for professionals in 12/76 (magnum) calibre.

The barrel length is 20", while the complete length of the double gun is 37,8", that makes the handling balanced and fast. We took extra care in finishing all parts to the highest standards.

The interior of the chambers are polished bright, so the gun will extract the spared cartridges quickly, saving valuable time for the shooter. The barrel is chromed on the inside for longevity, and blue chromed on the outside.

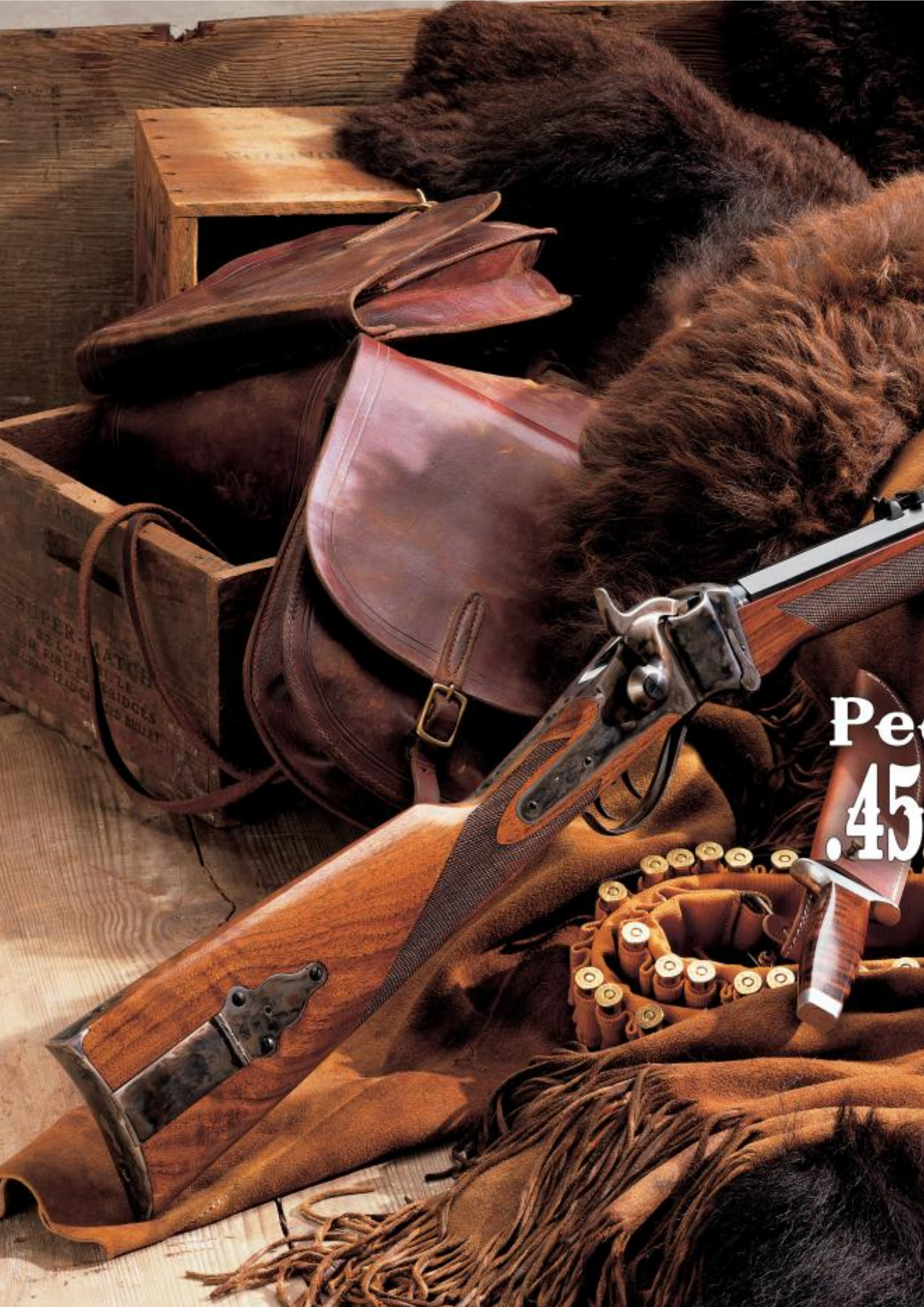
The opening of the breech is oversized for fast loading/unloading. The Colt style hammers are oversized as well, to help cocking both at the same time, with the same movement of the hand. The butt plate is made of steel, with the crooked upper part, typical of our shotguns.

The checkered pistol grip offers a strong and balanced grip of the walnut stock. The side plates have light case hardened colour, with the writing "Wyatt Earp" on them.

The parts are all finished, polished and hardened in Italy, the barrels are chambered, the wood is sanded and polished by Pedersoli. The guns are proof tested at 1300 bars according to CIP rules..

The expected retail price of the double barrel coach gun is around 1000 euros, depending on the sales tax of the specific country.

Look for this new Pedersoli shotgun at your local dealer!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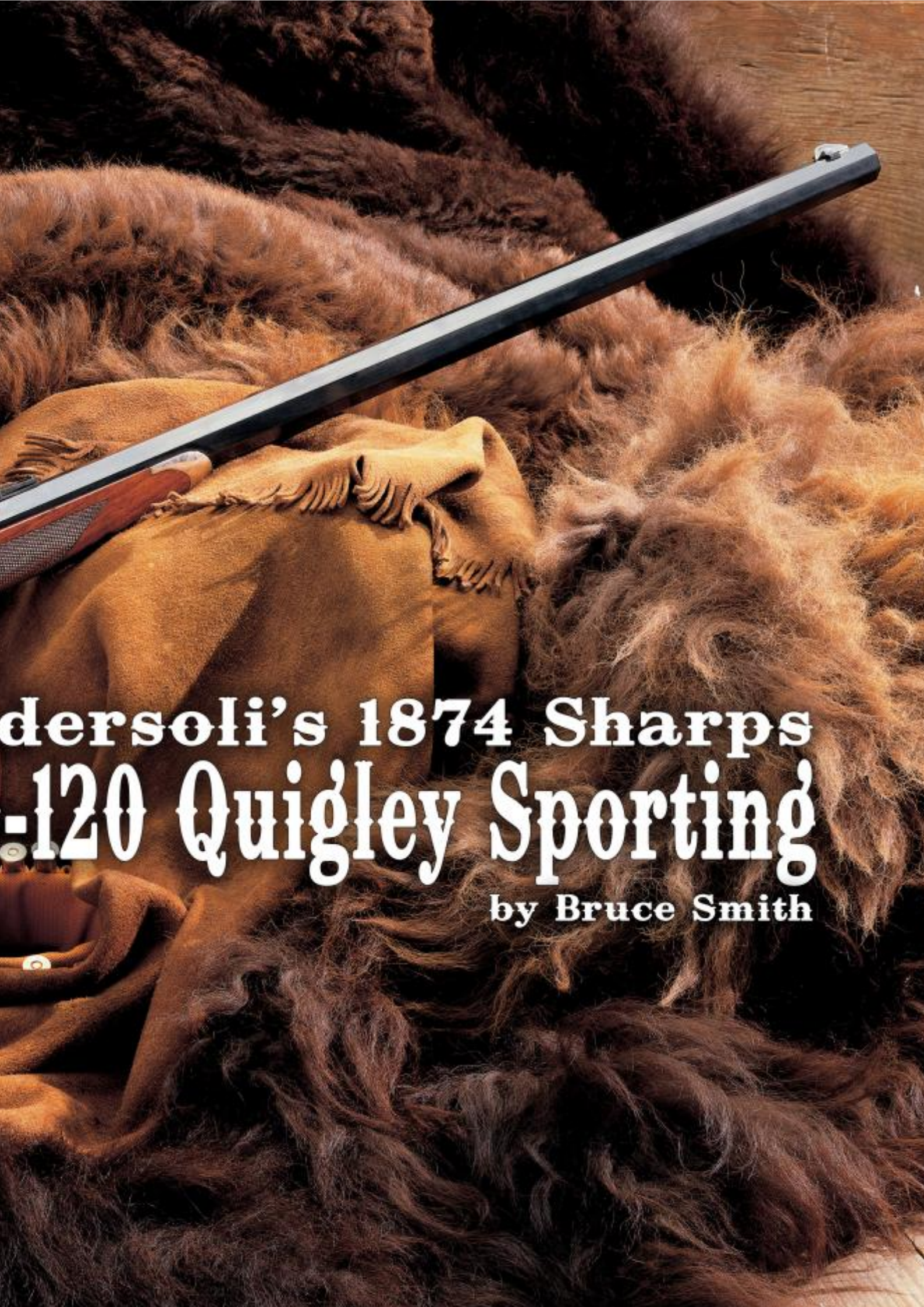


dersoli's 1874 Sharps
-120 Quigley Sporting

by Bruce Smith

Origins

In 1990, Tom Selleck immortalized the character of Sharpshooter Matthew Quigley in the hit Western "Quigley Down Under". The movie went on to become a cult classic for most blackpowder cartridge shooters and probably did for the sale of Sharps rifles what "Dirty Harry" Callahan did for the sale on Smith & Wesson .44 Magnum handguns.

Several companies are now making versions of the famous Quigley rifle. The first to do so was the Shiloh Rifle Company of Big Timber, Montana that made the original version used in the movie. It was offered in two calibers, the big .45/110 (the one used by Quigley in the movie)and the ever popular and versatile .45/70. Both are made in the Quigley pattern and are superbly crafted rifles.

Quigley's rifle was supposedly a transformation of a military Sharps into a long range shooter. Hence, the patch box was still on the stock. The barrel was a 34" heavy octagon with a Globe front sight and a Vernier Tang sighting system behind the receiver and a Semi-Buckhorn sight just in front of it.The wood was plain with a Pewter cap at the front of the forearm. The over-all length was 51"

Shiloh's rifle sells for around $3,000. In 1999, the company of Davide Pedersoli of Brescia, Italy came out with their version of the Quigley Sharps. Their version had a few variations from the true Shiloh Sharps, but still ran very close to the original, and it is offered at a more affordable price.

Pedersoli's rifle has the military patch box on the stock, but there is also a saddle ring on the left side of the receiver to further enhance the military conversion aspect of the big rifle… and big it is. The Pedersoli tips the scales at almost 14 lbs., sports a heavy 34" octagon barrel and is 51" in overall length.

It is also different in the fact that the stock is hand-checkered comes with a blade front sight and an adjustable rear ramp sight for both elevation and windage. The Pedersoli Quigley is offered in a variety of calibers from the versatile .45/70, to the awesome .45/120. It is also available in the legendary "Big Fifties"...the .50/70 and the .50/90. These versions will run from $1,800-$2,000 depending on the accessories.

The choice

Having had nothing but top notch results from my Pedersoli .45/70, I decided to get their Quigley rifle in the .45/120. I placed my order through Cabela's and in a matter of weeks my new "Thunderstick" had arrived. In looks and craftsmanship, it was everything I thought it would be. The case-hardened receiver, the European Walnut stock with its intricate hand-checkering, along with the silver cap on the forearm, made for a beautiful rifle. As I was soon to find out, it shot every bit as good as it looked.

I ordered this rifle in the .45/120 because I've always been intrigued with this big .45 caliber round with its 3.25" case. This was never a true Sharp's round..When the company went out of business in 1881, the largest round they made in .45 was the .45/110 with a 2&7/8" case. Some time later, some of the Sharps and other single-

Two powerhouses…A. .45/120 round with a standard 550-grain bullet (L) shown with the .45/120 with the 715-grain N.E.I. bullet (R).Both would be excellent for large,

shot breechloaders were rechambered to take the monstrous 3.25" case for bigger game around the world.

Preparation

The standard load in the .45/120 was usually a 550-grain bullet with anywhere from 110-120 grains of blackpowder. This round was almost in the class of the .50/140x3.25" round and I had always wondered if there was any way to put the .45/120 into the .50/140 class. It seemed to me that the answer would lie in the bullet. A larger powder charge would make it necessary to decrease the size of the bullet. A lighter slug would start losing velocity at the longer ranges. A heavier projectile, because of its mass and momentum would carry farther and hit harder over the longer distances. At closer ranges, the impact would be brutal.. I was, in effect, looking for a round that would be hitting harder at 100 yards, then a .45/70 with a 500-grain bullet would be hitting at the muzzle. I had no idea at the time just how far beyond that goal I would go.

My answer was to come from the folks at N.E.I. Handtools .N.E.I. makes a variety of fine bullet molds. I ordered their catalog and found just what I was looking for. It was a mold in their .458-645-GC #351 Series, a huge .45 caliber flat-nose bullet measuring 1.62"in length, .458" in diameter, and weighing in at 645 grains. Wanting to know more about this bullet, I called Walt Melander at N.E.I. who explained to me that the bullet was originally designed by N.E.I. for use in the .460 Weatherby Magnum. It would weigh645 grains when cast with hard Linotype lead.

I would like to interject at this point that N.E.I. has moved from Oregon to a new location….P.O. Box 370356 in El Paso Texas,79937-0356. Where they continue to make their fine quality molds. Sadly too, Walt Melander has passed on, but I'll always appreciate all the helpful knowledge and advice he passed on to me.

When casting these bullets. I used a mixture of three ingot bars of pure lead to two bars of wheel weight lead and produced a bullet weighing 715 grains.I found this quite exciting as I was bridging a gap between the old and the new…..creating my .45/120 "Weatherby".To the best of my knowledge, no one had used this combination in a blackpowder cartridge gun before. I would be getting the chance to create a really hard-hitting big game round for the .45/120.

Loads

It was time to work up some loads for Mr. Quigley.Because of the size and weight of the

Me cleaning the Quigley between testing sessions. After firing a 5-shot group, I'd clean the bore for a new set of rounds with different powders. I always wanted to start each new session with a clean bore.

bullet, I chose two slower-burning powders to give the big bullet time to stabilize during its 34" trip down the barrel.----Pyrodex CTG and GOEX Fg. I have had great results with these powders in my other big Sharps rifles, particularly my .50/140, .50/110 (.50x 2.5"), and .50/70.I also loaded up some loads with Pyrodex Select because of its fine performance and reputation.

Using Ballard brass, I loaded 110 grains of Pyrodex CTG, used one Ox-Yoke felt wad over the powder, and Winchester Magnum Primers. My second load was with Ballard brass with 110 grains of Pyrodex Select, a Buffalo felt wad over the powder and Winchester Magnum primers.

The third choice was with Gaintwist brass (now Ballard), 110 grains of GOEX Fg with Winchester Magnum Primers again. I used the felt wads because the bullet is designed for a gas check at the base. I hoped the wads would prevent the base from deforming and provide extra lubing to prevent the bore from excessive fouling, which can definitely be a problem in the larger rounds.

I now made two modifications on my Quigley before taking to the field.. I had the rear and blade front sights removed and replaced with a standard Pedersoli Vernier Tang sight and a Pedersoli Globe front sight with a cross-hair insert. It was time to see what the Pedersoli "Thunderstick ' could do with the big bullets.

First time on the range

My first time out was encouraging. The CTG loads worked superbly. After making a few sight adjustments, the Quigley laid ten shots dead center in a 2" group at 50 yards. The tenth round chambered as smoothly as the first . Fouling was not a problem. This round had the potential to be an ideal hunting load.

The second group with the Pyrodex Select, shot just as well, but fouling build-up in the chamber made it necessary to swab it with solvent every three to four shots. I was close, but would have to make a change somewhere.

The third group, shooting GOEX Fg, chambered easily , just as well as the CTG loads. No carbon build-up here. However, at 50 yards, the 10 –shot group was close to 6". It was spraying a bit too much. Again , I felt I was close, but would have to change something..

After depriming, scrubbing , drying and trimming the cases, I went back to the loading bench. The CTG loads didn't need any altering , so I focused on the Select and Fg loads. I surmised that the fouling in the Select loads might be caused by the Buffalo felt wads,not sealing the gases back enough or perhaps not providing enough lubrication. I replaced them with an Ox-Yoke felt wad and seated a .060 vegetable fiber wad over that.

The GOEX Fg load had chambered well, but lacked the accuracy I wanted. I reloaded the next batch with the same Ox-Yoke wad, but replaced the Winchester Magnum primers With Standard Winchester Large Rifle primers. I thought maybe a less hot primer would slow the rate of burn (or at least increase its burn rate efficiency) and give the big bullet more time to stabilize.

The next two trips into the field proved very rewarding . Fired at ranges of 60 to 100 yards, all three loads chambered 10-shot strings flawlessly and all matched the original CTG loads for accuracy. At 100 yards, 5to 10 shot groups

held to within three inches…often tighter. At 100 yards, the drop of the 715-grain bullet was only around 2-2&1/2".

Later testing was to show that the .45/120/715 combination worked as well with GOEX FFg and Cartridge grade powders also. With a 1" to 18" twist ratio in the barrel, the Quigley Sharps is ideally suited to stabilize this big bullet with a wide variety of powders.

The Scud-like cartridge measures 4&1/16" over-all and a series of chronograph tests really opened up my eyes and went far beyond my expectations.

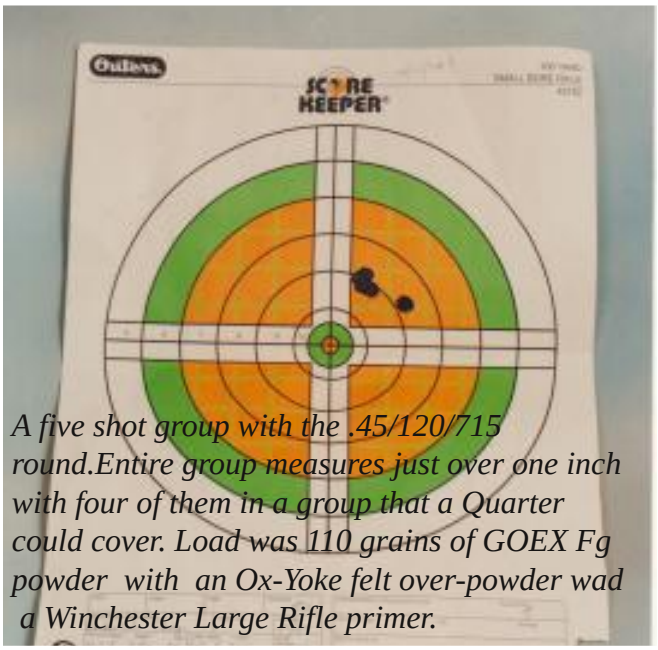
My original goal was a round that would achieve the muzzle energy and velocity at 100 yards that a .45/70/500 would have at the muzzle. It went far beyond that . Using the Fg load, I fired a five shot group that measured just over 1" at 50 yds. Four of them were in a group that measured .75". Had I not pulled the last shot off, you could have covered the group with a quarter…However, I don't think I'll complain too much.

The five shots gave an average velocity of 1.104 f.p.s…That's pushing a 715-grain chunk of lead along at the speed of sound.. There was only a 26 f.p.s. variation between the fastest (1,119 f.p.s.) and the slowest (1093 f.p.s.) and I was very pleased with the consistency. The muzzle energy was almost a ton… My .45/70 with a 65 grains of powder and a 500-grain bullet has just about the same velocity at the muzzle of the .45/120. At the muzzle, the .45/70 generates around 1,345 ft. lbs. of muzzle energy. The .45/70 has long been considered one of the finest blackpowder calibers for big game and rightly so.

However, the .45/120/715 combination of the Quigley is throwing a bullet 215 grains heavier at the same speed, generation almost 700 ft.lbs. more energy. At 650 yards, this round would still be generating as much whallop as a .45/70/500 at the muzzle!

We ran no computer projections on the Pyrodex CTG loads, but a five shot group through the chronograph showed a five shot average of 1,114 f.p.s. Too bad this fine powder has been discontinued. I still have a large supply of it, fortunately , but as you have seen, there are plenty of readily available powders that will work with this .45/120/715 combination.

I was very pleased with these results and couldn't wait to get my Quigley " Rocket Launcher" into the field for a chance at some really big game. Over the next few years, the opportunity presented itself for an Elk and Bison hunt.. Quigley was there on both occasions. I was fortunate to take a 7x7 Bull Elk in the half- ton



A five shot group with the .45/120/715 round.Entire group measures just over one inch with four of them in a group that a Quarter could cover. Load was 110 grains of GOEX Fg powder with an Ox-Yoke felt over-powder wad a Winchester Large Rifle primer.

Two ten-shot strings put through the Quigley with equally pleasing results. Loads were 110 grains of Pyrodex CTG (L) and Pyrodex Select (R). 715-grain bullets were lubed with SPG lube in allcases

class and a huge 2200lb. Bison bull. The power and performance of that 715-grain bullet from that Pedersoli rifle was something I'll never forget …Nor will the guides… but that's another story…(or two...)

It's my rifle...

I feel the Pedersoli Quigley in the .45/120 caliber is ideally suited to handle the biggest, heaviest, charges possible and the biggest, heaviest bullet with great accuracy. Recoil is substantial, but not unmanageable, You definitely want a recoil shield when having an extended session on the range. In the hunting fields where you would only fire a few shots (hopefully), it wouldn't matter. I would compare the recoil of the .45/120/715 to that of a 12-gauge slug gun.. the 14 pound weight and the 34" barrel length help to tame the recoil.

This is one fine big-game rifle. I wouldn't hesitate to use this big gun on anything in North America and the better part of Africa. That big bullet just doesn't stop or slow up for much. You often hear the phrase used that some caliber hits " like a brick through a plate-glass window".....I think of it as more of a freight train.

To any blackpowder hunter looking for an affordable, well-made rifle with tremendous game-getting potential, maybe a look at this combination of Pedersoli Sharps and N.E.I. bullets bears further looking at….

Good Hunting & Shooting,

Bruce Smith

First long range shooting association in Europe

Long range shooting is the king of all shooting sports. The shooter must equip himself with the best available knowledge about ballistics to compete on distances above 200 meters. The story of the Italian Long Range Shooting Association started in 2008 with the long range shooting days, wheremuzzleloaders, black powder cartridge shooters and modern cartridge shooters teamed up to start a movement to establish background for competing, and practising up to 1000 yard distances. The new association incorporates several disciplines, not just historical firearms. Every category is evaluated separately, but all shoot to the same distances. Muzzleloaders, BPCR rifles, ex-ordenace weapons, and modern sporting, military sniper and hunting rifles are all welcome on the collective shooting days.

The matches are held in 6 categories: muzzleloading, historical hunting rifles (pre 1890), ex (military firearms prior 1945), open production (semi-auto and repeating rifles of large scale production with optic sights, in original condition), open custom (all rifles not qualifying for open production), and palma match (all rifles with iron sights).

Pedersoli's "5 at 200" match is also part of the official shooting program. The basic distances are 500 and 914 m (1000 yards). Optical and iron sight rifles are evaluated separately. The competitors shoot 13 shots, and the 10 best are counted, thus giving the final score.

The purpose of the new association is to collect long distance shooters from all disciplines, to exchange experience and to support the growth of this challenging shooting sport.

Click here to visit the official webpage of the association

Some say that the police is usually not supportive with legally owned firearms in civil hands. Well this sentence is true in most of the World. This is why it is so important to listen to the words of a police lieutenant-colonel , who sees clearly the values of shooting sports. In this article we asked Dr. Pierluigi Borgioni - officer of the Ministry of Interior and enthusiastic shooter - to share his feelings about historical shooting with us.

A policeman behind the rifle

I am writing the following lines as a person who has always been fond of firearms, maybe owing to an innate passion for the mechanism, fascinated by these "thermoballistic machines" which, while appearing to have an apparent simplicity, are among the most complex machines the human brain could project and create.

Now if we want to stop a while to reflect that these modern made copies of machines having 700 years of history, are considered so modern even today, then the admiration can only increase for them and for all the persons dedicating their skill to manufacture them, using the old technological knowledge, handed down in a simple manner and updating them with innovations obtained from personal experience.

This constant evolution process led to the manufacture of the most modern and sophisticated automatic and semi-automatic guns that we know today, but at the same time we are able to appreciate the beauty and the efficiency of the weapons from the earlier era, when a gun could be born only from the skilled hands of the gunsmith who had no computer tech design and project as well as no CNC machines to make parts with unheard of accuracy.

In my personal experience firearms have always filled my childhood fantasy and play, however the first real contact with a true gun was only when I joined the military service.

25 years ago I was fortunate to enter the State Police career, at the beginning as a simple policeman, following later as an officer. Since then guns have been part of my life and due to the service I am rendering to the community, a pistol has been at my side at every moment.

Realizing the need to improve safety in handling my pistol as well as to learn new shooting techniques I got passionate for the world of competition target shooting, attending several competitions and matches with gratifying results.

My family and work obligations, after fifteen years of intensive competition shooting activity, obliged me to slow down, but because my passion for the beautiful thermo-ballistic machines never ended, I decided to cultivate my passion, to approach the world of the long guns, to continue practising target shooting at every opportunity.

I had the chance to get into a more fascinating and involved world than the one just left, discovering the complexity of the ballistic phenomenon that determines the accuracy of

machines apparently so simple, like the bolt action rifles and carbines seem to be.

In competition target shooting, it is enough to rely on the gun-ammunition trusted performance as well as our own shooting skills, the result of repeated training. While in target shooting with the rifles and carbines, it is fundamental to have a deep knowledge of your own gun, such as the exact bore, the grooves and rifling twist, the barrel's length and the "free-bore" so that you can reload your ammunition to perfectly match the requirements of your personal gun.

In target shooting to reload the cartridge becomes a must (to use commercial cartridges in these sporting disciplines is practically unthinkable) every empty case is polished, weighted and sized, each powder charge is carefully weighed, each bullet is weighed and the reloaded cartridges are assembled one by one, sized one by one to check the total length and verifying the bullet is coaxial to the case.

Such long work is then paid back by the satisfaction seeing your own shot getting perfectly on to the target at 200 meters, or a string of shots printing a tight group at the long range distances (600 and 1000 yards).

For this sporting context so sophisticated and technological, the black powder guns are neatly different, both the muzzle loading and the breech loading guns, original and replica ones. In the long range target shooting panorama with modern rifles, the black powder world has a small role, however not less of a technical challenge and certainly held very tight to historical traditions of great fascination.

In the collective imagination the black powder gun reminds us of the wide prairies of the West, the life of the pioneers and of the Buffalo's hunters; with the flintlock muskets the memory goes back even further to the Napoleonic battles and to the first colonies in the American continent. In today's society however, these copies of antique blackpowder guns create no worries or social alarm. We who enjoy shooting with these guns at the shooting range or during re-enactments of historical events, are not considered to be dangerous or fanatical shooters.

The black powder shooter with his gun creating a white smoke cloud at every shot, breathing the acrid smell typical of the black powder, usually appears like an eccentric person, old fashioned, and certainly not like somebody to be suspected of causing any social problems.

We recognize that the most part of the world legislation is more permissive towards black powder guns versus the modern guns. The hypothesis of the criminal use of these black powder guns appears improbable and, according to my knowledge, the last victim of a bullet shot by a mix made of sulfur, charcoal and Salt Peter has to be searched for in some annuals of the early 1900s.

Being a shooter of modern guns, I got close to antique guns and their reproductions almost casually, attired by the fascination of these simple lines, instruments with beautiful finishing, which remind of far old epochs, where the gun was borne from the skilled hands of the gunsmith, who dedicated a lot of work to perfect also the outside finishing, smoothing the wood, polishing the golden brass. I was convinced however that I was dealing with guns easy to use, but not so accurate.

Then, while my target shooting experience grew with guns of this type, also meeting with more skilled black powder shooters, I realized how wrong I was: the modern replicas of the late 1800's guns are ballistic machines with simple mechanics, however their intrinsic accuracy has nothing to envy of the modern guns. The real difference between the two types of guns is eventually in the approach method the shooter has to assume when he wants to practise target shooting.

The true spirit that has to animate anyone who wants to challenge in the black powder sporting target shooting, is not one of exasperation and frustration with super technological competitions, typical (unfortunately) in the sporting precision long range target shooting, but he has to be inspired by the old time capacity for development and patience that the use of these guns requires, starting from the ammunition preparation ending with the careful maintenance of his gun.

For the cartridge rifles of the end of 1800's there is no more commercial ammunition (except for the .45-70 caliber available on the market only for hunting purposes, which is not proper for the long range target shooting), therefore the need to get experienced with the art of re-loading also for a neophyte shooter; furthermore, proper bullets are not easily available in the trade (except those

in the .45-70 caliber for the hunt) and this is why you have to learn the antique practice of the home casting of bullets.

The reloading techniques of the black powder cartridges are very different from the one used for the modern smokeless cartridges. To load muzzle loading guns, both the technique and the components are substantially the same as those used in the past centuries, the ritual of the single loading procedures, made with slow and methodical movements handed on down through the centuries. The black powder cartridges for long range target shooting maintain the same old traditions, heavy lead bullets that the shooter has to cast, size and grease by himself (500-550 grain lead bullets are practically impossible to find on the market, at least by Italian guns dealers) the black powder dosed in a careful accurate way with simple but precise measurers, the use of filler wads (modern shooters do not even know what they are) and the use of a crimp (or not to use a crimp) of the case to the bullet (a reloading technique used only for revolver cartridges which totally disappeared in the world of modern long guns).

These antique guns or their faithful reproductions and the simple loading techniques make it difficult to imagine ballistic performances at long target shooting deserving consideration and able to compete with more modern guns and calibres. For this reason the surprise is big and so is the satisfaction to discover that, with a black powder gun it is possible to hit a target at a distance of 1000 yards, obtaining groups matching more modern rifles.

For the "modern gun" shooter to obtain very good results with black powder guns, makes him even more proud, because he is aware of the long and hard work required to obtain it, starting with the preparation of the cartridge, the aiming adjustments of the old fashioned Creedmoor sights, the calculation of the MoA and POI feeling the wind during the infinite flight of the bullet towards the target. To obtain very good results shooting at a long range target will make us re-experience the spirit that animated the Buffalo hunters in the Western prairies in the middle of the1800's, being aware that any "politically correct thinker" cannot address us in the role of a dangerous fanatical.

These personal considerations find comfort also in the Italian law that since 8 years ago considers the muzzle loading guns reproductions, single shot, of free sale and the facts are giving credit to the legislation; in this period, no criminal episode was involving guns of this kind.

Also the laws currently in other European States, in some cases much earlier than in Italy (often extended also to original guns) not in one country did the legislators find they were obliged to revise positions due to abuses made with these guns. The facts show that sports shooters who approach the world of the black powder target shooting or the historical re-enactments are animated by a sane sporting spirit or by an historical-cultural spirit, that do not degenerate into the illegal use of guns. The guns are on the contrary seen as instruments to satisfy a sane passion to recall what was historical tradition. Also black powder "reproduction" cartridge rifles are treated favorably by many European laws, because the fact is that fond gun owners orbiting around these rifles are like those animated by the muzzle loading guns.

We can only hope that in Italy too, the new guns law proposals under Government examination are going to be granted with the same rules for muzzle loading guns as for metal cartridge single shot antique and reproduction rifles. From my point of view, as a police officer, I am convinced that we will never see a bank robbery or an assault on an armoury truck involving an 1874 Sharps rifle .45-70 with 32" barrel, not only because of the difficulty loading it into the car but also because of the difficulty in hiding it.

Dr. Pierluigi Borgioni

Hunters' Kitchen: Stewed buck - La Conca Art

Ingredients:

1.1 pound (1/2 kilo) of buck meat
2 sliced onions
3 tablespoons of olive oil
1 chopped bacon (1 ounce) slice
1 laurel leaf
6 grains of black pepper
2 tablespoons of tomato paste (puree)
16 ounces of water
1 small branch of rosemary
1 squeezed clove of garlic
½ cup of dry red wine
salt and pepper as desired

Preparation:

Chop the buck meat into serving sizes. In a large pan have the onions roasted to a brown color. Add the chopped bacon to the onions and let it fry slowly. Add the buck meat with the laurel leaf and the pepper grains. Cook until the meat is lightly brown. Add the concentrated tomato paste, the water, the rosemary, the garlic and the wine. Add the small amount of salt and pepper you desire.

Let the stew reach boiling point, then lower the flame and let it cook slowly (simmering heat) for about 2 hours, stirring from time to time. Add more water if necessary.

Bon appetite from CONCA Restaurant!

La Conca

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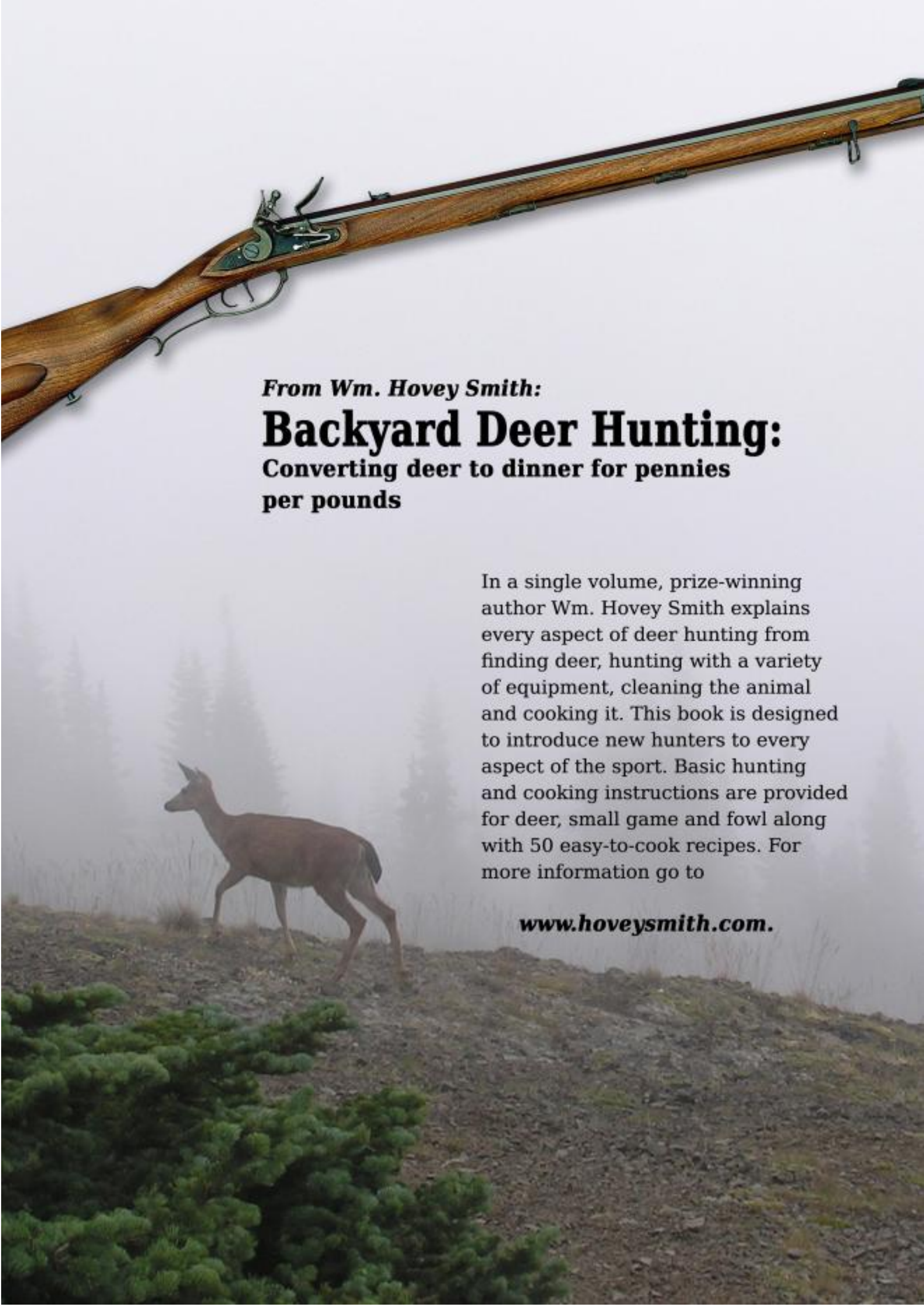
www.laconca.it

Coordinate GPS: Lat. Nord 43° 35' 06, Long. Est 12° 07' 31

1874 Sharps Scheibenstützen

The famous name and the unique mechanical design of the 1874 Sharps rifle is offered to the modern shooter who wishes to practise the challenge of Schützen target shooting with a rifle rich in American history. The Sharps Scheibenstutzen is equipped with a Lothar Walther barrel having a matt blue finish. The frame and steel parts are case hardened colour finish. The barrel is drilled and tapped to be equipped with a scope. The walnut stock and forend are oil finish; the butt stock is fitted with a traditional "hook style" butt plate and the fore-end is equipped to fit a mushroom style palm rest.

This authentic rifle is a perfect choice for both BPCR and muzzle loading shooters, as it offers a very affordable practice for various disciplines. The rifle is manufactured in 22 LR caliber, so it is also a good choice for young shooters.



From Wm. Hovey Smith:

Backyard Deer Hunting:

Converting deer to dinner for pennies per pounds

In a single volume, prize-winning author Wm. Hovey Smith explains every aspect of deer hunting from finding deer, hunting with a variety of equipment, cleaning the animal and cooking it. This book is designed to introduce new hunters to every aspect of the sport. Basic hunting and cooking instructions are provided for deer, small game and fowl along with 50 easy-to-cook recipes. For more information go to

www.hoveysmith.com.

Waterfowling with muzzleloaders

Part 1.

by Wm. Hovey Smith

For someone who has always been fascinated by waterfowl hunting and the stories connected to it, I grew up in a miserable place. My typical hunts on my home ground usually consist of eight attempts during which I might shoot three times and bag one wood duck or Canadian goose during the entire season. Yet, each year finds me cutting a new path to my duck hunting spot up one arm of a mile-long pond, launching my boat and hoping for foul weather days that will coax the birds to fly at something less than stratospheric heights. Even under these tough hunting conditions, I have most often used muzzleloading guns.

Fortunately, my working life in Minnesota, Alaska and Arizona exposed me to much better waterfowling opportunities, and the late Buzz Downs of Tucson taught me much about decoying and hunting ducks on this desert state's stock tanks and reservoirs. I was still using cartridge guns at this stage and went through the transition from lead to non-toxic shot with these guns.

Three requirements for all varieties of waterfowling guns are that they throw enough weight of large shot to be effective on the fowl, that they are reliable enough to shoot in bad weather and that they shoot to the point of aim. If all three of these criteria are met, the guns will bring home ducks, geese and even swan year after year.

As they became available, I used steel, bismuth and HeviShot in my waterfowl loads. With bismuth shot, it is not necessary to use a plastic wad to protect the bore, but bismuth usually patterns better if a plastic wad is used. Steel and HeviShot loads in plastic wads often provide better patterns, and wads are necessary to protect the bores from the abrasive effects of the hard tungsten-containing HeviShot. For non-deforming steel and HeviShot, it is best to use modified standard chokes or full chokes designed for these types of shot. The bulk HeviShot

presently available to reloaders is irregular, poorly sized and the pellets are not well shaped. Nonetheless, this shot penetrates well and kills very effectively.

Waterfowling is best done with 10, 11 and 12 gauge muzzleloading guns. Smaller gauges will work on close-range birds, but it is the 1¼-to-1½-ounce loads of coarse shot that provide consistent kills. For 10, 11 and 12-gauged guns my first trial waterfowling load often consists of 100 grains of GEOEX FFg, a ¼-inch over powder card, two lubricated felt Wonder Wads, a plastic shot cup with a split 20-gauge fiber wad in the bottom to reduce its capacity to 1¼-ounces of no. 4 shot, a measured charge of 1¼-ounce (by volume) of HeviShot and a thin over-shot wad. This load is adjusted up or down to obtain better patterns and hit the approximate point of aim.

Different species of waterfowl require different aiming techniques. On small ducks, like teal, it is fine to aim at the body of the bird, pull ahead and shoot. When taking on the progressively larger geese and swan, the correct way to shoot these is to aim at the very vulnerable head and neck. The head on a swan is about as large as the body of a green-wing teal and behind it is a yard of neck. Hits in this area, even with relatively puny steel 4s, will very likely break the neck and bring down the bird. Heavier shot, still 4s, will do an even better job. This is a much better alternative to blasting at the body of these huge birds. Steel shot into the body may break a wing, but will often not penetrate sufficiently to kill the bird.

Cylinder-bored muzzleloaders

Cylinder bored shotguns as waterfowling guns require special treatment because both the loads and the hunting tactics need to be different to obtain more than haphazard results. These are close-range guns typically limited to a maximum range of 35 yards and most of these shotguns and muskets pattern best with no. 4 or larger shot. Plastic shot cups help even out the patterns and improve results by delivering a sufficient number of shot to decisively kill the bird. Of course, a lucky hit can always bring down a duck; but the conscientious waterfowler should work towards increasing those odds.

Dense shot kills, and although steel shot may pattern well and draw feathers, the denser bismuth and HeviShot have markedly superior results – well worth the added price. Other more dense shots such as HeviSteel and tungsten-polymer or tungsten-bronze mixes are sold in

loaded shotshells, but not presently in bulk. While the shot from a few $3.00 shells can be salvaged for that once-in-a-lifetime hunt for swan or sand hill cranes, these other specialty shots are very expensive to use very often.

My waterfowling with cylinder-bored guns has been an evolutionary process with load development sometimes extending over a period of years. Bess, which is a Dixie Arms Company Indian Gun, is an adaptive design of the British Brown Bess Musket with a shortened browned barrel. Both the short barrel and less reflective finish appealed to me for waterfowling as did the fact that the gun's massive cock used a one-inch wide flint to scrape sparks from an equally huge frizzen. With this much rock-to-metal contact I thought sparks were apt to fly and that this gun could be depended upon to fire under most conditions. It also had appropriate stock dimensions for me to shoot fairly well. The first time I picked up the gun, I was looking straight down the barrel which gave me the immediate impression that I could kill ducks with it.

I ordered 11-gauge wads from Dixie Gun Works and found that 12-gauge plastic wads would easily slide down the bore. To make sure there was a gas seal I also loaded 20-grains of cream of wheat between a .125-inch over-powder wad and the long, pink MEC wad that was designed to hold 1¼-ounce of steel shot.

Among this gun's first trips out was a hunt on Georgia's Oconee WMA where I had been lucky enough to draw one of five public blinds. On this particular January hunt the water had frozen around the planted corn back of the blinds, and I had to break ice to set my decoys. One drake wood duck flew over the nearest row of corn some 30-yards away. I swung on the bird and pulled the trigger. I was rewarded by the sight of the bird falling beneath the smoke cloud. Persephone, my Lab, saw the bird fall too. She bounded after the fowl, chased it down through the corn and brought it back still alive. I believed that I had hit it with the fringe of the pattern, and subsequent patterning demonstrated that this load was shooting about a foot low at 30-yards.

With that same gun and load I also took a pair of Canadian geese from a stock pond. I walked over the top of a dam and flushed the birds. Holding now in front of and above the lead bird, I pulled the trigger. To my surprise not only did that bird fall dead, but the other one came down wounded. My partner, shooting from across the pond, managed to finish off the second bird with multiple shots from his Remington 870. Bess' work was culminated when I took a decoying swan at Lake Mattamuskeet, North Carolina, with a single shot (Chapter 10). The huge bird was hit from beak to feet with a charge of steel 4s and killed dead in the air.

I was much less successful with similar loads fired from Davide Pedersoli's Mortimer Flintlock Fowler. This was an elegant gun with a late-period flintlock featuring a waterproof pan and roller-bearing frizzen. I could only load the 12-gauge MEC wad that I used in Bess down this gun's tight barrel by using a steel ramrod. Once I even capsized a duck boat in a shallow pond filled with freezing water while attempting to reload it. Not only this, but to secure reasonable patterns I had to reduce the shot charge to 1 1/8-ounces of shot. I did manage to kill a Giant Canadian Goose with this gun, but it took two shots to finish it.

A number of years later after HeviShot was introduced, I revisited this gun. This time I loaded 100 grains of GOEX FFg, a 12-gauge over-powder card, two Wonder Wads and a plastic shot cup without a gas-sealing base. This plastic cup was one of 1,000 I had purchased from Herter's decades before. These cups were designed to hold 1 5/8ths ounces of shot, and I put a cut-off section of 20-gauge wads in the base to reduce their capacity to 1 ¼-ounces (by volume) of the new HeviShot. This combination was easy to load and worked. Using this gun and load I shot and recovered five out of five snow geese on a spring hunt in Manitoba. Mortimer had redeemed itself, and I have since used this same load in a percussion .75-caliber musket, Davide Pedersoli 12-gauge double and Austin & Halleck's in-line shotgun.

With all of these shotguns, I have found that it is often beneficial to load the equivalent of 100-grains of GEOX FFg for the first shot and then reduce the charge by five grains for subsequent shooting. Higher pressures are generated by shooting through the fouled barrel and reducing the load delivers more consistent patterns.

One advantage of using a cylinder-bored gun is that these barrels may also be loaded with round balls and used on deer and other game. Davide Pedersoli takes advantage of this and offers a slug shotgun with a fold-up sight. I have

used this gun to take a wildebeest in Africa one day and then shot birds with it the next day. With my particular gun I found that one barrel shot patched round balls significantly better than the other while the other barrel preferred shot charges. This would be ideal in areas where big and small game seasons overlapped and close-range shots at either might be offered or in Africa where a big, nasty beastie might be behind the next bush.

Hunt tactics needed for cylinder-bored guns require that hunters position themselves so they can shoot the waterfowl at close range. Hunting small-water areas in blowing snow or in fog can be good. Lay-out blinds sitting in the middle of a decoy spread in cut corn or other crops can be very effective in getting geese and ducks to approach close to the guns. Flushing waterfowl from small stock tanks or waterholes can also be successful as may be walking the edges of meandering creeks. Sitting in blinds over decoys can work if the birds are inclined to come in, but will require many hours of patient sitting unless weather conditions are favorable.

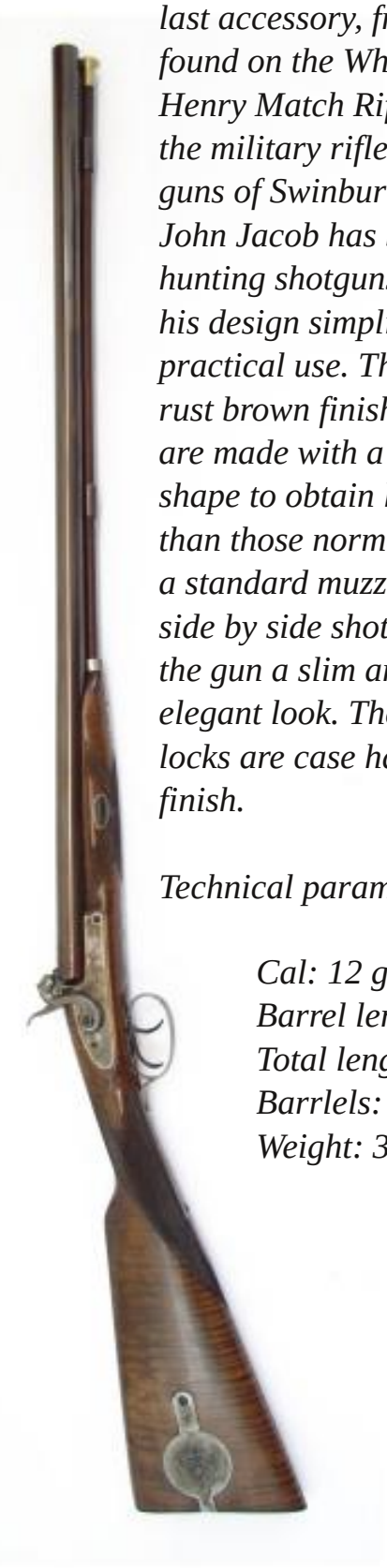
Areas where I have had good hunts with these cylinder-bored guns have been in the Horicon Marsh area of Wisconsin, the Manitoba farming country west of Winnipeg and less frequently at Lake Mattamuskeet, North Carolina. The latter is a fine place to take a swan with your musket, but duck shooting is a sometimes affair.

Wm. Hovey Smith

(Continued in next issue)

"Old English" Maple Side by Side Shotgun

Fantastic side by side with maple stock with an escutcheon and an engraved capbox of typical English school. This last accessory, frequently found on the Whitworth and Henry Match Rifles and on the military rifled side by side guns of Swinburn & Son and John Jacob has been used on hunting shotguns thanks to his design simplicity and the practical use. The barrels are rust brown finish colour and are made with a slender shape to obtain lighter weight than those normally fitted to a standard muzzle loading side by side shotgun, giving the gun a slim and very elegant look. The engraved locks are case hardened finish.



Technical parameters:

Cal: 12 ga
Barrel length: 700 mm
Total length: 1120 mm
Barrlels: CYL/MOD
Weight: 3100 g

Reloading the 44-40 for Pedersoli Li

ightning rifles

THE HISTORY OF THE 44-40 CARTRIDGE

When the Colt Patent Firearms Company introduced their famous Single Action Army revolver in 1873 it was chambered only for their 45 Colt cartridge. At that time (and until the 1990s) no one was making a rifle chambered in 45 Colt so cowboys and settlers had to carry two types of metallic ammunition...one for their new 45 Colt revolver and one for whatever rifle they carried. The main reason no one chambered a rifle for the 45 Colt is because the rim is so shallow that extraction in a lever action rifle would have been unreliable. Also, the fat short 255 grain bullet did not have good accuracy beyond short range pistol distances.

Oliver Winchester saw an immediate opportunity to introduce his new Winchester 1873 model lever action rifle chambered for a new cartridge which would appeal to both hand gunners as well as rifle shooters plus having excellent functioning and reliability in a "repeater" such as the Winchester lever action rifle.

This was the now famous "44 WCF" which stands for "44 Winchester Center Fire" but is also commonly known as the "44-40 Winchester" because is was .44 caliber and held 40 grains of black powder. The Colt people finally chambered their army revolver for 44-40 in 1877 and marked the barrel in large lettering "Colt Frontier Six Shooter". This is the only caliber to have this barrel marking on a Colt revolver.

At that time, the brass cases were made from thin drawn brass and could hold 40 grains of black powder when the bullet was properly seated. Modern cases have tapered walls giving lots of strength around the base of the case but those original thin wall cases (called "balloon head" cases) were not capable of withstanding smokeless powder pressures in rifle or pistol loads.

It is unlikely you will encounter balloon head cases because today they are considered collectors items, but just in case you find some be aware of the danger of using such weak cases with smokeless powders or even with black powder. They are simply too old and not to be trusted today.

In 1885 Colt introduced their remarkable "Lightning" fast shooting slide action rifle which became so popular on the Western frontier in America.

Pedersoli produces the most accurate and reliable version of the Colt Lightning. The original Colts had several weaknesses and were prone to breakage and other failures. Among all the Lightning replicas being built today only the Pedersoli has eliminated those original problems.

TIPS ON RELOADING THE 44-40

This article does not intend to cover all the basics of centerfire cartridge reloading because you likely know plenty about the process or can read and learn from general reloading guides. What I am offering here are some tips concerning the 44-40 reloading process.

CASE PREPARATION

(1) All cartridge cases stretch when fired and when a case is reloaded many times it needs to be measured and brought back to its correct case length. Cases which have grown in length will produce excessive crimping compared to proper length cases. Accuracy will suffer when some of your cases have different lengths so best accuracy will be obtained when all your case lengths are exactly the same or at least within .003"-.005" (.07-.12 mm) of each other.

(2) The 44-40 is extremely thin walled in the neck area. In order to prevent splitting or buckling the case neck region is it recommended that the cases be "annealed" after every 4th reloading. This is easily done by using a propane gas torch to bring just the "case mouth" area to a dull red color (seen in a darkened room). As soon as you see the dull red color, drop the case into a bucket of water.

(3) As with all cases fired with both smokeless or black powder it is necessary to wash out the chemical fouling left inside the case. This washing helps to extend case life by minimizing internal corrosion of the case wall.

First deprime each case, clean out the primer pocket and place cases in a container for a 15-20 minute soaking in hot water having a small amount of dish washing soap , plus some white vinegar (one ounce per each 25 empty cases) which will dissolve the harmful chemicals. Use a proper size bottle brush to swab out the inside of each case and then rinse in clean water. Stand wet cases on paper and allow to dry. If desired, tumble the dry cases using corn-cob or other cleaning media. It is not necessary to have cases look like new. We just want them clean inside and out. Case mouths which are dirty tend to grip the bullet and cause case stretching.

(4) Proper 44-40 case length is 1.305" (33.15mm) Use a dial type caliper or you can make up a piece of aluminum or other metal which has a slot of that exact length. Cases can be quickly slid through your home made gauge to determine if stretching has occurred and any cases found to be too long can be set aside for trimming back to correct length.

PRIMING

The correct primer is " large pistol". The "large rifle" primer is the same diameter but is taller and if used, will stand too high in the primer pocket . This would be dangerous because a sharp recoil against a high primer could cause it to ignite and fire that bullet! Always use only large pistol primers.

RESIZING

To minimize the "working" of the brass it is best to avoid full length resizing of cases which have been fired in your gun. Such fire formed cases are usually more accurate because they fit your chamber more perfectly. Adjust your sizing die so as to resize only the case neck, not the full case length. Of course if you reload for several 44-40 guns it may be necessary to full length resize due to some cases having been fired in a gun having a "fat" chamber and those may not easily enter a "small" chamber gun.

EXPANDING

Barrel groove diameter varied among different manufacturers in the early production years and can be .424" or .427". The Pedersoli 44-40 Lightning follows modern rifling dimensions used by arms manufacturers today and the groove diameter is .428" (10.87 mm +/- .02 mm) and the bore diameter is .422" (10.73 mm).

Always "slug" your gun barrel to determine exactly what your groove diameter is and use bullets which are the same size as your groove diameter or up to .002" larger.

You then should select an expander plug which opens the case mouth so that your bullet will be an easy "thumb push fit" into the case mouth.

The expander plug has a second function, which is to make a slight "bell mouth" on the case

mouth so that bullets can be started into the case mouth easily. During the seating and crimping operation this bell mouth is ironed out and turned inward to make the crimp. To minimize splits around the case mouth, adjust your expander plug to produce the smallest amount of bell mouth which lets you start a bullet into the case. Re-read the remarks about annealing the case mouth region as this has a big effect on preventing splits in the case.

Assemble one cartridge and carefully chamber it to verify that there is no drag or resistance when feeding into the full chambered position. Also load that finished cartridge into the magazine and verify that it functions and chambers properly when the slide is racked back and forth rapidly. (NOTE that for maximum safety I suggest using an unprimed empty cartridge). If you have a nice fit into the chamber as well as normal feeding from the magazine then proceed with using that bullet and expander plug.

LEAD BULLET ALLOY SELECTION

The 44-40 is not a highly accurate long range caliber and it is generally used as a hunting caliber out to about 125-150 yards but it excelled as a defensive weapon on the rough and tough Western frontier and some historians have written that more game has been taken in America with the 44-40 than with any other caliber. This is easy to believe because millions of farms and ranches had their 44-40 rifles as well as revolvers and every young man (and farm girl) learned to shoot with "daddys" 44-40.

We do not need to be too fussy about the alloy mixture used to cast bullets. If you are planning to hunt large game then you will obtain maximum bullet expansion with pure lead or nearly pure lead alloys. For general plinking ,small game hunting and of course the Cowboy Action type of shooting competitions, you can use a hard alloy made from wheel weights or any other type of scrap lead material. If you do your own alloy blending by using pure lead with tin added, I would suggest using an alloy ratio of 16:1 to 24:1 (lead:tin) which is quite hard. To maintain consistency in how your bullets perform, it is advisable to mix up a large quantity of your available alloy and cast it into small ingots which are then remelted as required.
With the use of a good bullet lubricant, a smooth barrel and proper cleaning procedures, you should not encounter any leading in your barrel even with the use of a soft lead alloy.

SEATING & CRIMPING

In a revolver or magazine type rifle we must not allow “unfired” bullets to move forward or backwards in the case due to the recoil effect. A correct 44-40 bullet will have a shallow “crimping groove” into which the case mouth will be slightly pressed during the seating operation. A “roll type” crimp is preferred since the bullets will have that nice crimping groove and once the crimp is applied there is almost no chance the bullet will move in the case due to recoil. If the bullet you want to use does not have a "crimping groove" just crimp onto the middle of the first drive band. It is not necessary dig into the band and a slight

impression into the lead bullet will suffice.If you are using commercially made copper jacketed bullets they will have a crimping groove easily seen.

Alternatively, you may have a "taper crimp" seating die which does not bend the case mouth into a crimping groove as is done with a "roll crimp" die. If you use this type of taper crimp it is advisable to make extra inspections and tests to assure that the bullet is locked firmly in the case and cannot move under recoil.

The standard 44-40 cast bullet is considered to be the Lyman #427666 which weighs 200 grains, has the “required” flat point, proper crimping groove and a single large lubricant groove. This bullet closely matches those used when the 44-40 was first introduced and it’s flat point delivers good expansion on large game.

There are many suitable bullets offered by different mould makers and for the Pedersoli Lightning rifle we recommend using only the 200 to 221 grain lead or jacketed bullets in order to maintain the correct maximum overall cartridge length of 1.592” (40.44mm) which will feed and chamber smoothly and reliably.

There are gas check bullets available and these can be used if desired. However, due to the modest muzzle velocity the 44-40 produces there is actually little need for a gas check type bullet. In other calibers when shooting cast lead alloy bullets over approximately 2000 fps, a gas check bullet does minimize barrel leading and bullet base deformation.

Regardless of what bullet you decide to use remember to seat the bullet so as not to exceed the maximum overall cartridge length. Cartridges a bit longer may not feed reliably and also may not fully seat in the chamber. Always make the chambering and magazine feeding tests mentioned above.

BULLET LUBRICANTS

If you are reloading the 44-40 with black powder (or a faux BP) you should fill the lube grooves on the bullet with a correct type BP grease such as SPG brand, Lyman Blackpowder Gold brand, White Lightning brand , or any of the excellent brands specially developed to prevent barrel leading when shooting black powder. When reloading with smokeless powder (which almost every Lightning owner will use) you need to remember that smokeless powder leaves a different type of fouling in the barrel and to prevent leading a smokeless powder grease must be used. Again, the Lyman company offers several lubricants such as Orange Magic, Alox Lube, and the famous Ideal Lube. Smokeless powder bullet lubricants from other companies will likely be just as good as the Lyman brand so shop around. I personally advise against using a lubricant containing Molybdenum Disulfide as it tends to accumulate in magazine and action locations and it offers no advantages in a 44-40 rifle. Regardless of which lubricant you may decide to use, make certain that is remains firm on the bullet in very hot weather. Some lubricants which are excellent

in cold climates become too soft in hot weather and may leak down into your powder charge, which will affect the clean and complete burning of the powder.

CLEANING SOLVENTS

When loading smokeless powder, your present favorite smokeless powder solvent will probably serve you quite well. Such famous names as Hoppe's #9, Birchwood Casey, Shooters Choice, Gunslick, Remington and other well known solvent makers all offer good quality solvents. If you reload with copper jacketed bullets you may find copper accumulating in the rifling and need to select a cleaning solvent capable of removing the copper.

POWDER CHARGE

When first introduced, the 44-40 was loaded with 40 grains (volume measure) of FFg or FFFg black powder which gave the 200 grain bullet a muzzle velocity of about 900 feet per second. When smokeless powder became available there was a useful gain in bullet velocity plus very little powder fouling. The Pedersoli Lightning rifle can handle pressures higher than the brass case itself but due to the thin walls of the case your reloads should not exceed 13,000 psi chamber pressure. All smokeless powder manufacturers supply reloading data linked with specific bullet weights and to prevent excessive chamber pressures you must always consult the powder makers recommended powder type as well as their minimum and maximum powder charge weight for each type and weight of bullet you will be using. Many powder makers now include chamber pressure data for all their loads and this information can usually be found on their web site or by calling their technical department for pressure data.

Remember……maximum smokeless loads suitable for modern made rifles may be too strong for revolvers as well as old rifles. This article does not attempt to list powders and charges because such information is available from powder makers and can also be obtained from reloading guide books on the market. I reload for some blackpowder era Colt six shooters plus a 1882 Winchester 73. I use only blackpowder in these aged and valuable collectors guns. Looking at several reloading guide books in my office I see various smokeless powders being approved for use in the 44-40 caliber. These include 2400, Unique, 4227, 4759, 231, HP.38, N100, XMP-5744 and Tite-Group.

Like most old time reloaders I have settled upon a favorite "rifle" load which works well as follows: 205 grain bullet; Alliant (formerly Hercules) 2400 powder; 26.0 grains ; muzzle velocity 1900 fps. This is a very flat shooting load and has plenty of knockdown energy on deer sized game out to 125-150 yards.

Because many collectors will also reload for a 44-40 revolver I offer another powder which I have used for a long time in "smokeless powder" Colt revolvers wich is as follows:
205 grain bullet; Alliant (formerly Hercules) Unique powder; 10.0 grains; muzzle velocity from a 5.5" barrel is 1050 fps.

Remember that these two favorite loadings are "maximum" pressure loads and are to be used only in modern made guns in good condition because the chamber pressures could damage or burst an old black powder era gun. You may not be able to obtain Alliant brand powder in your region and this is not a problem because virtually all powder makers will have their own powders suitable for the 44-40 rifle and revolver loads. Just make certain you always see the bullet weight, powder charge and chamber pressures "in print" before deciding upon a powder and a charge weight.

The following internet addresses will quickly connect you with several powder makers who offer loading data for the 44-40:

www.alliantpowder.com
www.accuratepowder.com
www.imrpowder.com
www.winchester.com ;
www.hodgdon.com
www.lapua.com/index.php?id=850 .

While this article is about the 44-40 cartridge, many of the tips apply directly to other rifle and handgun calibers so as you learn about the 44-40, think also of other calibers you reload which can benefit from some of these tips.

Dick Trenk
Technical Advisor , Davide Pedersoli & Co.

1874 Sharps Benchrest

New Sharps rifle equipped specially for the Bench Rest shooters who want to practise with a gun having strong historical connotations. One of the main technical points of the rifle is the Lothar Walther barrel with a matt blue finish. The frame and the steel parts are case hardened finish. Both the stock (which has a higher comb to allow better use of the telescope sight) and the fore-end are made of walnut, oil finish; the forend bottom surface is flat to assure a steady support on the bench while aiming. The barrel is drilled and tapped to mount the telescope sight (we suggest Malcolm short scope 6X model – USA 508-6).

We recommend this rifle to all shooters looking for the hole-in-hole accuracy. It is a perfect choice for backyard plinking, but stands up to the highest standards of competition shooting as well.

Look for this rifle at your local Davide Pedersoli dealer. Available from 2010.

Pedersoli's newest LF Safe concept for alternative patched roundball shooting

Indoor training with your muzzleloader

When I was a boy (in the 1960's), I shot a quantity of .22 BB & CB from an old Francotte Martini in the garden and backyard; targets were Coke caps at 10 to 20 m, and it was a lot of fun! This is past… forever? Did you ever dream of safely shooting your favorite muzzle loading pistol or rifle, for fun or practice in your basement or garden, keeping the procedure and feeling of real shooting? I did!

Now, it is possible with the new LF SAFE bullet from DAVIDE PEDERSOLI. This concept, based on a new ball design, has different applications: Indoor practice shooting with your muzzle loading pistol, revolver or rifle, Medium range (25m) target or plinking with same guns. The secret lies in the bullet, made from a medium density, advanced technology, 100% lead free compound. At low velocity, for indoor shooting, propellant is only #209 primer with no powder. The relatively light bullet can be safely stopped by foam polymer target, offered by DAVIDE PEDERSOLI. At high handgun or rifle velocities, for outdoor plinking, the bullet is frangible on hard surfaces, completely avoiding the danger of ricochet, bouncing or fragments returning to the shooter.

A world of wonderful shooting pleasure

The concept, using the same loading procedure and firing sequence as a lead bullet, offers the possibility of realistic training, practice and fun shooting with highly reduced danger range and collateral damage. Let's now discuss the different applications:

Indoor practice shooting

For this recreational sport, no powder will be used. Just unscrew the nipple from your rifle or pistol, replace with the special nipple by DAVIDE PEDERSOLI, and you are ready to start! Put the #209 shotgun primer in the new special nipple, following instructions, DO NOT USE POWDER.

Put the LF SAFE bullet over a light patch, and lightly push the ball through the barrel, just the same way you proceed with the lead bullet.
You are now ready to shoot at the foam polymer target previously installed at about 10 m.

It is also possible to use your percussion revolver by just replacing the cylinder with a special piece manufactured by DAVIDE PEDERSOLI, that uses the #209 primer as propelling charge.

We did a lot of shooting offhand at 10 m with a growing pleasure, much of it with velocity measurement,: you have the exact feeling of your favorite pistol or rifle, the loading and cleaning sequences, a suitable shooting blast compatible with indoor range. If common sense is used, there will be no danger because of the very low energy level and the foam target is ideal to stop the bullet. At 10 m, we used the Continental Dueling and MANG pistols together with a vintage 1960's Belgian made pistol; the rifles, a percussion Frontier and again an old Belgian 1960's made Kentucky percussion type, were fired offhand at 15 m. All the shootings was done on standard 10 m small air gun targets with very pleasing results. The accuracy measurement records are of no relevance, because the shooting was offhand and with poor knowledge of the gun reaction, but the results were very pleasing indeed ! 5 shots at 10 m Continental Dueling: 15+25mm H+L offhand!

Short range target and plinking

For use in any type of muzzle loading pistol, rifle (flintlock or percussion) or revolver. Loading procedure and shooting sequence are exactly the same as for a lead bullet, using the suitable load of black powder or substitute, like Pyrodex. We used the same guns as previously described, standard original configuration, and it was a lot of fun to shoot these guns with black powder on a Sunday afternoon in the garden. (Use common sense and a suitable background !)

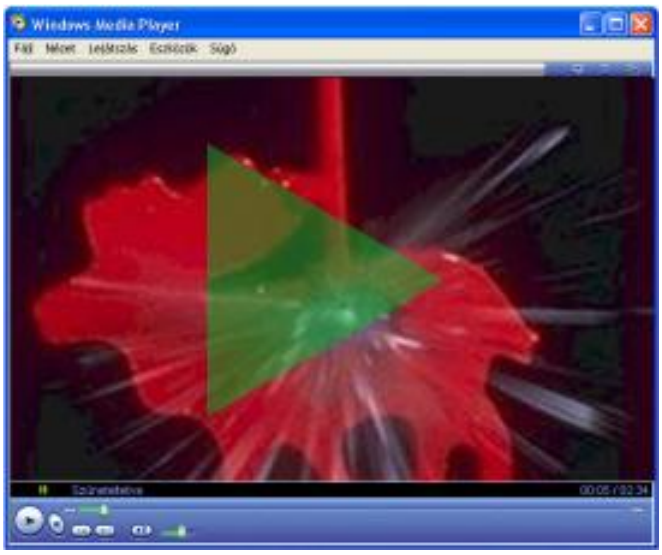
The advantages of the new bullet are:

-- 100% lead free,
-- Highly reduced danger range,
-- Completely avoiding the risk of ricochet, bouncing and fragment returns,
-- Highly reduced damage on shooting range structure.

After the recreational shooting, we made more technically valuable tests, using our slow motion camera at 10.000 pic/sec (max. 100 000 pic/sec) to obtain images of the behavior of the ball on hard targets, at high velocities and to verify the frangibility of the bullets. Accuracy tests were made in the Proof House of Liège, using standard barrels. The results are given on the table below. The ballistic tables were established in our laboratory.

All these loads will offer a Wonderful World of fun, if properly used. Recreational, practice and plinking shooting will be easier, safer and environmentally friendly. We, black powder shooters, are proud to take care of natural treasure.

USE COMMON SENSE IN SHOOTING: never point the gun at any target you do not want to shoot; at close distances, don't shoot at hard surfaces. Verify background safety. All the loads described are potentially deadly against living targets.



CALIBER	Bullet weight (gr) (g)	APPLICATION	load	V2 (m/s)	gun	Accuracy (H+L mm)
.451 LF SAFE	56 gr 3.62 g	Indoor practice	# 209 primer	55	Pistol barrel 200 mm	5+10 10 m
.451 LF SAFE	56 gr 3.62 g	Outdoor plinking	pyrodex	450	Rifle barrel 800 mm	4 + 8 25 m

Indoor practice

This diagram shows comparison of trajectories of a standard shot (green) .451 lead round ball , Velocity 150 m/s (light load) and a Lead Free LF-SAFE round ball .451 caliber propelled by #209 primer (red) (mean velocity 50 m/s) with PEDERSOLI conversion set, in the same gun (PEDERSOLI Continental Duelling .45) regulated for 15 m. In all conditions, the LF SAFE bullet is on the ground at 35 m, the standard lead bullet will be dangerous up to 200.

Outdoor plinking

Comparison of standard load (green) .451 round ball lead, 250 m/s in a percussion rifle, and .451 LF SAFE round ball in same rifle, regulated for 25 m. Shows the difference of danger range in plinking: in shooting condition, the LF SAFE ball is on the ground at 80m, the lead ball remaining dangerous up to about 500 m.

1886/71 45-70 Lever action rifle

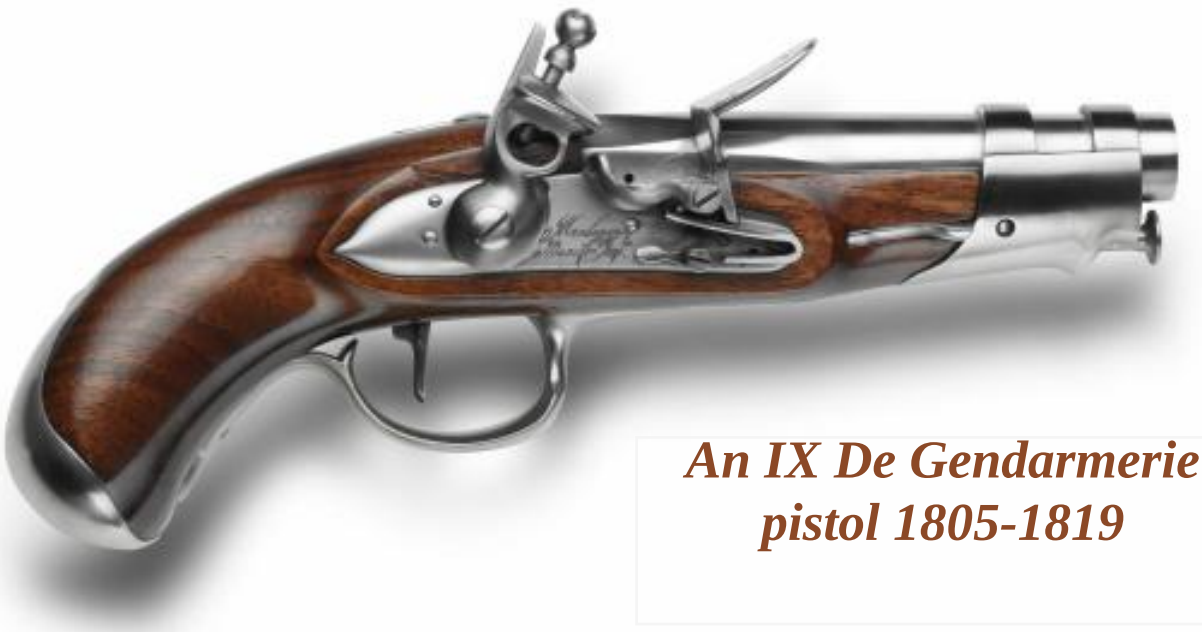
from Davide Pedersoli

Produced between the years 1936 and the 1957, with important technical variations to the previous Model 1886 designed by John M. and Matthew S. Browning, it is identified as the first rifle chambered for a specific cartridge (.348 WCF) as well as for the last "big game" lever action rifle produced by Winchester. Advertised as The Universal Big-Game Rifle, the Model 71 was welcomed with enthusiasm by big game hunters. Our company is particularly proud to produce this famous rifle of the first half of the twentieth century, chambered for a well known historical cartridge which is easily available today, with a limiting 3 shot plug for the magazine. Barrel and magazine plug blue finish; walnut pistol grip stock and fore-end.

Available in the Fall of 2010.

Technical parameters:

Model:	*S.740*
Calibre:	*45-70 Govt.*
Weight:	*3400 g*
Barrel length:	*610 mm*
Total length:	*1080 mm*
Magazine:	*5 rounds*



An IX De Gendarmerie pistol 1805-1819

A small and enchanting muzzle loading pistol reproducing one of the best known pistol models of the Napoleonic epoch. As it happened with cavalry pistols, it was manufactured in pairs and was produced until 1819 exclusively by the Imperial Manufacture in Maubeuge the total number produced being 32,000 pairs. In spite of production being assigned to the gendarmerie, these pistols also equipped infantry officers. The original martial look does not prevent a certain elegance that combined with the small dimensions, giving this gun an undisputable fascination.

The Gendarmerie An IX pistol can be supplied with a single pistol case or with a double case for a pair: a valuable complement that thanks to the glass lid will enhance the beauty of the gun.

Model:	*S.331*
Calibre:	*15,2 mm*
Weight:	*710 g*
Barrel length:	*125 mm*
Total length:	*250 mm*
Bullet:	*.575 RB*

Guardian Derringer "Pearl"

In the second half of the 1800's there was a great diffusion of small pistols, known as "derringer", since the appearance of muzzle loading models. Some were made to fire metallic cartridges, most were given strange names to impress customers; all were low cost with a simple mechanism like the barrel's length from 3 to 5 inches hinged to the frame or the removable nipple breech to load it. The grip was usually of the "bird's beak" type and the trigger of a "spur" type.

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