

# C & B REVOLVERS & CONVERSIONS

## PUT TO THE TEST

By Long Johns Wolf, SASS #81095,  
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and Magic Joe, SASS #92431

### Black Art and Percussion Revolvers

### Part 2

**C**owboy Action Shooting™ in Europe is growing at a rapid pace. Due to the nature of gun laws there, Cap and Ball revolvers are often the pistols of choice for new cowboys and cowgirls. Some FROCS (FRIENDS OF THE CENTAURE SOCIETY) decided the time was right to test the herd of C&B revolvers to see how they stand up to the rigors of Cowboy Action competition shooting. The results may be useful to parads and pardettes on this side of the pond also. Part 1 of this series covered background and methodology.

Almost all revolvers evaluated functioned if the shooter did his job. Good lubrication was the key. Jams from cap fragments occurred, but we cannot relate this to specific models or manufacturers. What we discovered, however, was which revolvers functioned more reliably than others and why, pinpointed specific advantages of open frame over solid frame revolvers, were angered by quality issues of some makers, and found a few tuning measures that improved overall reliability.

Badly finished, rough contact areas like the barrel side of cylinders and the breech side of the barrel or cone get you in trouble with black-powder fouling quickly. In our tests this was found mostly in guns of Armi San Paolo or Euroarms. Revolvers of these two makers also had the poorest fit of wooden grips to steel frames. On the other hand, the highly polished, deeply blued barrels and cylinders combined with their traditional case color hardened frames and hammers and perfectly fitted grips of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Colts were eye candy for the testers.

Historical correctness—the way to go? Regarding rifling groove diameter, groove profile, and diameter of the chambers—the Italian replica manufacturers take the Period Correct route to the disadvantage of the shooter. Colt and Remington during the 19<sup>th</sup> century made C&B revolver chambers of a significantly smaller

diameter than the rifling groove diameter. But today's shooters are paying the price for this historical correctness in terms of suboptimal inherent accuracy and also gas leakage. The loss in accuracy we can disregard at Cowboy Action Shooting™ distances, but the suboptimal energy transfer from gas leakage can be a nuisance when knockdown targets like pepper poppers or Texas Stars are to be engaged. It will cost extra seconds when a target topples over only after the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> hit!



A day's test program ...

Belgian and Spanish makers took a different approach: Centaure and Santa Barbara New Model 1863 Army were developed like modern target revolvers for optimal built-in accuracy. Hence, chamber and bore groove diameters are adjusted accordingly. In this respect, these revolvers are not true copies of the originals, but this feature is appreciated by our modern Cowboys and Cowgirls. In addition, these two makers fitted barrels with shallow rifling to their C&B revolvers. The combination of these two features means reduced gas leakage and improved energy transfer compared to Italian replicas.

Remingtons for small hands only? These revolvers were designed to suit our 19<sup>th</sup> century forefathers, who were much smaller than today's 21<sup>st</sup> century adults. Shooters with midsize hands or larger often cannot grip their Remmies comfortably and where to place the pinkie? Also, during recoil the middle finger gets a nice, regular smacking from the trigger guard, which is too close to the grip for comfort.

Nipple exchange? Problems to ignite caps, cap fragments in the action, and so forth can often be traced to the factory installed nipples. That's why experienced competition shooters exchange the factory nipples immediately for competition grade nipples like Tresco as soon as they liberate a new percussion revolver.

Mainspring exchange? We strongly advise against playing around with the strong tension of the main spring, or to consider the

the wedge is pushed in the barrel lug. Since the chamber diameters are adjusted to the rifling groove diameter the inherent accuracy of this revolver is excellent. Its shallow rifling supports an optimal energy transfer. These Belgians were made of harder steel than other replicas.

FAUL Centaure	HNMA FROCS Special	HNMA 1st variation	HNMA 2nd variation
Alteration	Neatly finished	200000 (overmass)	200000 (overmass)
Accuracy	114X7	188X3	140X6
Serial #	44	44	44
Caliber	1972	1972	1972
Manufacturer	2000 FROCS	2011	2011
Alteration	Special		
Wedge	500000 (standard)	1000 (slight tension)	1000 (slight tension)
Grip	nicely fitted sized walnut, good grip	nicely fitted sized walnut, good grip	nicely fitted sized walnut, good grip
Frame length	6.35 mm	6.35 mm	6.35 mm
Cylinder gap	0.02 mm	0.02 mm	0.02 mm
Rifling groove dia	6.67	6.67	6.67
Chamber	4407, 4407, 4407	4407, 4407, 4407	4407, 4407, 4407
Length dia	447, 447, 447	447, 447, 447	447, 447, 447
7.6 mm	211.4 (L1)	188.0 (L2)	169.3 (L3)
7.6 mm	694.8 (L1)	258.0 (L2)	504.5 (L3)
MSP	96.8 (L1)	75.8 (L2)	76.8 (L3)
Modifications	FROCS Special	fully tuned, new springs	fully tuned, new springs
Warranty	lifetime, mail		
Condition	well-used, good	CR match revolver	CR match revolver



1972 made Regular New Model Army #114X7 transformed into a FROCS Special: neat job by master gunsmith Karl Nedbal from Austria.

exchange for a lighter one from a cartridge pistol of similar design. Hammer tension needs to be high enough to prevent possible affection of accuracy, but more important, you need it for reliable ignition and to seal the nipples when a shot is fired.

#### Clones of the Colt Army 1860

#### Belgian maker - Fabriques d'Armes Unies de Liège (FAUL)

The grand-grand-grandfather of the Hanquets, the owners of FAUL, was a member of the consortium of seven Liège gunsmiths and gunmakers who in 1853 obtained a licence from Sam Colt for the production of his percussion revolvers, which they first did during the 19<sup>th</sup> and again during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Unfortunately, FAUL does not exist any more.

Only some 16,000 of their famous re-issues of Colt's venerable 1860 Army called Centaure were made between 1959 and 1973. The factory installed arbors of correct length into these Centaures. Hence the cylinder gap, but more important, the POI is always the same no matter how deep

Comments on Centaure FROCS Special #114X7: Despite the short barrel and the high tension of the original mainspring, this Belly Gun can be cocked without problems. Easy handling, very reliable shooter. This gun hits what you are aiming at!

After the very promising shoot-



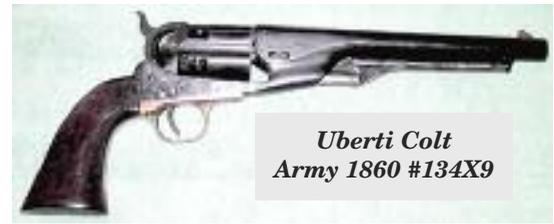
FROCS Special: "Fully tuned dream of a Cowboy Action Shooting™ revolver for the Frontiersman Category!"



ing session with the collector's piece the 4" barrel of the FROCS Special was mated to the fully tuned frame and cylinder assembly of Centaure #139X3, and another three strings were fired. The conclusion of Magic Joe: "... fully tuned dream of a Cowboy Action Shooting™ revolver for the Frontiersman Category!"



**Euroarms Colt Army 1860 #26X9:**  
*picture makes her look better than real life ... although she was one of the better performing revolvers!*



**Uberti Colt Army 1860 #134X9**

POA can be disregarded at Cowboy Action Shooting™ distances. Her custom checkered panels provide for a very positive grip.



**Two Centaure Regular New Model Armies, RNMA 1<sup>st</sup> variation #139X3 (top) and RNMA 6<sup>th</sup> variation #142X9 (bottom): pair of fully tuned match pistols for Cowboy Action Shooting™.**

Comments on Centaure RNMA 1st variation, 2nd sub-variation #139X3: A completely tuned match revolver, crisp trigger pull, you hit what your aim for. A jam was noted early in the first string from cap fragments in the action that was resolved at the firing line. One dead cap during the 6<sup>th</sup> string needed to be replaced.

Comments on Centaure RNMA 6th variation, 2nd sub-variation #142X9: Like the previous revolver, this one is completely tuned, too. No jams, hits POA. Cap fragments in the action resulted in some hammer drag during the 3<sup>rd</sup> string, but all remaining caps were positively ignited.

**Italian makers - Euroarms and Armi San Paolo**  
Euroarms has been making C&B revolvers since 1970, whereas Armi San Paolo started in 1969. Since 2002 these two companies were merged together as Euroarms Italia S.r.l.

Comments on Euroarms Colt Army 1860 #26X9: One previous owner had partly sanded off the varnish from the grip. This operation improved the grip, but not her looks. She performed exceptionally well. We liked the crisp trigger and the tight pattern connecting only 2" high due to the PC front sight. When she was to be disassembled at the loading table for the loading operation with the external loading press, we noted the tight sitting wedge. This could only be removed with a brass punch. Since the arbor was .08" (!) too short, the cylinder gap was adjusted with a feeler gauge after loading.

You cannot hope for any style points for this 1860 clone. Her fit metal to wood leaves a lot to be desired, but she was one of the most reliable of the Italian Colts in our test.



**Armi San Paolo Colt Army 1860 #83X6.**

Comments on Armi San Paolo Colt Army 1860 #8346: The too short arbor resulted in POIs differing from string to string. On average the revolver's POI is 4" high. The hammer drags. From the 2nd string on, the cylinder had to be turned manually due to blackpowder fouling. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> string the hammer hung in the loading position. Early in the 6<sup>th</sup> string one cap would not ignite. Later cap fragments completely disabled the action.

**Italian Maker - Uberti**  
Aldo Uberti has the most experience in the making of replicas of American percussion revolvers. He fabricated the first Colt Navy clones as early as 1958/59 for US Navy Arms, together with his partner, Gregorelli. In 1963 however, he founded his own factory, Uberti SpA.

The data collection and practical

tests on the two pair of 8"ers below, #134X9 and 143X8, and 5.5"ers, #665X1 and 1106X0, respectively with their fluted cylinders was executed by "long distance tester" Full Load Hildi (FLH). FLH is the ruling German champion in the 1870/Frontiersman Category for eight years now. These four Ubertis are his match pistols. Except for some polishing of the actions, fitting of higher front sights, and checkering of the grip panels on three of them, these are "out of the box" replicas. Please, note FLH did not correct the lengths of the arbors, but has their respective wedges marked for the proper depth of insertion into the barrel lug!

**Colt Army 1860: 8" barrel variants**

Comments on Uberti Colt Army 1860 #134X9: The testers liked this reliable and accurate match pistol. The marginal deviation of POI from



**Uberti Colt Army 1860 #143X8**

Comments on Uberti Colt Army 1860 #143X8: We liked this reliable and accurate match pistol. Due to the new higher front sight, she hits what you are aiming at. Her custom checkered panels provide for a very positive grip.



**Uberti Colt Army 1860 #731X6**

Comments on Uberti Colt Army 1860 #731X6: This cab and baller had rested in the owner's safe since its purchase in the 1970s. In other words, this test was her first workout! Typical for the Ubertis is her slippery varnished grip. This one had a heavy but crisp trigger pull. Function was satisfactory, but we cannot offer an explanation for the 4" spread of the hits during both accuracy strings. POI was at one o'clock due to the PC front sight. At the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> string one cap was rubbing against the re-

(Continued on page 38)

Serial #	104X9	143X8	731X6
Caliber	.44	.44	.44
Manufactured	1965 (XXX)	1972 (XXX)	1973 (AA)
"Mileage"	< 10000	< 10000	none
Grip	fairly fitted checkered walnut, excellent pattern	fairly fitted checkered walnut, excellent grip	fairly fitted, slippery varnished walnut
Barrel length	8"	8"	8"
Cylinder gap	0.1 mm	0.50 mm	0.1 mm
Rifling groove dia	.444"	.445"	.445"
Chamber mouth dia	.441", .442", .442", .442"	.445", .445", .445", .445"	.445", .445", .445", .445"
V5 m/s	244.5 (L1)	162.0 (L3)	531.5 (L3)
fps	802.2 (L1)	531.5 (L3)	531.5 (L3)
MIP	110.7 (L1)	74.9 (L3)	74.9 (L3)
Modifications / Tunings	custom higher front sight & checkered panels, action polished	custom higher front sight & checkered panels, action polished	bottomed out arbor
Condition	C&B match revolver	C&B match revolver	used, well maintained

Manufacturer	Euroarms	Armi san Paolo
Serial #	26X9	83X6
Caliber	.44	.44
Manufactured	1974 (XXX)	1976 (AB)
"Mileage"	< 100	500
Grip	poorly fitted, hardwood, varnish sanded off, good grip	poorly fitted, slippery varnished hardwood
Barrel length	8"	8"
Cylinder gap	0.1 mm	0.05 mm
Rifling groove dia	.444"	.445"
Chamber mouth dia	.441", .442", .442", .442"	.445", .445", .445", .445"
V5 m/s	244.5 (L1)	162.0 (L3)
fps	802.2 (L1)	531.5 (L3)
MIP	110.7 (L1)	74.9 (L3)
Modifications / Tunings	bobbed tip of hammer, deepened rear sight notch to bring down POI	none
Condition	used	used

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## C & B Revolvers & Conversions . . .

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coil shield. This might have been the shooter's mistake at the loading table. Later during the string a cap fragment in the action affected cocking the hammer.

### Uberti Colt Army 1860: 5.5" barrel variants

Serial #	665X1	1106X0
Caliber	.44	.44
Manufactured	1975 (AA)	1980 (AF)
"Mileage"	> 2500	> 5000
Grip	fairly fitted checked walnut, excellent grip	fairly fitted checked walnut, excellent grip
Barrel length	5.5"	5.5"
Cylinder gap	0.05 mm .002"	0.05 mm .002"
Rifling groove dia	.448"	.445"
Chamber mouth dia	.447", .448", .448", .448", .448", .448"	.451", .449", .450", .451", .450", .450"
V5 m/s	174.8 (L1)	158.8 (L1)
fps	573.5 (L1)	521.0 (L1)
MIP	79.1 (L1)	71.9 (L1)
Modifications/tunings	custom higher front sight & checked panels, action polished	custom higher front sight & factory checked panels, action polished
Condition	CAS match revolver	CAS match revolver



Uberti Colt Army 1860 #665X1

Comments on Uberti Colt Army 1860 #665X1: She performed reliable during the whole six strings. We were impressed by her tight groups connecting only slightly below POA. Loosening of the wedge was noted after the 5<sup>th</sup> string. This was easily corrected. Her custom checked panels provide for a very positive grip.

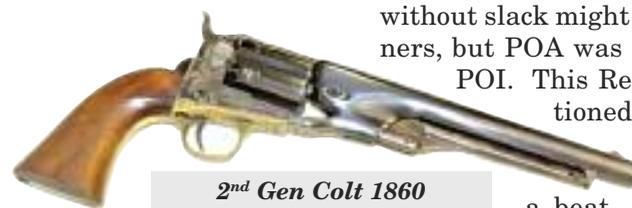


Uberti Colt Army 1860 #1106X0

Comments on Uberti Colt Army 1860 #1106X0: Very reliable and accurate, POA equals POI. Her factory checked panels provide for a very positive grip.

Serial #	2075X4
Caliber	.44
Manufactured	1981
"Mileage"	none
Grip	perfectly fitted oiled walnut, good grip
Barrel length	8"
Cylinder gap:	0.15 mm .006"
Rifling groove dia	.458"
Chamber mouth dia	.448", .449", .449", .449", .448", .449"
V5 m/s	155.3 (L3)
fps	694.4 (L3)
MIP	95.8 (L3)
Modifications	none
Condition	NIB, collector's piece

our test is of the fully fluted variant made between 1980 and 1981. These newly made Colt revolvers are sought after for their excellent fit and finish.



2<sup>nd</sup> Gen Colt 1860 Army #2075X4

Comments on Colt 1860 Army #2075X4: Despite her NIB condition, the owner was talked into making her available for the tor-

### Clones Remington New Model 1863 Army Italian Maker - Euroarms

Serial #	06X0	027X8
Caliber	.44	.44
Manufactured	1970 (XXVI)	1972 (XXIX)
"Mileage"	500	500
Grip	varnished hardwood, pear grip and fit	poorly fitted varnished hardwood, good grip
Barrel length	8"	from punning 8"
Cylinder gap	0.06 mm .002"	0.25 mm .01"
Rifling groove dia	.446"	.447"
Chamber mouth dia	.441", .440", .441", .441", .440", .441"	.442", .442", .442", .442", .441", .442"
V5 m/s	225.2 (L1)	201.3 (L1)
fps	771.7 (L1)	768.9 (L1)
MIP	108.8 (L1)	104.7 (L1)
Modifications	none	down-tailed front sight
Condition	used, front sight not correctly fixed, can be turned	used

Comments on Euroarms Remington New Model 1863 Army #06X0: The creeping trigger pull without slack might irritate beginners, but POA was identical with POI. This Remington functioned during all six strings without missing a beat. The hammer could be pulled back

beyond the cocking position, which is annoying to some shooters. We noted timing issues when using



Euroarms Remington New Model 1863 Army #06X0



Euroarms Remington New Model 1863 Army #027X1

the integrated loading press.

Comments on Euroarms Remington New Model 1863 Army #027X1: This revolver also functioned over the whole distance without a stutter. The trigger was almost crisp, but cocking was a chore due to the high tension of the mainspring. We produced very tight groups in the two accuracy strings, but the POI is 3" high at one o'clock. The shooters were not amused by powder residue flashing back through the nipples in their faces after each shot fired. This could be traced to the burned out nipples.



Three Full Load Hildi's Uberti 1860 Cowboy Action Shooting™ match revolvers—#66X1, #143X8, und #1106X0: he likes fluted cylinders!

### US maker - Colt Firearms

Between 1971 and 1982 most models of the open top type Colt percussion revolvers were available again as 2nd generations. These were made from rough parts supplied by Uberti in Italy. Finishing and assembly took place at Colt's, there enhanced with the deep Colt blue and high quality traditional charcoal case hardening. Only revolvers meeting the high standards of the Colt quality control were released for sale.

The only 2<sup>nd</sup> generation 1860 in

ture test like the other contestants. As anticipated, her timing was tops, the arbor had the correct length, and function was flawless. Unfortunately, the Italians took PCness too serious because the difference between rifling groove and chamber mouth diameter is just too much for a reasonable pattern of the hits and the low muzzle velocity. POI was somewhat high due to the PC low front sight. Commented one tester: "Too beautiful for serious shooting, put her back in the display cabinet."

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Model #	10000	02000	A556X9
Caliber	.44	.44	.44
Manufactured "Vintage"	1970 (XXVI)	1974 (XXIX)	2006 (LXXVI)
Grip	fully fitted steel walnut, reasonable	fully fitted steel walnut, reasonable	fully fitted, check base of varnished epoxy walnut
Barrel length	9"	9"	9"
Cylinder gap	0.15 mm	0.25 mm	0.15 mm
Rifling groove dia	.442"	.442"	.442"
Chamber mouth dia	.442", .442", .442"	.442", .442", .442"	.442", .442", .442"
MS ret	362.5 (L1)	487.5 (L2)	177.3 (L2)
Sw	902.3 (L1)	549.6 (L2)	390.7 (L2)
MIP	110.7 (L1)	75.7 (L2)	90.1 (L2)
Modifications	New factory engraved	none	none, stainless steel
Condition	1	2	1

loading press was used. We expected some restrictions of the cylinder turns due to the very narrow cylinder gap, but are pleased to report this pistol functioned over the whole distance of the test without cleaning.

**Spanish maker – E.N. Santa Barbara**

According to the research of Jim Davis of RPRCA, Replica Percussion Revolver Collector's Association, the Spaniards produced their Remington clones between 1971 and 1977 only. Less than 10,000 were made. Contrary to Italian replicas this one was designed with

target shooters in mind if you consider the rifling groove and chamber mouth diameter adjusted for accuracy and the front sight dovetailed into the barrel. Rumour has it the steel used in their making is harder than the Italian alloy. Their more sizeable grip provides for a positive hold for shooters with larger hands.



**E.N. Santa Barbara Remington New Model 1863 Army #096X6 (top) and #092X0 (bottom): better steel than Italo-clones?**

POI pleased the testers, the trigger has a reasonable, somewhat spongy release, the varnished did not provide a firm grip. Except for the loading lever, which dropped from the barrel stud during recoil now and then, there are no jams to be reported. Compared to the other Santa Barbara #096X6, this one was harder to cock due to the high tension of the mainspring ... which as Remington aficionados know can be easily altered in Remington New Model Armies and Navies with their main spring screw. When loaded with the integrated loading press the cylinder is over-rotating.

Comments on E.N. Santa Barbara Remington New Model 1863 Army #096X6: This "Plain Jane" version appeared to be better finished than her factory engraved sister, #092X0. The trigger pull is crisp, the timing alright, even if the integrated loading press is used to load the gun. The oiled grip provides for a solid grip. POI is marginally higher than the POA, which

is nothing to complain about at Cowboy Action Shooting™ distances. No impairment of the functioning from blackpowder over the whole six strings occurred. During the 6th string, one cap would ignite only after a second cocking of the hammer. Magic Joe has large hands. He complained about the smack to his middle finger from the recoil de-

*(Continued on page 40)*



**Uberti Remington New Model 1863 Army #140X0: factory engraved.**

**Italian Maker – Uberti**

Comments on Uberti Remington New Model 1863 Army #140X0: We can live well with a POI connecting 2" high at one o'clock. The trigger creeps, but that is more than offset by the reliability of this NMA.



**Uberti Remington New Model 1863 Army #421X8**

Comments on Uberti Remington New Model 1863 Army #421X8: A POI between 2" and 3" high at 12 or 1 o'clock is OK for us in this sport. The creeping trigger pull was tolerable because the pistol performed satisfactory until the 5th string. During the 6th string, bad blackpowder fouling seriously affected cocking the hammer and turning the cylinder. After the 3rd and 6th string, the loading lever screw had to be tightened.

Model #	027X3	00203	00000
Caliber	.44	.44	.44
Manufactured "Vintage"	recreated 1973	recreated 1970/73	recreated 1970/73
Grip	solid fitted varnished walnut, reasonable grip	solid fitted varnished walnut, poor grip	solid fitted steel walnut, good grip
Barrel length	9"	9"	9"
Cylinder gap	0.15 mm	0.25 mm	0.15 mm
Rifling groove dia	.442"	.442"	.442"
Chamber mouth dia	.442", .442", .442"	.442", .442", .442"	.442", .442", .442"
MS ret	322.8 (L2)	244.6 (L1)	175.1 (L2)
Sw	536.5 (L2)	401.7 (L1)	274.2 (L2)
MIP	74.7 (L2)	110.4 (L1)	19.2 (L2)
Modifications	none	none	none
Condition	1 - 2, factory engraved	1 - 2, factory engraved	1 - 2



**E.N. Santa Barbara Remington New Model 1863 Army #027X3**

Comments on E.N. Santa Barbara Remington New Model 1863 Army #027X3: This Spanish Remmie did a pretty reliable job over all six strings. We noted, however a shift in the POI and the size of the groups. Hits were centered around POA during the 1st string with a spread of 4". This moved 2 up towards 2 o'clock with a somewhat shrinking spread. After the 3rd and 6th string the loading lever screw had to be tightened, no big deal.

Comments on E.N. Santa Barbara Remington New Model 1863 Army #092X0: The "almost" center

Comments on E.N. Santa Barbara Remington New Model 1863 Army #092X0: The "almost" center

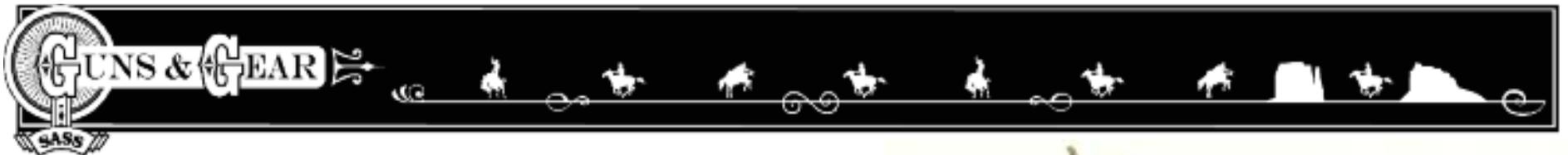


**Uberti Remington New Model 1863 Army #A556X9: stainless steel**

Comments on Uberti Remington New Model 1863 Army #A556X9: This stainless variant had a very high tension mainspring installed. Her grip is thicker than the one of her above companions from 1970. Hence, shooters with larger hands might be able to handle her somewhat more comfortably. POI was slightly to the right of POA, nothing to be worried about, but timing issues were noted when the integrated



**Santa Barbara Remington #096X6: almost ready for action**



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spite the light loads used. This same shooter did not suffer a smacking when firing the other Santa Barbara.

### Other .44 Caliber C&B Revolvers

*Colt Blackpowder Arms 3rd gen Colt 1847 Walker #62X4 (top) and Whitneyville Hartford Dagoon #126XA (bottom): heavy weight pistols will guarantee style points and tons of shooting fun!*



	Colt 1847 Walker	Colt Whitneyville Hartford Dagoon	Rogers & Spencer 1863 match version
Manufacturer	Colt Blackpowder Arms USA	Colt Blackpowder Arms USA	Armi San Paolo Italy
Serial #	62X4	12X7A	950X6
Caliber	.44	.44	.44
Manufactured "Date"	1996	1998	1988 (AT) 2000
Grip	properly fitted varnished walnut, a little slippery	properly fitted varnished walnut, a little slippery	properly fitted, thick layer of varnished, slippery walnut
Barrel length	9"	7.5"	7.5"
Cylinder gap	0.10 mm .004"	0.15 mm .006"	0.10 mm .004"
Rifling groove dia	.432"	.443"	.450"
Chamber mouth dia.	.448", .449", .447", .448", .447", .448"	.460", .460", .450", .448", .447", .450"	.449", .449", .449", .449", .449", .449"
VE m/s	387.1 (1.5)	529.0 (1.4)	950.0 (1.1)
fps	1270.0 (1.5)	950.0 (1.4)	626.0 (1.1)
MFP	179.1 (1.5)	148.8 (1.4)	91.8 (1.1)
Modifications	Low tension main spring	Low tension main spring	tapered chamber mouth, Lothar Walther match barrel used bulls-eye competition revolver
Condition	1	1	

out Cowboy Action Shooting™ distance. At least once per string the barrel stud let the loading lever go, possibly as a result of the rifling groove diameter being actually smaller than the chamber mouth diameter. Go figure.

Function was not affected by blackpowder fouling.

Comments on Armi San Paolo Rogers & Spencer 1865 #200X6 from one of

our "long distance tester" Archangel, cowboy from Northrhine Westfalia: "...had to start in the game with this R&S and a Centaure at the 2011 German Championship ... because I have to wait a few months more before I can legally purchase my second Centaure ...": Even the match version with Lothar-Walther barrel can only be second or better third choice in Cowboy Action. It is prone to blackpowder fouling due to the tight fit of hammer to frame. This collects crud and progressively delays the hammer drop time. Fouling and cap fragments restrict

cylinder movement, which in turn impedes single handed cocking of the gun. Shooters with small hands and short thumbs cannot reach the spur of the hammer. The angle is awkward for sufficient leverage during fast cocking. Furthermore to cock, the grip on the R&S has to be changed—which impacts on speed. The narrow rear sight and the uniform chamber mouth diameter are perfect for bulls-eye shoots. But, the same narrow rear sight makes sight alignment for quick target acquisition in Cowboy Action Shooting™

Comments on Colt Blackpowder Arms Colt 1847 Walker #62X4: Thanks to an arbor of almost correct length, the testers could easily go along with the POI connecting only marginally high. However, the Walker presented itself with timing issues. Despite the heavy loads, functioning during the whole course of strings was flawless, no dropping loading lever, which is the usual ailment of Walkers!

This is a heavy weight, fun gun for the athletic fraction among cowboys and cowgirls!

Comments on Colt Blackpowder Arms Colt Whitneyville Hartford Dagoon #126XA: Unfortunately this is another specimen of Colt repros with too short an arbor! This resulted in a POI 5r above POA at



*Socks launches roundballs by 55 gr CH2 from the Walker: notable recoil, lots of smoke, and pretty sparks!*

difficult. The height of the front sight is adjusted for 25 meter. To hit the center of the steel target, I have to aim low, below the target!

Another R&S from Feinwerkbau was not entered into the test, but we observed her high sensitivity to blackpowder fouling during static shooting like we found in this Armi San Paolo race gun tuned-up for bulls-eye competition.

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*Armi San Paolo Rogers & Spencer 1865 match version #200X6: excellent accuracy in bull's-eye competition.*