

Custom Combat

COMPLETE PACKAGES
Street • Tactical
Competition

1997

HANDGUNS

READY FOR COMBAT!

THE CUSTOM
GENIUS OF
OVER 35
GUNSMITHS

- Functional Reliability!
- Practical Accuracy!
- Concealed Carry Options

15 CUSTOM
HOLSTERS
FOR COMBAT
HANDGUNS

GUNSITE
'SIGNATURE GRADE'
M1911 PERFECTION!

- OPTIMUM FUNCTIONAL RELIABILITY
- 2"/75' ACCURATE w/FULL-POWER AMMO
- MORE THAN 18 CUSTOM FEATURES/OPTIONS

MORE THAN
20 GUNS
TESTED!



WILSON 1996A-2

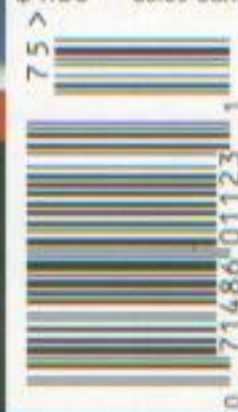


ROBAR COMBAT MASTER

GUN TESTS

- Baer Tactical Defense Pistol .45ACP ■ Brolin Legend .45ACP
- Jacobson S&W 6699mm ■ AWC Eclipse/Total Eclipse .45ACP
- Novak Colt 1991A1/LW Hi Power ■ S&W M629 'TRAIL BOSS'.44MAG.
- Gunsite Colt M1911/Browning Hi Power ■ Card Table Colt .45 Colt
- Wilson M1996 A-2 .45ACP ■ LaRocca Auto-Ordinance .45ACP

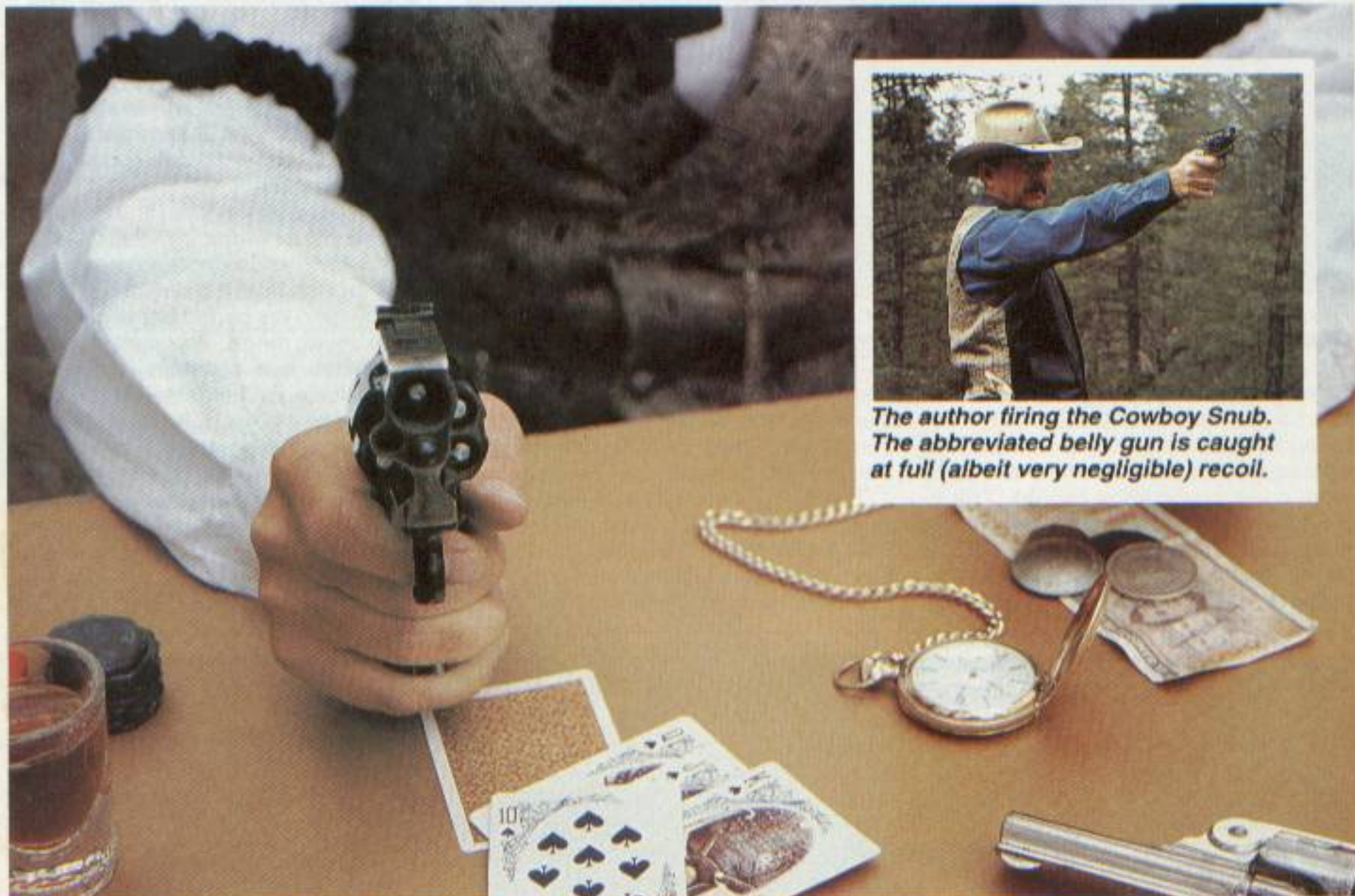
\$4.50 \$5.50 Can.



Printed in U.S.A.

IIICARD TABLE COLTII

**A barrel-less .45
Single Action revolver—an
Old West gambler's ace in the hole!**



The author firing the Cowboy Snub. The abbreviated belly gun is caught at full (albeit very negligible) recoil.

From across a poker table, the big barrel-less Colt with its five easily distinguishable .45 caliber slugs is enough to make any choleric card sharp think twice about his honor.



Pictured is the author's Colt New Frontier just prior to having its barrel removed. The New Frontier differs from a standard Single Action Army in that it has a flat top frame to accommodate an adjustable rear sight assembly and a much higher front sight and modified hammer to go with that assembly.

By Todd Lofgren

The game was 5-card stud. The gambler had been having an extraordinary run, but that had changed with the last few hands. The big man with the scar had pulled off a couple of last-card wins that had cost the gambler plenty. Although he had seen this happen many times before—Lady Luck being a fickle sort—the gambler began to sense that it wasn't the Lady's fault this time.

From the icy stare of the gambler, the big man knew he had been found out. As his hand moved toward the 41 caliber Remington derringer in his vest, Scarface suddenly found himself looking into the recesses of a formidable handcannon that had suddenly materialized in the gambler's hand. Just the sight of it alone convinced him to pursue his pseudo indignation no more!

I have always been fascinated by short, powerful concealment pistols. I recall reading in some distant publication about 19th-century pistoleros pulling the barrels out of their Colt Single Actions, leaving themselves with a relatively compact, yet powerful, hideout piece. I remember wondering about how this setup would work. What kind of accuracy could one expect? Surely those big .45 caliber bullets, departing directly from a cylinder, without the stabilizing aid of a rifled bore, would tumble and twist as soon as they traversed the short distance required to clear that gaping threaded hole where the barrel normally screwed in.

What kind of velocity loss would result from those big bullets departing directly from their cases instead of being accelerated by the ever-expanding gases created by the continuously-burning gun powder? Instead of channeling all that energy being created, those big bullets would receive only one initial push. And as soon as the bullet cleared the case, all that remaining energy would be lost instead of captured and funneled behind the bullet.

Was this a conversion that was actually useful and utilized in distant years or only the ramblings of some imaginative gun writer of the past? I couldn't remember who had written that article or, to be honest with you, if I'd actually ever read one about it. Maybe this had been the creation of some movie prop-man who had fabricated it for some cowboy epic I had seen. It wouldn't be the first time that the movies had started a myth.

According To Skeeter

I had occasion to be talking with Eddie Janis recently of Peacemaker



The author (r) and Eddie Janis (l) pictured with a group fired with the Colt at a card-table distance of 6 feet at the late nefarious Ned Ne'er-do-well. Although the big .45 caliber Colt bullets were already tumbling at that distance, the group measured only 1.6 inches.

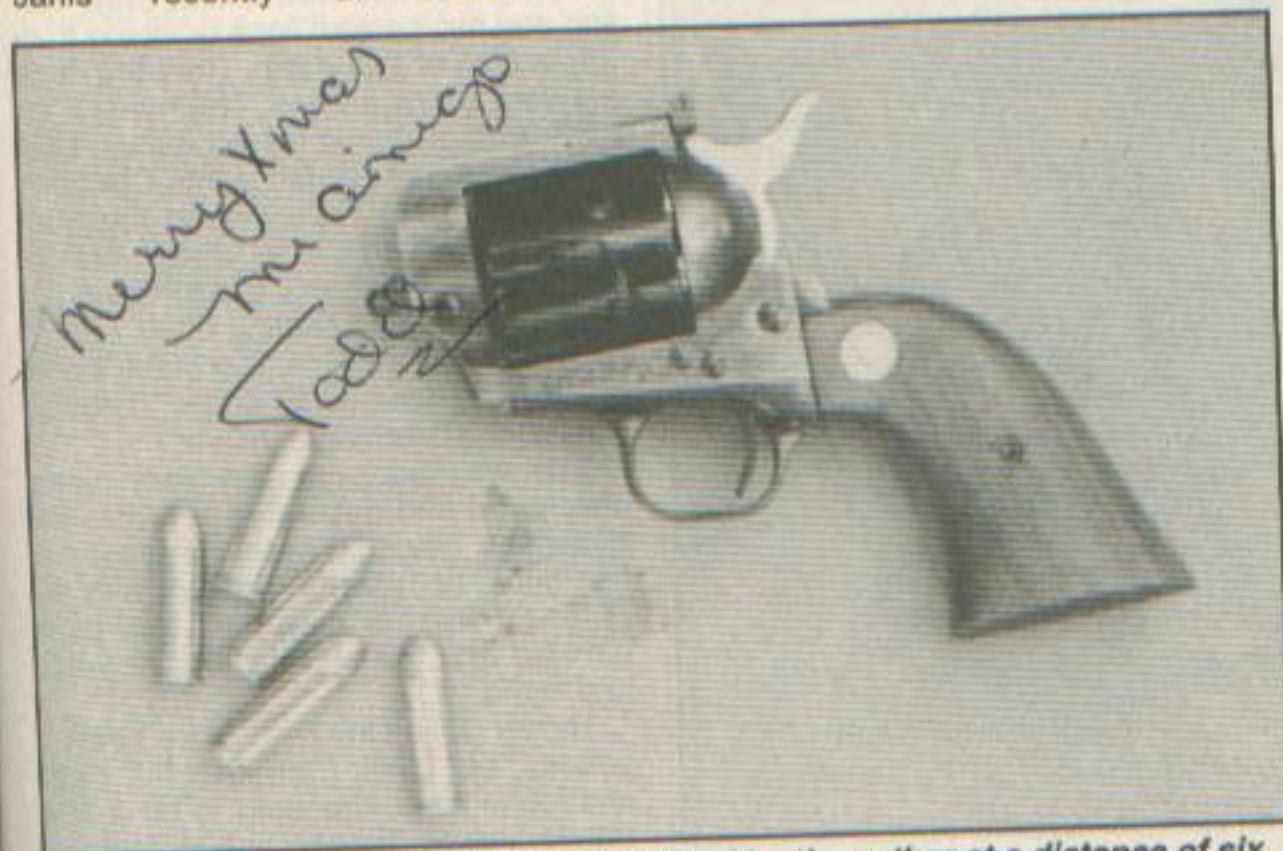


Eddie Janis in his Whitmore, California, shop in the process of removing the barrel from the author's Colt.

Specialists, P.O. Box 157, Dept CCH, Whitmore, California 96096; (916) 472-3438. And being that Eddie's specialty is the Colt Single Action Army revolver, I asked him if he'd ever heard of or read about this unique conversion of the venerable Colt "Thumbbuster." "Yeah," he said, "pictured in Skeeter Skelton's book 'Skeeter Skelton on Handguns.'" "You got that book?" I asked. As it turned out, he did. There, pictured on page 66 of Shooting Times' 1960 publication of "Skeeter Skelton on Handguns," was a Colt SAA sans barrel with the caption, "Gamblers often took barrel from revolver to heighten concealability. Bullet came directly from cylinder." That was it—that was the article I had seen. In some previous review of this publication, I had read this section and it had stuck with me. It had to be true. If you can't believe Skeeter Skelton, who can you believe?

The Base Colt

Now, if you're like me, you've always got some unfinished gun project waiting for the day when time permits its completion. Stuck in the recesses of my gun safe was a 7 1/2-inch, Third Generation .45 caliber Colt New Frontier that I was contemplating at some point rebarreling to a much handier and, to my mind, more desirable 4 3/4-inch length. What had renewed my interest in this project was the fact that during a recent trip to Eddie's shop in Whitmore I had spied a 4 3/4-inch Third Generation New Frontier barrel in 44/40 caliber in amongst



Another group measuring 1-1/2 inches fired by the author at a distance of six feet. Not one single round went through the target nose first, but all were grouped sufficiently close together to have solved any problem for which this pistol would have been drawn and fired in the first place.

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