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RELOADER'S PRESS

Dave Scovill



Eddie Janis – Peacemaker Specialists

A few years back while in the process of doing the load development for my book *Loading the Peacemaker*, I was reluctant to put undue wear and tear on a first generation Colt Single Action in the process of firing some 1,200 rounds of various load combinations, so I ordered two Model P sixguns from the Colt Custom Shop. One was a .38 WCF, the other a .44 WCF, both with 4.75-inch barrels. Outwardly, the two revolvers were identical, but the .38 WCF demonstrated excellent accuracy potential from the start.

The only problem I had with the .38 WCF was with the coarse trigger pull that scaled somewhere in the neighborhood of 12 pounds. The interim solution was to place a couple layers of glove leather under the hammer spring where it is secured to the grip frame, lessening the tension on the hammer and, in turn, reducing the trigger pull to about 8 pounds. Unfortunately, that put the rest of the action out of balance – and, of course, did nothing to reduce friction between various parts and the frame.

In time I decided the .38 WCF needed some professional attention, so it was sent off to Eddie Janis at Peacemaker Specialists in Whitmore, California. Eddie specializes in action jobs, ranging from simple tune-ups to the super-slick "Gunslinger" action package.

Eddie starts with his own custom springs that are designed to produce

the required tension on the trigger, cylinder bolt and hammer. Even a set of well-tuned springs won't do the job without judicious stoning and polishing in crucial areas.

Since all my sixguns are used in the field for hunting, I requested a 3-pound trigger pull, which is more than the weight of the Model P and helps prevent premature discharges in cold weather when it is often difficult to "feel" the trigger. Other than that, all I wanted was positive ignition with any and all brands of Large Pistol primers.

When the sixgun was returned to Prescott, it was all I had come to expect of Eddie's work – crisp, clean and professional – and the trigger pull is exactly 3 pounds. He even went one step out of his way to recut the forcing cone to 11 degrees. I hadn't thought of that, but it was likely flame cut in the process of firing several hundred rounds of heavy loads for my book, not to mention the hunting loads that are routinely digested in the field. Of course, that's why I leave the fine work to Eddie. He knows what should be done and how to do it. Anyone who owns a file and a ball-peen hammer can work on a sixgun, but it's what's left after the dust settles that matters.



Eddie Janis tuned up this Colt Model P .38 WCF with his custom Gunslinger action package – including a 3-pound trigger pull.

While we were discussing the action job on the Colt .38 WCF, Eddie also noted he was in the parts business, full-time, with an extensive list that covers everything from first through third generation sixguns – including rare parts for Bisley models. That list includes barrels and cylinders as well, although admittedly some calibers are somewhat rare.

Another area of expertise Eddie has gained some measure of recognition for is the Cowboy Shooters 1880 Package, which in effect makes your third generation Colt look and feel like a first generation original, including a bevel on the front edge of the cylinder between the charge holes and remarking the barrel to ".45 Colt," etc. as opposed to the "Colt Single Action Army .45 Colt" legend currently used. The final look is acquired with rust blue and color case finish.

If you are in the market for a few replacement parts, to replace those burred screwheads and keep a couple of spare springs on hand, for instance, write to Peacemaker Parts, PO Box 157, Whitmore CA 96096; or call 1-530-472-3438.

If you would like Eddie to make a silk Colt out of an old sow's ear, contact him at Peacemaker Specialists at the same address. It would be a good idea to ask for a price list for parts and services as well, since it would be impossible to list them all here.

For those who might be inclined to ask, Eddie does not work on Colt clones out of Europe. There are claims that some clones use parts that are in-



Peacemaker Parts has an extensive list of parts on hand for first, second and third generation Colt Single Actions.