Introduction

1. This manual contains instructions, cautions and dangers for the safe use of muzzle-loading firearms. It assumes that you read, understand and be willing to always follow them completely.

2. When properly handled, a cap & ball revolver is safe and enjoyable to use, if you follow a few basic rules:

3. There is no way to build a cap & ball revolver to absolve the user of the need to use good judgement.

4. Your cap & ball revolver should always be treated with the respect due any firearm in addition to specific cautions and dangers outlined in this manual.

Note: If after reading the instructions, cautions and dangers contained in this manual, you are not willing to accept the responsibilities involved in shooting a blackpowder revolver, return the revolver to your dealer before firing or contact Traditions, P.O. Box 776, Old Saybrook, CT 06475, Tel. 860-388-4656.

Important Safety Precautions

1. Always wear shatterproof glasses and appropriate ear protection.

2. Do not fire at hard objects such as trees, buildings, rocks, cars, etc. Use a COTTON target or a similar object for practice.

3. Never fire a revolver unless the projectile is firmly seated against the powder charge.

4. Store your gun in a dry, secure locked safe or dry place separate from its shooting components; in the specific problem with the returned item.

5. Never leave or near ignition source while loading, shooting or handling black powder or Pyrodex®.

6. Always remove one chamber unloaded. This is called the "safety chamber". Rest the hammer on the capless nipple of this empty chamber when the other chambers are loaded and awaiting to be fired.

7. Always be sure to seal the loaded chambers with Traditions Wonder Lube (unfired and fired) have been removed from the nipples.

8. During reassembly, LIGHTLY oil all moving parts and grease the cylinder chamber.

9. Never smoke or be near ignition source while loading, shooting or handling black powder or Pyrodex®.

10. Always leave one chamber unloaded. This is called the "safety chamber". Rest the hammer on the capless nipple of this empty chamber when the other chambers are loaded and awaiting to be fired.

11. Always be sure to seal the loaded chambers with Traditions Wonder Lube 1000 or Revolver Wonder Wads to prevent "chain-fires" (the simultaneous ignition of more than one chamber).

12. When aiming a blackpowder revolver, never place 'free' hand in front of the barrel and into the cylinder. Possible injury could result in the event of a "chain-fire".

13. If a cylinder with a loaded chamber must be removed, be sure all caps (unfired and fired) have been removed from the nipples.

14. When you own a gun so is it.

15. Store your gun separately from its various shooting components; in secure locked dry places well away from children.

Verifying Your Gun Is Unloaded

1. With the revolver pointed in a safe direction, place hammer in the half-cock position (first audible 'click'). Rotate the cylinder out of the frame.

2. To assemble, reverse sequence. Note: The cylinder is custom fitted to your revolver therefore the tolerances are close. With careful manipulation and practice, this process will get easier. Do not force the cylinder to the frame. Be patient.

3. Firearm of cap & ball revolver.

4. Pull or tap out the T-shaped cylinder pin located under the barrel.

5. Place hammer in half-cock position (first audible 'click'). Rotate the cylinder out of the frame.

6. To assemble, reverse sequence. Note: The cylinder is custom fitted to your revolver therefore the tolerances are close. With careful manipulation and practice, this process will get easier. Do not force the cylinder to the frame. Be patient.

7. Inherit, conical bullets are not as accurate as round balls primarily because during loading, they become deformed and cannot enter the bore at an angle.

8. Do not mix the maximum changes or charge powder granulation as noted in the Recommended Revolver Loads chart. The proper charge for a cap & ball revolver is an efficient load, providing consistent performance and bystanders.

9. Danger: Use of smokeless powder in any cap & ball revolver will result in excessively high pressures and can cause serious damage to the revolver and possibly injury to the shooter and bystanders.

10. Always be sure that the propellant you select is commercially manufactured black powder or Pyrodex® for use in muzzleloaders and that your dealer is a reputable dealer. TAKE NACHO CHANCES.

11. Pyrodex® is intended to be used on the same volume basis as black powder.

12. Store propellants according to the manufacturer’s instructions listed on each container. Local fire regulations should also be followed. Store safely and securely out of reach of children.

Caution: Never smoke while loading, shooting or handling propellants. Always follow the manufacturer’s safety precautions as listed on the propellants’ container.

Projectiles

1. Round Ball:

   a. The recommended projectile to assure greatest accuracy and consistency from your revolver is a round ball (cast or swaged) of pure lead.

   b. Recommended Revolver Loads (below) for the suitable ball diameter for a specific caliber and revolver style.

2. Conical Bullets:

   a. Conical bullets were originally used to provide greater knock-down power.

   b. Inherently, conical bullets are not as accurate as round balls primarily because during loading, they become deformed and cannot enter the bore at an angle.

   c. Do not mix the maximum changes or charge powder granulation as noted in the Recommended Revolver Loads chart. The proper charge for a cap & ball revolver is an efficient load, providing consistent performance and bystanders.

   d. Note: Do NOT patch balls (or bullets), as is customary with muzzleloading rifles. Shooting patches are never used with revolvers.

Recommended Revolver Loads

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revolver caliber/make</th>
<th>Projectile round ball caliber/make</th>
<th>Propellant (grains/granulation)</th>
<th>Note</th>
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<tr>
<td>.35 Remington</td>
<td>.357 Round</td>
<td>12/32</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>.40 Caliber</td>
<td>.40 Round</td>
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<td>.44 Mag.</td>
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<td>.44 Mag.</td>
<td>.44 Mag.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walker and Dragons</td>
<td>.44 Round</td>
<td>22/32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommended Customer Warranty Registration Card

1. If shooting is going to commence shortly, take care not to put oil inside the chambers or nipples.

Propellant

1. Black powder or Pyrodex® are the only safe propellants to be used in any cap & ball revolver.

2. The term ‘black powder’ does not refer to any powder black in color. Modern smokeless powders are also black in color and should never be used in a cap & ball revolver.
Loading and Shooting a Cap & Ball Revolver

Caution: Always keep the barrel pointed in a safe direction. Always wear suitable eye and ear protection when loading and shooting any gun.

1. Check to be sure that your revolver is unloaded (as described earlier).
2. Set the hammer at half-cock position and verify that revolver cannot be fired (the hammer cannot be moved) when trigger is pulled or the hammer is pushed.

With gun POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION, place a No. 10 or 11 percussion cap on the nipple of each unloaded chamber:

a. Turn the cylinder so that a nipple aligns with the cut-out on the right side of the frame. Angle muzzle downward.
b. It may be necessary to pinch the cap out of round to assure a snug fit on the nipple. Nipples and caps vary slightly in diameter.

Advice: Use of a capper to place the cap onto the nipple is advised. Percussion caps are sensitive to pressure and can explode under extreme finger pressure.

4. Fully cock the hammer and pull the trigger to fire the cap to dry out the base of the chamber and nipple. Repeat this procedure for all nipples to insure that each chamber is thoroughly dry.
5. Check to see sure all UNFIREd caps have been inadvertently left on the nipples. If so, fire them.
6. Place hammer at half-cock position.
7. Rotate cylinder and remove all spent caps.
8. Hold the muzzle upward. Be sure no part of the body is in front of the chamber. The gun is used and carried with the hammer resting on the right side of the frame. Angle muzzle downward.
9. Using the loading lever, and apply moderate pressure to seat ball into the chamber and firmly on top of the powder. The ball or conical bullet should be slightly oversized so it will not enter other chambers.
10. Check to be sure no UNFIRED caps have been inadvertently left on the nipples. If so, fire them.
11. Using the loading lever, and apply moderate pressure to seat ball into the chamber without pressure. The ball or conical bullet should be slightly oversized so it will not enter other chambers.

Caution: Wonder Lube 1000 and Wonder Wads seal each chamber to reduce the possibility of a “chain fire”; when a spark from the fired cylinder crosses over the front of the cylinder and causes other chambers to fire at the same time. When aiming a revolver, make sure you have a “free hand” in front of the cylinder. Possible bodily injury could result in the event of a “chain fire” (multiple chamber ignition). Use new wads each time.

14. With gun POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION and hammer in half-cock position, place a #10 or #11 percussion cap on the nipple of each loaded chamber. The gun is NOW LOADED!

Note: It may be necessary to pinch the cap walls out of round to get a snug fit. Caps and nipples can vary in size.

15. Pull hammer to full cock position. You ARE READY TO FIRE!
16. Be sure of your target, what’s beyond it and the back stop before you fire.
17. FIRE!

After firing all loaded chambers, wait one minute to reload. This allows any remaining sparks or embers to burn out prior to reloading. Your gun is ready to shoot.
18. If a misfire or failure to fire occurs, wait at least one minute with the gun pointed at the target. After the other chambers have been fired:

a. Place hammer in half-cock position.
b. Rotate cylinder and remove cap from nipple of the misfired chamber. Make certain the gun is always pointed in a safe direction.
c. Push a nipple pick through the hole in the nipple into the main cavity in the cylinder. The medium frame models require a standard nipple wrench like that of the medium frame models yet with a narrower body in order to fit into the smaller cavity in the cylinder. The medium frame models require a standard revolver powder measure, or a nipple wrench that is slightly smaller in diameter than the larger nipples, require a larger wrench with a wider opening to span the distance between the flats of the larger nipple. Check with your local retail dealer for whichever wrench you need.

d. Place a new cap on the nipple and refire that chamber.
e. If the cap ignites but the chamber still does not fire, wait one minute with gun pointed at target.

DANGER: If cylinder with a loaded chamber(s) must be removed, be sure all unfired and fired caps have been removed from the nipples. It is possible for a chamber to fire even though not in the gun. This could cause serious injury to the shooter or bystanders.

f. Place hammer in half-cock position and remove all caps.
g. Remove cylinder from gun.
h. Use a revolver nipple wrench, remove the nipple of the unfired chamber.
i. Clean the nipple thoroughly and dry it completely.
j. Push a nipple pick through nipple hole of the cylinder to loosen the powder at the rear of the chamber.
k. Pour small amount of fresh powder into the nipple hole.
l. Replace hammer at half-cock position.
m. Clean away all loose powder around the outside of the cylinder.
n. Replace cylinder in gun.
o. Push new cap onto nipple.
p. With gun POINTED IN SAFE DIRECTION, pull hammer to full-cock position. You are NOW READY TO FIRE!
q. FIRE!

Cleaning and Maintenance

1. Black powder fouling is extremely corrosive and can rust the barrel and cylinder in a short time. All black powder guns must be cleaned thoroughly after the firing session is completed.
2. Completely disassemble the gun.
3. Wipe off the grips.
4. Soak all metal parts in warm water and dish detergent and wipe off the fouling, or use a brush and black powder solvent, such as bore cleaner to scrub off the fouling.
5. Rinse all the metal parts in warm water.
6. Dry all parts thoroughly.
7. Apply a light rust preventative oil such as Traditions Gun Oil (A1232) to all metal parts. Lightly oil all moving parts, grease grooves of cylinder pin and reassemble. Do not apply the oil heavily, as this will contribute to additional fouling during shooting and require more cleaning between shots.

Note: Nipple Size - Revolvers come in three basic sizes, small frame such as the the Pocket Remington and Wells Fargo, medium frame such as the Colt Army and Navy and Remington Army and large frame such as the Colt Walker and Dragoons. The small frame models have standard size nipples however, they require a nipple wrench that of that medium frame models yet with a narrower body in order to fit into the smaller cavity in the cylinder. The medium frame models require a standard revolver powder measure, or a nipple wrench that is slightly smaller in diameter than the larger nipples, require a larger wrench with a wider opening to span the distance between the flats of the larger nipple. Check with your local retail dealer for whichever wrench you need.

Caution: Store firearms in a secure dry place with sufficient ventilation. If stored in a container it should be well ventilated. Always store firearms and all shooting components well locked and secured from children.

Important: If you sell, trade or give this revolver to another person, make sure that you give the new owner a copy of this manual. Copies are available free from Traditions.

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