



Pedersoli's Blackpowder N° 1. *magazine*

1st Issue, October 2009

13th MLAIC European Championships

Valencia 2009

Tips & tricks
The fast flintlock

Pedersoli's
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Dear Shooters, Collectors, enthusiasts of firearms history all over the World,

It has been a long time since our company accepted the challenge to make the finest and most accurate replicas of historical firearms for precision target competitors, hunters, cowboy action shooters, collectors and enthusiasts of military history. In the past 50 years we have always paid great attention to the words of the shooters, as primarily they were the ones who could help us improve continuously.

Now we would like to move this conversation to a higher level. We would like to share the extensive knowledge and experience gathered in the past five decades with the wide audience of shooters all around the World.

Our firearms broke many records in international muzzle-loading or black powder cartridge competitions. For a medal winning score the best firearm is essential, but still not enough. The shooter must also equip himself with the knowledge of many important fields of shooting. He has to understand the internal and external ballistics of the rifle he uses. He has to know how to hold the rifle, the techniques which do not obstruct the operation of the barrel. He has to understand completely the functioning of the rifle to be able to adjust it properly to his needs. Last but not least: without knowing the historical background of the gun, he will never ever have the close relationship with it that is necessary for working together in harmony on the firing line.

Our quarterly Blackpowder No. 1. magazine is intended to spread this knowledge to target shooters, hunters, collectors, western shooters, skirmishers, re-enactors all around the World. We would like to help the work of the international shooting federations as well by publishing articles relating to significant matches, international events, exceptional achievements, rule changes, etc...

Best regards,

Pierangelo Pedersoli, Balázs Németh





13th MLAIC European Championships VALENCIA

In September 2009 nearly 300 blackpowder shooters gathered from all over Europe to Valencia, to challenge each other in a noble contest to decide who is the best in Europe in muzzleloading individual and team competitions.

The numbers

Altogether 17 countries entered teams in the championships this year. In the four days of the championships the shooters entered the shooting lines 1345 times. The top scoring nations of the competition were Germany, France, and Spain, the hosting nation. 16 new record scores were shot, which indicates the high quality standards of the event. It was in Valencia that 2 new individual matches (Malson and Remington) and 2 new team events

(Egg, Enfield) were held for the first time as part of the normal shooting program.

The opening ceremonies

The opening ceremonies took place at a small marina close to Valencia. The organizing committee however did not



Pedersoli 1857 Württembergischen - new ER in Lamarmora with 98





Valencia. The newly renovated Olympic shooting range had more than enough shooting stands at 25, 50 and 100 m to secure a flawless competition. The clay target range was located in a small village near west from Valencia, nearly 40 kms from Naquera, but only 30 minutes away by car. However it was not easy for the competitors shooting both clay target and precision events...

The organizing committee

The principal organizer of the championship was the Real Federación Española de Tiro Olímpico (Spanish Royal Olympic Shooting Society). Many Spanish officials, range officers and helpers worked together a whole week to manage the challenges of a great international event under the supervision of the Spanish MLAIC delegate, Mr. Jose Luis Perez-Pastor. MLAIC held its annual delegates' meeting at the championship as well. The Finnish and Polish team presented their application for the 2011 European Championships, and with close results Finland won the possibility right to hold the 14th European Championships. The delegates' meeting also started preparation for their next - worldwide - meeting in Portugal next year, where the most important rule changes will be decided.

pay too much attention to starting the ceremonies punctually, so the delegations had to wait nearly two and a half hours under the hot Spanish sun on the beach. This is not such a great problem if you have a cold beer in your hand, and your only job is to lie in the sand and cool in the sea, but before a competitive event it is not really an advantageous start.

Re-enactment on the beach

The opening ceremony itself was fabulous. It started with a short speech from the local principals followed by the welcoming speech by Mr. David Bridgen, secretary general of MLAIC. The main attraction of the ceremonies was a spectacular re-enacting of medieval jousting, and the recreation of a Napoleonic battle between Spanish and French forces. The loudest participant of the game was a 12 pounder smooth bore cannon which was defended by the Spanish infantry against the French line infantry and light cavalry. The last shot of the cannon signaled the official start of the competition.

The range

The shooting range was located in Naquera, a few kilometers from





Pedersoli 1766 Charleville - new ER in Miquelet R with 97

National teams, competitions

The biggest team was entered by the organizing country Spain. Austria and Germany were second and third on the list with regard to the number of shooters. The most successful team was Germany, followed by France and Spain. The most popular events were Mariette (with 118 shooters) followed by Colt, Malson and Remington - which is proof that percussion revolvers are still one of the main driving forces behind muzzle loading shooting sports.

Results

Seven new European records were set in individual events, while another nine in team events. We also have to mention five other scores which equaled the current European record. These great achievements show the extremely high overall level of the competition: only top shooters, in top mental and physical fitness with top quality firearms can reach medal winning scores and the the winners' stand.



BPNo1



Click

HERE

for the results!





Pedersoli g

The national teams of seventeen European countries gathered in two small villages near Valencia, in Naquera (precision shooting) and Cheste (clay target shooting) to attend the 13th MLAIC European Championships from 7 – 12th September, 2009.

Davide Pedersoli always paid a great deal of attention to all international shooting matches promoting muzzle loading shooting. It is like standing behind the shooters using our arms on the shooting lines as well, sharing the stress and glory of their success. Every success arouses strong emotions and great satisfaction among our company crew, sharing the positive thoughts of the champion shooters stepping up to the stands of the award ceremonies. Winning an important medal in any discipline is also a great acknowledgement for the company which constructed the champion's firearm. It is an acknowledgement for the scrupulous way these guns are manufactured in Gardone Val Trompia, with modern technologies and respect to the many centuries old traditions and experience of master gunsmiths of this area.

The European Championships in Valencia enriched the Pedersoli Hall of Fame with 35 new medals in different categories, achieving more gold, silver and bronze results than in Parma 2007. The number of gold medals increased from 9 to 15, the number of silver medals stayed at the same level with 10 second places, only the number of bronze medals dropped from 14 to 10.

Congratulations to all the shooters of

individual and team events, especially to those who trusted, selected and used a Pedersoli produced gun to reach their medallist results.

The individual gold medals with Pedersoli arms were won by the following: Pascal Manchin from France won in Cominazzo with a Le Page flintlock pistol, Timo Näätänen - Lihavainen from Finland won the Miquelet event with a Mod An IX musket with the new European record of 97. Jose Ramon Galan Talens of Spain shooting the Württembergischen rifle won the gold medal in Lamarmora with the new European record score of 98. Giuliana Casucci from Italy was victorious in the Walkyre event with her Tryon Creedmoor rifle. Franz Lotspeich from Germany won both Lorenzoni (with a score of 49, a new European record) and Manton events with his Mortimer shotguns.

The other gold medals were won in team events: Leopold Plattner from Austria helped his team to a gold in Forsyth with his Le Page pistol. The Finnish flintlock musket team achieved a new European record with 276, with Timo Näätänen Lihavainen and Antero Mustamäki shooting the An IX musket. The Pforzheim event was won by the French team, with Herve Amann and Jean-Luc Mainchin shooting Pedersoli Bristlen Morges rifles. Germany succeeded in Enfield, Amazons and Lucca, with Josef Mayr shooting a Württembergischen rifle, Rita Palmer using a Gibbs and Alfred Bailer shooting the Mortimer flintlock rifle. The Spanish Magenta team won with a score of 272 (new ER) with Matias Mayol Colom and Antonio Vicente Llorca Lozano shooting their Württembergischen rifles. The German team also won the Hawker and Batesville events with Roland Robben and Franz Lotspeich shooting Mortimer shotguns.

The individual silver medals were won by the following shooters: from Austria Herbert Wagner won the silver medal in Cominazzo with a Le Page pistol, while Andreas Handl shot a second place in Maximilian with his Jager rifle. Joseph Mayer from Germany won the silver medal in Miquelet with a Charleville musket. The other seven medals were won in team events: Jean-Paul Pastouret (France) won the

Guns on the firing line

silver medal in Wogdon with a Le Page flintlock pistol, and Pascal Mainchin (France) won second place in Forsyth, with a Kuchenreuter pistol. In the German team of Halikko and Magenta all the three shooters used Pedersoli guns: Peter Käpernick, Axel Klingman and Josef Mayr in Halikko and Alfred Bailer, Josef Mayr and Axel Klingmann in Magenta (1777 and Springfield 1795 muskets in Halikko and Württembergischen rifles in Magenta). The Austrian team of Pforzheim, with Andreas Gassner and Andreas Handl competed with Bristlen Morges rifles. In Amazons the Spanish team won silver with Pascui Munoz Hernandez shooting a Tryon Creedmoor rifle and Yolanda Pons Martinez with a Gibbs rifle. The Italian clay shooting team with Moreno Boni and Enrico Siclari in Batesville event used the Mortimer shotguns.

Individual bronze medals were won in the following disciplines: Peter Käpernick shooting a Mod. An IX musket won bronze in Miquelet. Alfred Bailer in Lamarmora and Josef Mayr in Minié won bronze using a Württembergischen rifle. Maeva Moelo from France won third place in Vetterli Youth with a Tryon Creedmoor rifle. Yolanda Pons Martinez from Spain achieved bronze in Maximilian with his Jäger rifle. Moreno Boni from Italy won bronze with his Mortimer shotgun in Lorenzoni.

Another four team bronze medals were also won: the Swiss team in Halikko with Katherina Stierli shooting an An IX musket won third place. The same position was achieved by the German team in Pforzheim, with Walter massing shooting a Bristlen Morges rifle. Roland Thomes from France scored bronze for his team in Lucca with an Alamo rifle. Jose Ramon Galan Talens and Luciano Porta Gran used the Württembergischen rifles at the Enfield event.

We also have to add five fourth places, eight fifth places and eight sixth places to the list of 35 medals.

The success of Pedersoli arms brought attention to many prestigious weapons of the Pedersoli House: the flintlock Le Page pistol, Bristlen Morges rifle, and Tryon Creedmoor

rifle won three medals each. The Mortimer in various configurations and the Württembergischen rifle won seven medals. An IX, Charleville and Springfield 1795 won seven medals also. The Jager and Gibbs rifle score two, and the Alamo flintlock, Kuchenreuter and Le Page percussion achieved one medal.

Three new individual European records were shot with Pedersoli guns (Miquelet, Lorenzoni, Lamarmora) and three in team events (Halikko, Enfield, Magenta), they complete the satisfactory picture of the performances of the Pedersoli firearms in Spain.

Seeing such exceptional achievements, Pedersoli congratulates all shooters who trusted and selected our arms to compete in one of the greatest muzzle loading challenges of the World. We wish our competitors all the greatest successes in the future. .

More info about our products: Davide Pedersoli & C., via Artigiani 57, 25063 Gardone Val Trompia; www.davide-pedersoli.com (info@davidepedersoli.com); tel. 030.8915000; fax 030.8911019

For more info:





2009

Euroleague, 4th Central- European Championships

When politics fail, sportsmen come to the rescue...

It was never ever easy to be a Central-European citizen. For thousands of years this part of Europe was the battlefield of eastern and western empires, always routed by advancing or withdrawing armies. But in between east and west there are some small but proud nations with thousands of years of glorious, and sometimes bloody history.

All of these small nations have their own unique culture. They all learned how to survive the fall of great empires, and they all fought their fierce rebellions against dictatorships for their well earned freedom. Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic are very different countries, but somehow the people resemble each other. Even if politicians sometimes try to build walls on the borders, these people always have the will break them down. Nowadays one of the tools in this fight is the smoke of blackpowder

2009 was the 4th year since the Muzzleloader Associations of each country teamed up to organize a series of international matches to build

friendships, and of course to decide who is the best shooter in the most important muzzleloading disciplines. The Euroliga (European League?) consists of 6 + 1 matches: 2 in Hungary, 2 in Czech Republic, 2 in Slovakia and the final in Komárno.

The town of Komárno or Komárom, as it is called





in Hungary is a very special place. It is situated on the two banks of the Danube, connected by a beautiful bridge. The southern part is in Hungary, while the northern part is in Slovakia. History divided the city and families, but they are reconnected now by cultural life and international sport events. Many nationalities lived together in peace in past centuries here, so there has never been a better place to make a friendship match in central Europe.

The championship is held in 6 categories: Kuchenreuter, Mariette, Tanzutsu, Cominazzo, Vetterli, and Pennsylvania. It is not an easy job to get close to the medal winning places, as usually the scores of individual matches are close to the scores of European, and World Championships. In the Vetterli event for example, Jurza Vladimir (SVK) won the aggregate match with a score of 298. He shot one 100, and 99s during the year. The second, Balázs Németh (HUN) followed him closely with 295 points (one 100, one 99, and one 96). The same goes for Kuchenreuter, Mariette and Pennsylvania. The shooter needs to score constantly near the highest international levels to get close to the medals. This is why Euroliga is the best training for the MLAIC European and World Championships.

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Vetterli

1. Jurza Vladimir (SVK) 298 (100, 99, 99)
2. Balázs Németh (HUN) 295 (100, 99, 96)
3. Gyula Mészáros (HUN) 293 (100, 97, 96)

Kuchenreuter

1. Ernst Stefan (SVK) 291 (98, 97, 96)
2. Kostolník Pavel (SVK) 289 (98, 97, 94)
3. Harnis Pavol (SVK) 289 (97, 96, 96)

Mariette

1. Ernst Stefan (SVK) 285 (98, 94, 93)
2. Hanulík Marcel (SVK) 284 (96, 95, 93)
3. Kostolník Pavel (SVK) 280 (95, 95, 90)

Tanzutsu

1. Hanulík Marcel (SVK) 263 (91, 87, 85)
2. Ernst Stefan (SVK) 261 (87, 87, 87)
3. Kurza Vladimir (SVK) 257 (91, 83, 83)

Pennsylvania

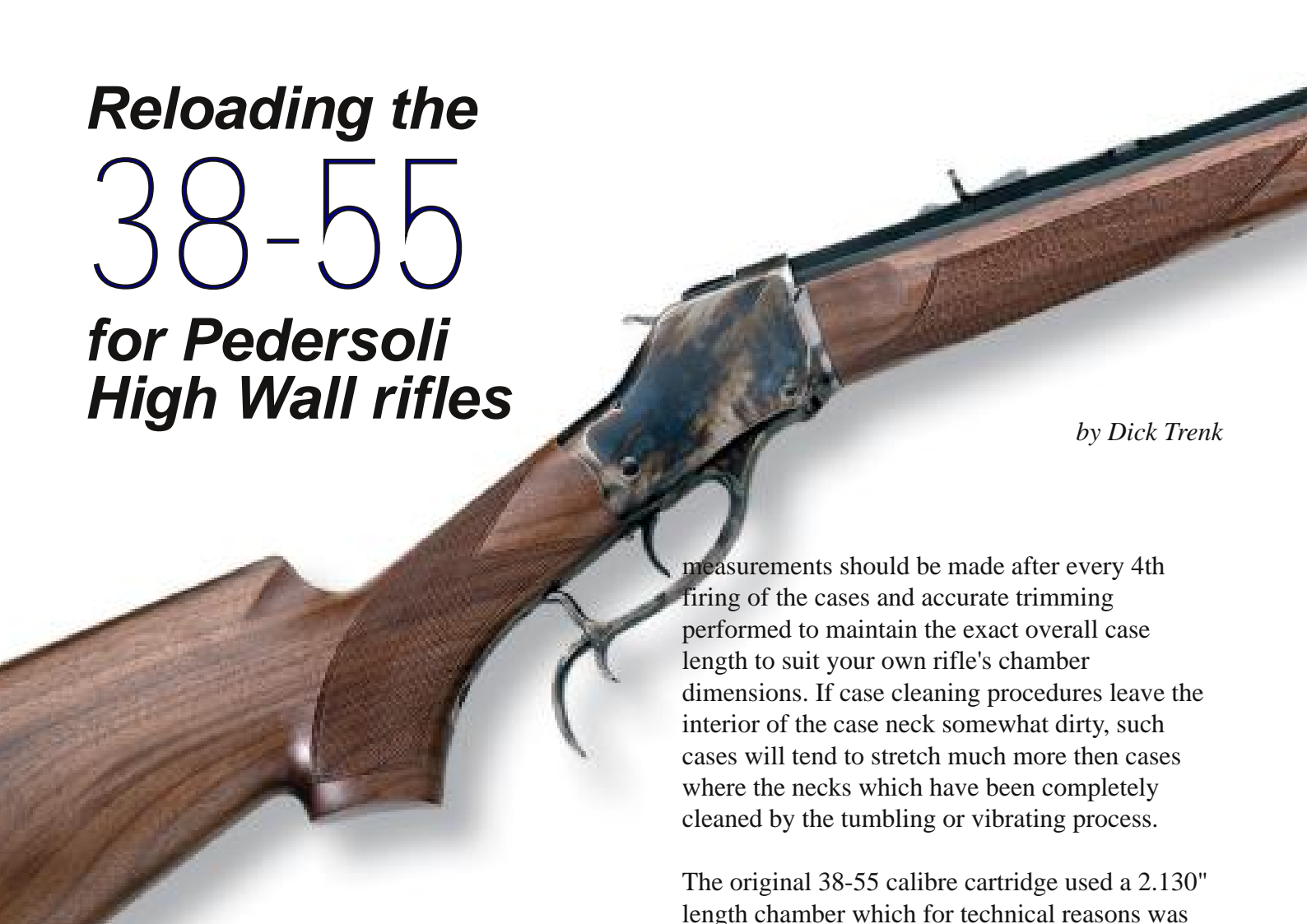
1. Balázs Németh (HUN) 286 (99, 94, 93)
2. Gyula Mészáros (HUN) 282 (96, 93, 93)
3. Mihály Tar (HUN) 273 (95, 93, 85)

Cominazzo

1. Kostál Ladislav (SVK) 246 (86, 85, 76)
2. Svetlík Jan (SVK) 189 (76, 73, 40)
3. Ernst Stefan (SVK) 178 (92, 86)

Reloading the 38-55 for Pedersoli High Wall rifles

by Dick Trenk



The Pedersoli High Wall rifle 38-55 chamber has a diameter at the case neck region of .03990". The cases available from the many case manufacturers vary in the wall thickness of the case neck. In order to have a firm fit of the bullet into the case mouth and also to provide about .0015"- .0020" for the important case to chamber wall clearance in the neck region, the reloader must know the actual wall thickness at the case neck as well as the actual diameter of the chamber wall around the case neck region.

Starline and Federal brand cases usually have a thicker wall thickness than do Remington and Winchester cases. At this time, ONLY Starline makes cases with the longer length (2.125"- 2.130") to fit the Pedersoli chamber length properly for the case (2.130").

Best accuracy is obtained when cases are trimmed to be as close as possible to the actual length of the case chamber (2.130"). Because new cases will stretch when fired and reloaded repeatedly, it is vital that the reloader check NEW cases for length after every firing, until no further stretching is observed. Even then, careful

measurements should be made after every 4th firing of the cases and accurate trimming performed to maintain the exact overall case length to suit your own rifle's chamber dimensions. If case cleaning procedures leave the interior of the case neck somewhat dirty, such cases will tend to stretch much more than cases where the necks which have been completely cleaned by the tumbling or vibrating process.

The original 38-55 calibre cartridge used a 2.130" length chamber which for technical reasons was soon shortened to cure feeding problems in some early lever action rifles. The Pedersoli 38-55 High Wall rifle returns to that original longer case chamber length and adds several other features to improve muzzle velocity and accuracy. Common 38-55 short cases can be fired without any problem but load development may indicate the need to seat bullets closer to the rifling.

The unique 1:12" twist rifling in the Pedersoli 38-55 high Wall rifle is specially intended to stabilize long heavy bullets in the 350-360 gr. range which are most suitable for knocking down heavy steel animal targets as well as to produce match winning groups in Creedmoor type long range paper target matches.

The following is where we stand on this 38-55 cartridge:

1. Use the long Starline cases which allow an extra 4.0 gr to be loaded.
2. Use Swiss brand FFFg, about 52-53 grains by scale weight and do not apply more than .060" compression to the powder charge. Muzzle velocity will be quite high near 1350 fps using

bullets in the 335-350 gr range.

3. Best primers were the Federal 210 large rifle primer. Also found good accuracy with pistol primers and the CCI large rifle primers (not magnum power primers). The CCI BR2 bench rest primer gave good accuracy.
4. Powder was Swiss FFFg but tests with FFG also gave tight groups sizes out to 500 meters.
5. for 1000 yard tests the FFFg was required to obtain highest MV.
6. Below bullet, use a .030" veggie wad (Walters brand). Tests with .030" poly wad also gave good accuracy but veggies seems to be preferred. Warning.....if using poly wad the interior of the case neck must be very clean or the wd grips the case and will stretch and eventually break the case neck.
7. Bullet alloy is important. Use 20:1 lead:tin ratio. Use of a proven bullet lubricant grease is required.
8. Blow tube between shots is required depending upon humidity and temperature conditions and speed of shooting each shot. Use of a wet wipe between shots is also popular and works equally well. Wet devices such as the "Bore pig" are popular and when used correctly, give excellent consistent control of barrel fouling.
9. Each gun was a little different so bullets loaded in firm contact to the rifling or... seated back .010" to as much as .020" gave tight groups because it seems some shape bullets and some shape chambers like to have the bullet jump a bit into the rifling. Mostly.... seating into the rifling was consistently found to be best.
10. NOTE the chamber design having the short straight throat in front of the case mouth allows

The Pedersoli High Wall

Among the rifles that have proudly descended from the legendary American late eighteen hundreds era, there is this classic single shot rifle designed for long range target shooting. The broached rifling barrel is made of high carbon steel, matt blue.

The frame has a case hardened colour. It is equipped with a single set trigger. The pistol grip stock with checkered grip panels has the cheek piece and a large butt plate. The checkered forend profile provides a steady and safe grip. It is produced with 32"(813 mm) barrel in the .45-70 caliber (S.804-S.806) and with 30" (762 mm) barrel in the .38-55 caliber with 1:12"/305 mm twist (S.805-S.807).

The rifle is equipped with Winchester type rear sight and a blade front sight, drilled and tapped to mount a suitable tang sight matched with the tunnel front sight. The "Classic" version differentiates for the trigger guard feature.

Click [***HERE***](#) for more info

breach seating which is done commonly with Scheutzen loading. Some silhouette shooters and long range 1000 yard shooters do this breach seating and the Pedersoli chamber is perfect for that type loading.

11. The groove diameter is .378" and it is suggested to use bullets .3780" to .3790" diameter but always keeping in mind that there must be some expansion space allowed for the "outside" of the case neck to expand in the chamber and avoid excessive chamber pressure caused by having too small a clearance around the case neck.

12. Normally a fire formed case needs no extra



Pedersoli High Wall Classic

crimp to give a firm drag fit of the bullet in the case mouth. However it is found that use of carefully trimmed cases to have all the same length, then to use a taper crimp, works extra well and delivered smallest groups at long ranges.

13. Pedersoli has not yet offered their own brand bullet mould suitable for the fast 12:1 twist barrel. The Lyman mould No. 378674 casts a round nose bullet weighing 335 gr which is nicely stabilized by the fast twist in the High Wall rifle. Bullets in the 360 gr range are suggested for shooting at maximum ranges and several custom mould makers offer such bullets in .378" diameter. Other shooting tests are currently being made with moulds of different brands to have a wider choice of bullets closer to 360 gr. For shooting at closer ranges .378" bullets weighing 330-340 gr. can be used with good results.

I trust the above information, which has been obtained from loading for early production rifles, will provide useful tips to assist shooters in working up their own loads. As always....we suggest going to the web site www.bpcr.net then click on Technical Information and scroll down to the large Reloading Guide article which contains valuable tips and loading advice.



Interntaional MLAIC matches in 2010, Europe

Grand Prix Austria

Date: 14th to 16th of May, Eisenstadt, Austria

Events: Kuchenreuter, Mariette, Colt, Cominazzo, Tanzutsu, Malson, Vetterli, Miquelet, Lamarmora, Pennsylvania, Minié, Whitworth, Maximilian

Grand Prix of Krakow

Date: 3rd to 6th June, Crakowia, Poland

Events: Maximilian, Minié, Whitworth, Miquelet, Tanegashima, Vetterli, Hizadai, Pennsylvania, Lamarmora, Cominazzo, Kuchenreuter, Colt, Mariette, Tanzutsu, Lorenzoni, Manton, Malson

2010 24th World Championships

Date: 15th to 22nd August, Barcelos, Portugal

Events: everything



DAVIDE PEDERSOLI



THE CHAMPIONS' CHOICE M.L.A.I.C. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 10 YEARS PODIUM

	1983/96	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	2007	2008
		U.K Warwick	AUSTRALIA Adelaide	ITALY Lucca	U S A Batesville	FRANCE Bordeaux	S. AFRICA Cape Town	AUSTRALIA Adelaide
GOLD	36	6	5	6	13	13	10	18
SILVER	19	6	7	9	10	11	8	16
BRONZE	23	8	12	8	8	11	8	12
WORLD RECORD	4					1	LONG RANGE	3

***Tips &
Tricks:***
*The secret
of fast
flintlock
ignition*



Fast as lightning...

When I first attended an international shooting event I was amazed how fast the ignition of the flintlock smooth bore guns used for clay target shooting was. At that time I only shot percussion guns, and flintlock was only a nice story from the history of firearms, that was really not capable of high scores just like the caplock.

However the passion of shooting muzzle loaders guided me back in time to the age of flint and steel. Avoiding misfires in the 13 shots of the competition is a challenge itself with a flintlock, but to have a quick ignition is an art. It is not as hard as it seems for caplock shooters. You need more practice and care for your gun, but you can achieve nearly the same ignition speed as with percussion caps if you are persistent in the work.

There are several basic rules you have to keep, and then you won't have a problem. The muzzle velocity of muzzleloaders is often low (below 300 m/s), and the guns have longer barrels than modern firearms. This means that your bullet

travels for a longer time in the barrel, which can multiply the effect of a flinch or jaw. You don't really want to lengthen this period with a slow ignition. In theory the process seems simple: you need a lot of hot sparks, fast priming powder, and a clean touch hole. In practice there are many things you have to learn about your lock to make it work properly.

1.The flint

There are three kinds of flint stones you can buy these days. You can find traditional black and white flint at your Pedersoli dealer. You can also try synthetic stone. All of them can work with your gun, if you choose the right form and size for your lock.

2.The size of the flint

You can buy flints in many sizes. It is not hard to choose which size will suit your gun. There are two basic rules you have to follow. The length: the correct length of the flint can be

verified if you put the hammer in half cock, and close the frizzen. In this position the edge of the flint must not reach the frizzen. A 1 or 2 mm gap must be between them. There should be a 1-2mm gap between them.

The width: your flint must not be wider than the frizzen. If it is wider, then the sides of the stone will not wear as quickly as the middle, so after a few shots, the center of the stone will not reach the steel and will not give sufficient sparks. Therefore it is much better to have a smaller stone, than a wider one.

If you want to choose flint for your Pedersoli gun, here is some help with the sizes:

Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Scout, Mortimer pistol, Charles Moore, LePage, Continental Duel, Queen Anne, and all other guns with small pistol locks: 5/8"

Mortimer rifle, Jäger rifle, Frontier rifle, Harper's Ferry pistol and all guns with medium rifle lock: 3/4"

An IX pistol, An XIII pistol: 7/8"

All flintlock muskets: 1"

Be patient when you start using a new stone. It will take a few shots to break in the new one.

3. Securing the flint in the jaws

Basically you have two options to choose from: you can use leather or a thin sheet of lead to secure the flint into the jaws of the hammer. I cannot tell you which one is better, as I know top shooters who use lead and top shooters who use leather. I like leather better as, lead is not flexible, so it can release the stone. I experienced this several times, and I lost a good few shots because of this, but the problem can be overcome by checking the stone after every shot in competition. Choose the one that you like. If you do so correctly, both will work.

4.Spring tensions and the frizzen

For flintlock you need a stronger main spring than for a percussion lock. To make a percussion cap go off sometimes you only need the weight of the hammer, but this is not true with the flintlock. The flint will travel a long way on the steel, and you need force to help it in cutting small metal parts from the steel. If you do not have enough power in the main spring, the stone will fail to do this. It is also important to have an adequate

Pedersoli Mortimer Target



balance of spring tensions. You need a strong mainspring, but you need a weak frizzen spring. A good lock will give enough sparks without the frizzen spring. The strength of the frizzen spring must be around 1/3 of the strength of the main spring. Its only job is to hold the frizzen closed. If your frizzen spring is too strong, the hammer will fail to open the pan quickly, and your flint will break more often.

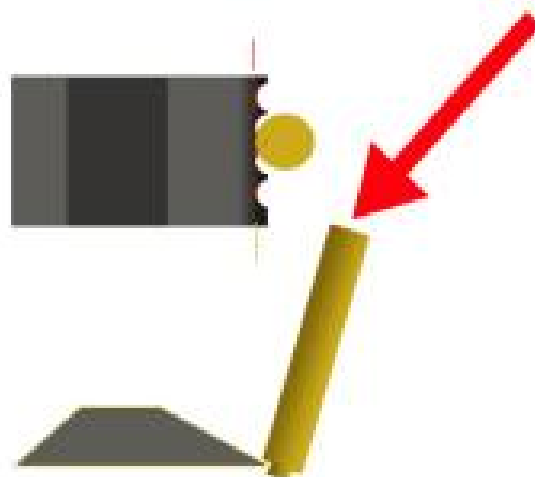
To have enough sparks we need a stone that travels the longest way possible on the steel. Put the hammer in halfcock and examine where the flint points. The first point of impact should be at $\frac{3}{4}$ of the total height of the steel. If you have a good balance of spring tensions, the pan will open exactly at the point when the flint reaches the bottom of the steel.

A roller on the frizzen is a great help. This small part eliminates all the friction between the frizzen spring and the spur of the frizzen. Locks with rollers are more expensive, but if you want to have the quickest ignition possible, it is worth paying that few extra euros for this feature.

Some cheaper replicas usually have frizzen surfaces that are too soft. In this case the sparks will not be hot enough to have a strong ignition. Hardening the surface is not an easy job, but can be done at your home workshop with the help of some Kasenit (Heat the work uniformly to a bright red (1650 - 1700 degrees F), remove any scale with a wire brush, dip, roll or sprinkle the Kasenit powder on the component. The powder will melt and adhere to the surface, forming a shell around the work. Reheat to 1650 - 1700 degrees F, hold at this temperature for a few minutes and quench in clean cold water. This will give the component a completely hard case of uniform character and depth.)

5.Cleaning the flint and the steel

This is one of the most important points in this list. The residue from the priming powder quickly builds up a greasy layer on the surface of the steel and the bottom of the flint. You can easily remove this with a small rag saturated with just a little alcohol (No, you don't have to use that fine palinka, stay with the medical alcohol of 70%!) You can also use water for the saturation of the



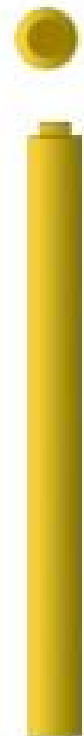
Sharpening the flint

rag, but water will not evaporate as quick as alcohol, and during flintlock shooting you must watch out for you time.

6.Sharpening the flint

When the flint strikes the steel, it cuts small particles of smoldering metal from the frizzen. These are the sparks that will ignite the primer. In the meantime small particles of the flint also leave the stone, so the flint decreases in size from shot to shot. This process may not be uniform on the complete edge of the stone. Some areas break off more easily while some wear more slowly. To equalize this effect, you have to break off the parts that wear slower than the rest of the edge. This work is done with the help of a very simple brass tool. (It must be brass as it will not create sparks on the flint!). The sharpening tool is a 5 – 6 cm long and 0,5 cm diameter cylinder, with a smaller diameter cut in one end. Be extremely careful when sharpening the flint during competition. Safety rules:

- Sharpen the flint when there is no charge in the barrel.
- if there is a live round in the barrel open the pan, remove the priming charge and put a brass wire in





Pedersoli LePage flintlock

According to old hunting books, you must have a touch hole the size of which is equal to that of two grains of the blackpowder you use. This is pretty much true these days as well. The best size you can have is around 1,5 mm. If it is smaller, your ignition will be slower and insecure; if it is bigger, you will loose too much energy through the hole and it is going to act more like a rocket. The inside of the touch hole must be coned, so the first ignited particles of the powder can spread the burning to many other particles. The

the touch hole. Be careful, even one grain of blackpowder can ignite the main charge!
- always perform this process with the hammer in half cock

7.The pan

If you want to have a secure and quick ignition you must have a shallow and wide pan, with the touch hole located exactly in the middle. If you have wide pan, your sparks will fall more often on the priming powder. It is also advisable to polish the inside of the pan. If the pan is not polished, the metal will tend to collect moisture from the air, and in wet conditions it will be harder to get a fast ignition. It is also helpful for cleaning as well.

8.Size and form of the touch hole

ignition of the main charge is somewhat different from the percussion system. The percussion cap generates a strong ray of hot plasma that can ignite most of the blackpowder in the chamber almost immediately. With the flintlock it is different: the burning is transmitted from particle to particle, so the build up of pressure will be slower compared to a similar charge, same barrel, but with percussion lock.

9.The priming powder

You will have to use the finest grain blackpowder you can find on the market. The particles of blackpowder are ignited from the surface. If you have smaller particles, you can have more in the same volume, with more surface. This is a key element in fast ignition. You can use 4Fg powder for priming, but if you want to have the best result, try Swiss 0B. If you did your job correctly,

you will not feel the difference in speed compared to a percussion lock.

10.Position of the priming powder in the pan

This point will depend on what your lock likes. Some locks like if you put only a small amount in the outer third of the pan, some like it in the middle, and some close to the touch hole. Whatever you

Videos

Flintlock slow motion



Flintknapping



do, never fill the touch hole with powder, and don't use too much because these will slow ignition. Keep experimenting to find your solution!

These are only 10 most important subjects, but if you start shooting the old firelock, you'll notice that there are thousands of secrets hidden behind the flint. Keep practising and find the solutions that are best for your gun. Be careful: the 30 minutes for the 13 shots is not a long long time if you have ignition problems. So practise not just for the tens, practice for secure ignition as well.

Balázs Németh



Pedersoli Swiss Match rifle

The Swiss tradition of the target rifles continues today with a long awaited gun among the shooters usually attending the important “Pennsylvania R” discipline launched to acquire very good results and a larger participation. The barrel with an octagonal conical profile is rust brown colour finished, the lock is case hardened, the ramrod is in steel. The pull is served by a double set trigger, the rear sight, adjustable in elevation and windage, can slide along the barrel to correct the distance from the shooters eye. The oil finished walnut stock is completed with a steel hook butt plate, the upper part protruding only slightly.

Click ***HERE*** for more info



Pedersoli Swiss Match flintlock rifle



Pedersoli successes in Valencia



European Championship – Valencia – 7-12 September 2009

Discipline	Shooter/s	Score	Gun/s	G	S	B	Note
Cominazzo	P. Mainchin (F)	94	Le Page Flintlock Pistol	☐			
Cominazzo	H. Wagner (A)	93	Le Page Flintlock Pistol		☐		
Wogdon	P. Mainchin, J.-P. Pastouret (F)	(263)	Le Page Flintlock Pistol		☐		
Forsyth	L. Plattner (A)	(285)	Le Page Percussion Pistol	☐			
Forsyth	J.-P. Bonnet (F)	(283)	Kuchenreuter Pistol		☐		
Miquelet	T. Niiäinen Lihavainen (FIN)	97	An IX Musket	☐			E.R.
Miquelet	J. Mayr (D)	94	Charleville Musket		☐		
Miquelet	P. Käpernick (D)	93	An IX Musket			☐	
Halikko	T.N. Lihavainen, A. Mustamäki (FIN)	(276)	An IX Musket	☐			E.R.
Halikko	Mayr, Käpernick, Klingmann (D)	273	An IX/Springfield 1795		☐		
Halikko	K. Stierli (CH)	(241)	An IX Musket			☐	
Vetterli Youth	M. Moelo (F)	89	Tryon Creedmoor Rifle			☐	
Pforzheim	H. Amann, J.-L. Mainchin (F)	(293)	Bristlen Morges Rifle	☐			
Pforzheim	A. Cassner, A. Handl (A)	(292)	Bristlen Morges Rifle		☐		
Pforzheim	W. Massing (D)	(291)	Bristlen Morges Rifle			☐	
Lansarmora	J.R. Talens Galan (E)	98	Württembergischen Rifle	☐			
Lansarmora	A. Bailer (D)	97	Württembergischen Rifle			☐	
Enfield	J. Mayr (D)	(280)	Württembergischen Rifle	☐			E.R.
Enfield	J.R. Talens Galan, L. Porta Gran (E)	(278)	Württembergischen Rifle			☐	
Maximilian	A. Handl (A)	92	Jäger Flintlock Rifle		☐		
Maximilian	Y. Pens Martinez (E)	92	Jäger Flintlock Rifle			☐	
Lucca	A. Bailer (D)	(266)	Mortimer Flintlock Rifle	☐			
Lucca	R. Thomas (F)	(251)	Alamo Flintlock Rifle			☐	
Minie	J. Mayr (D)	93	Württembergischen Rifle			☐	
Magenta	M. Colom Mayol, A.V. Llorca Lozano (E)	(272)	Württembergischen Rifle	☐			E.R.
Magenta	J. Mayr/A. Bailer/A. Klingmann (D)	272	Württembergischen Rifle		☐		
Walkyrie	G. Casucci (I)	97	Tryon Creedmoor Rifle	☐			
Amazons	R. Palmer (D)	(286)	Gibbs Rifle	☐			
Amazons	P. Hernandez Muñoz, Y. Martinez Pens (E)	(282)	Tryon Creedmoor/ Gibbs		☐		
Manton	F. Lotspeich (D)	45	Mortimer Flintlock Shotgun	☐			
Hawker	F. Lotspeich, R. Robben (D)	(130)	Mortimer Flintlock Shotgun	☐			
Lorenzoni	F. Lotspeich (D)	49	Mortimer Percussion Shotgun	☐			E.R.
Lorenzoni	M. Boni (I)	47	Mortimer Percussion Shotgun			☐	
Batesville	F. Lotspeich, R. Robben (D)	(137)	Mortimer Percussion Shotgun	☐			
Batesville	M. Boni, E. Siclari (I)	(130)	Mortimer Percussion Shotgun		☐		
Total				15	10	10	

Daide Pedersoli's 2009



Boutet 1er Empire Mod. S.309

The guns signed by Nicolas-Noël Boutet were famous in the whole of Europe for their technical perfection and the matchless artistic sense the gunsmith imprinted on every gun he built. Even Napoleon often wrote with flattering appreciation about the style and prestige of the Boutet guns which Pedersoli now proudly introduces with this elegant flintlock model, with brown barrel and the stock high on the muzzle. The sturdy grip with fine checkering on the sides gives a

robust grip sensation and is complete with a metal butt plate. The ramrod has a horn tip at one end. The gun is equipped with a single set trigger. On the lock, two lines are engraved with Manuf RE / a Versailles.

Cal: .45, Barrel: Smooth, Barrel length: 270 mm, Weight: 1400 g, Bullet: .464" RB



Mississippi Rolling Block Mod. S.845

Inspired by the famous Rolling Block, this rifle version is particularly modern, versatile and handy and is the ideal gun for hunting. The take down barrel with matt blue finish is made of high carbon steel, broached rifling and is equipped with a fiber optic front sight. The alloy metal frame features attractive engraving. The walnut stock and forend are equipped with sling swivels, quickly detachable.



Pedersoli High Wall Sporting

The broached rifling barrel is made of high carbon steel, matt blue. The frame has a case hardened colour. It is equipped with a single set trigger. The pistol grip stock with checkered grip panels has a cheek piece and a large butt plate. The checkered forend profile provides a steady and safe grip. It is produced in the .45-70 caliber and in the .38-55 caliber with 1:12" twist.

product highlights

Click the images for more info!

Gibbs African Hunter

From an old and highly respected name and in classic English style, a new hunting version of the Gibbs rifle, powerful enough for big game hunting. The rifled barrel is .72 caliber, as used in the Pedersoli Safari Express double rifle, which performs very well in African dangerous game hunting. The rifle is equipped with the "Ghost Ring" tang sight, clearly inspired by some models popular in the mid 1800s. The small eyepiece ring enables a quick instinctive aim at the target, while quickly shouldering the rifle. The open ring provides a clear sight picture with low light conditions. The blue barrel is completed with an interchangeable ramp front sight with anti-reflection checkering.

Cal: .72", Grooves: 6, Twist: 1:75",
Barrel length: 740 mm, Weight: 4200 g,
Bullet: .715" RB



Sharps Old West "Maple" Mod. S.767

The new 1874 Sharps Old West was inspired by a rifle made by Henry Slotterbeck. The stock has brass parts for the "Walnut" and the "Maple" version as well. On the right side of the butt stock there is a plate that can be personalized with engraving of choice. The forend has wedge plates. The pistol grip cap is made of case hardened steel.



Derringer Guardian #209 Mod. S.362

Pedersoli Derringer Guardian reproduces the famous "X Pert Single Shot" produced by Hopkins & Allen in the 1870s. The steel gun shoots only with 209 primer, insulated by a closing flange that prevents any metal chips escaping and protects the shooter's hand.

For more info:



LONG RANGE SHOOTING DAYS 20

in the footsteps of John Bo



009
din

The sounds of the historical long range shooting matches at Creedmoor on 26th September 1874 still echo in the heart of many shooters today in Raton (New Mexico), Bisley (UK) and Cape Town (South Africa). No historical shooters can ever forget the legendary first match between the US and Irish teams, that was the first of eleven matches, a kind of World Championship by that time. The matches were held at 800, 900 and 1000 yards, and the first trophy was won by the American team, thanks to the legendary Colonel John Bodin, who was the last to shoot at the range, and unfortunately cut his hand while opening a bottle before shooting.



The tales of long range shooting did not end after the first noble challenge between the American and Irish teams. The return match was to be held in Dollymount, not far from Dublin, and the Americans won again. In 1876 the competition travelled back to the US. The NRA invited many nations for the competition and the centennial celebration of their independence. The American team was victorious once again, and left the second place for the Irish team, and the third to the Scots. The Americans preferred breech loading metallic cartridge rifles, such as the Rolling Block, while the European teams used muzzle-loading arms of British manufacture.

Davide Pedersoli concentrates strongly on long-range disciplines in Italy. The main importance of these competitions is that they are transmitting the true challenge of historical shooting thanks to the nineteenth century rules, capturing the emotions of black powder shooters all over the World. It does not matter if the shooters use breech-loading rifles like the legendary Sharps, Rolling Block, or High Wall, or muzzle-loading arms like the Gibbs, they shoot for the best performance. The replicas of these immortal firearms produced by Pedersoli are already victors of many competitions overseas, so now it was time to conquer the European shooting ranges as well.

It was not an easy task to find an appropriate range in Italy. The search took more than one year. The solution came from Dr. Pierangelo Pedersoli and the Ministry of Defence, who offered the military range of Santa Severa close to Rome, near Santa Marinella for the competition.

With the cooperation of the publishing house Editoriale Olimpia and the people in charge at the military, the second “Long Range Shooting Days” event was organised between 8th - 10th May 2009.

The shooters competed on 500 and 900 meters distances in various categories: muzzle loading (only for 500 meters), historical breech-loading, ex ordnance weapons, open production (repeating or semi automatic rifles with optics, barrel must not be made especially for bench rest guns), custom (handmade firearms especially designed for long range shooting, not available in normal manufacture).



In historical categories many rifles represented the Pedersoli company, like the muzzle-loading Gibbs, the breech loading Rolling Block, and Sharps. In other categories the rifles varied greatly: from the Lee-Enfield No.1 MkIII to the Carl Gustafs, from the Remington 700 Police to Sako 75, from the Brugger & Thomet APR308 to the BCM Europearms Wizard Extreme in bore .460 Steyr.

More than 140 shooters attended the match on 500 and 900 meters, but the most popular match was the “5 at 200” organized by Davide Pedersoli with more than 200 entries. This special match aroused the interest of many shooters, and it was organised in all categories. The shooters placed 5 shots on targets at 200 meters in 10 minutes with muzzle loaders and in 5 minutes with breech loading arms. The winner was the shooter with the tightest group.

The Long Range Shooting Days event was really successful in acquainting the enthusiasts of different shooting disciplines, and it was also successful in emphasising the rich culture and history behind shooting sports. It introduced an

uncared-for discipline to the Italian shooters, while solving the problem of available long range shooting ranges.

These matches will continue hopefully in the future, as Pierangelo Pedersoli noted on the pages of *Armi e Munizioni*: “It is a great pleasure to be one of the founding fathers of these events. In the past year we gave many impulses to the cause to recreate the great long range



matches of Creedmoor, one of the most important shooting events in History. We plan to put more emphasis on the “5 at 200” event in the US as well. Our previous cooperation with Diana Armi, and our current one with *Armi e Munizione*, and the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Internal Affairs made our 3 day competition happen in May. The experiences we had in the US with muzzle-loading and black powder cartridge (pre 1890) arms competitions gave us a strong belief in the success of these matches in Europe as well. Seeing the wide public interest in these disciplines, we will try to follow the same way in different theatres of shooting sports as well.”

At the shooting range, Pedersoli was present with a booth introducing the most common rifles for historical long range disciplines. One of these rifles was a Sharps 1874 rifle in calibre 45-70, that was handed to the shooters who could test the capabilities of nineteenth century rifles at long ranges. These events are perfect occasions to convince shooters from other disciplines to consider taking up historical shooting, as it is not only about scoring tens, but has a really strong cultural background as well.

We hope that this initiative will continue so it will not be difficult to recreate the most beautiful pages of firearm history. It is fascinating to see these precisely built

replicas compete on the same ranges as modern rifles. And even if their constructions are nearly 150 years old, they accept the challenge to hit the same targets at the same distances as their modern rivals.

Vincenzo Tumbiolo



From shooter to shooter:

Loading the Pedersoli Württembergischen rifle for 50 m accuracy

József Nyitrai is the absolute record holder in Lamarmora (muzzle-loading military rifle 50 m standing) event in Hungary. He holds the national record with the impressive score of 97. József is a calm, deliberate shooter, who pays careful attention to not just the perfect load, but historical accuracy as well. This is why he never uses a shooting jacket or modern shooting glasses with iris.

Finding the accurate 50 m load for the Pedersoli 1857 rifle was, however a hard task. This rifle is a precision instrument, that needs extra care and attention. The basis of a good load is the bullet itself. Mr. Nyitrai uses the Pedersoli USA302-547 mould, that drops 520 gr bullets with Minié style skirts. He uses only 99% pure lead, and measures every bullet. He keeps only the ones within +/- 1 grain range. It is not an easy job to cast perfect Miniés, but once you have found the correct temperature for the lead and mold, it will be as easy as child's play. You just have to spend a few months with practice...

The Lamarmora and Minié events have some special rules that you have to keep in mind if you want to reach winning scores. In these disciplines, the shooter is not allowed to wipe the barrel between shots, and is not allowed to use long loading funnels. Because of these restrictions we have to pay extra care on controlling the fouling during shooting. We have to help the Minié bullets cleaning effort with keeping the fouling soft in the barrel. This is achieved by using a special mixture of greases and oils. You can buy many good Minié lubricant also on the market, but whichever you choose, try it first. Soft greases will work better than hard ones.

For an accurate shot, you have to size the bullets also. To figure out the perfect size of slug for your bore, measure the lead and size your bullets exactly to the land- to- land caliber of your barrel.

The powder load is also an important question. Mr. Nyitrai's load for 50 m is 39 grains of FFFg

Swiss No. 2. powder. This quick burning load gives tight groups, and generates less fouling than bigger charges, with moderate recoil. If you like cheaper powders you can also experiment with 45 grains of FFFg Wano with good results and a bit more fouling.

The loading is easy like in the good old days, but after pouring the charge in the bore, tap the barrel a few times to help the powder settle in the chamber. The bullet should go down the bore with the weight of your ramrod. If you have to hammer it down, the sizing or the lubricant is not good.

These fine rifles will shoot under MOA groups in the hands of the experienced shooters, but keep in mind that you will have to experiment with many loads until you find the one that is the best for you and your rifle.

BPN01



Collectors' Corner

Nicolas-Noël Boutet (1761-1833) was without doubt one of the most famous of French gunsmiths, some historians defined him as the best gunsmith of France. From the end of 1798 he was appointed director of the Manufacture des Armes in Versailles. In his "atelier" the guns manufactured featured simple and essential lines up to richly decorated guns for very important gifts. Mr. Boutet produced hunting rifles, pocket pistols, target shooting and duelling pistols, officers' pistols, military carbines, like the famous Carabine de Versailles Model An XII. They were, of course, guns with the flintlock system and later on some of these flintlock models have been found converted into the percussion system. Mr. Boutet's name was famous throughout Europe for the technical perfection and the incomparable artistic touch he featured in his guns, characteristics that were underlined even by Napoleon Bonaparte with gratifying compliments.

The Boutet guns' style is re-proposed by the Davide Pedersoli company in this new flintlock

model, smooth barrel .45 caliber, 270mm (10 5/8") long, brown colour, the stock up to the muzzle. The thick and sturdy stock has an evident bent grip, common to Boutet's guns and then common to several duelling and target shooting pistols in Europe. The grip with fine checkering on the sides gives a robust grip sensation in spite of the weight of 1,400 kilos (3.08 lbs). Several shooters in the Cominazzo discipline showed great interest in this pistol, appreciating the mechanism of the lock, the single set trigger and the very good performances at the ranges.

The lock has the writing Manuf RE / a Versailles, case hardened colour, the hook breech and two rectangular wedges keep the barrel in place into the stock, this last completed with a brass butt plate. The ramrod is equipped with a horn tip.

A valuable version Of the Boutet 1er Empire pistol is also available which already had the appreciation of enthusiasts and the most demanding collectors. On the barrel, the writing in

gold Boutet Directeur Artiste and at the breech area a small silver escutcheon with the "dp" mark. The metal butt plate made with the cast wax system depicts a "Medusa head", typical of the Boutet school. The finishing of the lock for the commemorative series is "white" with the classic steel colour, the trigger guard is engraved. This version, produced in limited series numbers, on request, can be supplied with an elegant wood case with glass lid.



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