



American Gun

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Top 5 Most Recommended Handguns

The first thing that you should determine before getting a handgun for yourself is the purpose that you intend to use it for. The purpose of use has a very important part to play in choosing the right handgun. For instance, if you plan to get a handgun for target practice or to use it for some form of competition, then you need to buy something which offers accuracy. Therefore, it will be wise to pick out a handgun which has a longer barrel so that you don't miss the target easily.



Another reason which makes it important to determine the use of a handgun is that of sight. The use of a handgun will determine whether you need fixed sights as opposed to adjustable sights.

1. SMITH & WESSON HAND EJECTOR REVOLVERS

The Smith & Wesson .44 Hand Ejector 1st Model termed as 'New Century' is more commonly referred to as the triple lock. It is known to be a revolver featuring double action and is regarded as the best revolver ever to be made by anyone, by Elmer Keith, an expert on handguns.

This revolver got its title, 'triple lock' from its design. The design of the revolver initially featured an extra lock that restricted the cylindrical shaped crane. The third lock was introduced as an extra precaution taken to counteract the enhanced firepower featured by the special cartridges of the .44 (an extended .44 Russian, along with one which paved the path for Magnum .44 caliber). These were chambered as part of the 'triple lock'

for the very first time ever.

The .44 is part of the name of this model and this is not in regard with the chambering capacity of any revolver. The term 'Hand Ejector' was used to distinguish it from all the other top revolvers by Smith & Wesson. The design of the 19th century featured an ejector which was automatic and it came into motion as the frame of the revolver was actually tilted up. The latest versions of the Hand Ejector required the users to apply a plunger in order to expel exhausted cases. It was named 'The New Century' as it was Smith & Wesson's first design for the 20th century.

This design was used for as many as 15,376 revolvers between the year 1908 and the year 1915. The entire stock of this design was sold out by the year 1917. This design was swapped for the second model of the .44 Hand Ejectors. This model was considerably different from its predecessor and it was made without the third lock and the ejector cover.

There were several reasons for Smith & Wesson to change their design:

The Canadians and the British had purchased large quantities of this model in order to serve in the Great War and they were not impressed with the design which is why they pressured the company to remove the third lock along with the shroud. This was done to address concerns about the precision of the weapon and to avoid any possible malfunction.

Furthermore it gave Smith & Wesson a chance to lower their rates for the gun from \$21 to \$2 for its very first model while the second model of the gun was priced at \$19. This was possible mainly due to the simplified production of the gun. Later in 1926, the company again introduced the shroud, however, they never used the Third lock feature in their guns again.

2. SMITH & WESSON MODEL ONE REVOLVER

The very first firearm manufactured by Smith and Wesson was the Smith and Wesson Model 1. This handgun was what put Smith and Wesson on the map and it was one of the most successful products of its time. This revolver's production started in 1857 and went well into 1982. The reason for the success of this revolver was that it was the first to be able to use rimfire cartridges commercially in place of percussion caps, loose powder, and musket balls. This tip up revolver is single action and has the ability to hold seven black powder cartridges of .22 calibers.

This revolver was being researched on by Horace Smith and Daniel B. Wesson, in order to develop a prototype representative of a revolver with a metallic cartridge. This was being done as the patent for Samuel Colt revolver was about to expire in 1856. During this time the two partners, Smith and Wesson approached Robin White, a former



employee of Colt, because Colt held the patent for the 'Boredthrough' cylinder which was an essential component required to manufacture this combination of revolver and design.

White was offered partnership in the company in return for this item. This was given in the form of a royalty of \$0.25 on every 'Model 1' revolver that was being made. In exchange for this White was required to defend the patent during any court case. This proved to be a cause of financial ruin for White but worked out very well for Smith and Wesson Company.

There were a number of variants that were introduced in regard to Model 1 revolver. Each variant introduced a number of technical changes in addition to its predecessor:

1st Issue

This issue played its part in emphasizing the model greatly. It was produced over a period of three years, throughout which approximately 12000 units of this handgun were produced. There were a number of features which aided in distinguishing this variant, such as:

- A carefully articulated hammer which was split
- The small round plate which was placed at the side
- It had a barrel latch of flat spring
- It also featured a flared, square cornered shared grip; this feature was also present in the 2nd issue.

- Its frame had a round profile which was present between the grip and the back of the cylinder

2nd Issue

This issue of the model was similar to model 1 in many ways; however, there were a number of differences between the two variants. This time the frame's profile was much flatter and it featured a hammer which wasn't split and was in one piece. The point of similarity between the two issues was that this issue still featured the square cornered grip which was flared. Apart from this, the tip up style, which was octagonal in shape, was also similar to the first variant. This made it easier to confuse the two frames at a glance.

The second issue variants were produced between the years 1860 and 1868 and they totaled to 110,000 approximately.

3rd Issue

There was a substantial difference in this variant and it was quite different from its predecessors in a number of ways. For instance, it featured a cylinder which was fluted and had a round barrel. The grip style that it featured was like a rounded 'bird's head.' Both the barrel and the frame were nickel plated to provide a finer look and it also featured a blued steel finish. This variant was produced from 1868 to 1882 and its serial numbers ranged from 1 to roughly around 131,000.



3. VOLCANIC VOLITIONAL REPEATER

The Volcanic Volitional Repeater was a revolutionary weapon of its time and it was quite successful as soon as it was introduced. The Volcanic Repeating Arms was a weapons company based in the US and it was formed back in 1855 with the intention of producing lever action mechanism and rocket ball ammunition of Walter Hunt. This company was founded by partners, Horace Smith and Daniel B. Wesson. This company was able to improve the rocket ball ammunition considerably and it was able to successfully manufacture a carbine and pistol model of the level action gun. This company had a short life; however, the companies that resulted from it like Smith & Wesson and Winchester Repeating Arms Company enjoyed major success.

Initially there was a time when guns made use of loose powder and ball and primer for loading. This was soon changed by the introduction of the hollow based bullet which was able to hold the

propellant down in the base cavity. It was soon improved and a metallic cartridge was developed to be used instead. This development proved to be a forerunner for the introduction of volcanic pistols, back in 1854. These allowed for the production of both small and large handguns which were being developed in .31 and .41 calibers.

The Volcanic Repeater is a historically important firearm; however, its short life manages to fade its importance to some degree. This pistol, which featured a lever design, was used for target shooting and it was based on an unsuccessful model of the volcanic rifle. During this time, all the other pistols in the market made use of black powder. However, thanks to a joint venture, this pistol was created.

Essentially Horace Smith and Daniel Wesson teamed up with the Jennings Rifle company in order to produce this pistol which was the first of its kind. The development of this pistol was of great importance for another reason– it laid the foundations for the Smith and

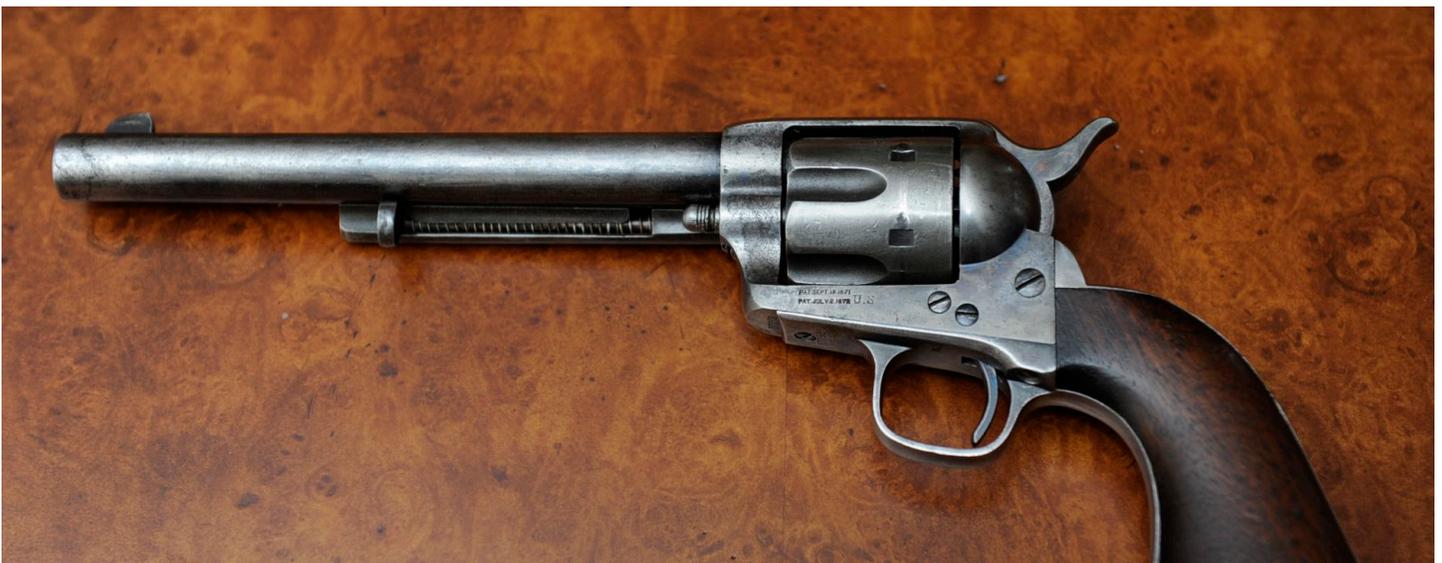
4. COLT'S SINGLE ACTION ARMY REVOLVER

Wesson partnership that was introduced a year after this, in 1854. Wesson wished to make use of a modified version of the Flobert cartridge, which was a patented design of the rimfire metallic cartridge. This modification laid the foundation for the .22 rimfire. Essentially, the creation of this pistol, led to the creation of the most popular cartridge in the world, along with the largest gun company in the world. Therefore, it is considered to hold great importance. The only problem was its brief and short life— the only thing that obscures its historical importance.

The manufacturing process of this pistol started in 1853 in the .22RF, .31 and .41 calibers categories. However, these versions were quickly labeled as unreliable which led to a great dip in the popularity of the products. This handgun was sold in different barrel lengths which included the Navy variant of 8" barrel, a carbine variant of 16" barrel which featured a removable stock, and the standard 3 ½" barrel variant.

It is a single action revolver which features a revolving cylinder with the capacity to hold up to six metallic cartridges. It is also referred to as the single action army revolver, the SAA, Peacemaker, Model P, Colt .45, and the M1873. This was initially designed in 1872 by Colt's Patent Firearms Manufacturing Company, and placed for use during trials as the service revolver of the United States Government. This revolver was officially accepted as the standard revolver to be used by the military by 1892. The company changed its name to Colt's Manufacturing Company sometime after the development of this firearm.

This revolver is available in a number of calibers and has many different barrel lengths to offer. Its appearance has remained the same as its initial look when it was introduced in 1873 and that is one differentiating factor of this revolver. The Colt's Manufacturing Company has attempted to





discontinue the production of this revolver twice in the past; however, they were forced to bring it back due to popular demand. This revolver was particularly famous among outlaws of the Wild West and among the lawmen who took to countering fire with fire; furthermore, it was a particular favorite of ranchers as well. This fame, however, was back in the glory days of this revolver, because the start of the 21st century ensured the development of better weapons as a result of which, these models were largely bought by re-enactors and collectors.

The importance of this revolver is exalted from the fact that a great number of models from other companies have been influenced by its design. The Colt SAA revolver has its place in the American

history and it commonly referred to as 'The Gun That Won the West.'

5. SMITH & WESSON REGISTERED MAGNUM REVOLVER

This model was the original model for the .357 magnum revolver and it was produced in 1935 for the first time. It was a very popular model and many of its versions are still in production. The Model 27 revolver was built on the Carbon Steel of Smith and Wesson and it featured a large N-frame. It was adjustable at different times and had barrel lengths in the range of 3 1/2", 4", 5", 6", and 8 3/8". Apart from this, these revolvers also featured the option of adjusting sights, which was most extensively used by the military.