

12/19/25: CLOSED DECEMBER 19TH - DECEMBER 28TH
REOPENING DECEMBER 29TH - - AN ONGOING SERIES
STARTING HERE, UNDERRATED HANDGUNS OF ALL
KINDS:

CLOSED DECEMBER 19th - DECEMBER 28th

REOPENING DECEMBER 29th: Yes. It is going to be a vacation of sorts. Of sorts. We will all be in and out of here, here and there, if you're expecting a shipment, it will be shipped, I will be checking emails every couple of days, but there will be no phone activity. 2025 between busy business volume, employee personal issues that are ENTIRELY understandable, and me seeing how big of a hospital bill I can single-handedly generate in a 5 month timespan, all I can say is "Wow". My guys need a break. It's that simple. One of them has graciously volunteered to address to execute some much needed shop maintenance. I will be bouncing back and forth between the shop and the nice doctors in Rochester. Tammy, bless her little heart, will be shipping-shipping-**SHIPPING!!!** My goal is to start the New Year on a good note.

UNDERRATED HANDGUNS OF ALL KINDS: This is a "thing" I've wanted to do for a long time. This list should NOT be interpreted as "World Class Handguns People Don't Know About", but it does cover handguns that I have quite a bit of experience with that perform well, in some cases, excellent, but for whatever reason, they

simply don't get the credit they truly do deserve. This is going to cover handguns of ALL types. These are in no particular order, and where possible, I have entered a rough price. Many of the handguns are niche products, but they deserve more recognition within their niche. Please keep in mind, this list is not comprised of stuff I have heard about, but rather items I have personal experience with. I know these products.

BERETTA APX A1 FULL SIZE: This is one of a million high-capacity polymer 9mm pistols on the market. It was originally designed for the U.S. Army Trials, where Sig won the contract with their P320. To the best of my knowledge, no APX has ever accidentally discharged.

The APX is affordable with a street price of \$400. It's incredibly durable. It's incredibly reliable. I have owned 2 of them, and once broken in, they will even feed empty cases. I know people with them, I still own one, and I have witnessed tens of thousands of rounds fired. I have never witnessed or experienced a jam. Our company was hired to perform durability/reliability testing on this pistol before adoption by a law enforcement agency. We dropped it from 30 feet in the air. We threw it as far as we could. We ran over it with the truck. We submerged it in a bucket of water, then pulled it right out and emptied the magazine without missing a beat. The Glock couldn't even do that...or the Sig P320. There are rumblings of APX pistols being

tested past 100,000 rounds. It has a 5.5 lbs "service grade" trigger. It offers an optic mounting system. It is a tough and reliable pistol that will protect you as well as anything, and likely better than most. The price is right, too. The grip is comfortable, well-textured, and has 3 backstraps. It's a fantastic "fighting gun" and a fun range toy.

COLT TROOPER MKIII: Back in the 1950s and 60s, it became obvious; Colt was losing market share within the law enforcement sector. Law enforcement agencies were making the switch to 357 Magnum, and they'd been down the "Colt vs Smith & Wesson" road with 38 Special revolvers already. The Colt 38 Special Official Police, 357 Magnum 3 5 7, and 357 Magnum Trooper all shared the same action, which is to say it was the same design as the Old Series Python, which takes more than a 3 day armorer's school to service. Service proficiency took years of guided experience. To make things worse, Colt needed more maintenance than Smith & Wesson. The up-front cost of the revolvers was also less with Smith & Wesson. The writing was on the wall; Colt knew they had to do something.

Colt had an engineer by the name of Karl Lewis. Mr. Lewis designed (with input from other Colt engineers) the Trooper MKIII. It was a thoroughly modern revolver in that it used coil spring construction, and internal parts of "sintered steel", which was the precursor to MIM.

Powedered steel alloy would go into molds then it would be baked in an oven. The end result were parts with a SUPER hard exterior, and a softer interior, but they would come out of the molds ready to drop in to the gun. Simpler milling specs were adopted through clever design. At that time, it was the strongest medium frame 357 Magnum revolver made, and it still can hold it's own today. It featured a user-adjustable trigger overtravel screw, a wide taget style hammer and trigger, and a very crisp single action trigger pull. The double action trigger was unfortunately an exercise in self-punishment should you choose to use it, but with practice, it got the job done.. The wide trigger did help. It also had an unusually long single action hammer fall (which was addressed with the MKV series in the 1980s). It did feature an industry first: a transfer bar. Yes, it was Colt who invented the transfer bar AND the first to market it. You can find really nice examples of these for around \$1000. They are becoming collectable.

People often look at these as "the cheap Colt". That is kind of what they were meant to be, except Colt preferred "The Affordable Colt". Parts were drop-in ready, they were very easy for an armorer to work on, and they required very little maintenance. It would not be an overstatement to call them the most advanced double-action revolver of their time. These guns simply don't "wear out". They are accurate and offer long service life. They're a good looking revolver in that "Classic Colt" sort of way. They are worth checking out.

Time to play nice with the doctors again. Everyone have a Merry Christmas and be safe in your travels. -Mike

12/15/2025: CLOSED 12-15 & 12-16, MASTER'S TRIGGER & ACTION PARTS TUNE© MORE ABOUT IT:

CLOSED 12/15 - 12/16: Well, golly gee! I will be spending the next 2 days playing nice with the doctors up North. Our machine shop will be doing component part tuning and parts prep for the revolvers, but that will be the extent of things. I am posting this on my laptop 65 miles away from the shop. Technology! Amazing, isn't it? I understand just enough of it to be dangerous.

MASTER'S TRIGGER & ACTION PARTS TUNE© A FURTHER EXPLANATION OF THE BENEFITS: We were calling this the Component Part Trigger Job©, when it was briefly at a level where it replaced the Precision

Series. We got a little smarter and efficient at it, and we were able to replace the Master Series with this service. So, what is it now, why do we do it, and how do we do it?

The Master's Trigger & Action Parts Tune© is what we've been doing for several months, and literally hundreds of you have purchased it and put it into action. You simply send us an email with some information (phone, name, what New Series Colt revolver it is), and we'll reply with an order number, shipping address, and the specifics of what we need, and the required check amount. Because of the reduced price, we prefer not to use credit cards for this service. You need to remove certain parts from your revolver and send them in. You may have a handy friend who can help. It's really not bad, disassembly and reassembly that is. The problems arise when there's filing or stoning done. You cannot eyeball these actions and hope your way through them. I have sold and installed a small fortune in parts because of that. Don't be one of those guys! It can be very expensive.

You can send your parts in right away. The turnaround from the time we receive them until the time we ship them out is 2 weeks. The parts drop right into your gun, and away you go. You will have a single-action trigger pull of 2.50 - 2.75 lbs, and a double-action trigger pull of 8.50 - 8.75 lbs. The DA trigger will be heavier with the Cobra/King Cobra/Viper frame guns. In addition, quite a

bit of polishing is done, some part geometry changes are applied, and we inspect your mainspring to make sure it provides the weight it should. We maintain tolerances of + -.0001". THAT is how we're able to do this. When complete, it's the equivalent of the old Master Series©, but for less money and with a far faster turnaround. (If someone orders a service today that requires their entire gun, it will be 51 months before we can get them in.) The end results speak for themselves. Faster timeline, lower price, much improved trigger pulls, smoother and slicker action function, and it all operates properly.

So, why do we offer this? What are the savings? We've established that you save lots of time. Instead of the terribly long waiting list, this is pretty immediate. Someone may purchase a new Colt double-action revolver, and they want a top-notch trigger NOW. More on how we do that later. What about your \$avings? Let's cite an example of AVERAGE COSTS WITH THE OLD MASTER SERIES:

EXAMPLE: You've just bought a New Series Python, and you want a trigger and action job. Our Master Series© plus other expenses averaged:

**\$375 Master Series Tune
\$ 80 FFL Fees to ship your gun and receive it again**

\$180 The average total of Shipping Both Ways

\$635 Average Total for the Master Series, where you ship the entire gun here, plus tax.

EXAMPLE #2: You instead select the Master's Trigger & Action Parts Tune©. The tuning price plus other expenses will average:

\$245 Master's Trigger & Action Parts Tune© (includes return shipping within Cont. 48 U.S.)

\$ 15 The average price of shipping your parts here.

\$260 Average Total for the MTAPT, plus tax.

The end result is just as good. Faster, less expensive.

Regarding the "HOW", you can see where lots of savings come from not needing an FFL (because you're sending only parts) and by sending a small box of parts as opposed to an entire handgun. But why do things cost less here? Paperwork. When we get parts as opposed to an entire gun, there is much less paperwork and material handling for us. It all adds up. Complete gun shipments take longer to work with than parts

alone. There is no ATF paperwork to deal with. This all saves time, and time is money. We save it, so you save it.

As we've covered before at length, we have fixtures that we made in-house that position the parts exactly as we need them to be. We make all cuts with a precision milling machine, then finish hone every part. The end result? Tuned drop-in parts! Simple, affordable, convenient, and of the Highest Quality. You will be amazed at how great your New Series Colt Double-Action Revolver feels.

We are deeply in tune with what is what regarding American-made double-action revolvers. It would appear that they'd all be about the same in terms of quality. Appearances can be deceiving. Without exception, the New Series Colts are the tightest-tolerance American double-action revolvers available. From the end of the muzzle to the back of the cylinder, they are consistently better. We have researched this matter too many times to state otherwise. The reasons behind the heavy single-action trigger pull on the New Series Python and Anaconda frames have been covered numerous times. We have the solution. When our trigger and action quality is added to the superior execution of these revolvers, they are a force to be reckoned with!

IF you want something more "High-End", we still offer the Signature Series©, which offers the very best trigger, action, and accuracy tuning in the world, but for that we'll need your gun and the wait will be around 51 months...

Everyone have a safe and enjoyable week. -Mike

12/3/2025: MIKE WILL BE BACK FRIDAY or MONDAY DEPENDING ON HIS PROGRESS:

I have to say, typing on this blog makes me feel very important! This is Tammy. Mike was supposed to be back this week with no complications, as his treatments are nearly done and he was feeling better. He then took a turn. Right in the middle of still healing from a carotid stent, an aortic bleeder, and receiving radiation due to

pre-cancerous cells in his throat (obviously caught early, thank God!), Mike now has COVID. He is in Rochester at the Mayo Clinic, he's doing OK, but he is feeling pretty rough. They said he could be released as soon as Friday, as late as Monday, or anytime in between. We'll see how it goes.

I will be writing up several component part orders, then heading to Rochester again. Everyone have a nice day. - Tammy

11/26/2025: YOU CAN ONLY KEEP FIVE PART 3 of ? (you had to know it wouldn't be THAT simple) - MORE GUNS COMING UP FOR SALE - SOME CUSTOM SERVICE CHANGES, ie, TIME FOR A "STATEMENT":

YOU CAN ONLY KEEP 5 CONTINUED..... This, the last entry of the list, is a gun that would be unquestionably be on any list of this kind for me.

COLT NEW SERIES PYTHON: My particular flavor is an 8" barrel. I am part of a long-range shooting league that is quite challenging. We shoot at steel plates at 100 yds. They start at 12" and work their way down to 4" in 2" increments. You start with the largest plate and work your way down. If you hit a plate with the first shot, you get 2 points, if it takes you 2 shots, you get 1 point, but if you miss on the second shot, you move on to the next plate. There are different "classes" for this; iron sights, optic, rimfire, centerfire, Magnum, Super Magnum, but no rifle calibers are allowed. I participate in the Magnum class, and I've even won a few matches. It pleasantly reminds me of the old days with Metallic Silhouette.

The New Series Colt Python was MADE for this. Mine has a tuned action and trigger system plus it's been blueprinted for accuracy, which means that it shoots groups at 100 yards of less than 2 inches. After tuning, I have a crisp single-action trigger a shade under 2.5 lbs and the double-action pull is a smooth 8.5 lbs. Every time I cock that hammer I am delighted with the smoothness. It just glides. I can come up with substitutes for every other gun on this list that would accommodate my needs, but there's no replacing this gun. A New Series Colt Python is a must-have.

Am I sure about all of this though? In a different mood, this list could change... What would I change?

DAN WESSON DWX FULL SIZE 9MM: I fully realize that some of you feel pure contempt for the 9mm or 9X19 cartridge. That really is too bad, because over time, this cartridge has proven itself in so many areas it's almost unbelievable. It makes a good revolver cartridge, due to ammunition improvements it's defensive capabilities are fantastic, even rivalling those of larger cartridges, the most reliable semi-auto pistols are chambered for it, and due to improvements in design and manufacturing, it's proven itself to be highly accurate. Even the plastic pistols can shoot 2" groups at 25 yds with the 9mm and with unequalled reliability no less. Another appealing part about the 9mm is the expense of shooting it. Or, maybe I should say the lack of expense. Because this is our official military pistol cartridge and because it's the official NATO small arms cartridge for handguns, every ammo manufacturer spits these things out like a bunch of PEZ dispensers suffering from a caffeine overdose. That makes the cartridge affordable. With that being said...

That brings us to the Dan Wesson DWX Full Size. This pistol is a successful blend of the CZ-75 and the 1911. It accepts CZ-75 grips. The slide is right out of the 1911 playbook. Lockup is done "Sig Style" with no lugs, but rather with an oversize chamber exterior, which is smart. It has a bull barrel that's 5" long. It weighs 45 oz, has adjustable sights, and a trigger system which again,

is right out of the 1911 playbook (in most ways). They cost retail \$2499. It's a great design that's executed beautifully by DW, and overall is an excellent \$3500 pistol that's only \$2500. We designed a performance tune for it that tightened the pistol up in a multitude of ways, and drops the trigger down to a crisp and sweet 2.5 lbs. We simply don't have the time to move forward with it. That's really too bad because for around \$400-\$500 it becomes an excellent \$5000 - \$6000 pistol. In modified form, this pistol displaced some extremely expensive stuff in my collection. It is a brilliant gun, but it is heavy. However, when shooting it, it barely moves.

Next time we will have Part 4 of 3 (?). You Can Only Keep Five...

UPDATES.....CURRENT UPDATES.....: I am still making trips to the "O' Ye' Great Hospital to the North" . I am in right now (not quite 5 AM) and will be leaving shortly. This is leaving the shop unmanned except for our machinist that does the Component Part Trigger Jobs©. More shipments of guns and parts will be leaving TODAY. I worked overnight on several guns. Not much more of this and I'll be finished up. I really like the people here, but they're not my family, my customers and friends, or even my dachshunds. The phones are unwatched, SO, if you need to reach us SEND US AN EMAIL. There's a link on the top of this page.

GUNS FOR SALE: There will be more guns coming up for sale that will be listed on this site. These are guns that were trade-ins or custom projects. The prices are right and there is some interesting stuff.

CUSTOM WORK CHANGES: As many of you know, the Precision Series and the Master Series have been replaced by the Master's Component Part Trigger Job®, which offers all of the benefits of the previous Master Series, but we do it by parts being sent in and we tune the parts here, while maintaining a $\pm .0001$ " tolerance. We also offer the "Distinguished Revolver Tune" and the "Signature Series Revolver Ultra-Tune" We can get you in immediately for the Component Part Trigger Job with a 2-3 week turnaround. The other services and repairs? We have a 51 month backlog. With that being said....

A CHANGE TO THE SIGNATURE SERIES: This has been our premium service for quite a while for the New Series Python, Anaconda, Grizzly, and Kodiak revolvers. We tune areas that improve trigger performance, action performance, and accuracy, to unprecedented levels. The Signature Series is going to see an upgrade. We will be taking the tuning even further. It will be a "Statement Piece" if there ever was one! The most recent R&D into

the matter has revealed the smoothest actions and triggers ever. Groups are the tightest they have ever been. There are other improvements made as well. Things that are ordinarily inspected on a pass/fail basis will instead be executed our way. This service is so exacting, that some tooling will be used on only 1 revolver. Special polishing techniques and part treatments will be used. The end result is not a revolver within the "Korth" category, but rather it will leave a Korth behind.

There will be a moderate price increase. There is considerably more labor and tooling expense with this service, but the end justifies the means. Keep an eye out on our Colt page. Details are coming.

Everyone have a great and safe week. -Mike

10/28/2025: YOU CAN ONLY KEEP FIVE PART 2 of 3... :

So, I'm still on this imaginary train. "What if I could only keep five handguns?" There are so many things to consider in this situation. With criteria such as this,

some caliber and purpose variety must be observed. Suddenly, the guns must become more flexible. For example, I wouldn't want my only 9mm pistol to weigh 4 lbs or my only 357 Magnum revolver to possess a 2 inch barrel. There are so many things to consider... All of this leads me to my next two choices.

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 41 TARGET PISTOL 22LR: Yes, there are two Smith & Wessons on my list. I have owned so many 22 LR target grade pistols in my life, it's embarrassing, however, I circle back around to the 41. If you want to read substantial amounts of misinformation that is only rivalled by Colt's New Series Python, look up the 41. I've read that to get match grade accuracy, you have to purchase an aftermarket barrel or have the stock barrel relined with a blank by Lothar Walther or the like. Even taking into account how much of an accuracy freak I am, I have not found this to be true. Personally, I have owned 5 or 6 of these over the years, and all of them could pull off groups that will make any true Marksman shed tears of joy. The trigger is fabulous. There are some guns where the trigger will never become acceptable without professional intervention. There are some where the trigger is excellent out of the box and becomes beautifully gorgeous with use. The 41 is the latter. They feature easily interchangeable barrels, a 1911 grip angle and layout, and superb balance. Yes, I will say it. They are superior to the Colt Woodsman, the High Standards, the Walther/Hammerli's, the Rugers, the

Volquartsens, and a great many others. I would not be without one.

COLT PYTHON TARGET 38 SPECIAL CARTRIDGE: A gun that many don't even know about.... In 1981 it was catalogued (along with a 22 LR version of the Python that never came) but the 38 Special version actually was manufactured in very limited numbers. It was meant to appeal to the Precision Revolver Shooter crowd. I've seen them blued (like mine), nickel, and electroless nickel (otherwise known as Coltguard or on Pythons it was Royal Coltguard). When I bought mine in 1989 used but mint, I paid a disarming \$420 for it. The 357 versions brought a little more money because that's what people wanted. This revolver has opened my eyes to just how accurate the 38 Special can be. It's one of the guns that's made the 38 Special one of my favorite cartridges. Regardless of what used prices were, it's become one of the **SUPERPOWER PYTHONS** on the auction block. I don't regret shooting any of the tens of thousands of rounds I've put through mine and continue to. I have a pair of German made Nils grips on mine with a Colt-Elliason sight set. This is yet another gun where if I can see it, it will be hit. My dearly departed father was the only witness to this: about 25 years ago, when my eyes were much better, we were shooting 38 target revolvers one day. We used to play H-O-R-S-E from time to time. Make a shot, the other guy had to duplicate it. This particular day I was whipping his butt. He went inside the house and came outside with a thimble. A tiny little

silvery thimble. He looked at me and smiled, then said, "OK you little wise-ass. Hit this S.O.B.". I replied, "This is YOUR challenge, you have to hit it first!" I told him that AFTER he'd already placed it at what was later measured as 21 1/2 yards. He missed it all six shots. I gave him 5 extra shots! Then he looked at me with a smirk. "Well?" he asked. I could see the sun from the southeast glistening off of that thimble. I pulled up and with my 38 Target Python loaded with my 148 grain hollow base wadcutter ammo I squeezed the trigger. We never did find that thimble.

The last part of this, which will list my last gun will be coming....

There will be more used guns listed for sale. On orders requiring the entire gun, we are still running behind, but gaining. Regarding the Component Part Trigger Jobs NOW CALLED "TRIGGER & ACTION PARTS TUNEMASTER SERIES©", (you mail in the parts) we are TOTALLY caught up. Between my recovery, and having three operational mills, we caught up plus kept up with the new orders! We are equipped to stay that way. (Did you know you can purchase on-sight service agreements for stuff like, milling machines? Neither did I.)

Because I'm down to one half of one Master Revolversmith for Colt revolver parts preparation on tuning services and because every Colt revolver goes through me for final assembly and final fitment, (except the Signature Series on the New Series Python and Anaconda framed guns where I do it all start to finish) things do move a bit on the slow side. We will get there. Remember if you've ordered a Master Series© or Precision Series© tune in the past, it is now going to be the "Trigger & Action Parts Tune-Master Series©" Your deposit will be applied to the total.

Because I'm on the floor literally 101% of the time, (well OK, 98%) I am not answering the phone. I do not have the time currently. I HATE that I can't take that time, but a lot of people are waiting on their product. I am answering emails in the evenings and if you think I might have missed yours, you may be right, send it again. Tammy is covering some of these bases too, as long as they don't get too technical. Your email will be answered. If it's too analytical for email, someone will call you.

Thank you all very much and have a great week....and stay safe!! -Mike

9/27/2025: YOU CAN ONLY KEEP FIVE PART 1 of 3.... :

That probably seems like a strange heading. The thought did cross my mind the other day. You see, my Vice President (otherwise known as Tammy) got on me a bit about some of the inventory that needed selling, but I had not listed it. That got me to thinking about my own collection. For the most part, I don't keep stuff just for the sake of keeping it. I like to have guns that I use. While looking through my collection, I had this thought; what would happen if The Grand Wizard of Guns appeared in front of me and said "Michael: I say onto thee you can only keep 5 handguns". What would they be? That would surely be a horrible plight to say the least, but, what WOULD they be? I gave it some thought. I think that I figured it out. I would want a collection that's well-rounded (difficult with only 5), guns that excel within their categories. On top of it, they need to be guns I get along with exceptionally well. In no particular order, this is what I came up with.

>HECKLER & KOCH USP ELITE 9MM: This particular model does have a polymer grip frame, but it has quite a bit of steel molded in it. These are amazingly reliable and durable. Federal Cartridge Company has one they use as a test pistol. Not too long ago, after shooting over 300,000 rounds through it, they sent it to HK to have it checked over. HK installed all new springs, then sent it back in totally passable condition. The USP Elite has a 6" match grade barrel that's hand fit to the slide. It has adjustable sights. It has HK's version of a match grade trigger which when broken in is actually alright. It has an 18 round mag and with some loads it's an under 1" gun at 25 yards. It could also double as a home defense gun. This gun and me get along really well. It has never let me down in any way. I really can't imagine getting rid of it. Recoil is super manageable even though overall, this pistol doesn't weigh that much. If you feel the urge to go "Heavyweight", there are barrel weights sold on the aftermarket. I know that over the last forty years "awesome" is a much overused word, but this pistol is awesome.

>SMITH & WESSON MODEL 17-3 6" BARREL TARGET HAMMER TARGET TRIGGER: I cannot tell you with absolute certainty what THE most accurate 22 LR revolver in the world is, (*prior research has revealed that the Colt Officers Model 22 LR can edge out the S&W 17 by a little bit*) but in my hands, it's a Smith & Wesson Model 17 (without the underlug-6" barrel-Target Hammer and Trigger). I have done shooting with these that's truly

left people in a state of amazement, including myself. An important part of the equation is a pair of Pachmayr Grippers (closed back style). For me, it all comes together in a "synergistic" kind of manner that allows me to shoot exceptionally well. The 17-3 and lower do exhibit better execution than later models. I've had several of these over the years. The one I have now is my last one, and just like the others, if I can see it, it's in danger! The K-Frame Smith & Wesson has a low bore axis, a balance that's "just right", the enclosed back Pachmayr Grippers for a K-Frame seem like they were made Just For Me. It's rimfire revolver perfection. The later ones with the underlug? Nope. I'll take mine without, thank you.

9/22/2025: I AM BACK, THE EQUIPMENT IS BACK, I AM BURIED, BUT THANKFULLY NOT WITH DIRT, BUT RATHER WORK:

All I can really say is....WOW. I had a health crisis, I was treated, came home, got back to work, 2 weeks later I have a health crisis again, this time resulting in a hospital stay of more than a week. The second issue

was a complication from the first issue. Wow. Anyway, I am back, I really am feeling great! Then there are those pesky milling machines! At the beginning of this we had 1 mill that we bought 3 years ago. While I was "away" the first time, it broke. I repaired it upon returning. I also bought a brand new mill so we had 2 of them. While I was away the second time, I returned to find out that BOTH mills were non-functional. The "old" mill had smoked the motor, the new mill had a burned up board. OK. I ordered a new motor, I requested a new board (it was under warranty), and I ordered.....A THIRD MILL!!! One way or another, I will win this battle. The road towards victory is getting expensive.....Those milling machines are expensive!

We are so jammed up right now it's difficult to project humor, but I am trying. As you may have noticed, I've been avoiding the phone simply due to time. I am out on the shop floor as much as possible getting things done. Matt has the milling machines humming. Lawrence is prepping Colt parts as we complete revolvers. If you need to get ahold of us, send us an email WITH YOUR PHONE NUMBER so if we have to call you we can. We will have all component part orders shipped out by the end of tomorrow. Right now, I am figuratively a one-legged man in a butt-kicking contest but it will get done.

If you wish to reach us please email us. Please remember your phone number in case we need to call you for clarification on anything.

ALSO- Keep an eye on the CUSTOM & USED GUNS FOR SALE page. While there won't be any new Colts, there is a new Manurhin MR88 (VERY nice gun) and there will be some used Smith & Wesson revolvers (very nice) along with a couple of used Colts. I have a couple of Dan Wesson barrels too in 357 Magnum. It will get posted.

Everyone have a terrific and safe week! -Mike

8/28/2025: I WILL BE BACK TODAY LATE OR
TOMORROW LATE - NEW SERVICES FOR NEW SERIES
COLT DOUBLE ACTION REVOLVERS - HOW THESE
NEW SERVICES IMPACT EXISTING ORDERS:

I WILL BE BACK LATE TODAY OR LATE TOMORROW,
THEN WE'LL BE CLOSED OVER THE LABOR DAY

WEEKEND: Back? That implies that I went somewhere. Well, I did. I am typing this on my laptop in the hospital AGAIN at the Mayo Clinic. I'm OK, I didn't completely follow the doctor's orders; therefore, I've been here for days. Tammy is still mad. I must lie low for a while or my next hospitalization will be wife-inflicted.

NEW SERVICES FOR THE NEW SERIES COLT DOUBLE ACTION REVOLVERS (THOSE MADE 2017 AND LATER): As many of you know, we replaced our Precision Series© tuning with the Component Part Trigger Job©. The feedback has been immensely positive. It's faster, you get the same level of performance, and you save quite a bit of money. In the past when the entire gun was needed, an FFL holder had to ship it, and he/she wanted a paperwork cut (typically \$20 - \$40 each way), then there's the shipping, which could be easily \$60 - \$80 each way. Then there was the service itself, which cost more here because we had FFL paperwork of our own, plus we executed the assembly/disassembly. It's a customer savings of about \$260 - \$270 per gun if we average it all out. That's a fair amount of money! Then there's the time. It's faster! Instead of waiting years, you wait weeks. Now, things have improved yet again...

COMPONENT PART TRIGGER & ACTION TUNE©- Is there a difference? Yes. This replaces BOTH the COMPONENT PART TRIGGER JOB© and the MASTER SERIES ACTION & TRIGGER TUNE©. Now, you can save

time and money on a Master Series Tune that's been done right! You simply send in certain parts (outlined on the Firearm Services Page for the New Series Colts) and we do the rest! This can be handled mostly by email, or if necessary, a phone call. You send the parts here, we tune them, we send them back (return shipping is covered in the service price), you reinstall them. Your gun will have undergone a Master Series© equivalent tuning! There are a few advantages to consider:

>Shipping here is only \$10 - \$15 as opposed to \$60, \$70, \$80, or even more. You're not responsible for the return shipping, so the savings on shipping are around \$150 or more.

>No FFL is needed to ship your parts! You ship them yourself. That saves you around \$60 - \$80 in fees!

>The service itself costs less. Because we don't have the standard FFL paperwork accompanying the order, that saves money. We don't execute the assembly and disassembly.

>For example, a Master Series Tune with all of the shipping, fees, and service itself is around \$600. The Component Part Trigger & Action Tune© with associated expenses will be around \$260. THAT IS

HUGE!! These prices don't include sales taxes, which, by the way, would be less as well. The sample gun used here is a Python. This is a savings of approximately \$340 for 1 order and you get the SAME level of quality! We maintain tolerances of +-0.0001"

>You wait weeks instead of years! Our backlog is out there. Right now, it's 47 months. Every person who places an order says, "If you get a cancellation, please let me know." What they don't know is, every person who places an order says that!

The big news item here is that you can get your Colt New Series tuned up to where it exceeds old levels of performance for less money in less time! Obviously, not everything can be done this way. If you want the Blueprinted Accuracy Tuning©, the gun must come here. If you want a Signature Series Tune©, the gun must come here. Any tuning on any Colt other than the New Series manufactured 2017 or later has to come here. Repairs on all of them require that the gun be in our shop.

BUT WHAT IF I ALREADY HAVE AN ORDER FOR A MASTER SERIES© TUNE? It's now been changed to a COMPONENT PART TRIGGER & ACTION TUNE©. The MASTER SERIES© is no more. Your deposit has been applied to the new service. If your order includes

services requiring the entire firearm, your order remains unchanged.

IF YOU WISH TO PLACE AN ORDER or have questions, email is the best place to start. We are SO shop-centered right now we rarely even HEAR the phone. We see emails regularly. Please include your phone number with your email because sometimes we need to talk to figure it all out.

Things have changed a lot here the last year or so. I'm still extremely hardcore about quality, but we've had lots of versatility leave us. We had a really good gunsmith, 2 Master Gunsmiths, an excellent machinist, and an eager apprentice pistolsmith. I still have the machinist and the apprentice, but only 1/2 of 1 Master Gunsmith (Pistolsmith). The others left due to poor health, which does happen with time. The half that I do have has given the other half to his wife's poor health, which again is one of those time things. We've had to find a new way to do things. We have, and it's a good deal!

You get the same quality you've come to expect from Heffron Precision©, while saving TIME and MONEY!! It's a WIN-WIN!!

This service is offered for the New Series: ANACONDA, KODIAK, PYTHON, GRIZZLY, KING COBRA, VIPER, and COBRA. The prices for the new COMPONENT PART TRIGGER & ACTION TUNE© are the same as the superseded COMPONENT PARTS TRIGGER JOB©.

I hope you all have a fantastic Labor Day Weekend!! Be safe. -Mike

7/30/2025: OUT FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE DAY - MORE GUNS FOR SALE COMING SOON:

OUT FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE DAY: Due to a follow-up appointment, I will be out the rest of the day, therefore the office will be closed. We will re-open tomorrow at regular time.

MORE GUNS FOR SALE COMING SOON: That's right! The others we had (2 Pythons, 2 King Cobra TGT 22s,

and a Wilson Combat 1911) all sold in less than half of a week. There are more on the way. Some customized, some not, but at any rate, they are nice! Keep a look out!

Everyone have a great day. -Mike

7/26/2025: BACK AMONG THE LIVING - SOME GUNS WE HAVE FOR SALE - I'VE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOOT (EXTENSIVELY) A 45 COLT NEW SERIES ANACONDA AND IT'S A DREAM COME TRUE - WATCH THE ENGRAVED GUNS:

BACK AMONG THE LIVING: I am out of the hospital and home. Everything went well. That Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN is a crack outfit! But hey, not many hospitals employ 75,000 - 80,000 people. The richest people from all over the world go there. Presidents go there. Farmers, factory workers, housewives, and gunsmiths go there. If there's a fix for it, they have it. I am moving a bit slow. I have some healing to go but we're gettin' it done. It was so nice to get back to what's "real". I tuned up some guns, I got behind the trigger at

the range, and I was feeling fantastic. Target shooting and plinking; anywhere bullets and High Quality handguns are involved is where it's at for me!

WE HAVE SOME GUNS FOR SALE: We currently have a listing with the Performance Customized Demo Colt Revolvers for sale. The prices are incredible if you do the math. There will be more guns coming, just not Demo Colts. We have some neat stuff on the way! Check out the "**CUSTOM & USED GUNS FOR SALE**" page.

THE 45 COLT NEW SERIES ANACONDA: I finally got my mitts on one. I took it to the range and I was extremely delighted! Accurate and ergonomic. This thing is a fun blaster if there ever was one. Easily my favorite 45 Colt double-action revolver. I wanted to sleep with it but Tammy was jealous.

WATCH THE ENGRAVED GUNS: This is a "warning" of sorts. Once in a while Colt will put together some New Series double-action revolvers (per request from the NRA or a distributor) that they send out for laser engraving and finishing. Colt only uses 1 company for their laser engraving. There were the Altamont engraved Pythons too. I honestly don't know who did those, but they were done well. My alert is about others out there I have seen. They are guns that usually start out as "**BLEM**" guns at Colt (which is not the problem), then a

distributer buys them and has them engraved by the lowest bidder. They may receive some gold plating, inlay, or medallions too. There may or may not be refinishing involved. The problem is in the reassembly. I have observed, not all of these places put the same parts back in the guns they came from. The most recent example was a blued Colt Python with beautiful laser engraving, gold "medallion" furniture on the side of the barrel and frame, with a gold-plated hammer, trigger, and cylinder release. It was beautiful. Functionally, it was a train wreck. I contacted my go-to at Colt. The gun started out as a "BLEM", it was sold to a distributor, and the gun shop bought the gun from this same distributor. This means the distributor orchestrated the visual enhancements. Since then, 4 more have popped up. Every one of them had extremely sticky cylinder releases (like, it required a blow from a nylon hammer to move the latch), the action felt terribly rough, the trigger pull in both SA and DA were far heavier than normal, the cylinder was scraping the rear of the barrel, and the gun was not at all timed properly. Every. Single. One. A quick disassembly revealed the series of issues that were causing these failures.

>The "gold" on the trigger, hammer, and cylinder latch was actually a yellow/gold polymer coating that when applied to polished steel, looks like gold. This stuff constantly causes these parts to hang up. It's not going to last very long either.

>The internals were severely polluted with small shavings, buffing compound/abrasive, and no oil.

>Within each series of parts, there are certain places where "tolerance stacking" occurs. As tightly as these are made, there is still tolerance stacking because we live in an imperfect world. One of these final points is the barrel to cylinder clearance, as dictated by how much barrel is in the cylinder window. That satisfies the stacking presented by variances in the cylinder, frame, ratchet, and crane. The other is the hand, which offsets the stacking from the entire battery of mechanism parts. Trim the rear of the barrel and fit the hand to make everything else fall into place. The problem? Clearly, whoever did the work paid no attention to keeping the parts together for each gun. They kept the sideplate, frame, and crane together and that was all. Not good.

When you see a super-pretty engraved New Series Colt double-action, don't assume it was done by Colt. Odds are, it was NOT done by Colt. This is not to say that all others are bad, for example, the Altamonts were fantastic, but some are not done by people that fully understand the gravity of certain things. After all, these are not mass-produced semi-auto pistols, they are precision revolvers. That alone is a game changer. Before you buy, check it out VERY closely. The looks and the function may not be anywhere close to

comparable. It just depends on who did it. I've seen this enough times that it warrants mentioning.

Everyone have a safe and enjoyable weekend! -Mike

7/14/2025: IMPORTANT NOTICE - READ ON, DIY GUNSMITHING or THE WORK OF "GUNSMITHS", COLT PARTS AVAILABILITY (or lack thereof):

IMPORTANT NOTICE: AS I TYPE THIS I AM sitting up in a hospital bed with my trusty laptop using someone else's Wi-Fi. They say we should expect the unexpected, but geez! How far do we need to take that? Thursday evening, at about a quarter after six, I was tuning a Colt when I became extremely dizzy (it had to be "extreme" for me to even notice, at least according to my wife) and the vision in my left eye went, well, black. I was sitting up to what I call "the low bench". For a couple of minutes, standing up was not an option. This "spell" got

better so then I called my wife to come pick me up. I returned home. A good half-hour later, I was still dizzy, I had notable facial numbness, and while I had vision in my left eye, there was a notable loss. We went to the local hospital.

I went to the ER and they performed all kinds of tests. They started with an X-Ray, then a CT scan, then an MRI. A Mayo Clinic (Mayo Clinic is regularly named as the best hospital worldwide and I'm fortunate enough to live 60 miles from their main campus) Neurologist spoke to me through a monitor. I had a mild stroke. Additionally, I saw a specialist in Optometry, and I had 2 blockages in my retinal artery which is what caused the vision loss. Off to Mayo Clinic we go!!

It turns out the stroke and the retinal blockages have not been caused by clots, but rather tiny little pieces of cholesterol that broke off from somewhere and lodged themselves into arteries, so the \$9100 worth or TPA clot-buster did absolutely no good. Fortunately, the vision loss is in my non-dominant eye (left) and it's located in the upper two quadrants, with about 10% loss in 1 quadrant, and about 20% in the other quadrant. When I say loss, it is black. I have been assured that it will not return. Further testing revealed the source of the problem. My left side carotid artery is 75% - 80% blocked! At my age (57), chances are less than 1/100,000 of this happening. Leave it to me.

SO NOW WHAT? It appears I will be having surgery this week. I'll spare you the details on that. What it does mean is I will NOT be at the shop or in the office. Matt, our machinist, will be executing Component Part Trigger Jobs. We will still take orders for Component Part Trigger Jobs. Regarding sending entire guns here, hold that until I say otherwise. I am going to be laid up for a couple of weeks. We will not be taking orders for services requiring entire guns to be sent in. We're 3 3/4 years backordered as it is. I will answer emails when I can. Tammy will as well. Matt will be hustling.

That's the current status of things. Things should be running normally again in a couple of weeks.

DIY GUNSMITHING or WORK BY "GUNSMITHS": There is a crisis at hand within the shooting world. People who read books or watch videos on gunsmithing tasks THEN give them a shot. It's getting a little over the top. I checked my emails this morning for the first time since Thursday morning. I was astounded to discover 42 requests to purchase parts for New Series Colt Revolvers. There has never been such demand for parts before, but between a video floating around on "how to fix a Python trigger" and posts by a man with a strange name on the Colt forum encouraging people to do their own trigger jobs, this was bound to happen. I am

astounded at the sheer number of part requests. I have dealt with some very angry people today because I will not sell them parts. I will say it one more time: "UNDER CONTRACT, HEFFRON PRECISION© IS THE ONLY PART STOCKING FACILITY IN THE U.S. FOR THE NEW DOUBLE-ACTION REVOLVERS. UNDER CONTRACT, COLT DOES NOT ALLOW US TO SELL PARTS UNLESS WE INSTALL THEM." I cannot, and will not sell parts, period.

You have purchased \$1500 revolvers with a "safety feature". The legislators within the People's Republik of Kalifornia decided to answer a question that nobody asked. As a result, a revolver's hammer cannot fall if it's dropped onto concrete from 10 feet in the air. This has resulted in dreadful single-action triggers (Colt and Ruger) and internal inertia operated safety devices that have been known to engage under recoil (Smith & Wesson). Rather than just having a generic horrendous trigger like Ruger, Colt engineered a precise engagement system that provides pull-weights so predictable you could set your trigger scale by them. Now, between hammer blocking devices and/or transfer bars, the "drop safe" feature was addressed forever ago. If a drop resulted in the hammer falling, the gun wouldn't discharge because the trigger wasn't held to the rear. It's worked for over a hundred years. However, that's no longer enough. Now, the hammer cannot fall at all. If it does, it fails the test. I mentioned before that we took a guinea pig Python, did a trigger job so it had an easy-to-

fall when dropped 2.5 lbs pull and put it in the apparatus we fashioned (it duplicates the unit used in Kalifornia) and put blanks in the gun. We positioned it, then dropped the cocked revolver onto a cement slab 66 times. The hammer fell every time. The gun never went off. As I said, this "drop safe" business was covered a LONG time ago. Did I say a hundred years? To be precise, more like 120 years ago.

We are now going to talk New Series Python family guns and New Series Anaconda family guns. Their sear design is a **SAFETY FEATURE**. It's a safety feature without an actual need, but to undo the damage done to the trigger pull by this safety feature it requires the removal of material. I frequently have Colt and Smith & Wesson revolvers showed to me by their owners who are beaming with pride at their handiwork. I don't want to see it. Nearly every time, I can tell that something isn't right. I used to say nothing. A few years ago I started to point it out. Sometimes people get mad. I don't care. I would be doing them a grave disservice by not pointing out an operational flaw in their gun. I am not concerned with DIY'ers taking business away. I'm backordered 3 3/4 years. I'm worried about wrecked guns or worse yet, safety issues. I am not claiming to be the inventor of the revolver, but I have worked on (between repair and custom work) literally thousands of revolvers. Most of them have been Colts. The New Series Colts all together make up 6000-7000 of these guns. The other 15,000 or so revolvers have been a mix of Colt, Smith & Wesson,

Dan Wesson, Ruger, Korth, Manurhin, Freedom Arms, Italian SAA clones, US Firearms SAA, the list goes on and on and on, but mostly Colts.

Please allow me to share some very powerful experience with you: The most dangerous "gunsmith" on earth, amateur or professional, is the guy who simply knows it all. Sort of like our guy with the funny name on the Colt Forum. He made it very clear that although he's not a gunsmith, he understands everything about fulcrums, metallurgy, angles, and if he does ruin a part, he knows all about CNC machines. Why, he'll just program one to make a new part! (his words) He'll even use the same steel and heat treatment that Colt does! (his words) Believe me, this man is dangerous. There's an "instructional" video on how to fix your Python trigger. OK, he's done a couple and he's managed not to blow a foot off or loose a finger. That does not make him an expert. In fact, it speaks very poorly of his judgement. I have done thousands of revolvers and not even I would make an instructional video on trigger jobs. Too much can go wrong! Regarding degrees of "wrong", on the least harmful end of the spectrum, you'll screw up a part that you can't get. On the worst end, it could cost someone their life.

You've all surely read how our action tuning is designed. I won't rehash that. We use precision fixtures with a mill to do what we do. As far as I'm concerned, if

it's done any other way, it's being done wrong. You may get lucky, but don't ever tell yourself that you've done yours just as good as a Heffron Precision© product. I know better. The reason we're here is for the perfectionists among us. These new Colts, our triggers are the lightest, the most crisp, the smoothest actions, with the hardest-striking hammers and the highest level of durability and reliability, period. Please don't get me wrong, I'm not bragging. I can say these things because we do the best work. Oh, and remember, we don't and can't sell parts.

GUNSMITHS WHO SAY "I CAN GIVE THAT A SHOT": Do you realize how many I've seen done by gunsmiths that get screwed up? In fact, a customer called a couple of weeks ago wanting to order a hammer. He got the usual "No". He explained that his gunsmith "Who is really good" was tuning his new Python and his hammer is now bad. The gun won't stay cocked. First off, I have to state the obvious. If he took on the job NOT knowing EXACTLY what to do, he is not a "really good gunsmith". Part of being one is knowing your limitations. Believe me, this gunsmith had them. We agreed that he would send all of his Python guts here so I could inspect them. Yow!! He needs: a new trigger, new hammer, new hand, new locking bolt, new transfer bar. I cannot do this "on the fly", I need the gun. I am 3 3/4 years backlogged. I sent him his parts back and told him to call Colt. That will cost him around \$350 with no action or trigger tuning, but at least his gun will work.

THESE ARE \$1500 REVOLVERS!! Treat them that way. If you own a New Series Python or Anaconda, you have the tightest tolerance American-made double-action revolver on the market. They are the best foundation for a World Class Revolver going, but if it's wrecked due to unqualified 'smithing, it will come out of your pocket and based on what I've seen, the odds are not in your favor. From one shooter to another, do it up right.

Ya'll have a really good week. I'll be enjoying this tasty hospital food. I'm diabetic, and now I have a major blockage. That pretty much confines me to the "If it tastes good, spit it out" diet plan. Take care! -Mike

7/2/2025: CLOSED STARTING WEDNESDAY WILL REOPEN WEDNESDAY 7/9/25:

In observation of the 4th, we will be closed beginning Wednesday, 7/2/2025, and reopening Wednesday, 7/9/2025. During this time, we'll be concentrating on

orders in a BIG way. Additionally, we'll be installing our new milling machine. Perhaps I should say "additional" milling machine! We had an incident requiring 1 simple part that held us back for a few days. Now, we have a backup mill, and when we can, we can run 2 machines. Definitely good news!

Everyone have a safe and enjoyable 4th. 249 years and counting.... -Mike H.

**7/26/2025: CURRENT ORDER STATUS and
COMPONENT PART TRIGGER JOB©, HOW IT'S GOING -
CONTACTING US:**

Current Order Status: We are pretty jammed up. Basically, due to the passage of time, I've lost one revolversmith due to health problems and my other revolversmith has gone to a minimal part-time schedule due to his wife's health problems. I have a machinist and an apprentice revolversmith. This is NOT conducive to a

"good time". I am pushing hard, but there's only so much we can get done. This situation has essentially changed everything. We will need to reschedule. This will not be a ten-minute job.

Effective immediately, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF COMPONENT PART TRIGGER JOBS, we will not be taking any new orders for repair or custom services until we get this flushed out. We have a number of guns here that need completion and we need to get those done first. When we're prepared to take orders again, I will post that information.

Additionally, WE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTING ANY FIREARM SHIPMENTS until we get on level ground here. We are behind. I don't like it one bit and I'm sure you don't either, which is what bothers me the most. I simply don't see the logic in adding more firearms to a bunch that aren't done now. When we're ready to accept shipments again, I will post that information.

I will answer 1 question before it gets asked: "Why don't you concentrate on what you have instead of doing Component Part Trigger Jobs?" That is a very fair question! You must understand how we do things. The COMPONENT PART TRIGGER JOB© is executed by our machinist. He is a very talented young man in his twenties, who is frankly a better machinist than I am! I

hate to admit that, but he just has "it". Additionally, the only thing he wants to do is firearm work. On top of that he's obsessed with revolvers. He's perfect! He's also a pretty good-natured cuss too. The milling, honing, and polishing that is done with all of our New Series Colt double-action revolvers is done by him and it has been for a few years. I do the final fitting and assembly and spot-honing/polishing. Between the guns we have here, and the Component Part Trigger Jobs that are coming in, he stays busy, but he has room for even more. What I'm saying is, the **COMPONENT PART TRIGGER JOB©** does not interfere with or overlap with any other work done here. What it **DOES** do is decrease the wait time and save money for those who choose to have it done.

When we are ready to take on more orders and more shipments, we will announce it on our BLOG.

CONTACTING US: It is no secret that we're running around like maniacs here. Some days, we receive nearly 100 emails and some days it's around 15 - 20. The phone rings constantly concerning shipping/orders/placing orders. That's the way it's been for a long time. I used to have more help too. I am going to ask that you use email to contact Heffron Precision or myself. You may not get an answer right away, but you will get one. If you don't, it IS POSSIBLE that I missed your message. Please resend your message. This actually saves us time, which is an extremely precious commodity right now.

I will keep you posted when the pressure cooker lets up a bit.

Everyone have a safe and enjoyable week. -Mike

6/2/25: SHOP IS CLOSED FOR THE WEEK I WILL BE ANSWERING EMAILS:

I had every intention of working this week like I do every week. I can lay out the plan, but the outcome might take on a mind of its own. Yesterday, my left leg started hurting, a lot! I figured that it was a pulled muscle or something. It was different than that, but I am getting older and injuries (admittedly) do feel different than they used to. By the time evening rolled around I was a hurting unit. I also noticed that I have veins really bulging in my left leg. That is not normal, for me at least. I called the local ER and they said I needed to come in. After their testing, I have numerous blood clots in my left leg. They are treating it with Mayo Clinic calling the

shots. I was told to stay off of my feet this week unless I need to go to the bathroom or if the house was on fire. Based on how this feels and looks, I believe them. So, that means that now work will be getting done this week. I will be answering emails as that should be a benign activity.

This "getting old" stuff is not for the faint of heart! You can have problems that never even crossed your mind. I should be back next week. If things get better sooner I'll be back this week.

Everyone have a safe and enjoyable day. -Mike

5/23/2025: MEMORIAL DAY SHUTDOWN - COMPONENT PART TRIGGER JOB© UPDATES:

MEMORIAL DAY SHUTDOWN: We will be closed starting on Friday May 23, 2025 and reopening on Thursday May

29th 2025. This will give us a chance to rest a bit, then go back early to concentrate on some shop maintenance. Enjoy your weekend!

COMPONENT PART TRIGGER JOB UPDATES: This service is growing faster than even I thought it would! Shooters wanting a top-notch trigger for their New Series Colt Revolvers have never had it better. Due to the nature of this service, you could be only a month away from a fantastic trigger pull! Read about it on our FIREARM SERVICES PAGE under NEW SERIES COLT DOUBLE ACTION REVOLVERS MADE 2017 and LATER. This may be something you don't want to miss!

LUBRICATION PART II: I recently purchased a High End 2011 that was used, but in good overall condition and the price was right. It's clearly been fired. It's had a few thousand put through it. When I got it home I completely disassembled it for ultrasonic cleaning and I saw...NO lubrication whatsoever. None. Bone dry. When did this become a "thing"? It's a bad idea. Stop it.

Regarding our revolvers, you may have noted that we've made some changes regarding lubrication. We HAVE settled in on using our own dedicated lubricant. It's a pure synthetic oil of our own creation with an extremely wide temperature range, extreme sheer strength, extreme displacement resistance, and extreme lubricity.

It's PERFECT for revolvers. I have experimented with it on the slide rails of my 1911, 2011, Beretta 92, and DW DWX pistols. Slide rails are exposed to A LOT of movement. Friction. Heat. This lube seems to prevent wear better than anything I've ever used. So, all revolvers we tune will be lubed with this oil. This really is nothing more than the oil version of the grease we used to use. It allows things to settle in while preventing wear. PERFECT! This is a product we will be marketing in the future. It's good stuff! We keep coming back to this because it stays in place, it stays slick, and it stays fluid all for a very, very long time (except the fluid part, it stays fluid forever - this never hardens or turns sticky). Future instructions will note the latest procedures.

Everyone have a safe and relaxing Memorial Day. -Mike

4/20/2025: HAPPY EASTER - GUNS FOR SALE - CALLS & EMAILS - LUBRICATION:

HAPPY EASTER!- I want to wish everyone a Happy Easter. Today is a joyous day! I hope you and your families have a really good day.

GUNS FOR SALE- We currently have some guns for sale that are unique, at least for us. These are either used or demo. They're all extremely solid performers and we have these trades price right! Check them out. There is some nice stuff there at significant savings!

CALLS & EMAILS- I suppose that some of you are wondering if I've died. I haven't (obviously). Over the last several months, we have lost 1.5 members of The Wrecking Crew and that means that I'm spread very, very thin. I am not answering the phone unless I'm right on top of it. Returning calls is extremely difficult. Right now, email is the best route. I can at least answer those when I can, even though it may not be right away. Not to mention, now that Microsoft has disabled the AI on my email account, your chances of getting through are better than ever! (please note the extreme degree of sarcasm-I do NOT need AI to use email, yet it was thrust upon me without my approval-I actually PAY for my email which means, don't give me what I don't want and finally, my account is "normal" again) Email is the best way to reach me at this point. Component Part Trigger Jobs can be ordered through email. Unfortunately, nothing else can be, but you can certainly ask questions, express interests, etc... I apologize for the

inconvenience. This is not forever, but for right now, it's reality. Thank you for your understanding.

LUBRICATION- Oh yes. Lubrication. I have gone on some forums to see blogs that go on for several dozen pages, all about.....Lubrication. Some are really passionate about it. Some foolishly run their guns dry. Some use whatever they find. Here is some useful information:

-In the 1990's Ruger was contacted because a small regional law enforcement department needed magazines for their MKI Standard Model 22 LR pistols. All of their magazines were shot. Come to find out, these pistols had been in use for decades. Additionally, this department demanded outrageous levels of shooting practice. It turned out, the pistols all had in excess of a million rounds a piece fired through them! Ruger wanted the pistols back. They wanted to see what was wearing, what wasn't, etc... Ruger traded them newer MKII pistols with a bunch of extra magazines for their current fleet. Other than the bluing being pretty much non-existent and the checkering on the plastic grips being pretty much worn off in its entirety, they were fine. They were questioned about the lubricant they used. Their reply?

WD-40

What??? I am not endorsing the use of WD-40 for gun lubricant, but I am saying that something is better than nothing most of the time. Still, they would have been better-served with any one of several other lubricants. For a very long time, we have endorsed the use of grease in revolver mechanisms. As I've mentioned in the past, not U-Joint or axle grease, but high-quality, wide temperature, high surface sheer resistance, non-hardening grease that's on the thin side. We changed grease a few times over the years. Long ago we used a synthetic-based moly grease (low moly content). We then went to a grease that was synthetic, but it had microscopic zinc particulates. For a short time we used **Weapon Shield grease, then they went out of business. We switched to **Lucas Extreme Duty Gun Grease**. Good stuff. We then used a product by **Syncro**, called **SuperLube Multi-Purpose Synthetic Grease w/Syncolon**. That's good stuff. For quite a while now, we have been using a grease that is exclusively our own, designed in conjunction with a Lubrication Engineer employed within the agricultural industry. Nothing we ever tried worked as well as that stuff, depending on your definition of "Well". A couple of our competitors use a grease in their revolver actions that's just basic grease with powdered felt in it. I think it might be "**Slide Glide**". This stuff is a Band-Aid if there ever was one. We honestly want to reduce friction, but not simulate it with crazy additives. Yet, despite all of this, on our way to**

designing/discovering one thing, we discovered another.

We had been working on new polishing techniques for a while. The reason is about the steel. The parts used inside of the New Series Colt revolvers, and more recently, Smith & Wesson revolvers made roughly the past 2 years, are so hard that getting the exact "feel" that we want has been somewhat elusive. There are newer steels and newer-still processes that have resulted in a level of hardness and toughness never seen before. Conventional polishing methods can almost work against you. We outran that issue a long time ago. This is about another level of smoothness. Read on....

Have you ever noticed that the old guns are SO smooth? You pick one up and work the action and say to yourself, "Wow. They don't make 'em like this anymore." That's true, they do not. The steel was softer then. The surfaces would burnish against one another and the end result was a slick paradise! The part surfaces would burnish against one another (break in), then the surfaces would work-harden. The newer Colts and Smiths simply don't do that. That's not entirely true, but it could take the rest of your life to hit that point. For years we polished the best way WE found regarding the newer gun steels. Then it happened. The Component Part Trigger Job© came along. In our quest of

continuous improvement a new polishing method reared its head and it's simply what we do now. The net result is that our Master Series© tuned guns feel as good as our Signature Series©. The Signature Series© has been revamped. That took another set of tricks! Right now, the improvement is one of those "progressive" things that happens over time.

This did leave us with a problem though: We discovered a while back that the part to part "burnishing" that does reveal further smoothness, was not really happening. Oh yes, things would settle in, but we weren't getting that full "burnish" that I wanted to see...and feel. The answer has revealed itself. The lubricants (grease) we use is so slippery it prevents these part to part relationships from occurring. The new polishing method which is used on all of our tuning packages needs part to part burnishing, which comes from use. It's a good thing. Because of this, we have made some changes to our stance on revolver lubrication as it relates to our guns. We no longer use grease. Grease is great because it stays put. It offers high sheer strength. It lasts and it lasts! The parts resist break in with it, which is somewhat of an issue. Based on research combining new guns steels/our newest polishing methods/ultimate outcome, we are moving to oil. Keep in mind, this industry is constantly evolving. Even though company X may have made the Model ABC revolver for 70 years, there have likely been changes made you don't even know about. How they make parts changes. What they

make parts out of changes. They might change a little angle here and there. Much of what determines these changes in today's market has to do with losing as little profit as possible to warranty claims.

So, don't we want super-slippery lubricant? Don't we want the ultimate in wear prevention? The best analogy I can think of has to do with an engine my dad bought for his truck in 1985. There was a local guy that rebuilt engines. His price was reasonable and his engines had a good reputation. Once in a while there'd be a rumor about someone buying an engine that consumed oil like it was a major food group, but mostly, the word was good. My dad asked this mechanic about the engines that consume oil and why it happened. The mechanic's reply was highly logical and to the point. "It's important that you use the oil I fill them with for the first 1000 miles. It lubricates the engine, but it also allows the rings to "seat" and the mains and other bearings and the valves to settle in. Some guys get one of these and the first thing they do is drop the oil and put in their favorite brand. Many of them add Slick 50 or STP Oil Treatment to the oil thinking that they're doing a good thing. It's so slippery that nothing breaks in, then the engine uses oil." Hmm.... That makes lots of sense. I experienced this same thing once with a 25 hp 3-cylinder diesel engine that I rebuilt about 10 or so years ago. My dad's mechanic told us about this about 40 years ago, but I didn't listen. I remember that I put in new bearings, new oversize rings, new valve guides, the

cylinders were bored only .010", and of course all new seals and gaskets. I really liked that little 25 hp 4-wheel drive tractor and I was anxious to give it a new lease on life. The time came for me to put in the oil. This was a rebuild "kit" and included oil that said, "USE THIS OIL THROUGHOUT THE DURATION OF BREAK IN FOR BEST RESULTS." There was no information on the bottle except that it said "Mineral Oil" and there was some info about how poisonous it was if you drank it, so I resisted the urge. I really questioned this oil. I poured a small amount out and looked it over. It smelled funny. I thought "I do not trust this stuff" and then put my flavor (Shell Rotella) into the crankcase. Things ran fine. The engine was a little less powerful than I thought it should be, but I figured that would come around. After a few weeks, I had to conclude that something was wrong. This engine was drinking oil like a track runner with a bottle of Gatorade! I called the implement dealer and explained my woes. They transferred me to the service department. One of the FIRST questions the tech asked, "Did you use the break in oil?" to which I said, "No." He instructed me to warm it up good, drain the Rotella, then put in the break in oil. In the end, the engine had power and the engine didn't drink oil. I remember the guy who reamed the cylinders said, "That block is HARD!" Things needed to "burnish" together. This can also be applied to some firearm situations.

WHAT'S THIS NEW WAY OF POLISHING ABOUT? As you may already know, we are not "spring-swappers" or

"spring-benders & choppers" here. We obtain our results through engineered fulcrum and camming advantages along with friction reduction. Friction reduction = Polishing. The conventional approach with polishing is to get things SMOOTH and BRIGHT. We've done that. Due to evolving revolver technology (ERT?), this doesn't work quite as well as it used to. These new steels! They do NOT have the porosity of the older steels. Now, this is important, the steel must be smooth, yet have the ability to hold lubricant. The new parts in the new revolvers from Colt and Smith & Wesson don't pull that off very well. The steel surfaces lack the microscopic "carriers" of lubricant, therefore, we must create them. We now polish using a method that creates smooth and slick surfaces, that will also carry lubricant. It makes the actions feel very nice. VERY nice. However, some break in/part to part burnishing for a few hundred cycles is part of the equation. This provides the smoothest revolvers ever, but high friction barrier grease prevents proper break in, therefore, we will be moving forward using oil in the mechanisms. Doing this will allow our prepped surfaces to work-harden, which negates the need for some kind of "super-grease". A high quality gun oil is what's needed here. With our new polishing, using Break Free, we ran prototypes (both Colt and Smith & Wesson) in excess of 150,000 cycles on our machines without measurable wear (to .0001" in some areas and .001" in other areas). We resurfaced the parts and did it again with Lucas Extreme Duty Gun Oil and had the same results. So, WHICH OIL should you use? We've had satisfactory results with:

Lucas Extreme Duty Gun Oil

Break Free

M-Pro7

G96 CLP/Oil Synthetic or Non-Synthetic

Mobil 1 Synthetic Motor Oil (0W-20 or 5W-20)

Shooters Choice

Super Lube Synthetic Oil W/Syncolon ISO 100

I am not saying these are the only oils, but I know that these work for our prescribed application. I advise against RemOil, Slip 2000, Frog Lube, Hoppes (and there may be others) that have issues staying put, or are messy, or they lack lasting wear resistance. So, lubrication moving forward is pretty simple. If you have one of our thousands of guns lubricated with grease, don't sweat it! Keep using it and refresh as needed.

Please note that we've been including a small packet of grease with our Component Part Trigger Jobs© to lubricate the parts upon reassembly. Our CPTJ© components are polished using the new method, so we will no longer be sending grease. When your parts are installed, use one of our recommended gun oils.

All of this might seem like a most-trivial set of changes, but we are in a reactionary position. The manufacturers change this or that, sometimes we know ahead of time,

sometimes we just notice a change. We do, however, respond in the most constructive way possible. Believe it or not, far more often than not, their changes are to make the product better. In turn, our changes make the product better yet. Here's the thing: I love revolvers. I love Colts and I love Smith & Wessons! (Although, for varying reasons, the Colts warm my heart a little more...) I have both, new and old. I shoot them all. If I don't care for it, I don't want to shoot it. If I don't want to shoot it, I don't want to own it. I have "pet models" between the two brands that stick out to me and I'm glad that I don't have to choose. Perhaps one could say that, "While a Smith & Wesson is accurate and a Colt is fast, Smith & Wesson is the fastest and Colt is the most accurate." That really sums it up. What's your flavor? Personally, I am not a speed shooter, I am more of a long-range accuracy shooter. Based on the research and results obtained here, this pushes me the Colt Direction. I did participate in a Double-Action-Only Revolver Bullseye League for a couple of years, and I built my gun around a Smith & Wesson because of the hammer fall parameters and trigger stroke. A 6.0 - 6.50 lbs double-action pull was used. I even got it down to 5.25 lbs. It was nice, but I could only use Federal Primers, which were not always easy to find. Something like this isn't possible with a Colt, especially with the transfer bar. 7.00-7.25 lbs is about it, with 6.50 lbs being possible if Federal Primers are used exclusively. Then, there is the smoothness and the ability to "stage" the pull, in which case the Colt comes out on top. I shoot in 100 yard Plate League which has plates at 100 yards ranging in size

from 16" to 4" decreasing in increments of 2". For this, I use a New Series Colt Python with an 8" barrel. It's had the surgery for our Master Series Tuning© and our Blueprinted Accuracy Tuning©. I win often. My point is, as the owner and designer within this company, I am wholly committed to provide the best product there is. This means some change once in a while. In the design and prototyping stages, I'm not thinking about money, I'm not thinking about simplicity, I'm not thinking about impressing the guys at the club, I'm thinking about a set of end results combining to create the best version of THAT gun there can be. I love it. It's all exciting. If the correct route is taken, revolver accuracy is the best it has ever been, which is to say, handgun accuracy is the best it has ever been!

Everyone have a safe and fantastic day! -Mike

**4/15/2025: A HOLD ON ORDERS EXCEPT THE
COMPONENT PART TRIGGER JOB- ALTERNATIVE
THAT WILL GIVE YOU BIG RESULTS FOR LESS MONEY
AND FAR LESS TIME the COMPONENT PART TRIGGER**

**JOB©: It would appear that sometimes, life is an
obstacle course that only the tough can survive; the
tough, the ornery, the very intelligent, and those on the
opposite end of the intellectual spectrum. Like A.O.C.
for example...**

**A HOLD ON ORDERS: A brief summary: Last year Dan,
Master Pistolsmith and Revolversmith had a stroke. It
left him unable to work here. He was a loyal member of
the Wrecking Crew for over 30 years. His skill, wit,
sarcasm, and support are all missed a great deal. He still
stops by to deal out healthy doses of his unique wit and
sarcasm, and we love it, but we no longer have his talent
available to us. This has hurt. Then, due to a family
health issue, Lawrence, another valuable member of the
Wrecking Crew has gone part-time. Ouch. This means
that in the shop there is our machinist, a part-time
Master Pistolsmith/Revolversmith, and myself, Master
Pistolsmith/Revolversmith-Engineer-Director of
Worrying-and Custodian. We have orders booked out 3
years +3 months as I type this. I feel like a 1 legged man
in a butt-kicking contest.**

**Because of this, until further notice, the only orders we
are accepting are COMPONENT PART TRIGGER JOBS©**

for the New Series Python and Grizzly, and for the New Series Anaconda and Kodiak. With this service (you can read more about it on the FIREARM SERVICES page) you simply email us information, we issue an order, you ship in your parts right away, then we complete them within 2 weeks and ship them back. Return shipping is even included at the price! The end result is a Python frame gun or Anaconda frame gun that offers the trigger quality and action smoothness of an out-of-the-box Old Series Python. I STRONGLY endorse this. We went to a significant amount of design work and fabrication to make this work right, and it does. You save time, you save money, and overall, it's a winner! While the service is a newer offering, we have done guns from all over the United States and Europe.

If you already have an order placed with us and you'd like to alternatively have the COMPONENT PART TRIGGER JOB© executed on your New Series Python or Anaconda, we can do that. Let us know! We'll apply your deposit (if you paid one) towards the service. Instead of waiting months or years, (likely years) you can send your parts in right away and we'll turn them around within 2 weeks. You will have a New Series Colt with fricking nice single-action and double-action trigger pulls plus the action will be smoother.

Now, let's say that down the road, you want more. That work we already did will not go to waste. If you decide

later that you want a Master Series© or Signature Series© tune, you can place an order. \$150 will be deducted off of the service price because of the work that's already been done. It's a win-win! Check it out!

I apologize for any inconvenience, but my back is against the wall. Unfortunately, hiring someone qualified (I could actually use 2) is virtually impossible. Between Colt repairs, Colt Custom work, Smith & Wesson repairs and Smith & Wesson custom work, we have our own way of doing things. While this statement could easily be seen as vein and egocentric, nobody's revolvers feel, function, or shoot like ours do. It's a fact. It's why, for example, our company is the only company that offers (successfully) the lightest trigger pulls and the smoothest actions, all without sacrificing ignition reliability on these mysterious but superb New Series Colt revolvers. Nobody here has the time to conduct "Revolver College". I wish I did. I am thinking of ways to further simplify processes to make parts preparation more foolproof. A great deal was learned while creating the fixtures for our Component Part tuning package.

So, a general synapsis:

1) Until we say otherwise, no new custom orders except for Component Part Trigger Jobs© on New Series Python and Anaconda framed revolvers.

2) Our repair services are still available for Colt revolvers only.

3) Every order, despite the assigned date, due to circumstances out of our control, is going to be late except for Component Part Trigger Jobs© on New Series Python and Anaconda framed revolvers.

4) If you have a pending order on the books, let us know and we can do the CPTJ service for your gun. If you have a pending deposit it can be credited to that service.

ALSO, I want to mention, if you call and call and don't get an answer, or we don't respond to an email right away, we certainly are not putting anyone off! I am trying my best to strike a balance between communication and getting orders completed.

Everyone have a fantastic and SAFE week. –Mike

4/8/2025: SOME BLUE SKIES HAVE POPPED UP! - A FUTURE BLOG POST:

SOME BLUE SKIES: Yes indeed. Lawrence, a Master Pistolsmith who's been with us for years informed us of

his surprise retirement a couple of weeks ago. It's due to a family health issue. I get it! We talked over the weekend. He is needing a break from caring for his wife. He's made it very clear to me that he NEEDS to come back here. Fewer hours, but this is Lawrence's outlet. This is where he blows off steam. I get that. We welcome him with open arms! The plan? It allows us to keep the Smith & Wesson lineup. It allows us to focus on the Colt lineup with complete devotion. It also allows us to train Lawrence's eventual replacement. Our Machinist truly knows what he is doing...on machines. However, part of what makes him such a good machinist is his understanding of specific part interactions. He's learning this stuff quicker than I ever thought anyone could. Originally, Lawrence wanted to work as long as he possibly could, then retire. Whatever he want's to do is fine with me, but he is highly valued here and he is, after all, the SENIOR MEMBER of The Wrecking Crew. I told him that he could start next week and he showed up this morning. That's Lawrence for you. I will admit, I am breathing a little easier, but no matter what you're doing or where you're at, family comes first. For him, he needs this. He shall have it!

FUTURE BLOG: It's almost done. I have been working on it for a while here and there. It is a list of guns that are my personal favorites within a number of different categories. Everything from revolvers to semi-autos, from steel to polymer, from 22 to big bores, I will even get into rifles and shotguns. It's a list of what has

worked for me and a brief explanation with each firearm. Even though I (obviously) already know the "why", typing it out certainly sheds a new light on some of it. Along with this, I will have a list of guns that are popular, but I've tried them repeatedly and simply don't "feel" it. They just don't trip my trigger. Along with this will be a "wish list" of firearms that I wish existed, but don't. This will likely be done in numerous posts.

Everyone have a safe and fantastic week! -Mike

3/26/2025: CHANGES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AT HEFFRON PRECISION©:

I once heard that God will not give you more than you can handle. I also heard that if you pray for strength, God will present you with situations that will make you stronger. That one made me very hesitant to pray for strength! We have now experienced a new challenge at Heffron Precision© that I can handle and I have the strength to get through it, but it was unexpected and it's going to require a change of our business model.

You might remember last year when Dan, one of our Master Pistolsmiths had a stroke and is unable to return. He was a major asset to the company. I miss him for his skills, but also his wit, his intelligent sarcasm, and the contagious quality it all had. Now, we've had a sudden surprise take place in the form of Lawrence, our other Master Pistolsmith, retiring in a rather unexpected manner. I'm not in any way disparaging him. This is serious. His wife of over 40 years has been diagnosed with a long-term illness that is terminal. He needs to care for her. Lawrence will be very-much missed as well. He was always the mellow and calm voice of reason around this place. He is probably the most patient man I have ever known. Losing him is not at all a small deal. This leaves Heffron Precision© with me as the Engineer-Master Pistolsmith/Revolversmith-Main Coordinator, Matt as our Machinist, and my wife Tammy as the Bookkeeper-Shipping Coordination-General Paperwork Management. Not to mention, there are SO many other things I do here I don't have room to list it all. I own this place, use your imagination....

WHAT TO DO? Ideally, hire someone (preferably 2) to replace those we have lost. I don't know how to do this though. Sure, I know how to hire, but it's finding qualified people. They simply are not out there. Virtually all of the gunsmiths in this area replace shotgun sights, assemble and repair AR-15 rifles, lighten Glock trigger pulls, etc... Such skills will not help me at all. To master revolvers (or even be an asset) with revolvers takes years to learn. With Colt double-action revolvers, it's not

rocket science to disassemble and reassemble one, but MODIFYING PARTS and KNOWING THE CAUSE and EFFECT. Knowing what to do, how to do it, getting it done right; it takes YEARS. With a bit of semi-regularity I'll receive the New Series Colt double-action revolvers for custom work and if work has been attempted prior to me receiving the gun, there is at least 1 ruined part 90% of the time. How does one teach this? I'm not running a "Revolver College" (although that's not a bad idea). Whenever I have hired someone with an "On The Job Training" intent, it ultimately slows us down. I'm going on 58 pretty soon. There is not time for several years of training. After several days of thinking, altering our business model is the only way we can respond to what's happened.

WHAT'S BEING ALTERED? We recently released services for Smith & Wesson revolvers again. Dan Wesson was coming. We released a Performance Package for the Dan Wesson DWX pistol. The performance tuning of certain 1911 pistols was coming. Effective immediately, the tuning services for all of these has been discontinued indefinitely. We have always been more of a "Colt Revolver Oriented Company" and that's where we'll return. I don't WANT to do it, but it's how it has to be. We are buried enough just with Colt revolver work. So, that is part of the plan.

The next part sort of already happened without planning on it being what it will be for us and our customers. This is where God closed a door but opened a window. Our **COMPONENT PART TRIGGER JOB©** for the New Series Python, Anaconda, Grizzly, and Kodiak. That is where you simply send in your hammer and trigger only. I personally made precision fixtures and calculated all of the associated angles. If you want your New Series Colt to have a crisp and light single-action trigger, a smoother double-action trigger, and a smoother action, this is an excellent way to go because the lead time is WAY less (we usually get these in right away) and they're turned around within a couple of weeks. The results are fantastic! Does it provide the same level of "tune" as our Master Series© and Signature Series©? No. However, you will have trigger pulls rivaling the Old Series Python. You don't have the astronomical shipping costs, FFL fees, and the service itself costs less as well. The feedback has been fantastic. If you have an order scheduled in the future for any of the revolvers I mentioned, if you'd rather get the "**COMPONENT PART TRIGGER JOB©**" because of the time and money savings, we will apply your deposit towards the CPTJ©. If in the future you wish to improve your gun further by sending it in for the Master Series© or Signature Series© tuning, you can. Those services will even be discounted slightly because some of the work has already been completed.

Anyone wishing to change anything on their present orders will have their deposits issued as "Customer Credit" with Heffron Precision©. If you wish to keep your pending orders the same, that is fine too, but lead time (which was already out as far as 3 years and 3 months as I type this) is going to increase. There is nothing I can do about that. I'm not going to turn out junk work to meet lead times.

Overall, all of the services we offer for Colt revolvers, Old Series and New Series, will remain unchanged, but all other services for other brands are discontinued immediately. I sincerely apologize for any inconvenience caused by this. I simply cannot see any other way.

When it comes to Performance Oriented Revolver Work and Revolver Repair as it relates to Colt Revolvers, Heffron Precision© is THE leader in the field I am proud to say. We offer superior tolerances, superior triggers, superior actions, and superior accuracy. We can repair virtually anything within the Colt Revolver Stable, regardless of the problem. There are a number of Ruger revolver specialists out there. There are a number of Smith & Wesson revolver specialists out there. Colt Double-Action Revolver Specialists? Seriously, that is what we do! This company has so much archived information. The information "bank" is vast. I am looking at this as an opportunity. I have someone to do the machine work. I do the hand work.

Everyone have a great day. Be safe. -Michael A. Heffron

3/19/2025: CLOSED WEDNESDAY **3/19/2025: Due to our area being brutally slammed by a blizzard, Heffron Precision© will not be open today. Sorry for any inconvenience. We should be open tomorrow, but today we need our employees home safe due to the weather. Have a great day. -Mike**

2/16/2025: NEW PYTHON & ANACONDA INFO (AGAIN!) – OUR NEWEST SERVICE COMPONENT PART TRIGGER JOB©:

Very few things (in my memory) have stirred up as many smiles or as many #&>/@@#!!!! as the New Series or 2020 Colt Python. It's really been something. Rumors,

opinions, intolerance, praise, positivity, and love. No, it's not the same as the old Python. It wasn't supposed to be! I have worked on Colt revolvers for about 40 years (I'm 57) and there was never a change, until they returned. If you bought a part and it fit with no fitting required, you had won the proverbial lottery (with the exception of the J, V, AA, and MM frames). Those from the D, E, I, New Service families required painful amounts of hand fitting. I have many old Colts. Officers Models, Diamondbacks, New Services, Detective Specials, Pythons... The amount of hand fitting is really cool. I won't deny that. It's also unsustainable for a manufacturer. Does anyone remember in the early 90's when Colt did a cost analysis of the Python and discovered they had lost money on every one of them for like 30 years? I'm not bragging, but I can fit an old Python together blindfolded with one arm tied behind my back and even with both hands and no blindfold, it takes me a long time to "build" a Python. Once in a while I'll get a frame. No sideplate, no barrel, no cylinder, no guts. I have to gather all of the parts. **NOTHING** "drops in". Every little moving part requires some degree of fitting. The cylinder assembly itself is a masochistic exercise in hand fitment. Then there's the sideplate! Milling, filing, stoning...both the sideplate and the gun. Nothing about making these is turnkey. I am a Master Pistolsmith - Revolversmith so this degree of hand fitment is not lost on me, but I'm also a Mechanical Engineer. The engineering side of me sees a revolver that wasn't entirely hand fit as a luxury service for the customer, but rather because of an

overly complex design, poor tooling, and a total lack of progression both in the design and manufacturing stages. Even during Smith & Wesson's era of stamped then machined parts (pre-MIM) a design improvement would occasionally pop up. All of this doesn't change the fact that the old Python is an exotic testimonial of the best old time execution of a double-action revolver in the good old U.S.A.. Colt, in my opinion, made some stellar design choices with the New Series Python. I've already gone through that a gazillion times.

What I'm addressing today has to do with the New Series Colts and the answering of questions which might help dispel some misinformation and lingering question marks. I highly doubt that I'll hit everything. I will likely miss many of the mysteries. I will, however, do my best and whatever is missed will be covered in the future. Here we go!

Q: ARE ALL INTERNAL PARTS ON THE NEW COLT REVOLVERS MIM?

A: It depends. With the Cobra, King Cobra, and Viper yes they are. MIM parts using an aerospace process that is uniformly hard regardless of depth. These MIM parts can even bend and flex to an extent, just like they were made from bar stock. The Python, Grizzly, Anaconda, and Kodiak use some MIM and some machined parts. The hammer and trigger are machined while all of the other parts are MIM. It's rather interesting how the hands (for example) while being MIM, I'm able to heat

and bend or stretch them with entirely positive results. This is not your father's MIM.

Q: IS COLT'S BLUING FORMULA DIFFERENT THAN IT USED TO BE?

A: There has been debate about this because I said before “Yes”, while some others say it is not. Here is where I get the “Yes” from. Over 30 years ago I bought a book (hardbound, BIG) that covered lots of ground about Colt. It was lost during a move (when I got divorced over 30 years ago and I was moving...OUT) and somewhere in the process it was lost. I’m sure it fell prey to a bonfire somewhere. I don’t remember the title (I wish I could-I want another copy) but they talked about the bluing. They mentioned that cyanide was in the formula. Obviously, that is not being used anymore. Those chemicals are frowned upon a great deal. I stand by this because something DID change when the steel used had not. There were Colts with that blue/black color made from 4140 steel and along the way it became black and they were still using 4140 steel. Blue Pythons were still blue/black, but the other revolvers and the 1911 pistols were just black. At one time they were all blue/black. Polishing methods do not change the color. Chemistry does, which can be bluing chemistry or steel chemistry. Additionally, once upon a time I worked for a retired Colt employee who had been there 40 years. He told me about the bluing process

being so toxic “Because of that blasted cyanide!!”. Between the book and my former employer of nearly 40 years ago, I am sticking to the bluing formula change theory. In the mean time though, the New Series blued Pythons use an entirely different carbon steel than the old Pythons did. That can certainly account for the change as well either in part or whole.

Q: ARE THE FRAMES INVESTMENT CAST?

A: No. Covering the major articles, the frame is forged and CNC machined, the cylinder is CNC machined from bar stock as is the barrel. This is for all models.

Q: IS THE NEW STEEL USED REALLY STRONGER THAN THE OLD STEEL USED?

A: Yes, and by some margin. On the stainless guns, they went to a new stainless allow that is far more impact resistant and has tensile strength approximately 70% greater than the old stainless alloy they used. When Colt introduced a blued New Series Python, they went with a new carbon steel that offered the same advantages as the new stainless steel. It's no small deal. To those of you who fire your guns in double-action a lot, have you noticed how the bolt stop notches on the cylinder are not peening on the edge? Have you noticed the lack of

ratchet peening against the frame? Have you noticed how your guns are staying in time?? With every model, some parts underwent modification, some were radically changed, and the steel used is incredible. I have nearly 30,000 rounds (ALL Magnum) through my New Series Python and it's fine. Peening? None. Timing? Fine. Part breakage? Nope. Time does move on and with that comes progress. That's not always a good thing, but in this case (and in many other firearm related examples) it's a good thing.

Q: ARE THE NEW PYTHON PARTS “DROP IN” BECAUSE THINGS HAVE BEEN LOOSENERED UP SO MUCH?

A: No, in fact, it's the direct opposite. Imagine this for a moment... A new revolver is manufactured and the parts have been designed to work very closely together. The end goal is to have a tight, functional revolver. In order for all of this to work on the assembly line, every internal part must match print spec within + - .0001". The frame must meet the same specs. So does the cylinder...and the barrel. .0001" is very, very thin. A piece of paper is like .003". A piece of paper is 30 times thicker than a tolerance of .0001". Manufacturing equipment rivaling the very best in the world is being used as part of Colts' process.

Q: ARE THE NEW PYTHON BARRELS “CHOKE BORED”?

A: Yes and no, it depends on what your belief system is regarding the how and why of the old Python’s choked bore. Here is a list of facts concerning the barrels on Old and New Series Pythons:

>The “choked bore” of the old Python barrels was never designed into them. It was an artifact. Python barrels then and now are “broach cut”. While this method provides extremely sharp and dimensionally accurate rifling, it is likely the roughest when compared to button or hammer forged rifling. This is because broached rifling is a total machining process where others are more or less a swaging process.

>Colt used to have custom hardened ball bearing sized exactly to a spec’d dimension. They would push one of these from input to output of the barrel as a way of smoothing it out. Because the bearing would (to some extent) wear a little on the way through, it’s “artifact” was a bore that became smaller towards the end. THIS is where the “choke boring” deal came from.

>Research has demonstrated no advantage to a “choke bored” Python barrel. Colt has since adopted a method for broached rifling that is much smoother than it used to be so ball bearing inserts are no longer required. I’ve checked them both, to even MY surprise, the new series barrels will shoot tighter groups.

>Q: ARE THE INTERNAL PARTS OF THE NEW PYTHON POLISHED OR HONED OR ANYTHING?

>A: Yes, they are polished. By design, the methods used to polish the hammer and trigger (aesthetically) polish the rest of the hammer and trigger too. The parts are actually finished smoother than old Python parts. They might not feel like it, but they are. Keep in mind that most old Pythons you've likely handled have been repeated a bunch of times and that the "California Girls" trigger on the New Series guns probably doesn't help perception very much. The truth is, PROPERLY addressing the single-action trigger will at once make a lubricated and broken in New Series Python extremely similar to an old Python. There will be differences, but some design details are different, not to mention what the new steels do! Old Pythons (and the other Colt V mainspring revolvers) will "polish themselves" without a lot of use to get it done. Keep in mind, that is a form of wear. The surfaces to "work harden" though, by design. The NEW Series Colt revolver steel does not want to wear....at all, it's incredibly hard, there is a certain amount of "gripping" in a "Velcro" kind of way between parts (on the microscopic level) made of the new steels. This is where careful finishing comes in, which would be too costly for the price. Keep in mind, a \$100 service here is a \$300 - \$400 retail price increase at the retail level if the manufacturer did it themselves. At

least Colt is giving them a polish. No other double-action revolver made in the U.S.A. has polished internal parts. For example, if you sent your New Series Python hammer and trigger here for the COMPONENT PART TRIGGER JOB© at \$245, you would get back parts that provide you with a 3.00 – 3.50 lbs crisp and smooth single-action trigger, a double-action trigger of approximately 9.00 – 9.50 lbs and the action will be a little more slick for you. From experience, I will tell you that the old Pythons virtually never had a single-action pull under 3.00 lbs and I've seen many at 3.75 lbs. Double-action pulls were never lighter than 9.00 lbs and if you were lucky, wouldn't be much heavier. I blogged once about "Legends". Stop making a gun and then bring it back. The new version will NEVER align with the romanticized image we have of the old version.

Now granted, some people want more. You wouldn't believe how many Action Jobs and Trigger Jobs I have done on old Pythons in the 36 years I've owned this business. The New Series Pythons (along with Anacondas) have been HUGE for a few years around here. There is always room...

Q: I'VE HEARD THAT ON A PYTHON OR ANACONDA BASICALLY WHAT YOU'RE PAYING FOR IS THE FANCY VENTILATED RIB AND MAYBE THE FINISH.

A: I have heard this so many times in my life I have dreams over it. I heard it with the old Pythons too. That is NOT true with the old or New Pythons, but because we're talking *NEW*, I'll stick to new. The groove and land specs/barrel dimensions of the Python and Anaconda are set at an engineered set of sizes and the deviation is kept within + - .0001". I can say that with total confidence due to the number of them I have measured. Other brands exhibit greater (in some cases by quite a bit) deviation. The chambers and cylinder throats are right on the money, as is the forcing cone. Have stinkers got out? Sure they have! Keep this in mind though: We have tuned (between NS Pythons and Anacondas) over 4,000 guns. Around half of our customers get the Blueprinted Accuracy Tuning©. That is where we will measure things. I can count on both hands and have fingers left over how many revolvers have had an out of spec chamber, throat, or forcing cone. The cylinder to barrel alignment has been spot-on every time. To check that, we do NOT use a "range rod". Those are not acceptable in my view. We are concerned with throat to forcing cone alignment. A range rod is sized to the lands. See the problem? Your alignment could be off several thousands of an inch yet it would still check "OK". Made in house, we have lathe turned steel slugs sized at .357" and .358" and .359". Wherever those throats measure, the appropriate slug is placed in the chamber. A rod is screwed in through the barrel using barrel centering guides. That slug had better start its way into the forcing cone from the cylinder. If not, there's a problem. We are

STRICT on this. Then there's "the ratio". It is semi-common knowledge among Revolversmiths that the entrance of the forcing cone must allow "unshaving" bullet entrance while maintaining an entrance size no larger than 1.03 to 1.07 times the throat size, assuming the throat size is within spec to begin with.

All of these things I have mentioned? New Series Colt revolvers adhere to these standards. Other brands? There is one brand I will not work on because they are WAY out, plus the brand is, in general, trash in my view. There is another brand that we will not work on because they're always out of spec and in a "too large" kind of way. I can't add the steel back. The other brand is very frequently out of spec BUT, the throats or chambers or forcing cone will be too small. We can fix that and on a foundational level, they are great revolvers! Of what's currently made, Colt is THE tolerance leader and they currently have the best steel. Additionally, the NS Python and Anaconda will beat any other double-action revolver in grouping. At least those made in the Western Hemisphere. We can accuracy tune anything we service and a blueprinted NS Python or Anaconda will beat anything in grouping; I don't care where it's made.

Q: IF THAT GUY IN THE "WALKING DEAD" USED A NEW SERIES PYTHON INSTEAD OF AN OLD SERIES PYTHON WOULD HE HAVE MORE CONFIRMED KILLS?

A: I really cannot answer that with any degree of scientific certainty. However, could have shot more zombies with fewer timing issues. Next!

Q: I NOTICED WHEN CYCLING MY NEW SERIES PYTHON – ANACONDA DOUBLE-ACTION THAT THE HAMMER IS RELEASED BEFORE THE CYLINDER IS LOCKED INTO POSITION. SHOULD I BE CONCERNED?

A: No. This has been a frustrating “issue” that isn’t an issue. Due to the design of a Colt double-action (the cylinder firmly locking in place due to hand pressure applied from a second point on the hand), the timing of events simply has to occur this way. It’s something that has caused a number of negative alarmist rants on gun forums. The cylinder is **ALWAYS locked into place at the time of ignition, because centrifugal force is on your side. Unless you’re hanging on to the cylinder and slowly pulling the trigger while carefully controlling the hammer, you will never duplicate such an event during dry firing or live fire. The old Pythons did the same thing as did all of the other Colt V Mainspring revolvers. This is entirely a non-problem. Unless... Several years ago on an old Python, I did see a gun where it was a bit of a problem. Sometimes, it would not go into battery. The revolver was severely out of time, which still should have been corrected when the trigger was pulled, but it**

couldn't be, because some "gunsmith" installed a method of stopping trigger overtravel, which compromised lockup as well. It was loose. While a Python MIGHT go longer without re-timing if it has an overtravel stop, it won't be by much, and because the gun will not lock up the way it is supposed to, additional stress is applied to other areas such as the cylinder and locking bolt with result in loose lockup and endshake...Oh; and the condition originally described.

Q: DO I NEED A TRIGGER OVERTRAVEL STOP TO SAVE MY GUN FROM GOING OUT OF TIME? IF I WANT AN OVERTRAVEL STOP IS IT OK TO PUT ONE IN?

A: See above.

For the time being, this are the questions out there that came to mind. I am confident that I missed several. If you have a question, let me know!

COMPONENT PART TRIGGER JOB©: This service has been met with a spectacular reception! You get in right away, 2 week turn around, \$245, \$255, or \$265 depending on your gun, a crisp 3 – 3.5 lbs single-action trigger and a 9 - 9.5 lbs double-action trigger, much decreased shipping cost.... The end results are really nice! This service has displaced our Precision Series Tuning© on New Series Pythons and Anacondas. Read

about it on the FIREARM SERVICES page and click on the box for NEW SERIES COLT DOUBLE-ACTION REVOLVERS 2017 and LATER. We outline the order process and what you get for your money, which is a great deal!! If you already have an order scheduled for your gun and you've got a while to wait yet (which is a LOT of people) you may want to check this out! If you just got your gun and want a much better trigger MUCH sooner than MUCH later, you may want to check this out. Where the MASTER SERIES©, DISTINGUISHED SERIES©, and SIGNATURE SERIES© offer trigger pulls lighter than a stock OLD SERIES Python along with a smoother action (with the MASTER SERIES© equaling even surpassing old Colt Custom Shop Pythons and the SIGNATURE SERIES© clearly surpassing old Colt Custom Shop Pythons), the COMPONENT PART TRIGGER JOB© will make your New Series Python feel very much like an out of the box Old Series Python, maybe even a little better. When we send you back your hammer and trigger, they'll drop right in and work! Check it out!

Everyone have a great week. -Mike

BLOG 2/4/2025: NEW CUSTOM SERVICE FOR NEW SERIES COLT PYTHON AND ANACONDA (along with the revolvers based on them Grizzly and Kodiak): Lead times...they are a killer right now. We are as I type this booked into early (very early) 2028. I have investigated making triggers and hammers as a "drop in" solution for these guns, but the up front cost is beyond daunting.

Well into six-figure territory. The rate of return wouldn't work out. That's a reality that every manufacturer faces with various projects. Design expense and tooling expense when combined create up front cost. That cost doesn't only have to be paid off, it must be paid off within an allotted time period so true profit can be realized soon. That's why you don't see manufacturers throwing caution to the wind and bringing out a model of something "just to see if it goes over". Such thinking has sunk more than one company.

I am not looking (and never have been) for a couple of drop in parts that turn your New Series Colt Python, Anaconda, Kodiak, or Grizzly into Pure Paradise. That is not possible. Our Master Series©, Distinguished Series©, and Signature Series© tuning all involve lots of internal work. That's why they feel the way they do. They lead the pack. I want a hammer/trigger package that provides a crisp and far lighter single-action pull and a lighter and smoother double-action pull. I've been working on this for a while, and we have pinned down.

The **COMPONENT PART TRIGGER JOB©** involves you placing an order with us, then sending in your hammer and trigger after someone qualified removes them. We do what we do, then send them back. Your qualified party installs the parts, checks the function of your gun, then you're ready to go! You will be rewarded with a single-action trigger pull of 3.00 - 3.50 lbs that's entirely

crisp. The double-action trigger pull will drop by about one-half of a pound. The lead time involved is FAR-FAR-FAR less than a whole gun tune. People who already have orders on the books will be given priority, but those of you who don't have orders will get in very soon as well. You'll receive your parts within an estimated 2-3 weeks. The price is \$245 including return shipping. This is replacing our Precision Series Tuning© on the New Series Python and Anaconda (and their associated models).

If you have questions or wish to place an order, you can simply email us or call. This service is exciting new indeed!

Everyone have a great week! -Mike

**BLOG 1/21/2025: PHONES DOWN ALL DAY YESTERDAY
BUT WORKING TODAY–SHOP HEATER BEING
REPLACED TODAY- A LESSON IN TERMINOLOGY –
NEW OFFERINGS AT HEFFRON PRECISION©:**

PHONES WERE DOWN: I didn't notice it until I tried to place a call late in the day. The phones didn't work yesterday! It was very quiet for a Monday! I am assuming they were down all day. I messaged in to get this fixed and sure enough, they work today.

SHOP HEATER REPLACEMENT: But now the shop heater has cashed it in. It's -20 outside and the shop is close to zero. I'm not kidding. Not going to happen! When I had it repaired a couple of weeks ago they said it would need replacement in a "year or two". It didn't make it. We won't be in the shop today. But hey; everything else is working!

A LESSON IN TERMINOLOGY: Something I notice about this business is how improper terminology is used fairly often, even by professionals. My word of the day is "Better". Also identifiable as "Excellent", "Good", and so on. A buddy stopped by the other day and saw this new Dan Wesson DWX on my desk. He said "I tried one of those and the trigger on my CZ Tactical Sport 2 Orange is way better". I too own that CZ, so I was curious. I asked him, "What is "better" about the CZ trigger?". As it turns out, the trigger on the CZ is lighter (which it is), therefore, it is "better". Me? I think the trigger on the DWX is "better" because it offers a crisp break where the CZ TSO trigger has very noticeable creep. I would never describe things in such terms as Fair, Good, or Excellent though. I really do try and

explain it. The “Better, Good, Excellent, etc...” descriptions when applied to triggers tells us, well, nothing. It’s that guy’s opinion. Let me give you an example that I experienced as a Freshman in High School many years ago:

They had a 2-week class swap every year where the Industrial Arts students (all boys) would trade courses with the Home Economics students (all girls). The girls would learn how to make some little wood shelf while we were learning how to make toasted cheese sandwiches and monkey bread and other assorted life skills. At the end of each project we’d receive a questionnaire. We had to fill it out grading our final product (we worked in groups of 4 guys each). One guy in our group always grabbed the sheet and filled it out. The questions were like: “What was the flavor like?, How was the texture?, How was the crust?” to which he always wrote “Excellent” as an answer. As it turned out, this method of assessment had reached epidemic proportions in our class. The teacher clearly felt it was necessary to explain what she was looking for in the answers. Texture? It could be “soft, hard, grainy, sticky, crunchy, etc...” Crust? “mushy, crisp, flakey, hard, etc....”. Triggers are very much the same way.

THINK about what you feel. EXPLAIN using the closest adjectives you can find. This helps make us more aware of what we’re shooting. What is it like? We learn. Upon

mastering the “lingo”, we can help others learn. In this day and age where shooters are buying \$6000 pistols to shoot at manhole covers 3 feet away at 500 mph, specifying descriptions are quickly fading. When I see gun writers reviewing something **EVERYTHING** has a crisp break. It makes me wonder if they even know what “crisp” is. If you don’t know, go find a really good 1911 pistol and pull the trigger (after making sure it’s not loaded). Feel how there was a “wall”, then the trigger just “snicked”, or “clicked”. It snapped. Like breaking a glass rod. Typically, quality revolvers provide some of the finest single action pulls in terms of crispness that can be found. On semi-auto pistols, pivoting triggers have a difficult time with this one. 1911 triggers can be set up in such a way to make virtually all other semi-auto pistol triggers feel like dog food, the canned variety. That concludes today’s **TERMINOLOGY CLASS.**

NEW OFFERINGS AT HEFFRON PRECISION©: The first I will mention is a service for double action revolvers. This is not available for everything, only New Series Pythons and Anacondas and Smith & Wesson K, L, and N frames (yup, I just mentioned Smith & Wesson). It is called “**PREDICTABLE RELEASE©**”. You can choose to order this or not order it. Here’s what it is: It makes double action revolver shooting more excellent (just kidding). There are various ways of setting up a double action trigger pull. Predictable Release© is about “signaling” when the trigger/hammer are about to break during the pull. You get the majority of the way through

the pull, then at the last second there is a “catch” and some resistance. At this point, the gun is about to go off. A little more pressure will finish it off. This is extremely handy if you’re trying to shoot double action accurately. You know when that trigger/cocking cycle is about complete. If you need to fire conventionally in double action mode, simply pull the trigger straight through from start to finish. You’ll notice a little “catch” right at the end of the cycle but it pulls straight through like always. A few BETA testers in the field felt this was advantageous for their shooting. Some were indifferent. It depends on WHAT you are doing. One customer who shoots bullseye with his revolver had the Distinguished Revolver Tuning© performed and had us perform the Predictable Release© . He is shooting his Python in double action through the timed stages with an increase in his scores. This service works very well for double action trigger shooters craving accuracy. It costs \$55 and it works!

Next, yes you read it, we are bringing back services for Smith & Wesson and Dan Wesson double action revolvers. The people have spoken. We have DIEHARDS regarding our tuning for both of these guns and we’re just going to stick with it. I have worked on Colt, Smith & Wesson, and Dan Wesson revolvers over 40 years. When it comes to the Colts, I am THE MAN around here. When it comes to Smith & Wesson and Dan Wesson we are all highly experienced here! For both brands, there are certain things we do that we

simply don't see elsewhere. We are still against lighter mainsprings. We execute certain part geometry changes that really make a difference. We also (on both brands) induction harden the parts after tuning. Even the old Smith & Wesson parts are better for it, the hammers and triggers anyway. Our tuned guns are SLICK, regardless of brand. So yes, we are bringing these back in the lineup and regarding wait time? On repair work we are booked into late this year. Regarding custom work, we are booked into late 2027. We'll be updating our website to reflect these services soon. We're not done yet though...

NEW CUSTOM HEFFRON PRECISION© SERVICE OFFERING: DAN WESSON DWX FS PERFORMANCE PACKAGE©: Yup. A semi-auto pistol. It's been a while! I more or less figured that I'd never touch a semi-auto pistol again within the confines of business, but there is something a bit different here. As most of you know, we have a long history of performance tuning semi-auto pistols. Ruger MKI, II, III, Browning Buckmark, Smith & Wesson 41, and 1911 pistols. It all was set aside some time ago due to our revolver business exploding (which it still is). The Dan Wesson DWX FS (Full Size) has the capacity to be a game changer. THAT is why we're doing this. Please allow me to explain.

I love revolvers. If I had to get rid of one or the other, the revolvers would stay and the semi-autos would

go. However, that does not change the fact that I love quality semi-auto pistols. It's a market that's sadly misrepresented by many shooters and reviewers that really don't understand what they're doing. The GO FAST shooting that has dominated handgunning for decades now has lent to a margin of ignorance among "experts" in the field. Unfortunately, anyone can be a gun reviewer now. There is one guy I know who has over 1 million followers on YouTube!! I swear 80% of what he reviews falls within the "semi-auto 9mm pistol" category. Here are some facts: His definition of a good trigger is NOT mine. There's really no shooting on paper and if there is, it's shot unrested. Then he'll periodically have an episode called something like: "TOP 5 MOST ACCURATE 9MM PISTOLS". Like he would know? He shoots at manhole covers and 50 gallon barrels! This type of reviewing is all over the place now and it's dangerous to your judgment and your pocketbook. It's ill-conceived and inexperienced drivel and one must be careful about reviews guiding the way when the reviewers techniques are vague and so are his descriptions.

Right now there are 9mm handguns costing (seriously) record amounts of money. With polymer 9mm pistols ranging from lowly but competent PSA Glock clones to a ZEV OZ9 fully loaded that runs about \$2K, a lot can go wrong. Steel frame pistols? Of course there are cheap ones available. What about the higher-end CZ pistols? Tanfoglio? Arma Zeka? Phoenix? Staccato? Masterpiece Arms? Nighthawk? Vudoo? Atlas? Infinity? These

brands I mentioned cover a swath of dollars covering around \$2000 to \$12000 in price! See where the danger comes from?

I do happen to own a SIG P210, SIG P226 X-FIVE, STACCATO, ATLAS, PHOENIX, and many custom 1911 pistols. I shoot a great deal. So does the Wrecking Crew. I have friends who can do incredible things with a handgun! Unless that manhole cover is 500 meters away, they probably won't be challenged by such a thing! I have become very particular about my semi-autos throughout the years. It's because I can be. I own some of the best made. I have several that I built that are truly World-Class. With a quality pistol I can still make jaws drop at the shooting range...(it is becoming more and more rare however...). I know the differences, the Wrecking Crew knows the differences, and in this business I know many who've won many trophies because of their fine handgun skills. They are SO good I am purely amateur compared to them. I am also spoiled by (in a BIG way) state of the art single action mode revolver triggers that truly set a standard all their own. That's why the DWX did what it did to me and The Crew. What did it do?

I'm not going to run you through agonizing info that you can find online.....everywhere. What I will tell you is that the DWX FS sets itself apart regarding trigger quality and potential. It is a 1911/2011 style trigger. It's pretty

crisp. Not perfectly so (pull triggers on those 4, 5, 6 thousand dollar guns and tell me if you don't notice) but it really comes close! Out of the box they're 3.75 – 4.5 lbs with the majority at about 4 lbs. Better than a great many 1911 pistols out there. Then there's ergonomics. It's a "cross" between a CZ 75 and a 1911, two of the most ergonomic pistols ever. Grouping potential? The DWX FS can shoot! From a Ransom Machine Rest it gets down close to that inch mark with its ammo favorites. With the econo-box 9mm ammunition the groups can push 2 inches and even more, depending on how bad it is. Reliability has been solid among our "group" that owns them. The bottom line is, it performs (overall) close to what \$3500 can buy, but the DWX FS runs around \$2100.00. With that you get an all-steel pistol with wonderful ergonomics and substantial and strong build. It is reasonably tight too. Solid accuracy potential. It handles recoil like a champ. It is VERY tame. This pistol is a great buy. If I was thinking "\$3500 2011 pistol", I would probably buy a DWX FS and spend the difference elsewhere. Even the most skilled of my race gun buddies agree on that. Precision target shooters have checked it out and hold it in very high regard, preferring it to many 2011 options. This pistol is a screaming bargain!

You should know by now that I can't leave anything alone....

I wanted to find ways to improve this pistol, if possible. Sometimes a firearm might be a huge bargain by offering incredible performance for the price, but if you want to improve it, there's nothing left due to design or material limitations. The design as it is, as executed, is topped out. It is what it is. Then there are huge firearm bargains that left areas of the masterpiece untouched. There is plenty of room on the canvas (so to speak) to elevate performance at a sensible price. The DWX FS is such a pistol.

The DWS FS is a superb bargain that can be improved. Using experience, Mechanical Engineering/Physics, AutoCAD, and BETA testing, we have developed a tuning package that will elevate your DWX FS to that \$5000+ standard of performance. There will be information posted soon regarding this service. Suffice to say that we guarantee it to shoot groups under 1" in size with select premium ammunition fired from a Ransom Machine Rest at 25 yards, 5-shots. The trigger will be better too! What's better? It is truly crisp and clean with virtually no overtravel. The distracting "play" that a 1911 style trigger can have (the side to side and up & down movement) is notably absent. The pull weight is right around 2.5 lbs. The price, purely based on labor rates, is \$385 for this service. All of it. Then you're playing in a whole other league! As I said before, we are doing this because this pistol is far too excellent to ignore. My personal DWX FS (which has been tuned) performs at such a level that I

question having all of that other mega dollar stuff. A Heffron Precision© tuned DWX FS pistol generates World Class Performance. Check it out on our “FIREARM SERVICES” page.

USED GUNS: We are going to have some more used guns coming up for sale very soon. These are trade in guns. We tried to retire off of used gun profits, we always sold the trades to recoup our money in them. There will be some interesting firearms. It's -20 degrees outside. Everyone have a great week.
-Mike

1/11/2025- THE SHOWDOWN OF TWO PYTHON BARRELS OLD VS. NEW: This is something that was conducted a while ago, then conducted a second time using a slightly different format only a few months ago. I have hesitated writing about it because I'm aware of my hyper-detailed and long-winded nature and there is simply no way I can condense this much information. As I write this it's a Saturday evening and I'm staring at a Heckler & Koch USP Elite 9mm target pistol that rewarded me with lots of X rings at 50 feet during a Club Match. I'm thinking about my previous Club Match where I did even better with my 1980 Colt Python Target in 38 Special with an 8" barrel with 148gr HBWC bullets. I routinely read some of the ignorance on the internet forums. “What place does a revolver have now?” Please don't blame them, they know not what they do. There are many Children of the Glock out

there. As any well-versed shooter knows though, the very best trigger pull quality obtainable will be from a revolver. If you take a Colt or S&W with a tuned trigger, it will surpass anything you can do with a semi-auto. Additionally, if you need major power in a handgun, that is the domain of the revolver. Yeh, I know about the Desert Eagle, but it shoots nothing like a good revolver. Then there's the matter of "first shot fired reliability". A double action revolver wins that hands-down.

Regarding my barrel testing, nobody knows the entire story except for Tammy (although it hasn't led to any kind of Spiritual Awakening for her), and Gunsmiths Dan and Lawrence. This is a test that used multiple loads and 2 different methods of barrel mounting. We started off using a late '90s Python and finished the testing with a Thompson Center Contender (more on that later). The question has loomed continuously, which barrel is capable of shooting the tightest groups?

The New Series Pythons have universally proven themselves as being tighter groupers than the comparable Old Series guns. What is causing that though? Some people who have both haven't even noticed while others make comparisons from their recliners while typing on their IPADs. First off, when I conduct a test of this nature, the groups are fired using a Ransom Machine Rest to remove human error from

the equation. Secondly, I NEED TO SEE DIFFERENCES. Sometimes, shooting at 25 yards during a “best of” showdown creates groups that are not pronounced enough in difference to generate easy assessments. In other words, I want the truth in a magnified manner because I get no joy from picking gnat droppings out of pepper. This is the Mighty 357 Magnum we’re talking about! The groups were shot at a distance of 100 yards.

A very important contributing factor to revolver accuracy is found within the cylinder itself. The chamber throats. **HUGE** deal. Obviously, they must be within spec., but they also need to be the same size in relation to one another. If you have a 6-shot revolver, you need all 6 throats to be the same size. The New Series (from here on will be labeled as NS) Pythons have this trait down COLD. Colt’s NS Python is so good in this respect it embarrasses the competition, and even betters its OS Grandfather! Yes, the OS Pythons (OS=Old Series) had some variations in throat size from chamber to chamber, but they were the best on the market at the time. My point is, this issue HAS to be a contributing factor to the NS Python grouping ability. There has been a great deal of discussion regarding the OLD vs. NEW barrels. It is assumed by many, that the old barrels were better. They are ‘more accurate”. With no proof one way or the other, many tout this as fact. I wanted to get to the bottom of it for good. Admittedly, we have found within the frame, cylinder, and barrel relationship tighter specifications,

or at least execution, on the New Series Python than the Old Series Python. Believe me, the Old Series was no slouch! When compared to Rugers, Smith & Wessons, and Dan Wessons, the Old Series Pythons were more consistent, adhered to spec more closely, and were aligned better. It's worth noting, I believe that modern day state of the art CNC machinery (being used at its best) is what's responsible. Colt's Bank Vault Lockup design feature doesn't hurt any either. I wanted this test to remove as many variables as possible. THAT was important. I found a way...

ENTER THE THOMPSON CENTER CONTENDER! This is a classic single shot pistol I'm sure you're all familiar with. If not, you need to go study, because it's significant. I wanted a consistent way of testing the barrels. I found it. This method worked SO well. I acquired a T/C 357 Magnum barrel, cut it way down so it was basically a chamber with some freebore, then I internally threaded it (at 36 tpi) to accept Colt Python barrels. I had to pick out an OLD SERIES barrel with only 1 pin holding the front sight in place. Why? Well...The original Python (and all Colts using that frame) had barrel threads of 32 tpi. Starting in the early 90's they switched to 36 tpi. The shank diameters remained the same. The way you can tell them apart with the gun completely assembled is by the number of pins holding the front sight in place. 2 pins = 32 tpi and 1 pin = 36 tpi. The New Series Python barrel has the same shank diameter as the old Python and the

thread count is 36 tpi. SO, The next thing was to make these as equal as possible. Each barrel received our AccuCrown© Match Barrel Crown to eliminate that variable. The New Series barrel was a random selection. I literally hand-picked the Old Series barrel. I grabbed the very best looking and measuring 6" I had. As it happens, the forcing cones were perfectly centered and measured exactly the same on both barrels! The trick now was to have exactly the same length of barrel shank threaded into my makeshift T/C chamber. This task was completed and within the limitations of our measuring equipment, (we are unable to measure atoms...) they were identical. I ran a die over the threads of each barrel so the threads were clean and smooth. I used copper anti-seize on the threads. I wanted these barrels torqued to exactly the same poundage.

I'm not going to wax on about the summer grass in the breeze this time of year and how this load was like this and that load was like that and so on... Unfortunately, I lack the time for that and you probably do as well. I will say, at the beginning of this test, I expected this to be more or less a wash. Oh sure; one barrel was going to shoot tighter groups, but not by much. I expected very similar performance. I stuck to loads that I know shoot well in the Python. Why would I do otherwise? A few details...A Ransom Machine Rest was used for all testing. Distance was 100 yards. Groups were 5 shots each. I went through my normal "settling procedure"

when using the Machine Rest. Each group was an average of three 5-shot groups with that ammunition. The gauntlet has been thrown. Here are the results of an Old Series Python barrel vs. a New Series Python barrel.

AMMUNITION	NS BARREL	OS
BARREL		
Sierra 180gr solid w/2400 (1.96")	1.53"	1.88"
Federal Premium 170gr (2.19")	2.01"	2.37"
Hornady 158gr STP (2.43")	1.77"	2.24"
OVERALL AVERAGES		2.16" (2.19")
	1.77"	

The groups fired from both barrels are extremely impressive. I don't wish to ruffle feathers, but Ruger, S&W, and Dans simply cannot do this. The Python (and NEW SERIES) Anaconda barrels are simply better barrels. They are tighter, they implement a highly studied ratio of land and groove size. It's worked for a very long time. Colt also uses "broach cut" rifling. When done correctly, it's sharp and it's dimensionally accurate and the barrel typically lacks some of the "tension points" that button rifling and hammer forged rifling can introduce.

I'm not surprised that we got tight groups. I am surprised by the amount of group-size difference between the two barrels. I was expecting the New Series barrel to group a little tighter. This surprised me though. I did try a second Old Series barrel and those groups are in brackets in the above chart.

Colt Python barrels have always been known for accuracy. There have been many Smith & Wesson revolvers modified with Colt Python barrels and with competent work the net result is almost always tighter grouping. It appears this hasn't changed! The overall averages show a difference of around .4" at 100 yards. That's not very much. When broke down on the theoretical level, this is .3" at 75, .2" at 50, and .1" at 25 yards. Like I said, not very much.

The major point here is about NEW barrels and do they equal the OLD barrels, which at their worst they at least equal the OLD barrels, but viewed as a complete revolver, with the New Series exercising such tight tolerances regarding chambers, throats, alignment, forcing cones, headspacing, lockup, etc... The barrel part of this equation does help to explain the overall gains we've been seeing here. We literally have several decades of data concerning revolver accuracy. If we narrow that down to the Old Series Colt Python alone and the data we've obtained from (at this time in 2025 over 3,000 –MH) New Series Pythons, our data shows that on average, comparing unmodified guns, that the New Series Pythons average 29% smaller group

sizes. This barrel study showed the New Series barrel averaging 23% smaller groups than the Old Series barrels. Obviously, a much smaller sample size was involved.

You know...This is the same thread and shank size as a Smith & Wesson 686 barrel. Maybe down the road. Have a great day. -Mike

BLOG: 1/9/2025- YOU GET ONE THING FIXED

THEN..... This morning upon entering the shop one thing was abundantly clear. It was cold! Sometime after I left yesterday evening, the furnace broke down. I have someone coming to repair it, but we will not be open today. It's 41 degrees in there as I write this. That is a no-go for a number of reasons ranging from machine usage to finger dexterity to arthritic discomfort (with everyone here being a member of "Team Geritol", the last issue mentioned is very real). Have a good day. - Mike

BLOG 1/1/2025: SHOP REOPEN DATE RESCHEDULED - MANY USED FIREARMS COMING UP FOR SALE IN THE NEAR FUTURE - DEBATING OUR FUTURE WITH DAN WESSON AND SMITH & WESSON; DO WE STICK WITH JUST COLT? – SHOOTOUT STAGE 1; 1947 COLT OFFICERS MODEL 22 vs 1949 SMITH & WESSON K22:

SHOP REOPENING RESCHEDULED: Yup...This shop maintenance thing has become a bit more involved than I figured. It has been rescheduled for 1/6/2025. By then we'll have it tied up. We WILL be open at that time and I'm looking forward to it!

FUTURE FIREARMS FOR SALE: One of our policies in the past regarding custom work has been that we accepted trades as payment, partial or full, provided we can get together on price, etc.... There will be a number of firearms for sale in the near future. They are all used. Most are semi-auto pistols. We don't accept junk, so it's all quality stuff and the price will be right. It's time to clean those shelves off! These will be listed on our website under "CUSTOM and USED GUNS FOR SALE". Keep an eye out.

DEBATING THE FUTURE: This is a tougher call than it may seem. A brief explanation might be in order. Over the years we've allowed the market and our developing customer base to steer the services we offer. Early on, we did all kind of custom work and repair work on pistols, revolvers, and rifles, even going on to have some of our custom pistols win national events. We have always had a "No Bling – More Sting" approach. Our custom work has always been performance-oriented. Additionally, we've focused on the least expense possible to deliver the best results. When we built Precision Benchrest rifles, we had a way of making the stock barrel far more accurate, we came up with a unique method of bedding that allowed the original stock to be used, we devised a method of taking the weight-only adjustable trigger and "converted" it so it was 3-way adjustable and light-light-light! All of these things saved money over having a new high-end barrel, a new glass/pillar bedded stock, and new trigger mechanism installed. Times change.

We have cut this and cut that from our line (making room for where the customers are steering us) to where we became Revolvers Only from 4 companies. Then it became 3 companies. Now it's just Colt. Just the custom and repair work on Colt's Old Series and the custom work on Colt's New Series double-action revolvers (from

here on known as V2) has us booked into the THIRD TRIMESTER OF 2027. Then there is this other side...

The quantity of Smith & Wesson and Dan Wesson work combined didn't equal the amount of Colt work we do. I think a great deal of that is due to our reputation with Colts. Personally, I have nearly 40 years of experience repairing and customizing Colt double-action revolvers. During that time there have been plenty of their single-actions too. We can (properly) repair the Old Series double-action revolvers with fewer parts, less labor cost, and better longevity than our competitors. Our customization of these guns is well-known. Then comes the V2 revolvers. Between V2 Cobras, King Cobras, Pythons, and Anacondas, Colt has made around 600,000 of these since the program started in 2017. It is reflected here! Regarding performance-oriented custom work on the V2 revolvers, our reputation is unparalleled. These things combined have created a Colt dominated market for us. However...

While we're not as well known for our Smith & Wesson and Dan Wesson performance services and repair work, it still (upon examining the data sheets) was about 24% of our total business volume and it's been growing. Those who tuned up their Smiths and Dans here (the overwhelming majority of the time) used us again for Smiths and Dans. Our results were smooth and durable. More than once we've heard about our

S&W revolvers outperforming their Bill Davis Customs or something from somewhere else. Our reputation with Dan Wesson revolvers is very solid as well. We get them smoother the CORRECT way so they don't wear themselves out afterwards.

In short (it's too late for that) we've had protesting customers. The overall level of magnitude has been...intense. They know they'd have to wait until Trump is practically out of office, but that doesn't seem to matter. Currently, we are weighing things out.

COLT OFFICERS MODEL 22 LR FROM 1947 vs SMITH & WESSON K22 FROM 1949: This was conducted a while ago, but never published. “A while” means “Summer of 2024”. Right now, it’s pretty cold. OK....These are both guns I’ve picked up within the last couple of years. Both are amazing specimens, clearly seldom fired, and well cared for. Additionally, it was clear from the onset that no work of any kind had ever been done to these guns. The condition is such that examination of each revolver is akin to a trip in a time machine. Yes, I know, but I don’t do the “safe queen” thing. You know what’s coming...TESTING AND SHOOTING. I went over both with a fine-tooth comb. Here is what I found from conducting multiple measurements.

PARAMETER

COLT

SMITH & WESSON

Headspace	Pass	Pass
Cylinder Alignment	Pass	Pass
Throats	uniform .223"	uniform .225"
Forcing Cone Entrance	Pass	Pass
Barrel Cylinder Gap	.004"	.005"
Chambers	Match Uniform	Match Uniform
Bore Diameter	.222	.223
SINGLE ACTION PULL	2.9 LBS	3.6 LBS
DOUBLE ACTION PULL	8.9 LBS	9.5 LBS
RIFLING TWIST	1 in 16"	1 in 16"

Isn't that something? According to the specs, these could have come from the same place. I do have more stuff to compare, but it's really not measurable, but they are things that can be observed. The "feel" of the actions wasn't even close. No part in this surprised me. This may shock some, but Smith & Wesson did not hand-fit and stone every part while wearing jeweler's glasses. The parts were stamped out, then machined where needed. The parts were assembled in more of a "which trigger fits best?" and so on... The polishing was on the external surfaces. The internal machining was a bit coarse, a common practice until MIM parts came along. This coarseness could be felt in the double action trigger pull, the trigger return, and the general feel of the action. The Colt was far different in this regard. The Colt had a butter-smooth action. Every aspect of its function was smooth and flowing in nature. It does have that stacking double action trigger pull, but smooth! It's not because of an absence of machine marks though! I

guess that was the nature of machining. Very coarse. What made the Colt different and makes it different is the design of the mechanism. They use more parts. “Wouldn’t that cause INCREASED roughness?” Well, if done right, no. If the more complex mechanism is designed in such a manner that the load is lightened between every part substantially, it will feel smoother. It’s like putting a spring kit in your Ruger and maintaining that it feels far smoother. The parts aren’t grinder together as hard due to decreased spring pressure and it’s highly noticeable due to the low parts count dealing with the entire load. The Colt is different. Additionally, the Colt (like the others of this era) showed evidence of polishing in key areas. This “toning down” of the machine marks combined with lower part to part contact pressure creates a SMOOTH revolver. There’s no question, the Colt cost more to make and the price reflected that. The Smith & Wesson cost a little less money to make, but the money wasn’t saved on anything impacting accuracy or single-action trigger quality. Colt and Smith & Wesson were in such heated competition with one another on the Bullseye circuit that it truly did bring out the best from both companies.

HOW DID THEY SHOOT? These were both fired from a Ransom Machine Rest at 25 yards. Groups were 6 shots each, so each chamber could show its stuff off. 7 different ammunitions were used. The group size is a reflection of the average of 3 groups. Here are the results:

AMMUNITION USED	COLT	SMITH & WESSON
Winchester 40g solid plated		
HV	1.7"	1.9"
CCI Mini-Mag 40g HP		
HV	1.2"	
	1.4"	
CCI Standard Velocity	1.9"	1.7"
Federal Gold Medal		
40g	.8"	
	1.1"	
Eley		
Match		1.0"
	1.1"	
SK Pistol		
Match		.9"
	1.1"	
Eley 10X	.6"	.9"

OVERALL AVERAGE: 1.16" 1.31"

OFF THE SHELF AMMO AVE: 1.60" 1.67"

MATCH GRADE AMMO AVE: .83" 1.05"

Very impressive results from both revolvers! Either would be qualified for target shooting. Using these 5

ammunitions, this Colt grouped tighter than this Smith. They are very close, with the overall average of the Colt being 1.16" and the overall average of the Smith & Wesson being 1.31". This isn't much of a difference with the Colt shooting about 11% smaller groups. When examining the inexpensive "off the shelf" ammunitions, the difference was very small, with the Colt shooting groups that were about 4% smaller. With match grade ammunition, when expressed as a percentage, the difference was more profound. The Colt match ammo groups were about 21% smaller as an overall average. This actually matches my past experience, typically, the Colt OM 22 shoots a shade tighter than a 'Smith K22. I will note that I recrowned both revolvers using our renowned AccuCrown®. I would have left them alone for the test, but the Colt crown had a slight nick. I repaired that with a recrown. To keep it fair I recrowned the Smith & Wesson as well. Considering that our crown is centered to within .0001" and has a surface finish measured in microns, if anything, this improved both guns.

If we add to this action smoothness, trigger pull weight, and double action pull smoothness (which could be an issue for some) the Colt did justify its higher price back in the day. Then there's the topic of what I call, "Shootability". It's that unmeasurable set of characteristics that make a gun easy to shoot well. Sometimes these qualities are glaring, where a particular gun is uncomfortable to everyone because of

some unorthodox ergonomic oversight. More often than not though, personal taste plays a huge role. For example, in the world of 22 LR revolvers, a K22/Model 17 Smith & Wesson with a target hammer and target trigger along with a set of Pachmayr grippers (enclosed backstrap) is certain death for X rings and other tiny items when it's in my hands. For whatever set of reasons, it is more "Shootable" to me. I've shot both since I was a child, so being used to one over the other probably isn't it. If it takes a big adaptation, it's probably not right for you anyway. With that being said, with a Colt Officers Model, a pair of Pachmayr Grippers (with the open backstrap) is the answer. On a Dan Wesson, rubber Hogues do the trick for me. I love pretty grips as much as the next guy and believe me, I have some that are gorgeous, expensive, and highly useful, but on my shooters, I use what works best, I don't care if it's made from Swahili PeeElm. On my 8" Colt Python Target 38 Special Model that's highly accurate but balances like a long-handled pipe wrench, I have a pair of very expensive Nils Match Grips from Germany. They are without question the best that I have used on that gun. It is personal! Quite a few years ago (when my eyes weren't 57 years old and my hands hadn't been irreparably damaged by Magnum recoil) I used to do some exhibition shooting. Mostly, I used a Colt Officers Model 22 made in 1937. I closed the show out by hitting 6 cigarette butts at 20 yards. Not shabby. My shooting career was firmly rooted in taking time and shooting small objects that were far away.

I remember the day as clear as can be. My dad and I were shooting. The year was 1988. We had both received our brand-new Smith & Wesson Model 17 revolvers. We cleaned them and lubed them and out the door we went! We were using Winchester Wildcat ammunition (oh boy!). Both revolvers were functioning and shooting really well. I thought I'd try some items at a distance. I was shooting at rocks out in the plowed field which worked well because if you missed, the dry dirt demonstrated exactly where you landed. If you saw no dust, you hit the rock, not to mention, hitting the rock had a distinct sound. I kept reaching out further and further raising the rear sight more and more. The limit of our shooting arrangement was 350 yards. We had a steel plate at that range that my dad picked up years prior. I still remember it measured 8" x 12". It had a couple of square holes in it that a railroad spike would just fit through, leading me to believe that it was meant for such use. When it was struck with anything, it rang very loudly. There I was, 350 yards away, no optics, open armed standing, striking this plate time after time after time with Winchester Wildcat Ammunition. My dad was blown away. I was blown away. It simply didn't make sense. My dad was like "There's no way my gun shoots that good". I replied "Give it here". I did some "click counting" with the rear sight and then gave it a whirl. Sure enough, I was hitting that plate just as well with his gun! My dad was so impressed that he ordered another one of these revolvers from Smith &

Wesson. The third one was struggling to strike the plate at 50 yards! I guess we can't win them all... Obviously, these revolvers were highly accurate (well, at least the first two). Such results required clear eyesight and a near-flawless shooting technique. That "just right" grip engagement with perfect trigger control. My point is, I don't think I'd have pulled that off with a Colt Officers Model 22 LR, even though they are typically (not always, but most of the time) tighter grouping guns. Why? "Shootability". On the other hand, I shoot a Python better than a 'Smith 686. Hey, it's on a model to model basis!

In the future there will be follow ups to this with:

>1969 Colt Officers Model Match 22 and 1969 Smith & Wesson Model 17-3 TH TT.
>Others not tested from Yesteryear in the form of a 1981 Colt Trooper 22, 1981 Colt Diamondback 22, and a Dan Wesson 22 from 1978.
>The Modern Era: A current Colt King Cobra Target 22 and a current Smith & Wesson 617.
>THE LAST CHAPTER – HEFFRON TUNED & ACCURIZED: A current Colt King Cobra 22 and a current Smith & Wesson 617.
Such articles promote research. These will be trickled throughout 2025, along with other items.
Check back... Have a great New Year and be safe!
Take it easy. -Mike

12/23/2024: HAPPY BIRTHDAY GRANDPA! –

MARKSMANSHIP IS NEEDED!: Happy Birthday to my grandfather, Milton Heffron, who was born December 23rd, 1901. That would make him 123 today had he lived, which is of course highly unlikely. He was a good man, a farmer, and an avid shooter whose favorite trick was shooting little acorns off of their white fence at 30 strong paces. Considering he was 6 ft 1 in and stepped off BIG, it was likely 35 yards. His gun of choice was a Remington 24 22LR semi-auto. This is the Browning designed rifle that was tube-fed through the stock with a bottom eject, the first version of the Browning SA22 that's made today (and has been for years) by Browning. I have his rifle today. I also have mine, a modern Browning right beside it. This year was the 50th anniversary of his passing. Miss ya' gramps!

MARKSMANSHIP IS NEEDED: You may be wondering what THIS is about. Well, let me tell you. A recent visit to an out of town gun range that I periodically frequent led to a period of frustration. I brought with me my *NEW* Dan Wesson DWX full size (yes, it has a tweak or two or three) and a couple of revolvers, both being Match Grade, a Colt Officer's Model in 22 LR and another in 38 Special. The last was a 1911. There was a group of guys present who sported a Glock (for their intended

purpose, they are phenomenal), a Springfield Armory Echelon, and a couple of Sig P320 pistols. While I fired at my targets that were to me, more conventional, they blasted away at human silhouettes that were 5 or 6 yards away. They even managed to keep the shots on the paper sometimes. I pulled out my 1911 of The Day and fired my group. 5 shots at 25 yards. The pistol? I “built” this in the same manner that the old Air Force Armory National Match pistols were made. I use a hand-fit Colt National Match barrel with a hand-fit Clark barrel bushing within a Colt Government Model slide and an older Springfield frame. I have adjustable Bomar sights on the top. Regarding accuracy, this thing is serious business. Add to this a delightfully crisp 2.75 lbs trigger, missing anything is my fault alone. The pistol itself looks a bit on the tough side. I built it, then never had it reblued or anything. I should do that sometime...

Wouldn’t you know it? The first group I shot was confined within 2 inches...at 25 yards unrested! The four guys at my left were in a complete state of dismay. One asked “Can I go down and look at that??”. I said “Sure”. I fired a few more groups, then moved on to the 38 Officers Model (which they really giggled about that gun, until they saw the groups). Lastly, I dug out my Dan Wesson DWX, the high-capacity 9mm all steel target grade pistol that is a successful blend of 1911 and CZ75. It’s quite a gun, really. Not all of my groups were good. Some were. They were astounded. They did point out that I shot “too slow” however. They urged me to try

one of their targets. I loaded my magazine and shredded a fist-sized group out of the center of their target (it was 20 rounds total!). One of these guys was clearly the “Informal Leader” of their group. I asked if he wanted to try, more on MY terms of shooting. Smaller targets, reduced speed. I told them quite bluntly, “Any knot head can shoot a pistol really fast and hit larger objects really close, but to hit larger objects at distance is a different game”. Please note, I’m not downplaying what some of these professionals do, as I cannot do it! I have shot with some of these guys though and when we shoot at a distance, they’re in trouble. One guy was in awe of himself when he was striking targets at 125 yards away with his 9mm. Granted, they were steel plates that were 36” tall by 24” wide. I went for something smaller. The 12” round plate. I nailed that thing like it owed me money. He never did.

I haven’t explained this series of events to brag about my shooting ability. Compared to many, I suck. I do, however, practice the principles of **MARKSMANSHIP**. **PRECISION MARKSMANSHIP** to be exact. I’ll share something else. When I took a crack at their humanized paper silhouette, something within me felt “off” about it. It could be my deeply intense regard for human life and shooting at something that simulated a human just didn’t feel right. I don’t know, but when I set up MY steel plates at 25 yards, which are 2” and 3” respectively, and I can consistently hit those, I’m sure that an armed predator at 7 yards will be

manageable. You ever hear the news stories about a police officer emptying their 17-round pistols at a criminal within 10 yards and NEVER hitting them? Not even once? I realize nerves play a huge role, but we must AIM!!

I am seeing less and less aiming and more “point and shoot” practices, which is OK to a point. This is what makes me nervous about arming teachers in the schools against mass shooters. If they “Point and Jerk”, there will be people hit with bullets, just not the right ones. Precision Marksmanship.

I like my semi-auto pistols. I really do. I really dig revolvers. When at the range, a revolver makes one settle down a bit. Patience. Very, very few pistols have trigger quality like a quality revolver. Light, crisp, and clean. A pistol trigger as good costs big money. Practice may not make perfection, but it will get you closer. Another thing, don’t be afraid to invest in HIGH QUALITY 22 LR firearms! If you’re looking to be a crack shot, buying a \$175 Heritage Arms single action revolver will not get the job done. Buy quality. If you want a 22 rimfire revolver and you lack the funds for a Colt, Smith & Wesson, or Dan Wesson, try a Ruger Single Six on the used market. These are really good guns for the money. Practice a lot! The ammunition is affordable. I know so many people who own a flock of expensive centerfire firearms they don’t shoot very often due to the expense. Then, their 22 LR of choice is a \$250 semi-auto rifle. “It’s just a 22”. When Colt introduced the King Cobra Target 22 I heard customers say “\$1000 for a 22

revolver?”. Why should it cost less to manufacture a precision 22 than a precision 357?. It’s as if with a 22, suddenly labor and materials go WAY down in price. Nope. You can practice affordably.

One of the most accurate 22 LR (probably IS the most accurate) 22 double action revolver out there is often priced very reasonably. The Colt Officers Model. They were tuned to an incredible extent with incredible tolerances. It’s not uncommon for them to shoot 25 yard groups of $\frac{1}{2}$ ” with their favorite ammo. The actions and triggers are a delight. Ever wonder what a 22 LR Python would be like? Well, there you go. You can frequently find these for under \$1K. The bluing may be worn, but if they’re mechanically sound and the barrel and chambers are good, you’re in! I used to be an exhibition shooter years ago. I was in my twenties. My eyes were far better than they are now. I had a Colt Officers Model 22 LR made in the 1930s (!). At the end of the show I would shoot the 6 cigarette butts I smoked during the show...At 20 yards! A cigarette butt is about $\frac{5}{16}$ ” wide and about $1\frac{1}{4}$ ” long. I very VERY rarely missed. THAT is how good these guns are. If you want something brand new, there is the King Cobra Target 22. They are really good rimfire revolvers. From what I’ve seen (which has been plenty) they are the most accurate domestically manufactured rimfire double action revolver currently made. We can improve them even further. We achieve groups under 1.5” at 50 yards.

If you want to be a precision handgun shooter, you need to practice in a precision manner. You’ll get there.

All of you have a safe and enjoyable Christmas. Have a terrific New Year. Be careful on New Years Eve; remember, that is Amateur Night. Take care. -Mike

WE WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 23RD 2024 - JANUARY 2ND 2025:

In an effort to prevent civil unrest within the confines of our shop, we are giving the guys a week off for the holiday season! Seriously, the Wrecking Crew is the best, but they have put in some LONG hours the last year....or two.... (maybe three?). They deserve it. This will give Tammy and I the chance to clean, repair, maintain, reorganize, and when the Wrecking Crew returns they'll think they went to the wrong place! We will not be answering the phone during this time. We will not be shipping because of the holiday insanity. We will not be taking orders. We will be doing things to enhance our operations when we reopen on 1/2/2025. Everyone

**have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! -Mike
& Tammy Heffron**