

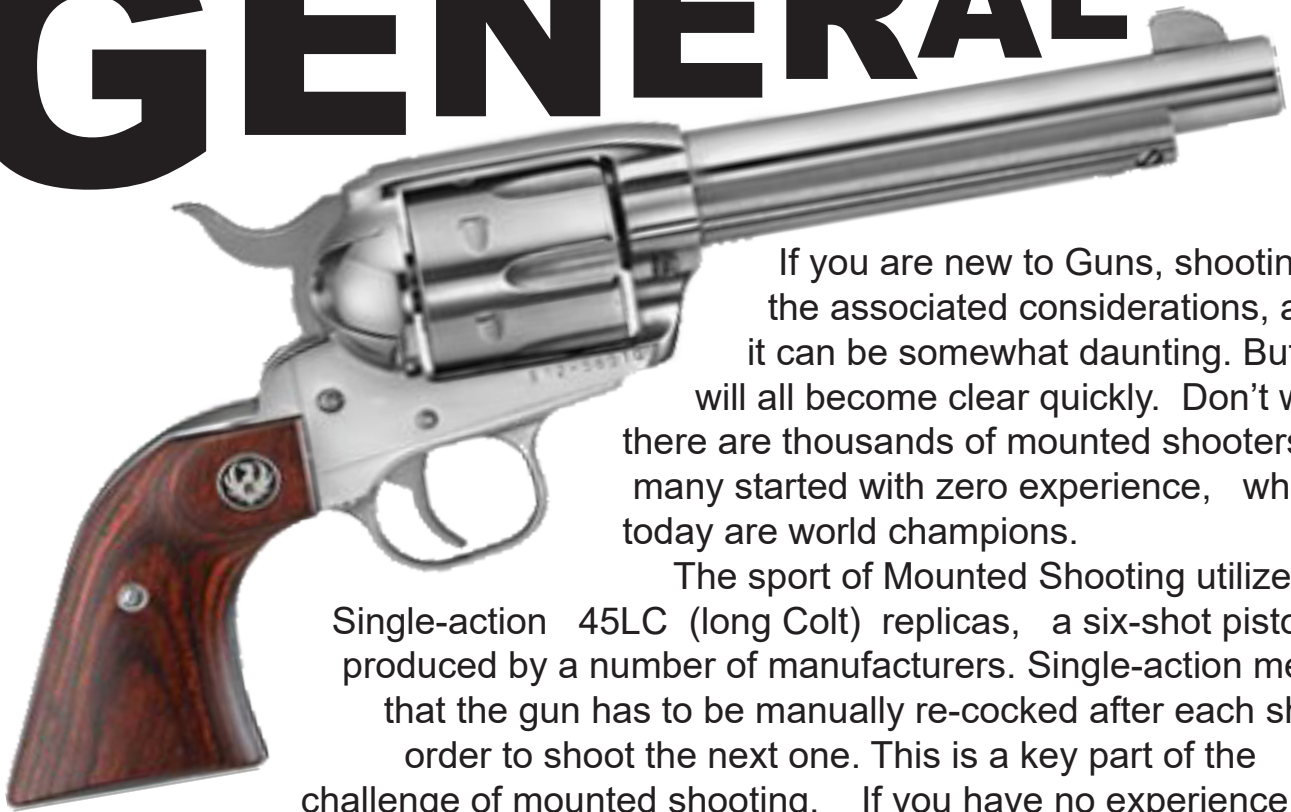
Mounted Shooting Guns

101



MountedShootingSupplies.com

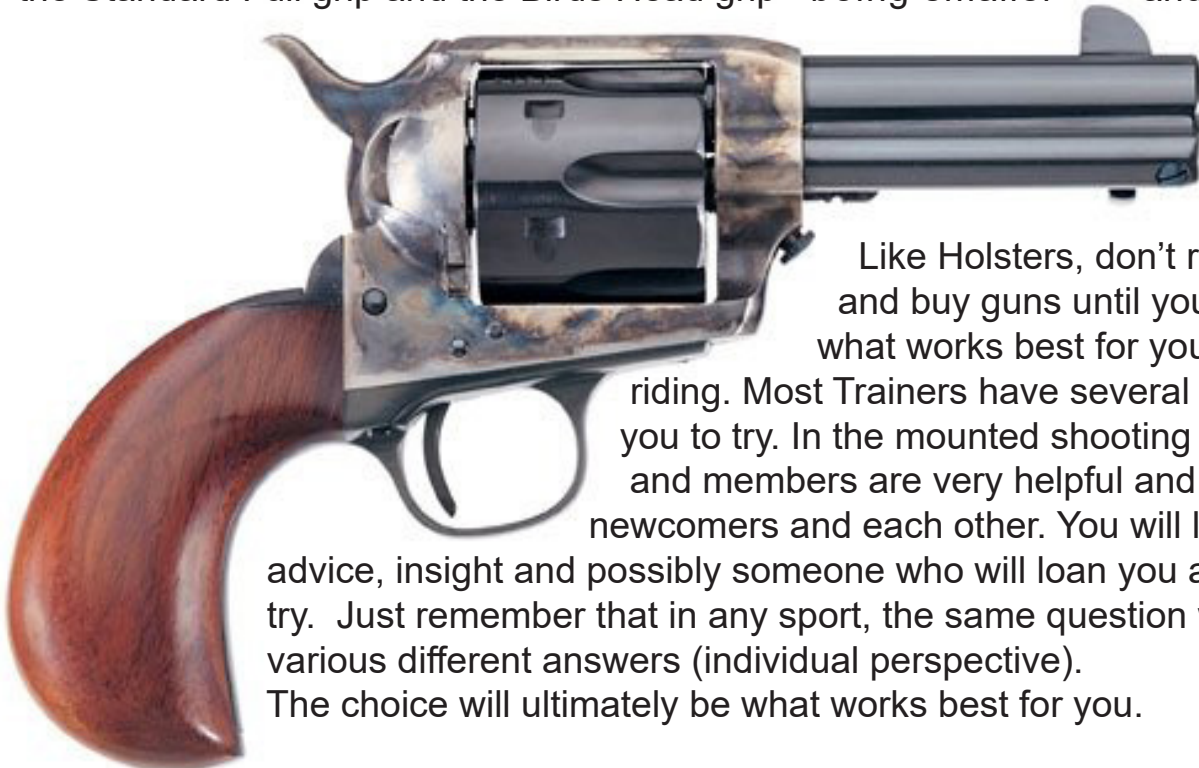
GENERAL



If you are new to Guns, shooting and the associated considerations, at first it can be somewhat daunting. But it will all become clear quickly. Don't worry, there are thousands of mounted shooters and many started with zero experience, who today are world champions.

The sport of Mounted Shooting utilizes Single-action 45LC (long Colt) replicas, a six-shot pistol produced by a number of manufacturers. Single-action means that the gun has to be manually re-cocked after each shot in order to shoot the next one. This is a key part of the challenge of mounted shooting. If you have no experience with shooting pistols, especially single-action, at first you might find this somewhat of a challenge. Particularly for people with smaller hands. But that will quickly become a non-issue.

There are a number of 45LC gun models produced, with considerable differences in the Gun Grip frame design (where your hand holds the gun). Two major differences are the Standard Full grip and the Birds Head grip - being smaller and more compact.



Like Holsters, don't rush out and buy guns until you get a feel for what works best for you in real event riding. Most Trainers have several sets of guns for you to try. In the mounted shooting sport the Clubs and members are very helpful and supportive of newcomers and each other. You will likely find lots of advice, insight and possibly someone who will loan you a set of guns to try. Just remember that in any sport, the same question will likely bring various different answers (individual perspective). The choice will ultimately be what works best for you.



One often asked question, is “**what are we shooting**”? The term Bullets is never used. A bullet is a projectile and we do not use any projectiles in mounted shooting. The “Ammo” used in mounted shooting, is a specially produced shell (typically called a “Blank”) containing a

small amount of Black Powder for a reach of approximately 20 Feet. This produces a very colorful array of sparks and smoke. It is the burning bits of black powder that bursts the Balloon Target. For the Mounted Shooting Sport there are several manufacturers who produce certified ammo specifically for mounted shooting. The Mounted Shooting Associations and Clubs specify the use of certified ammo and usually it is provided by the event host and included in the event entry fee. “Certified Ammo” may be purchased from Mounted Shooting Supplies for practice or events. Half-loads (Reduced black powder) are available for acclimating horses to gunfire or for reduced noise when practicing.

A common-sense note, these are real guns. Always consider them loaded until verified otherwise and never point at anything you don’t intend to shoot! There are a few other considerations, pertaining to gun safety and Gun Laws, that you should be aware of, but generally they are reasonable and easily managed. They are described below. The following sections will provide most of the details pertaining to gun selection, training, choices, maintenance, security and laws compliance.

Gun Selection

Gun selection is ultimately a matter of personal preference. Likely the main considerations will be **Fit & Feel** and then appearance; stainless steel, nickel, blued and several other aspects such as barrel length. Price may be a consideration. But considering that you probably spend a lot more on your horse and other associated components of the sport, buying the cheapest guns may really cost you a lot more in the future.

After you and your horse, guns are probably the most important component of mounted shooting. Do your homework before buying. Don’t make your decision based on any one aspect. Ask your trainer. Ask others members/competitors and research the Manufacturers descriptions and try out as many as you can. Before you make a decision on which guns, it would be best if you have advanced to a point of being able to effortlessly cock and shoot in reasonably consistent manner. By that point you will have a better feel of what works for you.



The feel of your Gun Grip (Holding) and the geometry of cocking the gun will be influential factors in your choice of guns. In addition to the gun grip design. Also there are a number of styles of hammers available. Mostly it will be a matter of what feels good for you. A variety of “Gun Grips” side panel (attached to sides of the gun frame) are available, smooth or checkered and a wide selection of colors and engraved patterns. These grips can have a significant effect on the feel of any gun.



GUN TRAINING

You don't have to be riding a horse to learn and practice mounted shooting gun handling skills. In-fact, better to start without having all the dynamics to deal with. Shooting a gun while standing-still may seem fairly simple, but it is a lot easier and quicker to learn the gun basics than trying to do so while in 6 degrees of dynamic motion on a horse and trying to coordinate the shots with a set of variable spaced targets. Also, add-in the need to change guns on the fly, often quickly. Doing so successfully, encompasses two major components, **good riding skills** and **good gun handling skills**. Both should be developed separately and then combined.

If you are new to shooting hand-guns, especially single-action revolvers, then the best way to start (even if you are an experienced rider) is some basic familiarization with the guns with a **100% focus on the guns** (not trying to figure out the guns on horseback!).

Start with the basics of developing your **gun grip** (holding) and **cocking** and **simulated shooting** at a stationary object. To help build strength in your gun cocking thumb, buy a “**Cocking Trainer**” and you will be surprised how fast you can speed-up and smooth-out the cocking-shooting action.



The next training exercise is to simulate pointing and shooting (dry-firing – without real ammo) at target(s).

To do this you should use a set of inexpensive **“Snap Caps”**

inserted into your gun cylinder, which prevents damage to the firing pin of your gun when dry firing. (Dry firing a pistol without Snap Caps can cause **expensive damage** to the gun). The training drill is to point and shoot at an object (Imaginary target) and then re-cock the gun while moving the gun to the next target and shooting and so-on. The good thing about this, is that you can do this at home and it will accelerate your gun skills very quickly and inexpensively as opposed to waiting to be on the horse and firing real ammo. (Big savings in time and cost).



Two important points for training

POINT ONE- When pointing at a target, your arm should be straight and you should be looking down the line of your arm and the gun barrel, looking at the target with both eyes open. Don't take your eyes off the target until you have pulled the trigger. Then move your arm/gun and sight to the next target. Then increase to five targets in a semi-circle. Don't rush the five shots, the goal is to shoot all five in a smooth and coordinated manner. You will frequently hear trainers and others shout, "Look at it". A sure way to miss the target is to take your eyes off the target prior to shooting, eyes rushing to acquire the next target. This is probably the greatest reason for misses!

POINT TWO- If you have a set of holsters, (see Holsters - 101) then the next stage is to simulate changing guns. A key point is to not look down at your holsters when re-holstering your gun(s). Looking down has several unwanted consequences. Takes your concentration away from your intended navigation course. Your mind and focus should always be on where you are going and the next target. The Horse can sense where you are looking and generally goes in that direction. If you find it hard to break the habit of looking down at your holsters, then buy inexpensive **“No look Down Training Goggles”**.



The small cost of these goggles, will probably be paid back a hundred times over, with your winnings!

After you become comfortable with the “Dry Firing” drills (fairly quickly), switch to some real ammo and balloons. (Obviously outdoors). Be sure to include both “Strong” and “off-hand” shots (RH & LH for RH people and vise-versa for LH people).

Gun Maintenance

The black powder used in mounted shooting ammo, leaves a considerable amount of powder residue in the gun after firing. Left for extended periods, the residue can accumulate to the point of causing misfires or gun jamming. What a shame to miss winning because of one shot jamming! Secondly, black powder is very corrosive and can damage critical parts of guns, even stainless-steel guns. Simple enough, do a light cleaning of the guns at the end of each day's shooting and do a through cleaning prior to storing the guns for extended periods. A simple, compact and inexpensive "45LC Cleaning Kit" will do fine. Clear window cleaner works great for quick cleaning. For extended storage use a liberal application of good gun oil, such as "Balistol".

Your guns are a fairly large investment. Store your guns in some type of protective container or case. Drop your guns on concrete, the repairs might just cost you 10 times the price of a nice "Gun Case". Guns are the second most important component of mounted shooting, Horse being the most important!

So, take care of your guns
almost as well as you
treat your
horse!



Action Job

You won't be in mounted shooting very long before you will hear the term "Action Job". It basically refers to a process of fine-tuning or polishing or recalibrating the spring forces of the gun functional parts to enable the gun to be easier to cock and shoot. The Tune-up can be from minor polish to a complete readjustment of the gun's functional components. If you are a new shooter, given a choice, you should not opt for anything more than a Tune up, wherein the moving parts are polished and possibly the thumb grooves on the hammer slightly deepened. Reducing the trigger and hammer spring pressures and trigger cueing of the gun might cause problems for you before you have gained a solid and consistent handling of the gun. Don't rush into these sorts of things until you are running in the upper times of your class and you feel that an action job is the next step to winning! Be careful where you have the action Job done. It's not so easily undone!



Grips

There are a large number of "Custom Grip Panels" available (Easily Changed with one-screw) which can change the feel and look of most any of the gun versions. The options are endless, smooth surface, checkered surface for improving the grip and all kinds of colors and patterns.



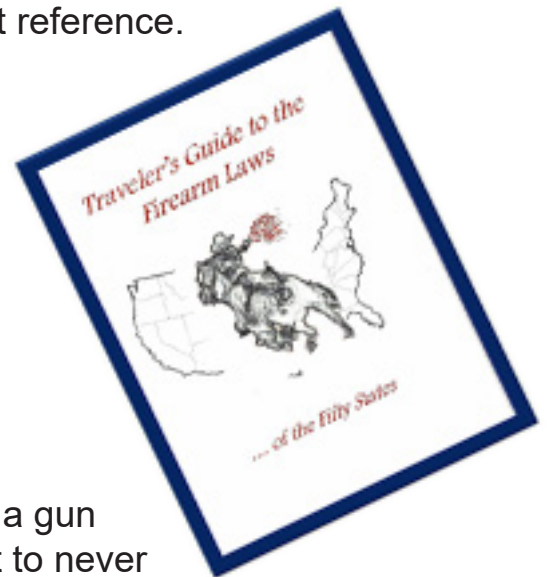
Gun Safety

Unfortunately, the high-profile negative events of gun crimes, have brought increased focus on gun ownership, security and potential personal liability for unsecured weapons. Law enforcement personnel, for reasons of public safety and their own safety can over react to the presence of unsecured guns. Often, they do not have an accurate knowledge of gun laws themselves. Several precautionary measures will go a long way to reducing the potential for an unpleasant and possibly costly confrontation.

1. Never transport a loaded gun.
2. Do not transport your guns in an open and exposed manner. It is illegal in some states and certainly a concern to a law enforcement officer and is a valuable target for thieves.
3. Use a “Trigger Lock” or some other type of locks on your guns when traveling, best to lock your guns to a solid structural part of your vehicle – out of sight. Put the ammo somewhere else (different compartment where not accessible simultaneously with the gun).
4. Become familiar with the Gun Laws of your home state and any other states that you travel to. The “Gun Laws of the 50 States” is an excellent reference.

One common sense point is, never leave your guns unattended at an event, such as, in your holsters hanging in your stall or trailer. They will be the first thing to be stolen. (Mounted Shooters are honest, but not all others). Then if a crime is committed, with your guns, you might be in for a lot of explaining and possible legal action. But at minimum, a lot of value lost! So be safe than sorry!

One of the most important safety rules is, never assume a gun is empty, even if someone tells you so and probably best to never hand a loaded gun for someone to look at with out first emptying it. Don't leave your guns loaded or unloaded, unattended anywhere!

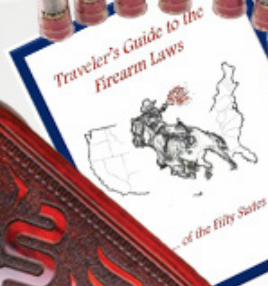


Most of the products referenced herein are available on

MOUNTEDSHOOTINGSUPPLIES.COM

Most of the product listings have additional product descriptions online, which may be helpful in your gunhandling knowledge.

Essentials for 45 Caliber Gun Owners



Blanks - Half/Full Loads

Snap-caps

Gun cases

Gun cleaning kit

Gun locks

Firearms book

Grips



**MOUNTED
SHOOTING
SUPPLIES**

MOUNTEDSHOOTINGSUPPLIES.COM



**MOUNTED
SHOOTING
SUPPLIES**

Helping you and your horse Win!

Our Mission:

To Actively Support Beginners To Winners

MOUNTEDSHOOTINGSUPPLIES.COM