

Brass Frame Revolvers: Realities and Myths, Part 1: Spiller & Burr *by Curt Schmidt*

When it comes to reproduction revolvers reenactors, living historians, and modern-day shooters and competitors are presented with a range of mostly Italian reproductions that within their limitations can contribute to a quality impression or portrayal or just as quickly ruin one. And for modern day shooters where history does not matter, it does not matter.

One of the biggest reasons lies with 'brass frame' revolvers. This is due to the fact there were a small number of Confederate made revolvers with 'gunmetal' (yellow) bronze, but there are also a number of modern reproductions of Civil War era revolvers that use brass frames where the originals of what they are supposed to represent did not.

How to separate the Period truth from the modern fiction?

Why "bronze?" All in all, the South was hurting when it came to iron production. It did possess some industry, and some economic and military might. But certainly nothing to compare to the potential as well as existing power of the North.

But that did not stop some men of patriotism if not greed and an eye for profit like say Samuel Griswold who converted a cotton gin factory into a revolver plant from trying to serve their country if not just their wallets.

While iron certainly was the preferred standard for firearms, "brass" was also around, and in a pinch bronze church bells and even candle sticks could always be melted down. But bronze and brass also were easier to cast and work with limited machinery and limited time or lack of skilled workers, so it was called up too.

Q: What do you get when you cross a locomotive builder with a commission merchant with a high ranking Confederate Ordnance officer?

A: A Get Rich Scheme, er, Serving Your Country.

Spiller, Burr, & Burton Revolvers, aka Spiller & Burr, sometimes aka the "Confederate Whitney" revolver.

Edward Spiller, David Burr, and Superintendent of Armories Lieutenant Colonel James Burton came together in Richmond in 1861 with a desire to produce revolvers but had no factory, no workers, and no money to do so. This would be a similar problem for a number of Confederate would-be gun makers.

Burton was to secure a contract for 15,000 "Colt" clone Navy (.36) revolvers to be sold to the CSA at \$40 for the first 5,000, \$27 for the next 5,000, and \$23 for the last 5,000. He would supervise the plans, machinery, and tools for a factory. And Spiller, Burr, and Burton would deliver 15,000 pistols by the end of two and a half years.

Burton was no fool, and for part of the arrangements he would get \$2,500 when the contract was given (through his help and contacts) on November 30, 1861, plus another \$2,500 when the first 100 pistols were finished. He would then be paid one third of the profits each year. And he was clever. As part of the contract, he secured a cash advance of \$20,000 upon its signing

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followed by \$20,000 more at the end of three months, and \$20,000 more at the end of six months all to build a factory and hire workers. But he got bargained down to \$30 for the first 5,000, \$27 for the next 5,000, and \$25 for the final 5,000. On their part, the three promised to make 7,000 revolvers a year with 4,000 being delivered by December 1862, 7,000 by December 1863, and 4,000 by June of 1864. Iron for cylinders and barrels were okay, and so were bronze ("gunmetal") frames if "properly electroplated with silver."

Scrounging for a factory, Spiller & Burr ended up getting the failed Whitney revolver facilities of the Robinson Revolver Factory owned by Samuel Robinson who had switched over to a contract for converting and modernizing Virginia Armory muskets, rifles, and pistols. (Later he would clone Sharps carbines and a few Sharps rifles).

Meanwhile things went badly for Burton. Folks in the Confederate Congress took notice of the 'conflict of interest' with a public office holder and securing contracts and money in association with a private company. Supported by Colonel Josiah Gorgas, Chief of Ordnance, Burton was defended, and the charges eventually dropped but not before he had resigned but had his letter of resignation rejected by Secretary of War Randolph. But in the end it was felt that Richmond might have been too hot. (Originals are stamped just "Spiller & Burr." CS made Spiller & Burr usually carry the "CS" stamp upside down or right side up.)

But there was a price to pay. In May of 1862, Burton was relieved of the command of the Richmond Armory and sent south to establish an armory at or near Atlanta, Georgia. Burton had be told of the coming change, and went to Atlanta to scout for land. But things were slow to develop. Spiller found a suitable plot of land occupied by a flour mill, and started to have it refitted to serve as their revolver factory. At the end of November Spiller wrote to Burton that they did not have the 4,000 revolvers done as required. In fact, they had none. With Burton's help in fixing their rifling machine they were just starting, and Burton wrote to Gorgas two weeks later that sample arms were forthcoming. One was submitted by the end of the month. Spiller then took his samples to the Richmond Armory, and returned to Macon New Year's Day, 1863.

By mutual consent, a new contract was proposed in January 1863. The Richmond Arsenal had made suggestions here and there, such as using twisted iron for the cylinder instead of steel, and the elimination of the silver plating which was costly, thin and too prone to wearing off unevenly. Spiller, Burr, and Burton were contracted to produce 600 revolvers for February 1863, and 1,000 a month thereafter until the 15,000 were delivered. Payment was at \$43 for the first 5,000. \$37 for the next 5,000, and \$35 for the last 5,000. In March of 1863 the contract was given, even though it still called for 600 pistols to be delivered in February.

In April of 1863 Gorgas wrote to Burton informing him that General Bragg was fussing for revolvers. Burton wrote to the Chief of Ordnance for the Army of Tennessee that he had 100 pistols he could inspect and ship if he could be sent skilled workmen to finish making them. (A common problem for CS gunmakers as the army kept taking away their skilled mechanics and armorers in the Draft.) In May Burton received 40 revolvers from his partners. 33 failed inspection, many as useless, and the seven that passed were by "no means as perfect as they should be." In fact many did not make it to inspection as they were really bad with such defects

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as the cylinder chambers not lining up with the barrel. He kept the seven and returned the rest. In May of 1863, the first Spiller & Burr (& Burton) revolvers went into service. Seven.

Burton got “distracted” when in the summer of 1863 Gorgas sent him to England to purchase longarm machinery, with an eye to set up “Enfield” production in the South as well as modernize firearm and black powder operations based on a visit to the Royal Small Arms factory at Enfield (inter-changeable parts, etc) doing P1853 4th Models as well as a visit to the Birmingham makers (having made non inter-changeable arts 3rd Models) idled by the end of U.S. purchases and fall-off of CS purchases.

In January of 1864 the Confederate government had had enough, and much to the relief of Spiller and Burr, and probably Burton as well, bought the whole operation for \$190,804 (roughly \$2.9 million today). Burton sent his chief mechanic to oversee a move, and by the end of the month the pistol machinery had been relocated to the Macon Armory (in theory built to produce Enfield longarms). By the middle of February it was up and running at a snail’s pace. Plus the Army of Tennessee was still looking for 924 revolvers.

Production rose, but was plagued by major problems with iron cylinders bursting or cracking, and iron, steel, brass, copper, and lead shortages:

February.....	0
March.....	100
April.....	150
May.....	100
June.....	162
July.....	80
August.....	0
September...	0
October.....	50
November....	35
December.....	12

A total of 689 were made by the Confederate government to add to the 762 made by Spiller & Burr in Atlanta (plus one, a presentation piece for General Raines) for a maximum of 1,451 finished revolvers plus a number or pieces parts made into revolvers in 1865. Because of the lack of skilled workers to assemble them, often times S & B made more parts such as a batch of over 2,000 barrels than what they actually could use.

Basically the CS government assumed production. NUG, the differences are in the even more angled (acclivity) grip frame, and the additional “CS” inspector’s stamp found on most of the government made revolvers. And on a fine point the “Spiller & Burr” barrel stamp was later damaged and not replaced so the last “r” in, on, “Burr” is flawed.

With Sherman’s forces running around in July of 1864 and with the fall of Atlanta the beginning of September, Burton made plans to remove machinery idled by lack of raw materials to protect it from raids or loss. Pistol and stock machinery were boxed and crated for shipment out of

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danger.

In September, Gorgas changed his mind and had some machinery shipped to Columbia and Savannah, but decided to unpack and reset up the revolver works for as long as possible. In October production resumed. 50 S & B's were made, and 460 Austrian rifles cleaned and repaired. It would go downhill from there. It would be short-lived thanks to fears of what Sherman would do. In December things were shut down, and the contents of the Armory, Arsenal, and Laboratory were packed and shipped as previously intended.

Roughly two out of three Spiller & Burr revolvers went to the Army of Tennessee.



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Reproductions of the 762 made Spiller & Burr revolvers have been around since the 1960's or 1970's made by a number of Italian firms as well as offered in kit form. They are the S & B era revolvers with the straighter grip frame.

As is true of all Italian imports, they suffer from the usual issues of incorrect metal finishes and modern stampings. Kit made ones tend to be worse due to the lack of factory bluing. All or made with modern steel barrels and cylinders although some lads simulate the "twisted iron" look. The gunmetal (bronze) frames are now brass, and a bit too yellow versus the more mellow bronze of the originals that due to "brass" sources often was higher in copper giving it a reddish tint. However, age and use has mellowed some of the Italian brass over time (or lads using modern chemicals) to appear more Period.



References:

Albaugh, William, A. III, *The Confederate Brass-Framed Colt & Whitney*. Broadfoot Publishing Company, Wilmington, NC. 1955

Albaugh, William, A. III, Benet, Hugh. Jr, Simmons, Edward. *Confederate Handguns*. George Shumway, Publisher, York, PA. 1963

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Confederate Brass Framed revolvers: Myths and Realities, Part 2., aka Griswold and Grier, aka the Griswold, aka the Griswoldville, aka the Confederate Brass Colt, aka the Round Barreled Navy revolver.

Thirty-two year old Samuel Griswold of Windsor, Connecticut migrated to Clinton, Georgia in 1822 with his family. Samuel found a job clerking in a store, and his wife took in tailoring work while he put together the beginnings of a cotton gin making business capitalizing on machinery knowledge he had gleaned in Windsor.

Forming a partnership with Daniel Pratt, a transplanted New Hampshire man, Griswold and Pratt set up a small facility for the making of cotton gins, but hedged their bets by adding a saw mill and grist mill as well. Soon after, Pratt left, heading to Alabama where he founded his own town of Prattville and later designed the state capitol building in Montgomery.

Business was good, and when surveyors came in 1835 to plan out the route of the Central Railroad of Georgia, Griswold was able to snatch up 4,000 acres on the right-of-way about nine miles north of Macon. There he established his own town of Griswoldville complete with a mansion, homes for his children, a church, stores, gin factory, post office, a foundry, a planing mill, saw and grist mills, a soap, tallow, and candle factory, and a laundry. Plus more than fifty houses and cottages for his workers and more than 100 slaves.

In February 1862, Georgia governor Brown made an appeal for "Georgia pikes" hoping that patriotism and \$5 bonus per delivered pike would do the trick. As others did as well, Griswold combined patriotism and a chance for profit, and converted his gin factory over to a pike factory with the help of E. Grier of Grier & Masterson. Over the next two months, Griswold would make 804 pikes.

The Spring of 1862 saw a serious threat from the Federals on Savannah, and Colonel (later General) Josiah Gorgas feared that the considerable Confederate ordnance stores there would be lost if not moved. It was decided that Macon would do well, being some 180 miles inland and about to become one of the largest ordnance centers. Gorgas ordered the officer in charge at Savannah, Captain Richard Cuyler, to supervise the move.

About that time, Samuel Griswold had the idea that if he could make pikes, he could make Colt Navy revolver copies and approached the Confederate government for a contract to do so. He formed a partnership with Arvin Nye Gunnison his business agent and warehouse manager in New Orleans since 1858.

His timing was good, and corresponded to an effort by the Confederacy to ramp up arms production to meet their critical need of being short of weapons.

In May of 1862 Gorgas wrote to Cuyler that he was authorized to accept from the new company of Griswold and Gunnison as many revolvers as they could deliver in eight months at the price of \$40 each.

But Griswold had the house before the cart, and was not yet set up to start production. He wrote back saying within two months they could have a sample, and from there expected to turn out 50-60 revolvers per week.

It would be a slow start, plagued by similar problems many of the would-be Confederate gun makers would experience- a lack of machinery, a lack of raw materials especially iron or steel,

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skilled workers and armorers. Superintendent of the new Macon Armory, Walter Hodgkins stopped by in July to proof cylinders and barrels, and found that Griswold and Gunnison new operation had about 100 pistols underway in a factory housing 22 machines operated by 24 workmen, 22 of which were slaves.

The proof did not go that well. Recommendations were made and in August another round of proofings were conducted and cylinders and barrels passed as “sufficient.”

The first batch of 25 revolvers were completed In July but for some reason not sent through the system until October, when 22 were submitted for inspection and proof of 54 grains of powder and two balls, and cylinders filled with powder and one and two balls . 18 passed, with three failing due to burst barrels and one burst cylinder. One failed for a broken loading lever catch. Other problems were cited such as poor hardening and or tempering of parts, springs that were too short, and a ratchet that was too short to work the action.

In October, Griswold had increased his workforce up to 30 Black slaves, but suffered the loss of the 5-6 skilled armorers into the army. ‘Good judges’ deemed the “Negroes” to be “fair mechanics.”

From the start shortages of iron ad steel slowed production, as well as bronze. Priority shipments of iron were authorized, as well as bronze being secured through the famous church bell drive for churches to “loan” their bells to the War effort. Once an adequate supply of raw materials was forthcoming, Griswold and Gunnison were able to turn up production to a consistent 135 revolvers month or roughly five per day:

1862.

July.....25
August.....75
September.....80
October.....100
November.....105
December.....120

1863. January through December.... 135 per month

1864. January through November... 135 per month.

TOTAL: 3,500 (Highest known serial number is 3606 though)

On November 1, 1864 Sherman occupied Atlanta and Macon was threatened. Samuel Griswold saw the writing on the wall, and wrote to Colonel Burton at the Macon Armory that he did not want t own the pistol factory any longer and preferred the Confederate to either lease or buy the factory and the slaves. Burton then wrote to Gorgas that he opposed taking over the factory, but rather Griswold might be enticed to change his mind if they paid more for the revolvers. But on November 11th, Sherman started his move from “Atlanta to the Sea.” As the Federal right wing of the Army of the Tennessee advanced, a mixed force of Georgia Home Guards, the

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Rigdon Guard of Augusta, and a militia force of Griswoldville militiamen put up a spirited defense and the initial attack on Macon was held off at a hill about a mile east of town.

On November 21st, Judson Kilpatrick's cavalry raided the town capturing a supply train, burning the train station, and some buildings. The main force arrived on the 22nd, and after another spirited defense greatly hampered by lack of artillery and cavalry, the Confederates were forced to withdraw. Kilpatrick destroyed the Griswold and Gunnison factory. Most of the town was burned.

And that ended pistol production at Griswoldville.

On March 21, 1865 Burton wrote to then Colonel Cuyler asking for his cooperation in getting Gunnison back in the revolver making business. Nothing came of it, and on March 31, 1865 Burton wrote to the revolver company of Rigdon & Ansley informing them they were placed under his charge.

In less than two weeks, Lee surrendered.

For years, farmers farming the area unearthed revolver parts, and surface prospectors turned up parts such as steel dies, barrels, cylinders, hammers, triggers that were rejects or unfinished parts. And, includes an iron frame, possibly a prototype or sample.

Griswold & Gunnison revolvers are known in two types. The early production Type 1 has a rounded barrel housing (rear end) while the later production (roughly post #3000) Type II has a more "dragoon" style octagonal one.

Twisted iron cylinders are common. Depending on the alloy at the time of use, the brass frames can be yellow brass (gun metal bronze) or red brass depending on the mix of tin and copper.

External workmanship is good, however internal parts can be functional but not finished and contain many scratches and gouges left in place as not a concern.

Serial numbers go up to four digits, all being hand stamped one at a time and so are "crooked" and uneven.

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Type I:



Type II:



Reproductions.

The reproduction of the Griswold and Gunnison revolver goes all the way back to 1957 and the start of the reproduction firearm industry in Italy through Val Forgett, Sr., Vittorio Gregorelli, and the Brescia Italy firearms industry. While the first would be a copy of the Colt M1851 Navy (named the “Yank”), its brother would be the Griswold and Gunnison (named the “Reb” or sometimes the “Reb 60” or sometimes the “Reb 1860.”

The repro of the G & G is a Type II, post July 1864 production. At the moment I do not recall if there is a Type I repro or not.

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As with all Italian reproductions, it suffers from the usual litany of wrong grip wood, wrong metal finishes. Its biggest fault is perhaps that it uses a copy of the Colt M1851 Navy grip frame reproduction that does not angle as much as the original.

Here is an “antiqued” G & G Type II with simulated twisted iron cylinder. The serial number, unfortunately is in the very early Type I range:



Here it shows well the faceted flats of the dragoon style barrel end of the Type II's:



And another "aged" one"



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References:

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Confederate Brass Framed Revolvers: Myths & Realities, Part 3: Schneider and Glassick *by Curt Schmidt*

This is a story of somewhat of myth looking to justify somewhat a reality. In other words, a Confederate brass framed clone not a copy of a Colt M1851 Navy revolver.

Once again the story of Confederate gunsmiths pops up with the question of patriotism and profit. And certainly falls in line with a number of gunsmiths in the South thinking that since they were already altering flintlocks to percussion, reboring shot out bores, repairing, and refinishing guns of all types for the Confederacy looking to go into the revolver business.

One of the smallest, and briefest was Schneider and Glassick of Memphis, TN.

William Schneider and Frederick Glassick had been independent gunsmiths plying the Mississippi River trade before the War apparently making and selling derringers as well as guns made by others. By 1860 they were listed in the Memphis City Directory as “Schneider & Glassick, guns, pistols, etc.”

In the December 8, 1861 Memphis Daily Appeal ran a very short article praising “a beautiful weapon, not inferior to Colt’s make in any particular.”

It is not clear how many revolvers S & G made, but historians questimate production at one revolver a week for either less than 20 but certainly no more than 55-55. While starting in December of 1861, things ran until the beginning of March 1862

In any event, the ‘Daily Appeal’ ran a notice from Schneider & Glassick On March 7, 1862 that they were closing down and customers should come in to collect their guns by the 13th as they would be turned over to the Confederacy.

By March 15, 1862 Memphis was in Union hands and Schneider and Glassick were done.

Originals S & G’s are very rare. Among the four or five (?) there are mystery variations such as two with brass frames but with iron grip frame and trigger guard. And one with an iron grip frame and trigger guard, has a round rather than octagonal barrel.



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Reproductions.

Here is the Kicker. In the rush to offer a cheaper reproduction Colt revolver, the Italians inadvertently created the 'Schneider and Glassick' revolver when they decided to offer a Colt M1851 Navy with a brass frame at a lower price.

Once again the usual shortcomings and complaints with Italian reproduction revolvers still stand.

All in all, and up to a point, a brass framed Colt M1851 Navy can be (so-called) "de-farbed" to be more "S & G like" by removing the naval battle scene from the cylinder. etc.

Although a historical reality, a "Schneider & Glassick" reproduction revolver is near universally frowned upon and looked down on in reenacting and living history. ANY brass framed Colt M1851 Navy reproduction can assume the name and identity of a Schneider & Glassick.

However, with no more than 50 possibly made, and with the highest serial number found on an original is 23 hinting that less may have been turned out, it is not considered Plain, Everyday, and Common or not "quite" Period Correct or Authentic as a choice.

References:

Albaugh, William, A. III, *The Confederate Brass-Framed Colt & Whitney*. Broadfoot Publishing Company, Wilmington, NC. 1955

Albaugh, William, A. III, Benet, Hugh. Jr, Simmons, Edward. *Confederate Handguns*. George Shumway, Publisher, York, PA. 1963

Brass Framed Revolvers: Myths and Realities, Part 4

By Curt Schmidt

The Italian reproduction makers realized early on that there was a demand for a lower cost revolver among those interested in shooting blackpowder Civil War revolvers as well as a growing market among the new hobby of Civil War reenacting.

While the success of the Navy Arms reproduction “Griswold and Gunnison” aka “Reb” revolver provided somewhat of a historically accurate looking choice, in many cases in reenacting and living history it would be an easier option for an infantryman to add a revolver at a decent cost to their impression or for the Confederate cavalryman to add a second revolver (or in some cases three more). And it would enable N-SSA lads to try revolver competition at a lower cost.

In Reenacting and Living History, as the pendulum swung towards a greater measure of historical accuracy or authenticity, an infantryman other than an officer with a revolver- grew to be frowned upon in progressive circles and at events with higher standards. And as the rise of the Internet made research and documentation much more accessible than ever before, not knowing what is historically correct (aka “Period Correct”) or assuming because a maker made it and a vendor sold it, it must be okay made brass framed revolver less desirable or questionable for historical purposes.

The other side of the scale, the pendulum also swung into competitive shooting first in the N-SSA and later in the boom of Cowboy Action Shooting.

In the late 1990’s and early 2000’s, the whole lower cost, brass framed revolver business would receive a second life or shot in the arm from the phenomenal rise of Cowboy Action Shooting- a competitive shooting sport mostly based on timed competitions and costumes inspired by 99% plus Hollywood, fiction, or fantasy.

A side current to this evolution can be traced back to the Italian ‘Spaghetti Westerns’ of the mid 1960’s where for the first time reproduction revolvers were used instead of worn, beat, and used for generations original firearms. To provide the biggest bang for the buck, see more of them, and to keep costs down, it was (and still is) common for the prop departments to use the cheaper brass framed revolvers. As result, there are many lads who either learn their history from the “movies” or see a star or character using a brass framed revolver and think it is “cool.”

The combination of these elements has led to the growth of reproduction revolvers that never (use of the Universal noted) existed: a brass framed Colt M1860 Army, a brass framed Remington M1863 Army (incorrectly aka Model 1858, and a Colt M1851 Navy in .44 calibre.



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Why the "myth" of brass framed revolvers?

Without getting into complex metallurgy or confusing chemical analysis of metals beyond my poor understanding (more) "technically" Confederate brass framed revolvers and even the Henry Rifle did not have "brass" frames.

Instead they had "gun metal" aka "red brass" frames (sometimes called "bronze").

Brass is an alloy made of copper and zinc in varied proportions to meet different needs.

Bronze is an alloy of copper and tin (although the tin can be replaced by other metals like aluminum or manganese, or phosphorus or silicon).

Gun Metal (aka Red Brass, and not to be confused with metallic gray COLOR "gunmetal") is an alloy say of 88% copper, 10% tin, and 2% zinc. When we see Confederate gunmakers fussing about lead shortages, it is because they were using gun metal with lead such as say 86% copper, 9.5% tin, 2.5% lead, and 2% zinc. Or roughly, 80-88% copper, 10-15% tin, and 2-5% zinc. (Lead was added to increase flow for better casting.)

Basically as the copper content goes up, the color shifts pink or red. As the copper goes down, the metal shifts yellower then whiter. Because of shortages of key metals, Confederate manufacturing was a little bit random and hard to control exactly due to odd source material such as using Macon's bronze church bells (bell bronze being harder at say 78% copper, 22% tin) in their smelting pots. So, at times, a "brass" frame (or buttons for that matter) may be yellowish one time but reddish the next.

The frame of an original Winchester Model 1866 (aka Improved Henry) analyzed with modern techniques revealed the alloy was 83% copper, 14.5% Tin, 2% zinc, and .5% lead. So why is a Henry or Improved Henry not called a Gun Metal Frame or more easily called a Bronze Frame? (Also think bronze "Napoleon" cannon.)

The frame of an Uberti reproduction Henry rifle was analyzed by a process known as "X Ray Fluorescent Analysis." The finding was 56% copper, 44% zinc. Not a trace of tin. Truly, a "brass frame."

I might as well add this portion to this Quick & Dirty post. And that is a quick look at issues and controversies surrounding blank and live firing a modern Italian reproduction of a brass framed revolver due to the "lore" that surrounds them.

One of the criticisms and caveat warnings against buying a brass framed revolver, historical considerations set aside, is the dialogue and arguments is that with "heavy" loads their frames will wear out and put the works out

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of alignment, and even "stretch" the frame.

In brief and to over generalize, IMHO this is not a consideration when firing a few dozen blanks at a handful of events each year.

But, live firing, and live firing a large number of rounds, say in the thousands will. ESPECIALLY if firing say a Henry Rifle with modern smokeless powder cartridges.

Why?

Many times, brass framed reproductions are cheaper new and used because of their brass frames to begin with. But, being a cheaper gun overall, they can suffer from being at the low(er) end of the random and sometimes nearly non-existent (it appears) Italian Quality Control issue.

Live firing a C & B revolver with the "classic" combination of a full charge of blackpowder with room enough for the ball or conical bullet, wears heavily on soft pure brass. But it is the pressure on those parts that accelerates things getting out of line and out of sorts. PARTICULARLY where the cylinder arbors are not installed 100% correctly. This can allow too little or too much space between the cylinder's chamber mouths and the forcing cone. When fired (live) the force of the recoil keeps pushing the rear of the cylinder back into the recoil shield eventually not only denting and wearing the brass there, but also distorting it out of shape. This also can cause arbor issues to accelerate, one big one being how the barrel aligns on both "open top" Colt or "solid frame" Remington type revolvers. (Often times, if one looks at used brass framed revolvers, one can see the barrel tilting or being angled "off" a bit.)

All of this complicated by on-line sharing of personal experience. IMHO, it can be hard to know everything beyond what a poster shares about what his experience is or was with his 'brass frame' revolver. We do not always know the loads, the bullet sizes, and most particularly the number of rounds fired. Yet, one can find lads who report problems at a couple hundred rounds, while others claim no issues at 500 or a 1,000.

(Of course, that is beyond out-of-the-box issues due to random or missing Italian QC so one might get a revolver that works perfectly, and the next lad gets one that will not cock, rotate the cylinder, or fire. Horror stories about Pietta's offerings circa 2000 or so abound...)

In summary...

This should help lay to rest, but it won't, the myth of the brass framed revolver