

Procedures to clean your 1851 Navy Colt Revolver

Regimental Quartermaster, Inc. has prepared these instructions to assist you in the care and maintenance of your black powder Remington. For this purpose, we have used an engraved brass frame Navy Colt by Pietta which was in need of cleaning. **We do not recommend this type of indepth cleaning for an original/antique revolver as it will significantly devalue it.**



You will need the following items to properly clean your revolver:



Tools:



Wooden Handle Awl: Pictured on the bottom is a wooden handled awl; however, modern awls may be used as well. The awl is used for removing caked black powder from the frame, cylinder and other hard to reach areas.

T-Handle Cone Wrench/Screwdriver:

Made of steel, these cone wrenches/screwdriver are for the removal and installation of the revolver cones. Cones should be removed from the cylinder and cleaned every 3-6 months to prevent them from seizing inside, resulting in a costly replacement.



Cleaning Rod/Brushes: The two-piece cleaning rod and brushes are for cleaning out the barrel as well as the chambers of the revolver's cylinder. Recommend you spray the brushes with ballistol prior to chasing it down the barrel. The cotton brush can be cleaned and reused multiple times.

Tools (continued):



Revolver Wedge Punch: Made of Aluminum, this tool is typically used to remove the wedge from a revolver. It is also useful in removing the mainspring from the handle.

Cone/Nipple Pick: Made of steel, the long or short pick is used to clear out the cone hole of debris and black powder. As noted to the right, the end may be formed to facilitate cleaning of the bolster's ignition hole into the barrel.



NEVR-DULL: Works wonders on all types of metals, a little wadding goes a very long way and will simplify cleaning your revolver.

Tools (optional):



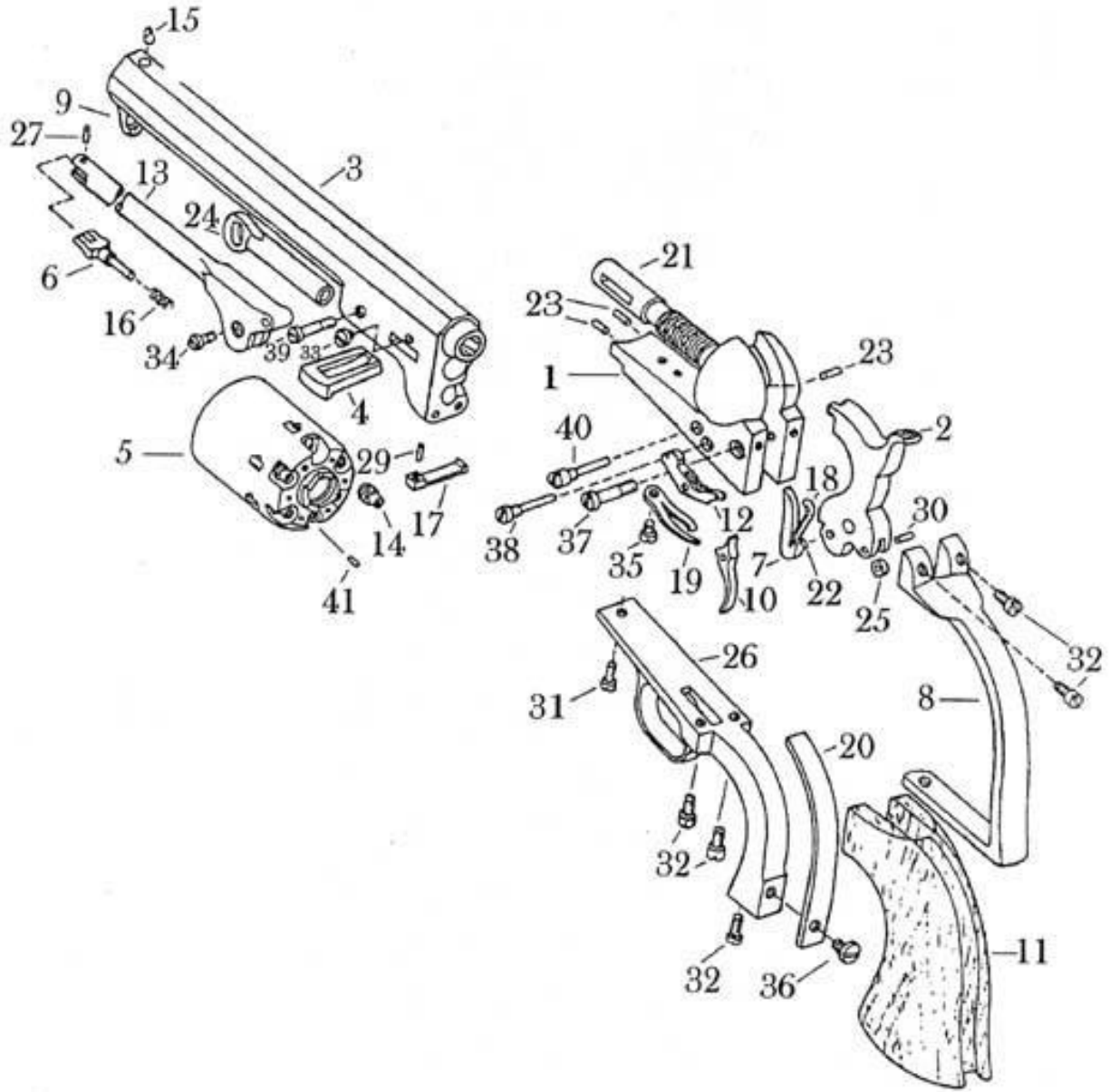
Steel Wool: Not for use on blued steel unless you wish to remove the bluing, or brass. Easily removes rust and corrosion from metal, but use sparingly and in conjunction with ballistol.

Scouring Pads: Cheap but effective. It is very useful if cut into smaller, more manageable, squares and used on steel. Use with ballistol to remove caked grime, black powder and/or rust. Will remove the bluing off of a blued barrel.



Dremel Tool: This versatile tool will allow you to quickly polish brass or grind down metal. Definitely a 'force multiplier' for your tool box. Cord and cordless models are available.

M1858 Parts List



- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1) Frame | 14) Nipple | 27) Loading Lever Latch Pin |
| 2) Hammer | 15) Sight | 29) Wedge Pin |
| 3) Barrel | 16) Loading Lever Latch Spring | 30) Roller Pin |
| 4) Wedge | 17) Wedge Spring | 31) Triggerguard Screw |
| 5) Cylinder | 18) Hand Assembly | 32) Backstrap and Triggerguard Screw |
| 6) Loading Lever Latch | 19) Trigger Bolt Spring | 33) Wedge Screw |
| 7) Hand Assembly | 20) Mainspring | 34) Plunger Screw |
| 8) Backstrap | 21) Base Pin | 35) Trigger Bolt Spring Screw |
| 9) Loading Lever Catch | 22) Hand Spring Pin | 36) Mainspring Screw |
| 10) Trigger | 23) Cylinder Lock Pin | 37) Hammer Screw |
| 11) Grip | 24) Plunger | 38) Trigger Screw |
| 12) Bolt | 25) Roller | 39) Loading Lever Screw |
| 13) Loading Lever | 26) Triggerguard | 40) Bolt Screw |
| | | 41) Cylinder Pin |

Disassembly

Often a revolver receives a quick wipe down after an event but does not receive a complete cleaning. We recommend the owner disassemble the revolver completely and clean it every 3-6 months to keep the black powder from corroding the metal and rust from building up. For this presentation, we are using a brass-frame Confederate M1851 Navy Colt Revolver, made by Uberti. Brass frame revolvers require the most care as the soft metal is very susceptible to damage and wear.



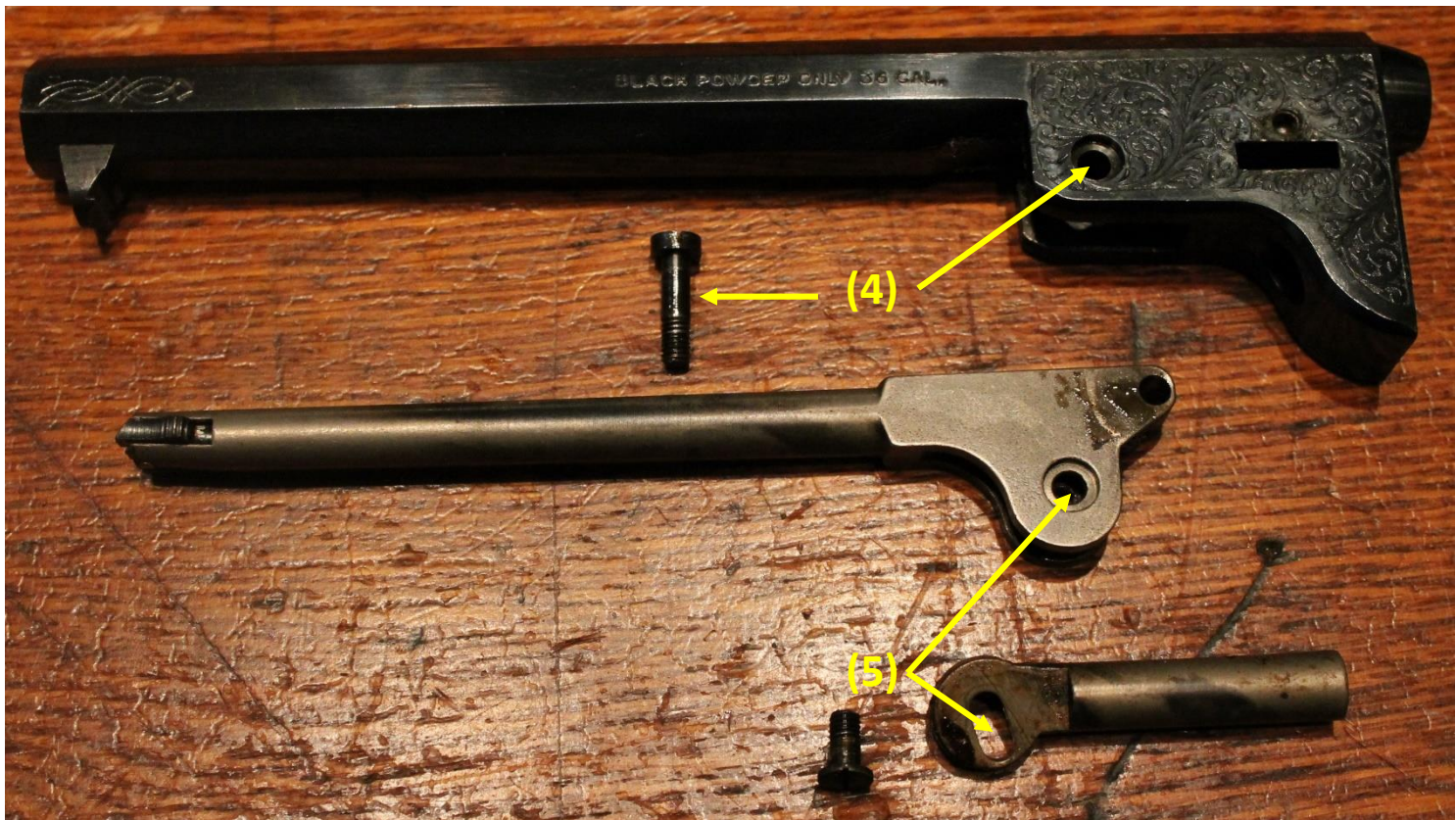
STEP 1: Wedge & Pin

Taking the revolver in your hand, unscrew the wedge screw, releasing tension on the wedge spring. Set the screw to the side and attempt to push the wedge free. If needed, use the thin end of the wedge punch and **(2)** lightly tap the wedge out of the revolver.



STEP 2: Barrel

Place the wedge to the side. Carefully pull on the barrel away from the frame (3). With the barrel in hand, locate the loading lever screw (4) and remove it from the barrel. The loading lever will now slide free from the barrel. Unscrew the plunger screw (5) from the loading lever. Take a cotton patch and cleaning rod and clean out the interior of the barrel. Once that is complete, wipe down the screws, barrel, plunger and loading lever with Ballistol and set them to the side.



STEP 3: Cylinder

Pull slightly back on the hammer to free the cylinder and carefully pull it out to one side. You may have to wiggle it free from the frame. With the cylinder in hand, take your cone wrench and remove the cones from the cylinder. Spray them down with ballistol and remove all traces of black powder/corrosion. Use barrel brushes to clean out the cylinder chambers and, once complete, reinsert the cones and set the cylinder to the side.



STEP 4: Grip

Locate the backstrap screws (located by the base of the hammer) and remove them. Then remove the triggerguard screw located on the bottom of the grip and remove it as well. Oil/clean the screws and place them to the side. Slide the one-piece grip from the brass backstrap, coat it in linseed oil and set it aside to dry. Take a small piece of NEVR-DULL and vigorously clean the brass to a high polish. Once complete set the backstrap to the side with the grip and screws.



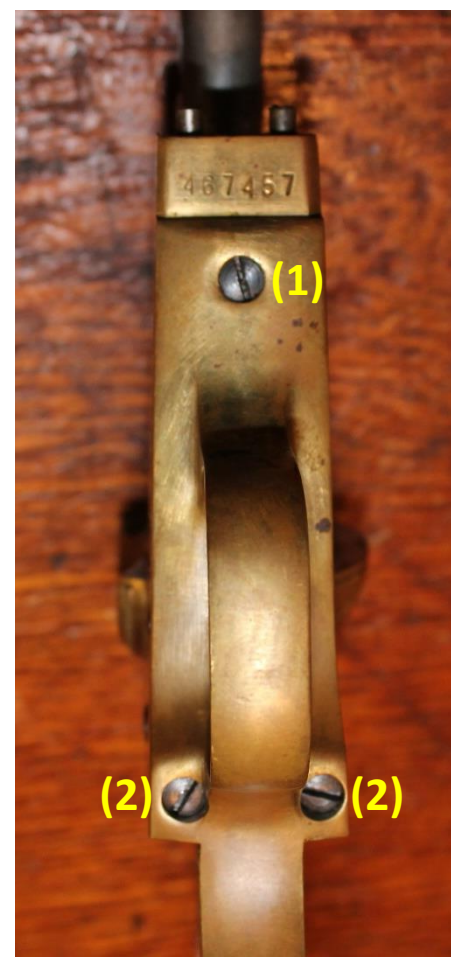
STEP 2: Grip (continued)

With the grip removed and the hammer all the way forward, locate the mainspring screw **(1)** at the base of the triggerguard and loosen it. Once loose, **(2)** slide the mainspring out from underneath the hammer to one side. Remove the screw and the mainspring. Once removed, wipe down the screw and spring with Ballistol and set it aside.



STEP 5: Triggerguard

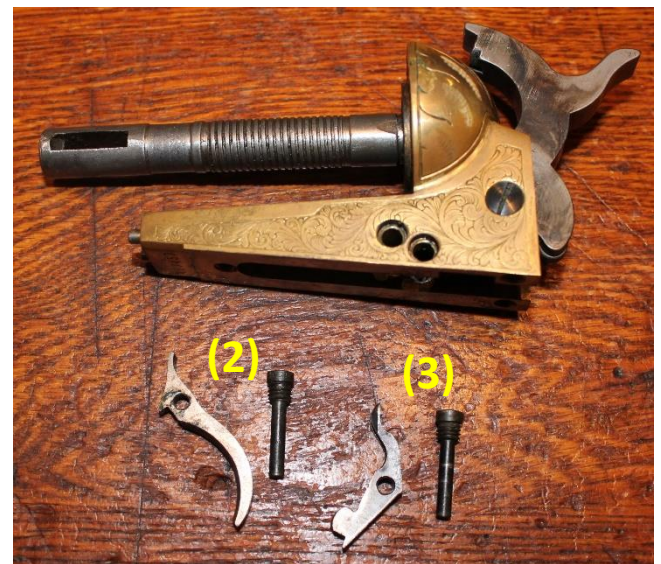
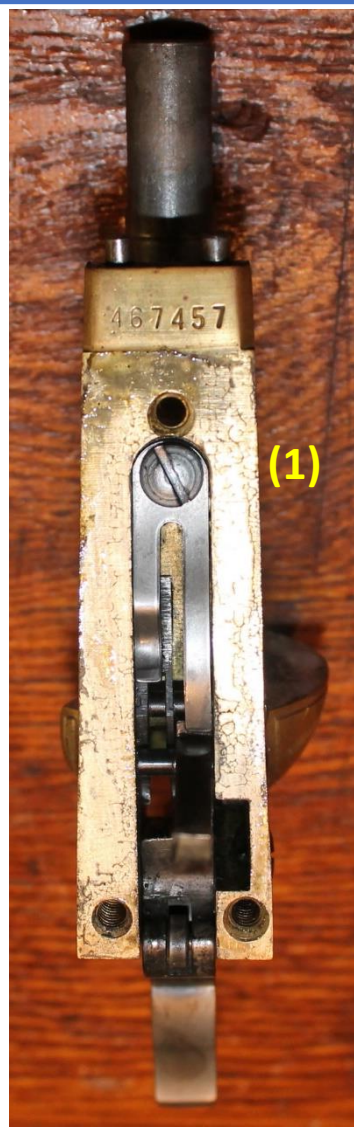
Turn the revolver and locate the Triggerguard. Remove the triggerguard (1) and backstrap (2) screws. Clean the screws with ballistol and set them aside. Using NEVR-DULL, take a small piece and rub it onto the brass. Pay particular attention to areas that have built up powder or oxidation. If you wish, you may bring the brass to a high-shine, especially if you use a Dremel tool equipped with a polisher after removing all signs of corrosion.



STEP 6: Mechanics

The frame's triggerguard well holds all of the mechanics for your revolver. With the triggerguard set aside, the first screw to remove is the trigger and bolt spring screw. Apply Ballistol and let it set for five minutes if it is tight. **(1)** Remove the screw and the trigger and bolt spring. Wipe down the trigger & bolt spring and screw and set them to the side.

On the left side of the frame you will find the trigger **(2)** screw. Remove the trigger screw and set it to the side. The trigger should slide out from the housing easily. Remove the cylinder stop/bolt screw **(3)** and carefully remove the cylinder stop/bolt. Set both of them aside. Screws, trigger and cylinder bolt/stop should be cleaned off with ballistol, paying special attention to the recesses in both.



STEP 6: Mechanics (continued)

With the trigger guard well clear, remove the hammer screw from the frame (1). Push gently down on the hammer (2) until it travels through the trigger guard well and is free from the frame. Once it has been removed, (3) clean the screw and hand assembly and set them aside. Pull the hammer upwards away from the frame until it too is clear. Clean/wipe down the hammer along with the holes and set the hammer aside. The revolver is now ready for its frame to be cleaned.



STEP 7: Frame

For brass frame revolvers we recommend using NEVR-DULL and a Dremel Tool to bring it to the high shine shown below (as seen below). Time and patience is required, especially if the brass is scoured with black powder corrosion.

For bright steel revolvers we recommend using NEVR-DULL, Ballistol and cotton patches to remove the corrosion and rust. A Dremel tool with polishing wheel will bring the steel to a high shine.

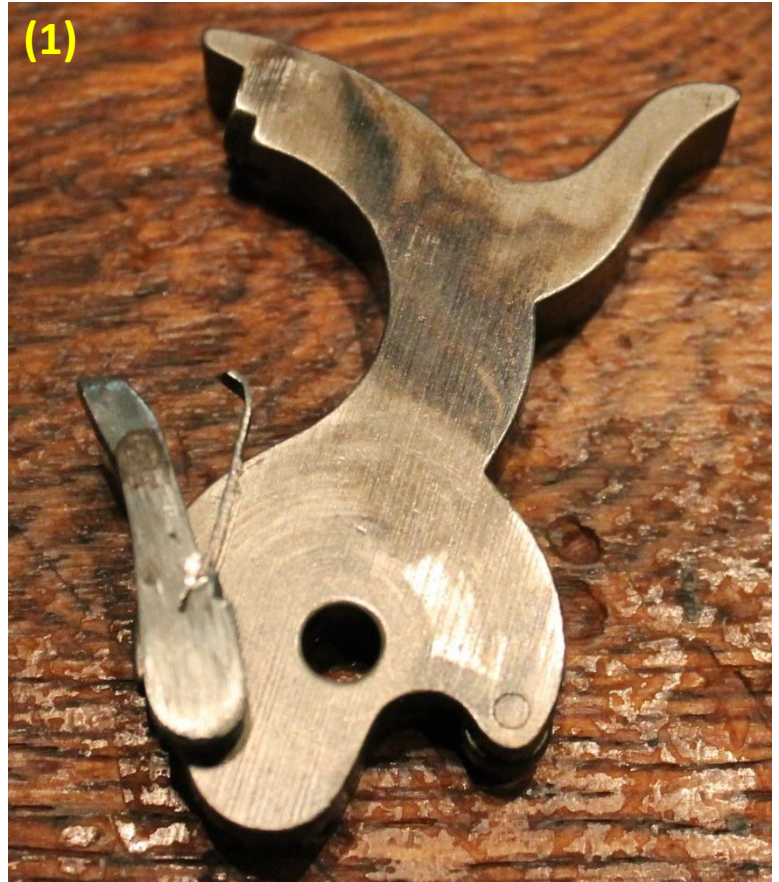
For blued steel revolvers we recommend using Ballistol and cotton patches to remove surface rust and corrosion. We do not recommend a Dremel tool or NEVR-DULL as it may remove the bluing from the frame.



Reassembly

STEP 8: Mechanics

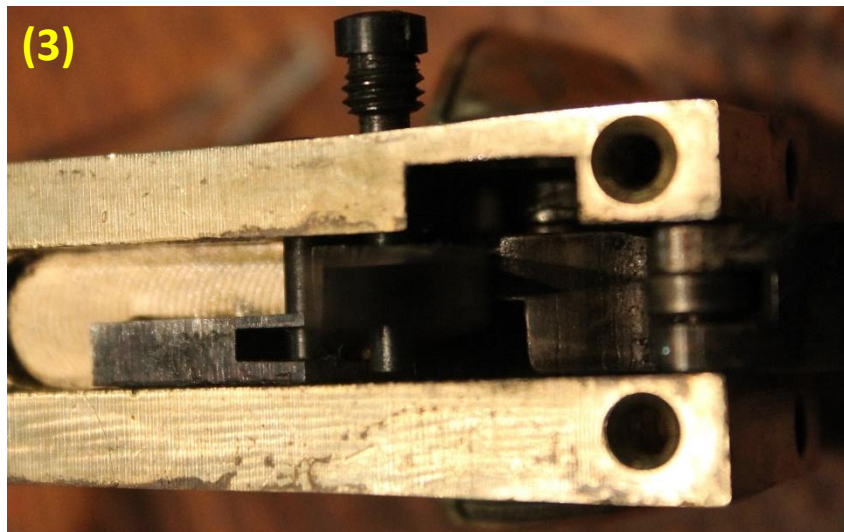
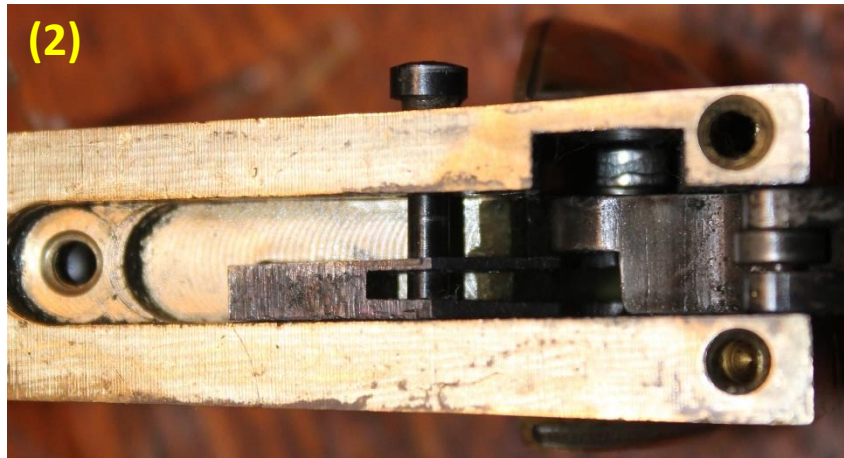
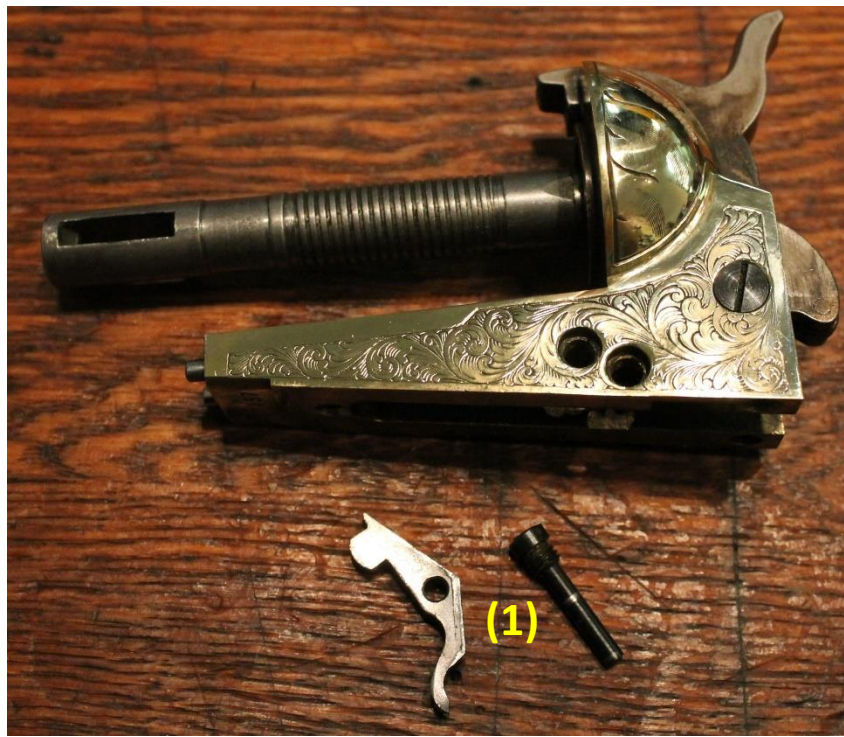
With the frame in hand, locate the hammer and hand assembly, inserting the hand assembly **(1)** into the hammer. Slide the hammer into the frame **(2)**, pushing it through the triggerguard well. Line up the holes **(3)** of the frame and the hammer. Insert the hammer screw and screw it in until it is tight, do NOT overtighten any screws as it will only cause additional problems the next time you disassemble your revolver.



STEP 8: Mechanics (continued)

Locate the cylinder stop/bolt and screw **(1)**. Turn the revolver until you are looking directly into the triggerguard well. Place the cylinder stop/bolt into the frame **(2)** so that it is flat against the hammer and side of the frame. Insert the cylinder stop/bolt screw from the right side and tighten. Locate the trigger and place **(3)** it next to the cylinder stop/bolt, line it up with the hole in the frame and insert the trigger screw.

At this point, test your progress by pulling back on the hammer. It should click at safe and then again at fire. Pull on the trigger and push the hammer back forward.



STEP 8: Mechanics (continued)

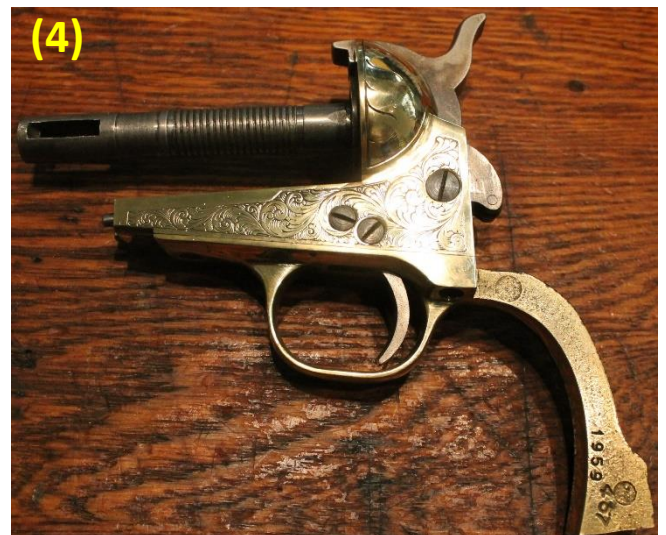
At this point, the frame of the revolver should appear as it does to the right **(1)**.

Turn the revolver again and insert the trigger and bolt spring **(2)**. Line up the hole, as shown, with the shorter end of the spring lying on the cylinder stop/bolt and the longer on the trigger. Locate the trigger and bolt spring screw and screw it in until tight. DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN.

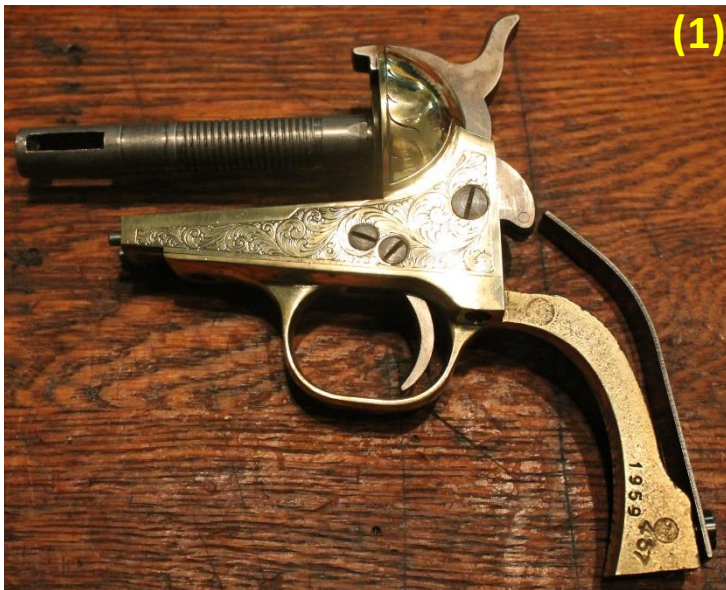
STEP 9: Triggerguard

Place the triggerguard **(3)** onto the bottom of the frame, lining up the holes. Insert the triggerguard screw and hand tighten. Then insert the backstrap screws and tighten them into the frame. Go back to the triggerguard screw and finish tightening it into the frame **(4)**.

**Note: At this point you may have realized that the four backstrap screws are interchangeable, as well as the two triggerguard screws, between the backstrap and triggerguard. It will also make ordering replacements much easier on you.*

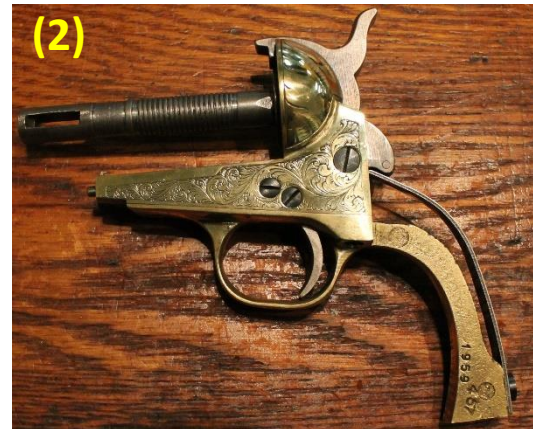


STEP 10: Grip



(1) With the hammer fully forward, locate the mainspring and mainspring screw. Hand tighten the mainspring screw and then, with the mainspring to the side (1), push it in and under the hammer. This may take some finesse and strength, as the mainspring will be in tension. Once the mainspring is in position, tighten the mainspring screw.

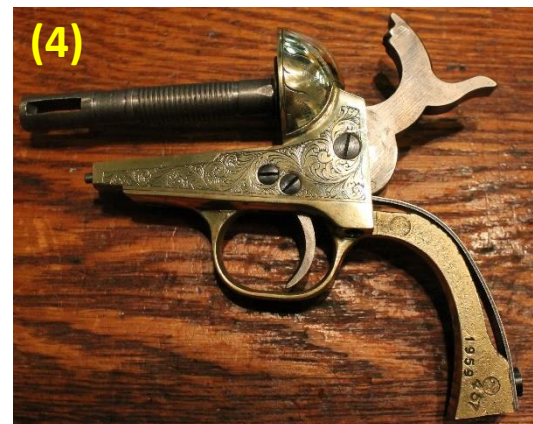
At this point, it is best to conduct a functions check of your revolver to ensure the mechanics inside the frame are functioning correctly. This will also save wear and tear on your screw heads and revolver parts.



(2) With the hammer in the 'down' position,

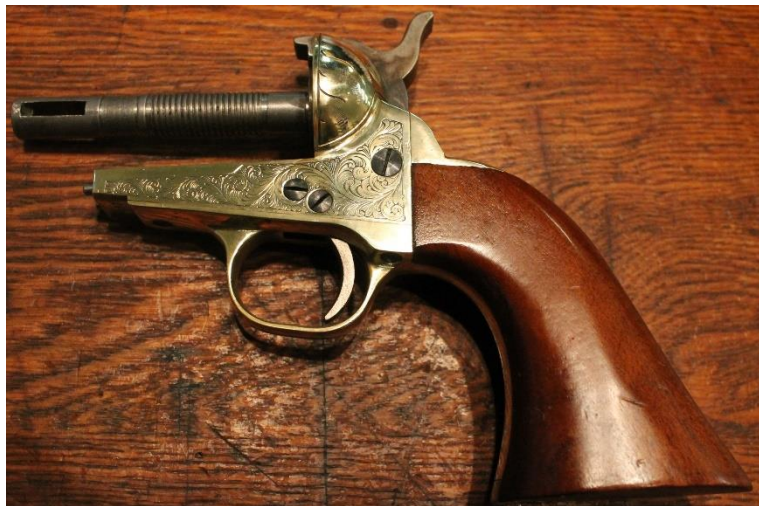


(3) pull the hammer back slowly and the trigger should 'click' into 'safe'. If you pull on the trigger the hammer should not fall.



(4) Pull the hammer all the way back into the 'fire' position. Pull the trigger and the hammer will fall. Your revolver's mechanics are correct and you may proceed with the reassembly.

STEP 10: Grip (continued)



If there are any traces of linseed oil on the grip, wipe it down before sliding it back into the backstrap. Locate the backstrap screws and trigger guard screw, insert and tighten.

STEP 11: Cylinder

Holding the revolver in one hand, take the cylinder in the other. Pull slightly back on the hammer and insert the cylinder into the frame.



STEP 12: Barrel

Gather the **(1)** loading lever, plunger, plunger screw, loading lever screw, barrel, wedge pin and wedge pin screw. Take the plunger, **(2)** insert it into the loading lever and screw in the plunger screw. **(3)** Slide the loading lever and plunger into the barrel, insert the loading lever screw and tighten.

Take the frame and marry it up to the frame, noting the small brass pins on the bottom of the frame that match up with the two recesses on the bottom of the barrel assembly. Push them together, insert the wedge screw into the barrel and then push the wedge pin into the barrel. Once it is through, tighten the wedge pin screw and your weapon is ready for your next event.



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