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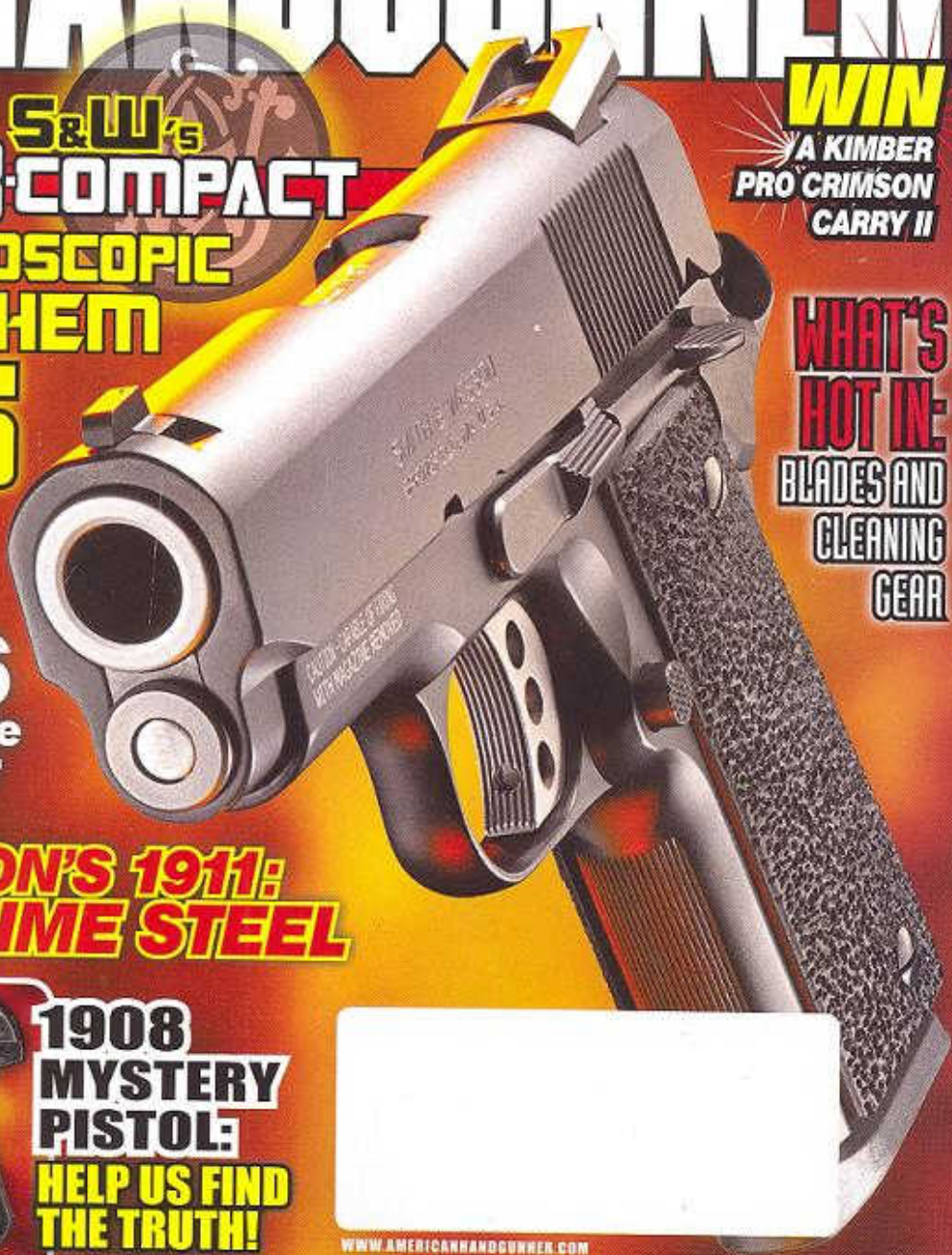


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1908
MYSTERY
PISTOL:
HELP US FIND
THE TRUTH!

WIN
A **KIMBER**
PRO CRIMSON
CARRY II

WHAT'S
HOT IN:
BLADES AND
CLEANING
GEAR



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TAFFIN TESTS

John Taffin

The NAA Super .22 compared to the NAA .22 — both are five shooters.



THE SIXGUNNER HIMSELF: GUNS, GEAR AND MORE

Hodgdon's Pyrodex P was used for shooting the NAA BP .22s.

NAA'S TINY B/P WHEELGUNS



Penetration test with the NAA BP .22s.

Point shooting was at least fun!

As so often happens with discoveries or inventions, the Chinese did not really know what they had when they came up with gunpowder. The original purpose was for entertainment, fireworks displays. Someone, somewhere, sometime, somehow discovered if gunpowder was placed in a hollowed out bamboo tube followed by any projectile or projectiles which would fit in the barrel and then touched off at the back with a fuse, very interesting things happen. This was the first example of handloading and from that time until the last half of the 19th century handloading really was *hand-loading*.

In 1836 Sam Colt produced the first truly workable repeating black powder

sixgun, the Colt Paterson. This little five-shot revolver required the user to hand load by placing powder in each chamber from the front, then placing a round ball at the mouth of each chamber and seating it with either a separate rammer or one built into the under carriage of the barrel, then placing grease over the top of each ball to seal the chambers against chain fires, and then finally placing a cap over each nipple at the back of the cylinder.

The coming of the first Smith & Wesson and Colt cartridge firing six-guns did not obsolete later percussion revolver designs overnight. Shooters, especially those on the far frontier, realized they could carry powder, balls

and cap and always be able to load their own. Gunshops and hardware stores supplying ammunition were definitely few and far between. Today thousands upon thousands of shooters still enjoy hand loading their own the old way, and virtually every percussion revolver of the 19th century has been replicated for the pleasure of 21st century devotees of the Holy Black. There's something about black powder shooting that gets into the mind, soul, body, and spirit and we are willing to put up with the required hand loading as well as the smoke, the smell, and the cleanup mess.



NAA supplies eye pitting needed for shooting, except powder and percussion caps.



NAA offers a flap holster as well as custom grips for the Super .22.

Teeny Tiny

Shooting black powder revolvers is simply fun, and as I've said many times shooting should be fun. The most fun shooting I know of is with .22s, whether they be rifles, pistols or revolvers. Would it actually be possible to combine the fun of black powder with the great enjoyment of a .22?

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TAFFIN TESTS

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The answer is a most resounding yes and North American Arms actually builds .22 cap and ball sixguns, mini-revolvers requiring hand loading. These little spur-triggered, five-shot .22s are not toys and, are in fact, high quality working revolvers.

North American Arms offers two models, the NAA .22 Cap and Ball and the NAA Super .22 Cap and Ball; the latter has a longer barrel and cylinder for increased velocity. Both the barrel and cylinder of the smaller model are approximately 1" in length while the Super Model's corresponding measurements are approximately 1.5" in length. North American Arms supplies everything needed except powder and cap. This includes .22 bullets, powder measures, loading tool, even a nipple pick; they also offer custom grips, including oversize grips which are easier to hold onto, and holsters. To load either version the spring-loaded cylinder pin is pulled forward, the cylinder is removed, and then hand loaded and carefully returned to its proper position.

Wanting to see just how powerful these little guns were I made up a baffle box figuring three .75" pieces of pine would be enough and actually I only needed one. Using the provided powder measure, Hodgdon's Pyrodex P, and a Remington #10 percussion cap, the muzzle velocity of the standard NAA .22 was 287 fps while the longer barrel and cylinder of the Super .22 was 429 fps — neither were powerful enough to penetrate the first pine board completely. When fired, the .22 bullets from each one penetrated to .198" and .232" respectively, and then bounced off and hit my denim jacket. So, the first lesson learned is do not shoot at hard objects at close range. Point shooting on paper resulted in good accuracy, and basically both of these little .22s shoot to point of aim.

Just For Fun

I've often carried a .22 LR or a .22 Magnum in a shirt pocket as a backup to my normal carry gun, or in a few circumstances when nothing else was practical; but that is not what these Mini-22s are intended for. These are not Packin' Pistols but rather Pleasurable Pistols. Fill the cooler with lunch and cold drinks, invite family members or friends, find a shady spot to sit down, and then enjoy each other's company and pure fun of shooting.



For more info: North American Arms, 2150 South 950 East, Provo UT 84606, (800) 821-5783, www.naaminis.com.

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