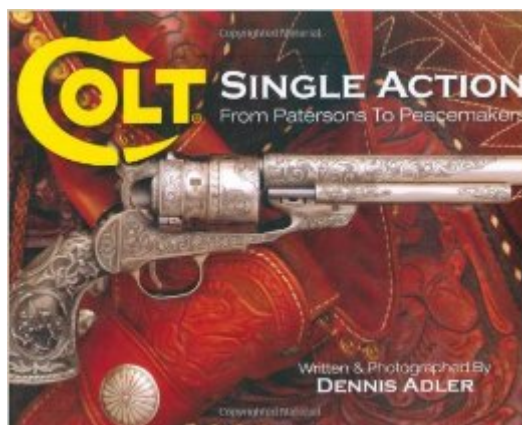


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Colt Single Action: From Patersons To Peacemakers



Synopsis

This book chronicles the entire history of Sam Colt's developments in handguns from the first Paterson revolvers through the legendary 1860 Army, and from the time of his death in 1862, the evolution of cap and ball revolvers into the cartridge models carried during the Western Expansion of the 1870s. Author and photographer Dennis Adler takes you on a pictorial voyage through history with striking studio photography of the world's greatest Colt revolvers, factory archival images and original patent drawings, and tales of the soldiers, lawmen, and lawbreakers who made Colt revolvers part of American history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I must say I expected a good book following the purchase of *Metallic Cartridge Conversions*, what you get with *Colt Single Action: From Patersons to Peacemakers* is a superbly produced book covering this genre. Not only informative as you would expect but written so well, not over technical just sheer good interesting subject reading, add the brilliance of Dennis Adler's photography you have one of the best books on the market. If you are a devotee of R L Wilson's books as I am, he now has some very serious competition.

It pains me to give this book only three stars when it could have so easily garnered five. This book was obviously a labor of love for the author, but he let his ego interfere with his presentation by inserting costumed photos of himself into what, in my opinion, should have been a strictly

informational tome. But that's OK because it's his book. I just would have liked it better if he'd kept it impersonal. The good points: 1) The photography and arrangements of guns with period holsters and accessories are excellent and well done. 2) The history of Colt and large detailed photographs of early revolvers not often seen in print are excellent. The bad points: 1) As others have pointed out, there is far too much on engraved and embellished guns that are not typical of what the average enthusiast will see at gun shows or even in private collections. 2) With the supply of originals drying up there is a need for, and a place for, information on modern copies that we mortals can enjoy. A chapter devoted to 2nd gens and another chapter on Italian and even German (Hawes) copies would have been appropriate without detracting from the information on the old ones. 3) I am in my 80's and have handled my share of Pattersons and Walkers before there were copies. Shootable Navies with the cylinder scene still visible could be bought in the 40's and 50's for \$20. I held and examined a number of Pattersons from the Phillips collection that Phillip R. Phillips himself showed me at gun shows where we both had tables. Most of his Pattersons still had their beautiful "powder blue" finishes, unblemished by time. There was also the only known cased Walker called back then "the Sheerin Walker," named for the collector, oil man Larry Sheerin, who bought it from a broker who had acquired it from the descendents of the original owner, a Danish ship captain. It was a civilian model and still had 98% of its original beautiful powder blue. And there is also the pristine almost mint Walker that recently sold for just under a million dollars (about \$945,000, I think) on auction. None of these famous unengraved guns were in the book. In fact I saw no guns at all with the beautiful original sky-blue finish. Examples aren't that hard to find. I examined a mint baby Patterson myself as recently as the 1983 with this finish. Printed in China, this is a fine coffee table book appropriate for visitors who collect or love to look at old Colts. It even has some useful information for someone not already familiar with Colt history. This book comes close but for me has flaws that didn't have to happen. It's a beautifully printed picture book of old and second generation (new) Colts, some of which are so gaudily decorated and in such bad taste they're almost jokes. I'm especially referring here to a pair of specially commissioned 2nd gen engraved armies with (now get this) draped bright red, white, and blue US and Confederate flags somehow emblazoned on the tops and sides their barrel surfaces. ... They look like some high school kid painted flags on a pair of fake guns. ... C'mon, now! ... these one-of-a-kind freaks shouldn't be included in ANY serious book, except for perhaps a Franklin Mint Catalog..

This book is chuck-full of information; the opening chapters, particularly those pages dealing with Patterson rifle conversions are unique in my experience! Mr. Leavett has some fascinating

pieces. The illustrations are of the highest quality; I was happy to see the coverage given to the engraved versions of the "second-generation" black-powder revolvers, having owned a few myself. This is right in there with the best \$19.99 you can spend on a gun book.

Believe it or not...I bought this for my 13 year old niece's birthday! She's in the Single Action Shooters and LOVES THIS BOOK! Beautiful pictures along with lots of history and facts.

This is a beautiful, very well written book on the history of Colt single action revolvers. Dennis Adler does a wonderful job and there are lots of color pictures to drool over. Always look forward to his newest work.

This book has beautiful photos and interesting commentary on the history of the Colt revolvers. It is an enjoyable book to flip through and I would recommend it for any Colt enthusiast. It does not contain the details about the guns that a collector might want, but that was clearly not the point of this book. For the price, this book is an absolute bargain for the photos of many rare pistols. I highly recommend it.

A picture history of the evolution of Sam Colt and his firearms. Extremely well written and the pictures are fantastic. This is a must have book for anybody interested in Sam Colt's famous firearms. I must admit though, this is a book on a famous American Sam Colt and his creations, written and photographed by an American, but the book was printed in China, it seems the book could have been printed by Americans as well? But, don't let that stop you from buying this book.....

This book really enlightened me when it came to the Paterson models. The overall history of Sam Colt was well told, and the photographs were outstanding. All in all an excellent read. From this book and several of Dennis Adler's other books I've noticed that he focuses on the highly decorated and engraved models, and there seemed to be pictures of more engraved models than regular arms that people used frequently. But they deserve their place too, you can see the worn and used arms through an internet search, this book tells the story well with great pictures of the lesser used but mainly looked at guns. I did like it so much I had to read it twice. Well written!

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