

OFFICIAL 20 YD. TIMED AND RAPID FIRE PISTOL TARGET

(STANDARD AMERICAN TYPE)

COLT - an
American
heritage

MATCH # _____

RELAY # _____

TARGET # _____

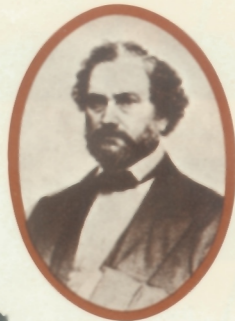
STAGE # _____



**Be a safe shooter
Be a Colt shooter**

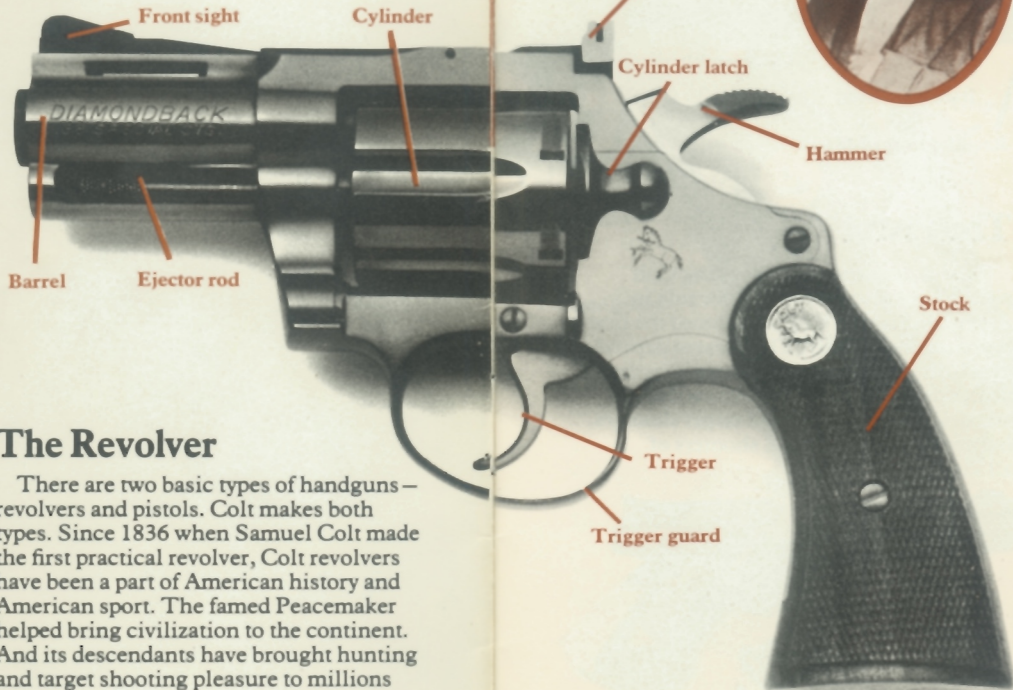
**Handling
the Handgun**

A Guide to Safe Shooting



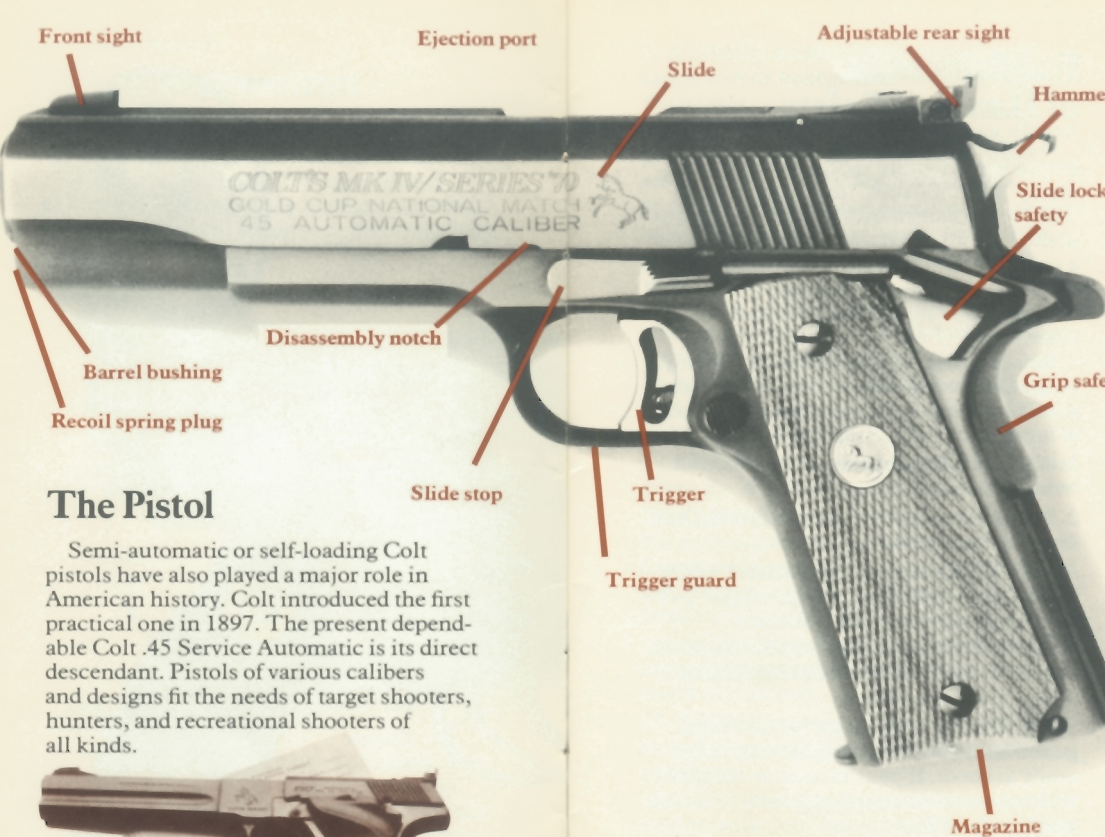
Colt, an American Heritage since 1836

This guidebook is intended to help the beginner and remind the experienced shooter to practice safe handgun shooting and enable them to improve their handgun skills.



The Revolver

There are two basic types of handguns—revolvers and pistols. Colt makes both types. Since 1836 when Samuel Colt made the first practical revolver, Colt revolvers have been a part of American history and American sport. The famed Peacemaker helped bring civilization to the continent. And its descendants have brought hunting and target shooting pleasure to millions of American sportsmen.



The Pistol

Semi-automatic or self-loading Colt pistols have also played a major role in American history. Colt introduced the first practical one in 1897. The present dependable Colt .45 Service Automatic is its direct descendant. Pistols of various calibers and designs fit the needs of target shooters, hunters, and recreational shooters of all kinds.



Fundamentals of Handgun Safety

A good shooter is a safe shooter. There is no place in shooting sports for the "smart aleck," the "hot-shot," the "gunslinger." They're not safe to have around, regardless of their ability to hit the target. Shooting is a sport and a recreation, but strict obedience to the rules of safety is mandatory. Constant awareness of safe shooting practices is essential.

Before going into the field or to the target range the safe shooter reviews these rules to be sure that his handgun handling, both at home and in use, is exemplary.

1. **ALWAYS** handle every firearm as if it were loaded.
2. **NEVER** point your gun at anything you do not intend to shoot.
3. **NEVER** ask if a gun is unloaded; check for yourself with finger off the trigger and the gun pointed in a safe direction.
4. **ALWAYS** be sure that the barrel and the action are clear of obstructions. Clean a fouled gun immediately.
5. **NEVER** put your finger in the trigger guard until you are aiming at your target ready to shoot. If your firearm is equipped with a manual safety, always keep it on safe until ready to fire.
6. **NEVER** dry fire except at a place provided for it and then only after rigid inspection of the firearm to ensure it is unloaded. Colt does not recommend dry firing handguns with fixed firing pins.

7. **ALWAYS** be absolutely sure of your target and its background before you pull the trigger.
8. **ALWAYS** put someone in charge when a group is firing on the range to maintain safety control. Obey his commands.
9. **ALWAYS** carry a revolver on the range with the cylinder open, and a pistol with the slide locked open and the magazine withdrawn.
10. **ALWAYS** be sure your backstop is adequate to stop and contain bullets before beginning target practice.
11. **NEVER** shoot at a flat, hard surface such as rocks or the surface of water. The bullets may ricochet.
12. **NEVER** use a gun that fails to function properly. **NEVER** force a jammed action.
13. **ALWAYS** carry your gun empty, with the action open, in your camp, car, or home. Completely unload your gun before cleaning, storing, traveling, laying it down, or handing it to a friend.
14. **ALWAYS** store guns and ammunition separately, locked if possible, beyond the reach of children.
15. **NEVER** leave a loaded gun lying about or in an automobile where someone may pick it up.
16. **NEVER** walk, climb or follow a companion with your handgun in battery ready for firing, out of its holster, or off safety. Revolvers should be carried with the hammer down on an empty chamber. Automatics should be carried with the chamber

empty. When hunting hold your gun so that you can control the direction of the muzzle even if you slip.

17. **NEVER** indulge in horseplay while holding a firearm.
18. **ALWAYS** use only clean, dry factory ammunition of the proper size and caliber. Don't use modified or mutilated ammunition.
19. **AVOID** alcoholic beverages both before and during shooting.
20. **ALWAYS** instruct children to respect and properly use firearms. Supervise them closely, always stressing safety.

The satisfaction you get from shooting a Colt is exceeded only by the satisfaction you get from shooting it well. These basic tips will give you the right start.

Basic Handgun Shooting

Fundamentals. Handgun accuracy, like any other skill, stems from mastering a set of basic fundamentals and putting them into practice each time you go target shooting.

When going to a range, your guns should be unloaded with the action open or cylinder clear. Be certain your gun is unloaded. With a revolver, check each chamber in the cylinder. With a pistol, remove the magazine, and open the action.

Load only when actually on the firing line. When loading a revolver, do not load the chamber under the hammer. When loading a pistol insert the magazine but leave the action open.

When you are finished shooting and leaving the firing line, clear your gun. Inspect it to make sure it is empty. Carry revolvers with cylinder open and pistols with action open and magazine removed.

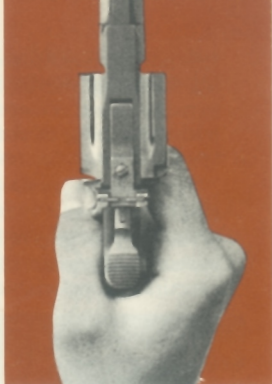
Grip

Practice your grip only with an empty gun. Correct hand position on the grip is essential to accurate, comfortable handgun shooting.

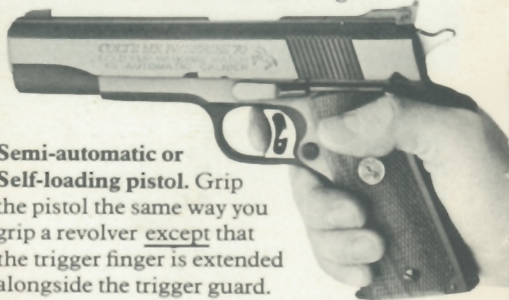


Single-action revolver. Pick up the gun with left hand, cradling it under the trigger guard. Then, with right hand, grasp the grip so that the "V" formed between the index finger and thumb is fitted as high on the grip as is comfortable. The palm and heel of the hand form a firm backstop for the gun's recoil. The thumb should rest along the frame in a comfortable relaxed position. The trigger finger should be relaxed and, when placed in the trigger guard, should naturally fall on the trigger. The fleshy portion of the first joint should be directly on the trigger. The remaining three fingers do

all the actual gripping of the gun. They should exert steady, firm pressure so as to steady the gun, but not so much pressure that the gun trembles when held. (Note: Directions are for right-handed shooters. Reverse if left-handed.)



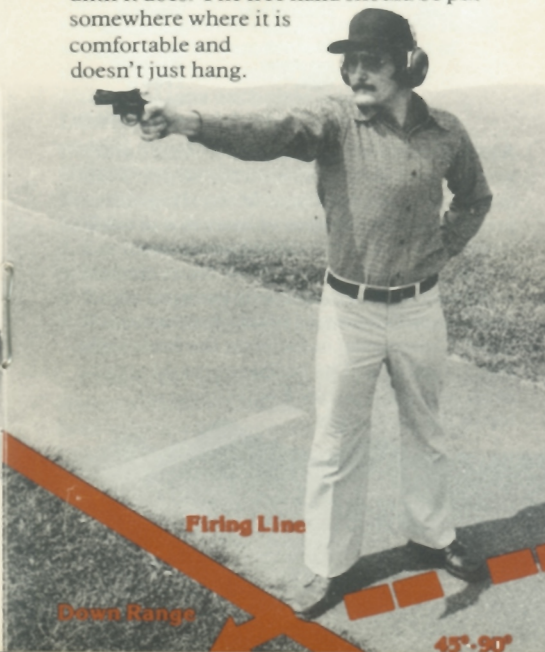
Double-action revolver. Grip is identical to single-action revolvers except that the trigger finger is placed so that the trigger falls between the first and second finger joints. This allows sufficient leverage to actuate the combination cocking-firing mechanism of the double-action gun.



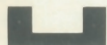
Semi-automatic or Self-loading pistol. Grip the pistol the same way you grip a revolver except that the trigger finger is extended alongside the trigger guard. When placed in the trigger guard, the fleshy portion of the first joint should be directly on the trigger. The thumb rests on the top of the left side of the grip below the slide.

Stance

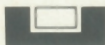
The correct stance is a comfortable one. The body is erect but not stiff. The arm should be extended full length—elbow straight but not locked. The body should be turned forty-five to ninety degrees from the target. The feet should be spread comfortably, weight distributed, knees straight—neither bent nor stiff. Correct foot position may be found by pointing the index finger at the target. Close your eyes, pause, then open them; see if the finger stays on the target. Repeat this exercise and shift your feet until it does. The free hand should be put somewhere where it is comfortable and doesn't just hang.



Sights. Typical handgun target sights consist of an open adjustable rectangular notch rear sight and a rectangular post front sight. In correct alignment the bullseye "sits" on top of the front sight post, with tops of front and rear sights level.



(1) Aim through the rear sight,



(2) Align front sight in exact center of rear notch and flush with top of rear sight,



(3) With sights aligned aim at bottom of bullseye for perfect sight alignment.
(This is termed "six o'clock hold.")

Aiming. After assuming proper stance and grip, extend the gun toward the target. Wrist is held firm but not tense. Many shooters prefer to keep both eyes open as this provides more light and better depth perception. Focus first on the target. Now focus on the front post sight. Bring it into position so that it is flush to top of notch in the rear sight. Continuing to focus on the front sight, aim at bullseye. The bullseye should appear as an out-of-focus black ball sitting on top of the front sight.

Firing

Successful target shooting is essentially an exercise in self-discipline. Conscientious practice and concentration on the following fundamentals will lead to improving scores on the range.

Rhythm. Since a handgun cannot be held motionless on the target, rhythm is very important to accuracy. Accept the fact that your gun will swing up and down, back and forth as you aim. The out-of-focus bullseye will constantly come into and out of correct sight alignment. To minimize aiming error and fatigue, practice each phase of the firing sequence in the same relative amount of time. Every shot should take the same amount of time each time it is done. Development of rhythm in slow-fire will make it much easier to achieve high scores and greater handgun proficiency.

Breathing. Here's the right way:

1. Take in a normal breath
2. Let it out about halfway
3. Hold it
4. Begin trigger squeeze and fire
5. Relax and hold sight picture 2-3 seconds after shot

Controlled breathing is necessary for consistent accuracy. Ordinarily the shot will be fired within a few seconds and no discomfort from lack of oxygen will result. If the shot does not occur within a reasonable time, muscle tremors can occur. If this happens, relax the trigger finger and lower the gun to rest position. Rest a moment, begin again.

Develop a regular procedure to your shooting. Each phase of the firing process



should take about the same amount of time each time it is done. Handgun shooting is a steady, controlled exercise. Practice rhythm and proper breathing. Practice self-control.

Trigger Control

“Pulling the trigger” is among the least accurate expressions in shooting. The correct trigger action is a deliberate, steady squeeze of the finger on the trigger. The finger should be pulled straight back toward the body, not to the side or upward. Maintain the normal grip on the gun as the finger tightens. Pressure is applied to the trigger when the front sight is aligned with the center of target axis. At the point of discharge, correct sight alignment should happen naturally. The shot should simply occur as a natural result of proper stance, grip, aim, and trigger squeeze. It’s only when the shooter anticipates the shot that he tends to “jerk” it. Jerking or pulling the trigger produces poor scores. A deliberate steady squeeze should make it impossible to anticipate when the gun will go off.

Dry firing can improve trigger control and your score. Another good trigger control exercise is to load only some of the chambers of your revolver. That way you will be able to concentrate on trigger pull because you won’t know which chambers are loaded.

The shooter should learn to “group” his shots, that is, put them close together on the target regardless of score or bulls-eye. Once

the shooter has achieved consistent “grouping” he can make other adjustments so that his groups move to the scoring area of the target.



Hunting with the Handgun

Once the shooter has achieved skill with the handgun, he will find satisfaction hunting with it. A handgun is excellent for small and medium size game at reasonable range or for varmint elimination. Its size and light weight make it easy to carry a handgun in field or woods. The handgun can serve as a useful backup in certain hunting situations.

Before taking to the field with a handgun, the fundamental skills of handgun shooting should be learned on a target range. Lengthy practice should be undertaken so that the shooter may achieve confidence, accuracy and safe shooting habits.



Shooting Glasses

If you don't normally wear corrective glasses, shooting glasses are a must when you go handgunning on the target range or in the field. Good impact-resistant, tinted shooting glasses protect your eyes.

Tinted glasses (smoke-color, green or brown) keep your eyes keen and alert, especially when hunting. You see the target and get on it quicker. Yellow-tinted lenses brighten up the landscape; target definition is increased especially in dim or fading light.

An annual eye checkup is recommended for everyone, and should be considered almost mandatory for anyone who shoots for recreation or hunting. As you grow old, your eyes can change; since the change is slow, it is usually imperceptible. And to target shoot or to hunt with a handgun, you need the best possible eyesight.



Sound Protection

In the field, earplugs aren't usually practical, but they are necessary when target shooting on a range. When hunting, shots are fired only once in a while; on the target range, dozens of people may be firing simultaneously and in rapid succession. Ear protection not only makes your own concentration easier, it also prevents permanent hearing damage which may result from repeated exposure to loud reports of firearms.

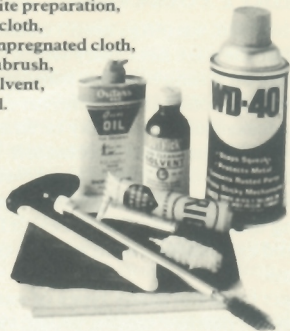
Select from the many types of ear protection on the market: muffs, plugs, valves, or custom molded inserts. Find the one that's most comfortable and never be without it on the range.



Maintenance

The Colt pistol is a masterpiece of craftsmanship. It is made expertly and with proper care should last a lifetime. Proper handgun care will keep your gun rust-free and mechanically clean. Using modern factory ammunition, the shooter needs only the following materials to keep a handgun in good working order and preserve its finish:

- (1) a bristle brush,
- (2) a high grade gun oil,
- (3) a dry graphite preparation,
- (4) a clean soft cloth,
- (5) a silicone impregnated cloth,
- (6) an old toothbrush,
- (7) a quality solvent,
- (8) cleaning rod.



Before cleaning or disassembly check the cylinder or remove the magazine, work the action on a pistol to remove any cartridge in the chamber. **Remember, treat every handgun as if it were loaded.**

Revolver barrels and cylinders can be kept in good condition simply by running an oil laden brush through the barrel and each chamber then wiping off all the excess oil. Visibly fouled outside or inside areas should be cleaned with a toothbrush, solvent, and a light film of oil or silicone preparation applied to the gun. **Never strip or disassemble a Colt Revolver for cleaning.** Colt revolvers are hand fitted to such close tolerances that any adjustments should be made at the factory.

A pistol should be treated in the same manner, except that after extended use partial take down is recommended for a thorough job. Instructions for disassembly for cleaning accompany all Colt pistols and the procedure when followed is simple.



Even with the best of care the shooter will sometimes be using his handgun under adverse or extreme conditions. Some useful tips on maintaining your handgun in the field and in the home are:

- Condensation droplets may form soon after bringing your handgun into a warm room or the handgun may become wet during inclement weather; in any case, all moisture should be removed from the affected areas. Exterior finishes may be wiped down with a slightly oiled cloth or a cloth impregnated with silicone.
- Avoid the use of oil during freezing conditions. A dry graphite used sparingly is recommended for cold weather lubrication.
- For long term storage, lightly oil the bore, barrel and action with a quality gun oil or a special compound preparation produced for this purpose. Remember your handgun should be completely unloaded when stored in a dry locked area.