I've always wanted a Schofield but was afraid of wasting money on a replica gun that wouldn't shoot real Black Powder ammo. I'm talkin' Genuine Powder here, not some kiss your sister sub/replica black powder wannabe. Last fall I was contacted by Rich Weller, who has a Schofield and wanted to try and duplicate the test ran by Silas McFee. Silas proved that Remington 58’s, known to have base pin fouling issues, could run for a full two day CAS-type annual match without fouling problems. Since I didn't have a Schofield to do the test myself, I was happy to send some EPP-UG .45 150 grain bullets to Rich. Adirondack Jack sent some of his great Cowboy 45 Special brass and Rich ran the test.

Here is his first email after running the test. He was very pleased and excited.

I finally got the test run today.

It certainly appears that this combination, the EPP-UG-45-150 bullet in the Cowboy 45 Special case over a compressed load of black powder, will work in the Uberti Schofield revolvers.

I put 50 rounds through one of my revolvers with no problems. The only thing that occurred was a slight binding near the end of the test. The revolver could still be cocked with the off-hand (in the two-hand shooting mode) with very little additional effort from that required from
a clean gun. Accuracy was similar to what I get with the .45 Colt smokeless loads from these revolvers.

I will get a complete write up done in the next few days and will forward it to you both along with photos that I took. The photos don't show much but at least they will be there for reference.

Will get the full report off ASAP.

Thanks to you both for the support in conducting this test.

Regards.

Rich

Now, here's the article as written by Rich Heller:

After reading the article in the CC by Silas McFee and his test with the Remington M’58 revolver, it occurred to me that both the M’58 and the reproduction Schofield revolvers have the same design deficiency. Namely, no gas ring at the front of the cylinder to prevent fouling build up on the cylinder base pin.

I thought if he could make a BP load work with good results in the M’58, could a reproduction Schofield be made to work with the same load? Being that both revolvers are chambered for the same round, the .45 Colt, why not try his load in the Schofield.

I obtained 50 Cowboy 45 Special cases from Adirondack Jack and 50 EPP-UG-45-150, unlubed and unsized bullets from Dick Dastardly. The bullets were sized to 0.454” dia. and lubed with DD’s Pearl Lube in my Lyman 450 Lube-Sizer.

Ammunition was loaded on a Dillon 550B press with 45ACP loading dies. Powder was thrown with the standard Dillon powder measure fitted with an aluminum powder hopper.

The load consisted of the above mentioned cases and bullets, Winchester WLP large pistol primers and 1.3 cc of GOEX 3F powder. Overall cartridge length was 1.090” +/- with a heavy crimp.

The revolver used for this test was a Navy Arms/Uberti Schofield with a 5” barrel. One of a pair that I have been shooting with smokeless loads for several years. Initial firing was started from a clean gun. The base pin was lubricated with “Never-Seez” anti-sieze compound. I use this lubricant on any revolver that I shoot with black powder, cap-and-ball or cartridge gun. This is a high temperature, anti-fouling and anti carbon-fusion compound. It seems to work good in this application.

Like Silas, I chose to simulate an annual main match of ten stages. Range conditions were: an enclosed (not indoor) range with no wind other than that created by the exhaust fans, artificial lighting, temperature 48 deg. F, relative humidity 96% (according to the weather report) and at sea level.
The shots were fired in 10, 5 shot groups, 25 shots at each of 2 targets. The targets were set at 7 yards distance. After I fired the first 25 shots I decided that at this range 50 shots would just provide one big ragged hole in a single target so I opted to use a second target for the second 25 shots. Like Silas found with his test, there was minimum fouling until after 25 rounds were fired and there were no major malfunctions for the entire test.

Firing was started with a clean gun with observations taken after each 5 shot string.

Set #1. No abnormal resistance to spinning the cylinder by hand or when cocking the gun with the hammer. No noticeable lube on the face of the cylinder.

Set #2. Same as Set #1.

Set #3. Same as Set #2.

Set #4. Same as Set #3.

Set #5. A slight drag was detectable when rotating the cylinder by hand and when cocking with the hammer. Nothing major, just a little resistance. A trace of lube on the face of the cylinder and on the muzzle.
Set #6. Same as Set #5.

Set #7. Same as Set #6.

Set #8. Noticeable drag when rotating the cylinder by hand and when cocking with the hammer but still able operate it in a normal manner with no help needed when cocking with the hammer.

Set #9. Same as Set #8.

Set #10. Same as Set #9 with still just a trace of lube on the face of the cylinder but with a very noticeable lube ring on the muzzle.

After letting the revolver set overnight without cleaning, it still functioned as in Set #8 above so it quite possibly could have gone for several more sets without any major malfunction.
On a two day annual main match of either 10 or 12 stages it would be prudent to clean it after the first
day but the results shown here prove, to me at least, that the reproduction Schofield revolvers can be
made to work with black powder and the proper ammunition.
Rich Heller.

So, now I know that I can buy those Schofield pistols and enjoy shooting them with Holy Black. Thanks, Rich!

Dick Dastardly