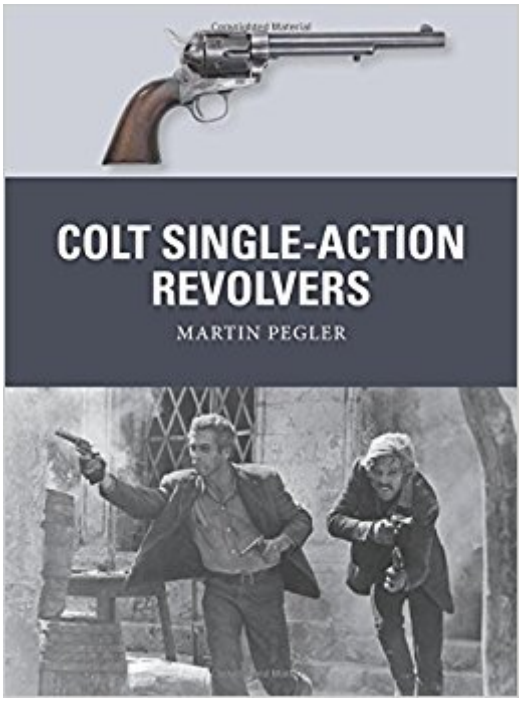
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Colt Single-Action Revolvers (Weapon)



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Synopsis

In 1836, Samuel Colt changed the face of warfare with the production of the first of a series of iconic and influential single-action revolvers, including the .44-caliber Colt Walker and the seminal .45-caliber Colt Single Action Army, which remains in production today. These weapons shifted the role of the pistol from single-shot weapon of last resort to a practical and powerful sidearm that gave the soldier the ability to defend himself once his primary armament was discharged. It transformed cavalry tactics and relegated the sword to a largely ceremonial role in many armies.Featuring full-color artwork, expert analysis, and gripping first-hand accounts, this is the absorbing story of Colt’s family of single-action revolvers, covering their origins, development, use, and lasting impact on the modern world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Martin Pegler was the Senior Curator of Firearms at the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds, England. He is currently an author and firearms consultant and runs a bed and breakfast in Somme, France.Mark Stacey works as a freelance illustrator and lives in Cornwall.Born in Malaysia, Alan Gilliland spent eighteen years as the graphics editor of the Daily Telegraph. He now writes, illustrates, and publishes fiction (www.ravensquill.com) and illustrates for publishers (www.alangilliland.com).

The Colt Peacemaker, a single-action revolver, is the iconic firearm of the American West, along with the Winchester repeating rifle. The truth is a bit more complex. Samuel Colt was an innovator in the firearms business, with a head for manufacturing and a knack for publicity. He came along just as designs for revolvers were hitting the practical stage, and he took full advantage..."Colt Single-Action Revolvers" is an Osprey Weapon Series book, authored by Martin Pegler, with illustrations by Mark Stacey and Alan Gilliland. The introduction notes Samuel Colt's superb timing, getting into the arms business as the Mexican War, the Civil War, and the Indian Wars fueled a ready market for repeating firearms. Succeeding chapters chronicle the development and use of revolvers in various calibers, along with the improving manufacturing process. The concluding chapter analyses the effects of mass production, but this is really a tribute to the enduring appeal of a simple but effective firearm, one used by bad men and law men in truth and in legend. The very readable narrative is nicely supported by a collection of period photographs and modern illustrations and diagrams. Highly recommended as a concise introduction to a fascinating topic.

I usually stay away from the weapon series as I find that my understanding of firearms is usually sadly lacking and therefore I am not always quite sure of what the author is saying. That being said the Colt revolver is such an iconic weapon, that I had to get this book. I own a replica of the Colt 1860 cap and ball revolver and find it a fascinating weapon. Reading about its development and that of the peacemaker was very interesting. Well illustrated with drawings and pictures of the Colt revolvers that enhances the text that you are reading. The only problem I had was that in one of the illustration, the artist depicts a defender of the Alamo using a Colt. I just find this hard to believe and could not come up with any other sources showing the firearm present at the Alamo. It would seem that the timeline and cost of the Colt in 1836 dollars would preclude the weapon from being owned by a defender. Of course I am probably wrong.

A highly interesting, concise, and well written study of the earliest Colt revolvers that will still inform the well informed without intimidating the general reader. The book is well researched and contains little known information about early, experimental revolvers that preceded the Colt, and of the overall state of the firearms industry in the mid nineteenth century, including patent issues and the development of metallic cartridges. Included too are brief descriptions of competing early revolvers by other makers. The author also goes into considerable detail to describe Colt's modernist manufacturing and marketing practices, as well as the operational use of his products. A definite must for anyone even remotely interested in the subject matter. Those with just a general interest in

American Frontier history will also enjoy this title, as well as the author's fine Osprey book on the Winchester Rifle. As the old saying goes: "The Lord created men, but Sam Colt made them equal". Hence, the 1873 Peacemaker's nickname, "The Equalizer".

Part of a concise, brief but useful and entertaining Weapons Series of Books. Provides a good "overview" of the weapon.

I found this book to be highly informative and somewhat educational on the history of this weapon. I believes Martin Pegler got all things done right and this book proves to be highly readable account on the development and impact of Colt revolvers. But there is one part I find somewhat questionable and I am not sure who to blame....the author or Osprey. On page 38, there is a notation on the Alamo illustration where it is written that 250 Texan Rangers were fighting off the Mexicans. We all know that there were only about 180 men at the Alamo and very few of them were informal Rangers whose unofficial number was never more then 56 in number until 1840s. And on page 11, it reflects that Colt built a factory for Colt Paterson revolvers in 1836 so I am wondering how the men of the Alamo in March 1836, could be armed with the Colt Paterson revolvers in any number?? Considering the shortness of the book, anytime there is a inconsistency of facts, the book as a whole suffers despite of the otherwise meritorious elements. (Author or Osprey could claims that they got the numbers from the Mexican sources which often count 250 men as the number of defenders but that was more or less Santa Ana's exaggerated count that probably includes all the women, kids, slaves and such who were with the garrison but not fighting men who were not rangers but volunteers.)

One of the worst book about the amazing weapons, I've ever read. Relly, Osprey, how could you to sink so low? 250 Texan rangers in Alamo! Forget volounteers, "scouts with squirrel guns, men with muzzleloaders". They all were rangers! With Patterson guns! And these Patterson guns were all catridges loaded! Because the guy on the plate has a cartridge-belt on him. WTF?! "Colt was very keen to break once again into lucrative military marketplace". Yea, he would be glad, would he not be already dead for 9 years! Who is this Martin Pigler? Seniour Curator of Firearms at the Royal Armories Museum? Pity for poor english historians, this guy most surely has a degree in history of some kind of exotic rock music of 70-th, not in history of arms.

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