

# 45 Colt rifles with Black Powder ammo.

## A lively discussion excerpted from CAS City's Darksider's Den.

"Cowboys are learning, but not fast enough, that the venerable 45 Colt cartridge is a great pistol round, but a lousy rifle chambering. I've heard very little to recommend it in rifles and a LOT of downside trouble. The trouble is compounded when it's loaded up with Holy Black. Big Lube™ bullets help, but problems persist.

I'm thinkn' that if I were to be in the market for a SASS rifle it wouldn't be in 45 Colt chambering.  
DD-DLoS"

"Double D, waddaya doin stirrin that pot!?!?!  
Yer right though but probably not fer the reasons ya might think. The .45 Colt as originally introduced was not at all suitable fer rifles. The rim was nearly nonexistent and wuz a folded thang ta boot! Jist wuzn't enuff there fer an extractor to git aholt of! The round as it currently is produced is much better and werks fine in my lever gunz, in smokey 'r smokeless format.  
Hmmm?..... Comes to that, the first successful levergun round

wuz a straight wall case with a folded rim, albiet not

nearly as potent as the .45 Cuts Crooked"

Seth Hawkins writes. . ."That's what I love about the 44WCF. It's essentially a 45 Colt necked down to "44" calibre. The round seals the chamber...great for BP loads. Not really enough difference when usin' the heathen powder, though, especially at CAS distances. I hated the 44WCF 'til I moved to The Dark Side. Now, I can't imagine shooting anything else. There's still nothin' better than a 45 Colt in a Colt Peacemaker. Nice bark and bite from the old girl."

"OK. I guess that I better enter the fray. I have been shooting the 45 Colt in rifles since I first started in CAS shooting 8 to 10 years ago. First, and for the first 4 or 5 years, in an original Winchester '73 with a bobbed barrel that I had converted to 45 Colt. The poor old thing finally got tired (produced in 1885) so I looked for a new rifle. Since then I have been using a custom built, AWA Lightning in 45 Colt, keeping the M'73 as a back up. In both of the guns I have, and do, shoot both smokeless and REAL black powder loads and have no problems with either. As

a matter of fact the black powder loads are cleaner than the smokeless loads due to less blowback. The 45 Colt blowback situation has been beaten to death here in the past so there is no need to go into it again.

I am using the DD, 200 grain, Big Lube, 45 Colt bullet and get excellent accuracy with it a CAS ranges and also use it for CAS side matches out to 100 yards.

Like Cuts mentioned, the original rim of the 45 Colt cartridge was just big enough to keep it from falling through the cylinder and offered no purchase for an extractor to grab. To me, that seems like the real reason that it was not chambered in rifles. With the thin, soft copper or brass cases of the time and the stiff BP loads, sealing the chamber against blowback should not have been a problem."

HHW (Hell-er High Water)

"It's a big pot and I've got a long handle and am standing back far.

I guess my point is that most current chamberings for this cartridge tend to run to the large size while SAAMI specs for the loaded ammo run to the small size. Factory specifications for this caliber have never been narrowed down enough and dies, chambers and factory ammo tend to wander all over the place. If I did find myself in possession of a 45 Colt rifle, I'd have a custom sizing die made from that chamber. Mayhaps that would help to cut down on all the blowback. I kin tell ya this much tho. In my ROAs the 45 Colt is one fine sixgun cartridge.  
DD-DLoS"

"At 800fps, blow back in my .45colt '73win wont blow one square of bathroom tissue off the top of the ejection port. Which is essentially,,a none issue.... its is probably the most accurate rifle iv owned to boot,,or one of them,,impressivse to say the least. Works for me.  
Marshal Deadwood"

"Alright Dick.. the pot has been stirred.. but I still can't afford to replace all my .45 Colts with that there fancy "necked down .44" cartridge.

I will agree that the .45 does have alot of "tolerance" built into the chamber when compared to the cartridges.... But I have only ever had one rifle that ever gave me fits with it, and that one is about as tempermental in the Colt chambering as it is in the .38/357... My Marlin. My other 4 or 5 Colt chamber rifles have very few if any problems and all of them are as accurate as I am.  
Marshall Tac"

"I started off with a couple of .45 Colt revolvers and a .357 carbine, all that I read about the awful blowback had me pretty scared but then I found a Navy Arms Stainless '92 in .45 and took the chance. After all I'd been handloading for well over forty-five years at the time and figured I could puzzle my way through. Huh

So I started out with a few dozen cases that I'd turned the necks down to the thickness of the .44 WCF brass and then annealed. Ha! No blowback with loads down to 24 grains of ffg and a small scoop of grits and a 250 grain bullet. I'm a genius. Grin

Then came the next try, thirty grains of ffg, a small scoop of grits and no turning or annealing. No blowback. So I did all that