

work on those other cases and then I didn't get blowback. Angry
It's not fair! All you blackpowder gurus promised me blowback!
Angry

So, I put the rifle in the cradle, upside down, and run some moose milk patches through the bore until they come out clean, the gun upside down so the blackened moose milk doesn't run into the action. When the patches fall out clean, usually three wet and three dry for a sixty round match, I turn the rifle right side up, squirt a little squirt of moose milk in the open action and stick a rag in over a finger, wipe around, the action is clean.

Once or twice a year I carry the rifle down to my gunsmith's, sit down at the big gossip table, pass around the good cookies and strip that rifle down to it's itty bitty pieces. The 'smith makes sure I get it back together right. He says I do that more often than I need to but wants me to keep doing it, he loves my wife's oatmeal raisin cookies.

Look, back in 1873 the .45 Colt case had a thin little rim, no extractor cut and all kinds of other reasons nobody put it in a rifle or carbine. Now, I know we like to wear old timey clothes and all but it really ain't 1873 any more, good thing, I like air conditioning and antibiotics. And I don't get blowback from my .45 Colts, not as long as I use 28+ grains of ffg and a 250 grain bullet. If I got all that blowback you guys promised I'd have to strip that rifle down often enough that I wouldn't have to take cookies to the gunsmith.

I do get blowback with much less than 6.0 grains of Titegroup and that 250 grain, though. That, though, has little to do with the Dark Side.

Willis Point Pete”

“I shoot .45s, most often with 777, and find my abbreviated cases do NOT produce enough BLOWBY to amount to didley squat. AAMOF I have a pic of one of my Marlins as I was shooting it, hammer down, at that moment when it has fired but has not yet been racked (a very brief moment) and there is ZERO smoke coming out of either the loading gate or around the bolt. The "blowby" I get, that crud ya'll always talk about comes as the smoke is let out of the chamber, on the back end, when the gun is racked open very quickly after firing. I know this as I also have pics of the gun AFTER cycling, and the smoke is pouring out of the loading gate. YES I get some carbon buildup in the gun, and even on the edges of the loading gate. It is NOT coming out directly as the gun is fired, but when the breech is opened (like an artillery piece does).

Further, examination of fired cases reveals NO soot on the side walls of the cases at any level below the bullet base. Even with my big sloppy marlin chambers, the cases seal momentarily before the bullet moves, and the only staining is down tot the level where the bullet base was (same thing with smokeless, BTW) I HAVE shot very low level loads, smokeless and BP in LONG COLT that sprayed bad enough I didn't dare shoot even one round in load testing without glasses (powder sprayed back around the bolt, directly in my face). Ya gotta get the pressures up to get the brass to seal.

Adirondack Jack”

“Thinning necks, special dies, annealing brass, tight crimps and strong loads are all working at the symptoms, not the cause. AJs Cowboy 45 Special addresses a lot of these issues head on. It works better because the load density uses the smaller case

volume better.

I'm thinkn' that a lot of the crud trouble with the 45 Colt chambering in rifles is that it frequently isn't loaded up to it's full potential and just plain doesn't seal the chamber quick enough. Couple that with factory size ammo in sloppy sized chambers so the brass has to move farther and maybe some work hardened brass, you got blowback.

Were I in the market for a new rifle the 45 Colt chambering wouldn't be my first choice. If pressed on the issue, I'd probably go with the 38-40 now. My 44 Magnums work good, but they

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just don't have the old west fizz for s t y l e points. Yup, I'm thinkin' I'll get me

a 38-40. Mayhaps I kin have one of my Browning 92s reworked to run that cartridge. . . .

Anyway, this is a fun pot and it ain't boiled over and made no mess yet.

DD-DLoS”

“Howdy Boys,

I guess I'll jump in with both feet. One of my favorite subjects. Here are a couple of photos of the reason the 45 Colt was never chambered in rifles in the old days. Has nothing to do with blowback or bottlenecks. The cartridge was simply unsuitable for a rifle.

These are original copper cased, Benet primed, folded rim 45 Colt cartridges the way they were produced around 1873. In the second photo the cartridge all the way on the left is the 45 Colt. Notice how tiny the rims are. They were never intended to be extracted by the claw of an extractor, they were intended to be poked out from inside by an ejector rod like on a Colt. All that tiny rim is good for is keeping the cartridge from sliding too far forward in a revolver chamber. The cutaway view shows the folded rim construction. It also shows the anvil plate of the inside primed Benet style primers. The big fold is to hold the anvil plate in place. From the rear there is no primer visible at all. By the way, these are the only cases that had the interior capacity to hold a full 40 grains of powder under a 250 grain bullet.

The Army first adopted Balloon Head 45 Colt cartridges with reloadable Boxer primers in 1882. I dunno when they were first available to civillians. The Balloon Heads had slightly less interior capacity than the folded rim cases, probably around 38 grains. The cartridge had probably developed to a point that it could have been feasably run through the mechanism of a rifle, but it just wasn't done.

The 44-40 on the other hand was conceived as a rifle cartridge from the getgo, with a larger diameter rim that was designed for an extractor to get a grip on. Even today, 44-40 rims are still larger diameter than modern 45 Colts, although modern 45 Colts can run through a rifle mechanism just fine.

Driftwood Johnson” Not enough room for photos - DD