LET'S TALK GUNS

PART II (J to Q)

This is Part II of your guns glossary — J through Q.

Not only will you find your "Let's Talk Guns" glossary interesting to peruse, but there will be times when you will *need* to use it.

You will be *amazed* at how well you will be "talking guns" after reviewing your glossary.

"Let's Talk Guns," Part III (R through Z) will be sent to you later in your Course.

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J

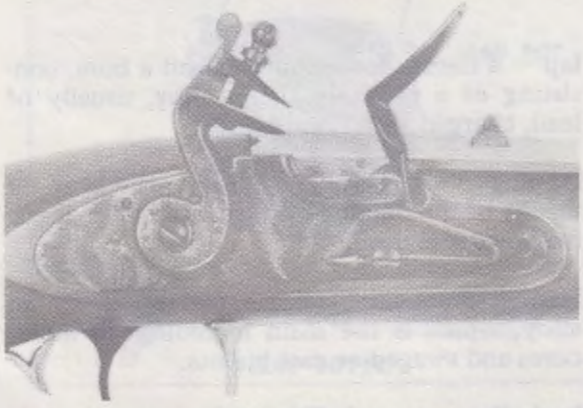
jacket — the outer cover of a bullet, usually made of thin gilding metal. In Great Britain, referred to as an "envelope."

jacketed bullet — a soft lead-cored bullet encased in a thin jacket. There are two basic jacketed bullet forms: (1) the *closed-base*, in which the jacket is drawn from the point and closed over the base, leaving the point exposed, and (2) the *closed-point*, in which the jacket is drawn from the base and closed over the point, leaving the base exposed. Generally, closed-base jackets are used on sporting bullets with an exposed lead or hollow tip, while the open-base, "full-jacketed" type is used on military projectiles.

Jaeger rifle — an early German gun which was the predecessor of the popular American Kentucky rifle and was drastically modified to meet conditions of the New World. Jaeger means "hunter."

jag — an accessory to aid in cleaning the barrel, usually in the form of a button-like device with serrated edges to grip a cleaning patch.

jaws — the vice-like device on a flintlock hammer which is used to hold the flint in place.



The sparking stone will be held in place on this flintlock by the JAWS.

jump — the amount of change in the bore axis, computed both vertically and horizontally, while the projectile moves from the chamber to the muzzle upon being fired.

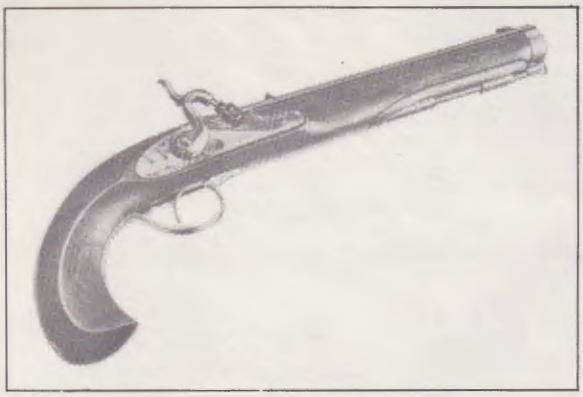
K

Kake Kutter — a device used in reloading to remove cast lead bullets from hardened lubricant. See "cake cutter."

The KAKE KUTTER shown here by Lyman is a handy device for reloaders.

keeper — a leather ring or metal clamp used on a shooting sling to hold adjustments and prevent slipping.

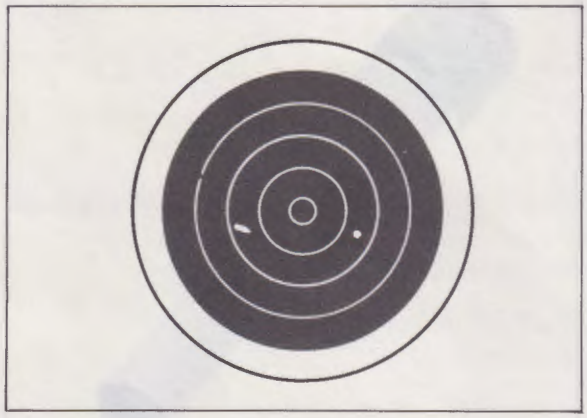
Kentucky pistol — a muzzle-loading, single-shot pistol developed at the same time, and with the same style, as the Kentucky rifle. Few survive today, and they are much sought after as collector's items.



A few authentic KENTUCKY PISTOLS remaining today are cherished collector's items. Shown here, a replica by Navy Arms.

Kentucky rifle — an American-developed flintlock generally used in Kentucky, although commonly produced by individuals in Pennsylvania. Stocks were slender and delicate in appearance, usually containing brass patch boxes on the right side. Cherished collector's items.

keyhole — a side-on imprint of a bullet on a target, indicating that the bullet was not traveling point-on at the time of impact. Keyholing usually results from insufficient rotational velocity, imbalance in the bullet, or deflection.



The KEYHOLE imprint at the left on the target shows that the bullet did not hit point on.

kick — the force of recoil against the shooter's shoulder when a firearm is fired.

knapper — refers to a skilled craftsman who chips out gun flint by hand. Currently, the only professional knappers operate in the village of Brandon, England.

knockout rod — a close-fitting rod, hit with a hammer, to drive cases or bullets out of sizing dies or swages.

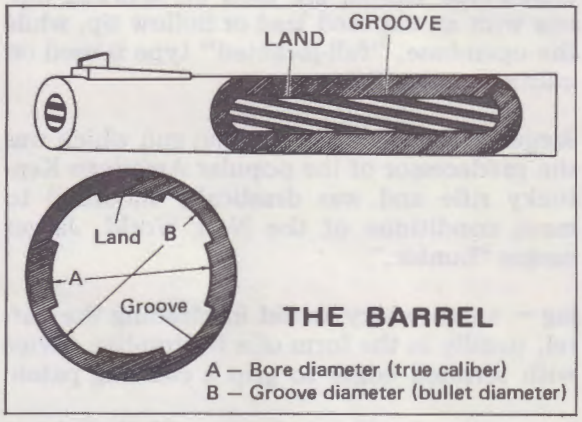
knurled surface — a surface on which ridges or beads have been impressed to provide a firm grip.

Krag rifle (actually Krag-Jorgensen rifle) — developed and designed by Ole H. Krag and Erik Jorgensen in the 1880's. The Krag rifle was adopted by the U.S. military in 1892 and manufactured at the National Armory at Springfield, Massachusetts, until replaced by the M1903 Springfield rifle.

L

laminated stock — any gunstock that has been made up of several layers of wood glued or epoxied together under extreme pressure. The advantage of the laminated stock is that it is completely resistant to warping, which can seriously affect accuracy.

land — in rifling, the spiral, raised portion of the bore which remains after the grooves have been cut or formed.



The true caliber of the barrel is determined by the LAND diameter. (Photo courtesy National Rifle Association)

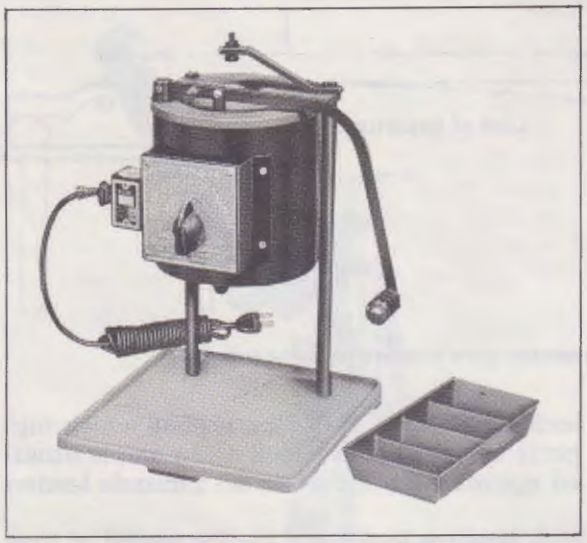
lap — a device for smoothing out a bore, consisting of a precisely fitting plug, usually of lead, charged with abrasives.

lapping — a method of polishing the bore by means of a soft metal plug coated with abrasive powder and oil.

lead — the heavy, pliable metal, usually an alloy, which is the main ingredient of bullet cores and swaged or cast bullets.

lead dipper — a ladle used to pour molten lead into bullet molds.

lead furnace — a heat-controlled container used for melting lead in the casting of bullets.



This LEAD FURNACE by Lyman thermostatically heats lead to temperatures of 425°F. to 875°F.

leade (lede) — the beveled portion of the rifling at the rear of the barrel and front of the chamber where the bullet first engages the lands. The leade serves two purposes: (1) to permit the bullet to move freely during ignition, thus lowering pressure, and (2) to center the bullet in the rifling.

leading (metal fouling) — particles from bullet jackets which adhere to the metal surface of a firearm bore due to heat or friction, resulting in fouling of the arm.

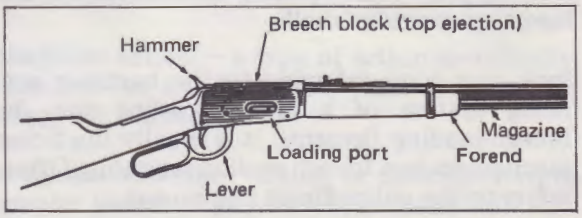
lead pot — a heat-resistant container, usually iron, for melting lead prior to casting bullets.

Bullet casting requires special heat-treated equipment such as a LEAD POT and LEAD DIPPER by Lyman.

Lee straight-pull rifle — a firearm designed by James P. Lee, a Scottish immigrant who formed the Lee Firearm Company in Milwaukee in the early 1860's. This bolt-action rifle was manufactured by Winchester for both commercial and military sales and was adopted in 6mm caliber by the U.S. Navy as the M1895.

level point — the point at which a bullet in flight reaches exactly the same altitude as the gun firing it.

lever-action — a type of action operated by a lever located on the underside of the frame. Usually, a secondary purpose of the lever is to serve as a trigger guard. The first practical lever-action rifle was designed by D. Tyler Henry in 1860. The most successful is the Winchester Model 1894, designed by John M. Browning, which is still being produced today and has been since 1894.



LEVER-ACTION firearms have been popular since 1860.

linen — cloth material woven from flax fiber; an ideal fabric for ball patches.

line of bore — the imaginary straight line which is a projection of the center of the bore of a firearm.

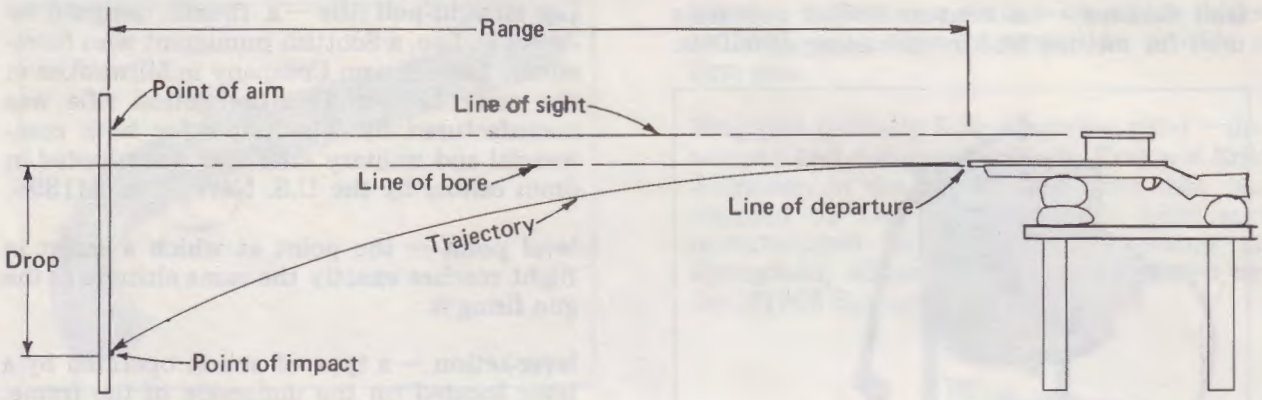
line of departure — the imaginary line at which a bullet leaves the muzzle of a gun before immediately falling away.

line of sight — the visual straight line through the sights of a gun to the point of aim.

load — the combination of one charge of powder and one projectile, or, more loosely, a cartridge or shell. When used as a verb, load refers to preparing a gun for firing by inserting ammunition into it.

loading block — a wooden or plastic block which holds a quantity of cartridge cases for reloading. In muzzle-loading, refers to a wooden block drilled with holes to carry prepatched balls.

loading density — the ratio of the volume of a powder charge to the volume capacity of the case.



LINES OF BORE, SIGHT, and DEPARTURE play important parts in measuring bullet trajectory.

loading gate — a covered opening on a hinge which allows cartridges to be inserted into the magazine.

loading port — an opening on the receiver for inserting cartridge shells.

lock — a term referring to the hammer and firing system of a muzzle-loading gun. In breech-loading firearms, it is usually the firing mechanism and breech-sealing assembly. Often refers to the entire firing mechanism.

The nomenclature of this Scott LOCK, basically a percussion or breech-loading type, is, clockwise: hammer, tumbler, swivel, tumbler screw, bridle, sear, sear spring, and mainspring held in cramped position. In the center is the side plate, upon which the other parts are mounted.

locking lugs — a series of projections on the bolt of a firearm designed to fit into corresponding slots in the receiver so that the action is locked closed during firing.

lockplate — in percussion and earlier firearms, the metal plate on which the firing mechanism is mounted.

lock screw — the long screw which holds the lock in place on a muzzle loader by running laterally through the stock.

lock screw plate — the metal plate which supports the head of the lock screw and is situated opposite the lockplate on a muzzle loader.

lock time (or lock speed) — the period of time between the release of the firing pin and the actual firing of the cartridge. This interval is minute and can be measured with only the most sophisticated timing equipment; however, serious competitive shooters consider it to be of vast importance, for the longer the time between release and firing pin impact, the greater the possibility of aim being disturbed.

lockwork — a very generally applied term referring to all of the moving parts of any enclosed firing mechanism.

loop — on a shotgun, the lug underneath the barrel about midway between the breech and the muzzle to which the forend is attached.

lot (lot number) — in ammunition, the alphabetical or numerical code used to identify individual production lots for control purposes and tracing.

low-base — in a shotshell, a case that has a low or thin base wad, generally used for heavy or magnum loads where maximum space is needed for large charges of both shot and powder.

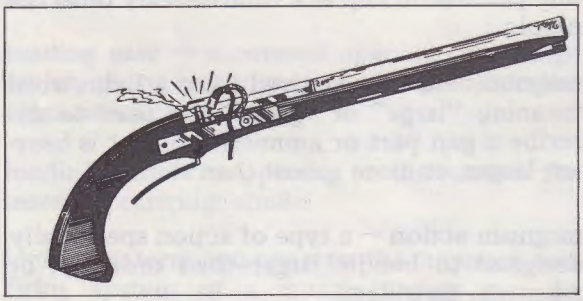
low-brass — a shotshell with a very short metal head not extending beyond the base wad, generally used for "high-base" cases and low-power loads.

lube pad — a stamp pad saturated with lubricant on which cases are rolled prior to resizing.

lubricator-sizer (lubricator-resizer) — a tool, usually hand-operated, for swaging cast bul-

match — a long cord of cotton, hemp, or flax saturated in saltpeter or the lees of wine, causing it to burn slowly without a flame; used to ignite powder in early firearms.

matchlock — the first mechanical system for firing a gun. Believed to date from as early as 1475 and remained in general use until the late 17th and 18th century. The matchlock employed a serpentine or S-shaped piece of metal that held a slow-burning match by pressing the lower end of the serpentine, while the upper end brought the burning match into contact with the priming powder in the pan, thus igniting the charge.



An example of the ignition system of an early MATCHLOCK pistol.

Mauser, Peter Paul (1838-1914) — firearm inventor, designer, and founder of a manufacturing dynasty in Germany. Mauser's first success was in 1871 when he designed the single-shot, bolt-action M1871 rifle which was adopted by the Prussian army and soon became the standard infantry firearm for all German states. Soon thereafter, Mauser developed his tubular magazine, a repeating version of the original basic gun, and later the more modern bolt-action rifles of the late 1880's and early 1890's, the most important being the Model 1898 turnbolt rifle which armed millions of soldiers throughout the world during the wars from 1914 to 1945.

Maynard rifle — a tip-up, single-shot rifle designed during the Civil War by Dr. Edward Maynard, an American dentist and inventor.

Maynard tape primer — a form of percussion ignition invented by Dr. Edward Maynard, consisting of thin wafers of percussion compound cemented between two narrow strips of paper, similar in appearance and usage to today's paper roll caps for cap pistols.

mean radius — used almost exclusively by military establishments; a method of measuring gun and ammunition accuracy by identifying the precise center of impact of a group of shots, then averaging the distance individual shots have struck from that point.

meplat — the measurement of the diameter of the blunt end of the nose of a projectile. The smaller the meplat, the greater the projectile's ballistic efficiency.

mercuric primer — a primer containing mercuric compounds which attack steel barrels and brass cartridge cases after firing. Now virtually obsolete, but may be found in old batches of military ammunition.

metal-cased — a form of bullet in which the forward portion is enclosed in metal, or perhaps the whole bullet is completely covered. Generally a military bullet, but often used for hunting large game in Africa. The British terminology is "solid."

metal fouling — lead or bullet jacket material which is deposited in the bore. See "leading."

The Standard Metal Fouling Solution consists of:	
Ammonia persulphate	1 ounce.
Ammonia carbonate	200 grains.
Water (cold)	4 ounces.
Stronger ammonia containing 26 to 28% ammonia gas	6 ounces.

METAL FOULING solution formula courtesy of Small Arms Design & Ballistics.

metallic cartridge — a term used to identify a modern cartridge as opposed to earlier cartridges which were made of linen, paper, etc.

metallic sights — two-element sighting systems found on rifles, handguns, and shotguns; usually referred to as iron sights.

micrometer — an instrument used to measure very small areas, and an essential gauge to the handloader and gunsmith for the precise measurement of bullets, cases, action parts, etc.

micro sight — refers to any adjustable target-type sight, although it should technically describe only those manufactured by the Micro Sight Company, which were at one time the only adjustable sights for handguns.

mid-range — the point halfway between the muzzle and the target in the trajectory of a bullet.

mid-range load — any center-fire cartridge loading producing less than full-charge-load velocity and recoil.

mid-range trajectory (MRT) — the highest vertical distance of a bullet above the line of sight at a point approximately one-half the way from the muzzle to the target or point of aim.

mil — an angular unit of measure usually associated only with military firearms.

Minie ball (Minie bullet) — an elongated lead bullet with a pointed head and a hollowed base which spreads when it is fired, forcing the metal into the rifle grooves. Developed by Captain C. E. Minie of France in 1848, it was the most widely used rifled projectile during the Civil War.

minimum cartridge — the least powerful load allowable for hunting, as established by game control agencies, to insure clean kills and help eliminate inhumane injuries. Various agencies may use different criteria to determine the MC.

minute of angle (MOA) — a unit of angular deviation used to describe the accuracy capability of ammo or guns. Equal to 1/60th of one degree. Usually approximated to represent one inch at 100 yards, although it is actually equal to 1.05 inches at 100 yards.

miquelet — an early flintlock developed in Spain during the early 17th century, deriving its name from a famous band of robbers in Catalonia.

misfire — the failure of a cartridge to fire after the primer is struck by the firing pin. Wet or chemically deteriorated powder is usually the cause of a misfire, but a blocked flashhole may also cause the problem.

modern-bond receiver — a strong, heavy laboratory receiver capable of accepting special barrels of various calibers to measure chamber pressure.

monobloc — a form of breech design for double-barreled shotguns wherein the breeching and locking surfaces are cut into a single separate housing or "bloc" into which the breeches of the barrels are brazed or threaded.

Monte Carlo comb — a high-rising comb which permits an elevated rifle line of sight while keeping the buttplate down at shoulder level. Also used on trap guns to provide a built-in line of shot impact for a rising bird.

mouth — the open end of a cartridge case into which the bullet is inserted.

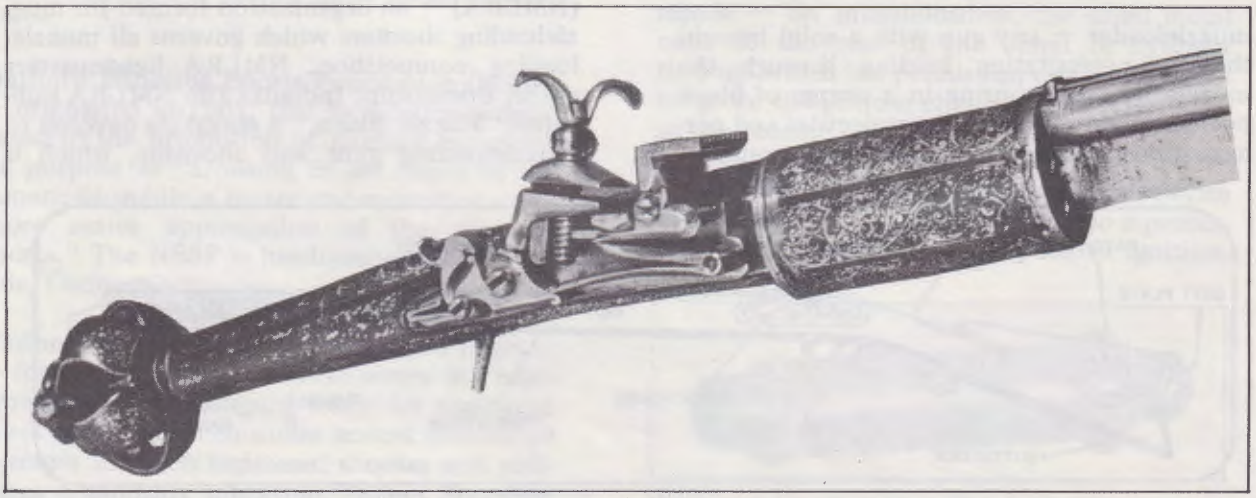
mushroom — the capacity of a bullet to expand on or after impact. The name is derived from the desired shape of the bullet after expansion.

musket — a smooth-bore, long-barreled firearm used by infantry soldiers prior to the invention of the rifle.

musketoon — a musket shortened for cavalry use.

muzzle — the forward end of a barrel; the point from which the projectile leaves the barrel.

muzzle bell — funneling or flaring of the bore at the muzzle, usually caused by rough or incorrect cleaning rod practices, whereby the tops of the lands are worn away. Muzzle belling can usually be repaired only by amputation



This MIQUELET revolver and sword, a six-shot .28-caliber Spanish, circa 1650, is on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

of the belled portion with recrowning at that point.

The perfectly MUSHROOMED bullet contains two-thirds of its original weight and expands to twice its original caliber. Example is Nosler's 6mm 95-grain bullet.

muzzle blast — the loud, violent sound and atmospheric pressure which follow discharge of a firearm, caused by expansion of powder gases into the air.

muzzle brake — a slotted tube which is attached to the muzzle of a rifle to trap escaping gases and use them as a counter-recoil force, thereby reducing recoil and, to some extent, muzzle jump.

muzzle energy — the measurement, expressed in foot pounds, of the power of a bullet as it emerges from the muzzle of a rifle.

muzzle flash — the bright light or flash at the muzzle of a firearm, resulting from expansion of powder gases, burning powder grains, and ignition of oxygen.

muzzleloader — any gun with a solid breech, thereby necessitating loading through the muzzle by first pouring in a charge of black powder, then one or more projectiles and perhaps one or more wads. The most common forms of muzzleloaders are the flintlock and percussion-lock types.

muzzle velocity — the velocity or speed of a bullet measured as it leaves the muzzle of the gun.

N

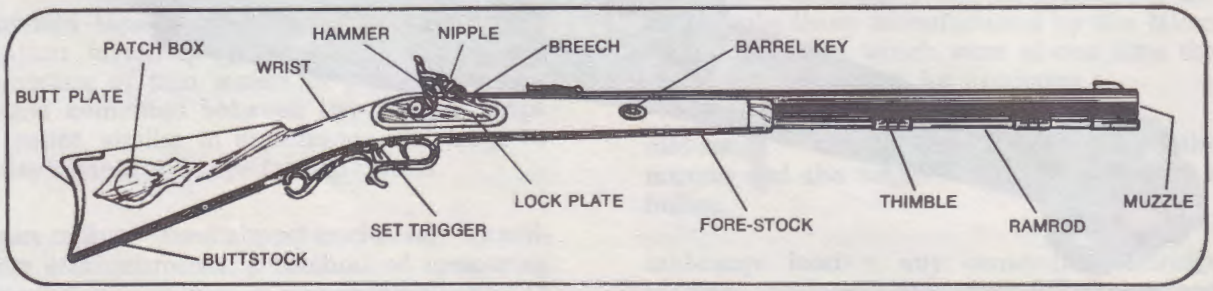
naked bullet — a bullet not covered by a metal jacket or patch.

National Match ammunition — ammunition of outstanding accuracy, generally manufactured for or by the U.S. Government especially for use in National Matches. When loaded, especially for National Matches use, the ammunition can be identified by the headstamp including the letters NM. When such ammunition is taken from existing stock, the label will be stamped "match grade" or "for national matches."

National Match Course (NMC) — a standard course of fire set for both rifle and pistol competitions as established by the National Rifle Association, the governing body of national shooting events.

National Match rifle and pistol — military guns manufactured especially to meet precise standards of accuracy and function as specified for use in the U.S. National Rifle and Pistol Matches, and issued to military and civilian shooters competing in those and other official competitions.

National Muzzleloading Rifle Association (NMLRA) — an organization formed for muzzleloading shooters which governs all muzzleloading competition. NMLRA headquarters are in Friendship, Indiana. The NMLRA publishes "Muzzle Blasts," a magazine devoted to muzzleloading guns and shooting, which is



The MUZZLE LOADER, seeing a big revival in popularity today, is detailed by the National Rifle Association

distributed to all association members and other interested subscribers.

National Rifle Association (NRA) — founded in 1871, the NRA is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to the interest of American gun enthusiasts and all U.S. shooting sports. It lists its purposes as follows: "To educate public-spirited citizens in the safe and efficient use of small arms for pleasure and protection; to foster firearms accuracy and safety in law enforcement agencies, in the armed services, and among citizens subject to military duty; and to further the public welfare and national defense." In addition, the NRA is the governing body of U.S. competitive rifle and pistol shooting, and holds membership on the U.S. Olympic Committee and in the International Shooting Union. Its official publication is "The American Rifleman." National Rifle Association headquarters are located at 16th and Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20096.

The official insignia of the NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) — originated in 1961, this foundation is dedicated to the promotion of hunting and states its purpose as "arousing in the minds of the American public a better understanding and a more active appreciation of the shooting sports." The NSSF is headquartered in Riverside, Connecticut.

National Skeet Shooting Association (NSSA) — formed in 1935, the NSSA serves as a regulating and recordkeeping body for registered skeet shooting. It compiles annual records of averages for each registered shooter and publishes a monthly magazine, "Skeet Shooting Review."

neck — that portion of a cartridge case which grips the bullet. In a bottleneck case, neck refers to that portion of the case which is in front of the shoulder. In a rifle chamber, it refers to the small area where the neck of the cartridge case rests prior to firing.

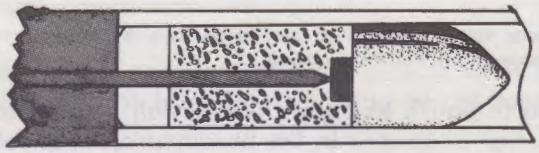
neck down (or up) — a verb referring to the reduction (or increase) in the diameter of the neck by the use of dies.

neck expansion — forcing the reduced case neck over an expander so that the correct inside diameter is obtained without regard for wall thickness.

neck sizing (resizing) — restoring the original neck dimensions only of a fired case to hold a new bullet by use of a sizing die.

neck split — a lengthwise crack in the neck of a cartridge case, usually due to age or overworked brass.

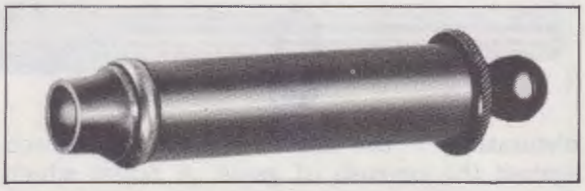
needle gun — an early breechloading rifle, the first known to use a bolt action, invented by Nicholas Dreyse and used by the Prussian army in 1841. Utilized a long, slender, needlelike firing pin which penetrated completely through the blackpowder, propelling the charge to detonate the primer which was seated against the base of the bullet.



The long, thin firing pin of the NEEDLE GUN penetrates the base wad and powder to strike the cap.

nipple — on muzzleloaders, the small metal cone at the rear of the barrel or cylinder through which the percussion cap flame passes to ignite the powder charge. Often referred to as the "cone."

nipple charger — a piston and cylinder device used to force fine blackpowder into a percussion gun's nipple to assure positive ignition.



Shown here is an exact copy of the original Dixon NIPPLE CHARGER, manufactured by Navy Arms.

nipple wrench — a tool used to replace or remove the nipple from percussion guns.

Nobel, Alfred B. (1833-1896) — a Swedish-born inventor of dynamite and smokeless propellant used in firearms. Upon his death, his fortune, which was earned through his many patents and developments in the explosives field, was used to establish the Nobel Prizes for various areas of service to mankind.

nomenclature — the systematic method of classifying different segments of a given branch of learning. In firearms, it refers to the classification of different parts of guns.

noncorrosive — refers to primers or percussion caps made without potassium chloride, a chemical which forms water-attracting salts when oxidized, which in turn cause rusting of the bore.

These NONCORROSIVE percussion caps by Navy Arms Company will not cause rusting.

North-South Skirmish Association — an organization dedicated to the preservation of shooting skills and firearms of the American Civil War. Headquartered in Pennsauken, New Jersey, the N-SSA equips members with appropriate muzzleloading arms and uniforms of the Civil War period for competitive exhibition shooting and for special or festive occasions.

nose — often used to refer to the tip or point of a projectile.

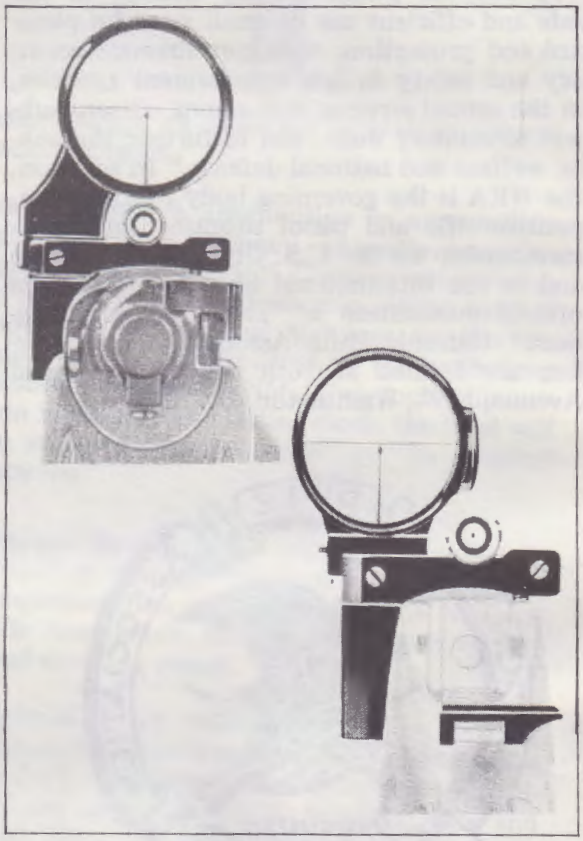
nose cap — the metal cap on the front part of a muzzleloader forend tip, particularly on a full-stock arm.

O

obturation — the act of sealing the breech against the on-rush of gases. A bullet which forms an almost gas-tight seal as it travels down the barrel gives good obturation.

octagonal barrel — the conventional eight-sided barrel found on many of the earlier muzzleloaders and rifles of the 1880's.

offset sights — sights placed on the gun barrel in such a way as to allow use of the left eye for sighting while shooting off the right shoulder or vice versa.



The Williams QC side-mount scope on the top is a standard installation, while the one on the bottom is OFFSET.

ogive — the radius of the curve of the nose of a bullet or all of the bullet forward of the bearing surface, regardless of shape. Usually expressed in caliber.

oil dent — the surface dent in a resized cartridge case caused when excess lubricant is trapped between the case and the die. Small oil dents do not harm the case and disappear upon firing.

one-shot hunt — a kind of big game hunt, usually by invitation only, in which each hunter is registered and his gun and ammunition inspected so that he is allowed to use only one round of ammunition. When that round is fired, the shooter must then withdraw from the hunt. If the animal is only wounded, a guide or hunt official will fire the "coup de grace."

Even if your shot is wasted, enjoyment of the outdoors is paramount on a ONE-SHOT HUNT.

open sight — refers to a rear sight with an open top aiming element.

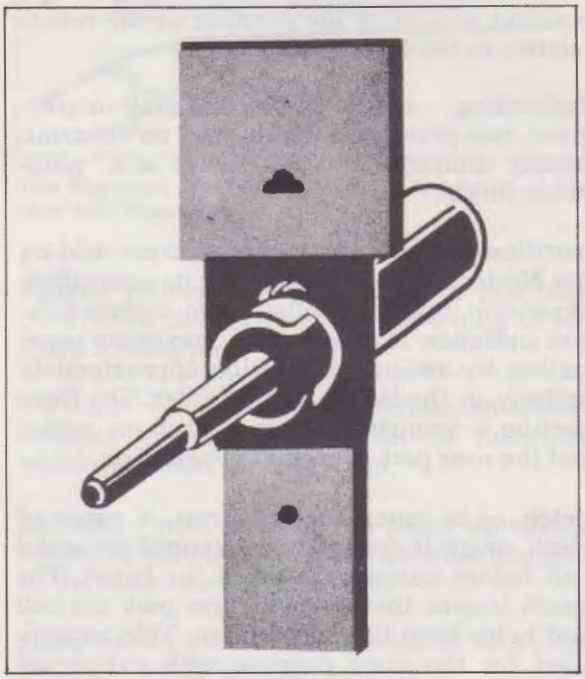
operating slide — the rod or arm of a rifle or shotgun which connects the bolt-operating mechanism to the forearm's handle or a gas piston.

over-and-under gun — a firearm having two or more barrels placed one on top of the other.

over-bore capacity — a condition in which the volume of a cartridge case exceeds the amount of powder which can be efficiently burned in that case. Every case has an over-bore capacity with some powders. Generally used when a case has a volume so large in relation to the bore diameter that only very slow burning powders will give optimum performance.

P

Paige sighting device — an aid used to correct sighting on pistols.



Sighting of a pistol will be checked thoroughly with the help of this PAIGE SIGHTING DEVICE. (Photo courtesy National Rifle Association)

Paine sight — a revolver sight consisting of a U-shaped notch in the rear with a round bead on a very thin stem in the front. Invented by Chevalier Ira Paine, a famous exhibition shooter of the 1880's.

palm rest — an adjustable, detachable hand grip attached to the underside of a target rifle to be held by the right hand of a lefthanded shooter or vice versa. Authorized for use only in very few international rifle competitions.

pan — on a matchlock, wheel lock, or flintlock, the small cupped container on the side or top of the firearm used for holding priming powder.

This OVER-AND-UNDER shotgun is the Remington 3200 – Trap, equipped with a Monte Carlo stock.

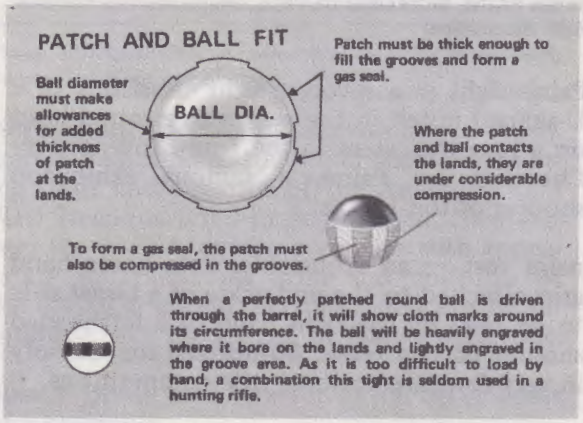
paradox — a firearm developed by English gunmakers which has a smooth bore with the final few inches of the barrel rifled.

parallax — the seeming displacement of an object which exists when the reticle of a scope does not lie exactly on the image plane. This is an optical error, and changing the eye position will move the position of the reticle relative to the object sighted.

Parkerizing — the non-reflecting gray or gray-green rust-preventive finish used on firearms, usually military. Also referred to as a "phosphate finish."

partition bullet — the patented name held by the Nosler Bullet Company for its controlled-expansion hunting bullet, manufactured to give optimum expansion and maximum penetration by swaging a partition approximately midway in the length of the bullet. The front portion is manufactured to expand on impact and the near part continues penetration.

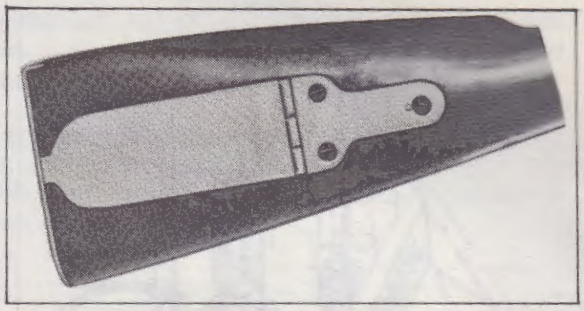
patch — in muzzleloading arms, a piece of cloth which is greased and wrapped around a ball before ramming it down the barrel. The patch lessens the escape of gas past the ball and helps keep the barrel clean. Thin paper is used for the same purpose with cylindrical bullets.



These instructions for proper PATCH fit courtesy of Thompson-Center Arms Company.

patch box — the lidded container in the buttstock of many muzzleloading rifles used to carry patches or other accessories, including tallow for lubricating patch material.

patch cutter — a circular cutter which is placed with the cutting edge down on a piece of patch material, then struck with a mallet to produce a perfectly circular patch. Erroneous when used in reference to a knife used for patching.



This PATCH BOX is an example of fine brass work on a Kentucky-style rifle.

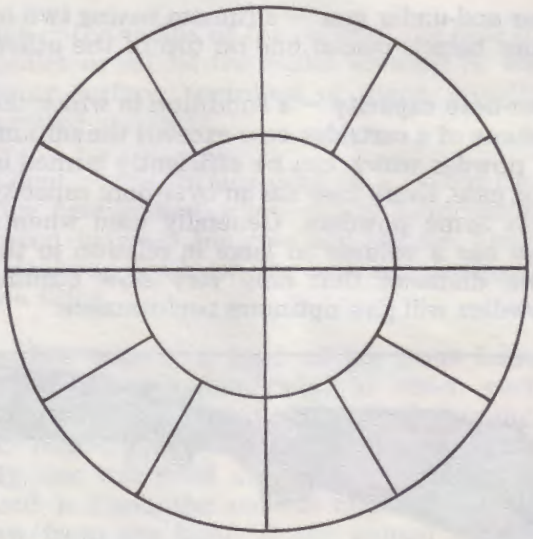
patch knife — an extremely sharp knife used to cut patches at the time of loading if precut patches are not used.

patent breech (French breech) — a type of breech wherein the plug and nipple seat are cast in one block having an upturned hook on its rear which engages a slot in a separate upper tang.

patina — the mellow finish on fine wood which comes with age.

Patridge sight — a sight form which is probably the most popular used today for revolver and rifle sights, consisting of a square notch at the rear and a proportional square-faced flat-top blade at the front. Developed during the 1880's by E. E. Patridge, an exhibition shooter.

pattern — the manner in which a shotgun places its shot charge. Generally measured as that percentage of a shot charge placed in a 30-inch circle at 40 yards.



A target such as this Berlin-Wannsee is used to check shot PATTERN balance and pellet distribution.

Peabody rifle — a breech-loading, single-shot rifle designed by Henry O. Peabody in 1862 and manufactured by the Providence Tool Company of Providence, Rhode Island. It was the Peabody rifle which was later developed into the Martini rifle.

peep sight — a form of receiver sight mounted on a rifle as close as possible to the shooter's eye, containing a very small aperture through which the front sight is viewed.

penetration — the distance a projectile travels into a given substance before coming to a stop.

Pennsylvania rifle — an Americanization of the flintlock manufactured in Pennsylvania, but more commonly referred to as the Kentucky rifle because of its extensive use there.

pepperbox — during the percussion period, a revolving repeating pistol in which numerous barrels were bored into a circle in a single piece of metal, similar to the cylinder of a modern revolver.

The PEPPERBOX, such as this French six-shot, is an unusual gun in appearance and a much-desired collector's item.

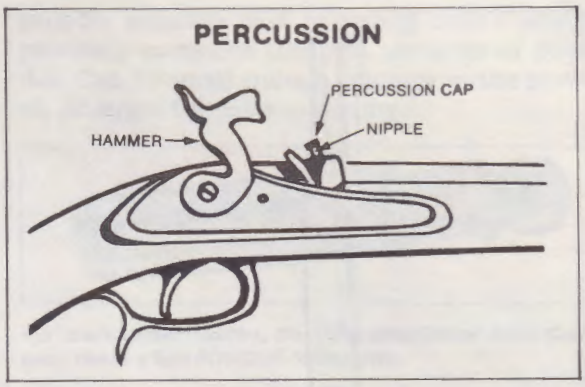
percussion cap — a small metal explosive-filled cup which replaced flint ignition on early percussion arms. When placed on a nipple, the striking of the hammer causes the charge to explode, which in turn ignites the powder in the chamber.

percussion ignition — the form of ignition for muzzleloaders using the percussion cap as described above.

percussion lock — the name given to early firearms utilizing percussion ignition.

pick (picker) — a fine steel wire used to clean out a nipple vent or lock a flintlock touchhole.

picket bullet — one of the original conical bullets developed in the United States, having only the very base of bore size with the rest of the bullet tapering forward. This shape made loading meticulous and accuracy difficult to maintain.



This illustration of a PERCUSSION action courtesy of National Rifle Association.

pierced primer — a primer which has been punctured, usually caused by too long or too sharp a firing pin.

pill lock — a kind of early percussion system utilizing a tiny round pellet of fulminate which preceded the metal cap.

pinhole — with reference to paper shotshells, the small hole burned at the external junction of the brass base and paper.

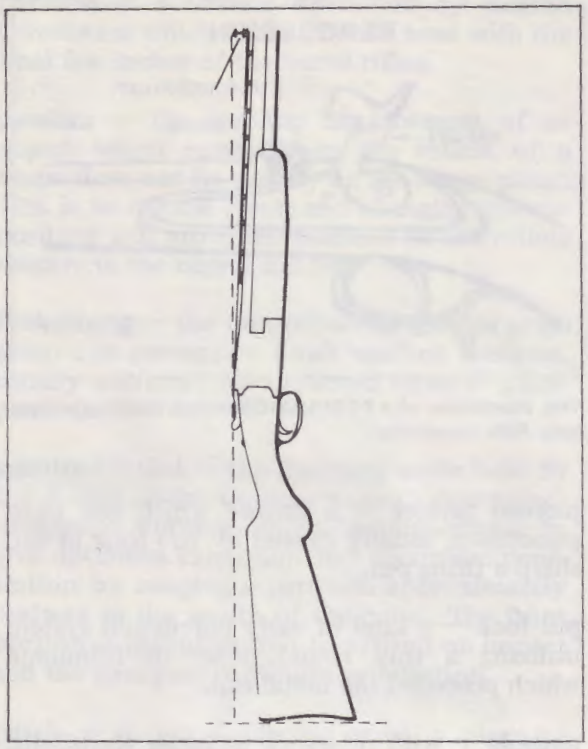
pipes — short tubes on the underside of a muzzleloader which hold the ram rod.

pistol — a small firearm made to be held and fired with one hand and distinguished from a revolver in that the pistol has the chamber as part of the barrel, while in a revolver the separate chambers of a cylinder rotate behind the barrel.

pitch — on a shotgun, pitch is established by the angle at which the butt is cut and is determined by measuring the angle from the heel of the comb to the toe of the stock. Pitch is measured by placing the gun butt on the floor with the breech touching the wall. That distance between the muzzle and the wall is pitch and is expressed in inches. On blackpowder, pitch sometimes refers to the twist of rifling; i.e., the number of turns per inch cut into the barrel.

plains rifle — refers to shorter rifles which were necessary for loading on horseback and which accommodated heavier calibers for buffalo. The famous Hawken rifle is an example of the plains rifle.

plinker — any gun, usually of small caliber and inexpensive, used for casual shooting. A "plinker" is also one who "plinks" or shoots casually at tin cans, rocks, etc.



When a shotgun is placed against a wall as shown, PITCH is the measurement between the barrel and the wall.

point — the tip or nose of a bullet.

point of aim — the part of the target upon which the shooter's sights are fixed.

point of impact — that precise place where a bullet strikes, usually referred to or considered in relation to point of aim.

polygroove — a type of rifling consisting of an excessive number of grooves which are narrower and shallower than normal, thereby reducing bullet deformation. A drawback to polygrooving, however, is the rapid erosion of the fragile lands, reducing barrel life.

possibles bag — a satchel or bag used by mountain men and trappers to carry their many blackpowder accessories.

powder — the substance which ignites in the cartridge, producing a large volume of gas which propels the bullet.

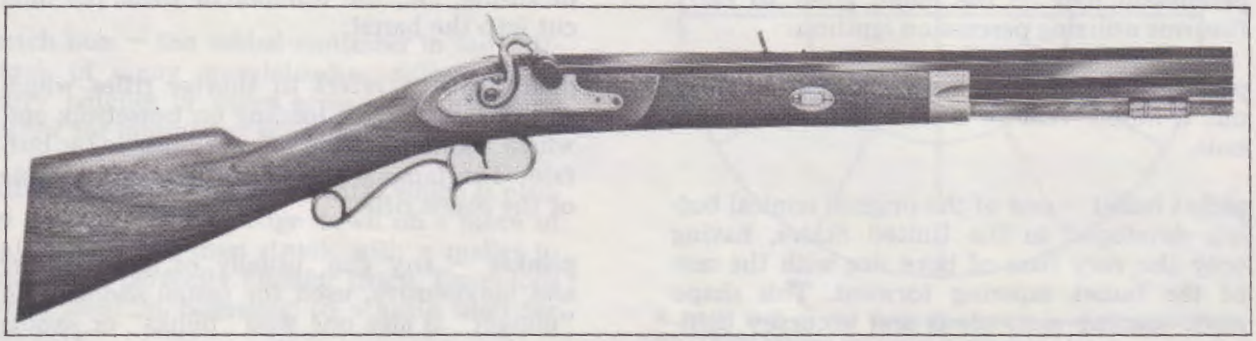
powder charge — the amount of powder loaded into a case. Also referred to as a "load."

powder dribbler (trickler) — a reloading accessory which drops minute measured quantities of powder to facilitate precise weighing.

powder efficiency — the measurement of the capacity of a powder to produce heat energy per unit of weight in order to establish the maximum performance from the minimum powder load and the maximum velocity and energy with minimum chamber pressure.

powder flask — a carrying container for blackpowder, used with muzzleloading arms. Commonly made of brass, copper, or other nonsparking metal and fitted with a spout which measures predetermined charges of powder.

Many handsome POWDER FLASK reproductions are available. This one is from Navy Arms.



Navy Arms replica of the famous PLAINS RIFLE, the Hawken.

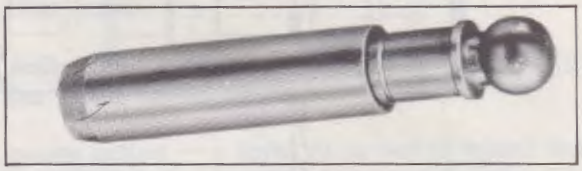
powder funnel — a reloader's device consisting of a funnel or cone-shaped instrument which makes pouring powder into cases a simple operation.

There are many styles of POWDER FUNNELS. These are by Bonanza.

powder horn — a container for carrying powder for a muzzleloader, usually made from a cow or buffalo horn. Unlike a powder flask, a horn does not measure the powder.

An excellent example of contemporary craftsmanship is this POWDER HORN made by Thomas S. White.

powder measure — a reloading device which precisely measures uniform amounts of powder. Can be small enough to carry in the pocket, or larger for mass reloading.



For blackpowder loaders, the Thompson-Center Arms Company makes a fine POWDER MEASURE.

powder residue — the remains, after ignition, of any propellant powder in the cartridge case, the chamber, and the barrel. Blackpowder leaves excessive residue which is easily removed if not allowed to harden. Smokeless powders, such as the ball powders, leave minute residues which are sometimes very difficult to remove.

powder scale — a measuring device to weigh powder.

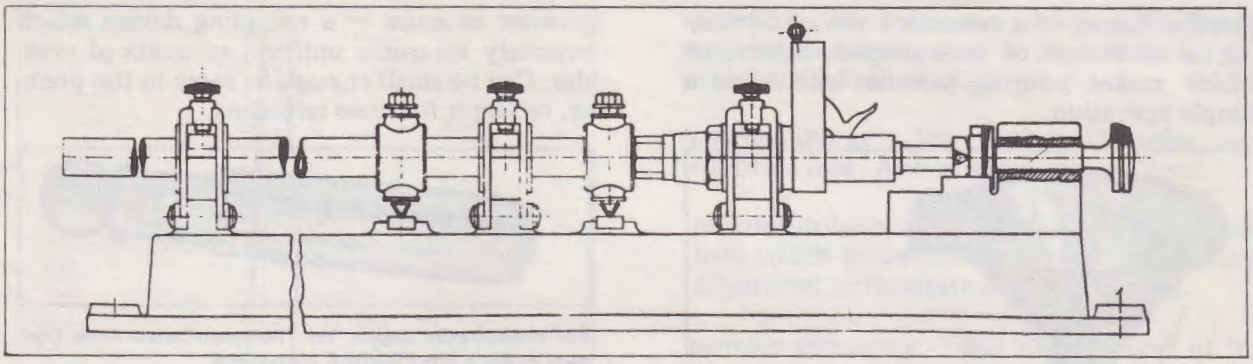
The powder measuring kit by Redding contains, from left, POWDER MEASURE, POWDER SCALE, and POWDER DRIBBLER.

pressure — in interior ballistics, refers to pounds per square inch force.

pressure gun — a special laboratory device for measuring chamber pressures of firearms, particularly in the testing and development of ammunition.

pressure-velocity ratio — the ratio of velocity to pressure in a specific cartridge with a given bullet and a given powder.

pricker (vent) — a piece of fine wire used for cleaning the nipple or flashhole of fouling or other obstruction.



The Austrian von Schatzl PRESSURE GUN devised by Rodman utilizes four crushers to obtain a reading on the pressure curve.

prime — to prepare or load an early weapon for firing, or to install a new primer into the cartridge case in reloading.

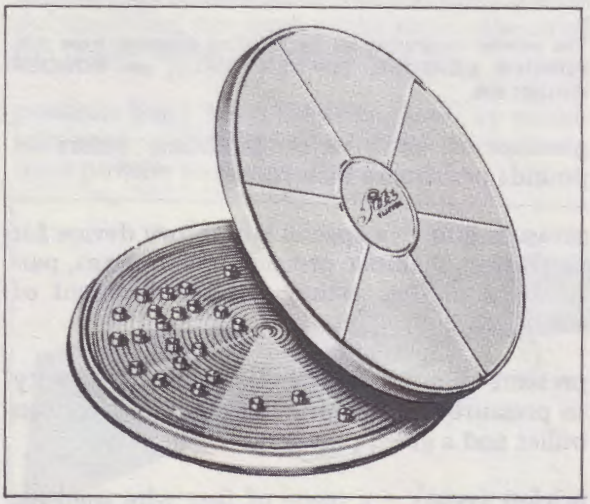
primer — the small cap fitted in the pocket of the head of a center-fire cartridge case or enclosed in the folded rim of a rim-fire case, containing sensitive explosive compound which, when struck by the firing pin, ignites the powder charge.

primer crimp — the metal of the case head folded over the primer radius to hold the primer in place in military ammunition intended for full automatics.

primer cup — in a center-fire cartridge, the housing in the base which holds the primer.

primer flipper — a reloading accessory which arranges primers so that they are all base up or base down.

primer indent — the visible indentation or print of the firing pin on a fired primer.



A big time-saver for the reloader is the PRIMER FLIPPER, like this one by Fitz.

primer leak — the escaping of gas around a primer. Can easily be determined by finding powder smoke smudges on the case head.

primer lock — a type of percussion lock utilizing a Boxer-type primer rather than a percussion cap. Its main advantage is that gas cannot escape rearward through the flashhole as with percussion caps.

primer plug sleeve — a reloading accessory that holds the primer in place while it is being seated in the primer pocket.

primer pocket — the cavity in the base of a center-fire cartridge into which the primer is seated.

primer pocket swaging — removal of the crimp in the primer pocket of a military case by using a punch-and-base set.

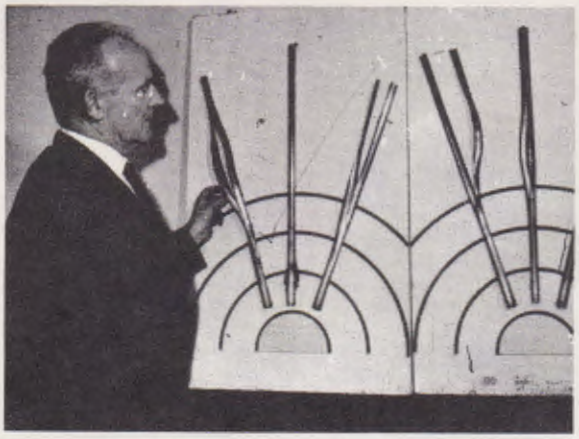
primitive shooting — refers to all forms of muzzleloader shooting, but especially to competitions or staged shoots using either original or exact reproduction blackpowder guns under simulated frontier conditions and in period costume.

progressive — a characteristic of a gun powder which burns slowly compared to blackpowder and which produces a relatively slow pressure build-up.

projectile — often erroneously refers to a bullet, but a bullet is actually a projectile only when it is in flight.

proof (proof-fire) — the test of a firearm's capacity to withstand working pressures and strains. High-pressure loads (proof loads), often called "blue pills," are fired to establish a margin of extra strength in the arm, which is expressed as the "margin of safety." While in the United States individual manufacturers

conduct proof testing, European governments oversee such testing by law.



Split barrels such as these are not common in European PROOF houses, but they are eloquent testimony of the value of proofing.

proof marks — impressions in the barrel surface to signify that it has been proof-fired with a prescribed overload under government supervision as a safety measure.

propellant (gun powder) — the explosives which ignite to fire the projectile.

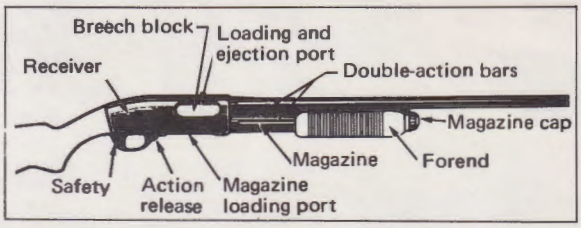
proprietary cartridge — describes a cartridge developed and sold exclusively by one single company.

protected-point bullet — a soft-point bullet wherein the exposed portion of the core point is covered by a very thin metal cap which serves to resist deformation from handling and gun functioning, but remains soft enough to promote expansion on impact.

protruding primer — a highly dangerous condition which occurs when the primer has not been fully seated in its pocket and therefore protrudes beyond the case head, which can cause premature firing as the cartridge is chambered.

pull — the measurement from the firing trigger to the center of the buttplate.

pump action — a form of action in which the mechanism is operated by reciprocating the forend. Also referred to as "trombone" or "slide" action. Pump-actions are most common among shotguns.



PUMP-ACTION shotgun components. (Courtesy National Rifle Association)

pumpkin ball — refers to a round ball of lead used in shotguns which has now been replaced for the most part by the rifled slug.

pyrites — minerals originally used in wheellocks and some early flintlocks to produce spark. Replaced by flint.

Queen Anne pistol — a flintlock handgun, usually without a forend, having a barrel that unscrews to accept the load in the breech end.