

## Carleton

Pedersoli's .36 caliber underhammer



Unlike the more common Billinghamst-design underhammers produced by several manufacturers, Davide Pedersoli chose to build a replica of this circa 1850 underhammer match pistol named after Michael Carleton of Haverhill, New Hampshire. It appears, at the time of this writing, that this pistol is the least expensive production replica blackpowder underhammer available. Considering its overall high standard of build quality and potential for accuracy, it is a pistol worth considering if you pursue the 10 ring.

The saw handle grip above, as presently sold by Dixie Gun Works, has apparently created some whining in the competition scene, so Pedersoli is producing a variation of that shape as shown below.



What is unique about purpose-built match pistols of the past and present is the low barrel axis in relation to the hand. A human's natural point is to extend the index finger, and in theory a barrel in line with the index finger will aim more precisely. Also, a lower bore line will be less affected by a pistol's lateral rotation. Rotate a revolver with its high barrel and sight line and notice the arc that the barrel travels. Ponder how that would affect the point of impact down range.

As with the modern Free Pistol, the Carleton sits very low in the hand.



The rear sight is adjustable for elevation....



...and the front can be tapped for windage.



The barrel and action are a unit, so with grip removed the entire mechanical assembly can be accessed for cleaning and maintenance.



Like the Billinghursts, its trigger guard does double duty as the hammer spring, but the Carleton's hammer is a sliding block having a parallel motion to the barrel axis. Typical of underhammers, the movement of the hammer does not create any lateral rotational inertia. The trigger is not as sensitive as some set triggers, but the pull is still very light making it necessary to stay off of it until you have a sight picture and are ready to release the shot.

Shown here uncocked with bolt resting on nipple. In this mode, the trigger guard spring can be pulled away from the bolt arm for disassembly.



In cocked mode....



# Carleton Underhammer

Among the various guns manufacturers of under hammer, Michael Carleton of Haverhill, New Hampshire, made the model that prevailed over other models thanks to the liner movement of the hammer having a parallel motion to the barrel axis. The nipple is horizontally screwed to the drum placed in the under part of the frame and the main hammer spring looks like a trigger guard. The sliding moving parts are carefully designed to reduce their friction: the result is a very moderate crisp pull, even without a set trigger. This very well balanced gun is made with rust brown finish colour barrel, completed with a saw handle stock, providing a firm and natural grip.

## S.357 Carleton Underhammer Target Percussion model



Caliber	Grooves	Twist inches	Barrel Length inches	Overall Length inches	Weight lbs	Bullet
.36	7	1:18	8 7/16	15 3/4	2.51	.350~.354

Target shooting  Mlaic  
 Yes

# 'Carleston' Underhammer Custom



