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Operation Instructions for Nitro 1858 Uberti 0.44 Remington July 2015

Important notes that MUST be read and understood prior to the use of the revolver. If you do not understand any aspect of these instructions seek qualified advice.

A main feature of this revolver is that the chambers are loaded and primed **without** removing the cylinder from the frame. There are two “**YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED**” statements. These have been highlighted as they are the most common self-made problems when using the revolver. Always check before loading that all cylinders and pockets are empty. Always ensure that balls are properly seated below the face of the chamber before rotating the cylinder to load the next chamber.

General Advice

Herco powder is the recommended powder for the revolver. However, some other powders can be used subject to meeting some simple criteria. The revolver is proofed for a service load of 143 grain pure lead ball and 5.0 grains of Herco powder. Never exceed this service load.

Herco has been selected for the following reasons-

- Due to the actual grain size of Herco, the powder can be loaded straight into the cylinders without the powder falling into the primer pocket.
- Herco is a relatively slow burning powder resulting in relatively lower breach pressures, compared with other faster burn powders.

An alternative powder may be used provided the actual grain size is greater than 1.4 mm (the size of the flash hole) and the burn rate is no faster than Herco. If in doubt seek professional advice.

The recommended ball size is 0.454” but ongoing tests have identified the 0.457” ball as having an edge in terms of consistency and accuracy when used with the recommended charge of 4.3 grains of Herco. **ENSURE** that balls are made from **pure** lead. Balls cast or swaged from lead contaminated with any hardening agents can damage the revolver. Contaminated lead makes the ball difficult to seat in the chamber and excessive pressure on the loading lever can cause damage to the loading mechanism. If balls are home cast, the temperature of the lead can alter the size of the ball that is cast. If a 0.457 mould is used with very hot lead the resultant ball can be closer to 0.460! Again loading an oversized ball can cause damage to the loading lever if excessive pressure is applied.

ANVIL CONVERSIONS

Never use any fats or over the cylinder lubricants. Due to the rapid build up of pressure using nitro powders the presence of any over cylinder lubricants can result in excessively high chamber pressure. This is dangerous and can cause damage to the pistol and has the potential to injure and possibly kill anyone in the immediate vicinity including the user. The recommended lubricant for balls is ALOX.

Always wear eye protection and ear protectors.

The revolver has been designed to operate with a nitro charge.

Never try to discharge a projectile using the primer as the sole means of propulsion. The projectile will lodge in the barrel.

Never discharge a primer on its own. The primer within the shotgun primer outer case will be forced into the firing pin and jam the firing pin and the cylinder. The chamber design relies on the recoil to correctly realign the primer assembly.

Never dry fire the revolver. The firing pin spring will weaken if subjected to dry firing. Failure of the spring will cause the firing pin to jam the cylinder.

Loading procedure

1. Ensure that all chambers are empty and that no primers used or unused are present in the primer pockets. Note if you load the cylinders with previously discharged primers left in the pockets you will have the problem of trying to remove spent primers without having access via the muzzle end of the chamber.
YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED 1
2. If using an Anvil Conversions powder dispenser follow the following instructions. With the pistol canted from the vertical, insert the dispenser nozzle into the chamber to be loaded. Ensure the powder dispenser is held **vertically**. Press the plunger of the dispenser and a 4.3 grain measure of Herco will be deposited in the chamber. Visually check that all cylinders contain the same amount of powder. If a cylinder is overcharged the ball may sit proud of the face of the chamber. In this event the powder will require to be damped and the ball tapped and removed. Do not attempt to force ball out via flash hole.

ANVL CONVERSIONS

3. On each chamber seat and ram home a lead ball previously lubricated with ALOX. Note prior to rotating the cylinder onto the next chamber ensure that the ball rammed into the chamber is properly seated i.e. the ball is below the face of the cylinder. If the cylinder is rotated with the ball protruding above the level of the cylinder the incorrectly seated ball will jam between the cylinder and the barrel. In this situation the chamber cannot be removed and it will necessitate the tapping of the ball into the seat by means of a rod and small hammer. If care is not taken, the finish of the revolver can be scratched. **YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED 2.**
4. If the chamber is rotated sufficiently it will overshoot the position for the correct seating of the ball by causing the hand to re-engage. In this situation the cylinder cannot be rotated back to the correct position. Ramming the ball in this position will not seat the ball properly and will put undue pressure on the rammer as it presses on the face of the cylinder! In this situation stop, think; do not rotate the cylinder any further.
Whilst holding the trigger in, gently pull the hammer back far enough to lift the bolt. Whilst holding the hammer in this position (with the trigger still held in) the cylinder can be rotated back to the battery position aligning the improperly seated ball directly under the rammer. At this point let the hammer down and release the trigger. The rammer can now be used to properly seat the ball. The repositioning of a chamber that has overshoot the rammer alignment can be practised off the range such that when it occurs on the range with loaded chambers the realignment can be carried out with ease.
5. If using the Delrin rammer extension ensure the rammer is pushed far enough onto the loading level to enable the rammer to be rotated through 90°. This ensures that the extension is not putting pressure on the latch of the loading lever. If the rammer is not properly fitted the loading lever metal, housing the latch, can be damaged. Note the Maverick rammer extension should not be rotated.
6. Once all six balls have been properly seated e.g. the cylinder rotates freely in the half-cocked position the shotgun primers can be loaded **by opening the gate** and locating the primers into the pockets. CCI type 209 are the recommended primers. Older 209 primers do appear from time to time at knocked down prices. Some of these primers can be easily punctured by the firing pin causing blow back into the firing pin and spring recess. If this happens it will foul up the pin and spring and render the revolver inoperable.

ANVIL CONVERSIONS



Gate Closed



Gate Opened

7. Remove any lead “shaved off” by the seating of the ball. This is best done after each ball has been seated. If the excess lead is not removed the lead can accumulate between the barrel and cylinder. When the revolver is discharged this lead will be blasted away from the revolver. This could be hazardous to other users on the firing line.
8. The pistol is now loaded and ready to be fired.

Discharging of Firearm

9. Fully cock the hammer to bring the chamber into the battery position. Ensure that the chamber is correctly positioned i.e. the bolt has engaged with the bolt recess in the cylinder ensuring correct alignment of the chamber with the barrel and that no cylinder rotation is possible. Note if the hammer is not fully drawn back, the trigger sear can engage prior to the bolt being released. This is dangerous as the chamber will not be properly aligned with the barrel and could result in the destruction of the firearm and potentially cause injury or loss of life to persons in close proximity.
10. On discharge ensure that the projectile has left the barrel. The projectile may lodge in the barrel if insufficient charge has been deposited in the chamber or if the powder has been contaminated with water or some other impurity. In this event the obstruction will need to be cleared. Any attempt to discharge the revolver with a blockage in the barrel will damage the revolver and could cause injury to anyone in the immediate vicinity. Prior to attempting to clear the barrel the revolver must be made safe by removal of the unfired primers followed by the removal of the cylinder.

ANVIL CONVERSIONS

Reloading Procedure

Having discharged all six chambers proceed to reload as follows

11. On the LHS of the barrel is the ejector housing. Remove the ejector from its housing by pressing the front of the ejector into the housing and rotating the ejector anti clockwise (gun pointing away from user). The ejector should spring forward for removal. On examination of the ejector the end is fitted with a 1.4mm pin approx. 10mm long. Treat this with care, as it is thin and if incorrectly used or abused can bend easily. This results in the ejector being rendered useless and making it difficult to fit back in its protective housing.
12. With the pistol at half cock and the gate open, rotate the cylinder to align the spent primer with the gate port.
13. Carefully insert the 1.4mm pin of the ejector rod into the mouth of the chamber and whilst exerting gentle pressure towards the chamber rotate the rod with thumb and forefinger, the pin will find the flash hole. Note the ejector rod needs to be kept parallel to the barrel at all times. Once the ejector has located the flash hole and the pin inserted into the primer pocket any force taking the ejector rod out of parallel to the barrel **will bend** the pin. Ensure that the ejector rod securing screw (the small screw on the side that locks the rod in the housing) is pointing away from the frame of the revolver when being used to eject a spent primer. This reduces the possibility of it scratching the finish of the revolver frame.
14. Normally gentle pressure is all that will be required to eject the primer. On some occasions primers can be a little stubborn. These are usually overcome by applying a little thumbnail pressure under the outer lip of the spent primer, whilst applying pressure with the ejector rod. This is simpler than it sounds and once the knack is mastered, few if any primers cannot be ejected. However, if a primer refuses to move, gently tap the ejector rod with the plastic handle of a screwdriver. After 2 or 3 taps the primer will release its grip. Ensure primers are carefully discharged prior to ejecting.
15. Repeat procedure with the remaining primers.
16. Reload the pistol as per loading procedure.

ANVIL CONVERSIONS

Primer Failure

17. In the event of a primer failing to detonate safely discharge the other cylinders prior to taking any remedial action.
18. In a safe manner endeavour to fire the faulty primer 2 or 3 times
19. If the primer fails to fire, half-cock the pistol open the gate and bring the faulty primer to the gate port. Primers can be removed from the rear with the use of a sharp edged knife. Wedge the sharp edge of the knife between the cylinder and the edge of the primer and gently prize the faulty primer free. Care needs to be taken not to scratch or damage the cylinder. A small piece of tape placed across the cylinder at the point of lever contact may offer a degree of protection. Note it may be easier to stick tape to edge of the blade that will come into contact with cylinder.

Maintenance of Revolver

20. There are a number of components and springs that are critical to the safe operation of the revolver. These components do wear and in the case of springs, can weaken and eventually break. Failure of any of these components can result in the failure of the chamber to be properly aligned with the barrel. This situation is dangerous endangering both the user and any members of the public in close proximity. As stated above, prior to discharge the cylinder must be locked in the battery position prior to discharge. If the cylinder is found not to be locked in the battery position when the hammer has been fully cocked, this may indicate a broken or weakened bolt spring. On no account try to discharge the revolver in this state. Remove primers, dampen powder charge and remove projectiles. Take revolver to competent gunsmith and have faulty components replaced.
21. Get to know your revolver! A good indication of the state of springs and components can be indicated by the feel and sound of the operation of the revolver. Bringing the hammer to the half cock position should be smooth and accompanied by a clear click of the trigger engaging the half cock notch in the hammer. Bringing the hammer back to the full cock position should permit approximately ½” inch of travel at the spur before hearing 2 definite clicks. One is the operation of the bolt, the other the trigger engaging the sear. Sometimes dependent on the tolerance of the components, these operations occur simultaneously resulting in a slightly louder single click. Similarly depending on the tolerance of the components the bolt

ANVIL CONVERSIONS

may engage before the trigger or visa versa. Once familiar with your own revolver any changes in the sound and feel of the revolver can give an early indication of either wear or a warning of impending component failure.

22. Nitro does not foul up like black powder but it will leave some residue. After a shooting session it is recommended that the cylinder be removed and wiped clean along with the cylinder pin and other parts showing deposits of burnt powder. Lightly oil all surfaces that come into contact with moving parts of the revolver. Unlike black powder residue which is hygroscopic, you do not have to clean the revolver immediately after use. The revolver can be left in your gun cabinet until you are ready. Once familiar with your revolver, cleaning should take no longer than 10 to 15 minutes.
23. Particular attention should be given to ensuring the inside of the barrel is kept clean. As the revolver relies on soft lead balls coated with alox, deposits of lead and alox can be deposited along the length of the barrel. Usually all that is required is the drawing of a bronze brush through the barrel a number of times followed by a mop. If the barrel is neglected and used repeatedly, the lead fouling will build up and become extremely stubborn to clear. Accuracy will deteriorate and excessive pressure will be generated in the barrel unless the barrel is cleaned. Generally cartridge revolvers used hardened lead bullets that reduce leading of the barrel, but under no circumstances should any other material other than pure lead be used in these revolvers. Hardened lead will make the revolver difficult to load and will accelerate wear on the component parts and in a short time render the revolver useless. Using pure lead with Alox as the lubricant and regular maintenance your revolver will reward you with many years of use.

Removal of Remington Cylinder

24. Ensure that chambers are empty and that all spent primers have been ejected.
Place the hammer at half cock.
Rotate cylinder to ensure an empty primer pocket is immediately in line with the firing pin.
Withdraw the cylinder pin and ensure the rammer is positioned such as not to impede the removal of the cylinder.
From the rear gently press the firing pin into the vacant primer pocket.
Keeping the firing pin in this position gently ease the chamber and back plate out to the right of the frame.

ANVL CONVERSIONS

Be careful as the cylinder comes out of the frame that the firing pin is not jettisoned by its spring.

Refitting of Remington Cylinder

25. Place the hammer at half cock.

Ensure that the bolt has been drawn into the lower portion of the revolver frame. Note it is possible to have a situation with the bolt in the locking position whilst the hammer is half cocked. Trying to locate the cylinder in this situation will result in the bolt scratching the cylinder!

Ensure the cylinder pin is fully out.

Ensure rammer is positioned not to interfere with the refitting on the cylinder.

Mount the back pressure plate (BPP) on the rear of the cylinder.

Locate firing pin and spring in the BPP.

Ensure that an empty primer pocket is immediately behind the firing pin. The firing pin will now be able to be pressed deep into the BPP. Note if an empty pocket is not in line with the firing pin, the firing pin will not be able to be pressed into the BPP. The firing pin has to be positioned deep into the BPP to enable the assembly to be fitted to the frame.

Whilst holding the BPP and cylinder, with the firing pin pressed deep into the BPP, slide the assembly into the frame. Care needs to be taken to prevent the hand scratching the BPP. The hand will obstruct the BPP going fully into the frame. The hand needs to be gently pressed into the frame to enable the cylinder and BPP to be fully located.

When the assembly is correctly located the firing pin will self-relocate in the hammer aperture in the frame. At this point the cylinder pin can be repositioned to support the cylinder. The rammer can now be latched.

It may simplify the task if the revolver is held in the left hand with the barrel resting on a support whilst pointing away. The left hand can support the frame and press the hand (pawl) into the frame. The right hand can hold the cylinder assembly with the right hand thumb holding the firing pin deep into the BPP. By co-ordinating left and right hands the cylinder assembly can be slipped in easily.

This all sounds complicated but once the technique is mastered the cylinder assembly can be removed and refitted in seconds.

ANVIL CONVERSIONS

General

Never drop the hammer into the frame from any other position other than from full cock. If the hammer is dropped from any other position and the cylinder rotated by hand the bolt will scratch the blacking on the cylinder.

The revolver is a mechanical tool that does require some bedding in. The performance of the revolver improves with time in part due to the components wearing in but also due to the user becoming more confident and competent with its use. More damage is likely to occur in the first hours of using the revolver than in the years that follow. Always be patient, never force anything. If unsure put the gun away and obtain advice.

Feel free to contact [Anvil Conversions](http://AnvilConversions.com) at classics@anvilconversions.co.uk