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With years of planning and design, plus the cost of more than one new automobile, the author and his team of firearms artisans have created what he considers the...

WORLD'S ULTIMATE REVOLVER



Worked up from a Ruger Bliley, Seyfried's "Ultimate" revolver is truly an example of the gunmaker's art inside and out. This one-of-a-kind single action wears custom blue, browned and color case-hardened finishes; English scroll engraving and fossilized walrus ivory stocks scrimshawed with a sabel-toothed tiger on one side and a hares on the other. Internally, the lockwork has been reshapet, honest, stoned and rehardened where necessary for perfect functioning.

By Ross Seyfried

I had studied and coveted Elmer Keith's No. 5 Colt for more than 20 years. It was an extraordinary handgun, everything he thought one should and could be. But that gun was his, with a cartridge and technology from his era. I decided to stop coveting his gun and to make my own ultimate handgun. The plan was simple: design and have made the very best handgun (by my yardstick) that ever existed on earth. Then I would pit it against the most difficult handguning challenge I knew to prove its working qualities.

To understand the concept we must examine the word "best" by the British standard. It is very basic: when you make a best gun, no improvement is possible. The word definitely does not mean fancy; there is often a great gulf between fancy guns and good ones. American "gunsmiths" and buyers are too eager to equate ornamentation and price with quality. That is, our market is flooded with ordinary production revolvers, rifles and even pump shotguns covered with lavish engraving that are quite often billed as the "greatest gun ever made." Unfortunately

they forget to do anything to the arm itself, putting a million-dollar paint job on a Chevy. While this is okay if you want it, it does not fit the concept I was after. By contrast I once looked at an entire rack of double-barreled shotguns. Most were highly engraved, but the most expensive one of the lot was absolutely plain, without a stitch of ornamentation. I asked the maker of all of the guns, "Why does this one cost more than the beautiful ones?" He replied with great pride, "Sir, this one is beautiful on the inside." It was a competition live-bird gun, made for the highest-stake shooting game around.

So I began on a similar road to make a revolver that was beautiful on the inside, but then to make it beautiful on the outside as well. The first task was to test the concepts of grip, trigger, frame, barrel and cartridge with a similar but mostly "stock" gun. This revolver was very successful, both in taking game and in pointing out some errors that needed to be corrected. With two years of practice behind me, I commissioned Hamilton Bowen to outdo all of his past



The author bagged this handsome Montana pronghorn at almost 150 yards with his Bowen "Ultimate" .475 live-shooter. Because of the freezing weather and open country, he considers it the toughest game shot he's ever made.



This unique wheelgun's octagonal barrel features an elevation-adjustable front sight. Despite tasteful engraving, this classic-browned barrel has been fitted with a Damascus sleeve. The gunmaker's name, load information and caliber/case length have been stamped onto this 5 1/2-inch-long tube.



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