



## REVIEWS-PRODUCTS

# U. S. FIREARM'S NEW RODEO MODEL .45

By Wildshot, SASS #51

I set my laptop case down and locked the SASS office door. It was late, and Hipshot and I were headed home.

"Have you seen the Rodeo?" Hipshot asked. "PRCA?" I responded.

"No, the US Firearms new Rodeo model. It's an all American made Colt SAA copy for under \$600," Hipshot replied.

"Sounds like a Cowboy gun to me!" "I'll have to find out if anyone has one in stock."

"I just happen to have one right here," he said, as he pulled a case from under his arm.

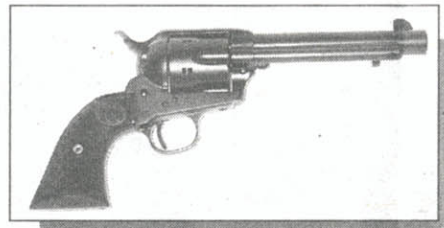
As he handed the 5 1/2" barreled pistol to me, I noticed the finish was unusual. Not blued or case hardened, but uniformly finished in a soft black matte. Different, but not unattractive. The gun sported a case colored hammer, and the black rubber grips were the style and shape of traditional Colt grips, but with US embossed upon their surface.

We agreed to meet at the range on Saturday. Saturday was a nice day with the temperature in the mid-seventies. Sunny and bright.

I paced off a distance of approximately 12 yards and set up the target stand. Before loading up for the actual shooting test, I looked the .45 caliber revolver over carefully. Fit and finish were uniformly excellent. The front sight was a traditional blade, fully blackened, with a thin white line around its base. I thought the line an attractive touch. The rear sight was formed by the customary groove in the top strap. The combination of the square cut groove, and the matte black finish, which seemed to eliminate any reflection or glare from the barrel, resulted in a clear, crisp sight picture.

Now it was time for the live fire test. I loaded a cylinder full of Winchester 250 gr. RNFP, picked a spot on the target, cocked the hammer, and squeezed the trigger. The indexing was positive, and the lock up was tight. The trigger had a tiny amount of take up and then broke cleanly. The 250-grain bullets grouped within an inch and a half circle, at point of aim.

Next, I tried a 160-grain recessed load from Ten-X. It resulted in a slightly



A new US made "Colt" for under \$600 ... and it shoots well.

larger group, but 2 1/2" low and 3/4" to the right.

Third was a PMC load with a 250-grain RNFP. It grouped a bit tighter than the Winchester round and was dead on the point of aim.

Fourth was a standard Ten-X 200-grain RNFP. This round achieved a nice tight group, a bit over an inch center to center, at point of aim.

The fifth load tested was Black Hills' 250-grain cowboy load. Once again, the bullets grouped nicely at the point of aim.

Next, I tried some Black Hills .45 Schofield, 180 grain RNFP. The result was a group slightly larger than the

Black Hills 250 grain .45, and about 2" low.

Finally, I tried Hipshot's favorite load of 5.5 grains of Clays behind a 225-grain truncated cone. This round and Ten-X's 200-grain load, achieved the smallest group size, at point of aim.

All shooting was done offhand, without a rest, and certainly was not a comprehensive test of the firearm or the various ammunition used. However, the Rodeo, straight from the box, obviously preferred the heavier bullets traditionally associated with the .45 Colt, and its accuracy was more than adequate.

My overall impression of US Firearms' Rodeo was favorable. It appears to be well built. It functioned flawlessly, and was quite "shootable" right from the box. The black matte finish, while not as "sexy" as the traditional Colt blue, seems durable and likely to stand up well to the rigors of Cowboy Action Shooting™. This is an all American made, Cowboy Action revolver with a manufacturer's suggested retail price of \$505. If yer lookin', give this one a look. *♣*