

hank@doubleflint.com

From: <info@doubleflint.com>
To: <hank@doubleflint.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 11, 2016 11:55 AM
Subject: Fw: Message from website

We need to post this.

----- Original Message -----

From: "Walt Jackson" *****@*****.net
To: <info@doubleflint.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2016 10:00 AM
Subject: Message from website

Name: Walt Jackson
Email: *****@*****.net

Message: I received my copy last week and have to say The Classic English Double Barrel is one of the best books on the subject I have seen and the only one I know of dedicated entirely to flintlock double barrel shotguns. This is no ordinary how to book. Sure, there are plenty books that describe how to build a black powder gun but none I have seen are as inclusive or well written as this one. Clear, concise and orderly construction detail is presented in large easy to read typeface. Augmented by professional quality photography, with abundance in full color, the construction of a replica 18th century English style sporting gun is presented in logical sequence from beginning to end. This book, like many others on the subject, is instructional but the author not only says how to do things but also shows how to do them through detailed photography. Page after page of full color photos of original sporting guns by John and Joseph Manton, William Smith, Durs Egg, Charles Moore and several others provide detail views of how the originals actually look. This alone leaves every other book on the subject in the dust and makes this book worth having if for nothing else but the pictures.

The atypical approach of presentation is refreshing. The author actually builds a gun; apparently documenting and photographing each phase of the project then presents everything in book form. There is a twist in the "Getting it Together" section when things fail to work according to plan. But, as any true craftsman, the author rises above the difficulty and saves the project. The whole story is in there, just one of the many particulars that make this book what it is. Topics throughout the book are addressed at several different levels. The engineering aspect includes a discussion of mechanical properties of steel even providing a formula for calculating the burst strength of a breech plug. Attention to detail is exemplified through provision of material data sheets containing key data used in the calculation and a profusion of CAD generated drawings scattered throughout the book. He even includes detailed construction drawings for making tools essential to the project. It doesn't stop there. The author obviously possesses a very thorough understanding not only of the mechanical aspects of an early sporting gun but the physical aspects as well. He dives into the detail of the importance of how a sporting gun must fit the shooter to insure successful shooting. And, true to form, he explains the involved factors simply and concisely details how to achieve the desired results. This information may or may not be intended solely for a flintlock sporting gun but is applicable to modern guns too. Yet another detail that sets this book way ahead of the others.

This book contains many novel and sensible ideas. One example is the use of common and ordinary hardware items to fabricate components. Brass plumbing items for ramrod parts, black iron pipe and square key stock to make breech plug parts and steel rod to make screws is only the beginning. Much of the construction information presented in this book is common knowledge to an experienced gun maker but once again the author throws in a few surprises. Putting off installing the butt plate until after final test firing is completed is one of them. Final test firing includes checking how the stock fits the shooter. By leaving the butt plate off, the butt of the stock can be modified to obtain the correct fit. The butt plate is added after the correct fit is achieved. Yet another example, after crafting the ramrod, is leaving the cleaning jag unattached until after the barrels are fit to the stock and the hardware attached to the barrels. After all this is accomplished the ramrod is trimmed to proper length and the cleaning jag attached. Dozens of intricate details such as these introduce a unique approach to the process.

Throughout this book, historical information, the opinions of others and factual evidence are referenced to recognized published articles, other publications and books, which lends credence to this book as a whole. The author to all appearances conducted a great deal of research to make this book what it is. I don't know Gary Hankins (the author) but the surname is no stranger to the world of firearms. William C. Hankins went into partnership with Christian Sharps to form the company of Sharps & Hankins in 1862. Anyone who knows anything about guns has heard of Christian Sharps. Mr. Hankins gives some background information concerning his technical expertise and knowledge of early English sporting guns and how he became without doubt a talented craftsman in his "From the Author" blurb. Maybe he should tell us more?

If I were to rate this book it would have a ten star rating. I think it's that good!

WJ

g-recaptcha-response:

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