

December 10, 2021

An update to the story of the "Shotgun for next year"

The article about a shotgun for next year written December 16, 2021 shows that last year I had already built a new gun by this time. This year I have been shooting an 1875 C. Sharps in 45-90 caliber. I haven't done any inside work this year. I have a few projects but the weather has been good and I am enjoying shooting almost every other day.

I started shooting the 12-gauge flint shotgun as early in the spring as I could. I followed the same schedule as I followed last year except, I skipped MacDonald's for breakfast. I just drank my decaf instant Folgers on the way to the range.

The gun shot beautifully. The Chamber's Late Ketland lock shot fast and doesn't eat flints. My home knapped flints from rock picked up in Texas lasted a whole session, usually 30-40 shots. The pattern board showed the pattern much larger than my BT99 has with an improved modified choke. I would have Rice make a barrel with an improved modified choke next time. I ended up shooting 1 ½ oz of shot and 80 grains of 2 fg Old Einsford powder. This gives a stout kick but is mitigated by the kick-ez butt pad.

I shot for a few weeks and then decided the comb was too high and needed to be offset to the right a little bit. I got out the spokeshave and took some wood off. It was better so I took some more off. No real change the second time, so I decided that was good enough. I finished the stock with Homer Dangler's wood stain and then with tru-oil. The alcohol-based stain dries very rapidly and the tru-oil just a little slower. I was able to stain and finish the raw wood on the stock in a little over an hour. I can hardly tell the difference.

So how did it work? I shot the IBPF Shotgun match with this shotgun in Flint 10 yards and Traditional Muzzle loading 16-yard matches. I shot each match a few times. I came in second in both matches. The Flint 10-yard match I hit 10 birds out of 15. In the Traditional ML 16-yd match I hit 7 birds. At 10 yards I hit 2/3 of the birds which seems good for me.

If anyone wants to build a single barrel flint shotgun let me know and I will get you all the details. It's the easiest gun to build I know of. prsheets@southslope.net.