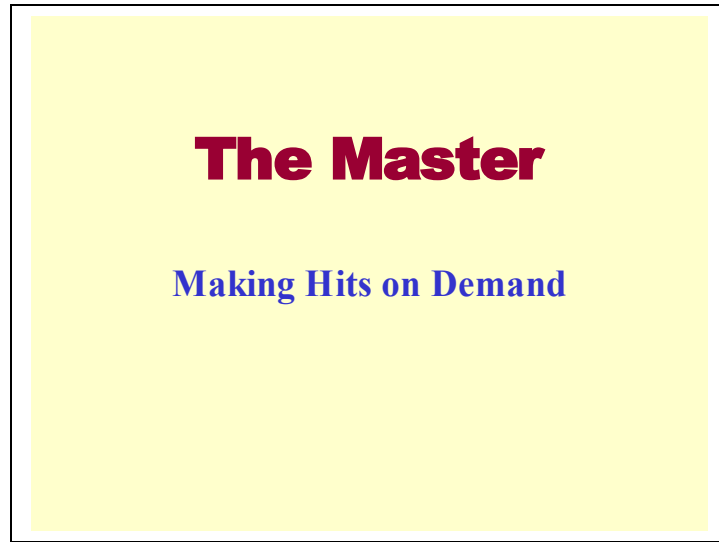


Slide 1



The purpose of shooting is hitting!

The purpose of Practical shooting is to be able to make hits on relevant targets on demand and with in a compressed period of time that makes the outcome of the hit relevant.

Master Firing Grip

- **In Practical Shooting the Master Firing Grip Determines the Ability to Make Hits on Demand.**
 - **Handguns**
 - **Long Guns**

In Practical shooting it is the Master Firing Grip that determines the Practitioner's ability to make hits on demand.

Master Firing Grip is relevant to:

- **Handguns**
- **Long guns.**

MFG Purpose

- To create a consistently reproducible tactile index system that will cause sight alignment.
- To allow repeated hits to be made on practically sized targets.
- To allow both aimed and sighted fire.

The Master Firing Grip is designed to allow the Practitioner to “feel” the sights are in alignment.

With the sights in alignment the Practitioner can use other tactile index points to assure the aligned sights are sufficiently on the target area to be able to make adequate hits in compressed periods of time.

During aimed and sighted fire the MFG allows for repeated hits on the target area.

With the exception of repeated shots, the idea of using some form of master grip to aid in making hits has been about since at least the time that sighting systems were placed on guns.

Multi-Shot Weapons

- **Made the need for a consistent Master Grip apparent.**
- **Trigger actuated successive shot mechanisms made the constant MFG practical.**

Single shot weapons, particularly handguns, were certainly as effective as they were capable of being in stopping an aggressive action when the firing grip used aligned the sighting system sufficiently to acquire a hit on a relevant target area.

Such weapons were cocked at the sign of impending danger. They were carried about in hand until used or the danger was obviated. Because of the distance relationship between the lock system and the master hand, the off hand was commonly used to cock the pistol. The Master hand remained in place.

Late in the first half of the 19th Century repeating handguns began to be available through mass production.

Some, like the Colt pattern, had the hammer drawn to full cock by the Practitioner (which action also moved a loaded chamber into alignment with the barrel and hammer) where it was held ready for firing by a sear engagement. The actuating trigger was short in travel and required a very low amount of force applied to break the sear engagement and release the hammer.

Others, like the Adams system, used a long, heavy trigger action to move a loaded chamber in the cylinder into alignment with the barrel

and hammer and at the same time drew the hammer to a full rearward position before releasing it to discharge the weapon.

American Military trials of the period concentrated on the accuracy potential of the handguns under consideration for adoption. The action of the Colt model systems made them more easily shot accurately. That system was adopted by the Military.

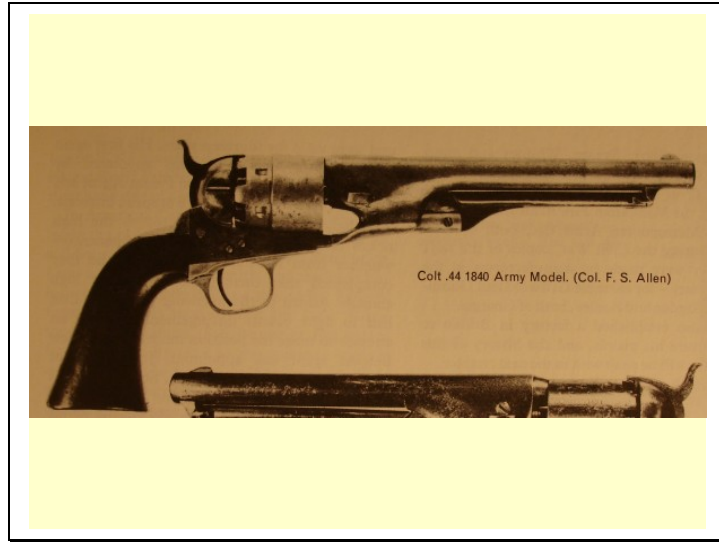
Still, many officers in the Union Army and particularly in the Confederate Army chose the Adams system as their personal defense weapon.

The Adams system, introduced in 1855, subsequently made improvements to the weapon, adding a cocking sear engagement which made it the first successful “double action” revolver.

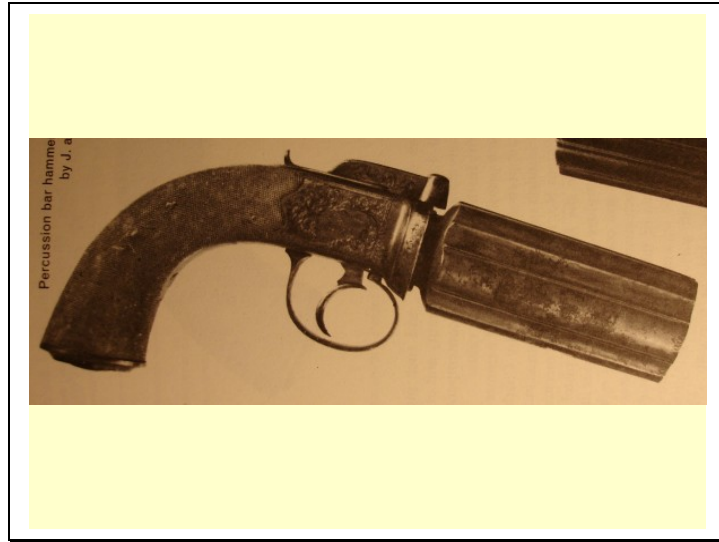
Apparently some Civil War Officers realized that by the time they needed to start shooting during an engagement, the action would be close enough that the precision offered by a sear cocking system was less important than a consistent grip maintained on the weapon.

Cinema myth notwithstanding, trigger cocking revolvers were commonly used in the second half of the 19th Century in that section of the U S west of the Mississippi.

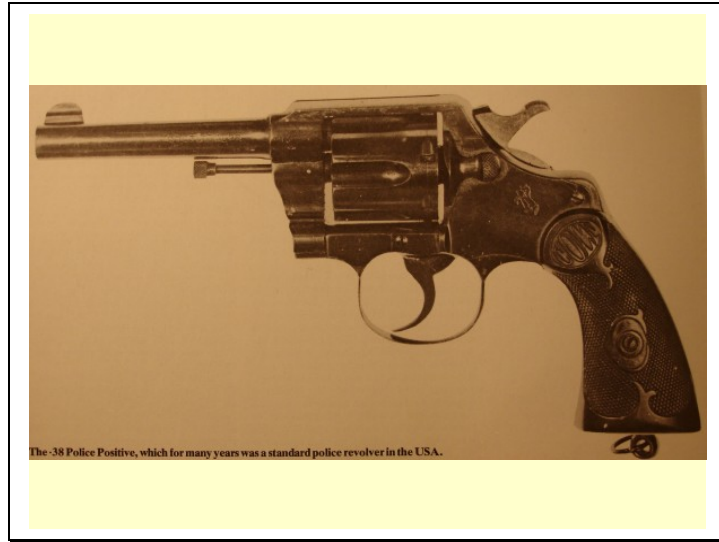
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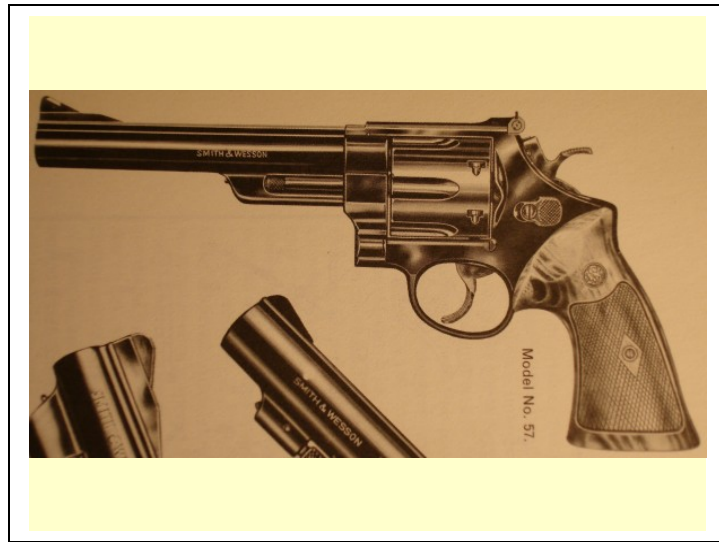
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Slide 7



Slide 8



Manual v. Trigger Cocking

- Manual cocking did not allow a MFG to be acquired during presentation or during subsequent shots.
- Time was required to acquire or re-acquire a MFG after cocking.
- A Maser Firing Grip could be acquired during the presentation and maintained throughout the process of repeated shots with a trigger cocking system.

J. B. Hickock

Hickock not only was an accomplished shooter, he was possessed of a discipline that allowed him to make full use of the latent accuracy potential of the Colt system.

As early as 1861 there are numerous contemporary news accounts of him engaging multiple assailants when he was armed with handguns. He regularly made hits on vital part of the body of his antagonists.

On July 27, 1865 Hickock and David Tutt engaged in the first recorded “high noon” gunfight. The fight actually occurred at 6:00 pm. They met on a Missouri street as mutually agreed at a distance of 50 yards. Each man drew his weapon at about the same time. Tutt fired first and missed. Hickock shot Tutt through the heart with is first shot.

On October 7, 1867 Hickock and Phil Coe engaged in a gunfight in a bar. The range was 8 feet. Coe fired two shots before Hickock fired his first shot. One of Coe’s rounds passed through Hickock’s jacket. The other struck the floor between Hickock’s legs. Hickock’s round passed through Coe’s stomach and out his back. Coe died two days later.

In interviews Hickock spoke of the need to take the time to be sure your sights were on the target before you fired. That meant you needed to

have a MFG in order to make hits. He also spoke of experiencing men who “shot too quick” to assure they could make an adequate hit.

Whether shooting at distance or at very close range it was his habit to acquire a master firing grip and to address the sights and trigger manipulation in a manner that produced the required shot to stop his adversary.

William Bonney

Bonney was known for his shooting skill. His weapon of choice is reported to have been a Colt “Lightning” which had a trigger cocking mechanism. During close range fights he was able to regularly make hits. The ability to acquire and maintain a MFG likely helped him make hits in such engagements.

Certainly Hickock possessed two qualities that allowed him to prevail in repeated fights with multiple assailants. He was a good deliberate shot. He practiced firing groups with regularity. He understood the key to shot placement was tied to the ability to properly align the sights with the intended target and apply the needed amount of trigger finesse.

The second quality was that of a professional. He was apparently able to maintain both physical and mental balance while under pressure.

He disciplined himself to acquire a MFG before firing a shot.

The Pepper Box design was the first successful trigger cocking handgun. There were efforts to make them in flint systems. They were not successful. With the development of the percussion cap the system worked and had some commercial success.

Calibers were generally in the .30 range. These guns were made for close engagements of the kind typically seen in domestic VCA encounters. They were not designed for accurate fire over even moderate range.

Evolving the MFG

- Late 19th Century handguns evolve that allow for continually maintaining a MFG during the discharge of repeated shots.
- Early 20th Century Practitioners begin to write about their study. Fitzgerald and McGivern do the most exhaustive work.

By the 4th quarter of the 19th Century there were many good trigger cocking revolvers. Practitioners and target shooters began to work with the systems to evolve their specific interests.

By early in the 20th Century a number of serious students had figured out how to not only shoot quickly and accurately but had learned how to combine presentation of the weapon from a daily carry transport system and a MFG that allowed for adequate placement of on demand hits.

Some like Fitzgerald and McGivern wrote books on the subject. Of all the articles and books written on the subject of shooting a handgun at speed, the most insightful is McGivern.

McGivern

- His writing is the best of any done even to this day.
- It was written for the serious student who was motivated to reach his personal best.
 - He recognized that each person was different in make-up and his instructor needed to use acknowledge that in the course of instruction.

No two people are built the same. They do not walk move or use implements in the same fashion. Instructors must acknowledge this in the course of instruction.

His work assumes the student will be motivated to obtain personal best through constant work.

McGivern

- **Deliberate shooting must be done so that the Practitioner knows what the gun “feels” like when the sights are aligned.**
 - **This “feel” must be the same in deliberate firing as it is as the the hand acquires the gun in the holster.**
- **The “feel” is dependant on the individual hand and individual gun.**

McGivern knew the serious student would need to be able to shoot groups. The shooting of groups served many purposes.

Among the purposes was to learn the MFG that was relevant to the specific shooter and varied from weapon to weapon.

The MFG serves as a platform that allows the Practitioner to verify his ability to reliably place his shots where he desires.

Today, the use of the “two-handed hold” is used for the same thing. It is a verification platform. It should be accomplished with the firing hand have the same purchase on the weapon as it would if the second hand was not used. If you are unable to remove your support hand and continue to fire accurately with your firing hand in place you do not have a MFG. This is a particular problem with “wide bodied” guns.

It is only after the Practitioner learns to place shots with deliberate fire combined with a MFG that he works on rapid aimed fire.

McGivern

- Getting your hand on the gun rapidly is only the beginning of the presentation in practical shooting.
- Getting your hand around the gun in a manner that delivers the “feel” of the gun when the sights are aligned is the most important part of the presentation.

McGivern was describing the need to separate the presentation into distinct parts that flowed seamlessly with practice.

The movement of the hand to the gun can be done rapidly. The movement must then slow sufficiently to assure the MFG is properly acquired. Once the MFG is acquired the hand can again move very rapidly again to complete the presentation.

McGivern

- Rejected the idea that there was a specific “stance”.
- Took the position that once the MFG and trigger manipulation were mastered the Practitioner could make hits on demand from any position.
- Rejected the idea of “making” time.
(Speed) Save time. (Smooth)

WW II

- With the advent of WW II there was a necessity to quickly train large numbers of people to competently handle weapons.
- Special Services personnel needed to be able to adequately handle handguns.
- Sykes and Fairbairns were called upon to develop a system to address this problem.

Sykes and Fairbairns decided to dispense with the presentation. Their position was that the agent who needed to use a handgun would have sufficient warning to present the weapon well in advance of the actual engagement.

In their 1942 book, "Shooting to Live" S & F discuss the proper way to grip the handgun in a MFG that would allow the sights to be aligned adequately to make hits on man sized targets quickly.

While they referred to their system as "instinctive" there was nothing instinctive about it.

The "system" involved a specific MFG that aligned the sights. There was a specific body posture that was assumed. They identified it as a "squared" to the target position. When the Practitioner was required to fire he raised the gun to the center of his face at eye level and fired. This was clearly "aimed" fire, though perhaps not sighted fire, as the rear of the gun was centered in the vision of the Practitioner. Assuming the MFG was correctly executed the shooter could expect adequate hits.

S & F posited that at ranges 10 yards and beyond the Practitioner could "steady" the gun by using the non-firing hand in a fashion of a two-handed hold.

Similarly they discussed shooting at “immediate danger” distance, which they practiced at 3’, as a one-handed compressed hold.

Rex Applegate

- Expanding on the system presented by Sykes and Fairbairns, Applegate wrote a book in the mid-1950's designed to address the expansion of police departments and their need to train many new officers.
- Applegate minimally discussed the need to engage VCA from presentation.

Rex Applegate wrote “Kill or Get Killed” in the 1950's. His work was an expanded edition of the work of S & F.

He did discuss the occasional need to fire the weapon at the completion of an emergency presentation, but like S & F he assumed that would be the rare occurrence and did not supply more than a cursory description of the process without direct reference to the need to acquire a MFG that aligned the sights at the moment the hand grasped the weapon in the holster.

While he did mention the prospect that armed citizens could need such skills, it is apparent his work was designed to address the need of training large groups of men employed by government.

Col. Cooper

- In the late 1950's he returned the focus to serious individual study.
- His work grew out of the "Leather Slap" competitions.
- Most competitors used Colt Mdl P's.
- Jack Weaver used a trigger cocking weapon and two-hand hold.

Copper returned the study to serious independent students.

The Leather Slap competitions were an out-growth of the plethora of western melodramas on the TV and cinema screens of the time.

The Colt Model P was the predominate weapon used by competitors.

Jack Weaver used his duty issue weapon. It was the only gun he had. He used a K frame S&W. It was assumed he was winning because he used two hands and raised the gun to eye-level. That undoubtedly contributed but it is likely his consistent MFG played a significant role particularly against those who were using a weapons system that did not allow for a constant MFG from the time the hand was placed on the gun as it was in the holster.

As their study went on, much of the group began to use the Colt Model O.

The combination of the ability to acquire and maintain a MFG from the moment the hand made contact with the weapon in its holster, the "flash sight picture" to verify the sights were in alignment as a compliment to the MFG and a very manageable short action trigger advanced the study quickly.

Gamers being gamers, when the problem of the MFG was realized holsters were constructed that allowed the Model P to be cocked while still in the holster in an effort to allow a MFG for at least the first shot.

Master Firing Grip

- **Is the foundation of all forms of shooting.**
- **Generates sight alignment at all times the weapon is in the hand.**
- **Makes possible on demand adequate hits, repeated hits and hits on multiple targets of varying distance at speed.**
- **Can be used with any personal carry weapons system.**

The MFG is the foundation of all shooting systems.

It is particularly useful to the practical shooter.

It can be used with handguns and long guns.