

UBERTI SCHOFIELD REVOLVER

Among the many desirable Frontier-era firearms replicated by the Italian arms industry is the 1875 S&W Schofield revolver made by Uberti. The example reviewed here has a short 3½" barrel. This length was never made by Smith & Wesson, but it makes for a handy big-bore cowboy sixgun.

The original gun was built to the specifications of Maj. Schofield, a U.S. cavalry officer with strong connections to Army Ordnance. Because the Schofield cartridge

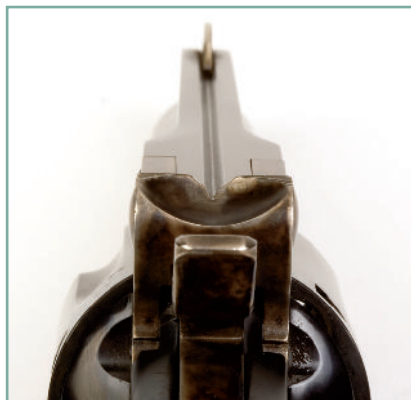
was shorter than the .45 Colt, the standard .45 Colt round would not work in a shorter .45 Schofield cylinder—so there were ammunition interchangeability issues. The Schofield was dropped from Army service, but remained in use with police agencies and, particularly, with Wells Fargo. It would have been relatively easy to make the gun with a longer cylinder, which might have kept it alive. That didn't happen until the 1990s, when Uberti built the first replica S&W Schofields for the longer .45 Colt cartridge (May 1995, p. 42).

Function is nearly identical to the original. Although the hammer has a firing pin like the original, there is an unobtrusive internal hammer-block safety on the hammer and the frame. When the hammer is down, a tab on its front bears against a protrusion on the back of the hammer block to help prevent inadvertent discharges

were the gun to be dropped. The block, attached to the base of the hammer, moves out of the way only when the hammer is cocked and the trigger pulled, allowing the pin to reach the primer of the chambered cartridge.

The .44-40 Win. example is a very nice modern rendering of the original design. Made of well-polished steel and finished in a deep black color, the Uberti Schofield is a handsome revolver. Note that the barrel latch, trigger guard and hammer are case-colored, as were the original revolvers. Uberti replicated the barrel latch system that was Maj. Schofield's salient idea. It is mounted on the receiver, rather than on the barrel extension, as was the case with other S&W top breaks. The sweeping curves of butt are there, as is the elegant fluted top rib on the barrel.

Authenticity extends to the inspector's cartouche marking



The rear sight is a V-shaped notch cut into the barrel latch. Note the groove that runs along the top of the barrel. Both the rear sight and the front sight are fixed, so any adjustments will have to be made with a file.

UBERTI SCHOFIELD

MANUFACTURER: ALDO UBERTI & C. SRL,
VIA G. CARDUCCI, 41, PONTE ZANANO,
SAREZZO, BRESCIA, ITALY 25060

IMPORTER: STOEGER, 17603 INDIAN HEAD
HIGHWAY, ACCOKEEK, MD 20607;
(301) 283-6981; WWW.STOEGER.COM

CALIBER: .44-40 WIN. (TESTED), .45 COLT

ACTION TYPE: HINGED FRAME, TOP-BREAK,
SINGLE-ACTION REVOLVER

FRAME: BLUED STEEL

BARREL: 3½"

RIFLING: SIX-GROOVE, 1:16", RH TWIST

CYLINDER CAPACITY: SIX ROUNDS

SIGHTS: HALF-ROUND, BLADE FRONT;
"V" NOTCH REAR

TRIGGER PULL: SINGLE-ACTION, 5 LBS.

OVERALL LENGTH: 9¼"

WIDTH: 1¾"

HEIGHT: 5"

WEIGHT: 38 OZS.

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$825

SHOOTING RESULTS (25 YDS.)

.44-40 WIN. CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 12' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE IN INCHES SMALLEST LARGEST AVERAGE		
BLACK HILLS 200-GR. LRN	624 AVG. 11 Sd	173	3.94	5.60	4.87
REMINGTON 200-GR. JSP	578 AVG. 16 Sd	148	3.05	4.47	3.76
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					4.32

NOTES: ACCURACY RESULTS BASED ON THE AVERAGE OF FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS FIRED AT 25 YDS. FROM A SANDBAG REST. VELOCITIES MEASURED WITH AN OEHLEER MODEL 35P CHRONOGRAPH WITH SCREENS PLACED APPROXIMATELY 12' FROM THE MUZZLE. TEMPERATURE: 61° F. HUMIDITY: 9%. ALTITUDE: 4,950 FT. ABBREVIATIONS: LRN (LEAD ROUNDOSE), JSP (JACKETED SOFTPOINT), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION).

Depressing the rear of the ejector pawl on the underside of the frame disengages the extractor cam, allowing the gun to be opened without ejecting the cases in the cylinder.



stamped into the plain, oil-finished walnut stock panels. Even the serial number is rendered in the style of lettering used on the originals and so is the "US" on the rear corner of the butt.

It is also an entertaining revolver to shoot, particularly if you are into the Cowboy Action scene. To load the Uberti Schofield, bring the hammer back to the first notch, which permits the cylinder to turn freely. Then pull the barrel latch to the rear, which frees the barrel and cylinder to tilt downward. When the barrel pivots downward, the central extractor in the cylinder lifts upward, bringing any cartridges, fired or otherwise, with it. As the extractor reaches the limit of its travel, it pops back down, which permits the shooter to shake the spent cases away, load six new cartridges and close the barrel.

The revolver is single-action, so the hammer must be thumbled to full cock before firing. Depressing the rear of the ejector pawl on the underside of the frame just forward of the trigger guard, disengages the extractor cam allowing the gun to be opened without ejecting the cases in the cylinder.

One of the virtues of the Schofield revolver is its shape, which allows it to be aimed and fired quickly and accurately. The butt is a continuous curve, somewhat like the Colt Bisley. With no frame knuckle or prawl, this shape permits the gun to roll muzzle-up in the hand when fired. Not only does this action help absorb recoil, it also puts the shooter's thumb in a good position to quickly re-cock the hammer.

The sights are easily acquired and aligned. This revolver will undoubtedly be popular at re-

enactments and Cowboy Action matches. Ammunition in chamberings such as .44-40 Win. is usually quite mild, which makes an afternoon of shooting very pleasant.

Two loads were used in our shooting evaluation, and there were no malfunctions of any kind. Neither drove the typical 200-gr. bullets any faster than 700 f.p.s. As noted in the table, accuracy was just fair.

At 25 yds., the Schofield shot very low. That is because the front sight is rather high. In Frontier times, it was common to make guns this way, leaving the regulating of point of impact to the individual shooter and his file.

For shooters who want to add a little variety to their battery of Cowboy guns, the Uberti Schofield 3½" is a good choice. The company also offers this model in the original 7" style, as well as the 5" "Wells Fargo" variation. You can also get an authentic Russian Model—one of the most widely produced guns of the Old West era—from the innovative gunmakers at Uberti. 