



NEW PEABODY .44-95 RIFLE

(Above) Some of the cartridges for which the new Peabody will be chambered include (from left): 122 Winchester SS, 30-30 WCF, 30-40 Gov't, 38-55, (.38-56 missing), 40-45, 45-60, 45-70 Gov't, and the 44-95 Peabody, What Cheer.

(Right) A half-second after Johnston touches off the first round of .44-95 ammo reveals the force of recoil having to caused the tang sight to tilt forward under recoil.

binocular interchangeable lenses, is the most impressive spotting scope I have ever used and can be used to any distance you care to shoot at with optional 80x eyepieces (standard are 20x and 30x).

To get a feel for the .44-95 Peabody, I fired the first few shots offhand at an 8-inch steel plate at 100 yards. When I touched off the set trigger I knew I was firing a major black powder cartridge. The rifle had not been sighted in and the bullet hit about a foot high and slightly to the right. Adjusting the

tang sight as I went, I hit the plate dead center on the 4th shot. With the limited rounds I had, that was plenty good to get on paper.

I began shooting at a standard 100-yard rifle target. To make a long story short, while I had several shots within 2 inches, there were fliers. Replacing the front sight insert with another I prefer didn't improve my groups; by the time my limited test ammo was expended and fouling was not an issue at all. Tom Jackson and I both surmise that the bullets were the cause. As this is written, new

.44-95 loading dies are being designed and should be available by time this goes to print.

Tom reports that new Peabody rifles in .45-70 caliber also delivers 1-MOA accuracy, as does my Durango Rifle Company serial #1 Peabody. I have no doubt that with the right bullet and load, the new-44-95 Peabody "What Cheer" cartridge will deliver outstanding long range accuracy, not to mention its effectiveness on big game animals. For most, however, I'm betting that other chamberings, such as the 40-65, 45-60 and 45-70 will remain the favorites.

Final Notes

Although you can fire safe smokeless powder loads in most of these rifles, I heartily recommend shooting black powder loads in them if for nothing else than the fun you will have. Don't worry about the chore of cleaning your rifle, as there are several modern black powder cleaners that make it a cinch. My favorite is M-Pro 7 from Pantheon. While

Like other rifles in its class, the new Peabody can be had with custom grade stocks and checkering, but straight-grained walnut (seen here) is standard.

"In fact, the Peabody was the only rifle at the Major Laidly Trials that COULD NOT BE BLOWN UP, even with multiple charges of powder with multiple projectiles stacked in front of them."

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