THE COLT REVOLVER

From the Collections of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum

Samuel Colt (1814 - 1862), Archives Collection, P.22.9
The First Model Dragoon revolver was the best available at the time and became popular with both the military and civilians in the American West.

Design improvements led to the endorsement of Colt firearms by the armed forces. The US military bought nearly half of all Walker and Dragoon revolvers manufactured by the Colt Company.

- **Caliber:** .44 caliber round ball or conical bullet with percussion cap
- **Cylinder:** 6-shot, roll engraved with Texas Ranger and Indian fight scene by W. L. Ormsby.
- **Barrel:** 7.5" long, part round and part octagonal
- **Finish:** Blued with case hardened frame, hammer and loading lever
  - Brass grip straps plated in silver for civilian use,
  - left unfinished for military use
- **Grips:** Varnished walnut one-piece grips (civilian) or walnut oil-stained (military)
- **Weight:** 4 lbs., 2 oz.
- **Production:** Approximately 7000 produced
The Second Model Dragoon looked very similar to the first, but included improvements that continued to make it popular with the military and civilians.

Colt made several design improvements to the Dragoon revolvers, including particular safety features of the cylinder and hammer which addressed problems of accidental discharge and burst cylinders. By

Caliber: .44 caliber round ball or conical bullet with percussion cap
Cylinder: 6-shot, roll engraved with Texas Ranger and Indian fight scene
by W. L. Ormsby
Barrel: 7.5” length, part round and part octagonal
Finish: Blued with case hardened frame, hammer and loading lever
Brass grip straps plated in silver for civilian use,
left unfinished for military use
Grips: Varnished walnut one-piece grips (civilian) or walnut oil-stained (military)
Weight: 4 lbs., 2 oz.
Production: Approximately 2,700 produced
The Third Model was the final design of the Dragoon revolver series. It also offered detachable shoulder stocks which are now three detachable shoulder stock designs were available, including the military design option of a water canteen inside.

- **Caliber:** .44 caliber round ball or conical bullet with percussion cap
- **Cylinder:** 6-shot, roll engraved with Texas Ranger and Indian fight scene by W. L. Ormsby
- **Barrel:** Standard 7.5” or rare 8” length, part round and part octagonal
- **Finish:** Blued with case hardened frame, hammer and loading lever
  
  Brass grip straps plated in silver for civilian use, unfinished for military use
- **Grips:** Varnished walnut one-piece grips (civilian) or walnut oil-stained (military)
- **Weight:** 4 lbs., 2 oz.
- **Production:** Approximately 10,500 produced