

# GUN TESTS VALUE GUIDE: 45-CALIBER COWBOY ACTION HANDGUNS

GUN NAME	ISSUE	GRADE & COMMENTS
<b>Heritage Mfg. Big Bore Rough Rider 45 Colt RR45B5, \$379</b>	Feb. 2006	<b>Grade A (Best Buy):</b> The Rough Rider is a bargain for the budding Cowboy Action shooter.
<b>Cimarron Model P 45 Colt, \$518</b>	June 1999	<b>Grade A (Best Buy):</b> Shot well. Handled fast. Antique metal finish and distressed wooden grip drew admirers.
<b>Springfield Armory Mil-Spec PB151LP 45 ACP, \$785</b>	October 2008	<b>Grade A-:</b> As a retro gun, we gave it high marks. Very reliable with hollowpoints. But we didn't like the sights.
<b>Rock Island Armory Tactical 45 ACP, \$499</b>	July 2009	<b>Grade A-:</b> The pistol is reliable and accurate. The locking hard case and spare magazine are rock candy to the deal.
<b>Springfield Armory Mil-Spec PB9108L 45 ACP, \$559</b>	July 2004	<b>Grade A- (Buy It):</b> Accurately described as a standard or general issue pistol. No cutting corners.
<b>Ruger Vaquero 45 Colt, \$379</b>	June 1999	<b>Grade A- (Buy It):</b> Shot very well and had a modern feel to its action. Visual cues dampen the Old West mood.
<b>Arm Scor 1911A1 45 ACP, \$475</b>	April 2003	<b>Grade B (Conditional Buy):</b> Represents the type a basic 1911 that with tuning could be a satisfying pistol to own.
<b>Colt's Manufacturing 1991A1 Series 80 45 ACP, \$610</b>	July 2000	<b>Grade B (Conditional Buy):</b> A reliable defensive tool. The nostalgia of a vanishing breed is another reason to buy it.
<b>Arm Scor Rock Island Armory Twin Pines 45 ACP, \$350.</b>	April 2003	<b>Grade C (Conditional Buy):</b> Developed reliability problems. Is it possible to build a good 1911 at a bargain price?
<b>Auto Ordnance 1911PKZ 45 ACP, \$515</b>	July 2004	<b>Grade C (Don't Buy):</b> A barebones 1911 that we think would benefit from better sights and more attention to fit.
<b>Firestorm DLX 45 ACP, \$482</b>	July 2009	<b>Grade C:</b> The pistol was accurate enough and reliable in a conventional sense, but the slide lock defect soured us.
<b>EAA Bounty Hunter 45 Colt, \$296</b>	June 1999	<b>Grade C (Don't Buy):</b> Shot well despite a heavy trigger. Fit and finish were lacking.
<b>Taurus Gaucho SA45B 45 Colt, \$499</b>	Feb. 2006	<b>Grade D:</b> It had a penchant to shoot high, and we would choose to avoid the hassle of getting it fixed.
<b>Sistema Colt Cal. 11.25 (45 ACP) Mod. 1927, \$299</b>	Feb. 2002	<b>Grade F (Don't Buy):</b> To bring this gun more on par with a base model Colt 1991A1, it would need a refit of the slide to frame mating, a new barrel, and better sights.
<b>Firestorm 45 Gov't FS45GM 45 ACP, \$329</b>	Sept. 2001	<b>Grade F (Don't Buy):</b> We cannot recommend a pistol that does not function reliably. Its low price isn't worth the money if it doesn't work.
<b>Pistola Automatica C.11.25 45 ACP Ballester-Molina, \$190</b>	Feb. 2002	<b>Grade F (Don't Buy):</b> There is no easy or economical way to improve these outmoded pistols. Our team suggests buying more modern guns that work.

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