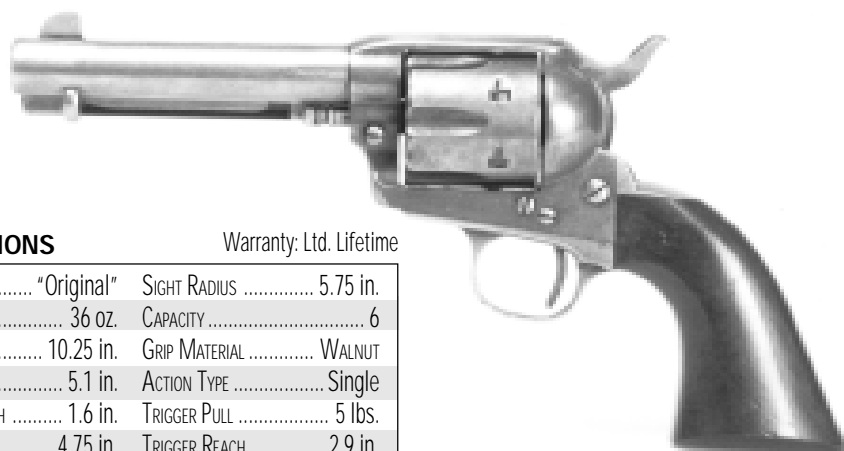


CIMARRON MODEL P

Price.....\$518



SPECIFICATIONS

Warranty: Ltd. Lifetime

FINISH	"Original"	SIGHT RADIUS	5.75 in.
WEIGHT	36 oz.	CAPACITY	6
OVERALL LENGTH	10.25 in.	GRIP MATERIAL	WALNUT
OVERALL HEIGHT	5.1 in.	ACTION TYPE	Single
MAXIMUM WIDTH	1.6 in.	TRIGGER PULL	5 lbs.
BARREL LENGTH	4.75 in.	TRIGGER REACH	2.9 in.

Our follow-up recommendation: This gun looks great and shoots well, but our test shooting loosened it up. **Caveat:** Avoid lots of hot loads, and it'll probably have a long life. For the price it's hard to beat.



Left and below: A mixture of handloads slightly hotter than some factory loads loosened the Cimarron's cylinder. It exhibited significant rotational play, indicating that the top of the hand, or the star, or both, were getting battered from the more intense load. This resulted in off-center firing-pin strikes (below left, right cartridge). The other one is center-struck as it came out of the Colt Cowboy.



finished steel. Zero creep to the 3-pound trigger pull. Action sides that are hand-stoned to a perfect flat fit with the trigger guard and backstrap. Adjustable sights that index tightly from click to click and lock in place like a bank vault protecting your money. Put all this together and you know you're han-

dling a Freedom Arms Premier Grade revolver. That's the performance you get for your \$1,492.

Because it's a five-shooter, the small-frame Model 1997 won't be used by Cowboy Action shooters—unlike its greatly popular six-shot .357 Mag brother of the same frame size—because you're usually re-

quired to leave an empty chamber under the hammer with a gun of this action design. Not many competitors would give up one round in the gun to their opponents. The Freedom has a built-in, nearly invisible, transfer bar that might permit safe carrying with all five chambers filled. However, Freedom Arms Co. recommends carrying the gun with only four rounds loaded.

This all-stainless revolver feels much lighter than either of the other two test guns. It's actually 0.7-ounce lighter than the Colt Cowboy, and 0.3-ounce heavier than the Cimarron Model P. The absence of the steel needed for the sixth chamber helps achieve this gun's slight muzzle-heavy steadiness on target. A handy and well-fitted SA .45 revolver with adjustable sights, as this one had, is a natural for the field. This one came with an alternate (extra cost) cylinder chambered for .45 ACP, which increases the gun's overall utility. We didn't try the gun seriously with the .45 ACP cylinder, but our limited testing indicated outstanding accuracy.

Although the Freedom 1997 is drilled and tapped for a scope base, with the holes hidden under the rear sight, we suspect most of these guns will never have a scope mounted on them. The added weight and bulk would kill the balance and compactness of the handgun.

The grip angle is different from that of a Colt, and the gun doesn't rise in the hand quite as much or as easily, so the Freedom gives the shooter's hand a bit more kick than either of the other two guns in this test. In fact, with our handload, the Freedom was very unkind to several of our shooters' hands. On the plus side, the grip shape kept the cocked hammer well away from the web of the shooter's hand, unlike the hammers of the other two guns. Although the Freedom 1997 laid 'em in there darned near as well as we could hold, we didn't enjoy shooting our handload, which launched a 250-grain bullet at more than 1,000 fps. That is only begin-