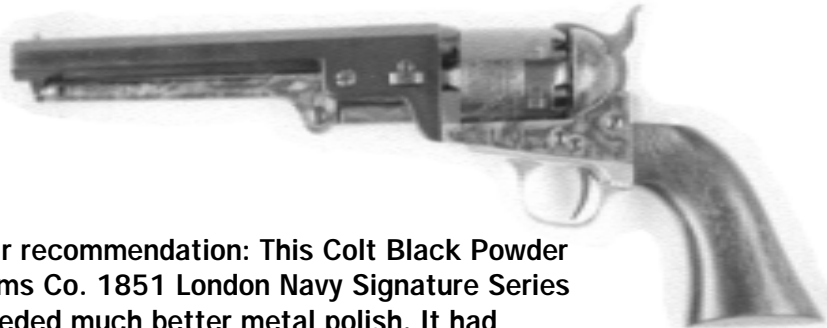




SPECIFICATIONS

Warranty: 1 year

FINISH.....	Blued/Case Colored	SIGHT RADIUS	10.1 in.
WEIGHT	42.3 oz.	CAPACITY	6
OVERALL LENGTH	13 in.	GRIP MATERIAL	WOOD
OVERALL HEIGHT	4.9 in.	ACTION TYPE	Single
MAXIMUM WIDTH	1.54 in.	TRIGGER PULL Wt.	2.2 lbs.
BARREL LENGTH	7.5 in.	TRIGGER REACH	3 in.



Our recommendation: This Colt Black Powder Arms Co. 1851 London Navy Signature Series needed much better metal polish. It had rounded corners, rounded flats, and buffed-in holes for the screws, which weren't enough to offset an overall superb bluing and case-coloring job. We'd pass on it until they learn how to polish metal.



The Colt BP guns are called the Signature Series because they all have Sam Colt's signature on the backstrap.

tion it would be worth the effort because of its shooting qualities and good looks. We can't recommend buying the Colt BP gun, not with that poor metal work on it.

More details on the guns follow:

Cabela's 1851 Navy

Our recommendation: For \$119

one ought not to expect too much, and with that in mind the shooter may find this gun will provide all the fun he wants. The gun was tight, shot well but high, and went bang every time. We liked this one a lot, especially when factoring in its affordable price.

The Cabela's Navy was made by

Pietta and imported from Italy. The unplated brass grips were at the wrong grip angle. Every person who grasped this handgun said it pointed too high, and the grip didn't feel right. The barrel flats, and all the metal-to-metal work, were not as well done as on the Cimarron, but far better than that on the Colt BP, in our estimation. There were no hog wallows between the sides of the nicely case-colored frame and the trigger guard or back strap. However, there was some pronounced waviness on the left side of the frame and trigger guard.

The roll-engraved battle scene was very lightly impressed, and buffed to non-existence at the front edge of the cylinder. The hammer had serrations, not the correct checkering on its gripping surface. This gun alone of our test examples had a loading lever that latched correctly, snapping easily back into its notch under the muzzle with finger pressure. None of the other test guns worked this way, requiring a rearward pull on the latch itself to put the lever back into place. Little things like this make a big difference in a day's shooting.

When we attempted to disassemble Cabela's 1851 prior to shooting, we were unable to get the barrel wedge out without resorting to a hammer. The wedge was too tight in its fit in the frame and cylinder base pin. Also, the barrel wedge came apart when we took it out. We put it together and it stayed that way for the remainder of our testing.

With the hammer of the Pietta/Cabela's gun at full cock, there was very little rotary movement to the cylinder. All the other test guns had varying amounts of slop, indicating their chambers were not lined up perfectly with their barrels. This causes poor accuracy and accelerated wear. By comparison, three genuine old Colt Navies we examined had less cylinder shake than three of our test guns, so this was a feather in the Pietta/Cabela's hat.

This gun shot high, though it shot quite well. Average groups with all