

loads were 2.5 inches. The best group we fired (with 25 grains of FFFg) put five of six into 1.25 inches, but one shot expanded the group to 3.25 inches. We suspect a bad chamber, because we often got five shots into a tight group with one wide flyer. In fact, four groups averaged 1.4 inches for five of the six shots. Barrel roughness caused some leading. This gun shot more than well enough to give the shooter lots of fun for his money, though most groups were 4 to 6 inches higher than the point of aim.

## Colt BP 1851 London Signature Series

**Our recommendation:** For \$399 you ought to get a well-made, nicely fitted and finished handgun that shoots accurately. The Colt doesn't offer anything but great bluing and case coloring on poorly finished metal. We don't believe the price is justified, and don't recommend it.

The overall appearance of the Colt is outstanding, until you look closely. The bluing, color case hardening, and silver plating on the Colt BP London gun were very nicely done. The color case-hardening was eye-catching and radiant, an excellent and vivid example of that finish. Sadly, the metalwork underneath was offensive. This gun was so poorly polished and fitted that the gun appeared to have been reblued. The metal-to-metal joints were very poorly done, the sides of the frame had deep depressions at the screw holes, and the "flats" of the barrel were actually rounded on top. The barrel sides were buffed to a nice gloss, but the barrel was buffed so much you could barely feel the corners with your thumb. The frame and barrel were buffed all around their edges before they were finished, and the joints where they met any other parts were rounded and poorly fitted. This is nothing but poor quality work, in fact some of the worst metal fitting we've seen. The makers need to

## EMF 1851 NAVY

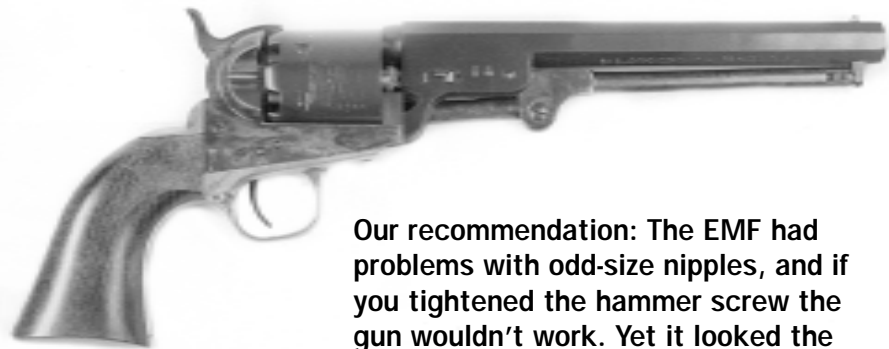
Price.....\$135



### SPECIFICATIONS

Warranty: None written

FINISH.....	Blued/Case Colored	SIGHT RADIUS .....	10.2 in.
WEIGHT .....	43.2 oz.	CAPACITY .....	6
OVERALL LENGTH .....	13.2 in.	GRIP MATERIAL .....	WOOD
OVERALL HEIGHT .....	4.9 in.	ACTION TYPE .....	Single
MAXIMUM WIDTH .....	1.54 in.	TRIGGER PULL Wt. ....	1.3 lbs.
BARREL LENGTH .....	7.5 in.	TRIGGER REACH .....	3.1 in.



**Our recommendation:** The EMF had problems with odd-size nipples, and if you tightened the hammer screw the gun wouldn't work. Yet it looked the closest to an original Navy, shot very well, and had the flattest flats.

examine a good-condition original to see what they're supposed to look like, and then duplicate that look on the Colt Signature Series.

The Colt was very hard to cock when we got it. On close inspection, the rear of the barrel was not parallel to the front of the cylinder. The bottom of the barrel at the throat rubbed on the front of the cylinder, and the cylinder-to-barrel gap was notably tapered toward the top. To fix this we had to stone the rear of the barrel at the bottom, to make it possible to easily cock the gun for our test shooting.

The rounded trigger guard of this "London" model is a vast improvement over the tiny square-back guard of the standard Colt BP Navy. We can do without the signature of Sam Colt on the backstrap, but

some like it, and it's not offensive. The silver plating on the brass is very well done, and is an entirely correct finish. With time the silver will blacken, and that can make the gun look better. If the metal polishing were up to snuff, we'd like this gun a hundred times more.

The one-piece hardwood grips were well fitted and nicely finished. The gun felt absolutely right. The balance, trigger, and even the action—once we freed the cylinder from the barrel—felt really good. Across the room, the Colt BP looked great.

The inside of the barrel appeared to have good and prominent rifling, but there was some roughness that contributed to leading and poor accuracy, in spite of our efforts to keep it clean. The average six-shot