

Another quick report doing Holey work

31 October 2018

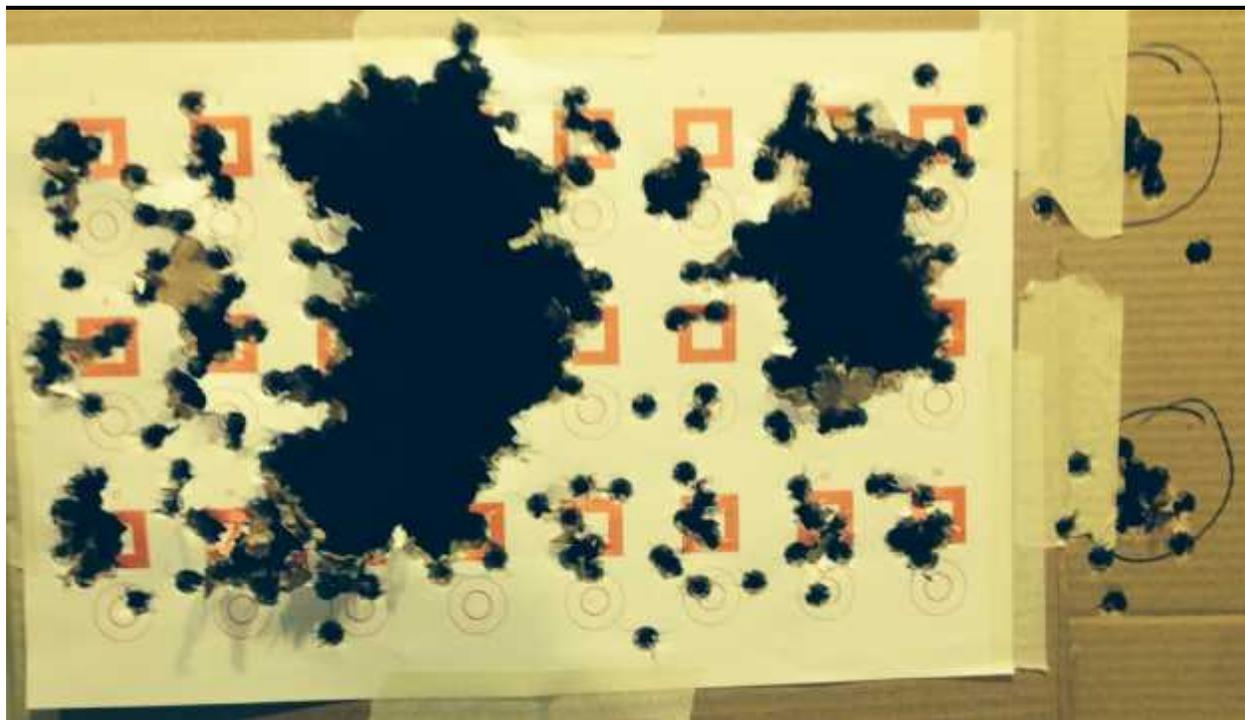
Two questions on shooting my Big Colt yesterday:

1. How many rounds can I shoot my Colt before I should clean it?
2. What are the shooting issues when the Colt gets up near 10,000 rounds?

Answer to 1. Is about 390.

Answer to 2. Is about 10,019

The shooting task of the week was to get 10,000 rounds shot through my Big Colt as this has been on my agenda off and on especially this year. To me this is a very big deal. To me, as much fun as it was, there is a little story here that needs some explaining and now my Big Colt needs some attention from Johnny.



This shooting pattern madness was set up the first time through by shooting a magazine at each of the 24 squares. And due to the breeze in my range, poor lighting near the target, and having to wear a mask due to the f'ing lead (fumes, specks, and dust) a few rounds were 'kinda spread out' noting I went back shooting one round at the circle below each orange square.

Then the fun started by stitching the rounds to make the two big holes. I only needed 371 rounds to meet my goal and decided it would be nice to have 400 shot for the day so I was finishing up the last 13 shots using 230 hardballs and then the gun jammed.

No big deal but I decided the gun was out of the fight so punched out the brass and called it a day.

Here was the surprise(s):



Colt parts after 10,019 rounds.

I loaded three rounds in my 10 round magazine with one reload and two hard balls. The slide came back about half way with the magazine follower sticking out of the top jammed against the magazine sides. I released the mag and noticed the brass with primer hole indent still in the barrel. Kinda figured this was it for the day. So I gently punched out the fired brass and you can see about 2/3rds of it circled in red. The green arrow – and the red arrow - show the shining other third of the brass stuck in the barrel. The brown arrow shows the mag follower sticking up blown out of the magazine.

I noticed the blue Shok-Buff not against the recoil spring guide – but still not concerned about what really happened thinking it was just too dirty and wouldn't cycle.

Later on in the evening I went back to look at the brass in the barrel thinking maybe there is a way to remove it...then I saw what the real problem was.

See pix below as it shows the crack running along on top of the barrel link and half way up the barrel (not shown).



So, my barrel made it to the 10,000 “valued goal” and almost made it to 400 for the day!

Like John said tires wear out on automobiles so barrels wear out on guns.

Will let the/our Master Gunsmith at his leisure repair/replace as necessary to get ME back into the fight with a remodeled Colt .45!

In the meantime I do have some brass that needs some attending to.

See you all at the Dam Site on Wednesday – we got some celebrating to do (and I may bring a guest).

That is all,

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