

Customizing Handloading And Using The Lever Action Rifle Revised 2021

The lever action rifle, a classic firearm for hunters and enthusiasts, has undergone several revisions over the years. In 2021, with advancements in technology and improvements in ammunition, customizing handloading for lever action rifles has become more popular than ever. Not only does it enhance performance, but it also offers a unique and personalized shooting experience for firearm enthusiasts.

Customizing Handloading

Handloading refers to the process of creating custom ammunition tailored to specific requirements. This involves assembling cartridges using components such as bullets, brass casings, gunpowder, and primers.

For lever action rifles, handloading allows shooters to fine-tune their ammunition to optimize accuracy, reliability, and performance. By carefully selecting bullet types, weights, and powders, shooters have complete control over the ballistics, ensuring their rounds are perfectly suited for their lever action rifles.



McPherson on Leverguns : Customizing, Handloading, and Using the Lever-Action Rifle (revised 2021)

by Karina Barbara Pawlak([Print Replica] Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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One of the key advantages of handloading for lever action rifles is the ability to use cast bullets. Cast bullets are made by melting lead or other alloys and pouring the molten metal into molds. With handloaded cast bullets, shooters can experiment with various designs to achieve different effects such as better penetration, expansion, or reduced recoil.

Additionally, handloading allows shooters to adjust the overall length of the cartridge, also known as the Coal (Cartridge Overall Length). This customization allows the bullets to be seated closer or farther from the rifle's rifling, which can significantly impact accuracy and performance.

Customization Options for Lever Action Rifles

Beyond handloading, lever action rifles offer a wide range of customization options to suit individual preferences and shooting needs. These options include, but are not limited to:

- **Sights:** Adding aftermarket sights can improve aiming and precision. Depending on the shooting style and distance, shooters can opt for traditional iron sights, aperture sights, or optic attachments.
- **Stocks:** Upgrading the rifle's stock to a more ergonomic design or a premium material, such as wood or synthetic, can enhance comfort and aesthetics.
- **Triggers:** Replacing the factory trigger with an aftermarket trigger can improve trigger pull, reducing muzzle movement and enhancing accuracy.

- **Foregrips:** Adding a foregrip or a handguard can provide better control and stability while shooting. This is particularly advantageous for rapid follow-up shots.
- **Buttplates:** Swapping the buttplate for a recoil-absorbing pad or customizing the length of pull can significantly reduce felt recoil and improve overall shooting experience.
- **Magazine Extensions:** Extending the rifle's magazine capacity allows shooters to have more rounds available without frequent reloading, especially during competitions or extended shooting sessions.

Using the Lever Action Rifle

When it comes to using a lever action rifle, practice and understanding the rifle's specific characteristics are crucial. Here are some tips to get the most out of your lever action rifle:

- **Smooth Operation:** To ensure smooth operation, practice cycling the lever swiftly, yet without excessive force. It's important to develop a consistent and fluid motion to maintain accuracy and reduce the chance of malfunctions.
- **Reloading Techniques:** Become proficient in reloading the rifle quickly. Lever action rifles usually have a tubular magazine, and understanding the proper technique to load and unload rounds efficiently is essential.
- **Avoiding Fumbled Shots:** While lever action rifles are known for their quick follow-up shots, it's crucial to maintain control and aim between each shot to avoid fumbled shots or inaccuracies due to hurried shooting.
- **Mastering Sight Acquisition:** Depending on the sight system chosen, it's important to practice acquiring targets quickly and aligning the sight picture

accurately. Consistent practice will help develop muscle memory and increase shooting proficiency.

The lever action rifle remains a beloved firearm choice, cherished for its iconic design and historical significance. With the ability to customize handloading and personalize the rifle's features, shooters can enhance performance, accuracy, and overall shooting experience. Whether it's for hunting, competitive shooting, or casual plinking, the combination of custom ammunition and a customized lever action rifle creates a truly unique and enjoyable shooting experience.



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Revised, 2021: Previously published in three parts: Also available in printed versions, of both hardcover and softback in black and white and color. In this book, McPherson covers every aspect of using, modifying, and loading ammunition for lever-action rifles, to get the most out of these guns. He chronicles his custom modifications of the Marlin 1894 and 336-based guns, building everything from a 17-caliber, quarter-MOA varmint rifle to the mighty 510 Kodiak express, which generates more than 5000 foot-pounds of muzzle energy. During his decades of custom gunsmithing, he specialized in building lightweight

carbines (some lighter than 4½-pounds), known by friends and customers as, "Peggy rifles."



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