

Specifications; Maker: Birmingham Gun Trade various. Model: 1830 -50s. Pepperbox 6 chamber pocket revolver incorporating a high strength Birmingham proofed 3" maleable cast iron barrel cluster and frame/back strap, machined and assembled by most of the Birmingham pistol makers. Caliber: .34" smooth bore. Self cocking trigger action. Weight: 1lb 9oz Serial Number: none. Easy to load, from a measuring flask pour in 15 grains of fine black powder into each barrel, place .005" oversize lead round ball on muzzle, tap / start balls into each barrel, then push balls down with separate loading rod to seat on powder, place percussion caps on nipples. To fire, squeeze trigger which rotates barrel / chamber cluster and raises hammer to a point where the hammer falls off the sear and strikes the percussion cap. Muzzle Velocity about 450 fps, effective range about 10 feet. With the invention and patenting of the self primer (copper percussion cap) by London Gunmaker Joseph Egg in 1818 British gunsmiths soon incorporated the percussion cap ignition system into all types of firearms. Maleable cast iron was perfected by the Carron Iron Works in the 1770s for their carronade and cannon manufacture and soon adopted for use in other firearms reducing the manufacturing costs.



New Zealand Service: Most gunsmiths and arms dealers in New Zealand sold pepperbox revolvers, cost 15 to 30 shillings depending on size and quality, they were cheap, easy to operate, very effective for personal defence and popular with early settlers, gold-miners and Provincial Governments Special Constables who had to buy their own arms. This one was owned by a Hawkes Bay Provincial Government Special Constable.