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From Musket To Metallic Cartridge: A Practical History Of Black Powder Firearms



From Musket to Metallic Cartridge

A PRACTICAL HISTORY OF BLACK POWDER FIREARMS

Byvind Flatnes



Synopsis

From Musket to Metallic Cartridge is an historical introduction to the use of black powder firearms, from the primitive smooth-bore musket to breech-loading cartridge guns, as well as a primer on their practical use for today's black powder shooters. Drawing on his experience of countless hours on the shooting range, backed up by meticulous research, Oyvind Flatnes relates over 500 years of development and covers the huge range of different ignition systems, models and patents. He describes the use of antique firearms and replicas, discussing their historical and safe modern use. The book is profusely illustrated throughout, with both photographs and diagrams, showing a range of guns and their ammunition, with some live firing shots showing them in action. Aimed at shooters, collectors and general gun and weapons enthusiasts, this book will inspire the reader to learn more about how firearms work, and to take them onto the range too. Superbly illustrated with 265 colour photographs and diagrams.

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Customer Reviews

Norwegian black powder shooter, competitor, and historian Oyvind Flatnes's excellent, well-researched book on the history and technological development of black powder firearms really

hits the "X ring." His subtitle: "a practical history of black powder firearms" is spot on. As a historian of the nineteenth century, I have a shelf of books about the subject, many of which go into considerable detail, and even minutiae on the subject. Flatnes's book is compact, filled with lush photos and clear, explanatory images and is written to appeal to several audiences, namely "shooters, collectors, gun enthusiasts and historians." This is a tall order, but the book accomplishes this quite well. The book urges collectors to take up shooting their specimens, historians to get out of the library and get "hands on" at the range or in the field, and provides an excellent history for firearm enthusiasts. Comparable North American books on the subject are either about load development for hunting and competition, or geared to the history of firearms in America, with a nod to developments in England, France, and Prussia. British books naturally have a perspective fixed on guns and rifles in the UK, with nods to the continent and American trends. Flatnes's book offers a fascinating and excellent review of British, American, French and Prussian contributions but provides a Scandinavian perspective that is highly informative. How many firearm cognoscenti know that the term "Kentucky rifle" is a misnomer? Flatnes reveals that it may have been jäeger troops in his native Norway who first carried rifles afield in the early 18th century.

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