

Ruger Blackhawk .357 Revolver

By James M. Triggs



FIRST announced in August 1955, the Ruger Blackhawk single-action revolver in .357 Magnum caliber bears a strong resemblance to the original Colt Single-Action Army and Frontier revolver, Model of 1873. Designwise, however, the Blackhawk is a modernized version of its Colt counterpart. The incorporation of virtually unbreakable coil springs in the lockwork is a significant improvement. The ingenious one-piece grip frame of lightweight alloy, massive flat-top frame, and adjustable rear sight are features to delight any shooter. Simplicity of the original Colt design was a strong selling point with the frontiersman and the same holds true for the modern Blackhawk. Other than the barrel, most parts are readily replaced by the user. Routine maintenance is also a simple matter since the lockwork is readily accessible for cleaning and oiling.

DISASSEMBLY

Pull hammer (21) to half-cock, press in base pin latch (9) from left, and withdraw base pin (47) from cylinder frame (1). Open loading gate (48) and withdraw cylinder (46).

Remove grip panels (49) and cock hammer fully. Insert a nail or pin into the small hole at the lower end of the hammer strut (29). This pin will confine the main spring (30) when the hammer is released. Remove the five grip frame screws (40, 41, 42) which fasten the grip frame (39) to the cylinder frame. In separating the grip frame from the cylinder frame, take care to prevent loss of the pawl spring (41, 42) which are located in a hole in the rear of the cylinder frame, adjacent to the upper left rear grip frame screw hole.

Remove the hammer pivot screw (25)

and the hammer from the cylinder frame. Remove the trigger pivot screw (38) and trigger (35). With a small screwdriver free the fixed leg of the cylinder latch spring (37). Remove the cylinder latch pivot screw (38), cylinder latch (36), and spring (37). Remove trigger spring (43) and plunger (44) from hole in grip frame, taking care not to deform the spring. Hammer plunger (22) and spring (23) may be removed from the hammer by drifting out the small retaining pin (24). Unscrew base pin latch (9) and remove base pin latch nut (11) and spring (10). The gate (48) may be removed from the cylinder frame by removing the gate spring screw (34) and dropping out the gate detent spring (33) and gate detent plunger (32).

To disassemble the rear sight assembly drift out the rear sight pivot pin (3) and remove the rear sight elevation screw (4). Remove the rear sight (2) from the cylinder frame using care not to lose the elevation springs (5). The rear sight leaf (6) and spring (8) may be removed by unscrewing the rear sight leaf windage screw (7).

Remove the ejector housing screw (18) and withdraw the ejector assembly from the barrel (16) and cylinder frame. The ejector rod assembly (19) may now be removed from the ejector housing (17).

The recoil plate (14), firing pin (12), and firing pin spring (13) are held in the cylinder frame by the recoil plate retaining pin (15). Disassembly of the recoil plate and firing pin is not recommended and should be attempted only by an experienced gunsmith. Removal of the hammer plunger (22) and spring (23) from the hammer is likewise not recommended. Although the above is a complete stripping procedure, it should be emphasized that, due to the rugged simplicity of the Ruger design, such a complete dismantling is seldom if ever necessary.

Reassembly is accomplished in the reverse order.

Note—Although many Blackhawk .357, .44 Magnum, and .22 Single-Six revolver parts are interchangeable, it is advised that the owner of any of these three guns consult the Ruger factory parts list when ordering parts.

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MARCH 1957

INSTRUCTORS WANTED

For Boy Scout Jamboree

NRA has been asked by the Boy Scouts of America to conduct the biggest mass rifle shooting program ever put on, from July 9 to 20 this summer. This will be at the 1957 National Jamboree in Valley Forge Park just outside of Philadelphia, Pa., where over 50,000 Scouts will be in camp and from 15,000 to 20,000 are expected to take the rifle instruction and to fire on the range. This estimate can't be too far off as in 1953 in a similar Jamboree at Long Beach, Calif., 11,000 Scouts took part on a 50-target range and a very large number was turned away due to lack of time. At Valley Forge there will be 100 targets in use.

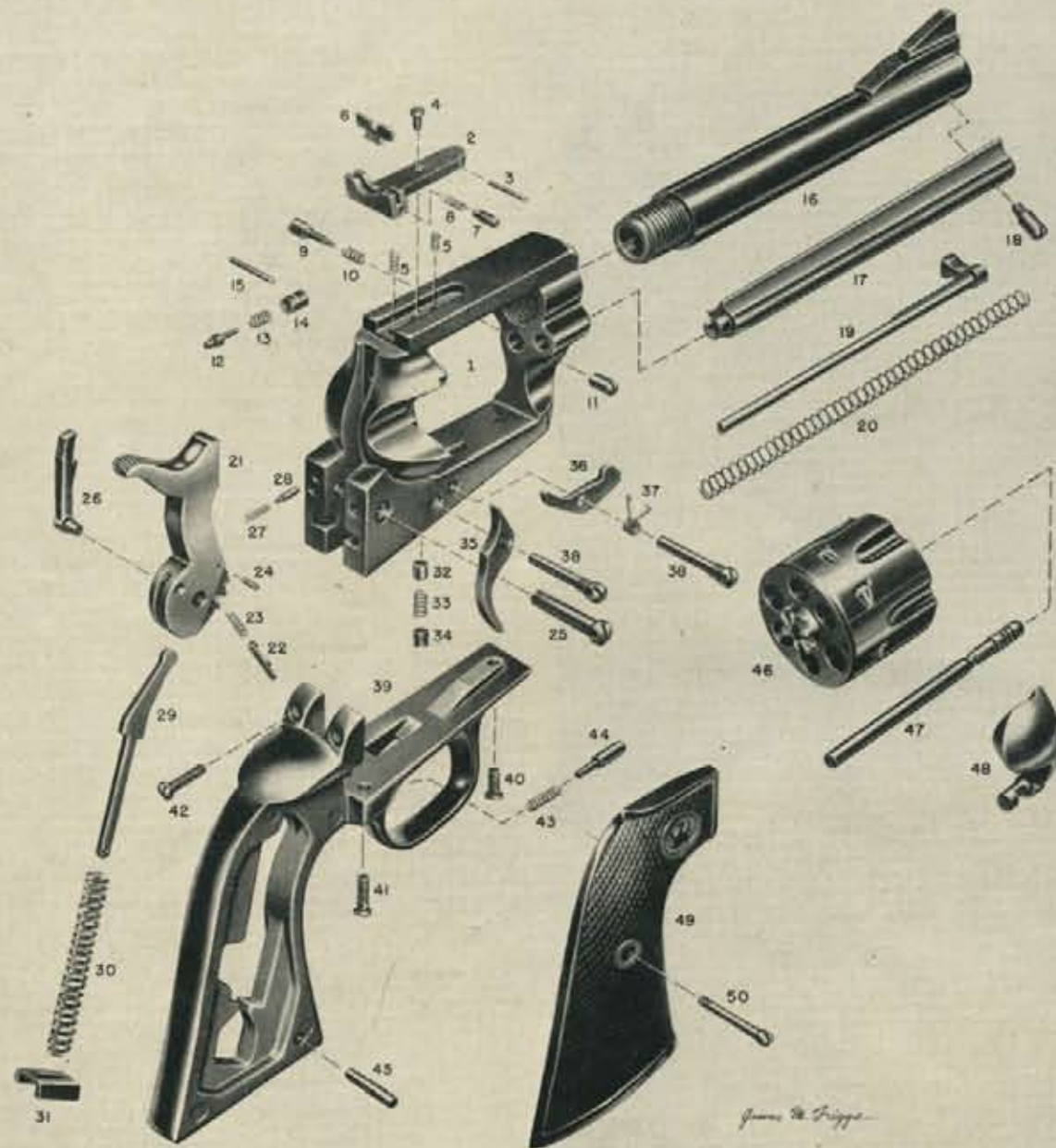
To put this program on properly a number of men who are willing to devote time to training youngsters are needed. One need not be an NRA Certified Instructor although as many as can be obtained the better. One need not volunteer his services for the entire Jamboree. Any period of time an instructor can be of aid will be useful. But it is necessary to know who can help out and for what period of time as far in advance as possible. NRA headquarters wishes to hear from anyone desiring to participate in this worthwhile project immediately.

Not only are personnel needed for instruction but also for range officers and range operation.

Some tent quarters will be available for those wishing them. Mess will be furnished. However, it is not required that you live at the Jamboree.

This is a tremendous undertaking, both as to the effort required to put it on properly and as to the impact it will have on shooting in the future. At no other time or place is it possible to present our sport to so many youngsters in the same period of a few days. Every person who takes part will be doing an immense service to the future of riflery in the United States.

We'd like to have you at Valley Forge. Let us know if you are available to help in this project.



LEGEND

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|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Cylinder frame | 17. Ejector housing | 34. Gate spring screw |
| 2. Rear sight | 18. Ejector housing screw | 35. Trigger |
| 3. Rear sight pivot pin | 19. Ejector rod assembly | 36. Cylinder latch |
| 4. Rear sight elevation screw | 20. Ejector spring | 37. Cylinder latch spring |
| 5. Rear sight elevation springs (2) | 21. Hammer | 38. Trigger and latch pivot screws (2) |
| 6. Rear sight leaf | 22. Hammer plunger | 39. Grip frame |
| 7. Rear sight leaf (windage) screw | 23. Hammer plunger spring | 40. Front grip frame screw |
| 8. Rear sight leaf spring | 24. Hammer plunger retaining pin | 41. Lower grip frame screws (2) |
| 9. Base pin latch | 25. Hammer pivot screw | 42. Rear grip frame screws (2) |
| 10. Base pin latch spring | 26. Pawl | 43. Trigger spring |
| 11. Base pin latch nut | 27. Pawl spring | 44. Trigger spring plunger |
| 12. Firing pin | 28. Pawl spring plunger | 45. Grip pin |
| 13. Firing pin spring | 29. Hammer strut | 46. Cylinder |
| 14. Recoil plate | 30. Mainspring | 47. Base pin |
| 15. Recoil plate retaining pin | 31. Mainspring seat | 48. Gate |
| 16. Barrel | 32. Gate detent plunger | 49. Grip panels (2) |
| | 33. Gate detent spring | 50. Grip screw |