



Above: Both triggers were smooth and broke fairly cleanly, but the Vaquero's slightly wider shoe (left) was more comfortable than the Cimarron's, in our estimation.

MAKING YOUR SINGLE-ACTION SHOOT BETTER

From the factory, most single-action revolvers will require modification before they become topnotch cowboy competition arms. Here are two procedures you will usually have to perform:

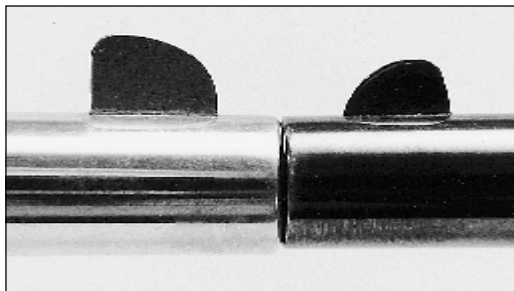
Select and Modify Ammo

As our tests indicated, single-action revolvers, like any other gun, can prefer one round and lot over another. One of the major reasons why is the diameter of the cylinder chamber mouths. The dimensions for the mouths should be slightly larger—but not vastly larger—than the barrel groove diameters. For the Single Action Army .45s, that barrel groove diameter should be 0.451 inch. Ideally, the chamber mouths should spec out 0.002 to 0.004 inch larger than that measurement for the gun to shoot well. The Ruger measured 0.455 inches, and the Cimarron chamber mouths were 0.457 inches.

If there's a large difference between the barrel groove diameter and the chamber dimensions, you can cast your own bullets to split the difference. It's not as good as having the two dimensions closer together, but this modification will likely improve your gun's accuracy without dialing up too much extra pressure.

Fixing The Front Sight

Modifying the front sight on many SAA-style guns is necessary to make the gun shoot where you point it. In our case, the Cimarron needed a much taller front sight in order for the gun to shoot lower. However, adding metal to the sight and filing it



Above: The Vaquero's taller front sight (left) offers more metal to file down than the Cimarron's.

down is complicated. The better situation is to have a high front sight to begin with, and file it down gradually. If you take your time and file down a high sight slowly, always shooting test rounds to check bullet impact after every modification, then you'll be able to bring your gun into alignment. For windage problems, bend the front sight in the direction of the group.