

remington model 29 history

remington model 29 history traces the development and legacy of one of the most iconic revolvers in American firearms history. Introduced in the mid-20th century, the Remington Model 29 quickly became renowned for its powerful .44 Magnum cartridge and robust design. This article explores the origins, design features, cultural impact, and production timeline of the Remington Model 29. Through an in-depth examination, readers will gain insight into why this revolver holds a special place among collectors, enthusiasts, and historians alike. The discussion also highlights significant milestones and the revolver's role in popular culture, solidifying its reputation as a classic firearm. Below is an organized overview of the main topics covered in this detailed history.

- Origins and Development
- Design and Technical Specifications
- Cultural and Popular Impact
- Production History and Variants
- Legacy and Collectibility

Origins and Development

Background and Industry Context

The Remington Model 29 was introduced during a period of rapid innovation in handgun design and ammunition technology. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, the firearms industry saw a growing demand for more powerful handguns capable of greater stopping power. The .44 Magnum cartridge, developed by Elmer Keith and others, emerged as a leading choice for this purpose. Remington Arms, already a prominent name in firearms manufacturing, sought to capitalize on this trend by creating a revolver chambered specifically for the .44 Magnum round.

Introduction of the Model 29

First released in 1955, the Remington Model 29 was designed as a large-frame, double-action revolver with a six-shot cylinder. It was one of the earliest commercial handguns chambered for the .44 Magnum cartridge, introducing

shooters to unprecedented power in a handgun format. The revolver was intended to compete with other large-caliber revolvers of the era, particularly the Smith & Wesson Model 29, which would later gain widespread fame.

Design and Technical Specifications

Mechanical Features

The Remington Model 29 features a robust steel frame and a solid construction intended to handle the high pressures generated by the .44 Magnum cartridge. It operates on a double-action mechanism, allowing the user to fire either by manually cocking the hammer or by pulling the trigger directly. The revolver utilizes a six-shot cylinder and has a fixed-cylinder design that promotes durability and reliability under repeated use.

Caliber and Ballistics

The defining characteristic of the Model 29 is its chambering for the .44 Magnum cartridge, a high-velocity round that delivers significant stopping power. This cartridge made the revolver highly effective for hunting, self-defense, and law enforcement applications. The Model 29's barrel lengths varied, including options of 4.5, 6.5, and 8.75 inches, which influenced the velocity and accuracy of the firearm.

Ergonomics and Aesthetics

The revolver was designed with a classic, utilitarian look, incorporating a wooden grip with checkering for better handling. The Model 29 is known for its balance and heft, factors that helped mitigate recoil. Its blued steel finish and overall craftsmanship contributed to its appeal among shooters seeking both function and form in a large-caliber revolver.

Cultural and Popular Impact

Hollywood and Media Exposure

The Remington Model 29 achieved iconic status largely due to its association with popular culture and cinema. Although the Smith & Wesson Model 29 is often more widely recognized due to its role in the "Dirty Harry" film series, Remington's Model 29 also featured in various media productions and

was admired for its imposing presence and power. This exposure helped cement the revolver's reputation as a symbol of strength and reliability.

Influence on Firearms Enthusiasts

Beyond the silver screen, the Remington Model 29 inspired a generation of shooters and collectors. Its reputation for accuracy, durability, and power made it a favorite among handgun hunters and revolver aficionados. The revolver's historical significance and mechanical excellence continue to attract interest in gun shows, auctions, and firearms museums.

Production History and Variants

Manufacturing Timeline

Production of the Remington Model 29 began in 1955 and continued until 1979. During this period, Remington introduced several variants and barrel length options to cater to different user preferences. Despite its quality and performance, sales were initially modest due to competition and market conditions, but interest grew steadily over time.

Notable Variants

Several variants of the Model 29 were produced, including:

- **Standard Model 29:** The original version with a 6.5-inch barrel.
- **Model 29S:** A stainless steel version introduced later for enhanced corrosion resistance.
- **Different barrel lengths:** Including 4.5-inch and 8.75-inch options for varied shooting applications.
- **Special editions:** Limited runs with custom grips or finishes for collectors.

Legacy and Collectibility

Collector's Value

The Remington Model 29 holds significant value among collectors due to its historical importance and limited production run. Original models in good condition are highly sought after, especially those with unique barrel lengths or factory finishes. The revolver's association with the early days of the .44 Magnum cartridge further enhances its desirability.

Impact on Modern Firearms

The design principles and engineering of the Model 29 influenced subsequent revolver development. Its success demonstrated the viability of large-caliber, powerful handguns for both civilian and law enforcement markets. Modern revolvers continue to draw on the legacy of the Model 29's blend of power, durability, and classic styling.

Frequently Asked Questions

When was the Remington Model 29 first introduced?

The Remington Model 29 was first introduced in 1959 by Remington Arms as a large-frame double-action revolver chambered in .44 Magnum.

What inspired the design of the Remington Model 29?

The design of the Remington Model 29 was inspired by the popularity of powerful revolvers, particularly the .44 Magnum cartridge, which was gaining fame after the release of the film 'Dirty Harry'.

How did the Remington Model 29 gain popularity?

The Remington Model 29 gained popularity largely due to its association with the 1971 film 'Dirty Harry,' where Clint Eastwood's character used the revolver, showcasing its power and reliability.

What are the key features of the Remington Model 29?

Key features of the Remington Model 29 include its robust large-frame design, double-action mechanism, chambering for .44 Magnum and .44 Special cartridges, and a distinctive barrel rib for improved accuracy.

Why was the Remington Model 29 discontinued?

The Remington Model 29 was discontinued in the early 1980s due to declining sales and stiff competition from other revolvers, such as the Smith & Wesson Model 29, which was more popular among shooters.

How does the Remington Model 29 compare to the Smith & Wesson Model 29?

The Remington Model 29 is similar in chambering and purpose to the Smith & Wesson Model 29 but features a different frame design and trigger mechanism. The S&W Model 29 generally enjoyed higher popularity and production numbers.

What calibers is the Remington Model 29 chambered for?

The Remington Model 29 is chambered primarily for the .44 Magnum cartridge but can also fire the less powerful .44 Special rounds.

Are there any notable variants of the Remington Model 29?

There were limited variants of the Remington Model 29, mainly differing in barrel lengths and finishes, but no major redesigns or model changes during its production run.

Additional Resources

1. *Remington Model 29: The Iconic Magnum Revolver*

This book delves into the history and development of the Remington Model 29, famously known for its powerful .44 Magnum cartridge. It covers the design process, manufacturing challenges, and its rise to popularity in the mid-20th century. Enthusiasts will appreciate detailed photographs and technical specifications.

2. *The Legacy of the Remington Model 29: Magnum Revolution*

Exploring the cultural and historical impact of the Model 29, this book highlights its role in shaping handgun design and its influence on law enforcement and civilian markets. It also discusses its portrayal in movies and media, cementing its place as a legendary firearm.

3. *Remington's Magnum Masterpiece: A Comprehensive History of the Model 29*

This comprehensive volume provides an in-depth look at the Model 29's engineering, production variations, and collector value. It includes interviews with designers and historical documentation from Remington archives.

4. *The .44 Magnum and the Remington Model 29: Power and Precision*

Focusing on the ballistic performance and shooting characteristics, this book explores how the Model 29 set new standards for revolvers. It also covers ammunition development and field use by hunters and marksmen.

5. *From Concept to Classic: The Story of the Remington Model 29*

Detailing the origin story, this book narrates the journey from initial

concept sketches to the final product that captivated shooters worldwide. It provides insights into the competitive landscape of firearms during the 1950s and 60s.

6. *Remington Model 29 Variants and Collectors Guide*

An essential guide for collectors, this book catalogs all known variants, production years, and special editions of the Model 29. It offers tips on identifying authentic models and assessing condition and value.

7. *The Art and Mechanics of the Remington Model 29 Revolver*

This title examines the intricate craftsmanship and mechanical innovations that define the Model 29. Technical drawings and exploded diagrams help readers understand its internal workings.

8. *Remington Model 29 in Popular Culture and History*

Highlighting the revolver's role beyond the shooting range, this book explores its appearances in films, books, and television, including its iconic presence in the "Dirty Harry" series. It also investigates how pop culture influenced sales and perception.

9. *Handgun Evolution: The Place of the Remington Model 29*

Placing the Model 29 in the broader context of handgun development, this book traces the evolution of revolver design with a focus on technological advancements. It discusses how Remington's innovation contributed to modern firearms engineering.

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