FENG SHUI: 1850s Guns

The **Feng Shui** rulebook offers only three weapons for the 1850 juncture. To add insult to the injury, their game statistics are downright weak. It is true that modern firearms are more effective than those of the 19th century, but black powder weapons still killed a lot of men in their time. This text offers more weapons for the 1850s and alternative stats for the black powder weapons in the rulebook. It also gives suggestions for Quick Schtick Picks involving these new guns.

Sources used in the preparation of the text include **GURPS High-Tech** by Steve Jackson Games, **More Guns!** by BTRC, **Military Small Arms** by Salamander Books, and various Internet sites.

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Guns of the past, present, and near future

Adams revolver (10/2/5)

A .44 caliber British revolver available from the early 1850s, the Adams is one of the first double-action revolvers. The Adams design could be encountered almost anywhere. It is the archetypal British revolver of the era, just as Colt is for Americans.

Adams Dragoon revolver (11/3/5)

This big .500 caliber revolver is the original 1851 version of the Adams, above. Some British officers prefer the heavier caliber for stopping restless natives. The gun is long-barreled and cumbersome to carry, except in saddle holsters.

Black powder pistol (10/3/1)

This entry represents the countless different single-shot pistols that were used before the introduction of revolvers.

Black powder rifle (13**/5/1)

This entry represents the numerous models that are standard issue for most armies of the time and also used by civilian shooters. Examples include the Kentucky Rifle (American) and Baker Rifle (British).

Black powder shotgun (10/5/2)

This two-barreled weapon is intended for hunting birds and other small animals, but it can bring down men if necessary. Double all range penalties when shooting a shotgun.

Colt Dragoon revolver (11/3/6)

A .44 caliber revolver, it is a massive weapon, weighing almost two kilograms, and the most powerful handgun for a long time yet. Easy to carry on your person it is not, however.

Colt Navy revolver (9/2/6)

A .36 caliber revolver available from 1851, it will become one of the most popular handguns in the USA and abroad. It is much lighter and handier than the Dragoon. Numerous manufacturers make Navy clones that vary widely in quality.

Colt Pocket Revolver (8/2/5)

A .31 caliber revolver intended for the civilian market. Some soldiers also use it as a secondary weapon.

Colt Revolving Rifle (12/5/5)

This is a .56 caliber rifle using the Colt revolver mechanism. It is available from 1855 and has a reputation for accuracy. However, it is somewhat dangerous to shoot: if a malfunction occurs and its result is **damaged**, the shooter's supporting hand takes 12+1D6 points of damage from the chain-fire.

Deringer (9/1/1)

This is a tiny single-shot pistol that was invented by one Henry Deringer. Many a well-dressed gentleman carries one or two of these in his pockets. A large number of copies were made that were called **derringers** to avoid lawsuits.

Dueling pistol (10/3/1)

These well-made and expensive pistols are sold in matching pairs. If extra time and care are taken to load a dueling pistol, the shooter will get a +1 AV bonus. This cannot be done in combat. Dueling pistols are only available to **rich** characters.

Howdah pistol (12/3/2)

This two-barreled, double-hammered weapon fires huge .577 caliber bullets that will stop the most determined assailant cold. Howdah pistols were intended to be a final defense against dangerous animals. The recoil is fearsome, though, giving the shooter a -1 AV penalty.

Musket (12/5/1)

Muskets are badly outdated in the 1850s, but some people still cling to them because they cannot afford anything better.

Pepper-box pistol (7/2/6)

A six-barreled black powder weapon that became obsolete after the introduction of revolvers.

Smith & Wesson No. 1 (8/1/7)

This small revolver introduces the .22 caliber rimfire cartridge to the world in 1857. It is not a powerful weapon, but the convenience of reloading compared to cap and ball revolvers makes it very, very popular. Because the cylinder needs to be separated from the frame for reloading, the process takes 10 shots, twice as long as modern revolvers.

Notes:

- 1. Because none of these weapons, with the exception of the S&W No. 1, fire cartridge ammunition, they take 9 shots to reload **per barrel or chamber**.
- 2. If you want to enforce historical accuracy which may or may not be useful in a Feng Shui campaign the two Adams revolvers, Colt Navy, Colt Revolving Rifle, and S&W No. 1 are not available in the 1850 juncture when the game begins.
- 3. In this time of unreliable and slow-loading firearms, military officers carry swords in addition to their guns, soldiers carry bayonets, and almost every man carries a knife. Many other cutting and bashing implements were used; see the film **Gangs of New York** for inspiration.

Modified Quick Schtick Picks (1850 weapons)

- **Big Bruiser**: axe, black powder rifle, really big knife
- **Bodyguard** (SOTW): Colt Pocket Revolver, knife
- **Bounty Hunter** (SOTW): black powder rifle, knife
- **Ex-Special Forces**: black powder rifle, twin Colt Dragoons, Colt Pocket Revolver, dagger
- Gambler: Deringer
- Journalist: Colt Pocket Revolver
- Karate Cop: black powder pistol, club
- Killer: black powder rifle, Colt Dragoon, Colt Pocket Revolver, dagger, Deringer
- **Medic**: black powder shotgun
- **Masked Avenger**: dueling pistol, sword
- Maverick Cop: club, twin Colt Pocket Revolvers
- **Pledged Agent** (SOTW): Colt Pocket Revolver
- **Private Investigator**: Colt Pocket Revolver
- **Spy**: Deringer
- Thief: Colt Pocket Revolver
- Two-Fisted Archeologist (SOTW): Howdah pistol

The abbreviation SOTW indicates that the type is covered in the **Seal of the Wheel** supplement. That book also includes some Pledged firearms that look old but are quite modern.