

Cal Revolver



Work in Progress
Aristotle's Rossi partway through the attentions of master revolversmith Mike Carmoney.



All Better
Aristotle's .38 after Carmoney's work. Back from the dead!



Aristotle & Gun
Aristotle Bartolome with the gun given him by his father on his 21st birthday, which he now carries every day after its miraculous return and resurrection.

inary circumstances I wouldn't dream of charging you for it!"

Aristotle ships the gun to Mike, who goes through the gun to see what it needs, and, keeping Aristotle up to date on what's happening, says, "Sometimes locating parts for guns like this can be a challenge. But I think I have located the hand, hammer nose spring and rivet – which are most of the parts I would need to get it up and running for you again. I'm still looking for a hammer nose...it may be possible to fabricate a suitable replacement from a hammer nose from another model. We'll figure it out."

A week later he posts, "Here's a quick update: I fully disassembled it and cleaned it up internally, and it appears that the major components are all in good shape. In addition to the problems Ari noticed, there are a few other issues that will need to be resolved before this gun can be returned to use. But nothing that can't be handled!"

"I have located most of the necessary parts to get everything back in good running order, and I've formulated a game plan to modify a couple S&W parts to fill in the gaps, so hopefully within a couple weeks I'll be able to tell Ari his gun is up and running again, and on its way back home."

A few days later, as other members watch avidly to see this wonderful story unfold, Mike posts, "Mission accomplished. Now the inside of Ari's snubby looks as good as the outside! For the folks interested in the technical stuff: I couldn't find a Rossi hammer nose in stock anywhere, but I was able to modify an S&W hammer nose and it works perfectly. The rebound and hand torsion springs were rusted almost solid, but those were easily replaced with S&W J-frame springs. I refit the cylinder to the yoke, and honed the action a little, and that's all it took to bring it back to 100 percent functioning.

"For your information, Ari, I test-fired it with Winchester ammo. As with any firearm used for defensive purposes, you should test-fire it thoroughly with your choice of defensive ammunition before placing it into service. It will go out on tomorrow's FedEx truck, and should be at your door on Friday.

"One more thing...as I was finishing up the work on your revolver, Ari, I couldn't help but be flooded with memories of times spent with family members of my own, some now departed. And it occurred to me that the real reason so many of us have been moved by your story, Ari, is that it touches a thread of common experience in all of us. Most of us will never experience the loss of such a cherished memento, followed years later by its unexpected and miraculous recovery! But we can all relate to the loss and redemption that happens between us and the people we care about as we go through our lives."

"I want to thank you, Ari, for allowing me to participate in the restoration of this very special handgun. It has been a real honor."

Aristotle then posted, "I received the gun last night, and I'm flabbergasted. She almost feels like a different gun, it feels more solid than it ever was even new. And it felt so good to put her in her holster, and put it on my hip, it's like an old pair of jeans and sneakers. This is so beyond words. I can't thank you enough, it's as if I finally have closure in this now that she's back to 100 percent and even better than when it was new. After I get my ammo sorted out, I can finally carry it confidently knowing if I ever need it, it will be there for me, just like my dad.

"God bless."

See? Gun people REALLY ARE the best people on Earth.