

Dan Wesson
The Revolver



A Proud Tradition in Firearms

Wesson Firearms Co., Inc.
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INSTRUCTION MANUAL



MODELS

38P	.38+P	Service
738P	.38+P	Service

CAUTION:

READ THIS BOOKLET BEFORE REMOVING REVOLVER FROM PACKAGE. YOUR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS BOOKLET WILL JEOPARDIZE YOUR SAFETY AND THE SAFETY OF OTHERS. IF UNFAMILIAR WITH FIREARMS, SEEK FURTHER INSTRUCTION THROUGH SAFE HANDLING COURSES RUN BY YOUR LOCAL GUN CLUBS, N.R.A. APPROVED INSTRUCTORS OR OTHER QUALIFIED ORGANIZATIONS.

WARNING:

IF THIS FIREARM IS CARELESSLY OR IMPROPERLY HANDLED, UNINTENTIONAL DISCHARGE COULD RESULT AND CAUSE INJURY, DEATH OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY.

NOTICE:

Wesson Firearms shall not be responsible for injury, death or damage to property resulting from intentional or accidental discharge of this firearm, or from its use in a manner for which it was not designed. Wesson Firearms will not honor claims involving this firearm which result from careless or improper handling, unauthorized adjustment, alteration, corrosion, neglect, the use of improper caliber ammunition, the use of ammunition other than original high quality commercially manufactured ammunition in good condition, or any combination thereof. Wesson Firearms will not honor claims involving this firearm for any reason when claims are made by a subsequent owner.

IMPORTANT:

Before leaving the factory, this firearm was carefully tested, inspected, and packaged. Please examine the firearm at the time of purchase to make sure it is unloaded and undamaged as Wesson Firearms cannot control the handling of this product after it leaves the factory. The dealer will be pleased to assist you in making this examination and will answer any questions.

This instruction manual should always accompany this firearm and be transferred with it upon change of ownership.

FEATURES

1. VERSATILITY

The Dan Wesson revolver is much more versatile than the usual single purpose firearm and can be adapted to handle a variety of shooting situations in a manner of minutes.

Barrel: Dan Wesson revolvers provide the ultimate in interchangeability of barrel lengths and shroud styles because they can be replaced by the users themselves without the machining, fitting, or special equipment necessary to change the barrels on other revolvers.

Frame: The ejector rod and lock are located at the front of your Dan Wesson revolver. This positioning keeps the latch out of the way of your thumb while shooting and makes a more positive lock where the barrel meets the cylinder.

Grip: You may change your Dan Wesson revolver style by simply changing the grip. There are several styles of grips and woods available, all interchangeable. This gives the user a wide variety of options, not only for hand size, but for ease of carrying.

2. DESIGN

The Dan Wesson revolver was designed with an eye toward simplicity and interchangeability. Utilizing modern machine methods, we are able to control tolerances to produce parts to exact engineering specifications resulting in a creep-free single action and a fast, short double action.

3. SAFETY

The Dan Wesson incorporates an automatic safety device which prevents the hammer from striking the firing pin connector unless the trigger is retracted and held in the firing position.

If during cocking the revolver the hammer were to slip from your thumb, or if the revolver is

dropped on the hammer spur, the revolver will not fire provided the trigger is not in the firing position.

During the normal firing cycle, the safety connector is positioned between the hammer and firing pin. When the hammer moves forward, it strikes the connector, which transfers its energy to the firing pin to fire the revolver. However, if the trigger is released before the hammer is cocked, either single or double action, the safety connector will be withdrawn to prevent the hammer energy from being transferred to the firing pin.

4. ACCURACY

The accuracy of the Dan Wesson revolver has been well established. Superior accuracy is achieved by virtue of the basic design of the Dan Wesson revolver. It is the only revolver in which the barrel is secured at both ends and always under tension. The cylinder latch is located up front to ensure proper position of cylinder to barrel and the barrel itself is flat and square with the bore.

5. CONSTRUCTION

The Dan Wesson barrel is made of heat treated chrome molybdenum steel. The frame is of

the finest investment cast steel. The construction of the grip is durable and offers protection to the steel frame otherwise exposed to corrosive salts from the user's hands. In addition, the grip design is less likely to split or break.

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

TO FULLY AND SAFELY ENJOY SHOOTING YOUR DAN WESSON REVOLVER, WE URGE YOU TO CAREFULLY READ THIS ENTIRE INSTRUCTION BOOKLET BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO LOAD AND USE THIS FIREARM.

CAUTIONS

1. Always treat your revolver as if it were loaded so that it's never fired accidentally when thought to be unloaded.
2. Never point your revolver at anything you do not intend to shoot; if fired accidentally, injury, death or damage to property will be prevented.

3. Always consider the revolver to be loaded until you have **personally** checked to see that the chambers of the cylinder are empty. Keep fingers off the trigger and gun pointed in a safe direction.
4. Before loading, be sure barrel and cylinder chambers are clear of obstructions. If obstructions are observed, clean revolver immediately.
5. Never pull trigger or place your finger in the trigger guard until you are aiming at a target and ready to shoot.
6. Always keep the hammer forward and chambers empty until ready to shoot to eliminate risk of accidental discharge.
7. Always be absolutely sure of your target and the area behind it before you squeeze the trigger. A bullet could travel past your target up to one and one-half miles.
8. Never shoot at a hard surface such as a rock, a tree, or a liquid surface such as water. A bullet may ricochet in any direction to strike you or an object you cannot see, causing injury, death or damage to property.

9. Make sure your backstop is adequate to stop and contain the bullet before beginning target practice.
10. When group firing, always have someone in charge to maintain safety control. Obey his commands immediately.
11. When carrying your revolver on a range, it should be empty and the cylinder should be open until prepared to fire. Keep revolver pointed toward the backstop when loading, firing and unloading.
12. Never leave a loaded revolver unattended. It may be fired accidentally causing injury, death or damage to property.
13. If your revolver fails to function properly, stop firing immediately. Do not force a jammed cylinder mechanism, as a round may explode causing serious injury, death or damage to your revolver.
14. Never leave your revolver loaded, cocked and ready to fire. This is **extremely** dangerous, as the revolver could be accidentally discharged causing injury, death or damage to property.

15. Always check barrel condition prior to shooting and after every 100 rounds.
16. Always hold your revolver by the grip and keep both hands well clear of and behind the cylinder. Never hold it near the cylinder as very hot gasses and lead particles may be sprayed out around the cylinder, causing injury to your hands.
17. To eliminate the risk of accidental discharge, never walk, climb or follow a companion with your revolver cocked, ready to fire, or with the hammer in any position other than forward. When hunting, hold your revolver so that you can always control the direction of the muzzle, even if you slip and fall.
18. Always unload your revolver before allowing anyone else to handle it.
19. Never tack a target to a live tree as the bullet may rebound back directly at you or someone near you.
20. Never drink alcoholic beverages or take drugs before or while shooting.

21. Always seek a doctor's advice if you are taking medication to be certain you can handle your revolver safely.
22. Always wear ear protection when shooting or when in the vicinity of others who are shooting. Repeated exposure to high noise levels could lead to long term hearing loss.
23. Always wear protective shooting glasses while shooting or in the range area.
24. Always make sure your revolver is not loaded before cleaning, storing, traveling or changing barrels. Always open cylinder before laying revolver down or handing to another person.
25. Always store your revolver and ammunition in separate, locked containers, out of sight and reach of children.
26. Always instruct children to respect firearms.
27. If you teach children to shoot, teach them to use the revolver properly and always supervise them closely. Always stress safety to avoid any possibility of accidental injury, death or damage to property.

FUNCTION

The Dan Wesson revolver can be fired either single action by cocking the hammer with the thumb and then squeezing the trigger to release the hammer, or double action, by pulling the trigger to cock the hammer and fire. Use of either method does not change the functioning sequence of the mechanism. When the hammer is moved rearward, the bolt is moved, unlocking the cylinder and allowing it to rotate, and the connector is moved into position behind the firing pin. Approximately half-way to the full cock position (either single or double action), the bolt is released and enters the lead-in notch of the cylinder. The cylinder continues to rotate until the bolt drops into the locking notch, aligning the chamber, barrel and firing pin. In single action operation, the hammer will reach a cocked position and remain in this position until the trigger is squeezed, releasing the hammer and firing the revolver. When firing double action, the movement of the trigger cocks the hammer and continued movement then releases it at the proper locked cylinder position. Releasing the trigger causes the connector to be withdrawn, preventing firing pin contact.

LOADING

CAUTION: USE ONLY ORIGINAL, HIGH QUALITY, COMMERCIALY MANUFACTURED AMMUNITION IN GOOD CONDITION, APPROPRIATE TO THE CALIBER OF YOUR REVOLVER.

AMMUNITION: Dan Wesson .38+P revolvers are chambered to fire .38+P cartridges and will also accept and fire .38 Special cartridges, interchangeably. Dan Wesson .22 L. R. revolvers are chambered for .22 Long Rifle cartridges and will also accept .22 Long and .22 Short cartridges. Dan Wesson .22 Magnum revolvers are chambered for .22 Win. Magnum cartridges only. Dan Wesson .32 Magnum revolvers are chambered to fire .32 Magnum cartridges and will also accept the .32 S & W Long and .32 Colt new police cartridges interchangeably.

Before attempting to load your revolver, read the safety instructions and be fully familiar with the operation of this revolver.

DO NOT LOAD LIVE AMMUNITION INTO THE REVOLVER UNTIL READY TO SHOOT.

1. Examine the revolver before use by moving the cylinder latch down and pushing the rear of the cylinder out to the left side of the frame.
 - a. Check each of the chambers to make sure they are clean and free from accumulated oil or grease. Clean if necessary.
 - b. Check the barrel bore for cleanliness and remove any oil or grease.
 - c. Close cylinder and check for proper latch operation and lock up.
 - d. Insert barrel/cylinder gauge in place between face of cylinder and rear of barrel to determine if proper .006" gap exists. You should feel pressure against the gauge, but it should be possible to move gauge side to side. If proper gap is maintained between barrel and cylinder, proceed to loading instructions. If gap is tight or excessive, proceed to barrel changing instructions and adjust barrel cylinder gap accordingly.

WARNING: THE BARREL/CYLINDER GAP IS CRITICAL. EXCESSIVE GAP, NOT TO GAUGE, CAN CAUSE LEAD SPITTING.

LOADING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do not load live ammunition until you intend to shoot.
2. Keep revolver pointed in a safe direction.
3. Open cylinder by moving latch down and pushing the cylinder to left out of the frame opening.
4. Using only ammunition recommended in this booklet, insert one round of ammunition into each of the chambers, seating fully.
5. Keeping revolver pointed in a safe direction, make sure hammer is not cocked and push cylinder into the frame until latch springs up into locked position.

IMPORTANT: DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CLOSE THE CYLINDER WITH THE HAMMER COCKED AND DO NOT SLAM YOUR CYLINDER CLOSED FORCEFULLY, AS DAMAGE TO THE MECHANISM COULD RESULT.

6. Rotate cylinder by hand until bolt drops into locking notch, positioning the chamber and barrel. If cylinder cannot be turned, and bolt is in locked position, the revolver is ready for firing.

UNLOADING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Keep revolver pointed in a safe direction and do not touch the trigger.
2. Open cylinder by moving latch down and pushing cylinder open.
3. Push ejector rod backward, forcing out all empty cases or live rounds. When clear of chambers, allow ejector rod to return to its forward position under spring pressure.
4. Make sure hammer is not cocked and push cylinder back to closed position.
5. Collect live ammunition for safe storage and dispose of empty cartridge cases.

SHOOTING

Before firing, practice with your revolver UNLOADED to develop stance, aim and trigger

control. The Dan Wesson revolver may be dry-fired (functioned without cartridges) to develop your shooting skills without any damage to the revolver.

FIRING

To fire single action:

1. Hold revolver by grip, keeping finger away from trigger. Using thumb, draw hammer fully back to the cocked position where it will remain (see Figure 2).
2. Remove thumb from hammer spur.

WARNING: KEEP HANDS WELL CLEAR OF AND BEHIND CYLINDER. NEVER HOLD THE REVOLVER NEAR THE CYLINDER AS VERY HOT GASSES AND LEAD PARTICLES MAY BE SPRAYED OUT AROUND THE CYLINDER AND CAUSE INJURY.

3. Take aim by aligning the target with front and rear sights (see Figure 1).
4. Keeping steady aim, place index finger on trigger and squeeze gently until hammer falls.
5. To fire remaining rounds, remove finger from trigger, cock hammer as described in Step 1, and continue in successive steps.
6. Upon completion of firing, unload as described in previous section.

To fire double action:

1. Hold revolver by grip, keeping fingers away from hammer. Aim by aligning sights, and using steady smooth pressure, pull trigger until hammer is cocked and released, firing one round.
2. Remaining rounds are fired by releasing the trigger and pulling smoothly again to fire each successive round.

CAUTION: IF REVOLVER FAILS TO FIRE, HOLD IT, KEEPING MUZZLE POINTED TOWARD TARGET, AND WAIT FOR 30 SECONDS. IF A HANGFIRE (SLOW IGNITION) HAS OCCURRED, THE CARTRIDGE WILL GENERALLY FIRE WITHIN 30 SECONDS.

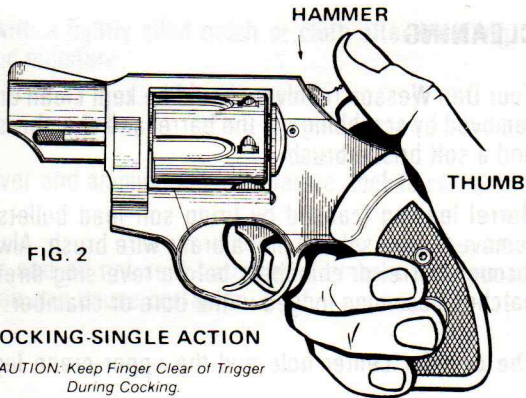
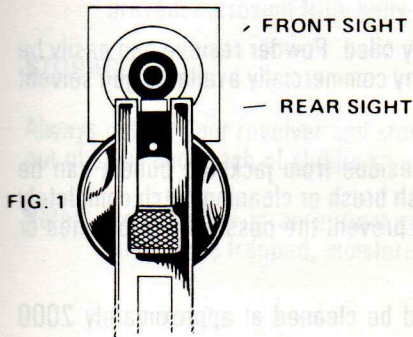
If the cartridge does not fire, eject cartridge (using the unloading procedure instructions) and examine the misfired cartridge case. If firing pin indent in primer is light, misaligned, or non-existent, have revolver examined by a competent gunsmith. If primer indent appears normal (as judged by previously fired cartridges), assume faulty ammunition. Remove misfired cartridge from other live ammunition and dispose of in accordance with ammunition manufacturer's instructions.

UNCOCKING

To uncock your loaded revolver with hammer in single action cocked position, place thumb of the hand not holding the revolver between hammer and frame. Hold hammer back firmly with the other thumb and pull trigger only enough to allow the hammer to move forward to clear the

cocking notch. Then release the trigger completely; remove thumb from between hammer and frame, and lower the hammer gently to rest on the frame.

In the double action mode, a partially cocked hammer is lowered by gradually releasing the tension on the trigger.



MAINTENANCE

CAUTION: BE SURE REVOLVER IS NOT LOADED BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO CLEAN, CHANGE BARREL OR SERVICE YOUR REVOLVER.

CLEANING

Your Dan Wesson revolver should be kept clean and lightly oiled. Powder residue can easily be removed by scrubbing out the barrel and chambers with any commercially available gun solvent and a soft bristle brush.

Barrel leading (caused by firing soft lead bullets) and residue from jacketed bullets can be removed using solvent and a brass wire brush. Always push brush or cleaning patch completely through barrel or chambers before reversing direction to prevent the possibility of brushes or patches becoming lodged in the bore or chamber.

The cylinder center hole and the upper crane leg should be cleaned at approximately 2000

rounds or whenever cylinder rotation becomes sluggish.

After brushing, run a lightly oiled flannel patch through the bore and chambers; followed by a dry patch to remove excess oil.

Note: Wipe exterior surfaces of revolver with a lightly oiled patch or cloth after handling to prevent corrosion from body salts and moisture.

STORAGE

Always unload your revolver and store revolver and ammunition in separate, locked containers out of sight and reach of children.

Note: Do not store in an airtight container and do not seal barrel or chambers to keep out dust, since trapped, moisture laden air can cause corrosion.

CHANGING BARREL ASSEMBLY

CAUTION: BE SURE REVOLVER IS NOT LOADED BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO CHANGE BARREL.

1. Assemble the barrel wrench to the barrel nut in the muzzle of the barrel.
2. Unscrew and remove the barrel nut.
3. Remove shroud by sliding forward off the barrel.
4. Unscrew the barrel from the frame.
5. Screw new barrel with end containing most thread into the frame.
6. Insert .006" feeler gauge against the front of the cylinder and screw barrel into frame until there is a slight pressure against the feeler gauge.
7. Keeping the gauge in place, install new shroud over barrel and locating pin.

8. Assemble barrel nut (slots up) using wrench. Tighten so that firm pressure is required to unscrew the nut. DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN.
9. Recheck gap between cylinder and barrel by moving gauge. There should be slight pressure against the gauge, but it should be possible to move it.

WARNING: THE BARREL AND CYLINDER GAP IS CRITICAL. FAILURE TO USE THE GAUGE CAN CAUSE EXCESSIVE GAS LEAKAGE AND LEAD SPITTING POSSIBLY CAUSING INJURY.

10. Remove feeler gauge.
11. After firing the first five or ten rounds, recheck for proper gap and barrel nut tightness. Make certain the gun is unloaded for this recheck.
12. If the barrel nut is too tight, making removal difficult, use the following procedure:
Be sure revolver is not loaded before attempting to free barrel nut.
 - a. With wrench assembled to the barrel nut, press muzzle of the gun and wrench firmly against the edge of a bench and turn revolver counter clockwise.
 - b. With wrench assembled to the barrel nut, using a mallet, tap back of wrench sharply to loosen nut.

CAUTION: DO NOT REST THE REVOLVER AGAINST A SOLID OBJECT WHEN SHOOTING OR SIGHTING IN, SINCE DAMAGE CAN OCCUR TO THE GRIP CAUSING INJURY TO THE HANDS.

GRIPS

CAUTION: BE SURE REVOLVER IS NOT LOADED BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO CHANGE GRIPS.

To change grip, unscrew the grip screw on bottom of grip. Slide grip off tang and remove screw from grip. Slide replacement grip on tang and replace screw. Tighten only until grip is snug and free from any movement.

SERVICING AND REPAIR

Should your Dan Wesson revolver require service or repair, make certain it is NOT LOADED and send it to Wesson Firearms where competent gunsmiths can quickly make the necessary repairs. An illustrated parts breakdown is included in this booklet to help you identify the component parts of the revolver.

Accessory items and parts are available from your dealer. However, if the item you require is not normally stocked, the dealer can order it from our many Dan Wesson Accessory Products or Authorized Parts Distributors. Please place your order with your dealer and do not contact distributors directly. To do so would delay your order as the distributor must work through a dealer only.

IMPORTANT

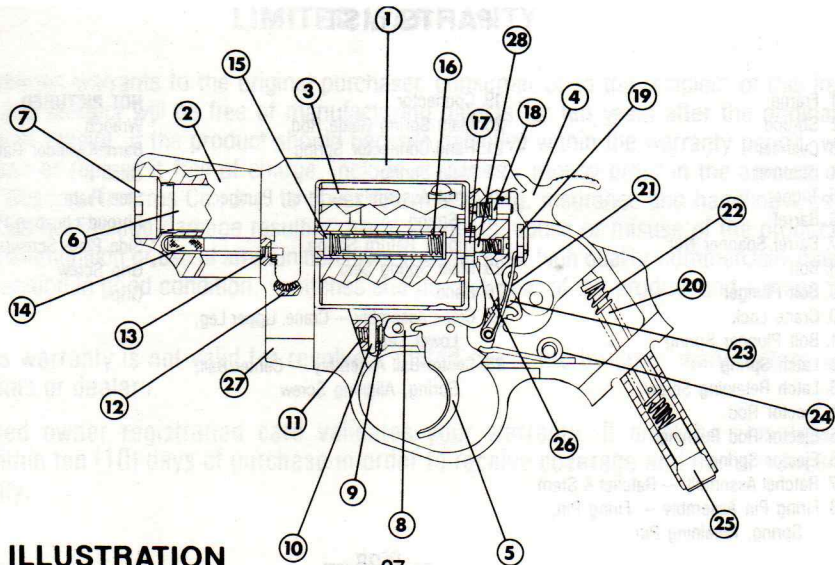
Any repair or parts replacement with exception of items indicated with an asterisk (*) should be performed by Wesson Firearms. Wesson Firearms will not assume responsibility for proper functioning of this revolver if unauthorized alterations, adjustments or parts replacements with unauthorized parts are made.

TRANSPORTING REVOLVER TO FACTORY

Various federal and state laws and local ordinances govern the transfer and transportation of firearms. To avoid any problems, we recommend that you take the advice of the dealer in your state on how to send or transport your revolver to Wesson Firearms. Before shipping, follow the procedure listed:

CAUTION: MAKE SURE THE REVOLVER IS NOT LOADED.

1. Write a letter explaining the problem you are experiencing and your requirements in as much detail as possible. Include the model name and number, serial number and date of purchase of your revolver.
2. Enclose letter with the revolver in a well padded package.
3. Do not include ammunition or accessories.
4. To prevent theft, do not indicate contents on outside package.
5. Insure package against loss or theft.



PARTS ILLUSTRATION

PARTS LIST

- 1. Frame
- * 2. Shroud
- 3. Cylinder
- 4. Hammer
- 5. Trigger
- * 6. Barrel
- * 7. Barrel Spanner Nut
- 8. Bolt
- * 9. Bolt Plunger
- * 10. Crane Lock
- * 11. Bolt Plunger Spring
- * 12. Latch Spring
- * 13. Latch Retaining Screw
- * 14. Ejector Rod
- * 15. Ejector Rod Bushing
- * 16. Ejector Spring
- 17. Ratchet Assembly — Ratchet & Stem
- 18. Firing Pin Assembly — Firing Pin,
Spring, Retaining Pin

- 19. Connector
- 20. Main Spring Guide Rod
- * 21. Hand/Connector Spring
- 22. Main Spring
- 23. Strut Assembly — Strut, Plunger,
Spring
- 24. Trigger Return Spring
- 25. Main Spring Seat
- 26. Hand
- 27. Crane Assembly — Crane, Upper Leg,
Lower Leg
- 28. Center Ball Assembly — Center Ball,
Spring, Aligning Screw

NOT PICTURED

- * Wrench
- * Barrel/Cylinder Gauge (Gap) .006"
- * Latch
Side Plate
Shroud Locating Pin
- * Side Plate Screw(s)
- * Grip Screw
Grip

LIMITED WARRANTY

Wesson Firearms warrants to the original purchaser, consumer or to the recipient of this item as a gift that this product will be free of manufacturing defects for ten years after the original date of purchase or receipt. If the product should become defective within the warranty period, we will elect to repair or replace it free of charge. Include a check or money order in the amount of \$10 payable to Wesson Firearms Co., Inc. to cover return shipping, insurance and handling fees. This warranty does not include damage resulting from accidents, abuse or misuse of the product, use of improper ammunition or use of ammunition other than original, high quality, commercially manufactured ammunition in good condition, scratches and normal wear of the product and surface finish.

Note: This warranty is not valid for revolvers plated or coated by other manufacturers, gunsmiths or dealers.

The attached owner registration card validates your warranty. It must be completed and returned within ten (10) days of purchase in order to receive coverage and performance under this warranty.

THIS WARRANTY
This warranty gives you specific legal rights; you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

For consumer information on this warranty, call 413/267-4081 or write to: Wesson Firearms Co., Inc., Maple Tree Industrial Center, Route 20, Wilbraham Rd., Palmer, MA 01069.

If you require a replacement instruction manual, write to: Wesson Firearms Co., Inc., Maple Tree Industrial Center, Route 20, Wilbraham Rd., Palmer, MA 01069.