

*Smith & Wesson,
Cartridge.*

No. 11,496.

Patented Aug. 8, 1854.

Fig. 1.

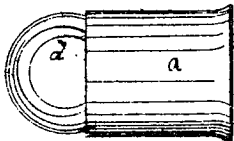
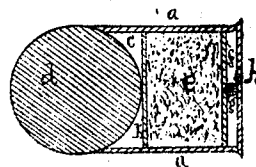


Fig. 2.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HORACE SMITH AND DANIEL B. WESSON, OF NORWICH, CONNECTICUT.

IMPROVEMENT IN CARTRIDGES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 11,496, dated August 8, 1854.

To all whom it may concern :

Be it known that we, HORACE SMITH and DANIEL B. WESSON, of Norwich, in the county of New London and State of Connecticut, have invented a new or Improved Cartridge for Pistols, Rifles, or other Fire-Arms; and we do hereby declare that the same is fully described and represented in the following specification and the accompanying drawings, letters, figures, and references thereof.

Of the said drawings, Figure 1 denotes an external view, and Fig. 2 a longitudinal section, of our improved cartridge.

In Fig. 2, *a* represents the cylindrical case of the cartridge, which may be made of thin plate-copper or any other suitable material. It is formed with a partition, *b*, across it and near to the ball *d*, which is to be fixed in one end of the cartridge, such partition forming a chamber, *c*, between itself and the ball. Such chamber is to be filled with tallow or other equivalent. The powder is shown at *e* as placed in that part of the cartridge which is in rear of the partition *b*. A metallic perforated disk or plate, *f*, is placed on the powder after it has been suitably filled into the cartridge, and between such disk (which, however, may be made of any other material having a suitable degree of induration) and the closed end *h* of the cartridge the percussion-pellet or priming *g* is placed, it being made to rest against the disk. The end *h* should either be made very thin and yielding, or of some substance easily punctured by a blunt point or needle driven against it, and this for the purpose of causing priming to be inflamed either by the effect of a smart blow given on such end of the cartridge by the cock of a gun, or by a blunt needle driven smartly through the end of the cartridge and against the priming while the latter is resting on the seat-piece or disk *f*.

The tallow used with a cartridge has been generally placed on the outside of the ball, but never to our knowledge in a chamber within the cartridge.

Our improvement, therefore, and what we claim, is the arranging of the tallow within the cartridge and between the ball and charge of powder, or in a chamber, *c*, suitably made in rear of the ball of the cartridge, whereby the necessary amount of tallow for a discharge is preserved with the charge in a convenient and compact form.

We are aware that in the construction of a cartridge it has been customary to use in the same a metallic plate or disk carrying a capsule for containing the percussion-powder, and having the mouth of such capsule opening directly against the gunpowder in front of the said plate; we therefore do not claim such; but

What we do claim as our invention is—

The employment, in the cartridge, of the metallic or indurated disk or seat-plate, so that it shall rest directly on the powder, in combination with arranging the priming or percussion-powder in rear of said disk, or on that side of it opposite to that which rests against the powder, our said arrangement of the disk and priming affording an excellent opportunity for applying the force of the blow by which the priming is inflamed, such force being applied in the line of the axis of the cartridge.

In testimony whereof we have hereto set our signatures this 10th day of May, A. D. 1853.

HORACE SMITH. [L. S.]
DANIEL B. WESSON. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

C. D. RICE,
JOHN D. PARKE.