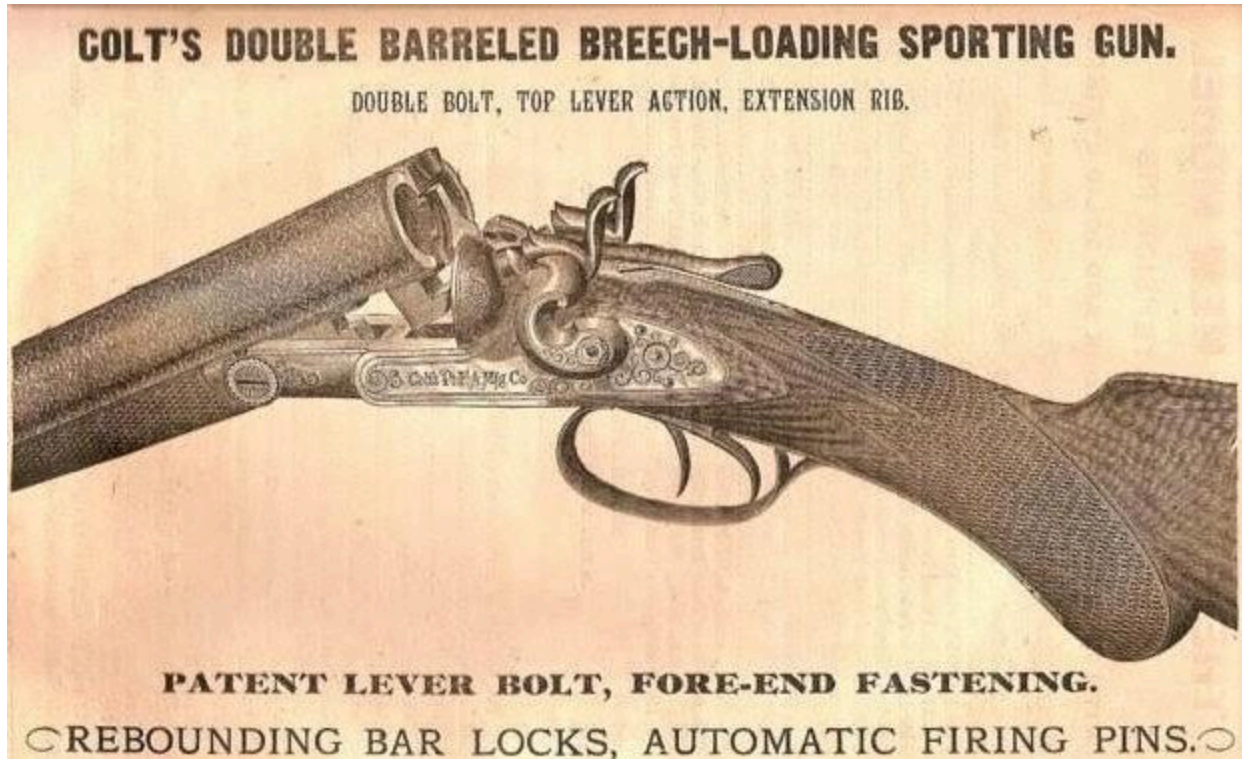


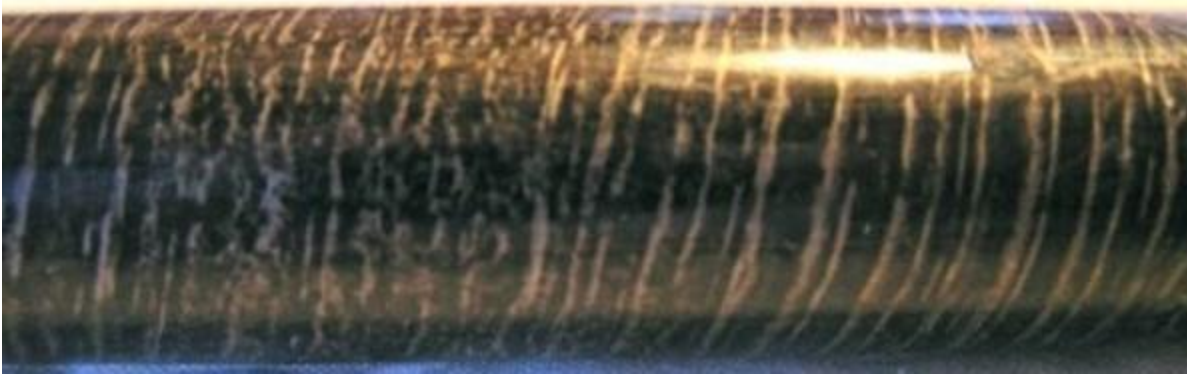
# COLT DAMASCUS

## 1878 Hammer Gun



**Colt Salesman's Damascus Sample Rod** courtesy of Mike Harrell

Two Twist Samples



Two Rod *Damas Crolle'*, Hufnagel, or “Oxford”



Three Rod “Oxford”



Chain



*Damas Anglais Coupe'* or Gebrochener Englischer Damast



## Model 1883

The Colt's Patent Fire Arms Mfg. Co. Model 1883 was in production from 1883-1895 with a serial range of approx. 1-3,050 and 4,055-8,365. Each gun was essentially a custom order and was the most expensive American made shotgun of the day. Unfinished damascus tubes were imported from *Plunger-Riga & Heuse-Riga Fils.*, Nessonvaux, which were joined, fit, and finished in Hartford.

From <http://heuse.spahistoire.info/henriheuse.html>

I calculated our business since the year 1890 and I noted that we had bought francs for the sum of 2,150,000 dollars which we paid in Locket, to my uncle (Henri Heuse) and with Plunger-Riga. I did not calculate the francs which we received for this sum...(this corresponds to 2,305,616,614 francs in 1993)... the Colt Fire Arms Co of Hartford Conn. bought the Damas most expensive like Crollés and the Turkish Damas with six blades. When the Germans destroyed the manufacture of the Damas guns, that was a calamity for Nessonvaux. My dad is the man who bought the most Damas guns, he sold some more, all alone, than all others together. <http://www.littlegun.be/arme%20belge/artisans%20identifies%20h/a%20heuse%20riga%20gb.htm>

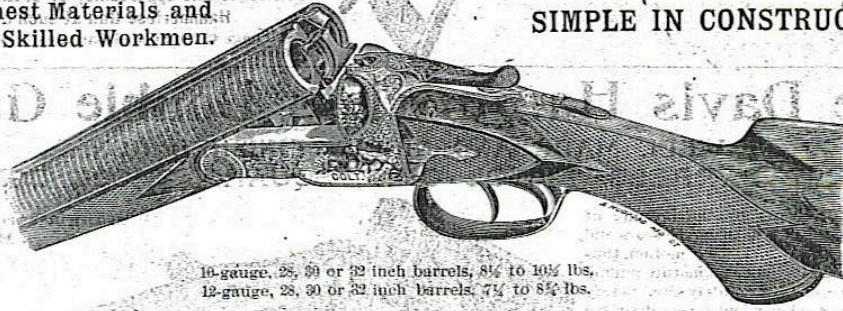
1897 Chas. Godfrey, N.Y. catalog listed 'Damascus' and 'Finest Damascus'

# COLT'S NEW HAMMERLESS SHOT GUN.

Made of the Finest Materials and  
by the Highest Skilled Workmen.

SIMPLE IN CONSTRUCTION.

All Parts  
Made to  
Gauge.  
Strong and  
Safe.



Double Bolt  
Made in 10  
and  
12-Gauge  
Only.

10-gauge, 25, 29 or 32 inch barrels, 8½ to 10½ lbs.  
12-gauge, 28, 30 or 32 inch barrels, 7¼ to 8½ lbs.

The above cut illustrates the \$125 grade gun, with new trap stock. Half pistol grip and straight hand stocks can be furnished when desired. Barrels specially bored for nitro powder when so ordered.

Damascus barrels, English walnut stock, 10 or 12 gauge.....	Price, \$80.00, Net \$57.00
Finest Damascus barrels, finest English walnut stock, plain engraving, 10 or 12 gauge.....	" 100.00, " 71.25
Finest Damascus barrels, finest English walnut stock, handsome engraving, 10 or 12 gauge.....	" 125.00, " 89.00
Special guns to order.....	\$150 to \$300

DIMENSIONS OF STOCK:—Drop at butt, 2¼ to 3¼ inches; drop at comb, 2 inches; from front trigger to centre of butt plate, 13½ to 14½ inches.  
Extra charge will be made from all deviations from above lengths of barrels or dimensions of stocks.

*Colt: An American Legend* by R.L. Wilson shows the “Capt. D.H. Ross” 1883 hammerless with “COLT” within the crolle pattern.

Fine Three Iron “Turkish”



Four Iron “Turkish”



Bernard



**Lefever Damascus**

**Quality Durston Special.**  
Dura steel barrels (black), imported walnut stock, rubber butt plate, half pistol grip, checkered and well finished in every detail. Made in 12, 16 and 20 gauge. LIST \$37.50 NET \$25.00

**Quality Durston Special.**  
Fitted with automatic shell ejector..... LIST \$52.00 NET \$35.00

**Quality H.** New medium priced gun, best grade steel or twist barrels, English walnut stock, rubber butt plate, full pistol grip with rubber cap, checkered, full compensated action, 12, 16 and 20 gauge..... \$44.00 **\$33.00**

**Quality H.** Fitted with automatic shell ejector..... 59.00 **44.25**

**Quality G.** Damascus and Royal (black) steel barrels, English walnut stock, rubber butt plate, pistol grip with rubber cap, checkered, 10, 12, 16 and 20 gauge..... 57.00 **42.75**

**Quality G.** Fitted with automatic shell ejector..... 72.00 **54.00**

**Quality F.** Damascus or Premier (black) steel barrels, English walnut stock, checkered and well engraved, rubber butt plate, full pistol grip, compensated action, 10, 12, 16 and 20 gauge..... 80.00 **56.00**

**Quality F.** Fitted with automatic shell ejector..... 95.00 **66.50**

**Quality E.** Damascus or Krupp steel barrels, English walnut stock, rubber butt plate, full pistol grip with rubber cap, finely engraved and checkered, full compensated action, 10, 12, 16 and 20 gauge..... 100.00 **70.00**

**Quality E.** Fitted with automatic shell ejector..... 115.00 **80.50**

**Quality D.** Damascus or Krupp steel barrels, fine English walnut stock, full pistol grip with rubber cap, rubber butt plate, finely engraved and checkered, full compensated action, 10, 12, 16 and 20 gauge..... 125.00 **87.50**

**Quality D.** Fitted with automatic shell ejector..... 140.00 **98.00**


**Quality C.** Fine Damascus or Krupp steel barrels, choice English walnut stock, full pistol grip with horn or steel cap, rubber butt plate, richly engraved and checkered, full compensated action, 10, 12, 16 and 20 gauge..... 150.00 **105.00**

**Quality C.** Fitted with shell ejector..... 165.00 **115.50**

The safety can be made either automatic or non-automatic. Hammers cannot be jarred off even with trigger full as light as two pounds. Strongest and simplest action in the world. Perfect compensated action to take up wear in every direction.

**Quality B.** Fine Damascus or Krupp steel barrels, fine English walnut stock, full pistol grip with horn cap, horn butt plate, handsomely engraved and checkered, full compensated action, 10, 12, 16 and 20 gauge... LIST \$200.00 NET \$140.00

**Quality B.** Fitted with automatic shell ejector..... LIST \$215.00 NET \$150.50



Lefever barrels have been found with Birmingham Provisional Proof and with the Liege maker's marks of Arthur-Delvaux-Heuse, George Laloux, and 'JDH'.

## Optimus

Laminated Steel with Birmingham Proofmarks



1st Quality Leclerc





4 Iron Rosen courtesy of Terry Buffum



4 Iron Turkish with Birmingham Provisional Proofmark courtesy of Richard Brewster



**AA**

“Finest A-1 Quality Silver Steel Damascus Highest Proof” SN 93XX  
**4 Iron Turkish** possibly by Sir Thomas Kilby.  
Courtesy of Richard Brewster



A Grade 4 Iron Turkish



B Grade 'Hard Damascus' 4 Iron Turkish



C Grade

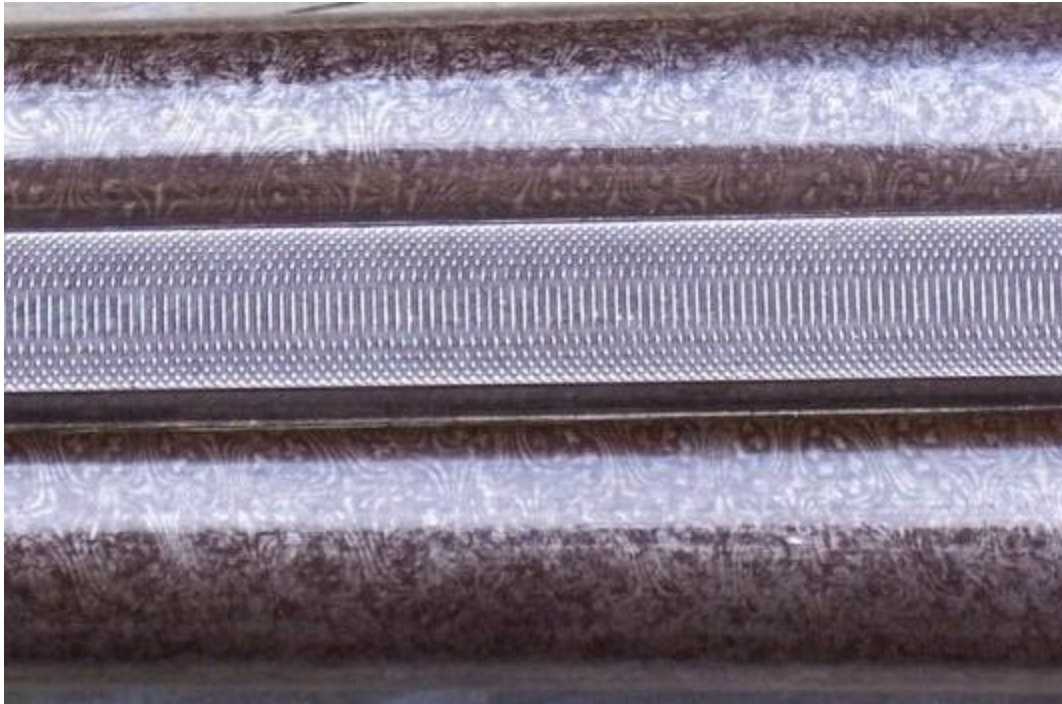
Bernard I refinished by Breck Gorman



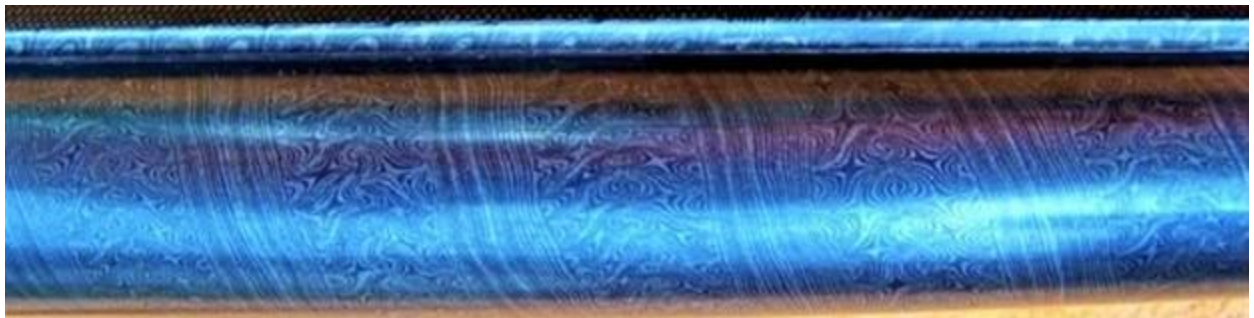
*Damas Corche*



*Etoile* or "American Flag"



*Laminette Double*



**F Grade**

“American Flag” courtesy of Josh Loewensteiner



Chain courtesy of Dustin L.J. Maruquin



3 Iron Turkish



3 Iron Oxford.  
16g F grade with the 'Crown over GL' mark of George Laloux. Courtesy of Mike Shepherd.







F grade with 3 Iron 'Oxford' and 'JDH' courtesy of Robert Chambers



**G grade** with 'JDH'



## **H Grade**

Fractured “London Damascus Twist”



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