



## Dixie Gun Works U.S. Model 1795

**I**n the world of reproduction blackpowder arms, few names carry the venerable status of Dixie Gun Works. And, in the field of American military arms, no name is more revered than that of America's first armory located in Springfield, Mass. Today, Dixie Gun Works, the company founded by Turner E. Kirkland in 1954, has once again excited collectors and shooters alike, this time with a reproduction of America's first military musket, the U.S. Model of 1795.

It was Col. Henry Knox of Gen. George Washington's staff who first thought that the area near Springfield, Mass., would make a fine place for an ordnance depot during the American Revolution. Founded in 1636, the town of Springfield offered a secure area in which to store arms and ammunition for the

Continental Army. A small depot was established on the hill east of the town center in 1776 and was named a magazine in 1782. Congress established it as a national armory in 1794, and the Springfield Armory produced arms for the United States for nearly 175 years.

The very first musket produced for the U.S. Army and manufactured by the Springfield Armory is now known as the Model of 1795. Only 40 workers were on hand the first year to turn out the 245 guns manufactured. Patterned closely after the French Charleville Models of 1763 and 1777, the 1795 Springfield musket saw service during Lewis & Clark's Corps of Discovery

from 1803 to 1806 and during the War of 1812. Approximately 80,000 were produced at Springfield, and another 70,000 were produced at Harpers Ferry.

Made in Italy by Davide Pederoli, the Dixie Gun Works reproduction is in the original .69 caliber and has a full-length, satin-finished European walnut stock. The bold and substantial lock is the centerpiece of the musket's fine lines. It is marked similar to the originals, with "SPRINGFIELD" on the tail of the lock and the now-famous eagle-and-shield with "us" stamped in front of the hammer. (Original guns made between 1795 and 1799 had blank or un-engraved locks). The armory



## SHOOTING RESULTS (50 YDS.)

.69 CALIBER	VEL. @ 15' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE IN INCHES		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
<b>461-GR. 0.678"</b> ROUNDBALL, <b>0.010" PATCH,</b> <b>80-GRS. FFg. GOEX</b> BLACKPOWDER	1213 AVG. 36 SD	1,508	3.71	7.29	5.82
<b>AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD:</b>					5.82
MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 ROUNDS FROM A 44¾" BARREL. RANGE TEMPERATURE: 66° F. HUMIDITY: 42%. ACCURACY FOR FOUR CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 50 YDS. FROM A SANDBAG. ABBREVIATIONS: SD (STANDARD DEVIATION).					



*Dixie's rendition of America's first military musket, the Model of 1795, is a faithful reproduction of the original right down to its rudimentary front sight, bayonet lug and button-tipped ramrod (above, l.). The stiff trigger (above, r.), is faithful to the original 1795 in that it was heavy.*

bright steel finish is uniform throughout the gun's metalwork, including the three barrel bands, sling swivels and a button-tipped ramrod. The 60" overall length makes the gun a sizeable addition to the gun cabinet and will require special cases and spacious clearance when cleaning.

Muskets were designed to fire large chunks of lead through smoothbore barrels at massed targets not more than 50 to 75 yds. away. One British officer wrote that it was a most unfortunate person who was done ill by a ball fired at a distance greater than 75 yds. Just like the original, the reproduction 1795 has only a rudimentary front sight,

a brass blade affixed to the rear of the front barrel or nose band. There is no rear sight. A small rectangular lug rests ¾" from the muzzle on the underside of the barrel and serves as a post for affixing a bayonet. Two bright steel triangular sling swivels allow the user to carry the 10-lb. musket with a period-style sling.

The hammer takes a standard 1" musket flint and the large frizzen showers the pan with sparks, providing nearly instant and positive ignition. Standard "Dope Bag" shooting results specify five consecutive, five-shot groups. Due to a current shortage of .69-cal. round balls, this evaluation was conducted with four, five-shot groups of 0.678"

## DIXIE GUN WORKS U.S. MODEL 1795 MUSKET

**MANUFACTURER:** DAVIDE PEDERSOLI AND CO., VIA ARTIGINI 57, GARDONE VT, BRESCIA 25063, ITALY  
**IMPORTER:** DIXIE GUN WORKS (DEPT. AR), P.O. Box 130, UNION CITY, TN 38281; (800) 238-6785; WWW.DIXIEGUNWORKS.COM  
**CALIBER:** .69  
**ACTION TYPE:** FLINTLOCK, MUZZLELOADING MUSKET  
**BARREL:** 44¾" STEEL  
**RIFLING:** NONE; SMOOTHBORE  
**SIGHTS:** SINGLE BRASS POST FOR FRONT SIGHT, NO REAR SIGHT  
**TRIGGER PULL:** SINGLE-STAGE; 13 LBS.  
**STOCK:** EUROPEAN WALNUT; LENGTH OF PULL, 14¼"; DROP AT HEEL, 1¼"; DROP AT COMB; 1¼"  
**OVERALL LENGTH:** 60"  
**WEIGHT:** 10 LBS.  
**ACCESSORIES:** NONE  
**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$1,150

round balls. Dixie Gun Works recommends using a 0.680" ball with a 0.010" patch over an 80-gr. charge of 2F (FFg) blackpowder.

The 13-lb. trigger pull is typical of military muskets, which are fired with more of a slap to the trigger as in shotgun shooting rather than a delicate squeeze. At 50 yds., our sample 1795 performed admirably and re-instilled a sense of respect for those who were on both ends of such guns during combat.

As with every Pedersoli we have seen so far, the craftsmanship proved to be excellent. The wood-to-metal fit was tight and clean, and the lines of the gun were very pleasant, uniform and true to the originals. For anyone wishing to emulate a soldier from our Federalist Period, the Dixie 1795 Springfield is the perfect reproduction. Those who wish to shoot a uniquely historical musket for sport or pleasure will find it a quality arm capable of providing a rewarding shooting experience. 



*Based on the French Charleville Models of 1763 and 1777, the U.S. Model of 1795 musket was the first musket produced for the U.S. Army and the first arm manufactured at the U.S. Springfield Armory. Dixie Gun Works' reproduction 1795 is a solid, well-crafted rendition of one of America's most important guns.*