



*'66/'73 Rifle Magazine Tube End Cap Wrench from  
Saber River Gunsmithing*



*Sample .38 Special and  
.357 Magnum rounds loaded  
with the adjustable tool head*

load, 105 gr. LTC bullets to 1.44" (with American Pioneer Powder 3F). This puts the crimp in the upper third of the lube groove. I loaded a hundred rounds like this, and then pulled the tool head out, put the spacer on the bottom, and reinstalled it. The powder check die plunger needed an adjustment of about, as you would expect, 0.130". The bullet seater needed about .005 adjustment because a .357 case is .135 longer than a .38 Special. If you're using these for .44 Special and .44 Magnum as well, you'll understand why .130" was chosen. .44 Special to .44 Magnum is .125". The spacer splits the difference. I also needed to lower the full length resizing die about .130". Adjusting everything took a couple of minutes. If I did it all the time it would probably be a minute or so. Thirty seconds is pushing it, or I'm just slow, which is more likely. I loaded the 50 rounds of brass Doug had sent me and marked them thoroughly so I won't get them in with my .38s. But I do know people who shoot Marlin Cowboy .357s, and a lot of those rifles want to shoot .357 Magnum length cartridges only, so they load .38s for their pistols and .357s for their rifles.

If you shoot .38s and .357s or .44 Specials and .44 Magnums, this is a more economical solution to doing the switch. Doug sells them on eBay with a "Buy now" price of \$55 plus \$5 shipping. There's a YouTube video on it at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D8RV9PSuKTI>

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#### **'66/'73 Rifle Magazine Tube End Cap Wrench**

If you were at Winter Range the day the early vendors opened, you noted Saber River Gunsmithing had a neat little 6" long, \$14.95 device for getting the (expletive deleted) end cap off of Uberti '66 and '73 rifles. One of mine had defied all efforts to get it off until I found Jim Bowie at END of TRAIL. I expected him to have some special tool for it. He did, a small screwdriver and a hammer he tapped the tube with. It worked for him. I knew better than to try that method. Since then I've kept the mag tubes on my '73s finger tight and used Anti-Seize. But they still get stuck on other people's guns, so I went back a while later to buy one. They were all gone, but UniqueTek had some. By the time the event started, they were sold out, too.

It's a flat piece of machined steel with two blades, one at each end, at 90° to each other so one of them will work on the slot regardless of its orientation. The blades are 1/2" long to engage the end cap slot across its full width. They are gauged to fit most end cap slot sizes, and they have a square profile so they won't slip out of the slot like conventional screwdriver blades. It's \$14.95. I find it easiest to use when the gun is in the gun cart. Then I can use both hands on the wrench and mag tube instead of trying to hold the rifle up.

Now, when you get yours, take the end cap off at home, clean out the mag tube, and reassemble, using Anti-Seize, and leaving the cap finger tight. Then at matches you can obsessively check to see it's tight before each stage as you do several of the screws on your '66/'73 and as you check the base pins on your Vaqueros. But, if you need to get the cap off, it's easy. Take the tool with you for people who aren't so lucky and have eight rounds trapped in the magazine. Saber



River Gunsmithing (Glenn Stolle) is at (928) 717-0067, and Unique Tek, Inc. is at 574 E. Alamo Dr. Ste 60, Chandler, AZ 85225, (480) 507-0866, or Toll Free: (855) 507-0866

#### **Wild Bodie Tom's '97 6-Round Magazine Springs and Followers**

Original Winchester '97s were designed for 2-5/8" shells and would hold six in the magazine. Some don't quite do that. Wild Bunch matches often call for engaging six shotgun targets. Loading one on the clock takes a lot more time than racking the slide one more time, so we all want shotguns that hold six 2-3/4" rounds. Wild Bodie Tom, an expert gunsmith of many years, devised kits consisting of followers and special springs, a different one for a take down from a solid frame '97, and easily installed. If you can't do it yourself, and your wife won't do it for you, you probably shoot with someone who can handle the job. It doesn't take a gunsmith *normally*. I have an E series take down Winchester and a solid frame clone, so I could try each kit. Naturally I had already had Jim Bowie modify



*Six round magazine springs  
and followers for Winchester '97s  
from Wild Bodie Tom*

the Winchester for six rounds, and the clone came that way, so I didn't need the kits. The secret is the spring is tapered so it collapses inside the follower. It works. I didn't spend much time installing them, not more than three days, so you can probably do it in fifteen minutes if you're really slow. The kits are \$30 each. Wild Bodie Tom can be reached at: [wildbodietom@q.com](mailto:wildbodietom@q.com) and (602) 721-3175. 

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