



The Gun Behind Your TV Hero

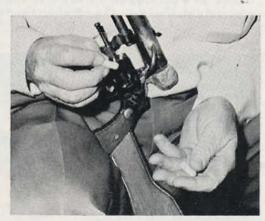
By HARVEY BRANDT





ONE OF THE STRANGEST guns ever designed is used each night that "Rifleman" rolls on TV, but it is never seen; only heard. Powered by carbon dioxide gas, it has nothing in common with the currently produced target pellet guns, though super accuracy is its aim. Half pistol and half rifle, it's the special creation of the show's special effects man, Bob Gray. Firing gelatin pellets that contain gray powder, the pellets break on impact spurting dust like a bullet hit.

Gray fashioned the odd-looking device from an old .38 S & W revolver, a pipe barrel, and a pipe CO2 chamber on top. A valve is in place of the firing pin, jetting CO2 into the chamber and driving forth the capsule when the heavy lead-weighted hammer hits. A repeater, the gas cylinder can shoot 35 capsules before recharging.



Modified revolver swings out to load clay pellets which simulate bullet hit. Hammer weight is needed to pop gas valve on firing.





