

Master Engraver
David Wade Harris
320 TR 1405
Jacksonville Texas 75766
817-219-0484

Tolt Collector,

I, by means of this letter, am proud to authenticate the engraving of the following firearm to be hand engraved by David Wade Harris and to be the first Tolt Single Action that I engraved. Originally engraved for the Sheriff of Emory, Texas, Phil Harris, during the early 1980's.

Tolt Single Action Army

serial no.	280457
caliber	44 wcf
barrel length	4 3/4
engraving style	American Scroll
Grips	Carved Pearl
Finish	Nickel

I trust the information supplied will be of interest to you.

Thank you,

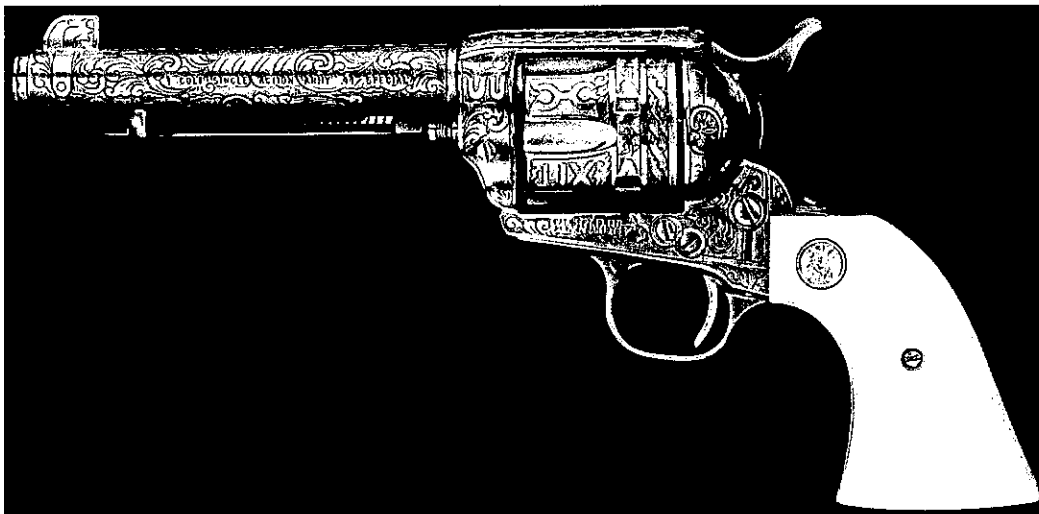
David Wade Harris

www.dwharris.com

David Wade Harris

Master Engraver

320 County Road 1405 Jacksonville Texas 75766

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All work is still done by hand.
Gun, knife and Firearms
engraving with a hammer and
chisel. David is one of the few
engravers that still engraves the
old fashion way

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"A pool of light bathes David Wade Harris in his unique workshop. He's a solitary figure steeped in tradition as he uses handmade tools to make elaborate engravings on firearms. Using the same style tools that have been in use for over 300 years, Harris elevates an ordinary firearm into the sphere of fine art.

Harris' engravings include a gambling theme with dice and poker hands, and a Civil War theme with Gen. Lee and the Confederate flag on one side and Abraham Lincoln and the Union flag on the other. Originally, engraved firearms were popular with titled and wealthy gentlemen. Engravers employed by firearms manufacturers became so famous that guns engraved by them held more value.

Harris uses several books filled with photos of their work for research. Harris estimates that about half of his work is engraving duplications of factory engravings, but says it's up to the customer to determine what he or she wants on the gun. Harris uses pictures for ideas and draws his on artwork. "I don't pick up a hammer and chisel and start right in," Harris said. "I draw everything first."

As the gun is held tightly in a vice, Harris rubs beeswax on the area he'll be engraving. Then he brushes talcum powder onto the beeswax. The powder sticks, making a slightly whitened area that he draws on. "When I'm satisfied with it, I use a chisel and hammer to work in the design."

Harris learned his craft in the early 1980's from, the late, renowned Fort Worth engraver Weldon Bledsoe. He had to prove he was seriously interested in keeping the legendary engraving style alive before Bledsoe would take him on as a student. Harris takes pride in the traditional method and tools he uses. He knows of only one or two other engravers who still make their own tools. "I try to keep the tradition alive that Weldon taught me," Harris said. "I still do it all by hand with a hammer and chisel.

There are a lot of easier ways of doing it, but easier isn't always better". Harris is well-known for his unique craft. Gun collectors from Alaska to Arizona and New York to California find their way to his rural home in far southeastern Hood County. "The more well-known I get, the more it increases the value of the gun," Harris said. "I sign D.W. Harris on each gun." Harris laughs and adds, "Actually, an artist becomes more famous and his work more valuable after he dies. I guess a lot of my customers are looking forward to that." "[Hood County News](#)"

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In his shop near Tyler, Texas, one can still find an engraver totally immersed in his craft using hand made tools to enhance a hand gun or rifle with famous cattle brands. David Wade Harris born July 11, 1963 in Oak Cliff, a Dallas suburb, is a master engraver who was taught hand engraving by the late, renowned, Ft. Worth engraver, Weldon Bledsoe (</weldon-bledsoe.html>) who in turn learned from famous Cole Agee. (</cole-agee.html>)

David's wife was instrumental in him having the opportunity to meet Weldon Bledsoe in the 1980's. She was working for the plating company where Mr. Bledsoe took his guns and had Mr. Bledsoe engrave a firearm for David for Christmas. David immediately became interested in learning to engrave firearms. However, before Weldon would take him on as his student Mr. Harris had to convince him that he was seriously interested in keeping the legendary engraving style alive. Bledsoe stated that he would not teach anyone else to engrave because prior apprentices would not carry on the tradition as he had taught them.

Weldon Bledsoe taught David Harris that an engraver does not pick up a hammer and chisel and start right in any more than a painter picks up a brush and starts putting strokes on a canvas.

David says, "After looking an area over for a little while a pattern just comes to mind or is visualized. Once I see the pattern in my mind.... I really just trace the image that I see there. Also, I can duplicate patterns and pictures from seeing other pictures."

The technique is as follows:

First: Rub or dab beeswax onto the area to be drawn on.

Second: Dust talc or baby powder on it so as to give a white area to draw in.

Third: Draw in the powder.

Fourth: Use hammer and chisel to work in the design.

"I use many different types, sizes, and shapes of chisels. But about 90% of my work is done with the chisel that Weldon taught me to make, the same as Cole taught him to make. It is the key to this craft or way of engraving."

Just as he was taught to do, David Wade Harris works in solitude using the same style tools that have been in use for over 300 years. He is an artist. His canvas is a firearm. With hand made tools instead of paints and brushes Mr. Harris transforms an ordinary rifle or hand gun into a work of fine art. His work is sought after world wide.

Mr. Harris has engraved firearms for Texas Rangers and law enforcement individuals as well as many wealthy and famous people. He was commissioned in 1992 by "America Remembers (http://www.americaremembers.com/products/FI00007_amcowboy.asp)" to engrave a signed and numbered series of 200 Winchester 94s with famous cattle brands (The American Cowboy Tribute).

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Because each project is an individual work of art all prices are estimates. Please contact Mr. Harris for better ideas on pricing.

Thank you for visiting my firearms engraving website!

I have been a Texas Gun Engraver, full time, since 1985. I learned the art of engraving from master gun engraver Weldon Bledsoe and he learned from engraver Cole Agee. I am not limited to only engraved guns but I engrave anything that is made of metal; knife engraving, custom car parts engrave very nicely, I have engraved motorcycle parts, and from time to time I have engraves musical instruments.

I have included in my Gallery of Guns photos of engraved Revolvers, Semi Auto Pistols, Bolt Action Rifles and Floor Plates, Shotguns, and several pages of photos of Lever Action Rifles and Single Action Revolvers. My work reflects the great gun engravers of the mid to late 1800's, such as L.D. Nimschke, and Cuno Helfritch. I am most noted for carrying on the tradetion of engraving the Cattlebrands as did my mentors. Most people find my prices very reasonable with the average gun I cut at only \$800-\$1495. Pricing depends not on the material I cut, whether stainless steel, brass, blue steel, etc., but on the amount of detail, background, and coverage. In addition to my engraving I offer refinishing, in Nickel plating, gold plating and blueing.

Guns, knives, All Firearms engraved to your order. Doubleguns, rifles, revolvers, knives, pistols, jewelry, scrimshaw, zippo. Engraving greatly enhances the value and collectability to these.

All work is still done by hand. Gun, knife and Firearms engraving with a hammer and chisel. David is one of the few engravers that still engraves the old fashion way.

Your source for high grade engravers, engraving, engraver David Wade Harris engraves shotguns, pistols, rifles, knives, knife, handguns, and all types of metals. All art work is original and signed.

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www.dwharris.com (http://www.dwharris.com)

Links to some like minded websites:

Armsvault.com (<http://www.armsvault.com/>)

NRA

(<http://www.nra.org>) Texas Gun Collectors (<http://www.tgca.org/>)

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