



# In the Woods With A Hawken Gun

*A Modern Replica Hawken-style gun*

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## **“Fifty Caliber Hawken!”**

- Jeremiah Johnson

**L**ove them or hate them, every mountain man or buckskinner worth his possibles bag has owned one of the Hawken replicas from Thompson-Center or CVA at some point. Most of us who show up to our first rendezvous don't arrive fully equipped and ready to go - looking like we stepped out of a mid-1820s time portal.

Whatever we have read or learned or seen in the movies has influenced our thoughts and feelings about equipment and weaponry with regard to the mountain man era. I will never forget the time I re-watched *Man in the Wilderness* as an adult - over 30 years after it first came out. I couldn't believe all the historically incorrect weaponry that was in that movie – although I will admit that the guy with the blunderbuss and the sword was definitely one of my favorites.

For good or bad, we are influenced by popular culture as much as by truth and documentable fact. Add to this that most of the common guns and rifles that were available and cheap during the time of the mountain men are astronomically expensive now, as they mostly have to be custom made. Because the nature of the blackpowder hobby has changed so much in the past few decades there are far more in-line or modern hunting muzzleloaders available versus historically accurate copies of the old designs.

In the early days of the buckskinning hobby, everyone had to have a “Hawken gun” because that's what Jeremiah Johnson wanted and Waugh! - wasn't he a real mountain man?

Companies like Thompson-Center and CVA were making their versions of the Hawken Plains rifle and churning them out by the hundreds of thousands, so there are a lot of these style rifles available on the secondary market. As a result,