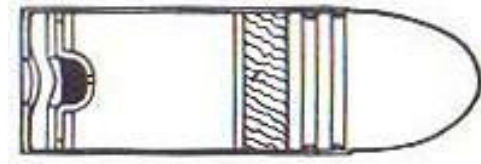


Eley's Needle Gun Cartridges. Ed:

The needle gun cartridge was first developed by Johann Nicholas Von Dreyse about 1827 and it was adopted by the Prussian Army in 1841. Though it used a paper-case, it was the first successful self-contained cartridge and the forerunner of all later centre-fire development. With his design the bolt-action firing pin would pierce the cartridge base and pass through the powder charge to strike a pellet of fulminate placed against a sabot wad under the bullet.

Progressive improvements lead to the later French Chassepot, with its composite paper case and the fulminate located within a pierced metallic cup held by a wad at the base.

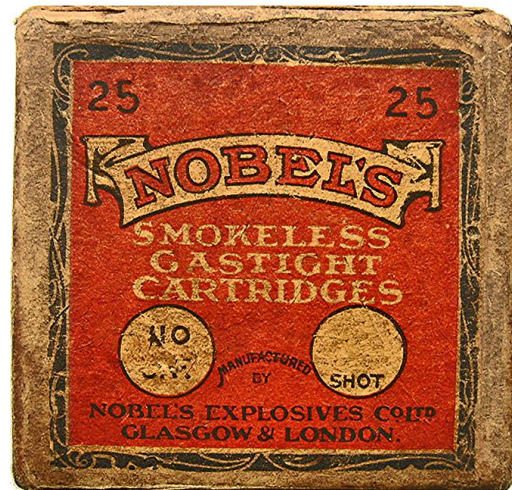
This later cartridge design was subsequently adapted to a number of light sporting guns of European origin, perhaps best illustrated by the more frequently seen Needle Gun Cartridges made by Eley Brothers from about 1850 to 1890 for use with single shot "Garden" guns.



Base construction is best illustrated by the schematic drawing above, borrowed from Herschell Logan's "Cartridges". Only the three sizes shown were made by Eley, but several other loadings such as multi-ball and blank are known, as is a less common example with the bullet ogive stamped 75 Bore on one side and 41 Bore on the other.

Examples may be found both with and without the bore size marked on the base patch, but the writer's research has found no significance attached to the blue patch color noted on some 75 Bore cartridges.

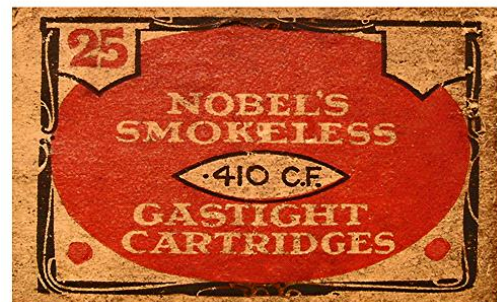
75 Bore (.41") Ball & Shot.



90 Bore (.38") Round Ball



110 Bore (34") Conical & Round Ball



With a composite brass foil and paper case the Eley Needle Cartridges were quite robust and many examples have survived to the present in near pristine condition.

This very tidy and seldom seen 410 box from Jim makes a great page filler.