



Before Christmas a Surplusrifle.com reader emailed me a hyperlink to take a look at an online video that showed a new and unique way to blue firearms. I went to the site and watched the video and was immediately intrigued by what I saw.

The video demonstrated the following process:

- Apply the supplied Blue Wonder Gun Cleaner to the surface of the firearm and then heat the surface of the firearm with a propane torch;
- Wipe off the excess cleaner;
- While the metal is still hot you apply the Blue Wonder Gun Blue solution;
- After you apply the coats as necessary to achieve the level of darkness you want, apply the supplied "developer" solution;
- After the developer has had time to work with the gun blue solution you should end up with a very dark blued firearm.

Believe me - when you combine handling firearms and a propane torch - you are just talking "fun" in my book!

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### Manufacturer's Product Description and Price

With Blue Wonder™ Gun Blue, you can have the “Hot Blue” finish, at home, quickly, easily, inexpensively and without any “Cold Blue” residual odors. Blue Wonder™ Gun Blue's unique, two part process, using 24 Carat Gold and Pure Silver, provides a deep blue luster finish that rivals any factory new or “Hot Blue” finish, and it deeply penetrates and fully bonds to the metal, so it will not wear off.

This kit contains the following:

Blue Wonder™ Gun Blue – 1 Oz.  
Blue Wonder™ Developer - 2 Oz.  
Blue Wonder™ Gun Cleaner - 1 Oz.

**Suggested Retail \$29.99**



**FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: BLUE WONDER GUN CLEANER, GUN BLUE, AND DEVELOPER.**



**A VERY RUSTY ARISAKA TYPE 38. NOTE NON-EXISTENT BLUE ON SOME OF PARTS.**

On one of my recent weekend treks I came across a rusty Arisaka Type 38 rifle sitting on the rack in a gun shop. The bore seemed to be in pretty good condition so any other problem was just cosmetic in nature and could be easily repaired. It was apparent that it needed me and could be purchased for a price less than the cost of the gas burned on the trip home (*gas is pretty expensive here*). On closer inspection I found no bluing remained on about half of the rifle's metal surface. Also there was quite a bit of surface rust, but it had not yet turned into nasty pitting.

The condition of the stock is something we won't talk about in this article other than let's just say that it has quite a bit in common with the surface of a certain celestial body orbiting the earth.

Since bringing the Type 38 home it has sat in the back of my collection awaiting the day when I would pull it out and restore it to its original beauty and grandeur. After having a conversation with Novum, my samples of the Blue Wonder Gun Blue system arrived in the mail and I decided it was time for a project. It was a beautiful and warm spring day, so I set up in the back yard on a large plastic table that my wife says I have already ruined.



**REMOVE ALL FACTORY BLUING FROM AREAS TO BE RE-BLUED. NOTE RUINED TABLE.**

<b>Supplied Instructions</b>
Wear rubber gloves to protect hands and keep oil from getting on the metal.

The instructions state that all factory bluing had to be removed from the surface of the rifle because the Blue Wonder Gun Blue will not bond to it. I tried to use the supplied Blue Wonder Cleaner to remove the bluing but was unable to, so I used my fallback of [Naval Jelly® Rust Dissolver](#) (*Naval Jelly technically being a brand of jelly containing phosphoric acid*). The process I used for removing the bluing can be found in a [short article](#) on this site. This process worked very well and also removed the surface rust from the effected areas.



**CLEAN THE ENTIRE AREA THAT IS TO BE BLUED WITH BLUE WONDER GUN CLEANER.**

#### Supplied Instructions

Liberally apply Blue Wonder™ Gun Cleaner gel again, to the areas to be blued, and “while the gel is on the surface of the metal”, use a propane torch and heat the area until it is “hot to the touch” (about 125oF to 130oF – too hot to touch but not hot enough to cause a burn). If a propane torch is not available, you can use a hair dryer or heat gun. (Remove or protect wood, plastic or composite components!) Heating the metal while the gel is on it, draws rust particles and residue out of the pores. Heat also removes moisture, expands the pores and activates Blue Wonder™ Gun Blue. This step is very important, in order to obtain Factory Blue results!

Using a clean, dry cloth or paper towel, wipe the hot Blue Wonder™ Gun Cleaner off of the metal. Do not touch the cleaned piece with your bare fingers or let it come in contact with any oil, grease or other substance as the bluing may not bond to these areas!

Now I came to the fun part of the project - ***the propane torch!*** Even now while typing the words "propane torch", it makes me smile.

Following the instructions I first cleaned the surface of the rifle with the Blue Wonder Cleaner. Then while only working with small sections at a time (*if you work with large sections the metal will most likely cool before you can apply the gun blue*), I applied a liberal amount of the cleaner to the surface and then heated momentarily with the propane torch. I heated just until the metal surface was hot (*not red hot*). I then wiped off the excess cleaner with paper towel.



***IMMEDIATELY AFTER WIPING OFF THE GEL AND “WHILE THE METAL IS STILL HOT”, APPLY BLUE WONDER GUN BLUE WITH A SOFT PAPER TOWEL OR CLOTH.***

Supplied Instructions
Apply as many coats as necessary to obtain the desired darkness. Each successive coat of Blue Wonder™ Gun Blue will increase the darkness, (minimum of 5-6; maximum of 15-16).

Next I applied the first coat of the bluing solution to the heated surface of the rifle. At first the color of the metal only darkened a small degree, but as I applied successive coats this changed. A couple things I noticed right away was that there were no horrible fumes and there wasn't any surface rust created by the application of the bluing solution. These are both common experiences when using a standard **cold bluing** product.

The instructions state that you should apply a minimum of five to six coats with a maximum of fifteen to sixteen coats. I ended up applying about nine coats to all the surfaces of the rifle before I felt it was dark enough for my liking. One thing I have got to say is you need to block out some time for this project and you need to be patient. This is not a fast process. The more time you take the better the final finish ends up looking. Another thing to note is that later if you are not pleased with the end result you can easily clean, heat and apply more coats of the bluing solution until you do get the desired darkness and finish.



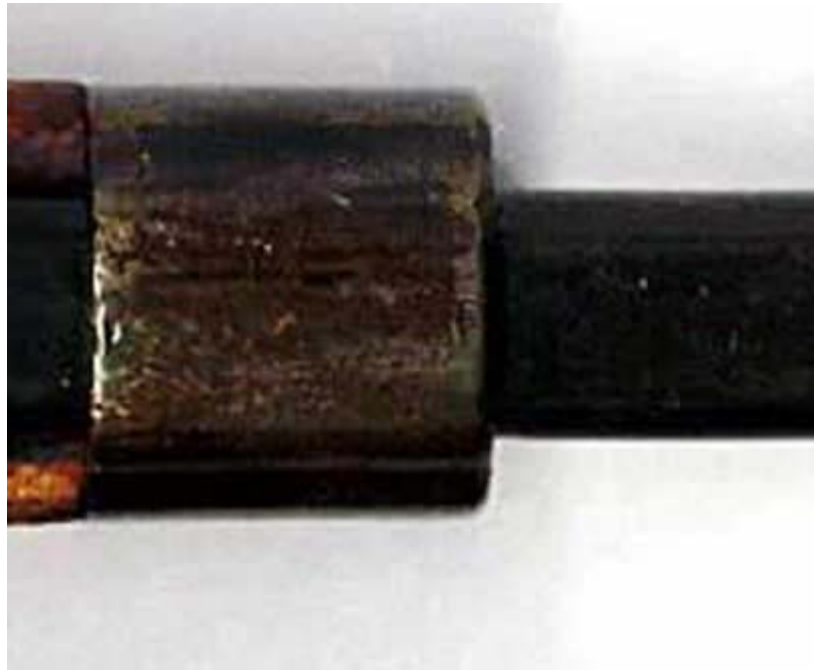
***AFTER THE FINAL COAT OF BLUING IS DRY, "SATURATE" A SMALL AREA OF A CLEAN PAPER TOWEL OR CLOTH WITH BLUE WONDER DEVELOPER AND APPLY IT LIBERALLY TO THE BLUED AREAS.***

#### **Supplied Instructions**

The developer dries and sets the Blue Wonder™ Gun Blue and brings out a deep, dark luster. Let the piece "SET" undisturbed for 6 to 8 hours so that the gun blue and developer have a chance to properly react with each other. Do not apply gun oil or other substances to the blued areas during this time. After 6 to 8 hours, apply a coat of quality gun oil such as BreakFree CLP or similar.

Shortly after the final coat of bluing dried I took a clean rag and applied a coat of the developer all over the surface of the firearm. The instructions state that you should wipe off the excess developer and then let the firearm sit undisturbed for six to eight hours. This time allows the developer to react with the bluing and I did note that the finish darkened even more as time passed. The photo above shows the rifle's blued parts (*sitting on the ruined table*) with the developer applied. Note that all the parts have a very dark, rich, and satin gloss finish.

After eight hours I applied a coat of gun oil over the entire surface of the rifle. The final finish is much, much darker than traditional **cold bluing** and less splotchy.



*BLUED BARREL IN CONTRAST TO NON-BLUED UPPER BARREL BAND.*

In evaluating the ease of use and length of time it takes to complete bluing a firearm using the Blue Wonder bluing system, I would rate this product somewhere between cold bluing and commercial hot bluing. Once you get the hang of all of the steps required it is not difficult to complete - it just takes time. The final product/finish is much darker than even my favorite cold bluing solution of Birchwood Casey Super Blue. After cold bluing there is always a slight acrid smell that seems to permeate the metal and never quite goes away. This is one way you can tell if a firearm has been cold blued. The smell does not completely go away with using the Blue Wonder product, but it is considerably less noticeable.

The photo above shows the blued barrel of the Type 38 in contrast to the upper barrel band that has not been blued. You can see for yourself that the Blue Wonder product produced an excellent and **very** dark finish.

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