Set-up Thoughts





shotshell loader and you bought your own socket set – SAE *aaaannnnd* Metric. You have calipers now. Your reloading bench turned out even better than you expected! Your new stud finder works awesome, and it's a lot prettier than your old one. Your gun closet is full and you need to build another one. Oh, and you just changed the idler pulley thing in your truck!"

And still, I avoided it. Finally, the day arrived. My youngest was at a friends' house for the day, my oldest was fishing, Mr. Moose was upside down in my Kingsized bed snoring with the rhythm of the rain hitting the steel roof and I had just made a cup of fabulous S'mores coffee. Let's do this.

I opened the box, pulled out the instructions and looked for the rest of them.... Surely there was more to it than this. There was what looked like a Quick Start Guide for a moderately complicated toaster in my hands. It was full color, brochure-like in structure and it said, "Get Ready to Reload!" Hmmmmm.... It also had the tagline – "It's Easy to Assemble Your New RL 550C Reloader" in bold underneath.

Not sure I buy "easy," but we'll give her a whirl. An hour and 12 minutes later, I had a fully assembled and mounted RL550C. Keep in mind at least 10 minutes of that was trying to find the right size socket for the strong mount bolts in my fancy new 301-piece socket set.... I've learned that more isn't necessarily better, sometimes it's just more. Oh, and the box they all come in weighs about 50 pounds. But it means I don't have to call my ex-husband for a size I don't have, because I pretty much have it covered.

Moving on, let's talk a little bit about expectations. My expectation was that metallic cartridge loader set up would be as time consuming and complex as shotshell loader set up. The reality was that it was significantly simpler and more straight-forward – at least with this particular model.

My expectation of the 550 was that the directions would be as good as the directions for setting up the SL900. The reality? They were better!

My expectation is that the I will have just as much fun loading metallics, thanks to Dillon, as I do loading shotshells. Check back for what I'm sure will be a positive reality about the fun and enjoyment to be had loading metallics on my pretty new 550C.

Stay tuned!

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