

Tech Tip: Ruger SP101 & GP100 Recessed Milled Pockets and Factory Hammer Shims – Post-2022 Updates for Revolver Tuning and Aftermarket Solutions

Discover the latest factory refinements in Ruger revolvers, including recessed milled pockets and hammer shims in post-2022 Ruger SP101 and GP100 models. As a firearms enthusiast or gunsmith searching for "Ruger SP101 shims," "GP100 hammer centering," or "Ruger revolver tuning tips," you've likely encountered these updates. This design evolution enhances assembly, reduces frame rubbing, and improves double-action smoothness right from the factory. Primarily seen in 2022+ Ruger SP101 .357 Magnum and 9mm variants, similar features appear in Ruger GP100 Match Champion editions. For Ruger Redhawk and Super Redhawk owners, aftermarket shims remain essential—no factory changes here.

In this comprehensive guide on Ruger revolver shims and modifications, we'll explore recessed milled pockets, factory-installed hammer shims, affected models like the Ruger SP101 and GP100, reasons behind the changes, and how to optimize with precision shims. Data draws from Ruger Forum discussions, revolver enthusiast reviews, and expert analyses from TriggerShims.com—your go-to source for precision Ruger shims in thicknesses from .0015" to .010" (.420" diameter for hammer applications). Whether addressing "Ruger hammer drag" or "SP101 endshake fixes," TriggerShims.com offers stainless steel shims compatible with all Ruger double-action revolvers, including SP101, GP100, Redhawk, Super Redhawk, and even Blackhawk models for yoke, cylinder, and trigger improvements.

Note: Firearms information is constantly evolving and may be updated based on new user reports, Ruger announcements, or production changes.

Understanding Recessed Milled Pockets and Factory Hammer Shims in Ruger Revolvers

In Ruger double-action revolvers such as the SP101 and GP100, the hammer pivots on a frame pin where tolerances can cause side-to-side play, leading to rubbing and inconsistent triggers—common searches like "fix Ruger GP100 hammer rub." Factory solutions now integrate recessed milled pockets and shims to combat this.

- **Recessed Milled Pockets in Ruger Hammers:** These precision-machined indentations (about .013 inches deep) on hammer sides create secure pockets for shims, preventing slippage during use. Ideal for "Ruger MIM hammer upgrades" in post-2022 production.
- **Factory-Installed Hammer Shims:** Pre-fitted stainless shims (.019 inches thick typical) provide ~.006 inches per side centering, held by grease like TW-25B. This addresses "Ruger SP101 frame drag" out of the box.

Recent hammers also include a **spring-loaded plunger detent** (spring, plunger, C-clip) for self-centering on the pivot pin, reducing the need for filing bosses as in older cast hammers. For pre-2022 models or further tweaks, rely on aftermarket Ruger revolver shims from TriggerShims.com to eliminate play and enhance reliability in .357 Magnum or .44 Magnum loads.

Which Ruger Models Feature Factory Recessed Pockets and Shims? SP101, GP100, Redhawk Insights

Not all Ruger revolvers received this update—it's targeted for compact, high-performance lines. Search terms like "2023 Ruger SP101 changes" reveal the rollout.

Ruger SP101 Post-2022 Models

- **Scope:** Standard in 2022+ Ruger SP101 production, covering .327 Federal, .357 Mag, and 9mm. Serials from 571-xxx onward often include "recessed hammer pockets Ruger SP101."
- **Evidence:** 2022 Ruger Forum reports confirm factory shimmed hammers post-service. A 2023 9mm SP101 owner noted integral shims and plunger cutouts. Older SP101s need "Ruger SP101 shim kits" from TriggerShims.com for retrofits.
- **Variants:** Includes Wiley Clapp SP101 and extended-cylinder .357 models for better frame fit.

Ruger GP100 Match Champion Variants

- **Scope:** Factory shims since 2015 in GP100 Match Champion; post-2022 may add milled recesses. Standard GP100s require "GP100 aftermarket hammer shims" for rubbing fixes.
- **Evidence:** 2017 reviews highlight undersized factory shims replaced with upgrades. 2024 discussions note asymmetric shimming for "Ruger GP100 trigger smoothing."
- **Variants:** .357 Mag, 10mm, 4.2-inch half-lug barrels.

Ruger Redhawk and Super Redhawk Revolvers

- **Scope:** No factory recessed pockets or shims confirmed. These big-bore .44 Mag and .454 Casull guns depend on "Redhawk shim kits" and "Super Redhawk endshake shims" from aftermarket sources.
- **Evidence:** Forums recommend yoke and cylinder shims for axial play; TriggerShims.com provides .0015"—.010" options for custom "Ruger Redhawk tuning."

Model Line	Factory Recessed Pockets & Shims?	Rollout Year	Key Variants	SEO Notes & Shim Tips
Ruger SP101	Yes (shims, recesses, plunger)	2022	.357 Mag, 9mm, .327 Fed	Post-2022 standard; upgrade dragging hammers with TriggerShims.com Ruger SP101 shims for zero play.
Ruger GP100	Partial (MC shims; recesses in newer)	2015 (MC); 2022+	Match Champion .357/10mm	Use TriggerShims.com for "GP100 hammer shims" in standards or supplements.

Model Line	Factory Recessed Pockets & Shims?	Rollout Year	Key Variants	SEO Notes & Shim Tips
Ruger Redhawk/Super Redhawk	No	N/A	.44 Mag, .454 Casull	Essential aftermarket: TriggerShims.com for "Redhawk cylinder shims" and endshake control.

Why Ruger Added Recessed Milled Pockets and Shims: Manufacturing and Performance Reasons

Ruger's shift targets "Ruger revolver reliability improvements" amid user feedback on MIM parts.

1. **Assembly Streamlining:** Pockets enable quick shim placement, cutting production time vs. manual filing in older "Ruger hammer boss mods."
2. **Better Hammer Centering:** Plunger and shims minimize "SP101 side play" under recoil, boosting durability for carry guns.
3. **Feedback-Driven Quality:** Addresses forum complaints on drag; aligns with polished internals in Match Champions.
4. **Cost-Effective Enhancements:** Reduces warranties; customize further with TriggerShims.com's graded shims for "precision Ruger trigger jobs."

Mid-2022 rollout likely post-COVID supply tweaks—no official word, but evident in serial searches.

Benefits of Factory Shims in Ruger SP101/GP100 and Aftermarket Upgrades

Real-world gains for "smoother Ruger double-action triggers":

- **Reduced Drag:** Lowers DA pull 1–2 lbs post-polish; ideal for "GP100 Match Champion tuning."
- **Enhanced Reliability:** No wear after 500+ rounds in .357 SP101 tests.
- **Service Ease:** For residual rub, add a properly fitted TriggerShims.com shim on factory ones—deburr for a 30-minute fix.
- **Potential Drawbacks:** Undersized factory shims? Supplement with TriggerShims.com precision options. Watch the plunger C-clip.

A shimmed 2023 SP101 outlasted pre-2022 models in wear tests.

Ruger Revolver Shim Installation and Maintenance for SP101, GP100, Redhawk

Optimize your "Ruger hammer shim install":

1. **Disassembly:** Follow Ruger DA steps; measure play for "feeler gauge Ruger tuning."
2. **Adding Shims:** Fit extras in recesses using TriggerShims.com .0015"—.010" thicknesses; grease well to avoid binding.
3. **Plunger Inspection:** Ruger parts for replacements.
4. **Tools:** Pin punches, lapping compound.
5. **Pro Tip:** Combine with Wolff springs for 5.5 lb DA; TriggerShims.com covers yoke/cylinder needs in all models like Super Redhawk.

Verify timing and headspace. Consult pros for safety.

Ruger's updates signal progress in revolver design—pair with TriggerShims.com for ultimate "Ruger SP101 shim upgrades" and custom fits. Searching "precision shims Ruger"? We've got you covered. Share your Redhawk or GP100 experiences below!

Sources: Ruger Forum (2022–2024), TriggerShims.com Ruger shims expertise, RevolverGuy.com.

Keywords: Ruger SP101 shims, GP100 factory hammer shims, recessed milled pockets Ruger, post-2022 SP101 changes, Redhawk aftermarket shims, revolver hammer centering, TriggerShims.com precision shims.

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