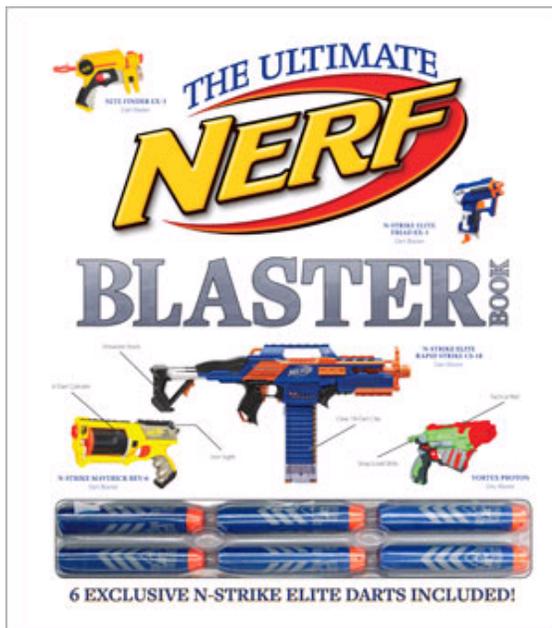




November 20, 2013

## POW! is pleased to announce the December 2013 release of **NERF: The Ultimate Blaster Book**

by Nathaniel Marunas

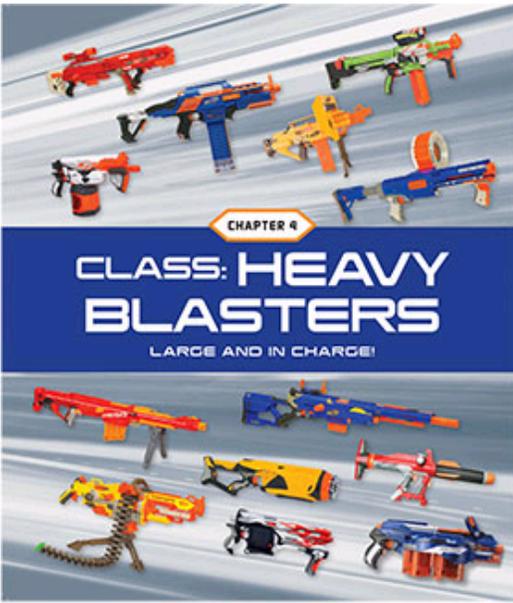


Celebrating generations of foam power and propulsion systems, POW!, an imprint of powerHouse Books, is delighted to announce **NERF: The Ultimate Blaster Book**. The first-ever official NERF blaster book produced under license from Hasbro, Inc.'s epic NERF franchise, this is a stunning visual guide to the iconic blasters and a brand synonymous with action and fun.

Pore over these pages to discover the amazing spectrum of NERF blaster designs and accessories, from the very first NERF product, a simple, orange foam ball developed nearly a half-century ago, to the birth of the blaster in 1989, to increasingly sophisticated models like the innovative N-Strike Elite series, which began in 2012, and ending with a sneak peek at the blasters of the future!

**NERF: The Ultimate Blaster Book** is a comprehensive and exhilarating tour of NERF blasters, the popular action toys. Jam-packed with striking photos and intriguing facts, this hardcover, full-color collector's encyclopedia is heavily detailed with high-energy spreads, an array of technical specifications (range, capacity, propulsion type, and more), and callouts explaining special features, as well as the in-depth history behind each blaster evolution.

Taking this lavishly illustrated book to the next level, **six special edition, collectible darts** are included in the front cover of every book. For kid and adult enthusiasts alike, this is the ultimate NERF must-have! **NERF: The Ultimate Blaster Book** will be available to purchase beginning November 19.



CHAPTER 4

# CLASS: HEAVY BLASTERS

LARGE AND IN CHARGE!



RAIDER CS-66	
TYPE: DART-BLASTING	LEVER-ACT BLASTER
PROPULSION METHOD: PRESSURE-PURGE	
CAPACITY: 15 DARTS	
RATE OF FIRE: 6-12 DARTS PER SECOND, 8 DARTS PER SECOND (LOAD, SHOT, FIRE)	
GAME TYPE: BATTLEFIELD, TAGS	
RANGE: 45-50 FEET (13-15M)	
TACTICAL MODEL: 2	
BLASTER LENGTH: 7.5 INCHES (19CM)	
YEAR RELEASED: 2001	

As when it was released, the Raider CS-66 blaster had the highest capacity of any Nerf blaster to date. The new CS start clutch allowed users to go longer between reloads, then even better. The awesome styling and size combined with the gigantic drum made the Raider model stand out from the rest. The blaster included with the Raider CS-66 blaster attachment to the left side. To reload the drum or CS, just the gripping handle back and press the clip-release button. When the drum is loaded, just the gripping handle again and tap the drum into place to power and fire the blaster using the gripping handle and pull the trigger to fire. To load the larger drum while jamming the handle, hold the left-side and a shoulder strap attachment point. The Raider CS-66 blaster isn't just a high-capacity blaster; it's also remarkably flexible.



The Raider CS-66 blaster was the first one with an attached drum clip. Separating it, simply slide them. Separating a NEW! But it was also secure a wide handle, especially anticipated by the millions of Nerf fans.

N-STRIKE 57

## THE DESIGN PROCESS: THE VULCAN BLASTER

Every Nerf blaster goes through a similar process of development, starting as a drawing in the eye of a designer and ending as a full-scale, fully functional blaster. Of course, some blasters are more complicated and require more effort to make them a reality. Perhaps the best example of this kind of high-concept, technologically advanced blaster is the Vulcan Blaster. The Vulcan Blaster CS-66, a full-size, full-featured blaster, took a year to design and develop.

**THE "BREAD BOARD"**  
The engineers took the drawings from the designers and started working on the first functioning model, a kind of "bread board" blaster built of wood parts that is called a "bread board." At this stage, a lot of "failures" are used to test the design. The bread board is also intended to aid in further development, testing, and manufacturing.



**THE "LOOKS-LIKE"**  
Based on the CS-66 drawing, the designers and engineers then created a "looks-like" model out of foam that allowed the design team to present a final look to the retail shelves. A second bread board was also built to test how the blaster would function in a real-world setting. It was also used to test the blaster's ergonomics and to make sure the blaster was easy to use and to carry.



**THE IDEA**  
The idea for the Vulcan Blaster was first conceived at a Nerf concept meeting, where executives said, "We're going to do a big, heavy blaster, something that's different from anything else we've ever done." The idea was to create a blaster that was both powerful and easy to use. The designers got to work right away to come up with drawings of what such a blaster might look like. The version that got the green light was a blaster inspired by the look of a tank.



**THE "FOAM BUCK"**  
With several months of design and testing completed, the Nerf team started to refine the design. The blaster's appearance to the outside world was, therefore, more like a "foam buck" than a "looks-like" model. The buck is used to make sure that the blaster is both functional and aesthetically pleasing. It is also used to test the blaster's ergonomics and to make sure the blaster is easy to use and to carry.



**FINISHING IN THE DETAILS**  
With several months of design and testing completed, the Nerf team started to refine the design. The blaster's appearance to the outside world was, therefore, more like a "foam buck" than a "looks-like" model. The buck is used to make sure that the blaster is both functional and aesthetically pleasing. It is also used to test the blaster's ergonomics and to make sure the blaster is easy to use and to carry.



N-STRIKE 59

## FOAMPOWER TIMELINE

The following is a timeline of the evolution of the Nerf brand blaster. It is based on the date that the blaster was first introduced to the market. It is not meant to be a comprehensive list of all Nerf blasters, but rather a timeline of the most significant models.

**1969** The first Nerf blaster, the Nerf Gun, was introduced. It was a simple, single-shot blaster that used a pump-action mechanism to fire a foam dart.

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TIMELINE 63

Nathaniel Marunas is the author of *Manga Claus: The Blade of Kringle* (YALSA Award) and *Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook, Jr.: Gross Edition*. He lives in Brooklyn, NY with his wife and 2 young Nerf enthusiasts.

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**POW!** is the newest imprint from Brooklyn-based independent publisher powerHouse Books. POW! publishes visually driven, imaginative books that bring together humor, design excellence, and a unique sensibility to delight children and parents.

**NERF Collector's Guide / Blaster Encyclopedia / Hasbro Games**

Hardcover, 11 x 12 inches, 96 pages, Ages 8-100

ISBN: 978-1-57687-641-1, \$21.95

A preview is available by clicking here: [NERF: The Ultimate Blaster Book](#)

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