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**ONLINE EXCLUSIVE
NEW FN 509
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If you want to keep track of the latest and greatest guns and gear, then our Online Exclusives are the ticket. This month, we covered the exciting new FN 509 mid-size 9mm pistol. Tank Hoover went hands-on with the polymer-framed powerhouse and put it through its paces. Want to read all about it? Visit AmericanHandgunner.com and scroll down to Exclusives to see everything going on.

**ONLINE EXCLUSIVE
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We know you enjoy *American Handgunner* for its rich understanding of heritage and history. It would then stand to reason you'd get a kick out of seeing some old articles from past issues of the magazine. We have started our "Living Archive" where we pick out an interesting article from a classic issue and repost it for your reading pleasure — and we give you a link to the online copy of the entire issue in case you want to dig deeper! Visit AmericanHandgunner.com and scroll down to Exclusives, or check us out on Facebook for updates when these go live.



CLASSIC ISSUES

Speaking of old *American Handgunner* issues, you can dig through all of them at the back of the first issue in 1976 through the year 1988. There's a lot of good reading there, so go on over to the site and start digging! We're sure you'll get pretty nostalgic taking a look at these classics, and will no doubt enjoy them as much as you do today's most recent issues! To find them visit AmericanHandgunner.com and scroll down to the bottom to click the "Classic Issues" link. Or, visit <https://americanhandgunner.com/classic-issues/classic-handgunner-editions>.



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Be sure to visit *American Handgunner* on Facebook to keep up with the latest and greatest news and info on what's going on with this title. By following us, you can stay on top of all our latest pieces as well as little behind-the-scenes tidbits of info. For example, Online Editor Mark Kakkuri recently posted a piece on his own last-ditch strike weapon and posted a link on Facebook. So, visit us and see what's going on!



FMG QUICK HITS ON YOUTUBE

If you like moving pictures with your gun geek info, check out FMG's Quick Hits on our FMGPubs YouTube channel. This month, we covered the exciting new STR-9 from Stoeger, a reasonably priced 9mm polymer-framed pistol giving you a ton of gun for your money. With 15+1 capacity and a price tag starting at around \$300,

this one definitely deserves a look! Do swing by to watch the video.

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I'm thinking most of your competition must have their eyes closed. I glance at their mags on the newsstand and it seems it's always autos, autos, autos . . . then more autos. Handgunner continues to cover round guns, and as a life-long subscriber I appreciate it! I have no doubt thousands of others do, too. Keep it up — please!

Frank Honors
Via email

United Kingdom?

Warm greetings from the not-so-United Kingdom of “less than Great” Britain. Oh, and the unlawfully occupied northern Ireland.

I've been living here a few years now and must confess English life is not at all what I anticipated. I'm tired of “socialist” everything, and the anti-gun stance clearly isn't working out well as crime is on the rampage here.

Here in England, on an English TV show, a guy — I call him a guy as opposed to a “real man” — was at a range with a firearms instructor and they shot a couple of old French cars to see the effects of the rounds on them. He first shot an old Lee Enfield bolt action rifle at the cars. Okay, so far so good. Then they got this full auto AK — but he didn't fire it. Why? Because it's “... illegal for a civilian to fire a full-auto rifle.” It's what

they call here, a “Class 5 firearm.” A big no-no. So, this English wanker, human-sheep had this chance, but didn't shoot that bloody AK — at the range, where it was set-up for him to shoot it. What was the big deal? It's not like it was a storm trooper blaster, or a laser gun. What a disappointment to my eyes — but what do you expect, they're English, and they've given up their rights and their common sense. A “Class 5 firearm?” I'm

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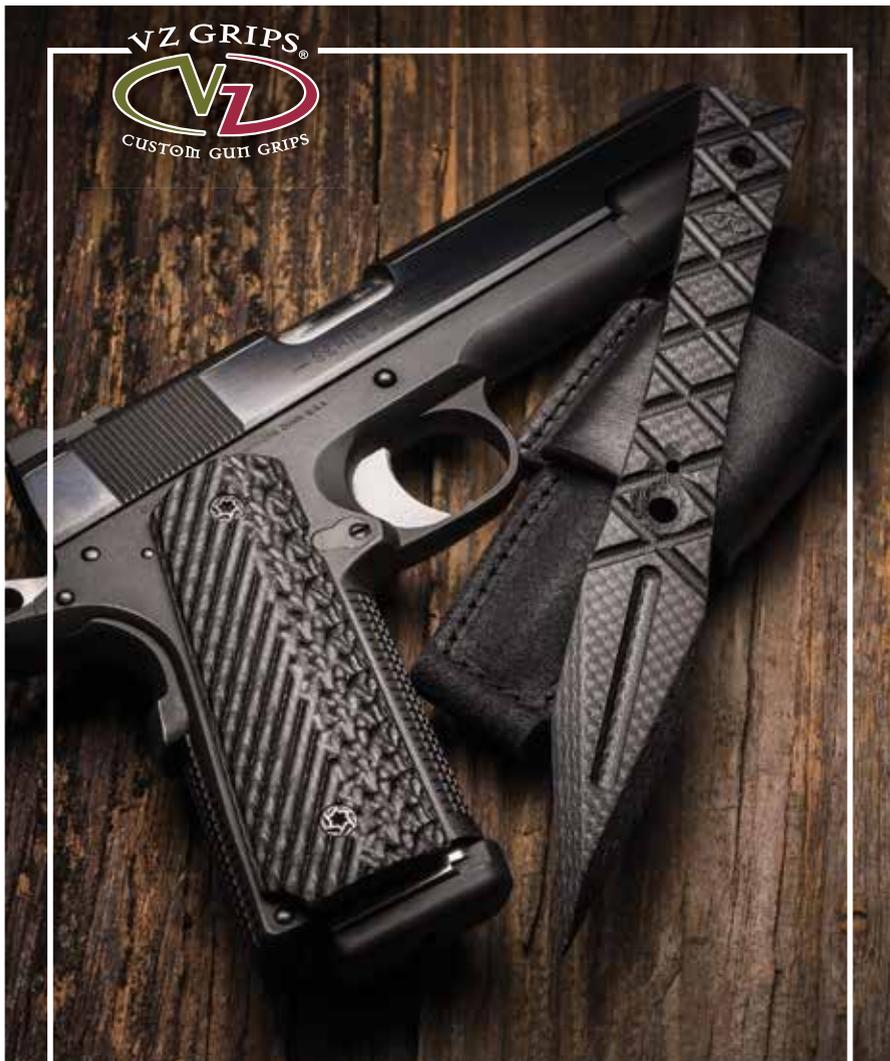
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SPEAK OUT

as it's known PPC shooting. In addition, he wrote a very informative book on the subject. *The Complete Manual of PPC* was considered by many to be the textbook on the subject. We would use it as a guide for new shooters on our department's pistol team.

A number of years ago I spoke to Officer Romero to see if I could obtain additional copies of the manual. Sadly, he told me they were out of print and was uncertain if a new edition would be published. If you can find a copy, I'd highly recommend it to anyone interested in PPC or competitive handgun shooting in general.

Today everyone, it seems, is interested in the "action" type of shooting sports and they do receive a lot of coverage. I feel, however, disciplines such as Bullseye and PPC form the foundation of proper shooting fundamentals. I often advise new shooters to "Learn how to drive the gun first before you learn how to race it."

Thanks again for a great magazine!

Det. Steve Albanese (Ret.)
N.Y.P.D. Pistol Team

Off-Duty Armed Cops

I was a bit perturbed in the aftermath of the Thousand Oaks shooting to learn six off-duty officers were alleged to be in the bar. Were none armed? Did none react? The earth seems to have swallowed up this news story. As some of you are former law enforcement, I can understand this story could prove embarrassing if these officers were disarmed by their departments' policies. Can you address this, or is this a forgotten story? Do police brass want this hushed up, lest a random shooter do it again — kill with impunity knowing California cops are disarmed off duty?

Lee Foullon
Via email

Lee, it is indeed the policy of some agencies to forbid concealed carry by off-duty officers. It's also the policy (and the law) in many states you can't be armed in a bar. A touchy bit of this too is the fact some of today's cops look upon their career as just a "job" and don't have any interest in off-duty carry. It is what it is and trust me when I say, I know lots of cops who wish they had been at the scene of this sort of thing, since they carry off-duty and aren't hesitant to engage a threat. —RH

Carry Question

I'm a devotee of the 1911, .45 ACP and am blessed to be able to pick and choose which gem I will be carrying

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SPEAK OUT

this particular week or whenever. Occasionally I like to change things up a bit and carry a USFA Bisley revolver, .44-40, in a custom Peacemaker Specialists holster. Five in the cylinder and the hammer down on an empty chamber.

My question and predicament is, I'm uncertain how to adequately carry spare cartridges. A belt with a mess of cartridges is not an option; moon clips aren't either as I need to reload one at a time. Do you have any advice?

Warmest regards — and death and confusion to the enemy!

George Farinacci
Via email

George, here's what I do in that situation. Get a Tuff Products' "QuickStrip." It's like the old Bianchi Speed Strip, a nylon strip holding five or six rounds by the case head. Just make sure you order the one matching the case head size of that .44-40. The other thing I do is toss six (or more) loose rounds into a nice belt case (nylon or leather), and I think Tuff Products has those too. Here's a direct link to what I'm talking about: www.tuffproducts.com/7002-quickstrips-black-2-set/. —RH

Contender Can-Do

Thanks for the back page article on the Contender (*Insider*, March/April 2019). I remember first seeing an ad for the Contender on a back page of a *Boys' Life* magazine in the late sixties and thought someday "I'll have one of those." Over the period of 40 years I've acquired five actions and numerous pistol and rifle carbine barrels. It really is a versatile and affordable firearm. The late gun writer Bob Milek was the best authority on the Contender, writing numerous articles on shooting and tuning it. I still reference his valuable information in my stash of past magazines.

Dan Flint
Via email

Dust Cover Confusion

For the love of God, can article authors please stop using "dust cover" to describe the forward part of the frame on a semi-auto 1911-pattern handgun? If it's a GLOCK, go nuts and use the term freely since that's what GLOCK calls it. But for everything else surely you can find a better description. In S.P. Fjestad's article ("Guns At Auction", Nov/Dec 2018), a new low was reached by him saying a "Rare Japanese Arsenal Type 1 folding stock paratrooper carbine" had a "matching dust cover." Not only is the rifle not a handgun, but it's not a GLOCK, nor is the misidentified



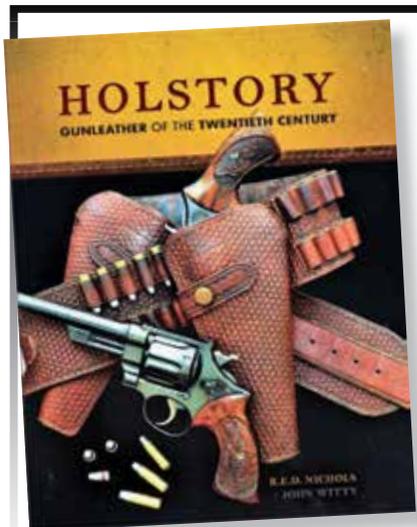
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piece part of the frame. Or maybe just start calling the whole exterior of a gun, any gun, a "dust cover." I suppose next it will become trendy to call the grip of a handgun a "handle." Come on guys, you can do a whole lot better!

M. Kort
Via email

That's actually sorta' funny, Mr. Kort and I think you missed your calling as a stand-up comedian. The "dust cover" term got traction when gunsmiths started to really customize the 1911 and needed a way to refer to that portion of the frame. It's actually no different than saying "trigger guard" or "front strap" or "grip frame." It's simply a part of the frame, just like the others.

On the Arisaka, if you find a breakdown of parts nomenclature, you'll find the part Steve is talking about is, indeed, actually called a "dust cover." Like the little trap door on the ejection port of an AR-15 also being called — you guessed it — a dust cover.

Gotta' go now — I need to put new grip frame panel dust covers on the handles of some of my semi-autos. That area is located just aft of the main dust cover and behind the trigger guard, in case anybody was wondering. —RH

Aww ... Shucks Dept.

Your magazine and *GUNS* are the only magazines making you feel like there's a personal friendship between the reader and the writers. Bringing their lives, hobbies and activities into their stories just adds to this connection. Thanks for the publications, and continue doing what you're doing!

Sgt. Jim Lieto (Retired)
Via email

Farm Carry

My brother and I teach Minnesota Permit to Carry classes here, in a very rural area. We will sometimes train an entire family, usually local farmers or rural land owners. Yesterday we worked with a local farm family and at the end of the day the question came up I had not had before — what to carry for protection from herd bulls when they're attacking someone.

I know Roy lives in a rural area and likes to be armed when doing chores. Have you ever had this question? Local dairy and beef farms all have stories of family members or neighbors and bull attacks. Some have lost family members to angry bulls and others were disabled by the attacks. The typical practice is to carry a stout stick and hit the bull on the nose if he surprises you. That will often buy a few seconds, hopefully enough to escape.

So, what commonly available caliber does one carry to drop a bull intent

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on attacking? I know people hunt dangerous game with pistols, but would they be something you would carry around the farm? A 9mm or .45 is good to carry gun but is it enough for this situation? I read stories of people fishing near bears carrying the .44 Mag.? A .410 slug out of something like a Taurus Judge maybe? Would that work here? Where is good shot placement? A “between the eyes” shot while the bull is tossing someone seems ill advised. A quick shot at the spine seems risky.

If I’m asking the wrong questions or looking at the situation wrong — maybe a pistol can’t solve this issue — educate me so I can relay the right message to my students.

Dr. Phil Godding, Ph.D., LP, LLC
Via email

It’s a good question. I’ve talked with ranchers/farmers who have had that very thing happen. It happens fast — and can be very deadly. Most actively try to keep the “tractor” or other vehicle between them and the problem while they do the work needing done. From what I can see — from hunting other big land mammals — you need a deep penetrating, large caliber gun if it’s a handgun. Hard cast, 240- to 300-gr. .44 and .45 Colt loads, or FMJ 10mm auto (or Barnes bullets) would be about the best you could ask for in a handgun. In .357 (which I think it a bit light) a 158 or heavier hard cast or solid copper Barnes type bullet might work if hit right.

Just about any decent rifle caliber would work (not the .223 sort), and I often carry a cut-down Model 94 in .30-30, keeping it handy due to pigs around here these days. But if I’m on foot, I virtually always have either a short-barreled .44 Magnum or .45 Colt (S&W or a short Freedom Arms) loaded with 240- to 250-gr. hard cast bullets at about 950 to 1,000 fps.

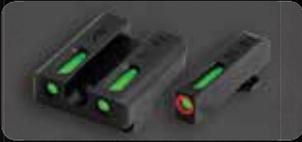
But ... the “average” farmer simply won’t carry something like that. I find it a pain at times, too. Interestingly enough, I recently posted a short piece on Facebook on what I carry around here daily. A S&W Model 25 in .45 Colt in a rugged cross draw rig is my most-used set-up. I’ve found it’s easy to carry and stays out of the way.

I’ve seen some testing done with 9mm, .45 ACP and .357 on steer. If you hit the brain they go down fine (a .22 works), but if you miss it, the rounds tend to penetrate the muscle and the animal acts like it got bit by a horsefly and either runs off or gets pissed.

The .44 calibers and .45 Colts with heavy loads tend to put them down, and/or at least distract them and they turn. A heavy .45 Colt load in that Taurus Judge



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would be much better than an 80-gr. .410 slug too. The situation is like any deadly force encounter — it's best to try to not be in that spot to begin with. I don't think there's any single "best" answer. —RH

Leave It Or Not?

Reference Mr. Taffin's question on whether or not he should restore that old Colt he found (*Sixgunner*, May/June 2019), please tell him to leave the old Colt just as it is. That old Colt wears a lot of scars — earned each one — and each tells a story. Being almost 83 I guess I'm just old school. I have a number of old Colts and love to hear the stories they tell. I have one old Colt .44-40 that came out of Mexico. The barrel has been cut to 5" and there's no front sight. Ah, the stories it tells me.

Mr. Taffin, please enjoy the old Colt just as it is and listen to its stories.

And many thanks for *Handgunner Magazine*. I get several magazines — but *Handgunner* always goes to the top of the reading pile!

Claude Matchette
Lawton, OK

Restore it John! Make it purty! We gals aren't afraid of a bit of make-up and neither is that gun, I'll bet!

Janet Ockler
Via email

Don't do it, John! It's like an old car with miles on the frame and stories to tell. An Earl Scheib paint job will only hide those stories!

Seth Glom
Via email

Have you lost your mind, Taffin? Of course you need to restore it. Hell, they restore classic art, like the fancy paintings in museums, so why wouldn't you do that to that old, decrepit sixgun? But for God's sakes, don't use one of those paint-on finishes! Ha!

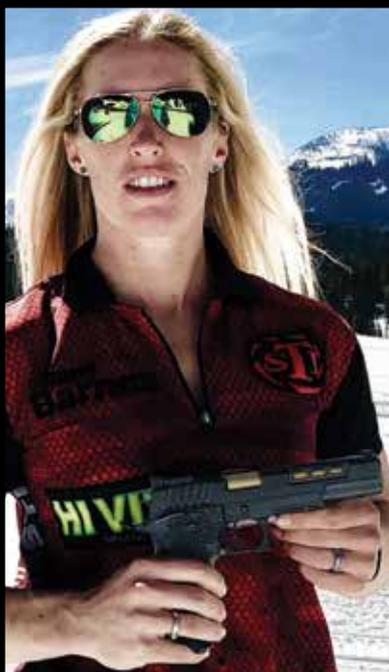
Phil Budashian
Via email

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SELECTING FINISHES— AND GREAT NEW PARTS!

For a long time in gun manufacturing and 'smithing it was "blue." Today there are more colors and finishes than in the rainbow. Spray finishes have been a boon to small shops. These finishes offer a variety of colors, along with small start up costs. They also take up less shop space than a bluing set up.

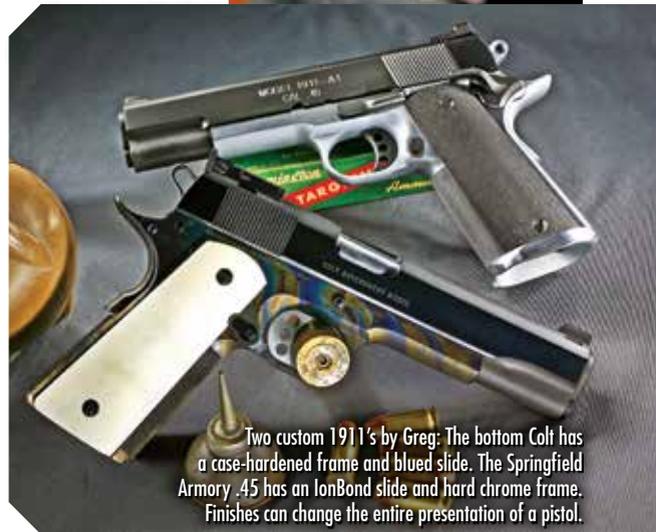
NIC Industries, creators of Cerakote, offer 150 shades to meet any need, from black to hot pink. A spray and bake ceramic coating is very easy to use, offers the 'smith an easy in-house finish, and when done properly looks good and wears well. All you need is a small low-pressure spray gun and toaster oven for handgun parts. I use the graphite black and flat dark earth colors for law enforcement pistols and have secretly used Tiffany blue for a project.

Cerakote now offers a new Elite series laying down thinner, and is harder after baking than the original H-Series. The Elite "Blackout" color is the best deep black I've used, and the thinner finish does not build up in rollmarks or serrations. Cerakote is the go-to finish for polymer pistols.

Physical Vapor Deposition (PVD) coatings use a vacuum chamber to vaporize host nitride materials and transfer onto parts. This type of coating is very hard and wear resistant, but is not cheap given the equipment used to produce it. There are many shops providing the service under a variety of names and Ion-Bond is the one I use. The black is very nice and leans toward graphite in color but is super tough. Preparation is key here, as any blemish will show up after coating.



Cylinder and Slide's new "spring" steel extractor for the 1911 fit perfectly on a Colt slide with no locking or gaps.



Two custom 1911's by Greg: The bottom Colt has a case-hardened frame and blued slide. The Springfield Armory .45 has an IonBond slide and hard chrome frame. Finishes can change the entire presentation of a pistol.

OLD AND NEW SCHOOL

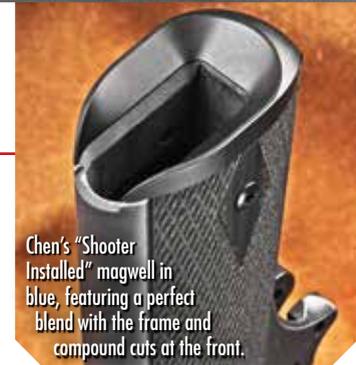
Color Case Hardening has made a huge comeback. Not just in single action revolvers but also on the 1911 and other autos. Turnbull Restoration in up-state New York offers the service for gunsmiths. He provides the "bone charcoal process" used a hundred years ago on Winchester lever rifles and Colt revolvers.

The process produces colorful blues and bronzes, is an elegant contrast against blued slides or barrels and is not a small shop process. Turnbull also offers charcoal bluing done prior to the 1930s by Colt. Turnbull, a full restoration shop, takes pride in using the original methods for both.

I think Hard Chrome is the most durable finish for handguns, at a Rockwell hardness of 65. Don't confuse it with "bumper chrome" which is thick and soft. Hard chrome

is tough as nails and elegant. It will provide a variety of sheens based on surface prep. In my shop if it's silver-toned, it's hard-chromed. The finish can be applied over carbon or stainless but it's not recommended for aluminum. APW Cogan Custom specializes in hard chrome finishing.

Titanium nitride is a gold-toned coating similar in properties to hard chrome. It's very tough and used on machine tools. For the gunsmith it offers a durable substitute to gold plating, which is soft and not durable. Richter Precision offers coating services for gunsmiths.



Chen's "Shooter Installed" magwell in blue, featuring a perfect blend with the frame and compound cuts at the front.

NEW STUFF

Stan Chen hits another home run with his new "Shooter Installed" Magwell. The new barstock SI magwell requires no machine work and features perfect Pete Single 25 LPI checkering. I tried the unit on a number of frames and it slips in the MSH grooves easily, mating with the bottom of the frame at near perfect angles. The frame is proud just enough to make for quick blending by hand. The compound curve at the front of the chute matches



Chen's "Shooter Installed" magwell is precision CNC machined out of heat-treated 4140 carbon or 416 stainless steel billets. Photo: Roy Huntington

the magazine tunnel with no sharp edges.

Chen magwells

come in blued carbon or stainless, smooth or checkered.

Bill Laughridge of the Cylinder and Slide shop makes a new extractor to last a lifetime. The spring steel extractor is made to the original 1911 blueprint with correct spring steel. Each extractor is individually hardness tested and hand polished. Designed to last upwards of 20,000 rounds, it has a perfect nose and

hook shape. Available in both series 70 and 80 styles, the firing pin plate slot is snug and can be filed or stoned. I tested it using an EGW stop plate. It fit flush on a Colt slide with no clocking and ran flawlessly with one pound of hook tension. Available at www.cylinder-slide.com.



For more info: www.cerakote.com; www.richterprecision.com; www.ionbond.com; www.turnbullrestoration.com; www.apwcogan.com; www.store.chencustom.com; www.cylinder-slide.com



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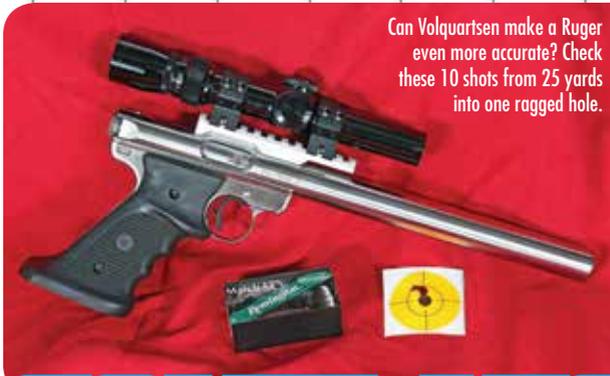
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Can Volquartsen make a Ruger even more accurate? Check these 10 shots from 25 yards into one ragged hole.



Want a challenge? Then hunt squirrels with a single-shot .22. Mark's T/C Contender G2 with a tack-driving match-grade barrel makes the task easier, though!

CAN'T-MISS RIMFIRES

While small game hunting may not invoke the thrill and excitement of big game pursuits, it doesn't require expensive equipment, high-dollar guide fees, long plane rides, jet lag, expensive license and tags, and other related big game hunting expenses. And to be perfectly honest, an early morning squirrel or rabbit hunt can be most gratifying and enjoyable. And, you usually get to sleep

in your own bed at night!

As a kid growing up in a rural environment, small game hunting was — and is — a way of life. My dad taught me how to shoot a .22 early on and was adamant about only taking head shots. Meat destroyed by poor shot placement wasn't acceptable. Dad also expected one shot — one squirrel. I feel extremely fortunate growing up in a rural setting where hunting was

ingrained in the culture. Back in the day, when I had young eyes, open sights were the rule. Today, optics is a necessity. Hitting small targets with consistency requires practice — with a gun and ammo capable of delivering the goods. This year I plan on doing most of my small game hunting with two very accurate handguns — a tricked out Volquartsen and a T/C with match grade barrel.

HOW NOT TO MISS

Several years ago, Volquartsen turned this Ruger Mark V into a nail-driving machine. The 8½" stainless steel bull barrel adds weight and is very easy to shoot. Those target grips with both thumb and heel rest are most comfortable, and the non-slip rubber grips with checkering provide a secure and consistent grip. Volquartsen also fitted their Picatinny scope mount for optics. Other embellishments include a trigger kit assembly and extended magazine release. I fitted the Weaver 1-4X scope. The other gun is the single-shot T/C with an older Custom Shop 15" barrel with match chamber. It wears rubber grips and the forend is topped with a Burris 2-7X scope.

Both guns provide the level of accuracy required for precise shot placement whether small game, vermin such as ground squirrels, or target shooting is involved. It seems no matter how old I get, my thirst for accuracy

never subsides. Not only are these rimfires super accurate, they're super fun!

I'm guilty of falling in to a habit of shooting only centerfire handguns. My wife and I made several trips to the range recently shooting a variety of centerfire revolvers and single-shots. We shot .357 and .41 Mags in our revolvers and 6.5 Creedmoor in the single-shots. I noticed Karen would only shoot a few rounds and became disengaged. So, the next trip to the range our .22's were the only guns brought. She enjoyed shooting these handguns much more and our shooting sessions lasted longer.

I can't think of a better way to stay tuned-up than by shooting rimfire handguns. You can work on the fundamentals of shooting like breath control, consistent grip tension, sight alignment and trigger squeeze, and not burn up a lot of money doing it. Many of us often forget the fun and enjoyment from a good .22. The reward from considerable trigger time on a .22 translates instantly into better big bore shooting. Believe it.

BUILDING BLOCKS

In the past, I've seen beginning handgun hunters purchase a big bore handgun because it's what someone recommended. Frankly, it's not ideal for inexperienced handgunners to start with a .454 Casull hand-

cannon. With a good .22, you can learn proper techniques and basic skills more easily and less expensively. Once familiar with the basic fundamentals, it's easier and more natural to work up the ladder to centerfires.

If you want to skip the "flinch" — begin with a rimfire. And, if you really want to hone your skills for fall big game seasons, hunt squirrels with

a handgun to stay sharp. You never know what position you'll be in when a shot materializes. You won't regret it and you'll likely have a lot of fun!



For more info: Ruger, www.ruger.com
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Which is more important, good sights or a good trigger? At least for me, I can get by much better with good sights and a poor trigger than I can the other way around. But how did we come to have these assorted notches, blades, ramps, posts and such on top of our handguns?

The first handgun was nothing more than a piece of pipe with a flash hole, and no sights or trigger. By the time the first revolvers arrived, things had not improved all that much as far as sights go. From the 1836 Paterson to the 1847 Walker, 1848 Dragoon, 1860 Army and 1851 Navy, all had a tiny bead front sight matched up with a small V-notch cut in the top of the cocked hammer. Remington did a better job with their first .44 percussion revolver by using a top strap with a trough cut down the middle for the rear sight matched with a very thin front sight. But even these sights were still too small.

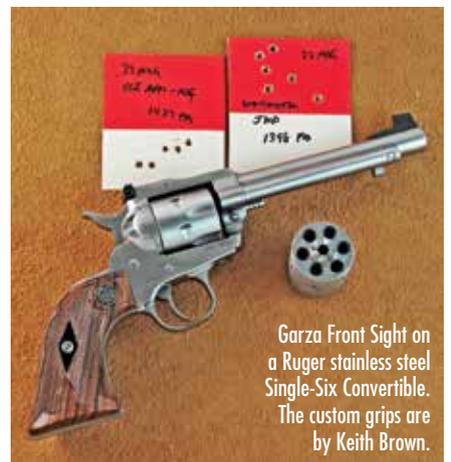
Colt looked at the Remington when they produced their first Single Action Army and included the top strap, but the tiny sights consisted of a small V-notch rear sight and a thin tapered front. By the time the 2nd Generation and 3rd Generation Colt Single Actions arrived they had at least improved them to a square notch rear sight matched up with a front sight of uniform width rounded off on top. Ruger pretty much followed this style of front sight with the introduction of their .22 Single-Six in 1953.

Sights on single-actions improved with the introduction of the .357 Blackhawk in 1955 with a fully adjustable Micro rear sight and a ramp front sight. Ruger really did it right when they came out with the .22 Super Single-Six in the early 1960s. The rear sight was adjustable while the front sight was an undercut post. This same style of front sight was found on the .357 Maximum Blackhawk, some long-range .44 Magnum Blackhawks, as well as on the .22 semi-autos. With the coming of the .22 New Model Single-Six, Ruger went back to the ramp-style front sight.

CATCHING SIGHT

When it comes down to it, my eyes much prefer a Patridge-style front sight, which is a square black post matched with a square notch rear sight. Now all of us can have this style front sight custom-made to specific heights

Continued on page 73



Garza Front Sight on a Ruger stainless steel Single-Six Convertible. The custom grips are by Keith Brown.

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REVOLVERS AND HOME DEFENSE IS 'OLD-SCHOOL' STILL EFFECTIVE?

In the “old” days almost everyone had a “wheel gun” sitting in the sock drawer at home, carried in a leather holster — or sometimes just shoved into a pant’s pocket. It was what was most available then. But revolvers for defensive use are not for beginners — and if you want to learn to shoot a revolver start with a .22. Revolvers seem simple, but are more challenging than autos in almost every aspect. Most new shooters are recoil sensitive and almost all of the revolver’s recoil is absorbed by your hand. With an auto a lot of recoil is soaked up by the operation of the gun.

Some of the worst “training” scars I’ve seen occurred when new shooters fired their first shots with a medium- or large-bore revolver. Plus, factory revolver triggers are heavy, requiring up to 12 lbs. of pressure. Even with a trigger job the DA weight of the trigger — which is the only way you shoot — will still be about seven lbs. For shooters without much hand strength a smooth trigger stroke is difficult to achieve, especially over long periods of time.

There are many reasons revolvers are ideal for home defense. “But,” you say, “they’re old and ‘famous’ for their lack of stopping power.” Yes, they’re old, production on what we know as the DA revolver seriously began in the early 1900s. The fact they are old is precisely why they’re still in use today — it’s a proven design.

NO STOPPING POWER?

To cure the “lack of stopping power” simply use defensive ammo. Prior to modern HP ammo, most everyone used military type ball ammo, designed to penetrate without transferring much of its energy into the body. Some used “wadcutters,” a pure lead round with a flat nose, which was supposed to expand, but often didn’t penetrate enough.

Pair up modern defensive ammo with a revolver — which come in impressive calibers — and you’ve got a proven package. Just keep in mind no pistol does a good job of stopping threats. Multiple shots — usually three to four — will probably be required. However, .357 and .44 Magnums do perform better than other calibers, including the various autos. As long as you do your job, the five-, six-, seven- or eight-

VERSATILE

The wheel gun is extremely versatile, unusually so when it comes to “fit.” Since revolvers come in a variety of sizes it’s easy to switch back and forth between a small compact gun for concealment, like an S&W J-Frame, and larger K-, L- or N-Frames to fit any needs yet maintain consistency in platform, operation and caliber.

It’s easy to swap out stocks too. For a home defense revolver where concealment isn’t an issue larger stocks may be a better fit, or softer stocks with more cushion for repetitive training and practice or even smaller stocks to fit the hands

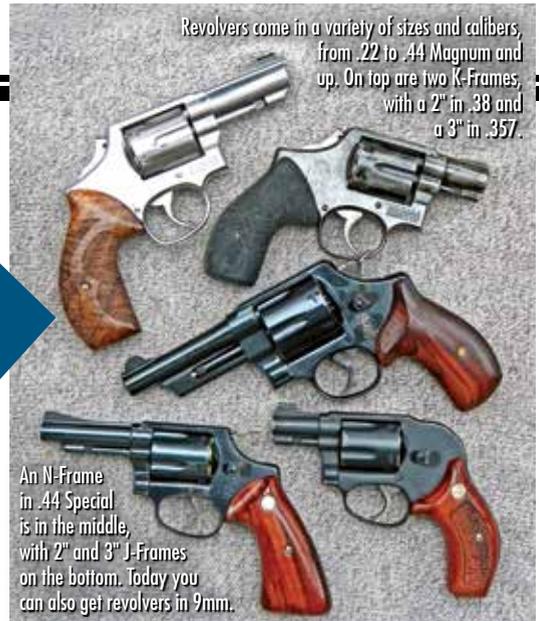
of another family member. A definite advantage with magnum calibers is the ability to shoot “special” loads during training, greatly reducing recoil and fatigue in the weapon and your hands. An added benefit of most new model revolvers is the ability to attach lights and lasers. Revolvers are versatile, and easily configured for carry and home defense.

Revolvers are “old,” but when paired with modern ammo they are great defensive weapons. When I’m not teaching and have to carry a semi-auto I’m usually wearing revolvers. Should you decide to go down the revolver path get instruction. Revolver manipulations are complex, and none of it is instinctual. To load, unload and reload you can

keep it in the strong hand, or transition it to the support hand. There are multiple ways to carry ammo too.

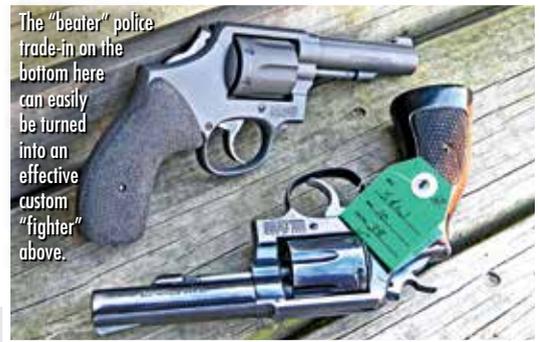
Even if you don’t plan to own one, you should get some instruction on how they work. It’s a good idea to know how to handle any type of weapon and there are a lot of revolvers out there. Plus, they are fun to shoot, and for you it may be something new — with an old design.

Revolvers for self-defense are not for beginners, or what I call “amateur” defensive owners, those who get little or no training, and less practice. However, in the hands of knowledgeable, experienced shooters they are very effective — and one of their best roles is in home defense.



Revolvers come in a variety of sizes and calibers, from .22 to .44 Magnum and up. On top are two K-Frames, with a 2” in .38 and a 3” in .357.

An N-Frame in .44 Special is in the middle, with 2” and 3” J-Frames on the bottom. Today you can also get revolvers in 9mm.



The “beater” police trade-in on the bottom here can easily be turned into an effective custom “fighter” above.

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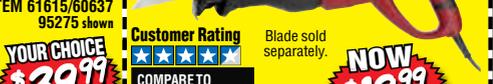
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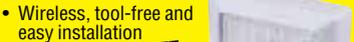
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Customer Rating
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• Great outdoor accent lighting



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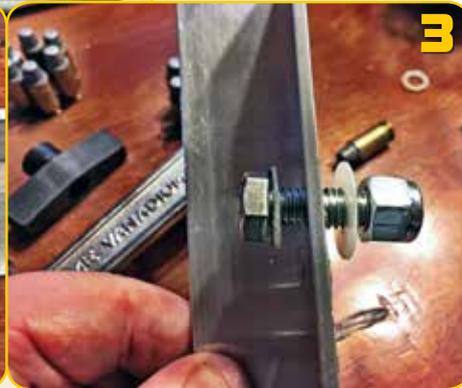
TANK'S MODULAR MOON-CLIP LOADER

Anyone who's ever loaded moon clips by hand knows firsthand how true those words are. Moon clips allow us to shoot rimless cartridges in revolvers by providing head space with a metal clip. It's these clips, resembling Kung-Fu throwing-stars — and just as dangerous — causing all the trouble.

Next time you hear someone belly-ache about their nasty paper cut, you'll scowl and exclaim, "Ha! You have no idea what pain is until you've filleted your thumb and index finger to the bone, wrestling with a moon clip!" Chances are, they'll stare at you and walk away. Ask me how I know.

Here's a cheap, easy way to load those dastardly death-clips, blood-free and with ease. It's really not my idea, I found it on *You-Tube*, but figured I'd share it with you guys and gals so you can load-away the safe way.

You should be able to figure this out with the few pics here. Basically, you run a bolt through the aluminum making sure the head is the right distance from the side. Then you put a clip over the bolt head and feed in a case. As you turn the clip (with a wrench under the aluminum) the back wall of the angle cams the round into the clip. Magic, if you ask me!



1 Here's everything you're going to need. Two wrenches, a bolt with the same head-size as the inside of your moon-clip, some nylon washers, a nylon lock nut and a handle. This sort fits right onto the bolt head.

2 A top view so you get the idea where to run the bolt through. That's 1.5"x1/8" aluminum angle.

3 The nylon washer that goes against the bolt head may need to be turned down. It needs to be bigger than the bolt head but smaller than the moon clip recesses, so it doesn't interfere with the cartridge rim.

4 Attach the handle so you can turn the bolt. As the

clip rotates, the cartridge that rubs against the back wall will be seated in the clip.

5 With five already loaded, it used to be pretty tough to get that 6th in. Now, as the clip turns as you rotate the handle below the tool, the case slips

right into the slot. Presto! Extra hole is because it took Tank a time or two to get the spot right!

6 To get fancy, line up the rounds ready to go and just feed, twist, feed, twist and you're done in a few seconds. 



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NON-ESSENTIAL ESSENTIALS



CLEAN AND LUBE

All of my straight-walled sixgun cartridges are sized with carbide sizing dies. Those that are not are first sprayed with Hornady One Shot Case Lube. This lube is wax-based so there's no problem contaminating primers. I've also found it to be helpful for sizing straight-walled cartridges before sizing with carbide sizing dies. By spraying these cartridges first it's much easier to size the cases even though it's not necessary. Actually, I find it very necessary now as I don't have the strength I once had in my hands.

Two other essentials on my bench are Outer's Crud Cutter and ordinary Q-Tips. Sizing dies and shell holders can become gummed up pretty quickly. A shot of Crud Cutter cleans them out quickly with the Q-Tip reaching into hard-to-get-to spots. The spring-loaded snap-in accepting shell holders in single stage presses often fills up with a heavy black gunk of lube, fired primer residue and tumbling media. It's quite surprising to see what comes out of this slot when it's sprayed with Crud Cutter and a Q-Tip is used.

There are certain items absolutely necessary for handloading. The list is shorter for the reloader than for the handloader. Yes, there's a difference although we often use them interchangeably. The reloader is one who loads the same ammunition over and over again. The handloader is an experimenter constantly looking for better loads, tailoring different loads for different situations.

The reloader must have a quality press and a set of dies, a powder scale and a powder measure to set it with. The handloader must add what I call nonessential-essentials. Some of these we may be able to get along without, however they make life so much easier. This includes at least three loading manuals. On my bench you'll find the current manuals from Hodgdon, Hornady, Lyman, Sierra, Speer and Western Powders. I load for virtually every handgun cartridge as well as several wildcats and many rifle cartridges. So you'll find dies from Hornady, Lee, Lyman, RCBS, Redding and even a few

like Lachmiller and Herter's which are both long gone.

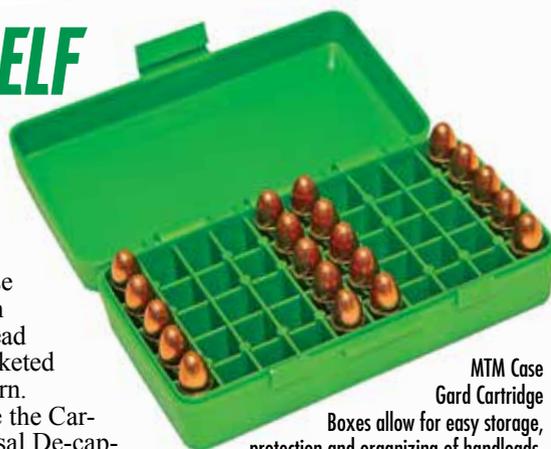
I've been using the RCBS Pro 2000 since it first came out so I not only have shell plates for every sixgun cartridge but also a long list of 20 die plates each holding four dies so I can seat and crimp in separate operations. I load a lot of cast bullets so I always have the latest *Lyman Cast Bullet Handbook* as well as my friend Glen Fryxell's excellent and comprehensive book on cast bullets entitled *From Ingot To Target: A Cast Bullet Guide For Handgunners*.

When I started reloading/handloading I got most of my cartridge cases by first shooting factory loads and using the same cardboard boxes for my handloads. They didn't last very long and I was very happy to see the first plastic cartridge boxes. Life became much easier when MTM arrived on the scene. Their sturdy plastic cartridge boxes have hinged lids snapping shut securely. They are tailor-made for all different cartridges. Some of those for larger cartridges even have a carrying handle.

TREAT YOURSELF

Some final "essential non-essentials" include the Lee Universal Expanding Die for opening case mouths to accept bullets. Most rifle dies are two die sets with no provision for expanding the case mouth. This die is helpful when using cast bullets, preventing lead shaving when seated. Some jacketed bullets can also be quite stubborn.

Two others from Lyman are the Cartridge Case Gauge and Universal De-capping Die. The latter is handy for removing spent primers from black powder cartridges while the Gauge is especially helpful for checking to see if semi-auto cartridge handloads are in spec. If they aren't they will not fully enter the gauge. It's much easier to find oversized cases this way than when in the field or at the range!



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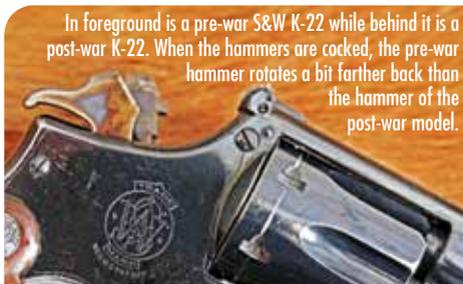
THE LONG VS. THE SHORT OF IT

In a letter to *Handgunner* reader Jens Jensen commented, “Roy ... I read the book he (John Taffin) suggested, *The Secrets of Double Action Shooting* by Bob Nichols. Nichols kept raving about the prewar long action vs. short action S&W revolvers.” Jens went on to suggest he’d be interested in an explanation of the difference between the two. Here goes, Jens.

Short vs. long action refers to the arc swung by the hammer when cocked and fired. The long action hammer moves slightly farther back when cocked, and swings through a slightly larger arc when fired. Seems hardly enough to get excited over but in the early post-war era the topic generated many a heated argument.

S&W began contemplating the redesign in the 1930s. Bullseye shooting was virtually the only competitive handgun sport. Shooters competed in three categories: .22 rimfire, “Any Centerfire” which in practice meant .38 Special, and .45 ACP. While there were some quality .22 autos at the time (e.g. Colt Woodsman and High Standard) they weren’t very popular with target shooters.

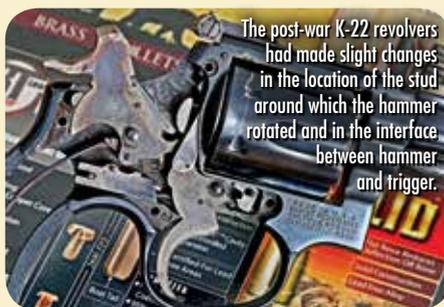
The “Any Centerfire” category was dominated by S&W K-Frame and Colt Official Police frame .38 Special revolvers. I wasn’t there at the time but I knew someone who was, the late Col. Charles Askins Jr. In *The Pistol Shooter’s Book* (1953) Askins wrote, “The more popular target sixgun is the Colt ... for many years the S&W company produced a revolver too light and poorly balanced. Too, the model was hard to cock when shooting rapid



In foreground is a pre-war S&W K-22 while behind it is a post-war K-22. When the hammers are cocked, the pre-war hammer rotates a bit farther back than the hammer of the post-war model.



Pre-war S&W K-22 with sideplate removed and hammer cocked. Bullseye competitors preferred to thumb cock their revolvers for every shot, even in rapid fire.



The post-war K-22 revolvers had made slight changes in the location of the stud around which the hammer rotated and in the interface between hammer and trigger.

GREAT CARE WINS OUT

A strong argument for LA superiority is observation. S&W revolvers made in the 1930s often had splendid DA pulls out of the box. The best examples, such as the .357 Registered Magnums, are considered by many the best ever made. The LA design seems to have gotten much of the credit.

I think the brutal economics of the Great Depression were the main factor. Firearms demand was low; there was no incentive to cut corners and speed production, quite the opposite. Workers wanted to keep their jobs; managers didn’t want to lose their highly skilled and trained employees. Workers could take time,

fire ... it was difficult for many shooters to cock the weapon smoothly and quickly.”

If your centerfire revolver is a Colt it makes sense to use a matching Colt in .22 LR. The Colt Officer’s Target model .22 was very popular. I own an example made in 1937 and it is indeed a superb revolver. S&W was rightfully proud of the quality and accuracy of the new K-22 introduced in 1930–’31. Often referred to as the “Outdoorsman” (take that, Colt Woodsman!), it sold quite well despite the Depression, with 17,117 produced from January 30, 1931 to December 28, 1939 (from *History of Smith & Wesson* by Roy G. Jinks).



Top, Colt Officer’s Target Model, bottom, S&W K-22. Target shooters preferred the Colt.

S&W PUSHES BACK

Having archrival Colt dominate competition no doubt irritated S&W and they began redesigning the K-22 to answer shooter concerns. January 25, 1940 they released the K-22 Masterpiece with a newly designed click adjustable rear sight and a new short action intended to improve lock time, make cocking easier, and allow cocking without the shooter having to alter his grip. Then a little matter called World War II intervened. According to Jinks only 1,067 of the revised model were made. Production ended December 12, 1940 as S&W diverted all its efforts to military production.

After the war S&W reintroduced the short-action K-22 with a heavier ribbed barrel, with sales beginning December 13, 1946, followed by the K-32 and K-38. In 1948 the Military & Police transitioned to the short action, followed by the N-Frame revolvers around 1949.

The merits of long vs. short action for DA shooting were hotly debated for years — and still are — 70 years after the last long action S&W was made. LA enthusiasts argue the longer fall of the LA hammer provides reliable ignition with a lighter mainspring. Another LA claim is the mainspring is compressed over a longer rotational arc. As a result the LA can provide a lighter and smoother DA pull.

After shooting both styles fairly extensively I can’t say I find either system notably better. Trigger movement and especially trigger reset are key factors in fast, accurate DA shooting. Trigger travel is the same with either design. It’s my belief a light pull is of no advantage when it comes with a sluggish trigger reset.

for example, to pick through hammers and triggers to find an exceptional match. Great care could be lavished on fit and finish.

I’ve noticed the same dynamic with other makers such as Colt, Savage and Winchester — virtually custom-made, hand-fitted quality at production prices. It was really just a rare moment in time, a fluke of circumstance. I suppose it is human nature to forget the misery and hardship of the Depression and remember the few bright spots.

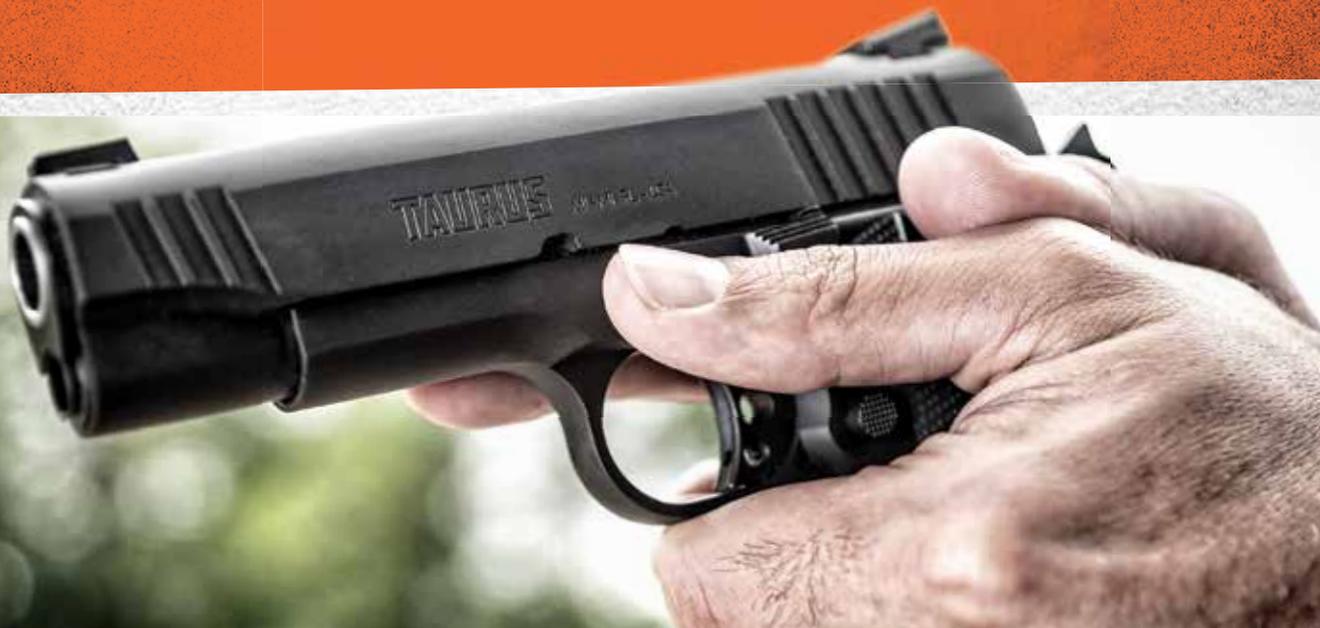




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The FN Hi-Power was made for decades round the world, including under Nazi occupation during World War II.



BROWNING AND FN'S INDEFATIGABLE 9MM

A HIGHER POWER

I was saddened to hear Browning discontinued the Hi-Power in 2018. It was ahead of its time when introduced in 1935, and still as practical an autoloading pistol as you can get at its demise 83 years later. Beyond being a great design, it was also a trendsetter with its 13-round magazine making it one of the first, if not the actual first, double-column 9mm pistols.

The Hi-Power was John M. Browning's last design. He passed away in 1926 while residing in Belgium and working with the *Fabrique Nationale* firm. At his death, another talented firearms designer at FN named Dieudonne Saive took over.

FN's Hi-Power was introduced almost a decade later.

A WORLD-WIDE WEB

A little-known fact among modern handgunners is the Hi-Power was truly international in both manufacture and usage. FN had Hi-Powers in full production for only five years when the German Wehrmacht invaded Belgium. When the dust settled, the Germans instructed FN to continue production of it under the name 640b. Less formally, it was called the P35, short for *Pistole 1935*. Tens of thousands served in both *Heer* (army) and *SS* hands.

Around the same time, a Canadian firm with firearms manufacturing capability was tasked with duplicating them for issuance to the armed forces of Great Britain, China and Canada. This was the John Inglis Company Ltd., of Toronto. However, there was a problem. The engineering drawings were in Nazi-occupied Belgium. It's believed some FN-made Hi-Powers were reverse engineering by Inglis' draftsmen.

The Hi-Powers ordered by the Chinese from both FN before the war and Inglis during the war are very interesting. They have tangent rear sights graduated to 500 meters and were issued with wooden shoulder stocks also serving as holsters. Logically, the British and Canadian ordnance officers who placed orders for Inglis Hi-Powers considered the shoulder stocks and tangent sights as ridiculous. Their Hi-Powers had a simple notched rear with dovetailed front blade.

Post-World War II, FN continued to make Hi-Powers, and according to

Three versions of Browning Hi-Powers. At left is an FN and middle is a Canadian Inglis version made for a Chinese contract. Both are World War II production. At right is a modern Hi-Power.

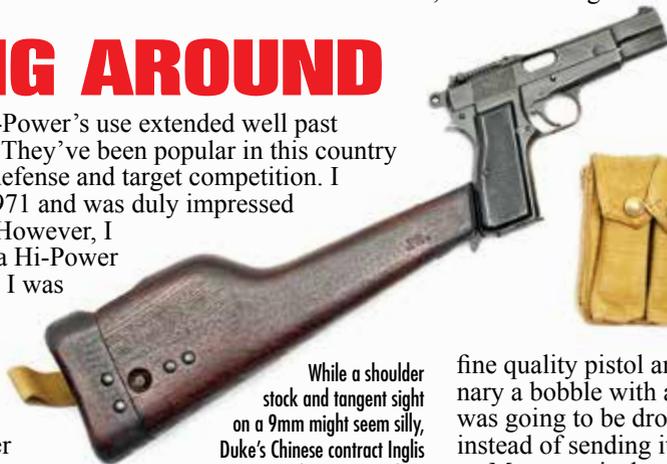


the book *Military Small Arms of the 20th Century* by Ian Hogg and Charles Weeks, no fewer than 55 nations adopted the pistol for their armies. If Hi-Powers are not still in some military organizations' holsters today, I'll eat John Taffin's hat.

COMING AROUND

The Browning Hi-Power's use extended well past military service. They've been popular in this country for decades for defense and target competition. I fired my first one in 1971 and was duly impressed with its fit and finish. However, I never actually owned a Hi-Power until about 2006 when I was putting together my World War II firearms collection. Then I purchased a Chinese-style Inglis, one complete with shoulder stock and an FN variant with Nazi stamps.

During my shooting of World War II Lugers and P38 9mms, there were occasional stoppages. The ammunition



While a shoulder stock and tangent sight on a 9mm might seem silly, Duke's Chinese contract Inglis Hi-Power is certainly an eye-catcher!

was both factory and handloads with various bullet types such as FMJs, JSPs and cast bullet RNs. Neither of my Hi-Powers hesitated with any ammunition fed to them.

In 2015 I found myself in need of a "modern" 9mm for an article, so I turned to Browning for a Hi-Power. Interestingly, its parts were produced in Belgium but assembled in Portugal. It was a fine quality pistol and, like its older military brethren, it gave nary a bobble with any sort of ammunition. If I'd known it was going to be dropped in 2018 I might have purchased it instead of sending it back when the loan time was up.

My guess is the new, curveless, blocky, soulless, synthetic pistols spelled the demise of Browning's all-steel Hi-Power. I find this to be a true shame for a gun with its pedigree that's soldiered on for so long.



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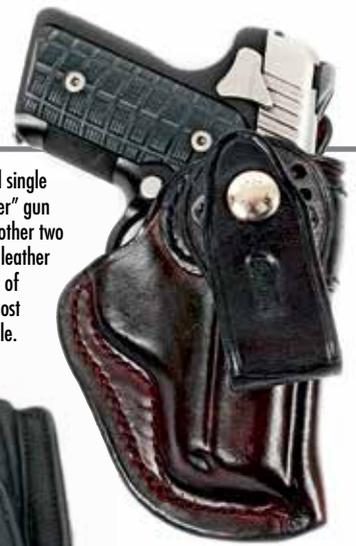
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CARRY OPTIONS

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ROY HUNTINGTON



Roy carries the LCPII pocket rig (below) and single mag pouch daily. The Solo is his "bigger" gun and rides in the Maximus (left). The other two are IWB rigs. Right: The IWB leather loop rig allows adjustment of the loop to meet your most comfortable carry angle.

TAURIS HOLSTERS

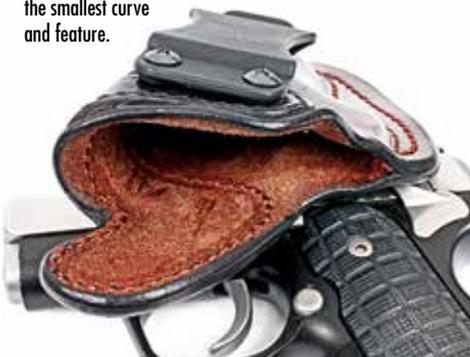
THE ONE-MAN SHOP IS ALIVE AND WELL!

You want custom? I can do custom!" laughed Mike Taurisano. "As a matter of fact, it's most of what I do, and what I love best!" Mike's been making holsters, one at a time, by hand, for about 55 years. As he said in a letter to me not long ago, "Hey, you can tell I still use a manual typewriter, but rest assured, I sew better than I type!"

Mike and I have been friends for about 25 years, and his consistent good humor, top quality work and can-do attitude is what's kept me coming back again and again. That, and the fact he makes some of the best damn gear around, anywhere — all by himself. If you call Mike and say, "Um, Mike, I need a right hand belt slide for a Desert Eagle .44 Magnum, tan with matching single mag pouch." He'd likely say, "What color tan, light or dark?" No kidding.

In today's world we're all getting used to "Oh, you can have that in Kydex or plastic, or injection molded and please order by SKU number." There's nothing wrong with that, but much of today's holster/carry product is more or less a commodity and many makers have chased it all to the lowest price possible. But for some of us, we want more than that.

Since everything is custom, Mike can add a lining or any other option you need or want. Note the attention to detail, down to the smallest curve and feature.



ORDERING

It's awfully nice to talk to an actual human being when you call to order something, anywhere, and Mike's ready, good humor makes it even more fun. Mike had a 35-year career as a police officer, so can not only talk to anybody about anything, he's been around guns and shooting and CCW for most of his life. If he can't help you with whatever your needs or challenges might be when it comes to carrying a gun — you may as well give up.

SPECIFIC RIGS

I asked Mike to make me a pocket holster for my LCPII and a mag holder (see the black pocket rig in the picture). I had been carrying it in the factory-supplied nylon holster but found it allowed the gun to shift easily, sometimes ending up sideways if I had it in a larger pocket. Mike's design (I have one for a J-Frame too) seats the gun firmly, muzzle down and it stays put. The upward "pointy" ends of the holster body tend to grab at the pocket, keeping the holster in place when you draw. The mag pouch (I keep it in my off-side cargo pocket) works the same way. And, they're not too heavy, but also not too light, if you know what I mean.

The High Ride Kimber Solo holster is another one I ordered. His latest version, shown here, called the Maximus, has a horsehide exterior, cowhide lining and sharkskin trim for a little snazz. It's a bit different from his Pro-Max model as this one has an elongated front slot and a wrap-around strap for the rear. It's easier to put on than the traditional design, and I really like the way things stay tucked up tight against you. It's my go-to strong-side rig for my Solo now.

Mike included two IWB holsters too, with slightly different designs. One has a hard plastic clip and the other a classic leather one. However, the leather one is adjustable for cant by changing screw holes so you can customize it to fit perfectly. You can see by the photos, Mike's experienced hands show in his final products. You'd be crazy not to take advantage of that if you need something really nice — special even. Give Mike a shout, tell him we sent you, and prepare to be pleased with what you get. I promise.



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When they first pinned a badge on me in 1972, carrying a gun off duty was pretty much part of the law enforcement culture. Some departments mandated it, such as NYPD and the Providence, RI PD. Most others, including mine, strongly encouraged it.

Time passes. Things change. I keep hearing from law enforcement instructors that in some of their departments, as little as 10 percent of the sworn personnel go armed on their own time. Today, I can't think of a single large law enforcement agency *requiring* its people to carry guns off duty.

Being unarmed off duty can have tragic consequences, though.

In November of 2018, a mass murderer opened fire in a country-themed bar in Thousand Oaks, CA. He racked up a two-digit death count. Able to predict where responding police officers would make entry, he ambushed them there, shooting one several times.

It turned out there were multiple off-duty policemen in the bar at the time. They *could* have stopped the murder almost immediately and they *could* have dropped the bad guy before he ambushed incoming officers.

But they didn't. Because none of them were armed.



WHY?

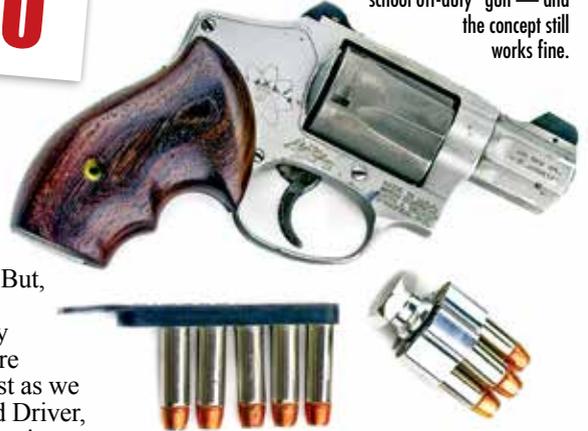
Most agencies forbid carrying a gun when under the influence of alcohol, which may mean even one drink. We all get this. But, where the law allows, wouldn't it be wise to do what we already do when we're going somewhere to consume alcohol? That is, just as we have a non-drinking Designated Driver, have a Designated Defender carrying a gun and not consuming alcohol? Perhaps even the same individual?

But none of that encompasses explaining departments where only a few of those authorized to carry do so. Department culture is a part of it. If the old heads all carry off duty, more of the younger ones will. But street police

The tiny, reliable Ruger LCP series of .380's takes away the excuse an off-duty gun is too heavy and bulky.



A feathery S&W 342 holds 5 rounds of .38 +P. With Eagle stocks and C&S sights, it's a functionally updated "old school off-duty" gun — and the concept still works fine.



work is a younger person's game, and law enforcement trends toward early retirement, leaving relatively fewer of those old cops still working and influencing the new ones.

Social trends create a complicated subtext, too. In recent years, anti-police rhetoric in the media and elsewhere has made police work less desirable. We're simply not seeing as many qualified applicants as we used to. With a smaller candidate base from which to select, law enforcement has to take more people who see it as "just a job." Many of those candidates weren't gun people to start, don't particularly like guns, and won't carry one unless they have to.

The anti-police mentality has also resulted in more anti-gun chiefs being appointed by politicians, and anti-gun chiefs don't foster a "be ready at all times" attitude.

Single stack micro-9's like S&W's Shield, left, and GLOCK 43 combine duty gun ammo with portability and concealability.



the tiny Ruger LCP .380, suddenly "It's too heavy" or "It's too hot to conceal something that big" simply aren't viable excuses. For trained protectors to render themselves helpless to save themselves, their loved ones, and yes, the members of the public they have sworn an oath to protect and serve seems to me to be reckless, at best.



For more info: *Concealment Solutions LLC*, www.concealmentsolutions.com, Ph: (385) 208-8914

REAL ISSUES

If carrying concealed when not performing law enforcement duties, cops have much in common with armed citizens in terms of carrying guns. First, there's expense. My own police *alma mater*, I'm proud to say, has issued additional handguns for off-duty/backup use since 1993. Most agencies don't, and particularly for young cops at entry level salaries, a concealed carry gun is expensive. One answer to this is simply a good concealment holster for the department-issue weapon. Back in the day, I got a lot of my cops into carrying their duty gun in a good IWB holster like the Bianchi #3, which is

still a good option today for a full-size service auto. A Black Mamba IWB holster will carry a GLOCK 17-sized pistol *with mounted light* comfortably and discreetly beneath an untucked shirt.

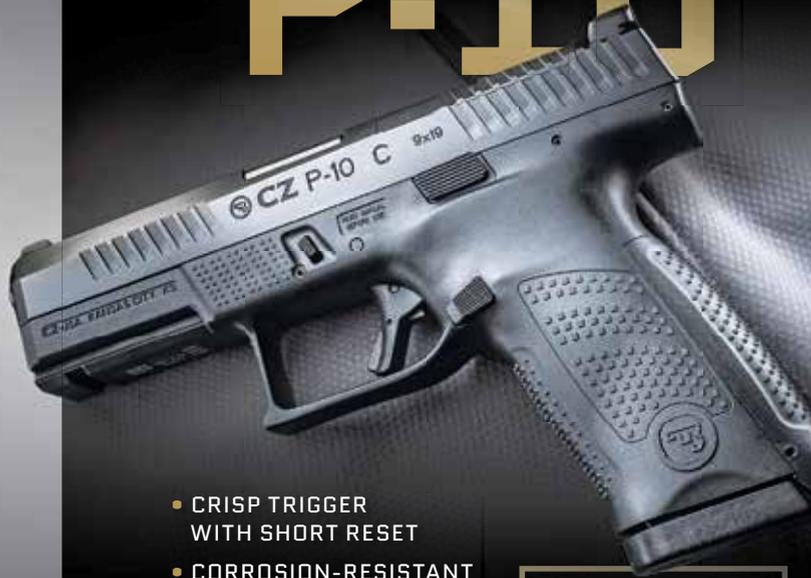
There's also the size and weight issue. It's worth reminding folks that in my time as a rookie, we couldn't dream of a 9mm auto the size of a .380, or a .380 the size of some .25 autos — but both exist today in abundance. With S&W Shields in 9mm, .40 S&W and .45 ACP, GLOCK 43 9mms, and more, and with



P-10



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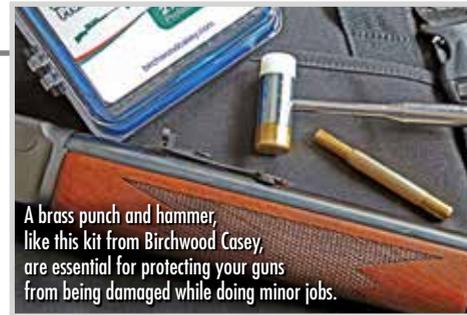
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A few of the items from my range box: Gerber multitool, Tacikka head lamp, foam earplugs, ratchet wrench with 1/2" socket, Facom metric Allen wrenches, Gun Tool from Real Avid, bushing wrench with Allen and slotted wrenches from Wilson Combat, lens cleaning cloth, small first aid kit.



TOOLS, BEAUTIFUL TOOLS!



A brass punch and hammer, like this kit from Birchwood Casey, are essential for protecting your guns from being damaged while doing minor jobs.

Since I shoot both rifles and handguns, my basic range box likely includes more than most shooters want or need. In a plastic storage-type bin I have: earmuffs, foam ear plugs, safety glasses, staple gun, extra staples, several pads of targets of various sizes, a Sinclair adjustable rifle rest, Protektor rabbit-ear rear bag, masking tape, duct tape, first aid kit, a spare cap and pair of knit gloves.

With tools and cleaning gear I try to strike a reasonable balance. It's tempting to pack along tools for all occasions. The trouble is the box gets heavy, plus I need some of the same tools when working on a gun at home. I prefer to have a few versatile multi-purpose tools I can leave in the range box. I don't plan on doing any major gun tinkering at the range, but I do want tools for minor maintenance like tightening grip or guard screws, tightening scope bases and rings or mounting a different scope.

Manufacturers keep coming up with clever toolkits and multipurpose tools. Right now in the range box I have a Gerber multitool; a steel bushing wrench which also has a couple of flat screwdriver bits and several Allen wrenches; a set of metric Allen keys from Facom; a well thought out "Gun Tool" from a company called Real Avid with several flat, Allen and Torx screwdrivers and bits, a choke tube wrench and knife blade; and a 1/4" drive ratchet wrench with 1/2" socket for heavy duty scope rings.

My most recent enthusiasm is for a kit called "The Weekender" from Birchwood Casey. The kit includes several sizes of pin and roll punches, a well-chosen selection of flat,

Allen and Torx bits, and a hammer with nylon and brass faces. Actually this is such a handy kit it mostly stays on the home workbench and I have to remember to put it in the range box. For thirty bucks this kit is an absolute bargain. Don't wait (as I did!) to get proper tools until *after* your guns have marred metal surfaces and twisted-up screw slots.

RANGE BAGS

WHAT TO BRING AND WHAT TO FORGET

Have I ever driven to the range, started setting up on a shooting bench, and found I'd forgotten an important item of shooting gear? Are you kidding? About all I can say for certain is I've never forgotten to bring the firearm, or at least "a" firearm. Also I've never forgotten to bring ammo, though once or twice it was the wrong ammo.

But at one time or another I've forgotten to bring: targets; staple gun and staples; earmuffs; timer; shooting rest; tape and/or target pasters; cleaning/maintenance equipment; tripod for chronograph screens; chronograph screens; chronograph; spare batteries for things needing batteries; cap, jacket, sunscreen, water and salty snacks. Oh, and I once forgot both cell phone *and* the new combination for the lock on the range gate.

Most regular shooters could relate similar tales. On the other hand most shooters don't have to meet a deadline, or else suffer the wrath of a tough and ruthless editor who accepts no excuses. It always surprises me how pleasant and genial Roy is when meeting the public at the SHOT Show for example, and I must admit he is a fine hunting partner as well. I imagine Generals Sherman and Patton could be pretty good company off-duty. But duty is duty and business is business. Hence my distraction and vexation at times.



Dave keeps a few cleaning items in a zippered pouch which can go either in the range box or taken along while hunting or traveling.

LEAKY GUN CLEANING

I don't keep cleaning gear in the range box for a couple of reasons. To be really useful the kit would have to accommodate bore sizes from .22 to .45. An Otis Universal kit would do it but the full kit is too useful (and a bit expensive) to leave in the range box.

The other reason is gun-cleaning fluids in the range box inevitably seem to leak. I'd rather select the appropriate clean/lube items needed for the firearm in use.

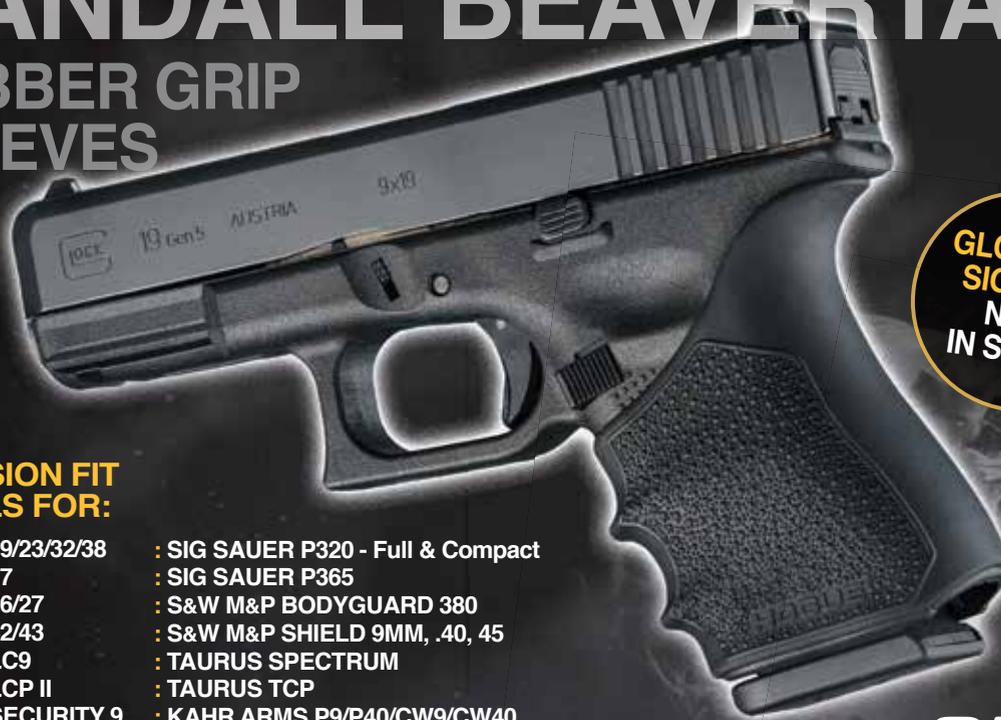
Electronic gear like chronographs, timers, weather meters, Lyman electronic trigger pull gauge, or laser range-finders likewise get packed separately as needed. Spare batteries are a good idea, though you don't want to overdo it. Pack too many and they can lay unused so

long, they'll be dead just when you need them. I almost always have a camera bag along with a few useful accessories, including a battery tester. The camera bag also has a lens cleaning kit with a soft brush, lens cleaning fluid, cleaning paper and a soft cloth. If I didn't have the camera bag these accessories would go in the range box. What'd I leave out? What's in your range box we don't know about?



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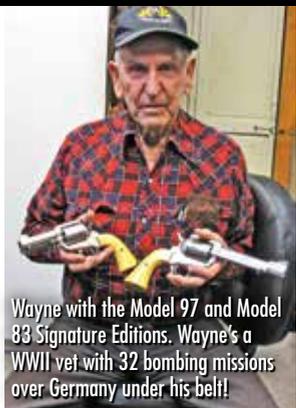
THE LEGACY OF WAYNE BAKER FOUNDER OF FREEDOM ARMS

The wide array of sixguns we have today comes from the vision of three men, namely Sam Colt, Daniel Wesson and Bill Ruger.

Both Colt and Wesson were gone by the time their companies offered the sixguns we consider classics today. Both companies built the best guns they could possibly produce to show what their companies could do.

However, there's one small company challenging all three of these companies and their combined hundreds of years of experience. This little company in Star Valley Wyoming produces what is the finest revolver ever to come from a factory. It's exceptionally strong, maintains extremely tight tolerances, and is the most powerful sixgun available in a Perfect Packin' Pistol size.

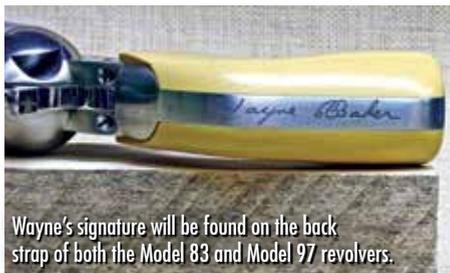
In the late 1970s an entrepreneur by the name of Wayne Baker and custom sixgunsmith Dick Casull came together to form Freedom Arms. It was my privilege to meet both of these men nearly 40 years ago and I'm pleased to call them friends. Dick passed away this past year, while Wayne remains founder and



Wayne with the Model 97 and Model 83 Signature Editions. Wayne's a WWII vet with 32 bombing missions over Germany under his belt!



Prototypes of the Wayne Baker Signature Editions of the Model 83 and Model 97 from Freedom Arms.



Wayne's signature will be found on the back strap of both the Model 83 and Model 97 revolvers.

owner of Freedom Arms. Freedom Arms produced the first .22 mini-revolver in 1979, while at the same time working on perfecting the .454 Casull Revolver.

Even before the advent of the .44 Magnum, Dick had been working on his idea of a .45 Magnum. He started with custom Colt Single Actions with 5-shot cylinders, and then built his own single actions to handle the power of the .45 Magnum. Dick came up with the .454 but it remained for Wayne Baker and Freedom Arms to actually produce it.

Without Wayne Baker the .454 Casull would never have become a factory sixgun and cartridge combination, nor would it have survived once it did. It was a long hard process taking nearly 30 years, but finally in 1983 the first factory-built .454 Casull from the new Freedom Arms factory on the Wyoming/Idaho border was delivered. From the very beginning the philosophy has been to build the best — or don't build it at all.

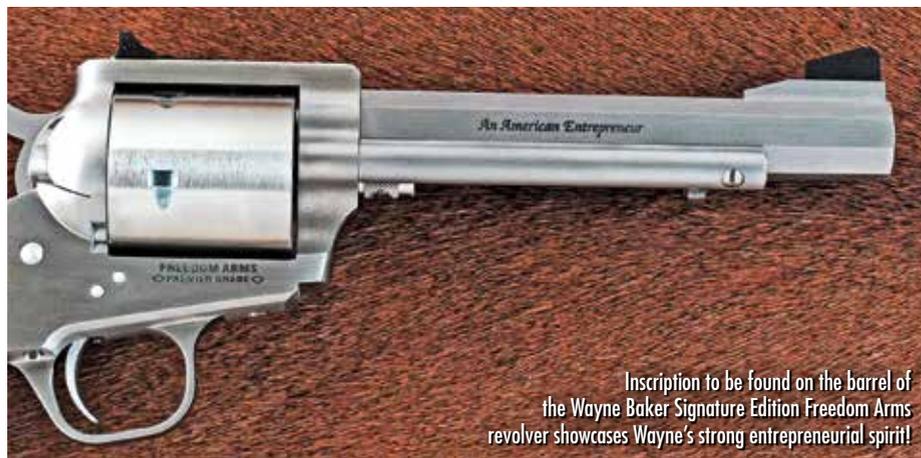
MODELS 83 & 97

Originally the Model 83, chambered in .454, was a fixed-sighted sixgun. Dick was an admirer of the Colt Single Action and intended his creation to have the same sighting system, with a square notch trough running the length of the top strap matched up with a fixed front sight. However, the Freedom Arms .454 was definitely capable of outshooting the fixed sights. Wayne wanted Dick to design an adjustable sight for the .454, however, as a pure traditionalist Dick refused.

So Wayne designed one and as he shared with me, it was so bad Dick had to design one himself in self-defense. The result was the excellent adjustable rear sight now found on the .454 and which can also be removed to accept a scope mount. Today fully 90 percent of the Model 83s sold are set up with the adjustable sight/scope mount option. The incredible accuracy of the .454, at least for most of us, can only be appreciated with the proper sights. Game-gathering 200-yard shots with scoped Freedom Arms sixguns are not unusual.

In 1997, the second Freedom Arms Revolver arrived. This sixgun is smaller than the original and became the Model 97. Both of these sixguns are built of the finest materials and the closest possible tolerances. The Model 83 is available in such chamberings as the original .454, as well as the .44 Magnum, .475 Linebaugh and the .500 Wyoming Express.

Continued on page 83

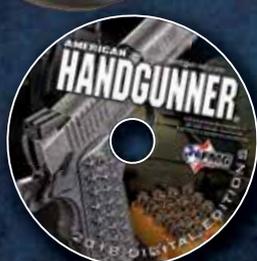


Inscription to be found on the barrel of the Wayne Baker Signature Edition Freedom Arms revolver showcases Wayne's strong entrepreneurial spirit!

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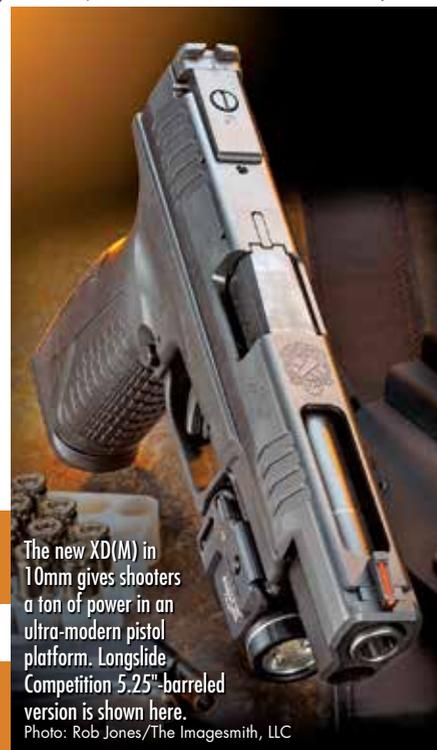
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SPRINGFIELD ARMORY'S

XD(M)

NEW



The new XD(M) in 10mm gives shooters a ton of power in an ultra-modern pistol platform. Longslide Competition 5.25"-barreled version is shown here.

Photo: Rob Jones/The Imagesmith, LLC



While still a manageable size, the 4.5" model packs in 15 rounds of 10mm in a reasonably portable package.
Photo: Springfield Armory

The Springfield Armory XD series of handguns occupies a unique niche at your local gun emporium. These weapons are short-recoil, polymer-framed combat pistols with all the bells and whistles. The grip-to-frame angle approximates the revered Colt 1911, and an unobtrusive grip safety makes the guns just a wee bit safer than everybody else's. Sizes range from tiny to massive with everything in between. And, in this newest XD(M) variant in the line we find versatility, reliability, accuracy and impressive power — 10mm Auto power, no less.

The new 10mm XD(M) comes in two broad flavors — the standard version sports a 4.5" barrel and no-sag combat sights while the Competition variant has a 5.25" barrel and adjustable target sights. Both guns run the

UNAMBIGUOUS 10MM STOPPING POWER

VILL DABBS, MD

Both pistols shot well with the three loads tested, but surprisingly chronographed about the same speeds from both length guns.



The XD(M) Competition (above) offers an extra 3/4" worth of barrel over the 4.5" version for a similar weight.
Photo: Springfield Armory

powerful 10mm cartridge. If you need to remove all the ambiguity from the timeless question of stopping power, the 10mm is your answer.

In the Beginning

The 10mm was the brain-child of the legendary Jeff Cooper. Introduced in 1983 alongside the Bren Ten handgun, the 10mm round offered flatter ballistics than the .45 ACP along with markedly more power than the 9mm Parabellum. The cartridge was originally spawned from a modified .30 Remington rifle cartridge case and offered the sort of energy numbers previously found only in magnum revolvers. Pushing a 180-gr. bullet to around 1,300 fps, the 10mm was built to be the perfect manly combat pistol cartridge. It was also, however, huge, heavy and mean.

In the aftermath of the infamous Miami Dade County FBI shootout, the Bureau traded in their 9mm and .357 Mag. handguns for Smith and Wesson offerings in 10mm. While these new guns offered plenty of horsepower, they were boat-anchor heavy and rough on the wrists. Some agents, particularly those of smaller stature, found the gun/cartridge combination to be simply overwhelming. As a result, the shorter and gentler .40 S&W round was developed and adopted.

While they say modern 9mm loadings are perfectly adequate nowadays, many of us still look back with nostalgia to the times when most serious cartridges still started with "4." The new XD(M) 10mm with its .40-caliber bullet and blazingly fast speeds offer us real power along with all the modern amenities.

Pertinent Particulars

The grip's as grippy as a Humvee tire and includes three interchangeable backstraps accommodating different hand sizes. The



push-button magazine release is perfectly replicated on both sides of the gun, and the left-sided slide release is just the right size. Any bigger and it would get in the way. Any smaller and it would be tough to run.

Magazines drop away freely with a stroke of the button.

The dustcover is railed for accessories, and the slide sports charging grooves both front and rear. The firing pin protrudes ever so slightly out of the back of the slide when the striker is cocked, and there's a loaded chamber indicator working both visibly and by feel. The XD(M)'s magnificent grip safety is unobtrusive yet reliable while offering another painless level of security. There's also a standard blade safety built into the trigger face.

The XD(M)'s 10mm magazines are crafted from stainless steel and are magnificently overbuilt. The grip

is large without being ridiculous, allowing a full 15+1 capacity. The overall effect is of a full-sized service pistol concealable underneath baggy clothes, offering a level of firepower not found in lesser guns.

Have It Your Way

The standard 4.5" barreled XD(M) 10mm is a rugged general-purpose combat pistol. The sights are sufficiently unobtrusive, allowing fast presentation, and the gun's personality lends itself to both speed and maneuverability. The low-profile sights include a fiber optic rod up front and a pair of non-luminescent white dots in the back.

The 5.25" Competition variant includes a slightly longer version of the fiber optic front sight as well as an adjustable target rear sight with glare-reducing ridges on the back. Unlike a lot of target sights, however, these still remain adequately streamlined to facilitate practical carry. The distal end of the slide is skeletonized to cut down on undue weight, ensure proper functioning and just plain look cool.

Both guns share the
Continued on page 86

The rear sight on the Competition version is adjustable for windage and elevation but is still relatively unobtrusive.



Interchangeable backstraps ensure you get these behemoths to fit small-sized hands all the way up to bear paws.

EDC GEAR

A CLOSE LOOK AT



11



3



7

MARK KAKKURI

NEW TO SHOOTING?

EDC GEAR MUST-HAVES

2



12

There's a category called "super handy gear you oughta' always have with you" but we usually abbreviate it as Every Day Carry (EDC) gear. Carrying a handgun and a folding knife? Good, you've got the basics. But a few more items will round out your daily carry gear and help you be more prepared. Not sure what to pick? Look at this list more as "categories" rather than specific products and you can't go wrong. Make substitutions according to your needs, desires — and budget — but be prepared!

1 Travel to areas or places where there are restrictions on guns and knives? A tactical pen may be the piece of gear you can always have on you. Actually, you should have one on you anyway. Schrade's tactical pen sports an aluminum body, writes well, and doubles as a strike weapon if needed. About \$30, and with its strong clip it'll hang onto your shirt pocket or pants pocket until you need it. www.btibrands.com/brands/schrade

2 Nightstick by Bayco Products offers an array of tactical flashlights, including rechargeables, and even a "mini" series fitting easily in-pocket

and in-hand. With an aluminum body, CREE LED and crenulated bezel, this light can deter a would-be attacker with its light or when used as a strike weapon. I carry this one every day. About \$30. www.baycoproducts.com

3 If you're carrying a handgun, carry a reload in a MultiHolsters Elite Quick Ship magazine holster. Designed to fit specific magazines, the Elite Quick Ship can be worn IWB or OWB (attaching with the popular FOMI clip) and sports two screws to adjust tension. Retailing for \$26.95, the Elite Quick Ship can be attached to a vest or backpack but works really well hidden on a belt. www.multipholsters.com

4 Even if you're already carrying a tactical light, consider a weapon-mounted light/laser combo for your defensive handgun. Able to flood the area in front of you with a bright light, the Truglo Tru-Point light/laser combo also sports a laser aiming system. So it's a point, see, aim deal — all with the touch of a well-located button. Available for around \$100, the Tru-Point attaches to your gun's accessory rail with a quick-detach lever. www.truglo.com

5 Drop your gun in the sand? Get caught in the rain? Unexpected range trip? The Otis Tactical



5



10

6



8



9



4

Cleaning Kit provides all the needed gear for a full cleaning of a gun, all stored in a very tidy package just a little bigger than two hockey pucks. Retails for \$60 and offers cleaning tools

for long guns and handguns, in a variety of calibers. www.otistec.com

10 Custom grips for your carry gun(s) are more than just for fun. This "Grenade" design by SGM (available for several fits, check their website for details) allows a firm, sure firing grip even if your hand is sweaty or, dare we say — bloody. SGM's line is diverse, can

be colorful and all are solidly manufactured using CNC technology, so they're a perfect fit every time. www.sgmgrrips.com

6 For all that other stuff you want to carry around, a small Maxpedition zip pouch will do the trick. Loaded with pockets and made with robust ballistic nylon and rugged zippers, this is where you can keep a firesteel and flint, multi-tool, second tactical pen, second flashlight, rain poncho, emergency space blanket, notepad and more. Be creative. Maxpedition pouches run the gamut of sizes, shapes, colors and prices. www.maxpedition.com

11 This is one of the handiest designs ever. The Streamlight ProTac uses CR123, AA Alkaline or AA Lithium batteries! At 300 lumens and only 2.8 oz. it's easy to carry, and that 90-degree head and clip means you can clip it to your belt or pocket to light your way. About \$68. www.streamlight.com

7 Carry a knife, period. Benchmade's Bugout is the sort of design or style you want. The 3.24" drop-point blade is big enough to do work, the "grippy" handle keeps it where it belongs, the Axis lock is rock-solid and the reversible pocket clip checks off all the boxes. The fact it looks great is icing on the cake. Yeah, I know, it's \$750, but you don't need to buy this exact knife, just get *something* so you can cut if you need to! Still, it's awfully nice, ain't it? www.benchmade.com

12 Who says your EDC stuff can't be classy too? These pens from Tuff Writer (a small family-owned start-up business) have proven their EDC "Tough Grade" over the past few years. Using a ground-breaking "Clicky" mechanism Tuff Writer invented, they are solid writing instruments and capable defensive weapons if needed. The "Flamed Titanium" (right) is particularly compelling! www.tuffwriter.com

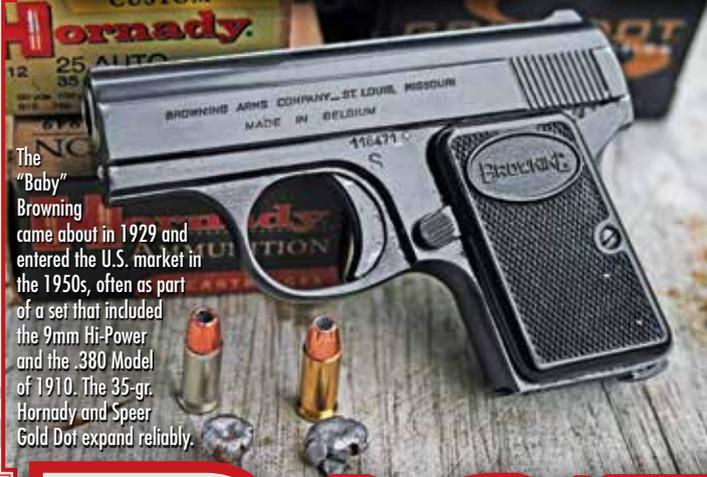
8 Ruger's LCPII certainly qualifies as an EDC item, and adding the finger grip extension floorplate enhances the grip neatly. The improved sights and slide lock at the last round turns it into a "real" gun! Holds 6+1 in .380 ACP. www.ruger.com



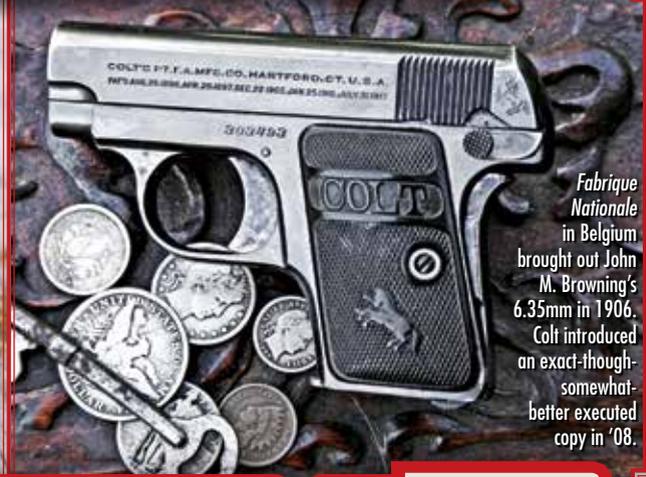
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9 Yeah, it's a pistol magazine. Why here? Because you've likely got a bunch of borderline-reliable magazines to go with your "good" ones, right? Throw the crud away and buy good ones. Mec-Gar has been making magazines for virtually every gun company around for decades. They're heat-treated correctly and only use top-quality spring stock. They have fits for any gun — and they know their stuff. www.mec-gar.com

25 ACP



The "Baby" Browning came about in 1929 and entered the U.S. market in the 1950s, often as part of a set that included the 9mm Hi-Power and the .380 Model of 1910. The 35-gr. Hornady and Speer Gold Dot expand reliably.



Fabrique Nationale in Belgium brought out John M. Browning's 6.35mm in 1906. Colt introduced an exact-though-somewhat-better executed copy in '08.

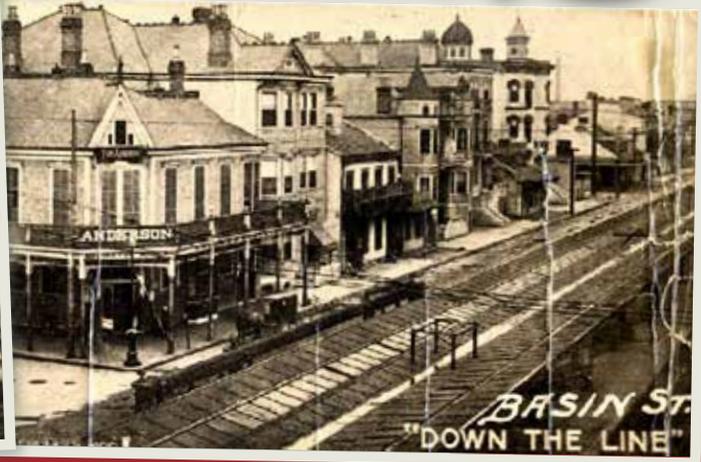
RAGTIME WONDERS

COLT AUTOMATIC PISTOL

Cal. .25 BIG BEAR—LITTLE GUN

This 300 lb. bear was killed with a .25 caliber COLT AUTOMATIC PISTOL. Proof of the POWER and EFFICIENCY of the Smallest, Lightest and Most Compact automatic pistol made. Fits the Vest Pocket; weighs only 13 ounces; possesses, in condensed form, all the advantages of a larger Arm. Read the story of this Bear Hunt in Folder No. 20, sent free with complete Catalog. COLT'S PATENT FIRE ARMS MFG. CO., Hartford, Conn.

This Colt ad showing a dead bear stretches the imagination some, reminding us of the Savage ad from the period showing their 1907 .32 ACP taking on an alligator!



BEAR-STOPPING VEST POCKET POWER?

MIKE CUMPSTON



Magtech and Prvi Partisan sell 100-round baggies of FMJ .251 Ball and virgin brass respectively. Brass in bulk is sensible since the little buggers look just like .22's on the ground. They are available in bulk at reasonable prices from online ammo sources. Your job — find 'em.

Every Era deserves its Index Fossil and no material remnant evokes those carefree days from 1890 until roughly WWI quite as convincingly as the small, hide-out handguns of the day. Picking just the right one poses a quandary due to the popularity of various safety/hammerless revolvers and Two-Dollar, Monkey Ward break-tops. But given the forward-looking optimism of the time and the current obsession with auto-pistols, John M. Browning's

.25 ACP/6.35mm smokeless cartridge of 1906 with its vest pocket pistols seems a reasonable choice. Ah! The haunting, evanescent strains of Scott Joplin's piano and Jelly Roll Johnson's harp drifting out of the Storyville of distant memory ... "Where every prospect pleases and only Man is vile!"

"Powerful?"

The legend says Browning came up with the cartridge because he could not design a palm-sized .22 rimfire pistol that would work reliably (they still don't). Early Colt advertisements promoted their vest pocket pistol of 1908 as a very powerful personal defense weapon. This had some validity but only because of the very puny performance of contemporary black and smokeless powder pocket revolver cartridges of the 19th and early 20th Centuries.

Colt's ad picturing a 300-lb. bear allegedly killed with the "Vest Pocket, the Smallest, Lightest, and Most Compact automatic pistol made" strained the concept. Pre-chronograph claims rated the 50-gr., 0.251" bullet at 820 fps, though the measured velocity of the mid-century Western Cartridge rounds at 771 fps is likely closer to actual performance. Modern factory ball averages between the high 500 fps range into the 700's, while the CCI 35-Gr. Gold Dot HP clocks 1,050 fps.

By 1940 there were one hundred or more makes of .25 ACP pistols. Many were direct knock-offs of the original Browning '06 and the identical Colt Vest Pocket of 1908. In the late '20s, an industry contest to produce the Smallest .25 auto inspired the Dieudonne Saive-designed Browning Baby which was a bit larger than the winning Walther design but the clear victor in consumer acceptance.

These watch-pocket pistols remained the most common personal handguns right up until the passage of the import bans of GCA 1968 joined hands with the constant nattering of gun writers — knocking the caliber out of the alpha position. Factory loads proving totally reliable in my Colt and Baby Browning include the CCI Aluminum Blazer Ball and the CCI Gold Dot Hollow point. These have visible crimps eliminating the problem caused by collision of the ejecting semi-rimmed case with the case mouth of unradiused loads. Applying a moderate crimp to my handloads and factory ammunition brings reliability to 100 percent and adds a bit to measured velocity.

Handloads

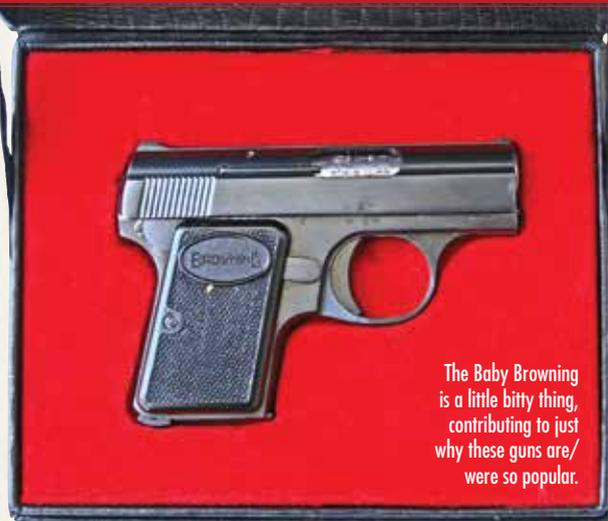
And, of course, because second and third tier ammo evaporates during politically propelled hoarding scrapes. Just look at what occurred with .22 ammo in the recent past. Ditto with the "commodity" modes of the common calibers.



Deliberate intersecting groups at 10 yards. The Browning (top) shoots a bit higher than the Colt.

There is a certain "rightness" about assembling the .25 with the simple hand equipment from Lee Precision. The die set dipper strikes off level at 1.4 grains of Bullseye, propelling the patch bullet to the mid-800 fps range with extreme spreads much like good factory loads. A dipper stoned down from a .22 LR case to 1.7 grains gives the Speer Gold Dot HP 977 fps with a 66 fps extreme spread. The 35-gr. bullet expands just as reliably in various media as the factory loading at 1,050 fps. The aforementioned moderate crimp assures reliability.

Accuracy does not differ from factory ready-roll. Best suited for rapidly delivered surgical accuracy at ranges out to 10 yards or so, the palm pistols will stay on a standard silhouette to 25 yards and



The Baby Browning is a little bitty thing, contributing to just why these guns are/were so popular.

totally ace the standard CCW qualifiers. Give it a try. Practicalities aside, those of us who like the little pistols, *really like* them — though we are hard pressed to explain why. 

For more info: Lee Precision, www.leeprecision.com, Ph: (262) 673-3075



PRESCOTT A2
673-23091

RUGER
SR1911

KOENIG

SAFARILAND

IN PISTOL
ECH
CKET TECHNOLOGY
OF USPSA
RAL
ON



MEMO

EIGHT

«RUGER CUSTOM SHOP»



SR1911

COMPETITION PISTOL

HAND-CRAFTED 9MM FUN!

ROY HUNTINGTON • PHOTOS: ROB JONES/THE IMAGESMITH LLC

“Oh, hi Paul,” I said, answering the phone. It’s always nice to hear from Paul Pluff as he’s usually the bearer of news of note. Paul is a dear old friend in the industry and Ruger’s PR/Media guru. He went to Ruger after nearly a lifetime spent at S&W, so he really knows his stuff.

“What if I told you we have something special,” Paul said — and I could hear the smile in his voice. “But you gotta’ keep a secret.”

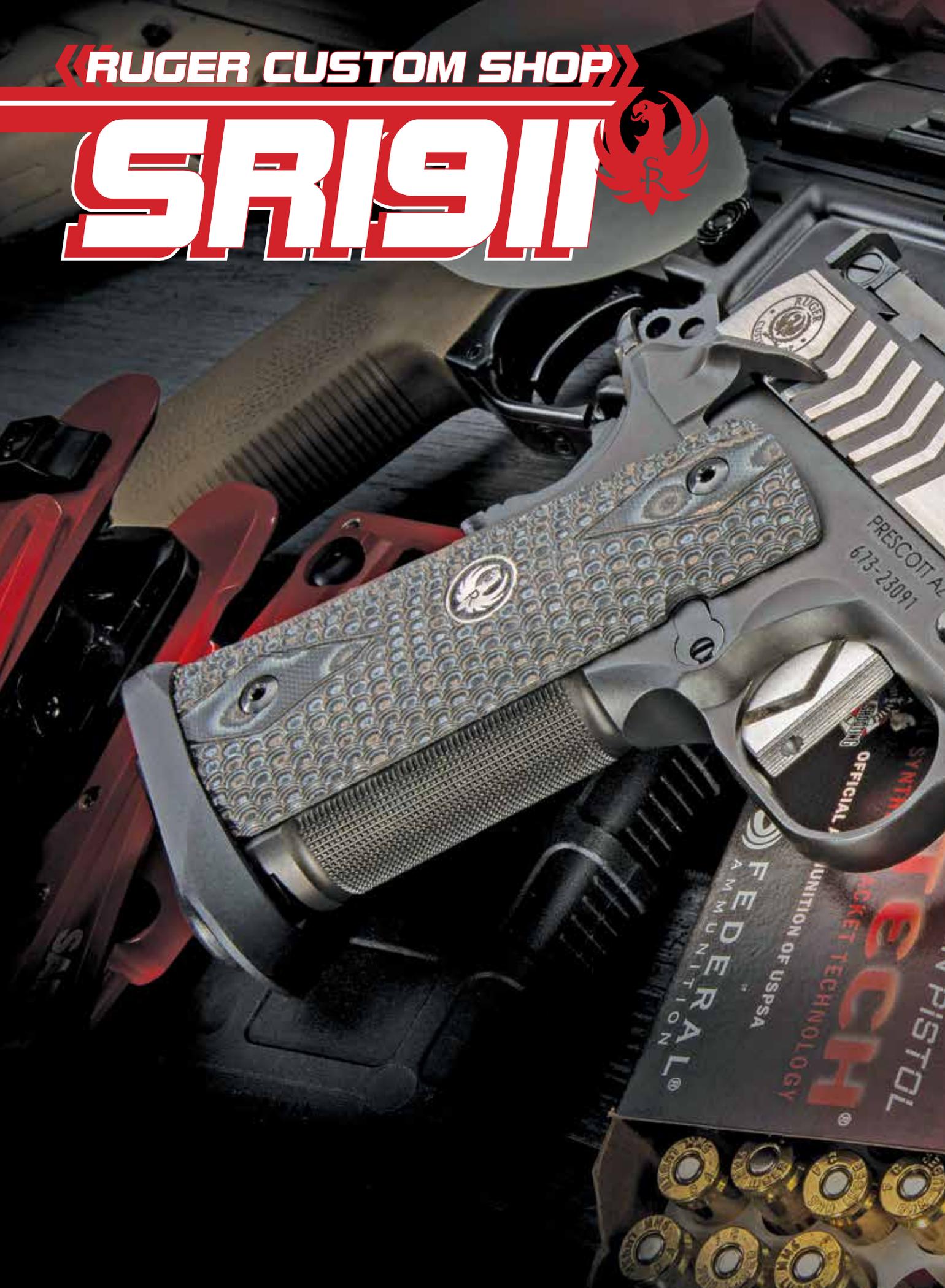
In my inside voice, I’m thinking, “Oh please, dear god, don’t let it be another polymer 9mm pistol” but on the outside I of course said, cheerily, “Oh, really? What do you have going on there — and as much as I do care for you and for Ruger, please tell me it’s not flat black and made out of plastic. Please?”

“You’re safe on both accounts,” laughed Paul. “We’ve formed a Custom Shop at Ruger — yeah, I know, Ruger has a Custom Shop? — and the first two products are dandies. First off, we’ll



«RUGER CUSTOM SHOP»

SR1911





have what's essentially a custom-crafted 10/22 we're calling the 'Competition Rifle' with all the bells and whistles. But the big reason I'm calling *you* is we're also doing a hand-crafted 1911 — in 9mm no less."

Huh? What? Wait a second. I looked at the number on the phone and it was, indeed Paul's number. Ruger, that bastion of stability, of mainstream America, "John Deere-like reliable" guns and "Oh, no, we won't do *that* ... that's, um ... pretty darn *edgy*" is, nonetheless, continuing to change what the world thinks about them. What happened to bolt action

.30-06 rifles and .357 revolvers? Now it's AR platforms, high tech materials, chassis rifles, 1911 pistols and, dare I say it out loud — a Custom Shop?

"Gads Paul, what's in the drinking water out there these days," I said. "Glad to see this sort of stuff going on at Ruger. Send it along and we'll take a peek."

The Deal

After enlightening me as to the details of the 1911 — this would have been at about the beginning of last winter — Paul assured me he'd get one right now. But I told him, "Paul, I'm not going to push this into *Handgunner*

right off. I want to live with it for a while, shoot it and let the dust settle. Then do it again. Since you're making this big leap, I want to assure myself it's right. Then we'll present it to our readers. Deal?"

"I wouldn't have it any other way Roy, and I figured you'd say just that," laughed Paul.

The deal was done.

Hanging up I looked at my two pooches, Scout and Amelie, who were watching me intently, heads cranked to one side as if trying to figure out what I had been talking about. "Girls," I said, "Uncle Paul is sending us something fun so get ready for some serious shooting later." More head cranking, looking at each other, then trotting off. I think they had the same attitude I had — let's wait and see.

The Custom Shop

Let me quote from the Ruger website: "Custom Shop products have been designed by Ruger's expert team of engineers with input from professionals in the field: competitive shooters, renowned hunters and award-winning writers. This new line of firearms represents the finest example of quality and innovation in Ruger products, built to the highest of standards. The Custom Shop will feature exclusive collectible, competition, hunting and personal defense firearms for the most discriminating of shooters."

Okay, so far so good. Most "custom shops" will often be a source of innovation and new technology, with many of their discoveries and work eventually making it into production guns. Think: Race cars sponsored by the big makers in the old days. The adage "race on Sunday and buy it in the dealer's lot on Monday" was real-world. Disc brakes, high performance engines, suspension and more were often developed for racing, finding their ways into production cars later. I'm sure this will be the same for Ruger.

Anytime you get a cadre of passionate engineers and shooters together,

RUGER SR1911 COMPETITION PISTOL

CARTRIDGE: 9MM

CAPACITY: 10+1 RDS.

BARREL: 5", CROWNED

OAL: 8.26", WEIGHT: 2 LBS., 9 OZ.

FINISH: BLACKENED STAINLESS

TRIGGER: 4 LBS., 3 OZ. (TESTED)

SIGHTS: FIBER OPTIC, GREEN (FRONT);

ADJ. TARGET (REAR)

SAFETY: AMBI

MSRP: \$2,499



the game changes. And the “new” Ruger, say, over the past 10 to 12 years, has really opened the door to innovation and breaking new ground. Today, they don’t say, “Oh, that idea is too edgy ...” They say, “Can’t you crank up the innovation and push the envelope more?” Between us, it’s likely old man Ruger would have pushed back at this. From a few conversations I had with him in the olden days, he seemed to make it clear, at least to me, Ruger was about solid

reliability, seasoned engineering concepts and steadfast designs without too many surprises.

This certainly doesn’t describe Ruger today.

The Custom Shop at Ruger also makes it clear they’re not performing individual custom work now. They say, “The Ruger Custom Shop offers an exclusive line of high-end, performance variations of our most popular models.” At the time of writing this, they have

the 1911 and the 10/22 and are working on other models.

Time Passes

During my time with the gun I shot it about 600 rounds, give or take some, likely a bit more. I also loaned it out to two friends here who shot it “some” they both said. I didn’t really “clean” it other than wiping it down and squirting some oil into things now and again. I

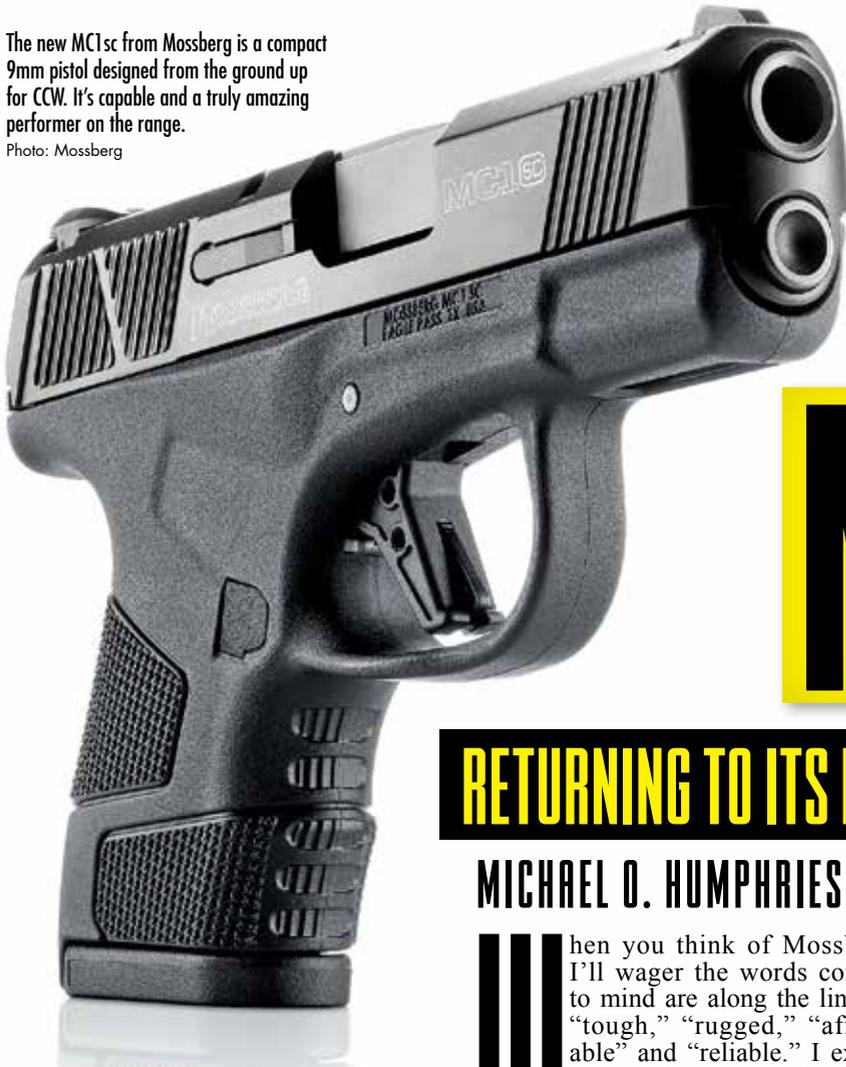
Continued on page 87



MOSSBERG'S NEW

The new MC1sc from Mossberg is a compact 9mm pistol designed from the ground up for CCW. It's capable and a truly amazing performer on the range.

Photo: Mossberg



9MM

MC1SC

RETURNING TO ITS ROOTS — WITH A PISTOL?

MICHAEL O. HUMPHRIES

When you think of Mossberg, I'll wager the words coming to mind are along the lines of “tough,” “rugged,” “affordable” and “reliable.” I expect “innovative” wasn't in there? You probably associate the brand with the tried-and-true 500 pump shotgun, a long-running symbol of solid reliability. But this would be unfair, as Mossberg has a long history of developing influential, trend-setting products. Did you know Mossberg developed and patented the cantilever scope mount system? Surprised?

Speaking of history, 2019 marks the 100th anniversary of the Mossberg brand. Interestingly enough, the first Mossberg was not a field-ready shotgun but rather a tiny 4-barreled .22 pistol small enough to fit into a pocket. I'm thinking the new MC1sc pistol is one of those “What's old is new

again” situations. Surprised with Mossberg making a pistol? So were we.

Looking Back & Forward

The result of a three-year development project, the MC1sc is made right here in the United States and represents Mossberg's move back into the handgun market. It's obviously focusing on the biggest part of this firearm segment — concealed carry. The model designation stands for “Mossberg Carry, Model 1, subcompact.”

The pistol follows a familiar format for modern handguns, featuring a polymer frame for light weight and durability and employing a striker-fired DAO firing system. It weighs in at 19 oz. unloaded, has a 6+1 capacity with flush-fitting magazine and has a starting MSRP of \$425. Variants with TruGlo night sights, Viridian lasers, etc., go up in price from there. It's also offered with an optional manual safety located just to the rear of the triggerguard. The pistol also comes with a spare 7-round magazine with a grip extension.

Look, I get it. A polymer-framed 9mm pistol designed for CCW is not

The MC1sc proved to be a good carry companion, packing comfortably in a Blackhawk! TecGrip pocket holster and with spare ammo protected by Ammo Armor mag protectors.





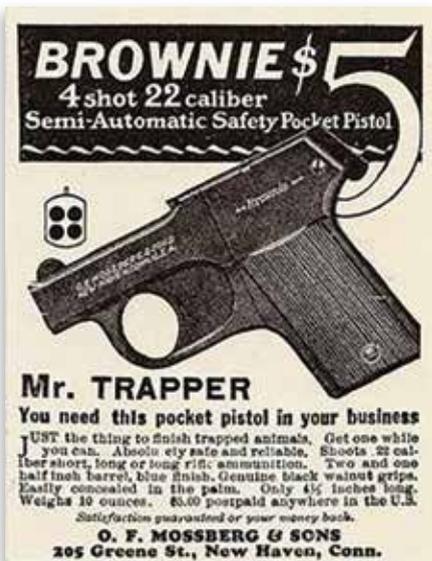
While the Mossberg has a flush-fitting 6-round magazine, it also has an extended 7-rounder as well, with a grip extension (shown).

Photo: Mossberg

The pistol is simple to breakdown for cleaning. Note the orange housing for the striker and the translucent magazine body.



Mossberg is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2019 and its first gun was actually a pistol — the four-barreled “Brownie” in .22. Photo: Mossberg



particularly revolutionary. But, making a good pistol for a good price that actually works is something notable. Also, the MC1sc does have some innovative features. What struck me first was the “Clear-Count” magazine. These translucent polymer mags have bright orange followers and give immediate visual access to the round count in a mag. I

like it. A lot.

The other notable innovation is the STS (Safe Takedown System) requiring you to unload and clear the firearm with the magazine removed and action locked open. The striker system can then be removed from the rear of the slide and the slide can then be removed for full disassembly.

Hands On

At a training event at Gunsite Ranch I was able to wring out the pistol during a multi-day course. At first blush the MC1sc might appear to be nothing unique from the rest of the market — apart from having “Mossberg” on the

slide. But we learned fast the pistol really is a standout. I put more than 800 rounds through it, and it ran without a hitch in the dusty, desert environment. I’ve seen more expensive guns from “established” handgun makers choke on less. Much less.

The Mossberg also proved to be a real shooter. Once we got a gauge on how well they could do, we started working on a smallish steel plate set at 50 yards. Most all of us were consistently hitting the plate at this distance. One shooter even nailed it five rounds in a row out of a six-round mag — and the last “miss” was just off the edge of the plate. Did I mention this gun

Continued on page 75

HEIZER'S PK045

.45 ACP IN A 9MM PACKAGE!

J.B. WOOD



Heizer's PK045 (here with extended magazine) puts .45 ACP power into a true pocket-sized auto. This is a two-tone version.
Photo: Rob Jones/The Imagesmith LLC

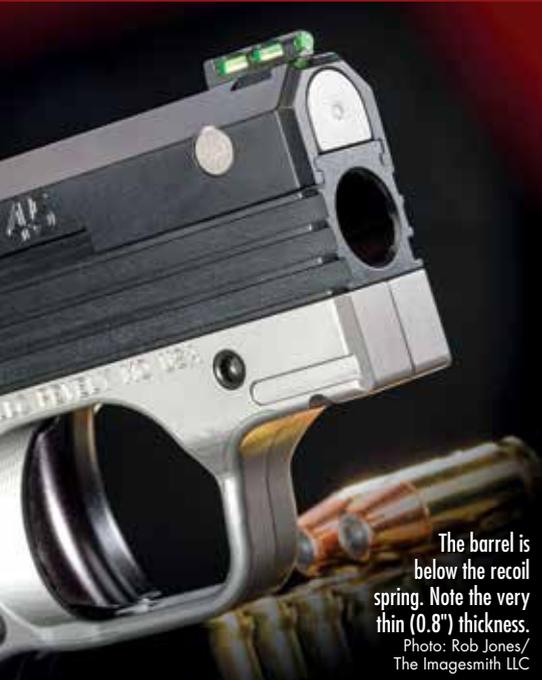
The backstrap overhangs the hand helping to manage recoil. Note the forward "grip safety" on the frontstrap.
Photo: Rob Jones/The Imagesmith LLC



It may seem impossible, but here it is. A semi-auto in .45 ACP about the same size as a 9mm compact. The design is brilliant, and the materials and workmanship outstanding. The felt-recoil is not as bad as you might think, either. And, the suggested-retail price is about a hundred dollars less than a thousand.

It's the Heizer PK045. Here at the start, I want to give credit to the design team: Charles Heizer, Tom Heizer and Hedy Heizer-Gahn. Here's an illustration of their fine attention to small details: In all auto-pistols, when the slide locks open after the last shot, the engagement of the slide latch with its notch in the slide is rather violent.

The slide latch is tempered to a greater degree of hardness than the slide. This has to be, or the slide might break during recoil. So, at the engagement point, the designers of the PK045 set *into* the slide a small block of hardened steel, solving the problem



The barrel is below the recoil spring. Note the very thin (0.8") thickness. Photo: Rob Jones/The Imagesmith LLC



The Heizer PK045, shown with the extended (7-round) magazine and the GripSwell glove. J.B. said the glove is handy if you're practicing and eases the snap of the .45 nicely.

forever. Thus, hard slide latch meets hardened slide notch.

Smart designers also look to the past. Did anyone ever do this, and did it work? Heizer went all the way back to 1907 and Nicolas Pieper of Belgium. His Bayard pistol, a very small .380 Auto, positioned the recoil spring above the barrel, an unusual arrangement, but this had two good points.

It put the barrel, and the bore axis, closer to the hand. And, it allows the recoil spring to run the full length of the top. This avoided the necessity of using a short and strong spring, making slide retraction difficult. The PK045 has both of these advantages.

Another design feature also affects the felt-recoil. At the upper rear of the grip-frame, there's a deep incurve, its depth slightly more than one inch. This sets the whole rear of the top out, onto the hand. Along with the other factors mentioned, this modifies the felt-recoil. What you get is a strong "push" along

with what I would call a "bounce" — the whole thing goes upward.

Good Thinking

The controls are well-placed. The sear-block manual safety is at upper rear, with levers on both sides. The slide latch is next, left side only, easy to operate. Next down and forward is the magazine-release button, not reversible. Below, on the front-strap, a small grip-safety lever blocks the trigger until you grip it.

The trigger is wide and smooth, with no silly flipper-safety. On the Lyman electronic gauge, the pull on my gun averaged 6.5 lbs., just right for a personal defense pistol. There's a tiny amount of trigger take-up, a clean break and practically no over-travel. The front of the trigger-guard is rounded, and there's a small rail up front for a light or laser.

The PK045 is made entirely of Aerospace Stainless steel and the all-black finish on the one shown here is durable PVD. There's no separate grip panels but the frame sides are textured in a circular pattern giving a good hold. The PK045 is not striker-fired — there's a pivoting hammer inside. And, good, deep slide serrations make retraction easy.

On a smaller self-defense pistol, I think sights are of less importance. Heizer sees it differently. These are excellent. Both are dovetail-mounted, so windage-adjustment is possible. They are three-dot, square-picture, with fiber-optic inserts. Red at the rear, white-circled green at the front. Really visible, even in low light.

Shooting: Ouch Or Not?

Getting ready to try out the PK045 at the range, I knew a fixed-barrel
Continued on page 72



The manual safety is shown off-safe. The hardened contact-insert in the slide for the slide latch is the small square silver bit in the slide rail.

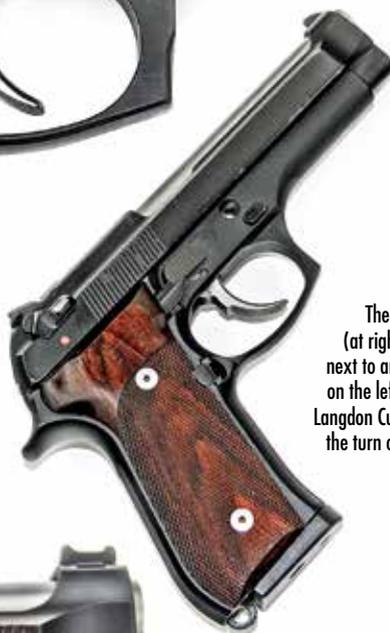


The Heizer PK045 field-stripped into four components, not counting the 5-round magazine.

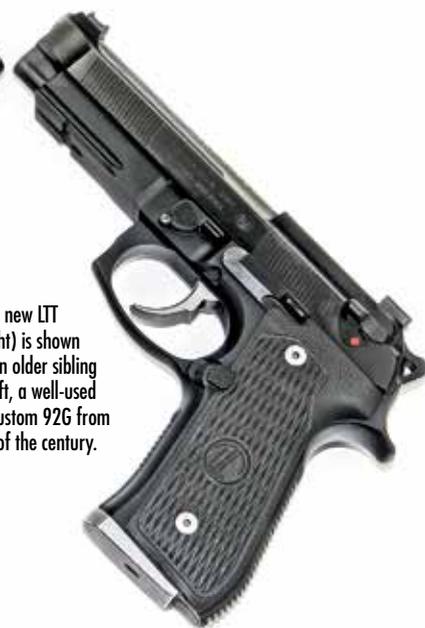
A BETTA' BERETTA



The 92 Elite LTT from Langdon Tactical Technology takes the popular Beretta 92 pistol and amps up its performance.



The new LTT (at right) is shown next to an older sibling on the left, a well-used Langdon Custom 92G from the turn of the century.



The LTT's a shooter. SIG V-Crown 124-gr. JHP is shown here, shot at 25 yards.

In the world of defensive handguns, Beretta is a name to conjure with. And in the world of its popular Model 92, the same's true of the name Ernest Langdon. A world champion in practical shooting, he's known as a gold standard provider of specialized parts and customized pistols through his firm Langdon Tactical Technology LLC — known simply as LTT.

LTT has partnered with Beretta to build the 92 Langdon himself always wanted them to make — the 92 Elite LTT in 9mm. They started with an M9A1 frame and topped it with a Vertec slide with the desirable dovetail for interchangeable front sights. LTT put a fiber optic in that spot, grasping

Upgrades include thin G10 grips for better gripping and a slimmer shape as well as forward slide grasping grooves.



LANGDON TACTICAL'S 92 ELITE LTT 9MM

MASSAD AYOOB • PHOTOS: GAIL PEPIN

The LTT starts with an M9A1 frame with a dustcover rail, shown here with a SureFire X200 light. Mas tested the pistol with these three loads.



Langdon gives the Beretta improved checkering on the frame and an extended mag release.



grooves on the front of the slide as well as the back, and attached thin G10 grips with extra checkering for a better grasp. To round it out, the trigger guard area is radiused to prevent finger bite, the frontstrap checkering is enhanced and an extended magazine release is included. While you now have an idea of the outer shape of the new Elite LTT, the real value is inside.

Heart Of The Beast

This particular pistol had the Langdon action tune, bringing the price up to \$1,165 from the standard MSRP of \$999. I was glad I ordered it this way. The innards include a Wilson Combat trigger bar — a collaboration between Langdon himself and Wilson's project development guru Jared Phillips. Langdon told me, "It's made of harder material, machined out of bar stock and expensive to make. The over-travel stop is on the front side, which also slightly reduces reset length. The back of the trigger bar has a slightly larger pad, which cocks the hammer back a little farther in DA for

full energy primer strikes. Of course, I polish the insides throughout."

On-safe carry is largely out of vogue with traditional DA pistols like this one, so Langdon makes them as the market mostly wants, in the decocker-only format Beretta dubbed G-style. However, where the original 92G could not be modified back to the safety/decock lever format of the F-series, this one has an ambi-decock lever allowing for such conversion because, as Ernest told me, "Some customers do prefer the manual safety option."

The feel of the LTT's stainless steel trigger is the heart and soul of the pistol. The double-action pull measured 8.16 lbs. and 4.06 lbs. in single-action. In a word, it's smoo-ooth. Yes, the DA pull is long. This just means you start pressing a bit sooner, as soon as the sights are on target as you press the gun forward for the intended shot. The SA press is a short, palpable roll giving you notice the shot is about to break, culminating with a clean, crisp release of the sear and almost no noticeable backlash.

The target-grade barrel is crowned like the now-coveted Beretta Elite II of the early 2000s. Beretta 92's have always been accurate pistols, but Langdon told us, "Beretta's move to Tennessee included some improvements in manufacturing capabilities, and tolerances are the best ever. They lock up really nice and shoot exceptionally well."

Accuracy

Testing encompassed shooting the three most popular bullet weights for the 9mm chambering from a 3M rest on a concrete bench at 25 yards. Each group was measured for both overall 5-shot spread, and the best three hits. The first gives a good predictor of "shootability" from a solid position, while the latter factors out enough unnoticed human error to give a very good approximation of what the same gun/ammo combo will do from a machine rest.

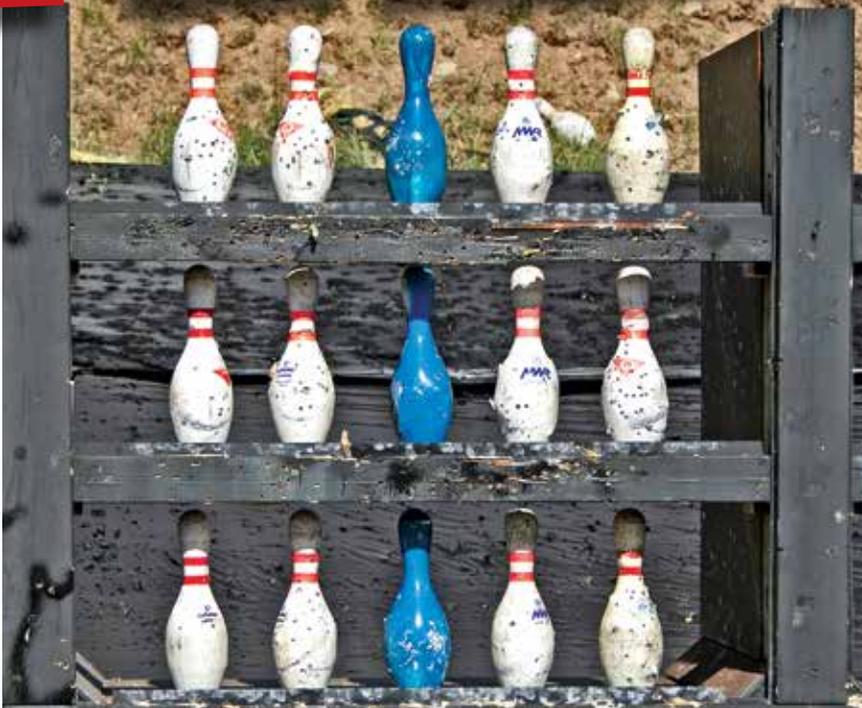
The most accurate load turned out to be Federal 9BP, an old school standard pressure 115-gr. JHP. Over the years, this

Continued on page 74

RETURN OF THE PIN MEN!



Tim Crosno sends pins flying with X-Frame S&W on The Big Push. The pins have to be pushed back 14 feet and only the big guns work.



WWW.PINSHOOT.COM



This is the target array for the 9X12 event. Tipping a blue "hostage" pin adds penalty time to your score.

In 1975, Richard Davis invited three dozen friends for an impromptu shoot. A few gun writers, including our own now-retired J.D. Jones, wrote it up and the rest was gun culture history. For a taste of that history, go here: www.americanhandgunner.com/1977issues/AHJF77.pdf

The match evolved, turning into a family-oriented event drawing hundreds of competitors. I had the pleasure of shooting it every year until 1998, when it faded into history. It faded, but didn't disappear. In 2017 it was reinvigorated. Formerly known as The Second Chance Shoot, it was now The Pin Shoot. Evolution had occurred.

Mas' 2018 battery: Springfield Range Officer for daily carry and spare; Plaxco-omped Springfield for Pin and Space; TGO-II for Stock and ParaOrdnance DA Companion for Concealed Carry, all in .45 ACP with HST +P 230-gr. The match isn't equipment intensive and a single-stockgun works fine.



PRACTICAL, PROFESSIONAL PLINKING FOR A PLENTITUDE OF PRIZES MASSAD AYOUB



Shooting “pre-honeymoon” in 2-Person, Gail Pepin reminds Mas why he lives in fear of her. The event encourages “family” teams!

The simple wooden tables with five bowling pins of the mid-’70s have transmogrified into much more challenging three-tiered steel tables with “hostage pins” mixed into the array. Knock over a hostage, and a time penalty is added to your score. Fastest time wins, time starting from the blank gunshot signaling “Fire” to when your last pin hits the ground, as timed by a trio of range officers with stopwatches.

There are carbine and shotgun events (both slug and buck, no less) and even

a submachine gun side event. But this magazine is *American Handgunner* and the handguns are really the core of the match, so we’ll focus there.

The targets are tempins because they’re reactive and, when you think about it, anatomically correct. The bowling pin shape of the “K-zone” on the old FBI target was seen as encompassing the “vital areas.” Hold a bowling pin with its bottom level with your solar plexus, and you’ll see it widens to the width of a human heart at its fattest spot,

and its neck is about level with the cervical spine. A hit anywhere on the pin would, on a man, pretty much solve your anti-personnel problems.

On the pin, though, you want more like within an inch of center, because an edge hit can spin it sideways, not only knocking over one of those hostage/penalty pins, but requiring more time-consuming shots to get the target pin the rest of the way off the table, as far as three feet back. That latter matter

Continued on page 84



Here’s just one of the prize tables laden with guns and other goodies.

WWW.AMERICANHANDGUNNER.COM



Long-time shooter Vance Schmid shows his winning form on five-pin sets. It’s a “Hurry up but take your time” match.

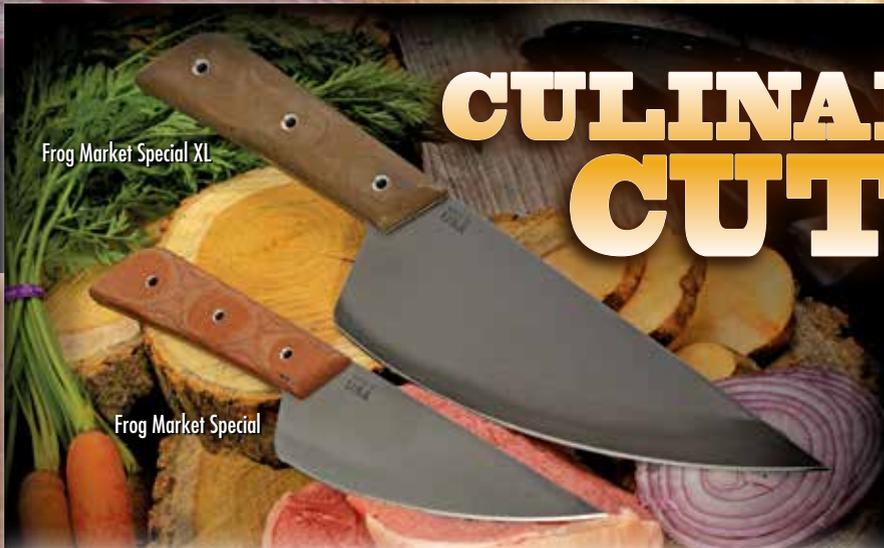
TOPS' CHIEF!



PAT COVERT

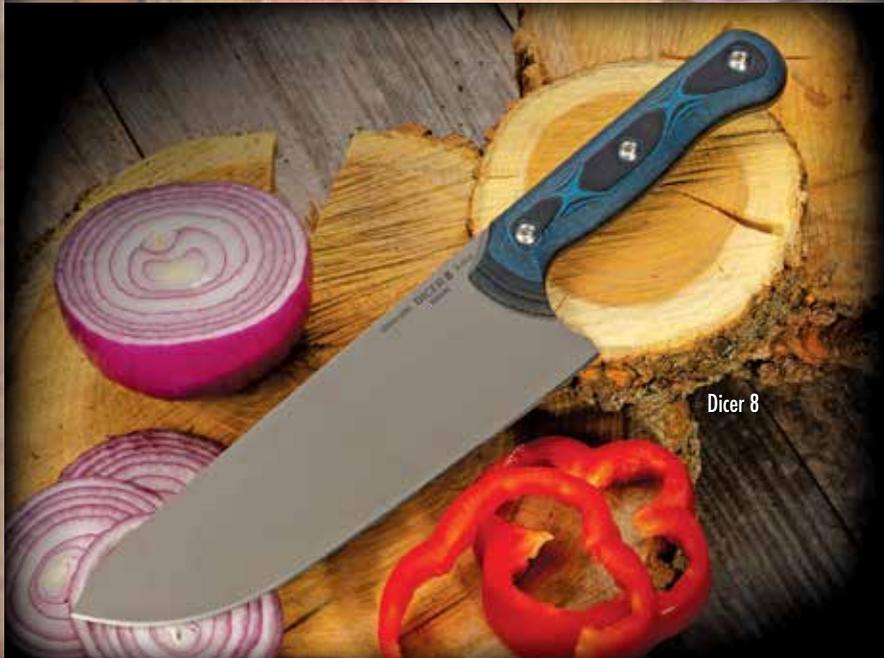
PHOTOS: ROB JONES/THE IMAGESMITH LLC

CULINARY CAMP CUTTERS



Frog Market Special XL

Frog Market Special



Dicer 8

The outdoor and culinary cutlery markets are growing by leaps and bounds with many companies trying to expand their horizons. One, however, has made an effort to combine the two. TOPS Knives. This innovative company jumped into the camp kitchen cutlery market years ago and recently added more to the drawer.

TOPS Knives' mission has always been about making affordable knives built to get the job done. The company was formed in 1998 to primarily manufacture budget-friendly knives for use by our military and special operators. Once established, TOPS began offering sporting knives for hunters, campers and any other segment of the outdoor market needing an honest, dependable knife. The camp and kitchen cutlery grew from these fertile roots. We recently asked TOPS General Manager Craig Powell to give us the lowdown on the company's camp knives, both past and present.

Primary Sources

"The first Frog Market Special has been out since 2014," Craig tells *Handgunner*. "It's been very popular. So popular in fact last year we added an XL version to our lineup. These knives were designed by Steven Dick based on a trip he took to Vietnam where he

noticed a lot of people using blades in the markets looking a lot like what the Frog Market Special ended up being.” Despite their whimsical name, the original Frog Market Special (9.5" with a 5.25" blade) and its larger XL big brother (12.75" with a 7.5" blade) are built for performance. The blades are deep-bellied and have tough, easy to maintain Canvas Micarta handles.

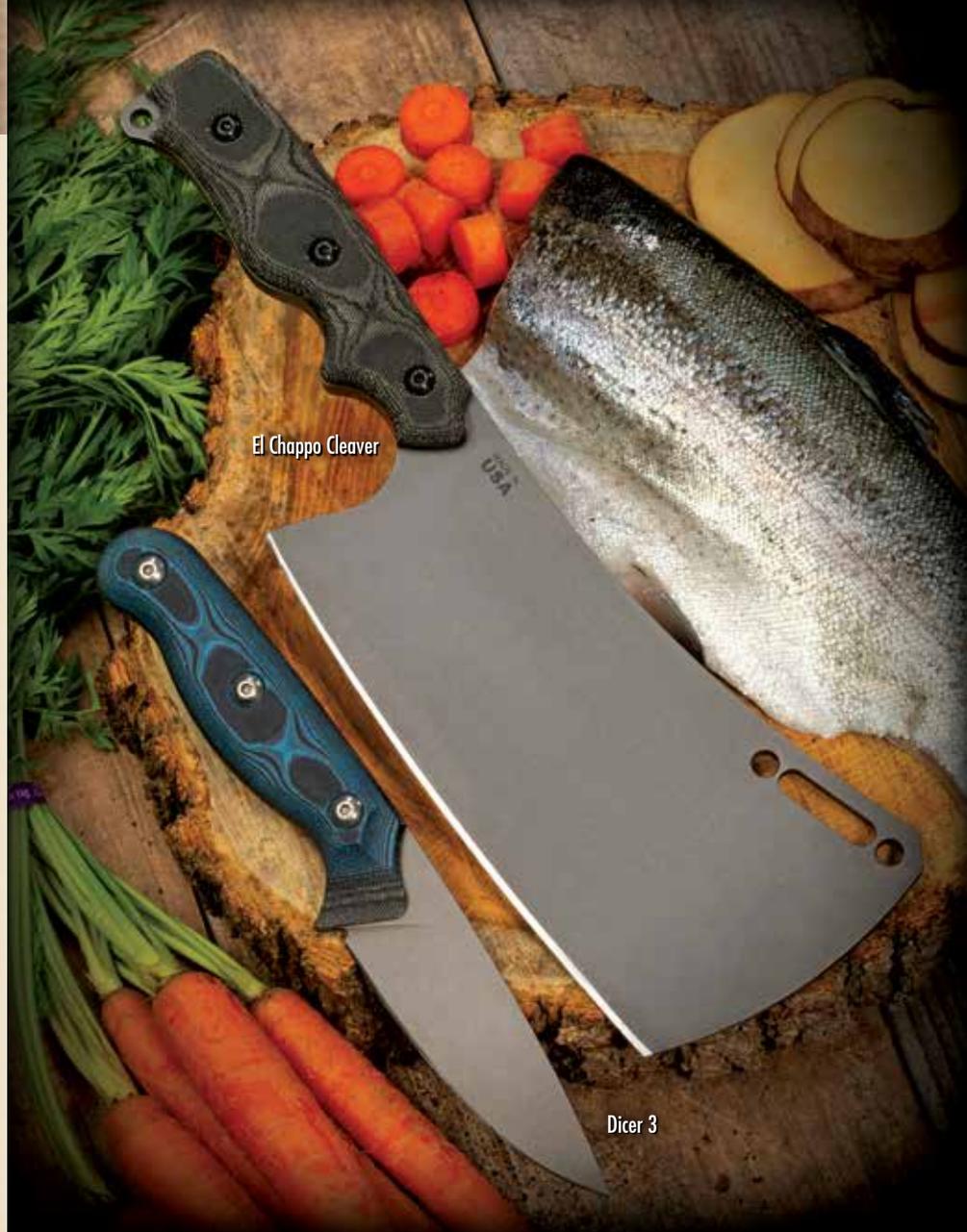
Next came a wicked bit of business named El Chappo, a camp cleaver hell-bent on feeding the horde. At 11" overall — 6" of it in a cleaving blade which would bring a smile to fantasy artist Boris Vallejo’s face — the 15.9 oz. El Chappo was born to chop. “In 2018 we released El Chappo, a cleaver designed with food processing in mind,” Powell said. “The Frog Market Specials and El Chappo are made of 1095 high carbon steel like the majority of our lineup though, so they do have a clear Cerakote coating on them. This makes them knives we could never promote fully as kitchen knives.”

“They also have Canvas Micarta handles with a somewhat rough finish, which most professional kitchens would shy away from. They want uncoated blades that clean easily. They want handles made of food-safe material that cannot collect bacteria — and usually with very smooth finishes. So, in order for us to make a kitchen knife which could potentially find its way into many kitchens professional and otherwise, we had to do something a little different.”

The Third Course

TOPS Knives’ third phase of their camp cutlery strategy was to go mainstream with knives you might see around your home kitchen, but geared toward the outdoors, too. “Leo Espinoza, our CEO, has wanted to do a line of kitchen knives for a long time now — as have I.” Craig notes. “We decided to give the first chance at a TOPS kitchen knife to one of our employees. For three years now, we’ve done an employee design competition where the winner gets to have a knife they designed made by TOPS with them credited as the designer. They get serial number 1 of their design and a couple of other perks. So, the Dicer 8 Chef’s knife was designed by TOPS photographer/graphics guy Jesus Arellano. His design beat out over 20 other submitted drawings by other employees.

“The first knife in the line is the Dicer 8 Chef’s knife,” Powell continued. “This is the primary knife in any kitchen set. Without a chef’s knife, a set could never be considered complete. The blade is roughly 8" long. It’s a slight departure from normal chef’s knives as it has a



El Chappo Cleaver

Dicer 3

little more belly than you’d normally see from a chef’s knife, but the performance from the blade is excellent. It’s made of CPM S35VN stainless steel at 3/32" thick. There is a high grind to the blade and the handle is very comfortable as well. We decided to go with blue/black G10 with a smooth finish to avoid having bacteria collect on the handle.

“The 2nd knife in the line is the Dicer 3 Paring knife. The blade is — as you might have guessed — approximately 3" long. It’s made of the same steel and handle material with a very similar feel to the Dicer 8. The Paring knife along with the rest of the models that will be a part of the Dicer series were designed by Leo Espinoza.”

On The Menu

We asked Powell about the future of this culinary outshoot of TOPS’ already lengthy repertoire of tactical and sporting knives. “Assuming we are able to get some good success out of the Dicer line,” says Craig, “we will definitely be looking

to add at least a couple of extra sets of kitchen cutlery. Aside from the Dicer 8 and Dicer 3, we have a couple of additional models being added to the line. They debuted at SHOT Show 2019 and will be released sometime during the year. By the time we’re through, the Dicer line should be a full kitchen set.”

The Frog Market Special is priced at \$150 suggested retail; the larger XL model for \$200. The massive El Chappo will run you \$180, and the Dicer 8 and 3 models check in at \$250 and \$200, respectively. The Dicer pair is priced a bit higher due to their premium CPM S35VN blades — a proprietary stainless steel from Crucible Industries often found on top-shelf custom knives. Regardless of your choice, TOPS’ culinary line has something for every user and the line’s future looks even brighter  down the road.

For more info: TOPS Knives, www.topsknives.com, Ph: (208) 542-0113

HELP

FOR

HURTING HANDS



These Hague rubber grips on David's .45 LW Colt Commander do a good job of mitigating recoil.



TIPS & TRICKS TO EASE THE PAIN

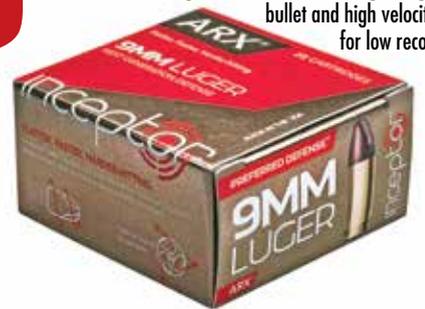
DAVID FREEMAN

Sooner or later age catches up with all of us. For some of us, ailments such as arthritis, bursitis or neuropathy affect our ability to shoot any kind of decent practice or training session without feeling the consequences later. I'm one who suffers from all the ailments mentioned, and I've been on a search to find methods and tools to keep me in the game.

Let's talk first about something that has nothing to do with hardware or methods — commitment.

For almost 10 years now, I've carried — on my person

Inceptor ammo gives you the option of a hard-hitting defensive load with a lightweight bullet and high velocity, for low recoil.



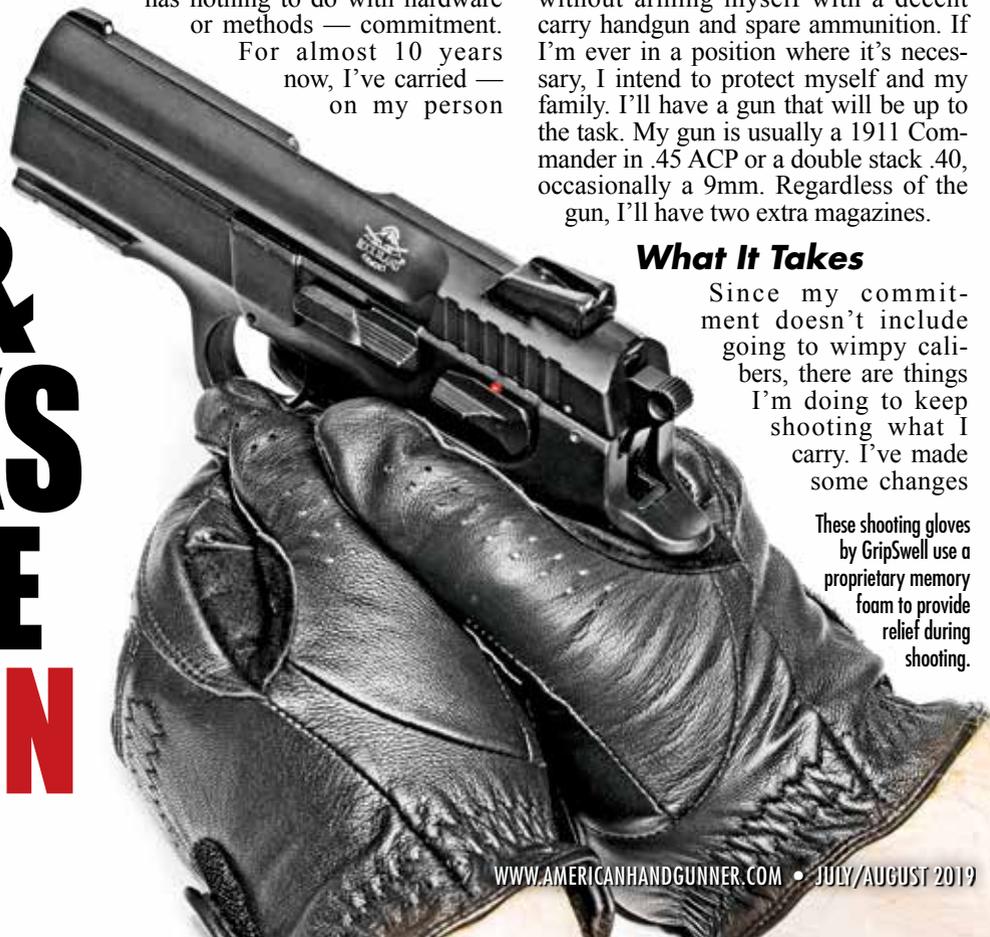
every day — what most people would call a “big” gun. I don't leave home, even for a quick trip to a drive-thru, without arming myself with a decent carry handgun and spare ammunition. If I'm ever in a position where it's necessary, I intend to protect myself and my family. I'll have a gun that will be up to the task. My gun is usually a 1911 Commander in .45 ACP or a double stack .40, occasionally a 9mm. Regardless of the gun, I'll have two extra magazines.

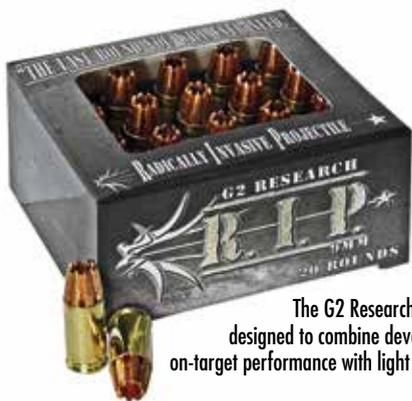
What It Takes

Since my commitment doesn't include going to wimpy calibers, there are things

I'm doing to keep shooting what I carry. I've made some changes

These shooting gloves by GripSwell use a proprietary memory foam to provide relief during shooting.





The G2 Research R.I.P. is designed to combine devastating on-target performance with light recoil.



in ammo. Historically, good defensive ammo in calibers professionals agree are solid choices for defense have packed a pretty good punch when it comes to recoil. However, new lightweight, high-speed ammo from Inceptor, NovX, Liberty Civil Defense and G2 Research are alternatives with much less recoil, but still inflict severe damage. Each of these brands has newly designed bullets using technology other than expansion to create impressive wound channels. Interceptor also offers lightweight practice rounds. The lighter recoil and more affordable cost make my range sessions much more productive and enjoyable.

For most of my shooting life, if I bought a gun with a set of rubber grips I'd replace them. I'm basically a wood and steel guy. I like guns that not only work well but are pretty. Rubber grips are boring. But guess what I'm shooting now? My son handed me a set of Hogue rubber grips for a 1911, asking if there was anything I'd like to put them on. My Colt Lightweight Commander was on the bench for a grip change at the time, so just for grins I put the Hogue grips on. On my next trip to the range I noticed a significant difference in how my hands felt after an extended shooting session. This won me over and the grips are still on the Colt. I've also put rubber grips back on a revolver from which I had previously removed them.

Rubber grips are one option helping to absorb recoil, but I've also traded out aggressive wood or G10 grips for something less aggressive on several of my guns, reducing the abrasiveness. Each little change along those lines has enabled me to shoot longer sessions without suffering for it later.

Also, I'm more careful about which guns I shoot during an extended range session. Instead of a .45, for example, I'll choose the Ruger 9mm Lightweight Commander for an extended workout. It feels the same in my hands, handles the same as my .45 Commanders, but the recoil is much less, especially with Polycase RNP practice rounds.

Bigger Guns

My choice of double-stacks, regardless of caliber, is often a full-size S&W M&P. Because of its grip angle and the



If you haven't looked at air guns lately, you may be surprised at how realistic many of them are, especially ones branded by a major handgun manufacturer.

texture on the grip area, I've always found the M&P to be a very forgiving platform as far as recoil goes. I even enjoy shooting some of my .40-cal. handguns if I use the ARX or Liberty ammo. In fact, I no longer shoot or carry the .40's with anything but those two.

There are many choices for shooting gloves, but most are designed for a better grip than for recoil mitigation. One exception is the GripSwell GS-33 Dual Palm Swell glove. This company has made Shotgun Palm Swell gloves for years and decided the same technology would benefit handgun shooters equally well.

It just so happens the day my Palm Swell gloves arrived I was headed to the range for an extended shooting session. I shot several different models of 9mm autos plus some .45 caliber cowboy sixguns. After an afternoon of shooting I could tell a big difference in how these shooting gloves helped my hands. Their secret is a proprietary Memory Foam blend absorbing much of the recoil while keeping your hand firmly on the grip. Oh, and be sure to

order a size larger than you think you need. Our hands tend to swell during the day, right?

Loading magazines is a killer for arthritic hands. I know there are a variety of mag loader choices, but the one helping me the most also happens to be a universal one-size-fits-all among .380, 9mm, .40 and .45 calibers called the MagLula UpLULA. I've used a variety of magazine loaders over the years, but this one is by far the easiest. Operating it doesn't hurt my hands or cause them to cramp. I like to load up as many magazines as I can before a range session so I can make the best use of my time there, and the UpLULA makes it easy.

A Lighter Touch

Since shooting a lot of rounds takes its toll on my hands and shoulders,

Continued on page 79



Often a small grip change can make a difference. More aggressive grips on the left can be replaced by less aggressive grips such as the ones shown on the right.

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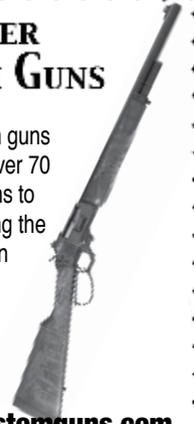
Custom Corner features paid listings by the identified pistolsmiths. Many are members of the American Pistolsmiths Guild and the American Handgunner Club 100. Advertising information is available from: *AMERICAN HANDGUNNER*, Adv. Dept., 13741 Danielson St. Ste. A, Poway, CA 92064; delano.amaguin@fmghq.com; (888) 732-6461.

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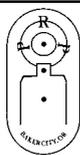
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GUN RIGHTS

Alan Korwin



WE MIGHT SUPPORT BACKGROUND CHECKS IF ...

Part
3

Children are convinced they know something the rest of us don't. Take the new children's marches for our lives — to them, it seems simple. They have demands, and they just *know* their demands will work. But look closely — they're the same proposals as anti-rights adults and hoplophobes have been making for decades. Is it just coincidence? Are the kids just puppets and they don't know it? That's rhetorical; they are, and they don't know. While a few defectors have wised up, most movement-children remain in lock-step.

This energetic Hogg child, for example, very self-righteous and full of himself, entertained the 87th conference of mayors in January, televised by C-SPAN, with factoids he has been spreading far and wide. Newer, better background checks are one of the panaceas he implores his flock to seek. He also insists he doesn't want to take people's guns away.

He poses the three following questions to the hard corps: "Are you a terrorist? No. Do you plan to kill yourself? No. Are you planning a mass murder? No. Then I don't want to take your guns." To which most of the mayors provide a standing ovation and he stoically struts off, stage left. His self-created, self-answered tautology is fabricated from nothing, yet goes unquestioned.

But Mr. Hogg, the people supporting you off stage *do* want to take everyone's guns. He seems blithely unaware of this salient fact, and no one asks. The question of, "Have you read the actual bills you support?" has either never been put to him, he read them and didn't understand what he read, or he knows the bills plan to ban most popular and decent guns in America and lies about it. Legal guns with detachable magazines and "a grip," as Feinstein's bill frames it, would be goners — but only for civilians.

If ...

Why haven't reporters questioned the children, or anyone, *why* they want background checks? It may seem self-evident, but it really isn't. Look what happens in our test Q&A dialog, using the left's clever approach:

Q: So, one of your goals is to have universal background checks on all gun transfers, correct?

A: Yes, absolutely.

Q: Why?

A: Why? Isn't it obvious?

Q: Perhaps you should tell us.

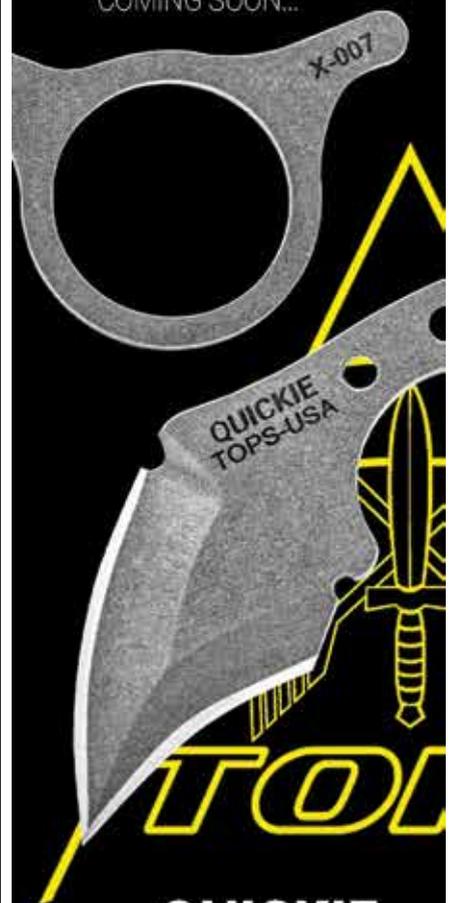
A: So criminals can't have guns, obviously.

Q: If that's your goal — and you know so many criminals already have

Continued on page 85

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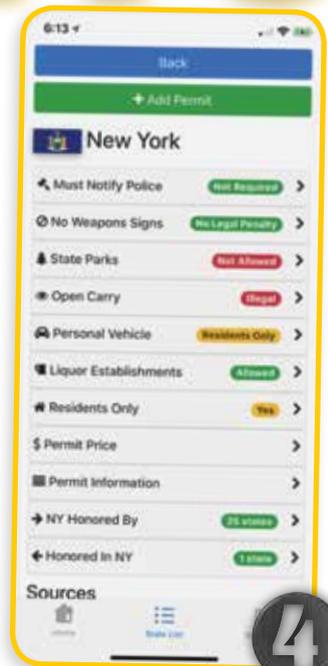
A CLOSE LOOK AT



9



12



4



6

NEED INFO? FIND IT FAST WITH AN APP!

SHOOTING, HUNTING, CCW, BALLISTICS — IT'S RIGHT ON YOUR PHONE

DAVID FREEMAN

Smart phones have changed our lives — for good and bad. Ask a question and if nobody knows the answer, they're either looking it up on their phone or wondering why you're not. When I started looking into apps providing useful information for we gun people I was amazed at what I found. Here's a rundown on some you may find useful. All the ones listed are available for iPhones and/or Android phones so just find 'em on your favorite platform's application website. Keep in mind the various ammo/reloading/powder companies all have extensive data on their websites and often a related app too. We're only scratching the surface here, so if you have a specific info need, chances are good you can find it at your favorite App store!

1 *LandGlide* by Real Estate Portal USA, LLC allows you to explore maps of the U.S. with overlaid parcel boundaries and attributes of over 146 million properties covering over 97 percent of the population. Hover over a property to instantly discover details, including the owner and address of the property. Tap on the description to display additional info such as acreage, market value and land use code where available. Search by owner or address. Track your location related to the property using location services. View in map, satellite or hybrid modes. I love this app — it's habit-forming. (\$9.99 per month or \$99.99 per year)

2 *OnX Hunt GPS Hunting Map* by OnXmaps, Inc. may be just the ticket if you're a serious hunter. In addition to ownership and property boundaries, it has location-specific game laws for public and privately owned hunting lands. It also adds wind and weather data, plus GPS tracking. You can add your own information to the maps, and you can elect to have maps available offline should you get out of cell phone range. The app can be used as a standalone, but it also integrates with HUNT memberships, including state memberships with Montana, Colorado, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. (\$29.99 to \$99.99 depending on membership purchased)

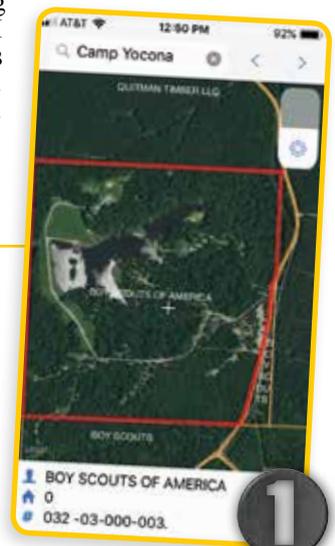
3 *Concealed Carry Laws* by Reese Firearms appears to be sponsored by U.S. Law Shield. It has an Interactive Reciprocity Map, Laws related to Vehicle Carry, Open Carry, Must Notify, Constitutional Carry, Carry in State Parks, Carry in Restaurants, No Gun Signs Enforced, Schools K-12, Colleges and Universities, Places Off Limits, Reciprocity Lists and Permit Requirements. (\$.99)

4 *Concealed Carry Reference* by Motomatic LLC has a Reciprocity Map and Lists, Transport Laws, Prohibited Areas, Duty to Inform, Preemption Rules, Signage Laws, Permit Info, AG and Police Contact, Open Carry Information, Parking Lot Storage, Permit Recognition Laws, Magazine and Tactical Rifle Limits, Use of Force and Duty to Retreat, Indian Nation Laws, Federal Transport Laws, Federal Prohibited Locations and LEO/Retired LEO Permit. Places allowed and not allowed appear in a small list and there are links to the detailed laws. (\$1.99)

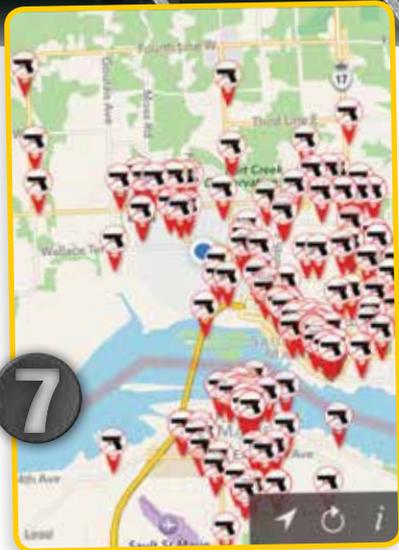
5 *CCW Laws* by Sparknet Interactive distinguishes between regular and enhanced permits when showing reciprocity and the gun laws



5



1



7

for each state. It also provides an option for storing front and back images of your license(s) in the app. (\$3.99)



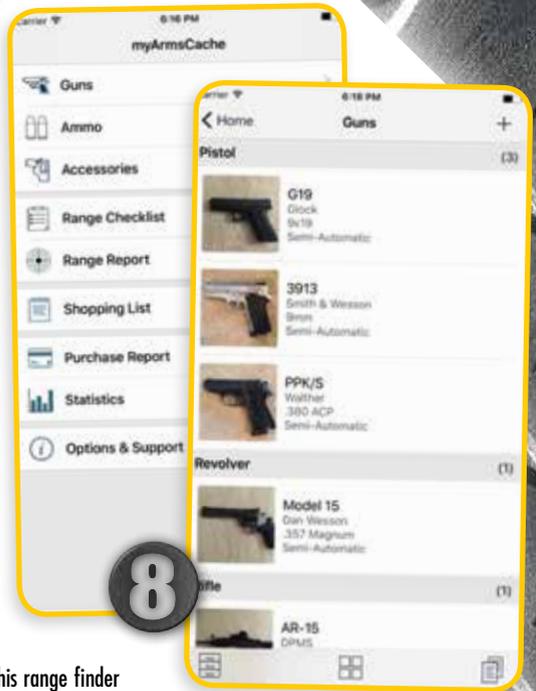
3

6 *Legal Heat* is a 50 State Guide to Firearm Law by National Training Solutions, Inc., keeping current firearms laws for each of the 50 states, with quick reference for Concealed Carry Laws, Open Carry Laws and Transport Rules. The select list for each state has a rating from 1 to 5 as to the friendliness of that state's laws to gun owners. The app is updated any time a change is made to a state's gun laws, and the information provided is easy to navigate to find what you need to stay legal as you travel. (\$1.99)

7 *Carry Alerts* by Ben Harrell is unique in that it's the only app I've seen alerting you to nearby so-called Gun Free Zones as you move about. (Free)

8 *MyArmsCache* by Drea Creative LLC helps you keep up with your gun, ammo and accessory inventory. If you're not keeping up with your gun inventory and on-hand ammo anywhere else, this app will facilitate that, especially if you're tracking costs related to your shooting, or the purchase and sale of guns. Be prepared for some tedious setup to make the most of it, i.e., entering your gun inventory and ammo inventory. You can add manufacturers, models and other information as needed. This one is free but will prompt you for in-app purchases.

9 *Range Finder for Deer Hunting* by Phairin Chailert allows you to use your smart phone for a range finder. It's not for long distances, but it can be done



8

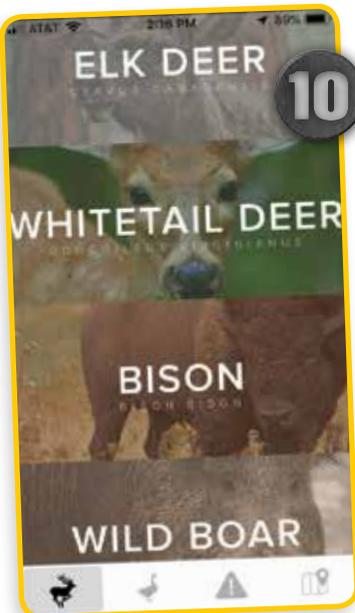
up to 40-60 yards. This range finder can be used at the range, or in the field for deer, hogs, coyotes, etc.

Simply point the crosshairs at the base of the object you want to find the range for and the range will show up on your screen, along with size estimates for your target. You can even save the photo for before and after images! (\$4.99)

10 *Game Calls USA* And Canada by Grant Nicholson has a simple and intuitive interface for 100+ calls in one app to call in your favorite game. Also includes a topographical map based on GPS location. (\$1.99)

11 *Ballistic Advanced Edition* is chock full of goodies. Lots of shooting interactive set-ups, caliber/trajectory comparisons, pretty much a you-name-it-and-it's-there feature list. Hold over advice, ballistic calculators and it's evidently a go-to source for long distance shooting. (\$9.99)

12 *Free Shot Timer* is just that and it allows you to use your phone to time your training, splits, you name it. It actually works. We have found, though, phone-based timers are not as reliable or sophisticated as dedicated digital shot timers. (Free)



10



2



11

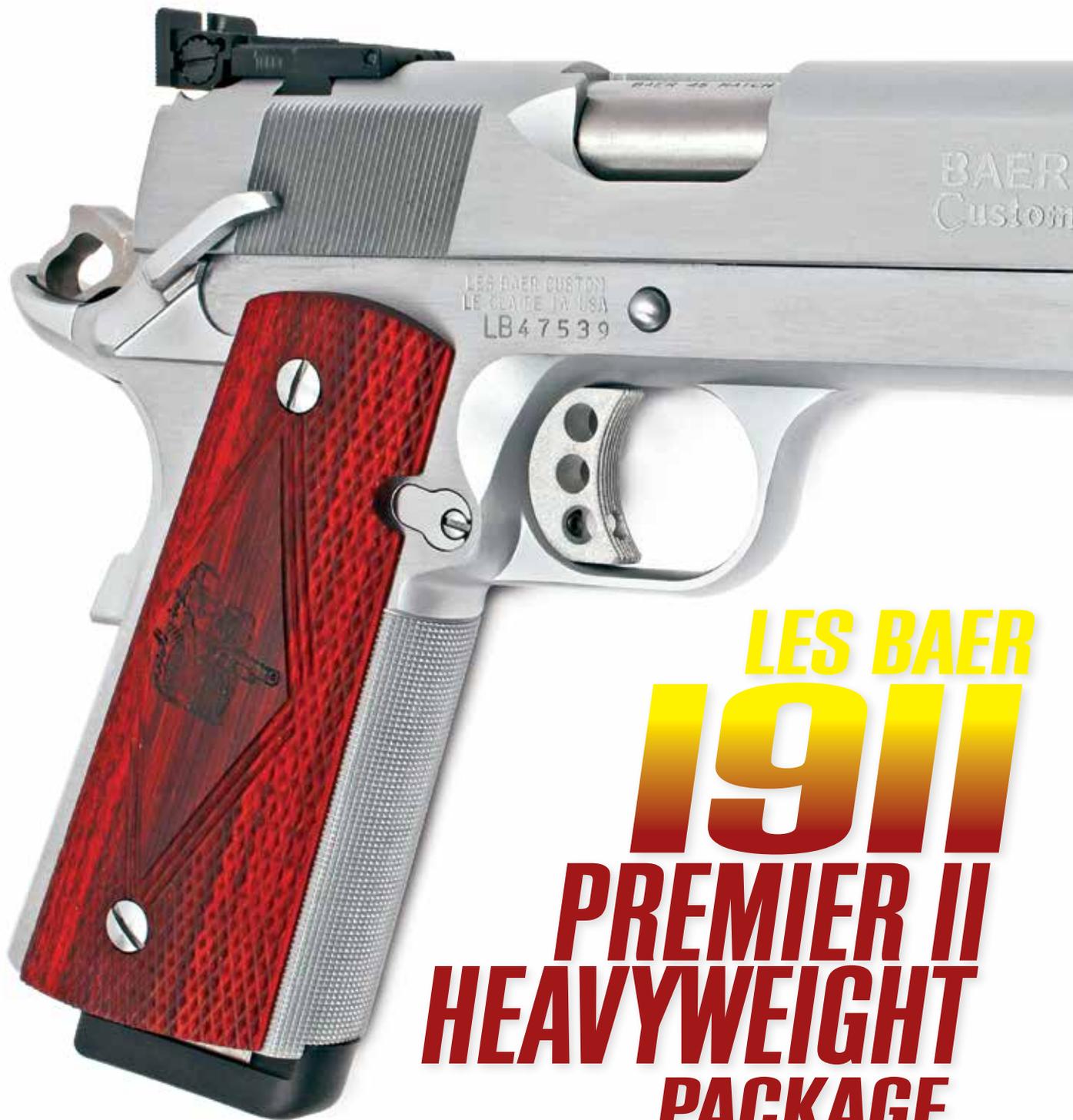




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SCAN TO ENTER



The 1911 Premier II Heavyweight sports a Les Baer Monolith Heavyweight frame, a protective chrome finish and Baer racer logo grips. Other Les Baer features include a double serrated slide, NM barrel and stainless bushing, a dovetail front sight, a speed trigger with crisp 4-lb. pull, a Commander hammer and sear, a checkered beavertail grip safety and more. *American Handgunner* is happy to have the Premier II Heavyweight as the giveaway prize for this issue! His Editorship Roy Huntington knows Les Baer — the founder and owner who lends his name to the company — and Roy says Les is “fiercely determined to keep the quality of their products extremely high.”

The *Seismic* from CRKT is an every day carry folder with a deadbolt lock. Its 3.969" plain-edge blade is made of 1.4116 stainless steel. The handles are G10. The *Seismic's* flipper opening plus the IKBS ball bearing pivot system deploys the blade smooth and fast.

The *Fenix PD35 V2.0 Digital Camo* is a tactical flashlight you can easily conceal and carry. This upgraded PD35 V2.0 has a max output of 1,000 lumens and sports a tactical-inspired digital camo design with a painted finish.

The *Sparta 100 oz. Mil Spec Crux* is sized and equipped for single-day hiking trips and similar activities. Made of 500D Double-Rip Cordura fabric, the *Sparta* will carry gear as well as precious water and ease your load with its Low Rider technology.

We're sure you'll be happy with all these prizes! But you have to join first to win. Enter now. Go to www.americanhandgunner.com/ giveaways or send us a postcard! —Jazz Jimenez

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VALUE: \$150

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MAKER: FENIX, (800) 616-1326, WWW.FENIX-STORE.COM
VALUE: \$84.95

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MAKER: CAMELBAK, (877) 271-1220, WWW.CAMELBAK.COM
VALUE: \$246.70

TOTAL VALUE: \$2,726.65

HEIZER PK045

Continued from page 57

unlocked .45 would have some substantial felt-recoil. In deference to the bones of my right hand, which have served me well for 80-plus years, I got out my GripSwell gloves. They are padded in the right places and made of fine goatskin.

I fired a few rounds of high-performance stuff, just to see if the PK045 would handle them and it did, just fine. All of the target work was with regular full-jacketed loads. As for the felt-recoil, it was just as described earlier, a "push" and a "bounce." On the target, three quick shots puts the first well-centered, the second about 4" up, and the third near the top edge, out of the rings. The best slow-fired group was about 4", done at 15 yards. I think the gun will easily do better than that. I'll just have to practice with it a bit more.

The flat-floorplate magazine holds five rounds, and the extended one holds two more. Obviously, the extension gives a better grip, with a little less concealability.

Takedown for cleaning is easy. Restrain the recoil spring guide rod at the front, turn the latch lever up, take it out, and ease out the guide and spring. You have, of course, previously cycled the slide and removed the magazine.

The slide can now be taken off toward the rear. If you count the spring and guide as a unit, you have only five parts. Reassembly is just as easy, with one small extra. When putting the slide back on the frame, you must use a small tool to depress the cocked hammer so the slide can go over it.

The Numbers

The PK045 weighs an empty 28 oz. A Walther PPK/S .380 weighs about 24 oz. for comparison. Overall length is 6.1". Height, with the short magazine, is 4.2" and with the extended mag, 5". Barrel is a tidy 2.7". The awesome flatness is a width of only 0.8"!

For the PK045 shown here, figure \$899 into the gun-buying budget. Considering the quality and brilliant design, that's not bad. For those made uneasy by the idea of a .45 this small and light, I believe there will be a 9mm version. We'll lay hands on it when we can.

A final note, too. For practice, put on that GripSwell glove. In a serious encounter you won't notice the recoil, but for practice, I promise it makes the experience more enjoyable! 

For more info: Heizer Defense LLC, www.heizerdefense.com, Ph: (888) 965-0972; GripSwell Gloves, www.gripswell.com, Ph: (714) 379-9413



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TAFFIN TESTS

Continued from page 22

and widths at a very reasonable price. These are all available in the screw-on style from Fermin C. Garza's Customized Shooter's Resources.

Fortunately for Ruger fans, current and recent Single-Sixes, no matter the chambering, have been fitted with front sights held on by a screw, making it very easy to change them. I've been shooting Fermin's prototype sights on all of my .32 Magnum, .327 Magnum and .22/22 Magnum convertibles. The front sight bases are perfectly contoured on the bottom to fit the Ruger barrel and the screws supplied lock them securely into place.

Fermin's front sights are all steel and available in any width from a notch-filling 0.125" down to 0.085" for shooters who like a lot of daylight around the sight. You can also adjust the width according to the barrel length and how they want it to appear in the rear sight notch. These sights feature a lower sculpted base profile to keep it from intruding into the bottom of the rear sight notch. They also sport a taller blade, cut crisply and hand serrated deeply at 50 LPI to maximize visibility.

Fermin says: "I believe the fact my front sights are serrated by hand, and deeply, is why they provide such a crisp sight picture. The serrations make what I like to call 'dark shadows.' I wish I could trademark that name but some vampire beat me to it."

Sights are available in blank form or complete with custom height and width dimensions, serrations, bluing and a fitted hex head screw. A flat-bottomed gunsmith blank is also provided which can be used to build anything from a dovetail front sight to one for use on an octagonal barrel. Also, as the Magnum Research BFR is now offered in both .500 Linebaugh and .500 JRH versions, Fermin has tailored his sight for these sixguns as well.

A World Of Choices

In addition to Ruger front sights attaching with a screw, Garza is now offering a scaled-down Single 6/7/10, as the Ruger sights are named, for the adjustable sighted Bearcat. This is also available with custom width and blade height to accommodate Bearcats custom chambered to .327 Federal. Rugers, such as the Special Edition Shootists Bisley .44 Specials, came with a front sight which simply was not tall enough and Garza is working on a series of sights to correct this.

He will also be offering his original

2 Dogs Long Range Front Sight, and also sights patterned after the front sights found on the Texas Longhorn Arms Improved Number Five, the Colt New Frontier, and also sights such as those formally offered by Jim Stroh. Reaching way back into the past, Garza is also working to offer a modern version of the old King Gun Sight Mirrored Ramp Front Sight as offered in the 1930s and 1940s.

Does your sixgun need some special attention? If you have a suspect single-action cylinder, Fermin will measure the cylinder chamber throats free of charge and also check cast bullets for roundness and hardness. If any correction is needed such as reaming the cylinders, the service is also offered. Quite often after measuring the cylinder all that's needed is a larger diameter bullet. Future plans include old-style Colt long cylinder flutes and blackpowder chamfers.

Someone once said, "Seeing is believing." I've seen these custom front sights and shot them on more than a dozen Ruger single-actions. I'm a believer. You will be too once you try them out.



For more info: Fermin C. Garza's Customized Shooter's Resources, www.ferminagarza.com, Ph: (361) 960-3697

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A BETTA' BERETTA

Continued from page 59

proved itself to be among the best of its kind and has also come in "most accurate" in many of my gun tests, including this one. Five rounds of 9BP from the Elite LTT landed in 1.85" center to center, with the best three in 1.45".

SIG's relatively recent V-Crown line has proven itself accurate in many guns for me, and in this one it delivered a 2.80" 5-shot group, with a "best three" at 0.70". The 147-gr. +P Federal HST hollow point shot harder but a bit wider, 3.35" overall and 1.30" for best three.

I consider accuracy both objectively and subjectively. The objective measurement is the sort of mechanical accuracy tested as above. The subjective side goes to the ergonomics of the pistol. What we're looking for is the interface between man and machine — things making it easier to get mechanical accuracy out of the pistol in human hands, perhaps under stress. A match or a qualification is good for this. I couldn't coordinate the former with my schedule, so I went with the latter. My school runs a class every year at the Sand Burr Gun Ranch in Rochester, IN, and I took the LTT there as my teaching gun for a MAG-40 program. Two people in the class benefitted from this pistol.

The first was a new shooter. She had brought a low-priced polymer 9mm which was hard for her to shoot well and which, halfway through the class, began to malfunction. I swapped her into the Langdon gun for the last half of the program and she finished with a 290 out of 300 qualifying score, the Most Improved Student award and an Elite LTT on her want list. The second was me, shooting an easy 300/300 qual score and a 594/600 on the much tighter competition scoring rings we use as a tie-breaker on the B-27 targets we had that day.

Where It Counts

We've come to expect a high order of reliability from Berettas in general and Langdon Berettas in particular, and this one was no exception. By now it's at about a thousand rounds of assorted ammo with no cleaning or additional lubrication and zero malfunctions. No surprise there.

It's extremely rare for me to find a handgun I can't criticize in any way. Okay, the Beretta 92 is large for its caliber and capacity and, uh ... well, that's it. The Elite LTT is simply an outstanding pistol. It's an excellent value, and at this writing, delivery is immediate. 

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MOSSBERG 9MM

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shoots way better than it has any business doing for its size?

Later, back home, I decided to give the little Mossberg a spin as my EDC pistol. I knew it could shoot, so now I was curious as to how it would carry.

Packing Tactics

I'd heard good things about Blackhawk!'s holster line so I checked out the company's website and discovered the ambidextrous TecGrip Pocket Holster. I selected the #3 variant and put in my order. Priced at \$18.95, it's almost an impulse purchase.

The holster is a coyote tan color, having a "tacky" outer surface while the smooth, velvety interior protects the gun. It also easily releases it when drawn. The holster features high-density closed-cell foam, allowing it to bend and easily conform to your pocket and body. If you like to run skinny jeans you should stop reading now. If you wear "tactical pants" with big pockets or even straight cut jeans with generous (and stretchy) pockets, this holster and the Mossberg will work for pocket carry.

I've recently been playing with some Ammo Armor mag protectors and discovered they're great for carrying a spare mag or two in a pocket, protected from dirt and dings. They're also not expensive at \$9.95 apiece. I figured out I could pull a mag in an Ammo Armor from my pocket and tuck it under my strong-arm against my body to peel the mag loose.

As the Mossberg was simply too new for Ammo Armor to cover yet, I took a gamble and tried the one designed for the GLOCK 43 9mm mag. I was happy to learn the clear polymer Mossberg mags would fit. With this setup, I had the means to pack the 6+1 Mossberg and two spare 7-round mags in my front pockets, carrying it all very discreetly. I've also been told the company is currently developing models specifically designed for the Mossberg pistol.

Conclusion

Yes, the CCW market has a lot of small 9mm pistols in it. I get it. But I think Mossberg did an outstanding job of developing and delivering exactly what they intended — a great gun for a good price. The fact it performs beyond what I think should even be expected just means Mossberg followed the sound principle of under-promising — and over-delivering. 

For more info: Mossberg, www.mossberg.com, Ph: (203) 230-5300; Blackhawk!, www.blackhawk.com, Ph: (406) 284-3840; Ammo Armor, www.ammo-armor.com, Ph: (800) 542-2666

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AYOOB FILES

Continued from page 93

He and his two brothers leaped out of bed, grabbed their guns and raced to the bank. Out came the bandits carrying the loot when the brothers arrived. They opened fire on the bandits, knocked down three and saved the money.”

The First Citizen

Just as the Harrison incident wasn't the first time Bill Myers shot it out with bank robbers, it also wasn't the first time Henry Starr got shot by an armed citizen. In Stroud, OK in 1915, Starr led a gang attempting to rob two banks at once. The incident was witnessed by a young boy named Ernest Nichols, who had come to town with his uncle Hamer to deliver some hogs. Many years later, Ernest's daughter-in-law Kathleen Nichols published his recollections of that day:

“In the Stockyard in Stroud on that ‘infamous day’ of the robbery, Ernest Nichols age 10, and his uncle Thomas Hamer Godfrey were taking two loads of hogs to town (Stroud). Ernest recalled, ‘Frank Wigam bought the hogs, and told my uncle Hamer to put them at the depot, as he had a packing house at Bristow, OK. We got in to Stroud about 8:30 AM and began to back up to unload the hogs, but there were horses in the stock yard where our hogs were supposed to go. A man came up to Uncle Hamer and told him he could not put the hogs in the pen right now. He had a couple of guns on his hips, and told Uncle Hamer that the hogs would be okay, ‘We’ll get out of your pen soon,’ he had a couple of six shooters too and we weren't going to argue with him. The man told my Uncle Hamer, ‘Henry Starr is robbing both the banks this morning.’ They saw Henry Starr walking toward the horses in the pen where they were waiting, he walked behind the bunch of men, and Henry Starr fell behind while walking. A man named Curry, had a grocery store and meat market, and he had an old .22 single shot gun, called it a hog rifle, there in the store. His son, Paul (aged 20) got the gun and got behind a wooden barrel and shot Henry Starr in the hip.... Starr fell to the ground. The other men went, got the horses and left. They captured Starr. Henry Starr had sent both banks a postcard the day before, telling them he was going to rob their banks. He'd rob the banks and feed the poor people. Starr said it was okay that the rest of the gang left, they agreed it would be every man for himself.” (1)

The young man who shot Starr reportedly received a reward of \$1,000, the equivalent of about \$12,700 today. Historians disagree on some details of the shooting. At least one source insists

Starr was downed that day with a .30-30 rifle. This creates some skepticism: a .30-30 wound in the hip, treated with the medical protocols of more than a century ago, would likely have left Starr permanently crippled, and I can find no indication he suffered such a handicap later in life.

Also in question is the age of the hero who shot him in Stroud; some postulate the armed citizen was as young as 15, while 17 is the most commonly quoted age. In any case, Starr was shot at many times in his life by prime of life males and never hit. He appears to have had poorer luck on the two ends of the age bell curve.

Captured and in custody, being treated for his gunshot wound, Starr asked the doctors what he had been shot with. Told it was a gun used in the nearby slaughterhouse for killing pigs, Starr famously replied, “I’ll be damned! I don’t mind getting shot. Knew it had to happen sooner or later. But a kid with a hog gun? That hurts my pride.”

Moments before Paul Curry shot him down, Starr had fared better against another armed citizen. Leaving the bank behind a human shield, Starr had spotted a citizen with a shotgun and fired at him with the Remington Model 8 he had just used to rob the bank, tearing the citizen's clothing with the .35 Remington slug but missing flesh. (2)

Famous Last Words

Starr lingered for a few days before succumbing to his wound. It gave him ample time for quotable last words.

In a retrospective on this incident published in 1932 in the *Baxter Bulletin*, we find this: “Henry Starr is probably the only bandit in the country who ever spoke well of the man who dealt him his death wound. In speaking of Mr. Myers, he said, ‘I do not blame him at all. He was at one end of the game and I was at the other and he won. He had a cool hand and steady nerve. He is wasting his time in the banking business.’”

Six years earlier, Starr had occasion to meet the young man who had shot him in Stroud and tell him, “You are all right, boy.”

Pretty damn sporting of Mr. Starr, all things considered.

On his deathbed, Starr claimed, “I’ve robbed more banks than any man in America.”

Perspective

Henry Starr was neither the first nor the last “celebrity criminal,” but he was one of the most self-aggrandizing, and he literally made a career of it. At the time of his death — and even since — he was seen by many as a Robin Hood fighting back at an unfair system, stealing from the rich to give to the poor. One statement he made on his deathbed was interpreted differently by

some who recounted it. According to one side, he proudly said he had never killed a man. Others heard, "I never killed anyone during a robbery." Only the latter was true.

Born in 1873 in what was then known as the Indian Territories and is now known as Oklahoma, he was part Cherokee. Arrested and convicted at a young age for bringing prohibited alcohol into the territories and swearing — perhaps truthfully — that he didn't know the booze was in the wagon belonging to someone else, he felt himself unfairly punished and decided to fight back by living outside the law.

That is what Robin Hoods are made from, but robbin' hoods are something else. Those who thought him a hero didn't see the stone-cold sociopathic side — the cop-killer side.

In 1892 U.S. Deputy Marshal Floyd Wilson attempted to serve an arrest warrant on Starr, who refused to accept it. Both men were on horseback and armed with rifles. Wilson dismounted and, Starr said later, fired first, but at least one witness said it was clearly a warning shot. Starr shot the deputy who fell, wounded, and drew his revolver when his rifle jammed. Starr shot the prostrate man two more times.

And then, Starr walked up to the severely wounded and now helpless deputy, and shot him in the heart from a distance so close the gunpowder seared the lawman's garments. Starr's claim of self-defense was inconsistent with the final execution shot to the heart. He was convicted of murder and sentenced to the gallows by famed "hanging judge" Isaac Parker. (3)

But life seemed to deal Starr more "get out of jail free" cards than a Monopoly game. His conviction was overturned by a court of appeals; his next trial resulted in another conviction and another successful appeal; and a disgusted judge who had replaced Parker finally settled for a manslaughter conviction with a sentence of only three years. In prison, Starr was a model inmate and convinced everyone from the warden to the Cherokee National Council he was completely reformed.

President Theodore Roosevelt reviewed the request for Starr's pardon, and sent him a telegram asking, "Will you be good if I set you free?" With uncharacteristic *naïveté*, Roosevelt granted the pardon when Starr made the promise. Starr appreciated it enough to, not long thereafter, name his newborn son Theodore Roosevelt Starr.

The centerpiece of Starr's reinvention of himself as a criminal who had "turned his life around" took place in 1895 at the jail in Fort Smith, AR. Starr had become friendly with fellow inmate Crawford "Cherokee Bill" Goldsby, who was believed to have murdered some 14 people and was awaiting the

noose. Cherokee Bill managed to get hold of a gun, murder a guard, and create a standoff situation. Starr, partly Cherokee himself, talked the killer into surrendering, thus sealing his own image as a reformed criminal.

In 1914 he wrote his autobiography, *Thrilling Events*, and in 1919 produced and starred in a silent film based on his life, *Debtor to the Law*. Starr had become a star, able to look good on a movie poster and projecting a commanding presence. One writer describes him as standing six-feet-seven. He had said publicly that crime didn't pay: "I'm 45 years old, and I've spent 17 of those years in prison." Yet the Stroud robbery subsequent to the book, and his final robbery in Harrison after the movie, showed how much he cared about his "debt to the law."

The Guns Of Henry Starr

Those who knew him said Starr was a superb marksman. He wrote in his autobiography of riding and shooting daily to keep in practice. (4) If nothing else, he had good taste in firearms: Colt and Winchester primarily, but also Remington and Savage. The .35 caliber Remington Model 8 autoloading rifle he wielded in Stroud in 1915 was the same make, model and caliber legendary Texas Ranger Frank Hamer would use to take down Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow in 1934. Researcher Lee Adelsbach (5) tracked down a fine .38 Special target revolver, a Colt Officer's Model with 7.5" barrel, Starr gave to a lawman in gratitude for releasing him after an arrest. Starr appears to have preferred the Single Action Army revolver, usually in .45 Colt, but owned at least one documented SAA in .41 caliber.

The Model '73 Winchester ending his life is on display at the Boone County Historical Society in Harrison, AR. I can't find what became of the gun Starr himself wielded on his "last ride." In most descriptions it's simply "a heavy revolver" and the most precise description I can find is "double action .45 revolver." That could be anything from a gate-loading 1878 Colt to one of the many .45 ACP Colt and S&W Model 1917's brought home from WWI.

Starr was also known to use the 1899 Savage rifle, and therein lies a relevant tale. Those who succumbed to his "glamorous bad boy" image saw him as a Robin Hood, but the closest I can find to him stealing from the rich to give to the poor was one bank robbery in which he gave a little girl in the bank lobby a fistful of pennies to calm her down.

Toinette Madison in Boone County tells us after the final robbery in Madison, Starr's three accomplices burned the getaway car and fled. They were arrested later. Sometime thereafter, a young man found a Savage 99, caliber

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.250/3000, hidden in a brush pile 50 to 75 yards from the site of the abandoned getaway car. During the Depression, many local folks borrowed that rifle from its new owner to shoot deer to feed their families. Long after, when it was being cleaned, someone removed the butt-plate and found a five point star cut into the butt. On the five points of the star were carved the letters H-E-N-R-Y.

And this may be the closest this so-called "Robin Hood" ever came to feeding the poor.

Oh, and about the getaway car. In some accounts, it's described as a Model T Ford. *Au contraire*: Toinette Madison confirms it was a Nash touring car. Many sources (including the current Wikipedia entry on Starr) claim the Harrison raid was the first instance of "motorized bandits." When I was in Tombstone, AZ for the Western History Symposium some years ago, I got to meet Marshall Trimble, a researcher whose diligence I have long respected. He wrote of Starr in the pages of *True West* magazine, "Although some credit Henry and his pals as the first bank robbers to use a car for his getaway, that honor goes to two California bank robbers (who) fled in their auto in a 1909 robbery in Santa Clara." (6)

Lessons

Not once but twice, armed citizens aborted Starr's robberies and shot down a man who in the past had cold-bloodedly murdered a peace officer.

If you can't carry a defensive firearm on your person, at least have one or more strategically placed where you can reach it in a predictable emergency.

When introduced in 1873, the Winchester W.J. Myers used that day was the "assault rifle" of its time, with relatively high cartridge capacity and speed of fire. It allowed a lone sexagenarian to rout an entire four-man gang of heavily armed criminals and prevent injury or death to the innocent people within the mantle of his protection.

Charm and *faux* sincerity are the stock in trade of sociopathic criminals. Henry Starr was neither the last nor the first to play the "I'm a changed man" card, and those who gave him premature release into society again and again were certainly not the last to fall for it.

(1) <http://www.skypoint.com/members/jkm/oklincoln/families/starr.html>; (2) *Adelsbach, Lee. "Henry Starr" in Guns and the Gunfighters, New York, NY: Bonanza Books (1982), p. 170*; (3) https://www.nps.gov/fosm/learn/historyculture/floyd_wilson.htm; (4) *Starr, Henry. Thrilling Events: Life of Henry Starr. Tulsa, OK: R.D. Gordon, 1914*; (5) *Adelsbach, op. cit.*; (6) <https://truewestmagazine.com/outlaw-henry-starr/>

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HURTING HANDS

Continued from page 65

even with the lighter weight ammo, I want to make the best possible use of my range time. Unless I'm doing accuracy testing for a particular gun, ammo or combination, I rarely shoot at stationary paper targets any more. Instead, my trips to the range consist of tactical drills designed to keep me as sharp and focused as possible. I shoot against the clock. I shoot in contests against other shooters. I shoot moving targets. I shoot in shoot/no shoot scenarios. In other words, I do my best to stay on top of my game from a defensive shooting perspective, not just target shooting. I want to keep my thinking skills sharp along with my shooting skills.

But, there's still some satisfaction in being able to shoot small groups in stationary targets because it challenges you to keep the basic skills of grip, aiming, breathing, trigger control and follow-through sharp. Since I don't want to spend time at the range working on these skills, I sit on the back porch and shoot pellet guns and BB guns. Not only is it fun and useful for me, it's a great way to have fun with the grandkids when they come to visit.

The kids and I like to use Birchwood-Casey Shoot-N-C targets, either stuck onto our Big Green Target block or hanging in front of a Do-All .22 Bullet Trap. Either of these will work indoors in case the weather or mosquitos chase us into my home office. Outdoors can bring back the nostalgia of plinking by shooting at aluminum cans and resetting air gun targets.

Make a commitment to yourself to stay sharp with your defensive firearm until your relatives tell you it's time to put your gun down and let them take up the mantle. Try some of the lighter shooting, but effective ammo. Changing out grips for more comfort is relatively inexpensive and easy to do. Gloves can help. Maximize your range time with drills and exercises that will keep your mind, reflexes and shooting skills sharp. Air guns are fun! Try one, or several! So there you go, some simple and achievable ways to take the sting out of shooting!



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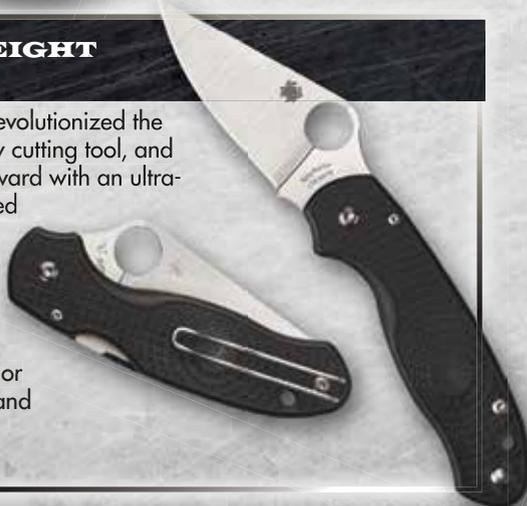
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SIXGUNNER

Continued from page 40

The smaller, easier-to-pack every day Model 97 is available in .22, .357 Magnum, .44 Special, .41 Magnum and .45 Colt.

Visiting Wayne

In a recent visit with Wayne Baker he showed me the prototypes of two limited production Freedom Arms revolvers. And as he shared I also saw his humility come through. Years ago Freedom Arms produced the .454 Dick Casull Signature Edition as a tribute to the contributions of Dick Casull. Wayne emphatically shared he did not want to take anything away from Dick Casull who was a pure firearms genius. Because of this he was somewhat reluctant to share the two prototype revolvers on the Model 83 and Model 97.

These two special sixguns will have Wayne's signature on the back strap and he was not sure this was totally appropriate. However, many have asked for such a sixgun and encouraged him to do it so in spite of his misgivings Freedom Arms is going ahead with this limited run. These will be available on the Model 83 and the Model 97. Both will have octagon barrels, with the Model 83 being

a 6" .454, while the .45 Colt Model 97 will have a 3" barrel and rounded butt for easy packing and concealment.

Without Wayne Baker the .454 Casull would never have become a factory sixgun and cartridge combination, nor would it have survived once it did.

Both will have Wayne's signature on the back strap as well as "An American Entrepreneur" engraved on the barrel above the ejector rod. The prototype pictures do not show it, however both will also be engraved. The plans are to make 20 Model 83's all chambered in .454, while the Model 97 will be available in .45 Colt. The decision is yet to be made, however, the .357 Magnum may also be available in the Model 97. They will also be limited to 20 examples.

Most of us at least think about what legacy we will leave behind. Legacies

come naturally as a result of how we live. Wayne Baker's legacy is Freedom Arms, however it's not his only legacy. In fact, it is not even his greatest. Wayne is a member of the fast disappearing Greatest Generation. He served in World War II, flying 32 bombing missions over Germany as the flight engineer on a B24 in the 93rd Bombardment Group.

However, even this is not his greatest legacy. Wayne is a firm believer in the four F's: Faith, Family, Friends and Firearms all of which give us our freedom. I would say Wayne's Greatest Legacy is his family. He married the love of his life, Mariam Baker. A wise man once said behind every good man is a better woman. Mariam was his partner and greatest encourager from the time they married in 1945. When she passed recently they had been married 73 years. They had eight children, 40 grandchildren, 120 great-grandchildren and he will admit he's lost track of the great-great grandchildren. He's a staunch supporter of the Constitution and a solid patriot. I know of no man I have ever met whom I admire more than Wayne Baker. You can read more about his life in his autobiography, *Above The Clouds: The Story of an American Entrepreneur*. 

For more info: Freedom Arms, www.freedomarms.com, Ph: (307) 883-2468



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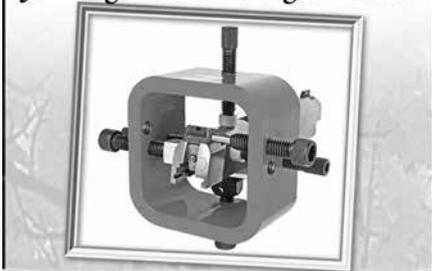
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PIN SHOOT

Continued from page 61

is why you want powerful ammo. You can enter as many of the following events as you want.

Main Events

Stock Gun is the core concept, an auto a cop might carry on the street, or a hunter in the woods. Iron sights, no recoil compensators or muzzle weights (though porting is allowed). The 1911 .45 has historically ruled here, though the 10mm is popular and the Christiansen brothers have turned in some great scores with Guncrafter 1911's chambered for .50 GI. In the past, ace six-gunners have won, like Addison Clark with S&W Model 29 .44 Magnums and the legendary Jerry Miculek with Model 27 .357's. It was at the original Second Chance matches that Jerry first shot his way to fame. This year, veteran champ Vance Schmid won Stock with the Hybrid-ported Colt Government .45 he carried on duty before he retired.

Pin Gun is the above, still with iron sights but with muzzle weights, comps, and extra-heavy revolver barrels allowed. Felipe Campos won in 2018 with a quarter century old 1911 .45 comp gun built by Ned Christiansen.

Space Gun means Pin Gun rules but optics allowed. Richard Hupp won Space Gun with a revolver in 2018, an 8-shot S&W .357 topped with a C-More sight. Of course, you can shoot your Pin Gun in the Space Gun category, and for that matter, your Stock Gun in both Pin and Space. In all three events, you're limited to eight rounds in the handgun at any given time, and always facing an array of five "shoot" pins.

Concealed Carry debuted in 2017, limited to barrels no longer than 3.5" and only six rounds allowed in the gun. Kim Heath-Chudwin won in '17 with her Colt Officers .45 auto, and Jess Christiansen in '18 with a 2.5" S&W 686 revolver and heavy .357 handloads.

Side Events

9x12 is a concession to 9mm pistols and it's the one event where the "shoot" pins only need to be tipped over, not blasted completely off the tables. You'll face a dozen of them, intermingled with the dreaded "hostage" pins. We see an array of GLOCKs and other striker-fired "nines," but sweet-triggered double-stack 1911 designs in that caliber do seem to have an edge. Greg Blough took top honors here last time with a 9mm STI Custom and a blazing 5.5-second run. This is also the only event with no capacity limit — some shooters vied with 33-round GLOCK mags, full up.

8-Pin Revolver is just like it sounds. Mandatory reload and no more than

six rounds in the gun, which is why the S&W .45 ACP revolver with full moon clips is the unquestioned choice. Barney Niner took it last time with a Model 625 S&W.

Team matches are done two-person with iron-sight handguns, and three-person with two shotguns and one shooter anchoring with an iron-sight handgun. Dan Hauserman used a stock-lookin' Caspian 1911 .45 as he, Levi and Dakota with shotguns, captured a Hauserman family three-gun victory in 2018.

The Big Push is another recent development. Only three pins and no hostage targets in the way, but they have to be blasted all the way back down a 14-foot alley. Even .44 Magnums need not apply, unless you're willing to take time for multiple shots. The .454 Casull seems to be the power floor if you hope to do it with three shots, and .460 and .500 Magnum seem to be the winning hardware. Richard Hupp took it last time with a long-barreled S&W X-Frame .500, running 500-gr. handloads at 1,200 fps.

In the Bleachers

Founder and head honcho Rich Davis, with his famously wild sense of humor, engages the audience with *Trivia Quiz*. Answer the question correctly and win a ticket for a pre-owned Mercedes-Benz for an end-of-match drawing. Pin-shooting is very visual and endlessly entertaining for spectators who are into guns. For family members who aren't, the shoot is held in the vacationland of Central Lake, Michigan where relatives and companions can be swimming or boating while you're competing.

The camaraderie is awesome, and listening to the old heads talking guns is amazingly instructive. In 2017, folks were hanging around a picnic table at the pavilion listening to S&W guru Denny Reichard talking revolvers with Colt Python maven Jerry Moran. It was worth the price of admission by itself.

Speaking of which, entry fee will be reduced to \$200 for 2019, even less with early bird sign-ups. Admission includes free lunch every day and other incentives you'll find on the website. Rich is reinstating the old Master Blaster rank, segregating the perennial winners among their own kind and gives new shooters more of a chance to win the dozens and dozens of guns awarded as prizes at week's end. The 2019 event is schedule for the second Friday of June through the third Friday.

Some have called it the most fun they can have with their pants on. Having attended annually since 1976, I've always said if shooting matches were rock concerts, this one would be Woodstock. Hope to see you there!



For more info: Pin Shoot, www.pinshoot.com, Ph: (231) 350-0135

GUN RIGHTS

Continued from page 67

guns — how will background checks affect armed criminals?

A: What? I don't understand the question. And how about high-capacity magazines?

Q: Good point. Let's cover those next. How would background checks stop armed criminals?

A: Uhh, well, it would stop *new* criminals from getting new guns.

Q: New criminals? How many new criminals are there? Is there any proof of this, and wouldn't they just get guns the way the other criminals got theirs?

A: This would be illegal, don't you understand? And those would be illegal guns. This is getting us nowhere. (The mayor's conference actually suggested passing laws making it illegal for criminals to have illegal guns — you read that right — after learning most criminals don't get guns legally. Seriously.)

Q: You're right. But isn't the main idea really to stop schoolkids from slaughtering their classmates?

A: Now you get it!

Q: Good. How would background checks do this?

A: You're not like the other reporters ...

Q: The mass murderers in schools

mostly used guns they already owned, got legally, or ones they stole, got illegally or obtained through murder or government mistakes. How did other reporters react to your answers?

A: They never asked bizarre questions like you. I don't like you.

Q: Did you know for decades now, after a criminal is actually spotted by a background check in a gun store, with the FBI right there on the phone, the person is just sent away, cash in hand, and the dealer just hangs up? Did you know that?

A: You're lying. This can't be right. I never heard that. And I've been doing this a long time. Besides, what about Trump and Russian collusions?

And ...

It's perfectly true the children, and most Americans, including every legacy "news" reporter I've spoken with, are not aware criminals, once found trying to buy guns through the acclaimed check, are just sent away. We have their names, addresses, picture ID and their falsely signed affidavits (itself felony perjury), and we tell them to walk. Why? The official position of the White House, the FBI and the ATF when I asked, after the Brady Bill, was "The Brady law was neither designed nor intended to increase the number of federal prosecutions annu-

ally." The enabling legislation for the background check was enacted back in 1994. Say what?

Brady checks are insufficient grounds for arrests. Dr. John Lott's research shows well over 90 percent of those stopped can't be prosecuted for anything, backed up by ATF and FBI figures — and actions. The useful idiots in the media and the public at the time were hoodwinked into believing it was really about five-day waiting periods — remember that now-abandoned canard? Stop crimes-of-passion and save the world?

The dialog listed before could go on for more ink than the editor will allow me, and I could start getting real sarcastic if it weren't so outrageous. The children demanding background checks and other gun laws have no idea what they're spending or doing. Our "news" media simply falls behind them in lock-step, like mindless robots, parroting and promoting their nonsense. Without knowing it, they're both shifting the nation's power from a freely armed people to a tyrannical monopoly of officials in business suits with a body-armored Praetorian Guard. 

Alan Korwin's website features plain-English books on state and federal gun laws for the public. Visit GunLaws.com.



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SPRINGFIELD

Continued from page 43

same double-column, 15-round magazines and superb striker-fired trigger. The 4.5" version comes with two magazines, while the Competition gun has three. When compared side by side, the frames are otherwise identical.

How'd They Run?

This ain't your daddy's 9mm pistol. The XD(M) 10mm is a manly gun with a manly comportment. From the perspective of pure Newtonian physics, the 10mm tosses fully half again more downrange horsepower than does a typical 9mm defensive load. While bullet design is indeed important, there yet remains something to be said for raw unfiltered power. If the mission is to punch deep and make it hurt, the 10mm has all the right numbers.

Keep in mind the Springfield Armory XD(M) 10mm carries the same onboard ammunition load as does the Beretta 92, SIG 226 and HK VP9 9mm pistols. Despite the quantum increase in horsepower the grip remains remarkably comfortable. I have big, skinny hands and the gun fit me perfectly. Slimming down to the trim backstrap makes this big gun run fine for smaller shooters as well. With two spare magazines, this makes for a potential 46 rounds of serious down-range chaos.

The XD(M) 10mm is indeed more vigorous than your typical 9mm, but it's not objectionable. I've run magnum handguns which left me miserable, but the XD(M) 10mm would yet remain recreational throughout a long Saturday afternoon at the range. Double taps are not overly challenging and combat drills remain about as fast as the same thing with a lesser gun.

As one might expect, the longer gun is incrementally more comfortable on the range. The extended sight radius is a boon to my aged eyes, and the recoil impulse is perhaps a wee bit milder. However, both versions shoot straight and run well. While I'd love to split hairs, I grouped about the same with both weapons, averaging 1" to 2" from a rest at 15 meters. Oddly, I found velocities between the two guns running the same loads to be about the same.

Speaking of the ammunition I used, the SIG SAUER ammunition plant in central Arkansas consumes as much ballistic gelatin per annum as does the entire rest of the country. Their V-Crown Elite Performance Jacketed Hollowpoint 10mm's are the stuff of nightmares downrange. The extensive 10mm lineup from Buffalo Bore Ammunition includes some bunker busting 220-gr. Hard Cast solids that

will typically penetrate 3 feet (yep, you read that right) in living tissue.

Details

The Competition model is 3/4" longer and 1 1/2 oz. heavier. It also costs about \$120 more at retail. However, both guns carry about the same, and they shoot comparably straight. Outfit one of these monsters with a proper tactical light and you're ready for most any threat whether it walks on two legs or four.

The Danish Sirius Sledge Patrol packs 10mm pistols for defense against polar bears in Greenland. An adult male polar bear tips the scales at half a ton and runs at speeds of up to 25 miles per hour. However, with the right ammo this Springfield Armory XD(M) 10mm could punch 36" into rampaging hide, meat and gristle. Nothing else you can pack underneath a loose shirt even comes close.

What's It Really Good For?

You could indeed tote the Springfield Armory XD(M) 10mm as a concealed carry gun, but it would get old fast. Only the most dedicated among us would put up with the heft and bulk of such a CC solution long term. However, for those applications wherein you might not be trying to camouflage your iron underneath a T-shirt this polymer-framed powerhouse offers some thought-provoking capabilities.

Unlike those massive steel-framed magnum wheelguns, the Springfield Armory XD(M) 10mm will ride comfortably in a hip holster. I lived in the Alaskan interior for three years, and the argument could be made this high-capacity 10mm howitzer would be the ideal bear defense arm. The 10mm round is not going to give you the same down-range thump a 12-ga. might, but it's relatively painless to carry, fast to shoot and packs 16 rounds on board. Additionally, hunting whitetails with a 10mm handgun would demand superb fieldcraft. Finishing off truly big game like alligators or similar toothy beasts would be right in this gun's wheelhouse as well.

We endlessly debate the details, but I literally cannot imagine a better tool for a full-bore gunfight. Should you have to fight within your home or out of a car you need not fret overly about stopping power. Think of the Springfield Armory XD(M) 10mm like 2.6 six-shot .357 Mag. revolvers all packed into an indestructible polymer-framed package tucking comfortably into your glove box. That's some serious firepower. And, at an MSRP of \$652 for the standard and \$779 for the Competition model, they won't break the bank, either.



For more info: Springfield Armory, www.springfield-amory.com, Ph: (800) 680-6866

RUGER SR1911

Continued from page 53

did take it apart once and sort of wiped the crud off, but I'm not sure it would have actually needed it to keep running. Modern ammo's pretty clean shooting.

While a few glitches with any brand-new auto is pretty much normal I didn't have that experience with the custom gun. I mostly ran good quality factory ammo during shooting, with just a few mags of crappy reloads, but even they ran fine too. The final score was 100 percent reliability — seeming the norm for well-built 9mm 1911 autos for some reason. It really makes you like a gun when it runs like that.

By the time I collected my thoughts here, the SR1911 Custom Shop gun and I were old buddies. It seemed, well ... friendly, for lack of a better word. It's pretty much lived on my desk since I got it and I found myself picking it up all the time to simply enjoy it. I have a torso-sized gong here outside my office door set at 82 yards. I'd go out, just about daily over the past couple of months, load a mag or two, and bring that gong pretty much 100 percent of the time. Sights on the target, press the great trigger and hear the clang. Call it no recoil too and an easy-to-run slide. It's honestly great fun and I found myself smiling all the time.

Details

The Ruger Custom Shop team worked closely with well-known competitor Doug Koenig to help hone the features of the SR1911. After living with my test sample for about four months before writing, I feel it's pretty much living up to the promises made for being what is, essentially, a custom 1911 for competition, practice, fun and even carry if you're inclined. Doug's seasoned ideas are obvious in the final package.

The basic platform doesn't hide any surprises. But the list of customized features does add a thing or three for sure. The gun itself is stainless, finished in black nitride with polishes here and there to toss in some accent. I think it looks fine. It's got a high cut behind the trigger guard, common on custom guns, allowing a firm, high grip. There's 25 LPI checkering where needed, and the G10 Piranha grips are supplied by Hogue — they happen to know a thing or two about grips. They are, um ... grippy, and frankly feel great, adding a good deal to control.

Being a 1911, everything is where you expect it and runs fine. Safeties snick on and off (ambi, by the way), the slide runs smoothly but is tight, as is the barrel lock-up. It has a recoil spring guide rod and the smooth fit and lightweight spring — since it's a 9mm

— makes the slide easy to run and manipulate. It's great for us old guys or anyone with some strength issues. I really like the move to 9mm in this platform and this example is a benchmark for how to do it.

The magwell is made by Techwell and has what I thought was a peculiar space at the front. That is, until you insert one of the two supplied Metal-form mags (10-rounders) and you find the mag's baseplate toe fits easily because of that. It will also help with after-market mags with even more pronounced toes. I had never seen this before and think it's a thoughtful touch.

The barrel is listed as being a "competition" barrel and was crowned nicely and hard-fitted perfectly. It has EGW's "Ultimate Trigger Kit" installed, a nice, flat trigger which I really like — it's forgiving of trigger finger placement if you're in a hurry — and great adjustable sights. The sight has a bold green fiber optic in front and a nice, big, black serrated rear to peer through. That front green dot really jumps out in the light.

Our sample is advertised as having a Koenig Shooting Sports low-mass hammer and competition sear, a precision disconnecter and tuned sear spring. That hammer is interesting as it's sort of "skeletonized" side-to-side as well as back-to-front. Check out the pictures to see what I mean. There are plenty of other hand-fit touches too, like a polished ramp, fitted lug, etc. as you would expect.

The trigger was fine, with a bit of travel but still a real pleasure to use. Some people like a tad of travel (I do) so I don't call that a strike. Our test gun's trigger broke between 4 lbs. and 4 lbs. 6 oz., using a nifty Wheeler electronic trigger gauge. Very consistent too, as it held those same weights from the beginning to the end of testing.

Accuracy

I did spend some time shooting groups on several occasions. Think of this as a 1.75" to 2" gun at 25 yards. I might even say it likes lighter ammo in the 110- to 125-gr. range. That surprised me as I've found the 147-gr. subsonics to be more accurate than lighter bullets almost always. But in this case they were about on-par with the lighter bullets. So this opens the door to even lighter recoil, shooting lighter bullets. From the bench, I was able to bring my 100-yard 14" gong I have here easily once I dialed hold-over in, which actually wasn't very much.

According to Ruger, this gun is made specifically for "competition." I'm thinking it's not intended for serious competition against the "big guys" who run really fancy custom guns. As one seasoned competitor I know told me, "For USPSA it could be used in Open,

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Limited, Limited-10 or Single Stack if you wanted to. But being a 9mm it's going to be scored minor in all those divisions which might be a pretty tough handicap. In Open and Limited, higher cap magazines pretty much rule too."

I'd tend to agree. But I think Ruger has a winner here for we mere mortals. For any weekend competitor, local match shooter and even for some regional events — especially for newer shooters starting out — the Ruger represents a package essentially turn-key when you pick it up from the gun store. Buy a few more mags, a holster of your choice for the event you're shooting, and off you go. Ruger lists the MSRP at \$2,499 but are kind to dealers and usually list it on the high side. I did some research and found them for sale from a low of \$1,775 to about the \$2,200 mark, so do some shopping. Either price still gets you a screaming deal on what is, effectively, a custom 1911.

And truthfully, it's a nice gun for any sort of shooting. Find a load you like, zero the sights and proceed to enjoy yourself. It's a beautifully fitted, accurate, easy-shooting American classic — built by an American classic of a gun company. 

For more info: Ruger, www.ruger.com,
Ph: (336) 949-5200

GUNNYSACK

ROY HUNTINGTON

1911 TOOL

It gives me great personal delight to talk about this very cool tool. Dear friend and long-time industry peer Gary Smith (recently retired from Caspian) thought up and otherwise invented this handy gadget. Some years ago, Gary had it in production and I reviewed it several times. It was just too good to not cover again and again. The original one he sent me is on my work bench as we speak and gets used pretty much constantly in 1911 work. Plus, the various tools included do plenty of double duty on other jobs.

Gary recently contacted me and told me CRKT was now producing his design, as well as a Ruger-branded model. This made me happy, as I've had to zealously guard my own over the past years from sticky-fingered visitors who lusted after mine after watching me use it. Now they can get their very own. One of the most useful parts of the 1911 Tool is the "plier/bushing wrench" concept Gary came up with. You can easily see it in the picture. The "plier" action allows a firm grip with no slipping if you have a tough 1911 barrel bushing to break free.

The other accessory tools add up to a "must-have" list of gun-tools. The bushing wrench doubles as a plier, there's a spring cutter, three flat drivers, punch rod, file, knife blade, two Allen wrenches in common sizes, bottle opener (hey, you never know), a wire stripper and the G10 handles and

nylon case make it handy. I've also found the bushing wrench to be handy for holding all sorts of round "things." The tool kinda' folds back over itself, so the handles cover the plier jaws. It's not a bad "general" pocket/belt tool too, but it shines doing gun work.

It's \$99.99 at MSRP and comes with a lifetime warranty. One of the things I like about this is the fact an actual guy I know invented it and had the moxy to get it into production. And the fact Gary is a real "gun-guy" is evident in his selection of the accessory tools included in the 1911 Tool. You can shop at Ruger or CRKT to get yours. *For more info: Ruger, www.ruger.com, Ph: (336) 949-5200; CRKT, www.crkt.com, Ph: (800) 891-3100*



BULLSEYE CAMERA SYSTEM

Life isn't just about ammo, guns and reloading. Hey wait, it's not? Nope. It's also about expanding your horizons when it comes to our favorite pastime. Learning new ways to make it even more fun should also be on your radar. And trust me on this — this is one of those ways. If you're not in possession of one of the new breed of target camera systems, get out your Christmas or birthday wish list and

make notes. It works like this. You want to shoot but you're tired of peering through a spotting scope, tired of not seeing the hits, tired of trying to keep track of your groups, which shot is which on the target — and tired of dragging yourself those 200 or 500 or 1,000 yards back and forth to the target. That all made me tired just thinking about it.

And yes, I said 1,000 yards. Or how about a mile? Today's long distance people are talking in "miles" these days. Okay, so what about your average handgunner? It's just as handy and just as versatile. Even at 25 or 50 yards, it's damn convenient to just look at your iPad or phone and see, nice and clearly, the shot you just took. Then with a simple app, you can track the group, the order of the hits (they highlight one at a time, disappear, reappear, etc. as you like), even though the holes are still there on the target. The wonder of the digital age, eh?

The Bullseye Long-Range Target Camera is a "set" with many options. For the \$649 (MSRP) you get one mile range (or 25 yards ...), High Def 960P clarity, camera/Wi-Fi/receiver, an integrated charging system, sunshade, LED illumination, telescoping legs — and it's weather resistant — all in one unit. The camera sits at the target (just below or to one side) and the receiver goes near you and your iPad. Presto — you see the target that's 400 yards away like it was sitting on your bench in front of you. A cool side benefit is it makes your shooting a bystander-friendly event. Buddies, girlfriends (who might laugh at you, I'm just sayin'), dogs, kids and nay-sayers can all see the hits as they occur. Watch that trigger press, me-bucko. There's other models at lower prices, chasing the \$300 mark. *For more info: www.gsmoutdoors.com, Ph: (877) 269-8490*



SCOPE SETTER

To state the obvious, this tool does just what it says. I always seem to wrestle getting the reticles straight when I mount a scope. Doesn't matter if it's a handgun scope or a rifle scope. It always seems there's much fuss and muss over a "tweak" this way, then another back the other way. Lots of handing back and forth saying, "Here, how's that look to you?" There are some pretty fancy scope leveling tools out there, and plenty of "Here, try it my way" tricks, but this one takes the cake. It works, it's simple and costs about \$120. Share the cost with a couple of friends and suddenly it's pocket change.

Think of this as a kit, with everything included. The operation goes like this: You unfold the legs, level the Scope Setter (using the included little level and adjustable feet), attach your scope to the rail on the tool (you've pre-assembled the scope and rings but left the rings finger tight). Then you level the scope (just put the little level on top of the top cap). Ta-Daaa' ... the scope is leveled to the rail. Now take it off the Scope Setter's rail and put it on the gun's rail. Takes about as long to read this as it does to do it.

You can also use this set-up to adjust and calibrate those clamp-on scope levels you see the fancy target guys using.



The Scope Setter is designed and made in the USA by a family-owned business specializing in high-end machining, fabrication, prototyping, etc. They really know their way around precision tools, plus they're darn nice people. I promise if you get one of these you'll have one of those "Why did I wait so long?" moments. I sure did. Let 'em know you read about it in *Handgunner*, too! For more info: *Inventure Engineering & Machine*, www.inventeng.com; Ph: (208) 863-6033, email: info@inventeng.com

AMTAC BLADES NORTHMAN

Old friend Jeff Hoffman of Black Hills ammo and I had a good visit at the last SHOT Show. While we chatted, Jeff said, "Oh, let me show you this cool knife." He reached into his pocket and pulled out what I thought was going to be some sort of folder. Suddenly, he was holding a nifty, pointy fixed blade. How's that again? He showed it to me and I found it to be a stout, 3.5"-bladed "thruster" and cutter with a grippy handle. Jeff pulled the sheath out and I saw it had a clever clip allowing it to be carried very low in the pocket. It looks like a typical folder clip when in the pocket. Jeff told me of his friend Bill Rapier who developed it and hooked me up.

Bill retired from the Navy after 20 years. He was on SEAL Team 3 and spent 14 years at Naval Special Warfare Development Group holding many positions. He's an avid shooter and is heavily involved in combat-ives. He also runs his own shooting school and has a fiercely supportive client base.

Due to Bill's experience he wanted to develop a fixed bladed knife for front-pocket carry, replacing the folder he carried. He started the process with his friend, the "Northman" and soon brought in others to add ideas. Many versions later, the final design resulted in the "Northman" design concept. I'm

extremely impressed with this tool. It's impeccably built of the highest quality materials and shows attention to detail and craftsmanship at the very top of the class. The design elements are spot-on too, and particularly clever.

The fixed blade design is fail-safe, and the deep pocket position allows a uniformed cop to carry a fixed blade. When I was a cop I could never figure out a way to manage it — and Bill and his team did. Even the sheath has several exceptionally clever design elements, including a built-in ferro rod you can use for fire-starting. The sheath front has a double fold of Velcro you can use to hide a cuff key, money, ID, tinder, etc. There's a matching "Trainer" included with each knife, encouraging you to *seek* training — and practice.

Each knife is serial numbered and can be had in several styles, including serrated, non-serrated — or "sterile" — without markings. This is an excellent EDC knife for any cutting job and is obviously geared toward self-defense — with the right training — which Bill's school (amtacshooting.com) can supply. The \$450 price for the entire "kit" is amazingly reasonable for this sort of quality and well-thought-out design. My hat's off to Bill and his sterling team! For more info: www.amtacblades.com





NEW PRODUCTS



THE 92G VERTEC/ CENTURION TACTICAL

Wilson Combat

The Wilson Combat/Beretta Tactical Centurion Tactical is now offered with a Vertec-Grip frame conversion. The *92G Vertec/Centurion Tactical* has a frame reduced to Beretta Vertec size for shooters with smaller hands or for those who prefer the straighter, more 1911-style grip. After reducing the grip frame to Vertec size, Wilson Combat gunsmiths checkered the backstrap and refinished the frame in matte Black Armor Tuff. The pistol comes standard with Black Wilson Combat grips. For more info: (800) 955-4856, www.wilsoncombat.com

DETECTION

Wiley X, Inc.

The *Detection* is part of the Wiley X Changeable Series of eyewear. Designed to deliver clear vision, comfortable wear and eye protection, it is an ideal choice for hunters, shooting sports enthusiasts and tactical wearers. The WX *Detection* is offered in two sets of interchangeable kits with Wiley X's scratch-resistant and anti-fog coated Selenite polycarbonate lenses. The WX *Detection's* lightweight matte black frame has an adjustable wire core with rubberized nose bridge for a secure, comfortable fit. Picture shows the *Detection* with Clear Lens and Matte Black Frame. For more info: www.wileyx.com (800) 776-7842



RENDEZVOUS Emerson Knives

The *Rendezvous* is much like the knives kept at the side of men who ventured west on foot for a better life when America was in its infancy. But the main difference is Emerson Knives' *Rendezvous* is a folding version. With an overall length of 8.6", its 3.6" blade is made of 154 CM steel with a hardness rating of RC 57-59. The handle is G10. Take it camping or hunting and it's ready for any chore. For more info: (310) 539-5609, www.emersonknives.com



G17B AND WSB17 Bear & Son Cutlery

Bear & Son Cutlery's *G17B* and *WSB17* are butterfly knives designed to look as good as

they operate. Both knives weigh 4.5 oz. with an overall length of 9.25". The 3.5" black-coated clip point blade is made of high carbon polished steel. Other features include polished bolsters, a robust latch and bronze washes. The handle of the *G17B* is Black G10 and the *WSB17* is White Smooth Bone. For more info: (256) 435-2227, www.bearandsoncutlery.com



TACTICAL GRIP GLOVE

Pachmayr



The *Tactical Grip Glove* was developed specifically for the Mossberg Shockwave and Remington Tac-14. Their 14" barrels and unique birds' head style pistol grip makes them fast and maneuverable, but they also pack quite a kick. That's where the *Tactical Grip Glove* comes in — it will help reduce recoil. The slip-on grip is easy to install and features a single-finger positioning groove, non-slip texturing and a thicker padded area to give the palm of the hand better protection from recoil. For more info: (800) 225-9626, www.lymanproducts.com/brands/pachmayr

TACTICA IWB HOLSTER

Tactica Fashion

Instead of taking one type of holster design and merely applying a different color or pattern, Tactica Fashion's holster is designed specifically for women. The *Tactica IWB Holster* allows women to carry comfortably as well as conceal easily. Custom-made to fit your handgun, the holster is flexible, making it conform to your waistline, with a fully covered trigger for protection. For more info: (208) 618-4101, www.tactica-fashion.com



CONQUEST V4 3-12X44 AND 4-16X50 ZEISS

Zeiss expands its Conquest V4 Riflescope Line with two more models. The *Conquest V4 3-12x44* and *4-16x50* are options for those in the market for a dedicated scope for their precision shooting rifle or seeking an upgrade to their hunting rig. The *4-16x50* has a ZMOAi-1 MOA-based reticle, while the *3-12x44* has two reticle options: the ZBR-1 MOA-based reticle with windage correction and the Z-Plex reticle. For more info: (800) 441-3005, www.zeiss.com





CITADEL 1911 LASER ENGRAVED MADAGASCAR PISTOL

Legacy Sports International

Legacy Sports' newest offering in its Citadel 1911 Government line is the *Citadel 1911 Laser Engraved Madagascar Pistol*. Available in both .45 ACP as well as 9mm, the new model is cerakoted gray with laser engraved Damascus patterns across the slide. There is also a redwood pattern contrasting with the gray cerakote on the grips. Other features include a 5" barrel with a full-length guide rod, an ambi thumb safety, a series 70 firing system, a beveled magazine well, a skeletonized hammer and trigger, a beavertail grip safety and more. For more info: (800) 553-4229, www.legacysports.com

G34X Stealth Cam

The *G34X* raises Stealth Cam's G-series of cameras to the next level. With its 26-megapixel resolution, 16:9 wide image ratio, HD video recording and SD card compatibility up to 512GB, the *G34X* offers high resolution as well as high-capacity recording. Other features include retina low-light sensitivity, Matrix advanced blur reduction, time lapse with PIR override, a 0.5-second reflex trigger, 1-9 image burst mode, geo tagging, password protection and more. For more info: (877) 269-8490, www.stealthcam.com



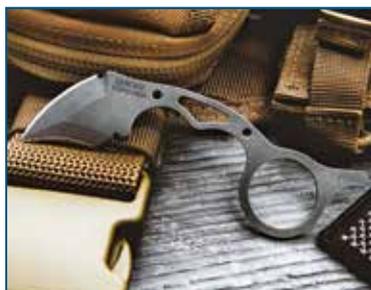
PROMAT Cerus Gear

The *ProMat* from Cerus Gear is a high-quality gun-cleaning mat made in the U.S. by shooters, for shooters. There are ProMats for rifles and handguns with patriotic and schematic designs as well as field-stripping instructions. Cerus Gear actually has 80+ designs with detailed, accurate and vibrant imagery so this means there's a ProMat for every shooter. For more info: (877) 371-2586, www.cerusgear.com



ZT 0640 Zero Tolerance Knives

The *ZT 0640* from Zero Tolerance Knives combines practical design with eye-catching style. Its 3.75"-long clip-point blade is made of CPM 20CV high-chromium stainless steel. The blade is machine satin-finished on the grinds and stone-washed on the flats. The Titanium handle features a new green carbon fiber composite overlay and ridged machining at the top following the handle's angular contours. Weighing 4.4 oz., the *ZT 0640* is a fully manual knife that opens one handed with the Emerson thumb disk. For more info: (800) 325-2891, zt.kaiusaltd.com



QUICKIE TOPS Knives

Quickie from TOPS Knives is a 3-finger karambit. This means the third finger away from the blade should be placed in the hole in the knife's skeletonized handle. The design allows some use of the hand while holding the knife. The *Quickie* has an overall length of 5" and weighs 1.2 oz. without a sheath. Its 1.63" blade is made of 1095 steel with a hardness rating of 56-58 RC. For more info: (208) 542-0113, www.topsknives.com

LASERGUARD SIGHT FOR SIG SAUER P365

Crimson Trace



The *Laser Guard LG-422* (red) and *LG-422G* (green) laser sights from Crimson Trace are now available for the SIG SAUER P365. Both are designed for a secure fit on the pistol. The laser sights are easy to install on the SIG P365's trigger guard. They are activated with Crimson Trace's Instinctive Activation engagement system. An on/off master switch aids in battery management. For more info: (800) 442-2406, www.crimsontrace.com



DEFENDER-FLEX PRESTIGE PANT

Tactical 1.1

The *Defender-Flex Prestige Pant* from Tactical 1.1 can be worn day or night. Made of softened stretch twill, a pair will keep its shape to make you look sharp and feel comfortable. Sporting a traditional 5-pocket design, the *Defender-Flex Prestige Pant* is comfortable but tough too. It features Nylon 6-reinforced front pocket edges, with shored up belt loops and pockets. For more info: (866) 451-1726, www.511tactical.com



NEW PRODUCTS



REPRODUCTION GRIPS

Deer Hollow Enterprises LLC

Reproduction Grips from Deer Hollow Enterprises are produced with the discerning collector in mind. The latest computer-based technology combined with old-fashioned craftsmanship is used to produce the grips. Made with hand-selected wood and quality hardware, the reproduction grips capture the exact look and feel of the original. *For more info:* (931) 212-9631, www.deerhollowonline.com

HANDALL BEAVERTAIL GRIP SLEEVES FOR GLOCK 17

Hogue Inc.

Hogue has added two models to their line of precision fit *HandALL Beavertail Grip Sleeves*. Both sleeves are designed to fit the GLOCK 17, a favored pistol for LE, military and personal use around the world. One is made for GLOCK Gen 1, 2 and 5 and the second is for Gen 3 and 4. The Hogue HandALL Beavertail Grip Sleeve is built from a thermoplastic elastomer compound surface and is covered with Hogue's familiar Cobblestone texture, a series of small circular bumps providing a non-slip, non-irritating grip on the rubber. *For more info:* (800) 438-4747, www.hogueinc.com



IKUCHI

Spyderco

The Spyderco *Ikuchi* is very slim and different from the usual pocketknife form and function. Weighing 2.1 oz. and with an OAL of 7.61", the

Ikuchi (pronounced ee-koo-chee and named after a mythical Japanese sea monster) has a curved handle with skeletonized stainless steel liners and carbon fiber/G10 laminate scales. The satin-finished CPM S30V stainless steel blade is 3.26" long and full-flat ground. *For more info:* (800) 525-7770, www.spyderco.com



TX14R

Coast Products Inc.

The *TX14R* is the ideal light for LE and the military. It combines a Long-Range Optic System with a Slide Focus and anti-roll bezel for easy use in the field. With the Flex Charge Dual System, the light can run on lithium or alkaline rechargeable batteries. With high, strobe and low modes with the slide focus, this light is adaptable to a variety of situations. The *TX14R* has a low light output of 165 at a distance of 600 ft. and a high light output of 900 lumens at a distance of 1,281 ft. *For more info:* (800) 426-5858, www.coastportland.com



MANIKOMIO

Krudo Knives

Manikomio is a field knife from Krudo Knives. *Manikomio* means "insane asylum" and the blade is named as such because it is "insanely sleek." The 11"-long knife weighs 8.4 oz. Its 5" double-edge blade is made of 9Cr18MoV steel. The 6" handle is black G10. The *Manikomio's* all-black elements also make it stealthy. It comes with a Kydex sheath. *For more info:* (727) 753-8455, www.krudoknives.com



PEPPERBALL TCP

PepperBall

The *PepperBall TCP* is 7.5" long, weighs about 21 oz. and holds a 6-round magazine. This non-lethal launcher is capable of firing standard PepperBall rounds or VXR projectiles. The round projectiles are accurate out to 60 feet, and the extended-range VXR projectiles can be used for direct impact out to 150 feet. The TCP can be used for even longer ranges when deploying PepperBall rounds to saturate an area with PAVA powder. The *PepperBall TCP* uses either CO₂ or nitrogen as a power source, allowing it to function even in very cold weather. *For more info:* (877) 887-3773, www.pepperball.com

Q5 MATCH STEEL FRAME COMPETITION C1 HOLSTER

Walther Arms

The *Q5 Match Steel Frame Competition C1 Holster* is made of black Kydex with an adjustable tension thumb screw. It's legal in IDPA, USPSA, IPSC and 3-Gun when the correct bracket is used. The holster fits the Q5 Match SF as well as the 5" PPQ and Q5 Match. It allows for fast draw times but offers enough tension to retain the firearm when moving quickly. Walther Arms teamed up with Veil Solutions on this product and the holster was offered at the same time the Q5 Match SF was launched. *For more info:* (479) 242-8500, www.waltherarms.com



SHOOTING STARR: THE BANKER AND THE ARMED ROBBER

SITUATION: Armed senior citizen ends the career of a cop-killer who proudly declared himself America's most prolific bank robber.

LESSON: A fast-firing rifle is a good thing for good guys to have when facing multiple armed criminals, and bad guys should learn the error of their ways the first time they get shot by an armed citizen.

It's a cold and nasty February morning in Harrison, AR, when an automobile pulls up in front of the bank under slate-gray skies dropping icy rain and sleet. The driver stays at the wheel of the getaway car as the three gunmen it disgorges smoothly and swiftly enter the bank.

Two of the robbers hold customers and tellers at gunpoint while the leader of the gang penetrates into the vault, a large revolver in one hand and a pillowcase in the other. With everyone in sight seemingly cowed into submission, the gang leader bends down into the cash vault, stuffing bundles of greenbacks into the pillowcase. He is oblivious to the old man behind him who stealthily reaches up for something the veteran bank robber hasn't seen: the long gun suspended from two steel pegs behind him in the vault.

The roar of the gun reverberates through the vault room.

Violently jerking at the impact, the robber falls on his back, dropping his handgun. The gunshot has blasted into his right side and smashed his backbone, severing his spinal cord. He moans, "Don't shoot me anymore," and then, finding his command voice again he shouts, "I'm done for, boys! Don't kill anyone! Get out!"

Fearing for the lives of employees and customers, the old man racks another round into the chamber and rushes into the lobby, gun raised, but the other two gunmen are already heading out the door of the bank. They jump into the getaway car, which careens away. The old man shoots at the fleeing vehicle and the gunmen return fire, but no one is hit on either side.

The car disappears across a nearby bridge.

Inside, bleeding and partially paralyzed, Henry Starr begins his long, slow demise. The year is 1921. Henry Starr will say some memorable things on his deathbed. One is he has robbed more banks than any man in America. And he is proud of it.

The Citizen Who Killed Starr

Researching William J. Myers, the 60-something man who dropped Starr, it's easy to get confused. Various historians describe him as president of the bank, *retired* president of same, stockholder and clerk. *American Handgunner* went to the best source we could find: Toinette Madison at the Boone County Historical Society in Harrison, AR, the town where the incident occurred. It turns out Bill Myers was the former president of the bank Starr and his gang targeted, and was still a stockholder. He simply happened to be in the bank on the day and time in question.

More important, though, he had been heavily involved in building the bank a dozen years before. Having had previous experience elsewhere working in banks getting robbed, Myers had designed the vault with an escape door — and with an emergency firearm.

Here again some history writers have muddied the waters. At least one source says Myers blasted Starr with a shotgun. Toinette Madison confirmed a fact more historians got right: the gun Myers used was a Winchester Model 1873, caliber .38 WCF (Winchester Center Fire, aka the .38-40). He had planted the gun on wall pegs, loaded, when the bank was built. No one had cleaned, lubed, or checked it since, and Myers would later tell friends in the moments before he cut loose, he wasn't sure whether the Winchester would go "click" or "bang."

It turns out the Starr shooting wasn't Bill Myers' first experience as an armed citizen. In Baxter, AR the March 1, 1946 edition of *Mountain Home* carried the story that in Troy, TN in 1903, Myers "... was a stockholder in the Troy Bank and one night he was awakened by a blast he knew came from the Troy Bank.

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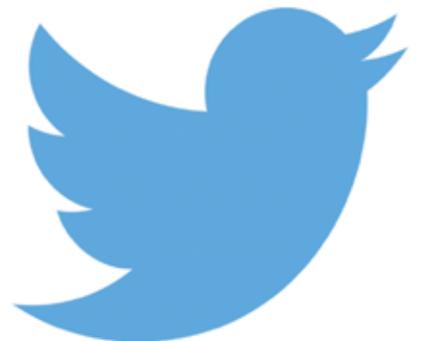


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and you don't know it's there. Loaded for bear here? That's the whole idea.

Common Threads

The "gun/light/knife" combo is always there, usually augmented with some other goodies. Some things carry over into each category, some just live in one. Some version of the "Mini" gear is honestly on me all the time, regardless of what I'm wearing. The guns may get bigger, and I might add a light or tool of some sort, but I think I'd consider the "Mini" category as the benchmark and build up or down from there.

There's always a pen too. It's not necessarily because it's "tactical" (at times I carry a collectible art pen simply because we can't live by bread alone) but because my dad always told me: "A gentleman should always have something to write with, a pocket knife and a clean hanky to loan to a lady." I added some sort of gun to the equation as time passed — and dad approved.

I always have one from each category with me, every day. And you should too.

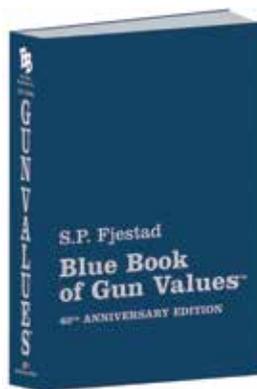
Send us a picture of your own "Pocket Dump" and we'll publish it on our facebook page! Send 'em to: editor@americanhandgunner.com.



HENRY'S SINGLE SHOT RIFLE

What caught my eye here is this single shot from Henry is chambered in .357/.38 Special — goes great with your revolvers! — and comes pretty much ready to assure you have plenty of fun afield or at the range. It's a nearly perfect "first" centerfire rifle for a kid or new shooter, and you can scope it or put a dot sight on it if you like. A heavy .357 is fine for 100 yard deer, and the single shot, break open hammer action is about as safe as you can get for a novice. The action won't open if the hammer is cocked, and you can move the lever right or left to open the action so it's ambi. MSRP is about \$448. I got one in .30-30 for another project (they're offered in multiple calibers) and so far, I'm very impressed with the design. www.henryusa.com.

BLUE BOOK TIME!



At least once in your life, buy a *Blue Book of Gun Values* for a real treat. It's not just a compendium of values from about every company — ever, it's also chock full of great pics showing how to rate condition, values and lots more. The company histories are always interesting and the book is loaded with info sure to keep you busy. It's got 2,512 pages, 30,000 gun model descriptions, 1,700 manufacturer/trademarks and 180,000 values! I especially use the 45 pages of serial number info to help determine year of manufacture of many models. It's \$59.95 and has a flash drive or online subscription (with thousands of color images) option available. www.bluebookofgunvalues.com, Ph: (800) 877-4867 Ext. 3



S&W MODEL 442

We're in a renaissance of revolvers these days and I'm glad to see it. From what you tell me, so are you, so this should please you too. S&W's latest from the Performance Center, the 442, has an aluminum alloy frame and stainless cylinder — but with those cool polished cylinder flutes. The concealed hammer and 15 ounce weight makes it pocket-friendly, and the P+ rated .38 Special chambering keeps things simple and effective. The icing is the supplied Crimson Trace Lasergrips and Performance Center tuned action. Call it about \$740 MSRP. www.smith-wesson.com

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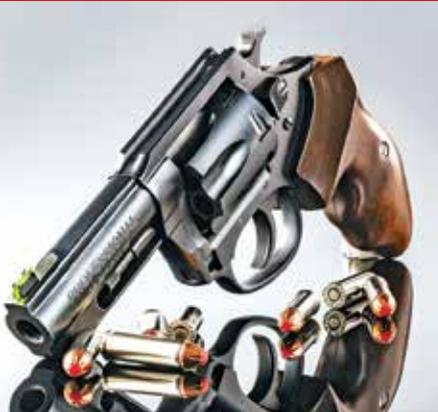
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Scholarships to gunsmithing students by American Pistolsmiths Guild this year.

CHARTER PROFESSIONAL



This makes so much perfect sense I'm glad to see it. The .32 H&R Magnum is a serious "little" cartridge and anyone armed with it is adequately heeled. Factor in a reliable 7-shot revolver, 3" barrel, good stocks, stainless steel frame and a neon-green front sight and you have a ground-breaking package. At 22 oz. (less than a Walther PPKS), holster by Galco and an MSRP around \$430, this is an answer we boomers have needed for a lightweight, light-recoiling, simple-to-use defensive gun. Well done Charter! www.charterfirearms.com



TAURUS ULTRA-LITE

I thought this color combo was eye-catching. I know, I know, we have guns in about every color possible these days, but I tend toward favoring the more “normal” colors like dirt, grass, rocks and rusty cars. The Ultra-Lite comes in lots of colors but this one comes pretty close to the “dirt/rocks/rusty car” concept. It’s a 6-shot, .38 Special +P, weighs only 16 oz. and has really good grips. Think J-Frame but a tiny tad bigger here and there. But you earn another round for that bit of growth spurt. I’d call this a great personal protection “have it around all the time” sort of a gun. At \$378 MSRP it’s affordable for we mere mortals, and you get the Taurus limited lifetime warranty. www.taurususa.com

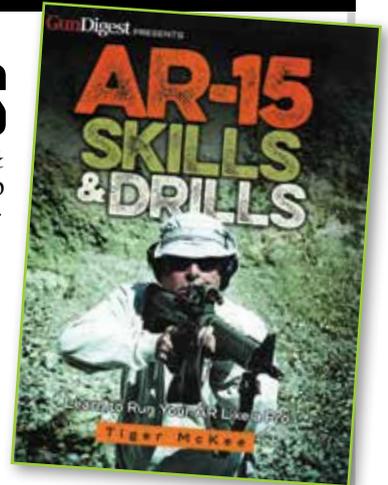


WALTHER PPK

I always get a big kick out of sharing the latest one of these superior miniatures with you. This one is the classic Walther PPK, featuring lettering on the slide original to the 1930 design. While the original is about 6.1" in length, this “biggish” model is 3" and there’s plenty of heft in the hard zinc casting (silver electroplated). That’s a .32 ACP round in the photo so you can judge the relative size. It all comes in a nice box and is packaged well when shipped. At only \$19.95 they’re amazing deals. Get the rest of the set while you can, then keep adding as they come out. The Python, Hi-Power and even the Automag, among others, are future models! www.firearmsassurefreedom.com

AR-15 SKILLS & DRILLS

Our own Tiger McKee, who writes the *Tactics & Training* column in *Handgunner*, finished up a solid how-to book covering all-things AR-related. It’s all vintage Tiger in its simplicity and clear writing. This is the single book you need to buy to, as the title says, “Learn to run your AR like a Pro.” It’s only \$30 (cheap!) and Tiger sells it on his school’s website. If you don’t own a good AR book and you have the guns, you should get this book. I think you’ll keep finding yourself going, “Hmm ... I didn’t know that,” over and over again. www.shootrite.org, Ph: (256) 582-4777



DON'T BE A DICK'S?

Seems our friends at Dick’s Sporting Goods have elected to remove firearms from another 125 stores beginning August 1st. That’s 17 percent of the company’s stores if you’re keeping track. Their CEO, Ed Stack, said if the move “goes well” they’ll remove “hunting gear” from even more stores next year. So far their stock prices continue to take a hit from this anti-gun decision. Everyone’s allowed to do what they like in business, but we don’t have to support them, eh?

“The problem isn’t that Johnny can’t read. The problem isn’t even that Johnny can’t think. The problem is that Johnny doesn’t know what thinking is; he confuses it with feeling.” —Thomas Sowell



CIMARRON COLT 1862 CONVERSION

I think these have always been one of the underrated designs in black powder revolvers. They are light, slim and graceful in the extreme. Cimarron’s rendition shows their penchant for quality and attention to detail. The proper name is the Colt 1862 Pocket Navy Conversion, and this one is chambered in .380 ACP! This updates the concept, and while its Victorian elegance remains, the caliber makes it appropriate even for personal protection today if you need it. At \$570 this is a wonderful way to add smiles to your shooting day! www.cimarron-firearms.com

NORRIS “TERRY” TURNBULL PASSES

I was saddened to hear of the passing of old friend Doug Turnbull’s dad in January this year. He was 84. Terry and his wife, Joan, started Creekside Gun Shop in Holcomb, NY in 1957 and grew it to be the largest firearms retailer in NY state, if not the entire Northeast! Terry’s expertise helped him and Doug to “rediscover” the magic of color case hardening and charcoal bluing, allowing Doug’s famous Turnbull Restorations to grow into the company we know today. Our hearts go out to you and your family Doug.



THE INSIDER



MICRO-CARRY MINI-CARRY MEDIUM-CARRY & MONDO-CARRY

First of all, this isn't my fault. Editorial Director and fellow conspirator here, Mike Humphries, sent me a photo of a tiny NAA revolver in a pocket holster, along with a teeny knife and light with a note, "Check-out my micro-carry rig." I detected a certain amount of gloat in his tone — so it got me to thinking. I thought it was a fun idea — and even a little cool — but wouldn't admit it to him. Time to fight back, though.

Does any of it even make any sense? And if not, should that stop me? Might it still lead to an interesting set of ideas or a conclusion I might not otherwise have arrived at? Who cares — let's do it anyway.

Nosing around, I discovered there's a big community of people who share photos of what's called their "Pocket Dump." That's a photo

of a set of goodies they carry with them as part and parcel of their Every Day Carry gear load. Google it and you'll find thousands of pictures loaded with some pretty amazing ideas. The experience made me think maybe Mike was onto something. I know, I know ... I was surprised too.

To keep it simple, I invented four categories. We'll call 'em "Micro, Mini, Medium and Mondo" — the last is a sort of no-holds barred division, including .50 AE Desert Eagles if you like.

The Results

This all caused me to take a hard look at what I carry regularly — and evaluate it. Even if I wouldn't actually carry a "Micro" rig alone, it did make me think hard about what was in all the categories.

Micro: The NAA small revolvers are a natural here. Streamlight's MicroStream, the Tuff Writer "Micro" Clicky pen, Spyderco Dog Tag folder and Kirk Rexroat neck knife make up a pretty tidy bit of pocket punch. The holsters are made by Thad Rybka and each has a pouch holding six rounds. Some things, like the MicroStream, stay in my pocket regardless of the category.

Mini: Now we're edging into practical things. The Ruger LCPII (and spare mag), SureFire 650 Lumen Stiletto, Swiss Army Executive folder, a keychain light, bigger pen (Tuff Writer again), a folding knife (Kershaw) and a cheap mag-



Micro-Carry: Anchored with two NAA mini-revolvers.



Mini-Carry: Ruger's LCPII .380 ACP is the foundation.

nifying glass (Handy, try it!), handles the "Mini" chores. In all honesty, this is literally my "Pocket Dump" I actually took out of my pockets to use in this picture.

Medium: This one gets pretty fluid for me. Chances are good I'll have a coat on so would put another light in my pocket like this newish Streamlight ProTac. I might change the knife out depending on my mood (I like the prying end on this Kershaw), the pen is by Hinderer and the gun is a S&W Shield 9mm. Or it might be a Kimber Solo if I'll be pocket carrying. The holster is a Bianchi model 101 Foldaway handling just about any semi-auto you can imagine. Keep in mind, I likely have the Swiss knife, magnifying glass, etc. along for the ride too.

Mondo: I'd call this my "serious" winter outfit. A coat or outer garment covers the goods here. My "most-reached-for" Mondo-gun is this lightweight (aluminum-framed) 5" .45 from Les Baer. He only made a few about 25 years ago and I snapped one up. It handles and shoots like a steel gun but it's a delight to carry. The holster is a bit of sublime enjoyment from Red Nichols in Australia. Truly one of the finest bits of holster-work I've ever seen or used.

The folder is by Kershaw (I really like their affordable line-up lately), the LCPII is along, a bigger Swiss knife (or some sort of pocket tool), a heavy duty pen by Tuff Writer (nice people there), a magnifying glass, that SureFire Stiletto light, and I've taken to carrying a classy small fixed blade by Spartan. It tucks in right at the waist

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Medium-Carry: Roy tends toward a Solo or this S&W Shield in 9mm.



Mondo-Carry: A lightweight Les Baer 5" 1911 builds the footing here.



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