



AYOOB FILES:



WINSTON CHURCHILL, CONCEALED CARRIER?

AMERICAN

JANUARY/
FEBRUARY 2021

HANDGUNNER

WILSON COMBAT
WCP320

WILSON COMBAT
PERFORMANCE,
SIG BONES

RED
DOT
READY
BERETTA
92?

CONCEALABLE
CLASS: CABOT S103

BUSHNELL HOT
HANDGUN OPTICS

FOCUS:

TACTICS & TRAINING: EYES UP!
PISTOLSMITHING: BARREL-OLGY
BETTER SHOOTING: LET THERE BE LIGHT
UNDERSTANDING POLICE USE OF FORCE

WIN
1 ALTO
SINGLE-SHOT
SELF-DEFENSE
PACKAGE

CHARLES DALY:
AFFORDABLE
G.I. 1911

ONLINE

KELTEC P17 RIMFIRE

TRIJICON NEW PISTOL OPTICS

GEAR SPOTLIGHT: EDC SOLUTIONS

SPRINGFIELD RONIN
OPERATOR .45

WWW.AMERICANHANDGUNNER.COM



IT'S TIME FOR AN UPGRADE

The best-selling HK pistol just got even better. HK VP9 2020 pistols now include the following upgrades.

- 17-round magazines replace previous 15-round versions
- Improved iron sights, with high-visibility front sight and clean black rear
- Optional optics-ready mounting system

If you've been thinking about upgrading to an HK, now is the time.

VP pistols have easy to change backstraps and side panels for a personalized fit. 27 custom-fitted grip combinations are possible.



www.hk-usa.com • 706-568-1906

MSRP: \$249.00

CPX-2



MSRP: \$339.00

CPX-2 RD



SHOWN WITH FACTORY-EQUIPPED
CRIMSON-TRACE OPTIC

ENGINEERED FOR EVERYDAY

At SCCY we believe you shouldn't make concessions on performance or style. That's why every firearm we make is built for uncompromised dependability regardless of which model you choose. Whether you're a no-frills traditionalist, or you're looking for a firearm that reflects your individuality, you can depend on SCCY to deliver a pistol that is ideal for personal defense and Engineered for Everyday.

Learn more at [sccy.com](https://www.sccy.com)

©2020, SCCY Firearms. All Rights Reserved



 Proudly Made in the U.S.A.

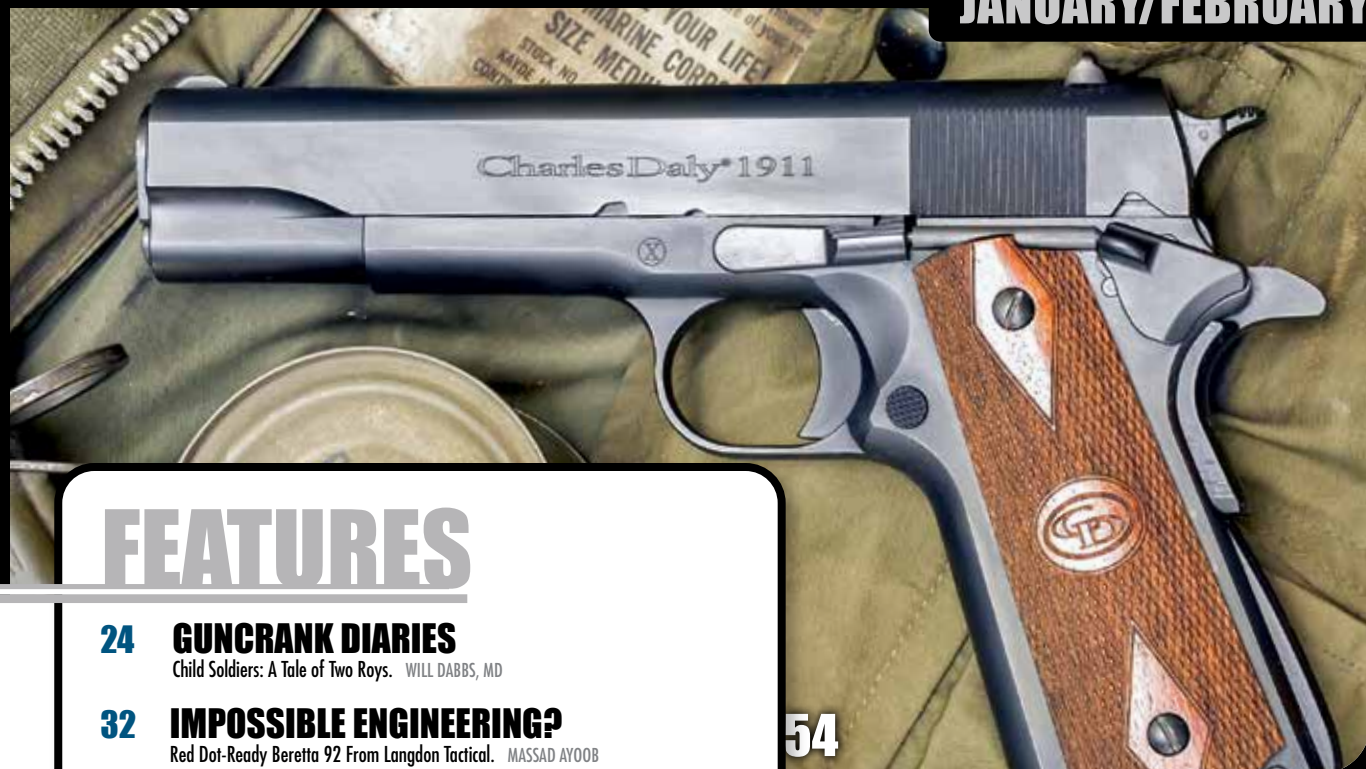
AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

Cover Photo:
Rob Jones/The Imagesmith, LLC

2021

Volume 46 • Number 1 • Issue 267

JANUARY/FEBRUARY



FEATURES

- 24 GUNCRANK DIARIES**
Child Soldiers: A Tale of Two Roys. WILL DABBS, MD
- 32 IMPOSSIBLE ENGINEERING?**
Red Dot-Ready Beretta 92 From Langdon Tactical. MASSAD AYOOB
- 34 THE DEAD MAN'S GUN**
Dillinger's Colt M1903 Hammerless That Wasn't. WILL DABBS, MD
- 36 SPRINGFIELD ARMORY RONIN OPERATOR**
A Short, Light and Smooth Handling Fighting Pistol. MASSAD AYOOB
- 38 CONCEALABLE CLASS**
Cabot S103 Compact M1911. JEREMY D. CLOUGH
- 40 WILSON COMBAT WCP320 CARRY**
Combat? Competition? How About Both! TOM McHALE
- 46 CONNECTING THE DOT**
Training with Bushnell's New Handgun Optics. DENNY HANSEN
- 48 TUSSEY CUSTOM RESTO-MOD 1911**
60 Years Of Experience — Distilled. ROY HUNTINGTON
- 50 NIGHTHAWK STRIKES!**
Exquisite Pistols. Fine Knives. Yes, Please! PAT COVERT
- 52 COLT .22 SERVICE MODEL ACE PISTOL**
A Family Heirloom Designed In ... Prison? DAVID FREEMAN
- 54 CHARLES DALY FIELD G.I. GRADE 1911**
Solid Piece of History ... and Affordable. FRANK JARDIM
- 79 THE AYOOB FILES**
Winston Churchill: Statesman, Gunfighter, Shooter, Concealed Carrier MASSAD AYOOB

COVER STORY

54

DEPARTMENTS

- 12 HANDGUN HUNTING**
Mark's "Good Stuff." MARK HAMPTON
- 14 SHOOTING IRON**
Mike's Handgun Milestones. MIKE "DUKE" VENTURINO
- 16 BETTER SHOOTING**
Let There Be Light. DAVE ANDERSON
- 18 PISTOLSMITHING**
Barrel-ology. GREG DERR
- 20 THE SIXGUNNER**
Playin' Favorites: .357 Magnum S&Ws. JOHN TAFFIN
- 22 CARRY OPTIONS**
Hidden in Plain Sight. WILLIAM STARNES
- 26 HANDLOADING**
Reloading with Lead-Free Primers. BRAD MILLER
- 30 TACTICS & TRAINING**
Eyes Up! TIGER McKEE
- 59 GUNNYSACK**
American Leathersmith Car Rig, Hogue Beavertail Handall Grip and Blue Force Gear Double Mag Pouch TOM McHALE & ROY HUNTINGTON

**EXCLUSIVE!
MORE ARTICLES
ONLINE!**

Available online only at www.americanhandgunner.com!

GEAR SPOTLIGHT: EDC OPTIONS

Choose the right carry gear. TOM McHALE

KELTEC P17 RIMFIRE

A Mid-size Multi-purpose Pistol. J.B. WOOD

POCKET OPTICS

Trijicon's New Red Dot for Carry Guns. WAYNE VAN ZWOLL



48



34



32

COLUMNS

8 **VANTAGE POINT** TOM McHALE

10 **SPEAK OUT**

28 **COP TALK** MASSAD AYOUB
Understanding Police Use of Force

61 **GUN RIGHTS** ALAN KORWIN
Black Lives Won't Matter — And Neither
Will Your Guns

82 **THE INSIDER** ROY HUNTINGTON



30



12



20

RESOURCES

56 **HANDGUN GIVEAWAY**

60 **CUSTOM CORNER**

76 **NEW PRODUCTS**
DELANO AMAGUIN

78 **AD INDEX**

78 **CLASSIFIEDS**

**WIN HANDGUN OF
THE MONTH** 56



**ALTOR
SINGLE-SHOT
PACKAGE** TOTAL VALUE: \$599.40

VISIT US AT WWW.AMERICANHANDGUNNER.COM FOR MORE CONTENT



AMERICAN HANDGUNNER® (ISSN 0145-4250) is published bi-monthly by Publishers' Development Corp., 13741 Danielson Street, Suite A, Poway, CA 92064. Periodical postage paid at San Diego, CA 92128, and at additional mailing offices. Subscriptions: One year (six issues) \$19.75. Single copies \$6.95 (in Canada \$7.95). Change of address: four weeks notice required on all changes. Send old address as well as new. Contributors submitting manuscripts, photographs or drawings do so at their own risk. Material cannot be returned unless accompanied by sufficient postage. Payment is for all world rights for the material. The act of mailing a manuscript constitutes the author's certification of originality of material. Opinions expressed are those of the bylined authors and do not necessarily represent those of the magazine or its advertisers. Advertising rates furnished on request. Reproduction or use of any portion of this magazine in any manner, without written permission, is prohibited. Entire contents Copyright© 2020 Publishers' Development Corp. All rights reserved. Title to this publication passes to subscriber only on delivery to his address. **SUBSCRIPTION PROBLEMS:** For immediate action email subs@americanhandgunner.com, write Subscription Dept., 13741 Danielson Street, Suite A, Poway, CA 92064 or call (866) 820-4045. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to **AMERICAN HANDGUNNER®**, 13741 Danielson Street, Suite A, Poway, CA 92064. **WARNING:** Firearms are dangerous if used improperly, and may cause serious injury or death. Due to the inherent variables in the reloading of metallic cartridges, verify all published loads with manufacturer's data. Consult a professional gunsmith when modifying any firearm. **Be a safe shooter!**



Trust the Network to have your back after self defense. These industry leaders do.



"Today more than ever, I urge my students to belong to the Armed Citizens' Legal Defense Network, and I urge you to do the same."
Massad Ayoob

"Our student was forced to shoot an intruder to death in his home. After calling 9-1-1 he called the Network. He was extremely grateful for the immediate and thorough assistance they provided." **Tom Givens**



"Have you considered what will happen when you press that trigger? Wouldn't it be nice to know the Network is behind you?"
Dennis Tueller

"Of all the organizations claiming to address this issue, the Network represents the best deal, by far." **John Farnam**



Network membership benefits after legal self defense include:

- ◆ Your attorney paid up front when it really matters
- ◆ Funding for criminal or civil defense, appeals and retrials
- ◆ Any legal means of self defense, not limited to firearms
- ◆ Plus powerful education by recognized experts, bail assistance benefit and much more

Call 360-978-5200 for our free information packet

Armed Citizens'
LEGAL DEFENSE NETWORK, INC.



Find us on Facebook

learn more at www.armedcitizensnetwork.org

AMERICAN HANDGUNNER[®]

SINCE 1976

CORPORATE OFFICERS

Thomas Hollander • Randy Moldé
Marjorie Young

EDITOR Tom McHale

ASSOCIATE EDITOR Jazz Jimenez

DESIGN DIRECTOR Lisa Tsonetokoy

PRODUCTION MANAGER Lisa Hartz

WEBSITE MANAGER Lorrinda Massey

DIGITAL CONTENT EDITOR Joe Kriz

ADVERTISING & MARKETING MANAGER Paula Iwanski

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Joe Novelo

GRAMMAR GURU Gwen Gunn

SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR Roy Huntington

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Mike "Duke" Venturino • Jeff "Tank" Hoover
John Taffin • Mark Hampton • Patrick Covert
Greg Derr • Massad Ayoob • Dave Anderson
David Freeman • Will Dabbs, MD • Dave Workman

FIELD EDITORS

Dave Douglas • Jeremy Clough • Sam Fadala
Alan Korwin • J.B. Wood • Mike Cumpston
Suzi Huntington • Frank Jardim



FMG PUBLICATIONS

AMERICAN
HANDGUNNER

AMERICANHANDGUNNER.COM

EDITOR: Tom McHale

GUNS

GUNSMAGAZINE.COM

EDITOR: Brent T. Wheat

AMERICAN
COP

AMERICANCOP.COM

EDITOR: Denny Hansen

**SHOOTING
INDUSTRY**

SHOOTINGINDUSTRY.COM

EDITOR: Jade Moldae



SPECIAL EDITIONS

FMGPUBLICATIONS.COM

EDITOR: Tom McHale

CUSTOMER SERVICE

WWW.AMERICANHANDGUNNER.COM

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES

(866) 820-4045

EXPRESS SERVICE: www.americanhandgunner.com (click "contacts")

EDITORIAL: (858) 842-3943 • EMAIL: edl@americanhandgunner.com

PRODUCTION

Lisa Hartz • (858) 842-3941 • EMAIL: lisa.hartz@pubdev.com

NATIONAL AD SALES (800) 537-3006

NORTH EAST Tom Vorel • tom.vorel@fmghq.com

SOUTH EAST Paula Iwanski • paula.iwanski@fmghq.com

WEST Delano Amaguin • delano.amaguin@fmghq.com

INTERNATIONAL Amy Tanguay • amy.tanguay@pubdev.com

ONLINE TRAFFIC MANAGER

Kevin Lewis • (858) 842-3941 • FAX: (858) 842-3916
kevin.lewis@pubdev.com

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

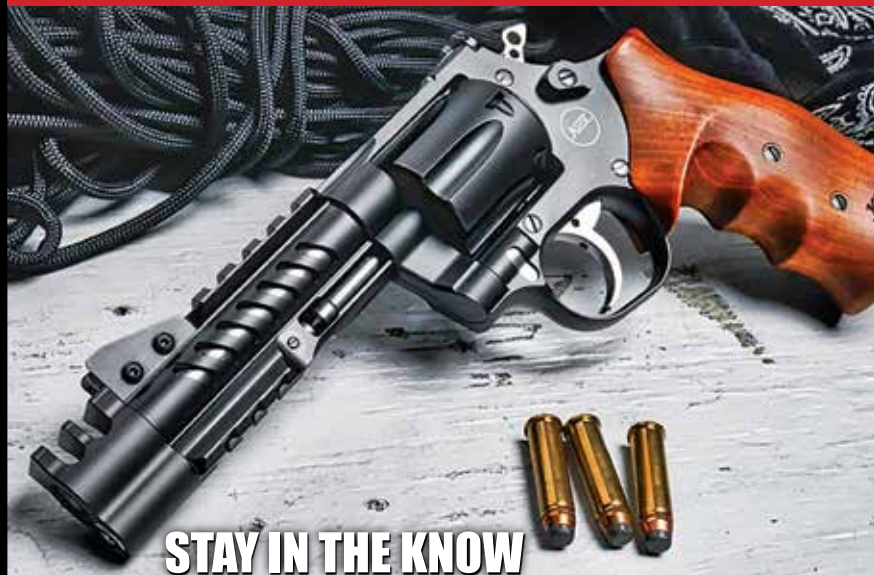
Amy Tanguay • (888) 651-7567 • FAX: (858) 842-3916
amy.tanguay@pubdev.com



PRODUCED IN THE U.S.A.



WWW.AMERICANHANDGUNNER.COM



STAY IN THE KNOW

With new guns and gear announced each week, there's only so much we can fit in these pages. Stay updated on the latest products with online exclusives from Jeff "Tank" Hoover and Dave Workman, plus First Look videos from Roy Huntington and others, including new firearms and accessories from Ruger, Korth and Viridian. Head online for more at americanhandgunner.com and gunsmagazine.com.

COWBOYS & GUNSMITHS

Are you a fan of Western history and guns made from wood and blued steel, or a garage tinkerer with a degree from do-it-yourself university? We have special edition magazines just for you! Order your print or digital copy of *GUNS Magazine's Old West: History, Guns & Gear* or *American Handgunner's DIY GUNS* online from Amazon or fmghq.com/store.



STREAM ANYWHERE — ANYTIME



Did you know the *GUNS Magazine Podcast* has been streamed more than 80,000 times? Hosted by Editor Brent T. Wheat, stream episodes featuring interviews with names across the shooting industry — like defense expert Steve Tarani — and Quick Hit conversations with our Guncranks at home or on-the-go. Listen to episodes on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music, YouTube and gunsmagazine.com/podcast.

SHARE YOUR STORY

Every gun has a story, but few can tell tales like revolvers. Share the story of your revolver with us and you could be featured in our popular Wheelgun Diaries series, as seen in weekly Wheelgun Wednesday email newsletters and published on americanhandgunner.com. Send a photo and your diary entry by email to wheelgunner@fmghq.com.



FOLLOW US



AMERICAN HANDGUNNER: facebook.com/americanhandgunner
youtube.com/fmghpubs • instagram.com/americanhandgunner
pinterest.com/americanhandgunner • twitter.com/handgunnermag

Dillon PRECISION XL 750



YOUR OWN AMMUNITION FACTORY

dillonprecision.com



TOM MCHALE

VANTAGEPOINT

COOL STUFF



SIG SAUER NEWS

It turns out the Wilson Combat WCP320 project (this issue's cover feature) was a sneak preview of things to come. SIG SAUER is now launching the Custom Works FCU (fire control unit) Project through which the company will sell the P320 serialized trigger group by itself. A companion launch is the P320 Design Studio. They will let you design your own SIG P320. Initially the components will be 100% SIG but expect partner companies to come on board over time.

If you like metal guns, you'll be interested in the P320 AXG — an X-Series module with replaceable G10 grip panels. This aluminum-framed P320 will appear in limited-run custom shop versions first, starting with a Scorpion version. Expect this line to grow.



AN EAGLE SCOUT PISTOL

Kyle H. from Florida just completed all the requirements to earn his Eagle Scout certification. It's quite an honor requiring plenty of dedication and perseverance. His dad just might earn his own Eagle patch for how he commemorated Kyle's achievement. He had the folks at Wilson Combat build a *custom handgun fit for ... an Eagle Scout*.

It's a Wilson American Combat Pistol 9mm 1911, complete with Eagle Scout trimmings. Wilson built the pistol with the distinctive olive and tan color scheme while LOK Grips of Dorr Michigan created custom G10 grips complete with the Eagle Scout emblem.

Kyle's been busy making the world a better place, creating proper drop boxes to facilitate honorable and correct handling of worn and damaged American flags. In his spare time, he invented a lifesaving kit for public beach use designed to reduce drownings. Hat's off to you Kyle!

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY XD-M ELITE

Hot from the factory shipping dock is a new compact Springfield Armory XD-M

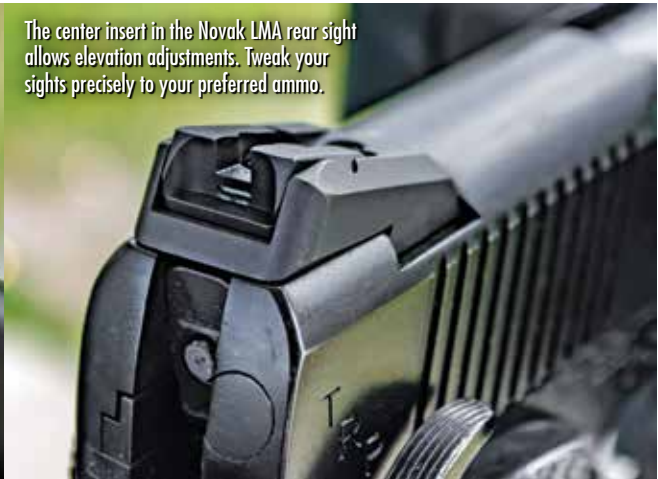
pistol. Complete with all the bells and whistles of the Elite family lineup, including an improved flat trigger system, more aggressive slide serrations, full ambidextrous controls, increased capacity, and a removable magazine well extension, it meets all the requirements of a solid concealed carry pistol ... and more.

Here's the nifty feature. The magazine extension offers a generous beveled well that makes maga-





A new "out-of-this-world" green/yellow Mega Dot Novak front sight.



The center insert in the Novak LMA rear sight allows elevation adjustments. Tweak your sights precisely to your preferred ammo.

LET THERE BE SIGHTS

I've got a Springfield Armory 1911 TRP chambered in .45 ACP. It's a high-quality defensive pistol — essentially a production version of the famed Custom Shop FBI HRT 1911. The sights are just peachy, but with age, the Tritium is dimming a bit and my older eyes are in want of a more visible, but still precise, refresh.

Enter Novak's Sights. I called up the shop and spoke at length with Charlie, who gave me quite the education on handgun sight technology. We elected to outfit the TRP with a combination of a Novak's LMA rear adjustable and front Mega Dot Yellow. The LMA features generous cutouts around the squared notch for increased visibility and a horizontal Tritium bar under for confusion-free sight alignment in the dark. The bar helps in daylight, too. Novak's offers the Mega Dot in both orange and other-worldly yellow/green configurations, and in short order, Charlie had me con-

vinced the Tritium-filled yellow in question doesn't exist naturally in the known universe, so it stands out against most any target background.

Installation was straightforward, so while I could have sent my slide to Novak's for professional work, I took on the job myself. Removing the front sight was simple. It's pinned in the center of the dovetail with a small roll pin. The hole in the slide is drilled clear through, so some gentle tapping with a small punch (or appropriately sized old drill bit) punched the pin through the slide until it protruded enough for me to pull it out the bottom. From this point, some light tapping with a tape-covered brass punch on the sight base (not the Tritium housing!) slid it right out. Generally, you want to drive it out in the direction of the ejection port, and this was the case with the TRP.

Adding the new front sight was easier than expected. It slid about 1/3 of the way into place with finger pressure so I didn't have to remove any material from the bottom of the sight. Good luck there! With some careful tapping using a gunsmith hammer and brass punch, again only on the base of the sight, I got it centered over the frame roll pin hole and inserted a new pin provided by Novak's. Done.

Since the front sight was a piece of cake, the universe punished me with the rear. Even after removing the Allen set screw, I had to whale away on the rear to get it out. After two hammer weight upgrades, I finally got it moving.

As with the front, installation of the rear was simple. The new one slid partially into position with finger pressure. A brass punch finished the job. I

visually centered the rear sight and set the Allen screw.

Once I got to the range and filled 'er up with Barnes TAC-XPB .45 ACP +P 185-grain ammo, I set up some Victory Handgun targets from Mountain Plains Industries at 25 yards so I could make final windage and elevation adjustments to the rear sight. Check those out — the combination of horizontal elevation line and large "V" makes precise iron sight alignment easy. After a few shots, and a group or two for verification, I raised the mission-accomplished flag.

As for visibility, Charlie was right. The front green sight likes to shine in its own spotlight. I'm finding it effective against all sorts of target backgrounds. As for precision, I've now got the best of both worlds. The LMA rear sight contains its elevation adjustment mechanism inside a sturdy sight body, so it shares reliability with a fixed rear, but I can quickly adjust elevation to nail down the zero for different bullet types. If I need a windage adjustment, I just loosen an Allen screw and drift the rear as needed.

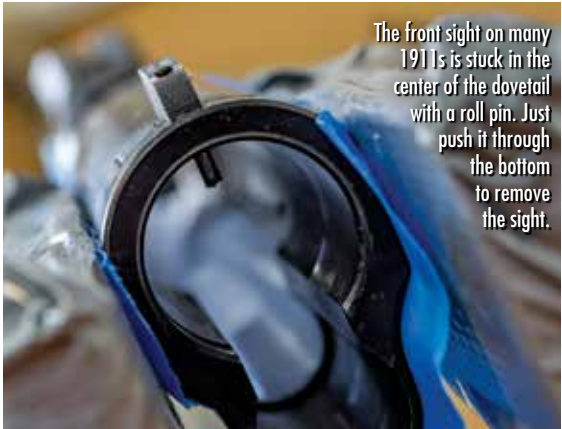
New life for a well-used, but still high-performing pistol!



For more info: NovakSights.com

3.8" COMPACT

zine changes fast and fumble free without adding undue bulk for concealed carry. With it installed, I can fit about half my pinky on the frame. If you remove the extension, you can insert a full length, and larger capacity magazine. Add the optional sleeve and the Elite Compact now feels just like a full-height Elite XD-M. So, by swapping the full compact mag for a full extended, *you convert your carry pistol to a home-defense variant in seconds at the end of your day.* Look for a full review of this pistol in the upcoming Concealed Carry and Home Defense Special Edition.



The front sight on many 1911s is stuck in the center of the dovetail with a roll pin. Just push it through the bottom to remove the sight.

MORE GUNSMITHING!

As a revolver enthusiast, I very much enjoyed your article on revolver timing. The article was easily understood, and the illustrations made it even better. Although I'm a revolver fan, I'm also interested in semi-automatic handguns and all types of rifles. I would like to see future articles of a technical nature. I read each issue of *American Handgunner* and *GUNS* from cover to cover — several times over. Great publications!

Robert Brown
Via email

More On Gunsmithing

Please keep the gunsmithing topic going. I really appreciate the expertise and efforts of the crew at all the FMG publications.

Thanks,
Carl
Via email

I was coming to the end of Roy Huntington's article on revolver timing, already thinking to myself this was the best single article I had ever read on how a revolver works. There are few people who have genuine expertise and experience and can convey what they know in good English, painting a clear word picture for the reader who is eager to learn. Roy Huntington is, without a doubt, one of those few. Then, at the very end of the article, he asks if I would like him to "write more on this sort of thing." Heck, yes!

Kudos and thanks,
Brant Bassett
Via email

I especially enjoyed the Roy Huntington article about revolver timing. Please continue to include such articles.

Thanks,
Mike Sanders
Via email

Ayoob Files

I've just received my Nov/Dec issue. As always, I thumbed straight through to the *Ayoob Files*. Massad Ayoob has been one of my favorite gun writers for decades (more than I care to admit). "The Larry Goldstein Incident" made me realize that my habit of carrying everywhere but at my work will stand me in good stead. My employer will not allow me to carry at work. That doesn't

mean I'm totally unarmed, just no gun. But when I arrive home, my full sized 1911 goes into an IWB holster and placed on my side with a spare magazine of Gold Dot personal protection .45 ACP in a mag carrier. I'm a 75-year-old Vietnam vet, and I haven't been totally unarmed since December 30, 1968. And like Clyde Berry, I carried a .45 everywhere in the Nam. I, too, slept with it.

I intend to keep reading your great mag! Y'all keep up the good work, ya hear?

Harold E. Shank SSG USA (Ret.)
Via email

Snakes On A Plane

I always feel like Duke is a kindred spirit and greatly enjoy his articles. As a Southeastern Okie I had considerable experience with venomous reptiles, mostly cottonmouths. I patrolled our swampy ranch and attribute head shooting (only poisonous) snakes to developing my handgun skill.

There is one advantage to shot shells which I have never heard Duke mention. It probably doesn't apply in his area.

Some people say you should be able to hit the snake with a regular bullet. But if you fail to account for the sight change at close range you will hit under the snake. In the wet clay of the South a .44 Magnum can elevate a snake to surprising heights. An airborne snake is an exciting thing to behold. But they do not seem to like flight and tend to land agitated.

David
Via email

Got Squires?

I get a lot of gun magazines regularly but yours is the best of the best, honest. Almost every issue has test firings on new or different handguns each month. The shooter fires off hundreds

of rounds during these tests.

My questions are, who the hell loads all those magazines, what does he use to do it and where are you able to get all that ammo? Us mere mortals can hardly find a box of 9mm, or most other pistol caliber, anywhere in town or online lately. My fingers get sore real quick filling up my meager batch of mags. Although I did recently buy a Maglula loader that seem to help a lot. Just a curious soul looking for answers.

Thanks for all your good insightful articles and for having a great writing staff of experts.

Bob
Via email

As much as some people may believe we've got ammo bearers, squires, and more staff than White House First Ladies, the ugly truth is we do all the grunt work ourselves. Setting up, taking pictures, loading magazines, and ... cleaning guns! With all the ammo hoarding going on, we're also having a tough time sourcing ammo, and are relying on rapidly depleting existing supplies. Unfortunately, we don't have any secrets to share about National Ammo Treasure burial sites. On the other hand, if you know anyone who wants an ammo bearer job, let us know. The work is dirty and thankless, but at least the pay is ... zero! — Tom

Vote Dangit!

We gun folks keep saying the phrase in Workman's article, words to the effect of "they just don't get it..." It being the ineffectiveness of laws against guns.

Unfortunately for us, they DO get it! They're not stupid; they realize criminals, terrorists, madmen, thugs, etc. can and will get guns anytime they want. They're paid to promote the "guns are unsafe, guns are the problem" mantra. There's a programmed, concerted effort to disarm



and subjugate the American public.

I would suggest we stop repeating our mantra and start encouraging our sympathetic audience to get involved. Vote, knock on doors for candidates in your neighborhood, attend local government meetings, and speak up to the press and media. We cannot afford to be “the silent majority” any longer! It’s clear in this election that outright confiscation of firearms is on the table.

Respectfully,
Paul W. Betz
Via email

We are indeed living in dangerous times and it’s not just because of COVID-19 or the much reported civil unrest we’re witnessing, but rather it’s the fact another election is looming in November and it’s never been easier for the anti-gun and anti-hunting politician’s to get elected or re-elected. The main reason is gun owners and hunters have been complacent and apathetic when it comes to getting out and voting for their gun/hunting rights/heritage. One only needs to look at what happened in Virginia and what is continuing to unfold there. This should be a harsh lesson of what happens when there’s a low voter turnout. In Virginia, only around 40% of the eligible voters turned out to vote. This indeed could happen nationwide. We’re in danger of losing our gun rights and hunting heritage if we fail to act and get out and vote this November and every election from here on out. Dangerous times? Not if we all do our part to regain our gun rights and hunting heritage and vote.

Daniel W. Quarry
Via email

Customer Service

I just wanted to drop a quick note to you about one of your advertisers, Versacarry. Without going into too much detail, I just had a great experience with their customer service department. Steven in particular went above and beyond to take care of a minor issue that had to be resolved. I take my hat off to them.

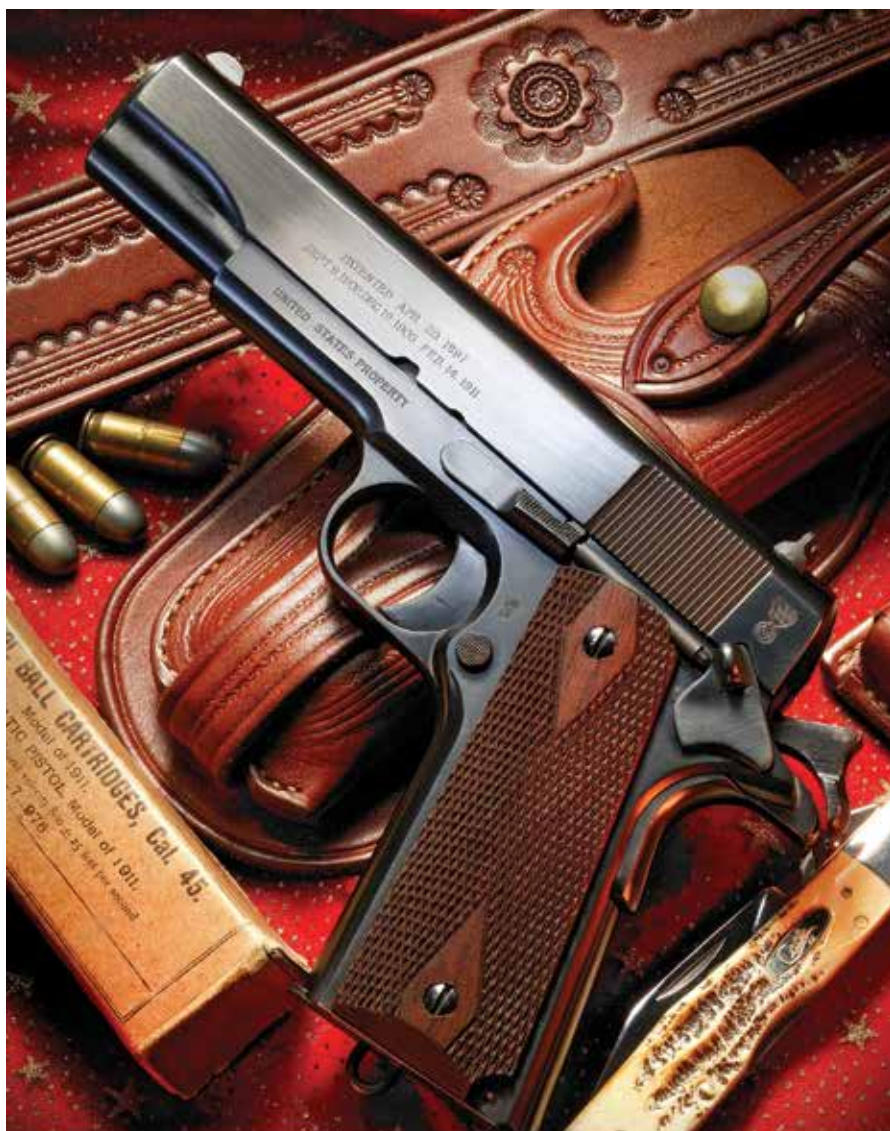
Thanks,
RhinoHunter
Via email

Guncrank Diaries 2.0

I’m nearly finished with this month’s *American Handgunner*, but I could wait no longer to congratulate Will Dabbs, MD on his excellent writing.

As a military veteran and Vietnam Vet (1966-1967) I can relate fully to Dr. Dabbs’ article on birthdays. Dr. Dabbs’ reveries stirred memories of care packages, bits of pogue bait and other mementos from back in “The World,” and

Continued on page 73



775-246-1533
www.TusseyCustom.com

24 Moonlight Road Unit B
Mound House, NV 89706



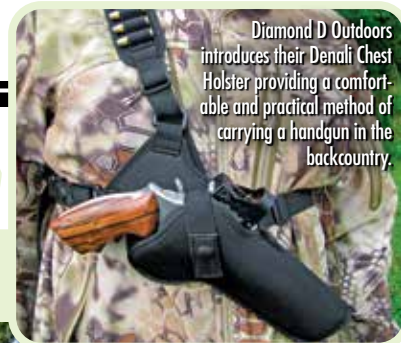
GOOD STUFF

It's not too often we encounter new products for handgun hunters. When something new hits the radar screen, inquiring minds want to know more. This is especially true when the product is practical and useful.

In the past I've written about Diamond D Custom Leather and their Guides Choice holster. I have worn this holster considerably. This is a well-designed, across-the-chest leather holster from innovative folks who live in Alaska, where fishing streams are often visited by bears. These individuals know from experience what works under actual field conditions. Now they've launched a new business — Diamond D Outdoors. Their new venture introduces the Denali Chest Holster with the same attention to detail in a 1050 ballistic nylon version.

Diamond D Outdoors offers their new holster to accommodate optics commonly found on today's revolvers — it'll be the new home for my S&W Model 686 with a reflex sight. Both their 5.5" and 7.5" Denali Chest Holsters come with a six-round cartridge carrier incorporated in the shoulder strap. Unlike some holsters of this type, it didn't require an engineer to figure out how to put it on. Nor did I have to enlist the help of my neighbor and his three kids to help me adjust it. I found this holster most comfortable while situated in the center of my chest. This works perfectly when wearing a backpack. The core of your body carries all the weight, not your shoulder or hip. If desired, the holster can easily slide under the arm when you carry binoculars.

My test model featured high density foam and was super strong. The holster is fully adjustable, and 10 sizes are available for both semi-autos and revolvers. A safety strap fits over the hammer and holds the gun firmly in place so if you take off running or bend over, no worries. When properly fitted, I could easily draw the revolver with one hand. It didn't take long to see this Denali Chest Holster would be ideal for hiking the backcountry or fishing along Alaskan streams with bears present.



Diamond D Outdoors introduces their Denali Chest Holster providing a comfortable and practical method of carrying a handgun in the backcountry.



HSM Low Recoil ammo is ideal for recoil sensitive shooters. This ammo features Sierra bullets and keeps the dreaded flinch at bay.

AVOIDING THE FLINCH

If you've ever developed a flinch in your shooting career, you know how much it affects your shooting. Overcoming this proverbial jerk can be quite the undertaking. The best way to address this problem is avoiding it in the first place.

Recently my wife has been shooting a Nosler pistol in 6.5 Creedmoor and I didn't want her to develop a flinch. Luckily, I discovered HSM low recoil factory ammo. HSM partnered with Sierra to offer a full standard weight hunting bullet with over 50% less recoil. This rather unique ammo features a distinct HSM orange polymer tip bullet. It's pleasant to shoot for extended range sessions, plus it is extremely accurate in the Nosler pistol.

HSM offers their low recoil ammo in several popular calibers including 243 Win., 7mm-08 and .308 Win. This HSM low recoil ammo provides a great way to practice with standard hunting weight bullets and may help avoid the dreaded flinch commonly gained from magnum rounds.

JUST FOR HANDLOADERS

For single-shot handguns, getting the correct headspace for your handloads is essential. One item I won't be without on my loading table is Hornady's Lock-N-Load Headspace Comparator Kit. When full-length resizing, how do you know how much to bump the shoulder? You can take a wild guess or you can determine exactly how much is needed with this most practical kit. Without going into detail, Hornady provides instructions even a cave man like me can follow.



It's important to get headspace sizing right. Hornady and Redding offer comparators and shellholders to help you nail the dimensions.

The company states this process will extend brass life, improve accuracy and enhance safety. I concur.

Once you determine the amount of shoulder bump, Redding's Competition Shellholder Set is another most beneficial tool. This set includes five shell holders, each marked with an identification number: .002, .004, .006, .008 and .010. This set eliminates the continuing process of adjusting your die body. Redding's instructions clearly detail how to properly size your cases to fit your specific firearm's chamber with minimal shoulder bump. This process is important with single-shot handguns. After using Redding Reloading dies and other precision tools they provide, my handloads are optimized.

Hornady's O.A.L. Gage is another accessory most helpful when it comes to proper seating depth. This tool, along with Hornady's Bullet Comparator and inserts set, helps determine precise measurements for bullet seating depth.

There are gadgets with shelf appeal, then there are useful, beneficial tools to enhance ammo performance. Redding and Hornady enhance the handloading process.



CONFIDENCE ACHIEVED



We know the decision to own and carry a firearm is not made lightly. To do so with confidence, you rely on the proficiency that can only be achieved with practice and use at the range. That's why we've developed the new Lite Rack™ LCP® II, a low-recoil pistol with an easy-to-manipulate slide that shoots comfortably regardless of your hand size or strength. Whether used as a training tool for your existing LCP® or LCP® II, or as a concealed carry option, the new LCP® II in .22 LR allows you to train with and operate your pistol with confidence.

RUGER® LITE RACK™

NOW FEATURED ON THE ALL NEW, LOW-RECOILING LCP® II CHAMBERED IN .22 LR.

RUGER.COM/LITERACK



HANDGUN MILESTONES



Strangely enough Duke's first handgun was a French Model 1935A 7.65 Long given to him by his father circa 1961.



The year 1968 was a banner one for Duke for acquiring handguns. The first one was a Smith & Wesson .44 Magnum pre-Model 29 which he kept until 2010.



Duke's third 1968 handgun was a Remington Rand U.S. Model 1911A1 .45 which he shot very poorly.



MY FIRST... WHAT?

About 1961 Dad came home with my first real handgun. Neither of us had any idea what it actually was. I was allowed to keep it in my room but not show it off to other kids or take it out of the house. Dad felt safe because he somehow knew ammunition for it wasn't readily available.

I eventually learned the pistol was a French Model 1935A chambered for an odd 7.65mm Long round. Dad and the local police chief were both born of Italian immigrant parents and the police chief "gave" the pistol to my father. As my father was a bill collector, I have an idea why he was given it. Some French military surplus 7.65mm Long ammo did become available, so I finally did

shoot the Model 1935A. In an ironic twist, I later sold the pistol to the police chief's son.

Following my inborn interest in cowboy handguns I received for my 17th birthday in 1966 a Colt Frontier Scout .22 LR. It was a short-lived treasure. The little single action was enjoyable to shoot, but hitting anything with it past about 10 yards was a matter of chance. In frustration I traded it back to the store with a few bucks extra for a Ruger Mark I .22LR. With its 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " barrel and

Recently a fellow asked me when I became interested in guns. My reply was ... I was born with it. My older sister chimed in and said by age three the first thing I did every morning was buckle on my gun belt with its toy cap gun. This wasn't TV influence; we didn't have one.

From the beginning, I've hand jotted a list of every firearm I've owned. So, I have a timeline of handguns purchased, traded for or otherwise acquired.

target sights, I could at last direct bullets to a target. I became enamored with bullseye shooting, which led to my next handgun milestone.

That same summer and by shenanigans too lengthy to detail here, I raised enough cash to buy a slightly used Smith & Wesson K38 with a 6" barrel. Cost: \$50. However, factory ammo cost was a shock to my system. This led to me soon becoming a handloader.

A BANNER YEAR

The next year passed with no milestones, but 1968 was a banner year. During the winter a retiring West Virginia's Mingo County deputy sheriff had his S&W pre-Model 29 .44 Magnum for sale. He was asking \$100. My soon-to-come income tax refund was nearly this much, so Dad floated me a loan to nab the big .44. I kept it 42 years; packing it up and down Montana mountains until deciding to let it go when I got too old for such pursuits.

By June 1968, my first year of college was finished. I was making \$1.60 an hour hustling freight on the docks of a trucking company. A friend, the aforementioned chief of police's son, also worked there. One day he pointed out a truck driver and said, "He owns one of those SA Colt .45s you're always talking about." Long story made short: I aggravated the truck driver till he sold me the Colt. Cost again was \$100. The .45 was of the second generation made in 1964.

A few evenings later Dad came home from work, reached into his hip pocket and handed me a WWII Remington Rand 1911A1 .45 Auto. He said, "I took this for a bill today. Do you want it?" I did! In just a few days, two .45s had been added to my growing assortment of handguns.

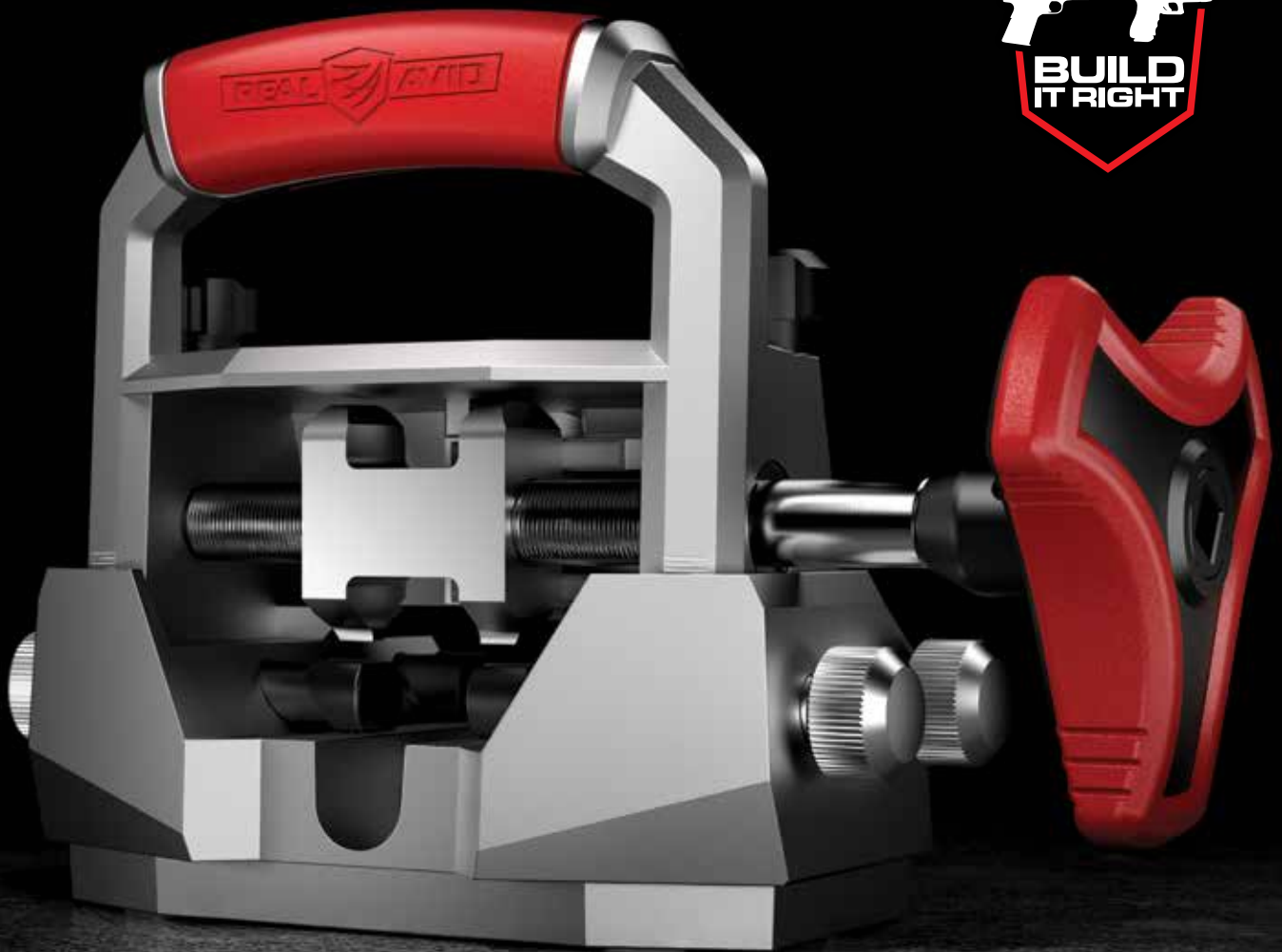
By the start of West Virginia's Marshall University's 1968 fall semester, I had saved enough money to buy reloading dies and bullet molds for my new handguns. After some shooting, I was happy with them except for the Remington Rand. I couldn't have hit one of John Taffin's hats with it at 25 yards. I sold it for \$35, redirecting the cash to powder and primers.

Before classes started in September 1968, I conned a friend to share expenses for a camping trip to Montana. My idea was to visit the then-named Custer Battlefield. I fell in love with Montana and have been a full time Montana resident for nearly 50 years. In that half century I've owned hundreds of handguns including about 100 Colt SAAs, a passel of U.S. Model 1911A1s and even another French Model 1935A.

Still, the excitement of those first handgun milestones remains most vivid in my mind.



PUSH IT. PUSH IT GOOD...



MASTER SIGHT PUSHER™

Introducing the new Mack-Daddy of pistol sight pushers, downgrading lesser instruments to the back of the bench. The oversize **Easy Torque Handle™** powers the finely threaded **Magnum Push Rod™** delivering maximum torque with minimal effort. Get a grip and keep it, in the **Safe Lock™** Anti-Torsion Frame and the beefy **Ergonomic Control Grip™**. The Master Sight Pusher™ cradles both 1911 and striker-fire slides and the **Universal Press Block™** fits most press-fit dovetail slots and sight profiles making short work of sight change-outs. Upgrade to Master Grade!

AVAILABLE AT YOUR FAVORITE RETAILER OR AT
REALAVID.COM



The adjustable clip accommodates belts from 1" to 2.5". Belt removal isn't necessary — it locks on.



The ASP XT DF is Dave's favorite general-purpose light. The dual fuel feature allows use of CR-123 batteries if you're ever unable to recharge.

Factory New Ammunition
— ammunition made with virgin copper

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Evil loves the darkness while good rejoices in the light." Obviously, this is metaphorical, but there's literal truth. If the day ever comes when you have to defend yourself or family, there's a strong probability it will be in dim or low light.

A quality flashlight is *almost as important as the firearm itself*. Positively identifying the target is one of the four inflexible rules of firearm safety. My personal/home defense

item priority list would order like this: firearm, light, dog, cell phone, walking stick, vehicle keys and knife. I place the knife last as I have no training in using a knife as a weapon. If I'm close enough to cut the bad guy, he's close enough to cut me! Someone with more skill with a knife might disagree. The key point here is the light is number two on my list, only surpassed by my firearm.

MODERN LIGHT TECH

For an old-timer like me, the improvement in flashlight performance is simply amazing. I can recall when a flashlight from the local hardware store was made of ribbed aluminum with two D cells. It put out a dim, yellowish light with a dark spot in the middle. Half the time when you needed it the batteries were dead, the bulb was out, or the switch broken.

There are several reputable brand name lights I use and respect, including SureFire, Streamlight and Brite Strike. Another superstar light, and my current favorite, is the ASP XT DF. The DF stands for "dual fuel" as you can use the light with a rechargeable 18650 3.7-volt lithium-ion battery, or if you forget to recharge, it will accept the popular and widely available CR-123A replaceable batteries.

The XT is packed with features yet is easy enough to set and use even for

the technology-challenged like me. At full power it puts out an *impressive 600 lumens*, enough to identify wildlife at a couple of hundred yards or disorient an assailant at close range. It can be programmed for a second level of 15, 60, or 150 lumens, or for a strobe effect. You can sit outside your tent late at night reading the fishing regulations with the light at 15 lumens, then if there's a rustling in the bushes, quickly switch to full power and check if it's a squirrel or a bear.

The rotating tail piece has three positions. The center position is locked so you won't take the light out of your pack one day and find the battery dead. Rotate right for constant on, or to the left for intermittent on only when the center button is pressed. Rotating the light bezel moves it forward to reveal the programming button and a port for a charging cord.

HANDS-FREE HANDINESS

It may seem like a small thing, but the pocket clip is exceptionally good — large and strong. Clip the light to a pocket and the XT will be there when you need it. A side benefit: the clip keeps the light from rolling more than half a turn if it's set down on an uneven surface such as the hood of a car or a camp table. If you don't want it the clip can be readily removed.

The Tactical Light Case is an option and one I highly recommend. It's easily adjusted to fit different belt widths and rotates through 12 click-stop positions. It lets you position the light to illuminate your work while keeping both hands free. If you need the light in hand, just draw it from the carrier. The carrier clips on or off the belt so you can remove it and use it to hold the light in position while you change a tire or field-dress a buck.

The XT comes with a lifetime warranty and ships with a rechargeable battery, charge cords for a provided AC wall charger or for vehicle use, the pocket clip and a well-made zipper travel/storage case. Run time is rated at 3.5 hours. The XT is 6.25" long and weighs 6.72 oz. with battery installed.

Current MSRP is \$171, which for the quality and utility it provides I consider very good value.



For more info: ASP-USA.com

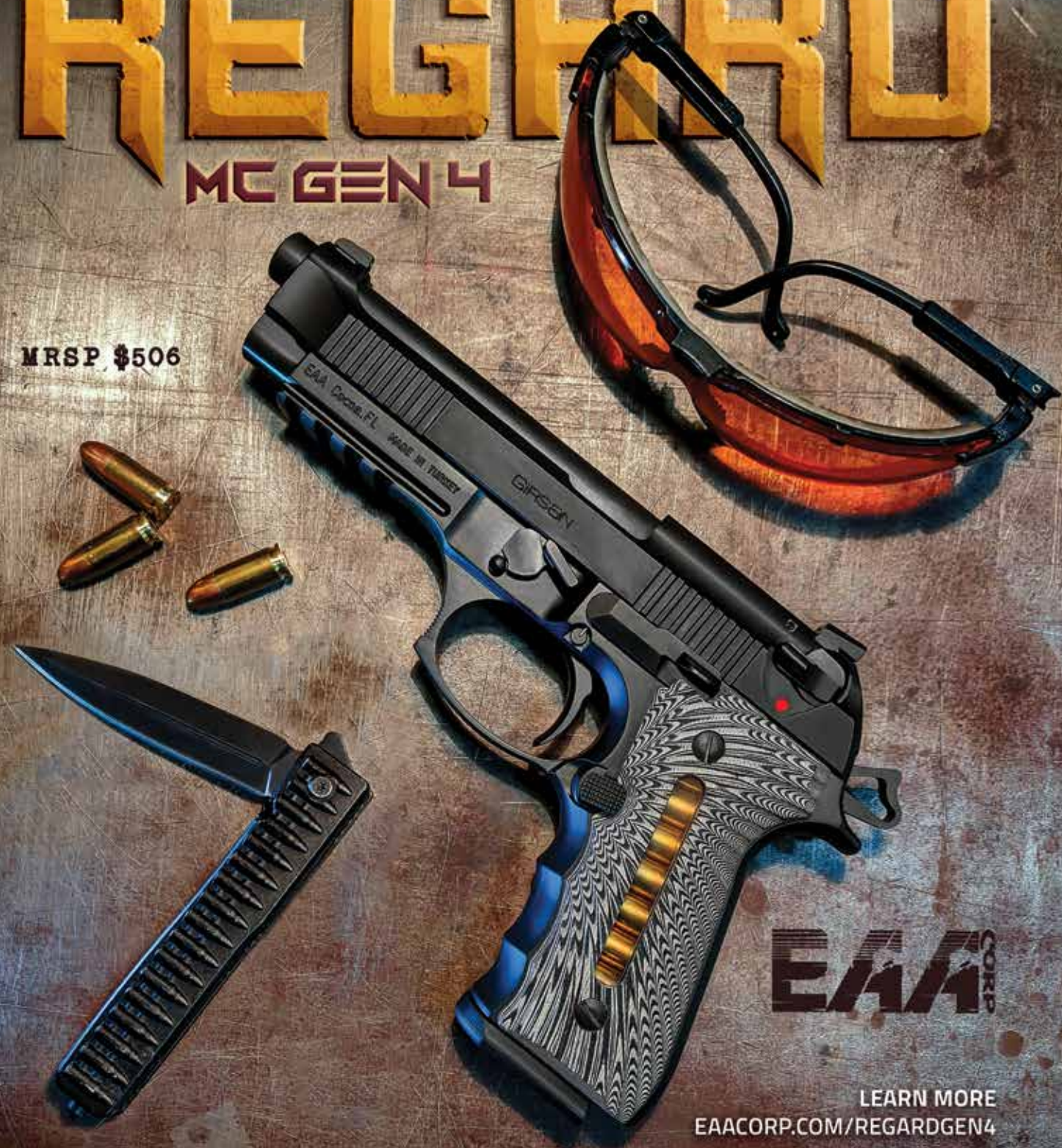


You can swivel the ASP carrier in a full circle with 12 click stops. That's handy if you want to illuminate straight ahead, keeping both hands free.

REGARD

MC GEN 4

MRSP \$506



EAA
CORP

LEARN MORE
EAAcorp.com/REGARDGEN4

Everyday Carry Now Competition Ready

Taking the famous Regard model further by creating a gun geared towards competition shooting, EAA introduces the Regard Gen 4; Stylish G10 grips stand out off the blue/black steel slide and lightweight alloy frame; equipped with the safety built into the slide for fast access, Accessory Rail, Window Grip and Window Magazine. Available in 9mm caliber. The Gen 4 Decocker rebounds for fast return to action.

eaacorp@eaacorp.com 321 639 4842 EAA Corp PO Box 3008 Cocoa, FL 32924

BARREL-OLOGY

Not all barrels are created equal. There are many reasons to change out a barrel: Some are worn out and some are not configured the way you want them. Fortunately, there are plenty of choices on the market for replacements.

GOT THREADS?

One of my clients wanted just that. He loves his SIG P226 and P239 both in .40 caliber. After shooting them for a few years he decided he wanted to quiet things down a bit and add suppressors, but the “as sold” pistols didn’t have threaded barrels. He uses his SIGs with optics as his boar hunting sidearm.

In steps Bar-Sto Precision Machine. Bar-Sto and the Stone family have been making barrels for decades in hundreds of shapes and sizes. I procured two “Match Target” barrels long enough for threading. Bar-Sto offers Semi Fit and Match Target barrels. Both are 416 Aircraft stainless. The semi fit is designed to drop in with very little fitting. The target match requires milling and should be installed by a qualified gunsmith.

Bar-Sto provides a schematic of their SIG barrels and shows in detail areas that require fitting and more importantly those that don’t. The barrels I received were not finish reamed, but they can be purchased fully reamed if desired. The quality of the barrels is excellent, with perfect flats and no sharp corners. The crown was very well done at 11 degrees.

I used the original SIG barrel as a guide to measure the locking flat height in front of the barrel hood. I removed less material than the original had for a more precise fit. In the SIG barrel design material is removed from in front of the barrel hood flat. I also removed a few thousandths from the locking underlug. After each cut on the mill I test fit the barrel using layout fluid to gauge my



Greg's job was to fit this customer's SIG P239 with a new stainless Bar-Sto .40 caliber barrel for suppressor use.



The finished Bar-Sto match fit barrel after machining and testing in the SIG P239.

Greg using a .250 endmill in the Bridgeport to remove a few thousandths from the locking flat of a Bar-Sto barrel.

contact. I like to *go very slow* rather than over cut and have to weld up a mistake.

Both barrels took about an hour to mill and then a bit to set up on the lathe for reaming with a Clymer finish

reamer. My client uses factory ammo so I used it as a go gauge for fitting. Test firing went perfectly. Now the barrels are off to Ion Bond for black PVD coating to keep the rigs stealthy.

50 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Made in Sturgis South Dakota for 50 years Bar-Sto has a winning reputation with shooters. Their barrels have won numbers of championships around the globe. And for the gunsmith needing a barrel for a special project or client, Bar-Sto is there to help.

A few years ago, I started a project of building the Colt 1911 in some of the odd calibers Colt produced, many for the overseas market. Or some were just limited runs. I needed oversized barrels for match grade fitting. One of these was .30 Luger which Colt had made for the Italian market. They only made a short run, so I used the original my client had for research. When I needed the 1911 barrel in a 5" Government ramp, Bar-Sto made it. They also made a few others in some odd calibers.

It's hard to find a shop that will make one of anything nowadays let alone something they might never make again.



For more info: BarSto.com



9 || PROTECTION SHIELD™ EZ || MADE EASY

M&P
by Smith & Wesson®

»»» VISIT YOUR LOCAL RETAILER
TO FEEL THE DIFFERENCE

SMITH-WESSON.COM



Both of these .357 Magnum single actions, a Ruger New Vaquero and Freedom Arms Model 97, have been fitted with windage adjustable front sights from Hamilton Bowen and Freedom Arms, respectively.



PLAYIN' FAVORITES:

.357

MAGNUM SAAs

The 1950s were a great time for sixgunners. During those few short years Colt resurrected the SAA, introduced the .357 Magnum and the .357 Python; Ruger gave us the .22 Single-Six, the .357 Magnum Blackhawk, the .44 Magnum Blackhawk, and the .44 Magnum Super Blackhawk; and S&W outdid both companies with the 1950 Target and Military Models in .44 Special and .45ACP, the .357 Magnum Highway Patrolman, the .357 Combat Magnum, the 1955 Target in .45ACP, and Elmer Keith's long-awaited .44 Magnum.

I'm going to look at my favorite sixguns; this won't be objective at all but rather subjective. With this in mind, we look at Taffin's Top .357 Magnum single action sixguns.

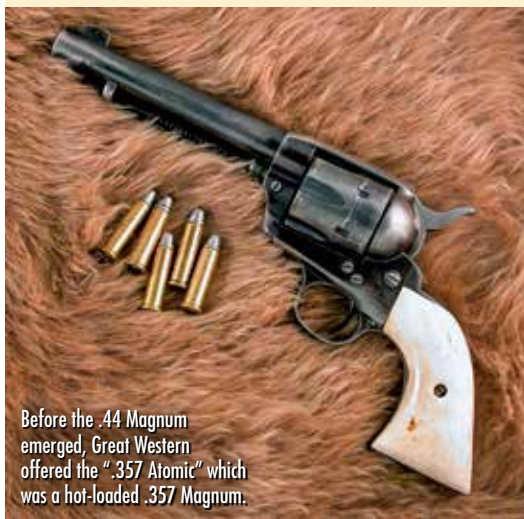
Taffin has been shooting the .38 Keith Load in Flat-Top Rugers for over half a century.



COLT AND GREAT WESTERN

The Colt SAA produced from 1873 until the end of 1940 is now known to collectors as the 1st Generation. Nearly 356,000 were made, including just 525 .357 Magnum variants. Many of these went to Great Britain under Lend Lease during WWII. Just this week I received a call from a Texas Highway Patrolman who came across a very rare Colt SAA .357 Magnum. It has a 7½" barrel and letters as having left the factory in December 1940, *making it one of the last SAs out the door*. To make it even more special, this particular Colt has been worked over by the old King Gun Works giving it a short action, target trigger and adjustable sights. A truly unique sixgun.

Before Colt resurrected the SAA in the closing days of 1955, even before the Ruger .357 Blackhawk of 1955, there was the Great Western. Great Western sixguns, the first replicas of the Colt SA, were manufactured in Los Angeles, beginning in 1954. The first guns were chambered in .45 Colt, however the .357 Magnum was soon added and later, a special version, the .357 Atomic. This cartridge was nothing more than a .357 Magnum +P+. Loaded with 16.0 grains of #2400 under a 158-grain bullet, the Atomic must have been too much of a good thing as Great Western soon went back to marketing their sixguns as plain old .357 Magnums.



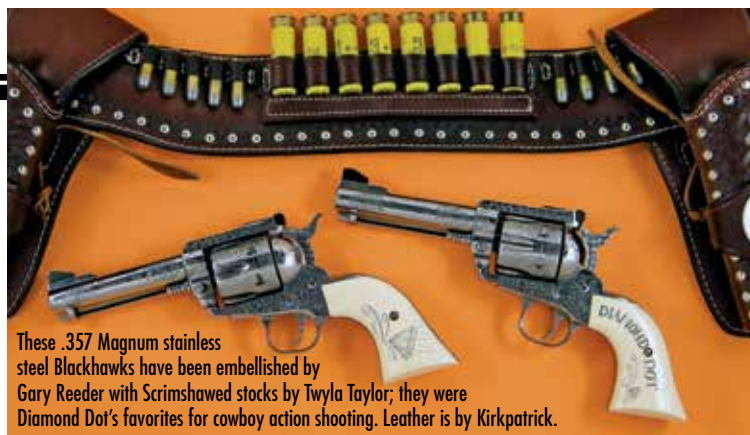
Before the .44 Magnum emerged, Great Western offered the ".357 Atomic" which was a hot-loaded .357 Magnum.

ENTER RUGER

Once I was out of high school and working, I started buying firearms. My first single action was a .22 Ruger Flatgate Single-Six which was soon followed by a 1900s-era Colt .38-40 S&A, and then my first new centerfire single action, Ruger's 4½" Flat-Top Blackhawk. I have since learned external things do not necessarily make us happy. However, I was certainly tickled to have the .357 Magnum.

It was just about the perfect SA sixgun. It had the same virtually indestructible coil powered action as the Single-Six but was basically the same size as a Colt SA. The shape of the grip frame was identical to the Colt, however the mainframe was flat-topped and fitted with an adjustable sight. If there was a downside, it was the fact the grip frame was alloy instead of steel. In those days it was very difficult to find reloading components and .357 Magnum brass was near impossible to find. However, .38 Special brass was readily available. Most of the loads fired in that early Blackhawk consisted of Keith's Heavy .38 Special loading of a 168-grain cast bullet over 13.5 grains of #2400. This load is not to be approached lightly and is in fact hotter than many .357 Magnum loads today.

My first .357 Magnum was everything I could want in a sixgun. I made a black holster and belt, *buscadero* style but with the holster more like the Tom Threepersons design. I spent hours in front of the mirror drawing the Blackhawk from this holster until I could almost beat the reflection. Somehow, I let that leather rig get away. Oh, how I wish I still had it today.



These .357 Magnum stainless steel Blackhawks have been embellished by Gary Reeder with Scrimshawed stocks by Twyla Taylor; they were Diamond Dot's favorites for cowboy action shooting. Leather is by Kirkpatrick.

Favored custom .357 Magnum SA sixguns:



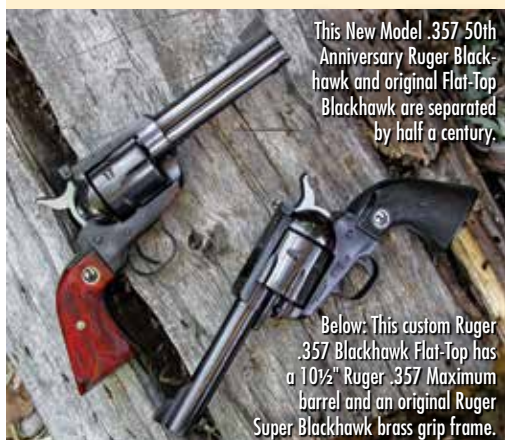
OLD MODEL

The Flat-Top Blackhawk only lasted until 1962, and then it was "improved" to what we now know

as the Old Model. The rear sight received protective ears on both sides, probably a good move, while the grip frame was changed to allow more room for the fingers behind the trigger guard, which in my hands has proven to be a bad move.

Flat-Top and Old Model .357 Blackhawks have been used by many gunsmiths for conversions to larger calibers with the most popular being the .44 Special. I have had several gunsmiths convert

these early Blackhawks to not only .44 Special but also .41 Special, .45 Colt, .38-40, and .44-40. With one Flat-Top .357 Blackhawk I took a different path — maintaining the original chambering. However, it's been fitted with a 10½" .357 Ruger Maximum and an original Ruger Super Blackhawk brass grip frame. Gary Reeder finished it in high polish bright blue. It's not only beautiful but superbly accurate and an excellent long-range sixgun.



This New Model .357 50th Anniversary Ruger Blackhawk and original Flat-Top Blackhawk are separated by half a century.

Below: This custom Ruger .357 Blackhawk Flat-Top has a 10½" Ruger .357 Maximum barrel and an original Ruger Super Blackhawk brass grip frame.



NEW MODEL

The Old Model would last until 1972, when it was replaced by the New Model Blackhawk. Not only was the .357 Blackhawk given a transfer bar safety making it the first single action to be carried safely

fully loaded, it was also made larger and built on a .44 Magnum frame. I've never cared for the size of the New Model .357 Blackhawk, however, a pair of 4½" stainless steel New Models are favorites of Diamond Dot. I



The Ruger Old Model .357 Blackhawk was only offered in 4½" and 6½" barrel lengths.

Continued on page 65

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

One of the best quotes I've seen relating to guns and accessories is, "Either you are the weapon, and your gun is a tool — or — your gun is a weapon and you are a tool." It's not necessarily the equipment, but how you use it that makes you effective. I always look strangely at people who take one side or another in the equipment debate and refuse to see both sides.

One heated topic is off-body carry. It seems like both sides dig their heels in and go at it much like Democrats and Republicans in a money spending contest. For me, off-body carry is just another tool in the toolbox. I don't use it all the time, but it can be effective in the right setting. I know when I can use it and when it's not appropriate, for it has some potentially serious drawbacks.

Originally there were few off-body options available. The most popular was the *concealed carry Fanny Pack*. I refused to wear one, despite its popularity among my fellow law enforcement officers. These weren't fooling anyone. If you were a clean-cut guy who paid close attention to everyone and everything about you, people knew you were a cop and the fanny pack is where your gun was likely hidden. I resorted instead to a few less obvious options and would often craft my own solution out of a carefully chosen sling bag or perhaps one of the lesser-known day planner type cases. These choices helped me look like a religious advocate or businessman rather than a cop. Fortunately, you don't have to go through such extremes. There are many companies meeting this need and doing it far better than I ever did. They take away one of the biggest disadvantages of off-body carry — they are easily recognized.

SECRET BACKPACKS

One major player in the game is 5.11 Tactical. Two products catching my attention for off-body carry are their COVRT18 backpack and their COVRT Satchel. These provide the ability to *blend into a crowd*, since they look like ordinary packs you see people carry every day. I wouldn't give them a second glance if someone carried one near me. And that's precisely what you want.

While the bags remain innocent in appearance, both have 5.11's TacTec System compatible hidden pistol pocket for safe yet quick access to your firearm. The COVRT18 is comparable to a full-size backpack and even provides a cushioned space for a laptop or tablet, plus others for glasses and other must-have items. The smaller COVRT Satchel is a cross carry or over the shoulder design with less bulk. Both provide ready made solutions coming in multiple colors.



This 5.11 Tactical COVRT18 backpack wouldn't raise any eyebrows in public.

OFFICE ACCESSORIES

If you'd like an even more inconspicuous design, try Dillon Precision's Plan B Day Planner holster — it looks like a *typical office accessory or bible cover*. It's designed to carry your choice of pistol plus a spare magazine and can be fitted for either left- or right-hand draw. The design won't stand out in a business setting and is perfect for a suit and tie or more casual wear.

These offerings solve the first part of the problem — conspicuousness. But you must also be aware of one other major drawback to off-body carry — the possibility you could inadvertently leave your firearm somewhere. If you're careless and leave it unattended, it could seriously ruin your day. Another drawback is it's much easier to be caught off-guard and disarmed. If you don't have the presence of mind to make this a top priority in your day-to-day life, then this option is probably not right for you. But both of these are training issues and can be overcome with practice and awareness.

I've used off-body carry quite often and still do. You just have to train with the equipment you plan to use. The bottom line is off-body carry is a viable option and shouldn't be immediately dismissed. Consider advantages and disadvantages, then make the right choice for you. That's the purpose of having a diverse collection of equipment and skills in your own tool box.



A Day Planner holster, like this model from Blackhawk or others from Dillon Precision, offers two benefits: discreet carry and the ability to pack a full-size handgun.



5.11 Tactical's COVRT lineup includes dedicated holster pockets compatible with the company's TacTec line of holsters, magazine and gear carriers.

For more info: DillonPrecision.com, 511Tactical.com

Introducing: **AMERICAN HANDGUNNER** **SPECIAL EDITION 1911**

The All-American Handgun For All American Handgunners



It stands to reason that the most perfect pistol yet created for the American shooter would be the end result of a cooperative effort between Les Baer Custom, America's premier custom pistolsmith, and American Handgunner magazine, the leading publication dedicated to excellence in handgun design and performance.

The new **AMERICAN HANDGUNNER SPECIAL EDITION 1911** starts with America's most iconic handgun, chambered in popular .45 ACP. Then it's custom built by Les Baer Custom with the care and precision that has made Les Baer 1911s the world's finest custom pistols...and with the thoughtful extra touches preferred by American Handgunner's readers. Special features include:

- All steel components with Government length 5" slide and barrel;
- Brushed hard chrome lower with blued top end;
- Rolo adjustable sights with tritium night sight inserts;
- Special double diamond VZ black and blue grips;
- Special "AH" serial number prefix;
- Guaranteed to shoot 3" groups at 50 yards.

For a closer look at the new AMERICAN HANDGUNNER SPECIAL EDITION, visit the Les Baer Custom website or request our 2020 catalog.

Some of our most popular models include:



**Baer 1911
Premier II®**
The flagship of
the Baer Custom
line.



**Baer 1911
KENAI Pistol, 10mm**
Honoring the Great State
of Alaska.



**Baer 1911
BOSS, .45**
High performance tribute to
one of America's most popular
muscle cars.



**Baer 1911 Black
Baer, 9mm**
Perfect compact
carry size.

1804 Iowa Drive • LeClaire, Iowa 52753
Ph: 563-289-2126 • Fx: 563-289-2132
Email: info@lesbaer.com

See our entire line of
high performance custom pistols at...

www.lesbaer.com

Office Hours: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Central Time

**LES BAER
CUSTOM, INC.**
Performance. It's Everything.



Dealers send FFL for Dealer Pricing!

CHILD SOLDIERS: A TALE OF TWO ROYS

We were, in retrospect, such children. We were souped-up teenagers called upon to do exceptionally grownup things. There's a reason 19-year-olds make the best soldiers. They've not yet become jaded by the relentless grinding ambiguity of the world. Life was clearer, somehow cleaner back then.

What we did seemed so important at the time. It was more important than our families. It was more important than our lives. We would have gone anywhere and done anything if this is what our country required. That's quite the dangerous state of being.

Two Roys

I've been privileged to know two men named Roy well. One is my boss here at *Handgunner*. He saw something in me when others didn't, so here we are today. The other was a tall Nordic-looking guy from Minnesota who was an unrepentant patriot.

One night Roy and I were out on an Observation Post at 0200 — an invariably tedious task. We whiled away the evening speaking in whispered tones about home, God, girls and life. That night Roy explained something deep and powerful to me.

This is a soldier's Oath of Office: "I, Willis N. Dabbs, do hereby solemnly swear to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and to bear true faith and allegiance to the same ..." There's more, but that's the really important bit.

Roy explained we did not owe our allegiance to the country, to the government, or even to the American people. Our sworn loyalty was to that sacred document and to the immutable holy truth it represents. Roy's words were articulate, passionate and powerful, the unfiltered ideology of a man utterly in love with his country.

Power Of Random

Much later Roy and I were grinding our way through flight school at Fort Rucker. *The Army makes a show of caring about what you want, but they don't really mean it.* I am convinced they take those dream sheets we filled out asking for particular assignments, plaster them up on cardboard rolls and repurpose them as toilet paper in the Pentagon.

Roy got what I wanted, and I got what he wanted. We quickly put our heads together, struck a deal, and queried our commander about an amicable trade. He made a phone call. For reasons I still cannot fathom the Army said no. Roy and I both moped around for a bit but then headed our separate ways eager to go save the world in whatever capacity Uncle Sam felt best.

Months later one of my Warrant Officer buddies walked into my office with a copy of the *Army Times*, dropped it on my desk, and queried innocently, "Did you

know this guy, sir?"

My breath caught in my throat. Just like that my friend Roy was gone. He was killed in a Cobra crash on the other side of the world less than a year after we finished flight school. He had been married nine months.

Something *very bad* occurred during a multi-ship NVG gunnery mission resulting in a mid-air collision. Roy's crippled Snake impacted the side of a ridge inverted and burned. My friend was killed instantly, sitting in the very seat I had myself strived so vigorously to be in.

Deep Magic

It has been some three decades since that day. I have travelled far and wide, loved a beautiful woman, and successfully raised three incredible kids. I left the military for a career in medicine and along the way saved a few lives. God has richly blessed me beyond anything I deserved. By contrast, Roy's wife was widowed before they even got started.

I still think of my friend Roy often. I recall his words when I see entitled multimillionaire athletes arrogantly disrespecting my nation's flag. I think of him when public servants treat the U.S. Constitution, the most inspired piece of writing outside of Holy Scriptures, like some kind of impediment to be circumvented or ignored. They haven't a clue the price that was paid so they could do those things. Young driven Americans like Roy love their country more than themselves. They are the best of us all.

Our loyalty was to something infinitely bigger, something that remains resolutely pure, holy and strong despite centuries of war, hardship and strife. We gun nerds prattle on about the Second Amendment, but even we fail often to appreciate what a profoundly precious thing that document represents.

My friend Roy understood this. He's the one who explained it to me.



ALRT

(Anywhere Last
Resort Tool)

Versatile and
always at your side.
Don't let their size fool
you. These tools are
damn handy to have
around.

In order from
top to bottom:
ALRT (Mini), ALRT 01,
ALTXL 03, ALRTXL 05



101%
Made in the
USA



Call for a free catalog
Dealer inquiries welcome
208-542-0113

www.topsknives.com

TOPS KNIVES
ONE LIFE ONE KNIFE™



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
@topsknives



LEAD-FREE PISTOL PRIMERS

Shooters are exposed to airborne lead particles for multiple reasons. Bullets with exposed lead bases experience melting from the hot gasses of burning gunpowder. Lead styphnate in the primer mixture also contributes to airborne lead particles.

Vaporized airborne lead particles are easily absorbed through respiration. Lead is toxic, and elevated blood levels can lead to a host of health-related concerns. Shooting indoors poses the greatest health hazard from airborne lead, but blood lead levels can increase even shooting outdoors.



PRIMERS MATTER

Airborne lead levels are significantly reduced by the use of copper-jacketed, copper-plated, lead-free, and nylon- and polymer-coated bullets, but there's still lead from the primers. Several companies offer ammunition that is totally lead-free, with lead-free bullets and lead-free primers — so-called “green” ammo.

Most of the primers available to handloaders use a lead-based component in the explosive mixture. Lead-free primers are rarely available to handloaders, but some have been. The only lead-free primers available as a loading component I've found are from FIOCCHI, available for small pistol and small rifle. You won't confuse FIOCCHI's lead-free pistol primers with anyone else's, because the primer cups are black.

I asked FIOCCHI if their

lead-free primers required special cases with enlarged flash holes (as seen with some factory ammo with lead-free primers), or if they required adjustments in the load data. FIOCCHI replied there was no special requirement for flash hole size. They suggested checking with the powder manufacturer's ballistician when using data with lead-free primers. So, I did.

Alliant had no tested load data with lead-free primers in its recommendations, though they said factory ammo is different for lead-free primers due to differences in the flash and fire. Western Powders said no adjustments were needed. Hodgdon said as far as they knew, there

would not be any difference in data using these primers. Vihtavuori said there might be a difference and to begin with the starting load and work up. None waved a red flag or screamed, “Danger, danger, Will Robinson!”

Primer	Bullet	Weight (gr)	Bullet Design	Overall Length (in)	Powder	Weight (gr)	Velocity (fps)	Standard Dev. (fps)	20-Shot Group (in)
FIOCCHI LF	HAP	115	JHP	1.100	N350	6.0	1336	7.6	1.8
CCI 500	HAP	115	JHP	1.100	N350	6.0	1345	5.4	1.7
FIOCCHI LF	HAP	115	JHP	1.100	A#7	7.5	1190	10.8	2.4
CCI 500	HAP	115	JHP	1.100	A#7	7.5	1211	12.7	1.6
FIOCCHI LF	Zero	115	JHP RN	1.110	Bullseye	4.2	1144	10.0	2.9
CCI 500	Zero	115	JHP RN	1.110	Bullseye	4.2	1136	16.3	2.9
FIOCCHI LF	Zero	115	JHP RN	1.110	A#2	4.2	1070	8.1	3.2
FIOCCHI SP	Zero	115	JHP RN	1.110	A#2	4.2	1079	10.7	2.9
CCI 500	Zero	115	JHP RN	1.110	A#2	4.2	1089	7.4	2.6
Fed Match Mag.	Zero	115	JHP RN	1.110	A#2	4.2	1088	11.1	3.6
FIOCCHI LF	Nosler	124	JHP	1.060	Titegroup	3.4	998	8.9	3.1
Win. SP	Nosler	124	JHP	1.060	Titegroup	3.4	1005	8.1	2.9
Win. SP Mag	Nosler	124	JHP	1.060	Titegroup	3.4	1009	8.6	3.0
FIOCCHI LF	HAP	125	JHP	1.095	Power Pistol	5.6	1213	10.8	2.3
Win. SP	HAP	125	JHP	1.095	Power Pistol	5.6	1199	10.1	2.1
FIOCCHI LF	HAP	125	JHP	1.095	True Blue	5.5	1178	5.7	1.9
Win. SP	HAP	125	JHP	1.095	True Blue	5.5	1188	4.8	1.9

Brad's complete test results.

HANDS-ON TESTING

I selected seven powders and four bullets for testing in the 9mm Luger. I paired FIOCCHI lead-free primers with CCI 500, FIOCCHI standard, Winchester standard and magnum, and Federal match magnum small pistol primers. I loaded samples of 20 rounds using new Lapua brass and recorded velocity from a Para Ordnance frame with a Caspian slide and a 5" Kart barrel. I used a Ransom Rest and assessed accuracy at 25 yards.

There were minor differences in velocity between the lead-free and standard primers, as little as seven to as much as 21 fps. The lead-free primers tended to produce less velocity than standard primers, but occasionally it was

more. It's fair to say these slight differences are probably not meaningful.

Accuracy results were also about equal with the lead-free primers. One possible exception was the 115-grain HAP bullet powered by Accurate #7. The group was 50% (0.8") larger with the lead-free primer. I don't know if that's meaningful or not, but looking at the other comparisons suggests there's no obvious advantage or disadvantage of the lead-free primers. That's good news and what we would hope to see — there's no apparent penalty for using these lead-free primers.

Another benefit of lead-free primers is cleaner fired cases. They should clean faster and eliminate particulate

lead in the cleaning media, wet or dry. Dry cleaning media produces dust, and lead residue here could be another source of airborne lead exposure.

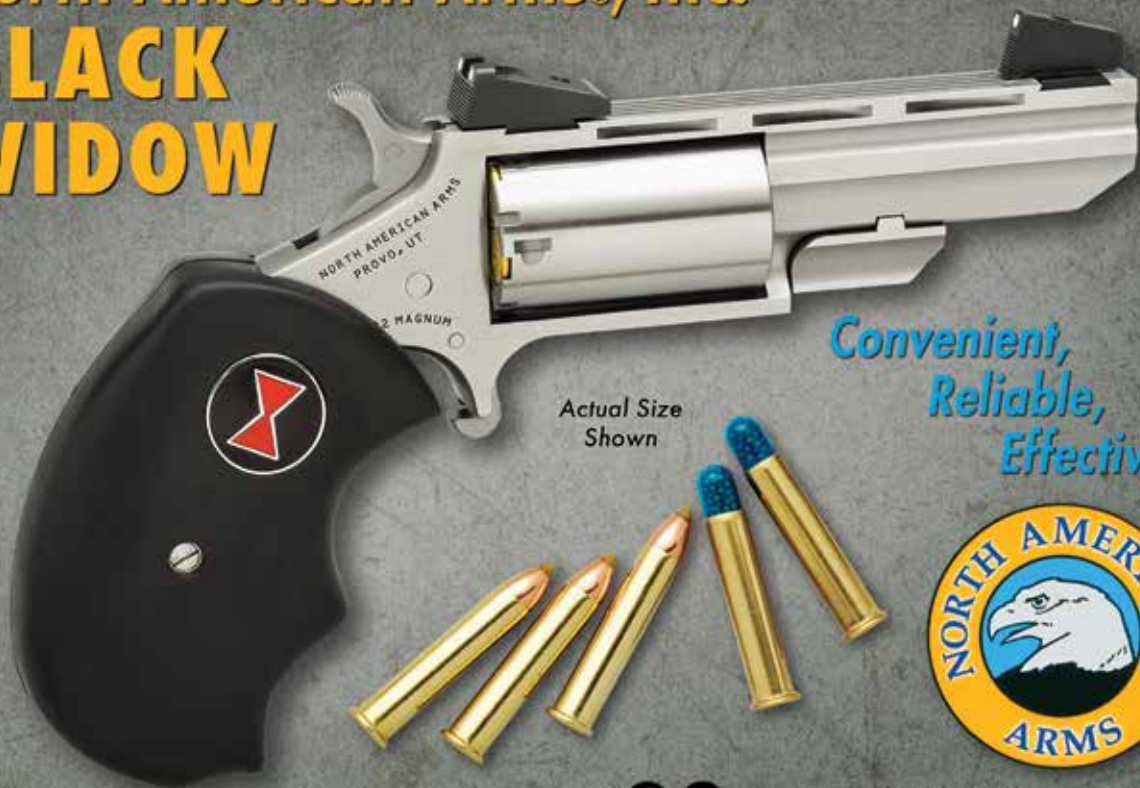
The only real difference is the cost. The lead-free primers are sold in boxes of 1,500 for \$57 at Powder Valley. That comes to \$38 per 1,000. This compares to \$28 per 1,000 for CCI or Winchester. You pay more for the lead-free primers, but reap the benefit of reduced, or eliminated, airborne lead.

The results of my comparison found FIOCCHI's lead-free primers are essentially indistinguishable from the primers we handloaders already use — there were no glaring differences in velocity or accuracy in the 9mm Luger loads tested.

If you want a lead-free lifestyle, the FIOCCHI lead-free primers will help you achieve this.



North American Arms®, Inc. **BLACK WIDOW**



Actual Size
Shown

*Convenient,
Reliable,
Effective!*



  www.northamericanarms.com



42-INCH TACTICAL RIFLE CASE

- HEAVY-DUTY DESIGN
- FOUR STRONG SNAP LATCHES
- FOUR MOVABLE, INTERNAL TIE-DOWN STRAPS
- QUALITY FOAM PADDING
- MULTIPLE PADLOCK TABS
- EXTERNAL TIE DOWN POINTS



CHECK IT OUT AT MTMCASE-GARD.COM



MADE IN
THE USA

Militarized police? S&W has called their mainstream L.E. service handguns "Military & Police" from 1899 to present.



UNDERSTANDING POLICE USE OF FORCE

Misunderstandings, some knowingly fostered by the anti-cop crowd, are rampant among the general public. Here are some truths with which to shoot back.

GENERALITIES

Why not do away with qualified immunity for police? First, it's not the magic "get out of jail free" card some claim it to be. At the risk of oversimplification, it's the same Reasonable Person standard the court demands in an armed citizen self-defense case. The triers of the facts must ask themselves, "What would a reasonable, prudent person have done in the same situation, knowing what the defendant knew?"

For qualified immunity, that becomes "What would a reasonable, prudent, trained and experienced police officer have done in the same situation, knowing what the accused knew at the time?" In either case, the standard of judgment is called *objective reasonableness*. This was defined by SCOTUS more than 30 years ago in the landmark case of *Graham v. Connor*, which has been the guiding light of police use of force training ever since. If this standard was taken away from police, you could expect something similar to follow for

armed citizens, which would greatly compromise the right of self-defense.

Why can't we have peace officers instead of law enforcement officers, guardians instead of warriors? Because you can't have one without the other. *The officer keeps the peace by enforcing the law upon those who shatter the peace and endanger the peaceful.*

What does a guardian do? Guard against danger, which requires the tools necessary to overcome that danger. *To fight fire with fire, you must first have ... fire.*

One must become a warrior to guard against life-threatening violence. The police are, literally, society's designated gunfighters. Police trainer and writer Ed Sanow wasn't being hyperbolic when he spoke of patrol officers as "America's road warriors."

Why can't we de-militarize the police? For one thing, police work has always been paramilitary in organization. Look at the rank structure. Ask yourself why in most jurisdictions state police are called "troopers." Compare the Class A uniform of the idealized Peace Officer in the famous Norman Rockwell painting to the dress uniform of an Army officer of the same period.

Why do SWAT teams have military surplus armored vehicles or similar commercial Bearcats? To stop criminal bullets, not to project force. *You don't see Bearcats equipped with cannons.*

Why can't we send psychologists to domestic violence calls instead of police? Why can't cops learn to de-escalate? Because the wife-beaters and child-beaters will beat the hell out of the unarmed psychologist, too.

The cops are ahead of the self-styled reformers on this: Many departments have experimented with CIT, Crisis Intervention Teams, and many of the rank and file have been trained in verbal crisis intervention such as George Thompson's *Verbal Judo* since the 1980s.

Unfortunately, the escalating suspect gets a vote too, and many don't respond to calm words or reason. There's also the matter of cost. The average cop earns about \$52K a year and the average psychologist almost \$78K. One of each in every patrol car is more than most budgets can bear, especially since there are fewer calls for the doc to handle than the cop.

SPECIFICS

How can police justify shooting a man pointing a stolen TASER at them? For the same reason they've always been allowed to shoot the guy who snatched and wielded their baton, and later their Mace and pepper spray. State attorneys general have long since ruled each of these is a less lethal weapon when used as trained. The suspect who violently wields one is not trained to avoid vital zones with what is now

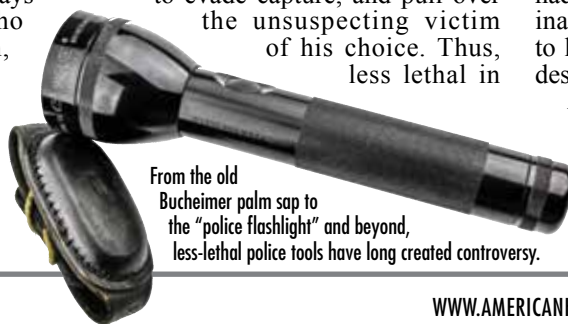
"a deadly weapon, to wit a bludgeon."

If he incapacitates the officer, he can take his service pistol, murder him, and then murder whoever else he chooses, particularly since he can take the keys to the patrol car, use its communications to evade capture, and pull over the unsuspecting victim of his choice. Thus, less lethal in

the cop's hands, but highly lethal and a danger to society in a criminal's hands.

Why do police need AR15s? Remember, American police were using autoloading rifles long before the American military. If your son or daughter had to respond to multiple violent criminals alone, would you want your kid to have an AR15 or a six-shot revolver designed in 1899?

And it's time to answer a question with a question: Why do elected officials and the media do nothing to educate the public in the realities of police use of force?



From the old Bucheimer palm sap to the "police flashlight" and beyond, less-lethal police tools have long created controversy.



OPTIMIZE YOUR GLOCK®

CUSTOM ENHANCEMENTS FOR YOUR GLOCK®

Visit www.wilsoncombat.com
for a full list of custom
options and upgrades now
available at Wilson Combat®.



QUALITY YOU CAN TRUST
SERVICE YOU DESERVE
SINCE 1977

GLOCK® IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF GLOCK INC.



DIAMOND•D OUTDOORS
DIAMONDDOUTDOORS.COM



Handmade to your
EXACT firearm

GUIDE'S CHOICE™ CHEST HOLSTER



> Available for Revolvers
& Semi-Autos
> Ballistic Nylon Strength

DENALI CHEST HOLSTER

www.DiamondDLeather.com (907) 306-8483 www.DiamondDOutdoors.com



FIELD-TESTED
IN ALASKA



HANDMADE
IN THE USA



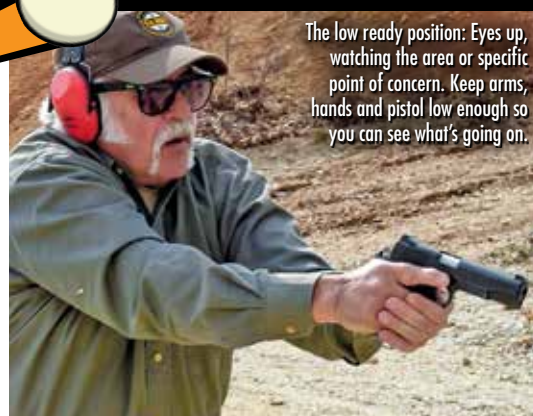
ONE-HANDED
QUICK DRAW

Two **GREAT** products. Two **ALASKAN** companies. **ONE DESIGN.**
SHOP BOTH to find a **CHEST HOLSTER** that is right for you!

TIGER MCKEE

EYES UP!

One of the most difficult skills to teach during defensive classes — and I find this to be true at almost every level of training — are the visual techniques. “Tactical” vision, watching what’s going on around you, applies before (even if you’re unarmed), during and after the fight. It’s important, and everyone understands the principles, but doing this is extremely hard. The two things I say most often when teaching are “Eyes up!” and “Scan!”



The low ready position: Eyes up, watching the area or specific point of concern. Keep arms, hands and pistol low enough so you can see what’s going on.



Danger! Move! Visual awareness lets you spot danger, then move. Look around to find cover and exits so you know where to go. While watching the threat, be ready to adjust.

WATCH WHAT'S IMPORTANT

If you have to reload or have a malfunction (stoppages occur more often in fights than they do on the range) manipulate the weapon with the eyes up, watching the threat. It’s probably a low-light environment, where the majority of attacks occur, so you won’t be able to see the weapon anyway. Once you’ve truly learned how to manipulate your weapon, it’s not necessary to observe what you’re doing.

Learning to manipulate the weapon begins with the basics — administrative manipulations — loading and unloading. From the beginning, make it a habit not to look at the weapon during manipulations. Yes, there’s some fumbling in the beginning, but that’s why you have an instructor there. After developing your tactile sense, the ability to feel what’s

HUNTING EYES

We have “hunter” eyes. Our ocular cavities are in the front of the skull. This binocular vision allows us to see in three dimensions, accurately judging distance and depth. However, *we have limited peripheral vision* (as opposed to plant eaters with eyes on the side of the head) and a big blind spot at the rear. You have to twist your head to see what’s going on around you. So, how does this factor into your defensive strategies?

The best response to danger is avoidance and escape, ideally before bad stuff starts. Doing this requires staying aware of your environment. Being visually oriented creatures, 90% or more of what we “know” is acquired through our eyes. You have to constantly watch the people around you. At the same time you must keep track of the last known safe space, additional exits and objects that can be used for cover or protection. Staying “plugged in” is all about keeping your eyes up and watching the world around you.

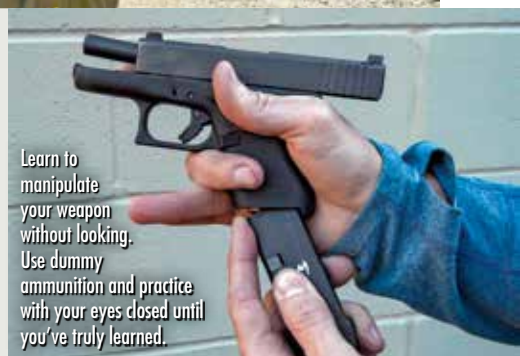
Some attacks begin suddenly, offering no chance to avoid and escape. Solving this problem requires your pistol. “Eyes up,” becomes even more important. Don’t lose visual contact with the threat unless something more important appears or you get to a safe area. *You can only deal with one problem at a time.*

When drawing the pistol keep your eyes on the threat. As you present the pistol keep your eyes on target and bring the sights up to the eyes to acquire a sight picture. This is much more efficient than dropping the head and eyes down at the same time you’re bringing the sights up. Keep both eyes open — remember, binocular vision — and shift your visual focus to the front sight while pressing off the hits.

going on, *you’ll eventually be more efficient than someone who has to look at their weapon*, especially in the dark.

Once you’re finished firing — the threat will let you know when you’re done — go to the “low ready” position. The hands, arms and weapon are extended, but low enough to watch the downed threat, or see if they come back around the corner. It’s time to scan. Your weapon stays pointing towards last known threat, or that corner. Get your eyes up and look around.

There may be additional threats. Where’s your family? Look for cover or a position that’s easily defended if need



Learn to manipulate your weapon without looking. Use dummy ammunition and practice with your eyes closed until you’ve truly learned.

be. Scanning, taking your eyes off the past danger and focusing on something farther away, will visually break you out of the tunnel vision you may be experiencing. Don’t forget to use reflections. Glass windows, a clean paint job on a car and other shiny surfaces give you eyes in the back of your head, so to speak.

The visual principles and techniques for self-defense are often overlooked. Keeping your eyes up, paying attention to the world around you is always a good habit. During defensive actions, maintaining visual awareness is mandatory. Study this well and then start putting it into practice. Eyes Up!

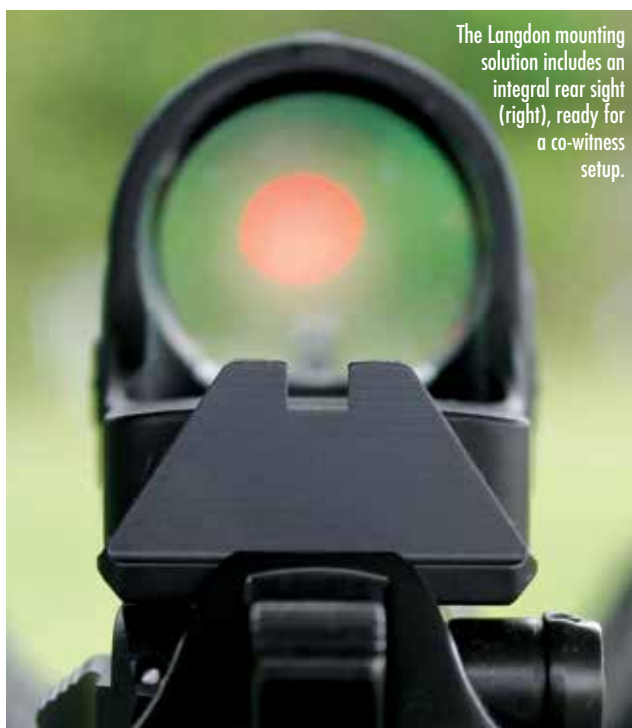


Shop When You Need To Online & In-Store

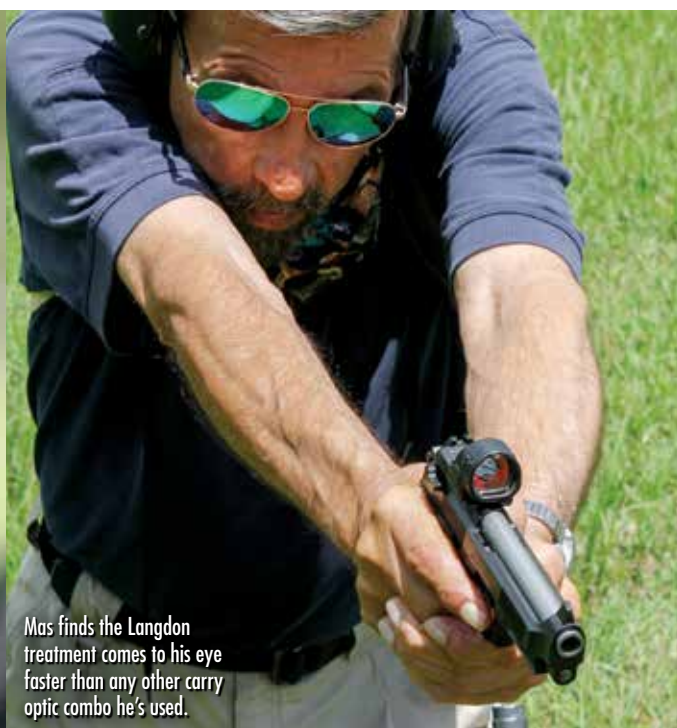
1,000+ Stores Nationwide • HarborFreight.com

RED DOT BERETTA 92

LANGDON TACTICAL



The Langdon mounting solution includes an integral rear sight (right), ready for a co-witness setup.



Mas finds the Langdon treatment comes to his eye faster than any other carry optic combo he's used.

IMPOSSIBLE ENGINEERING?

MASSAD AYOOB



Langdon customs, 20 years apart: LTT RDO above, customized 92G below.

They said it couldn't be done ... but Ernest Langdon did it.

The firing pin block rises through the top rear of the slide when the trigger is pulled and the Beretta 92 has an open-top slide. How in Hell was anybody going to mount a red dot optic on one of those?

"Where there's a will, there's a way," it is said. Those old sayings have gotten to be clichés because they're generally true. The guy who figured out how to get an optical sight on a 92 was Ernest Langdon ... and, I suppose, he was the logical guy to do it.

Why It Matters

Sitting on my desk is a Langdon RDO LTT Elite Beretta 92 with a Trijicon SRO optic. It represents a confluence of two current trends, one of which Ernest Langdon is largely responsible for. The first is the renaissance of the Beretta 92 pistol, just when everybody thought it was going to be relegated to the military museum. Ernest's training and particularly his *Fear Not the Double Action Shot* video series on YouTube reminded America's shooters the Beretta could be made with a very

sweet trigger both double and single action, and had long since proven itself to be one of the most reliable auto pistol platforms in existence.

The other trend is “carry optics”: red dot sights are compact enough to ride in a duty holster, or even serve for concealed carry. The carry optic’s red dot offers advantages. It’s a natural for those whose vision won’t give them a good focus on iron sights. For any user, though, the big advantage is what the military, police and armed citizen sectors found with the same optics on rifles: the aiming index — the dot — is seen by the eye on the *same focal plane as the target*.

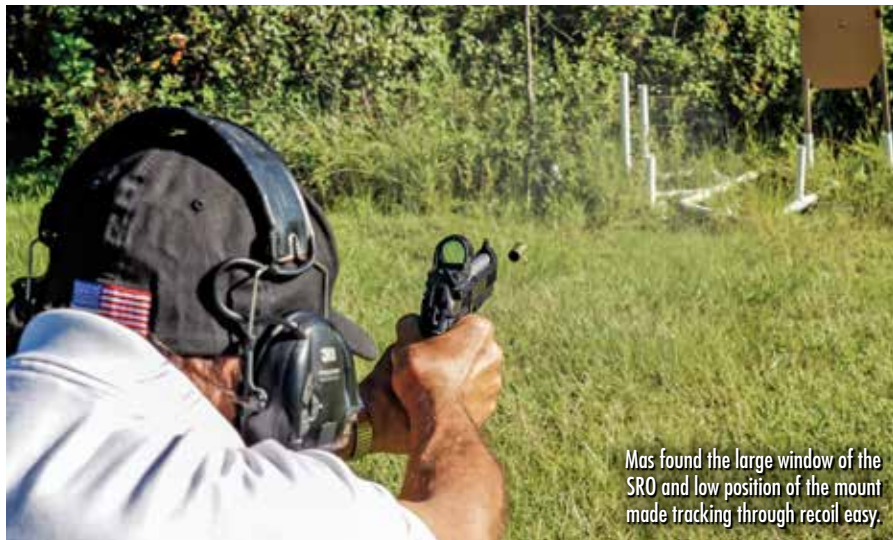
How Langdon Did It

The Langdon Tactical crew explains, “This has been no easy task as the internal workings of the 92 slide have made the ‘proper’ low mounting of a red dot optic impossible. With the design of five new components and a custom mounting plate specific for the Beretta 92, Langdon Tactical can properly low mount a micro red dot optic.

“When we say low, we mean very low: Our system has a dot height above the center of the bore of 0.85” (when paired with a Trijicon RMR), which is as low or lower than most direct milled striker-fired systems.

“A re-engineered firing pin and firing pin block permits the super-secure mounting of an adapter plate that is held in place with three mounting screws, a front dovetail, and a center indexing boss milled into the slide. This plate has a built-in back-up rear sight that mates up with a newly designed front sight for the Elite LTT and other Vertec type slides. The new system is a game-changer for the Beretta 92 owners.

“This RDO package comes with the red dot height front sight that



Mas found the large window of the SRO and low position of the mount made tracking through recoil easy.

matches the adapter plate built in rear sight pre-installed ...”

Testing

I picked up my test sample barrel and slide assembly from Ernest and Aimee Langdon in early July 2020, a couple of weeks ahead of the anxiously awaited official announcement. In anticipation of my evaluation, I brought my Langdon Custom Beretta LTT which served as my teaching and personal carry gun for a two-week training tour. This gave me a leg up.

My Langdon RDO is fitted with a Trijicon SRO (Specialized Reflex Optic). These come with dot sizes of 1.5, 2.5, or 5.0 MOA. Mine is the Mama Bear middle road one, the 2.5, and for me it’s “just right.” Battery life is spec’d to be about three years, presuming the unit is adjusted halfway in the middle on the brightness scale.

It was reassuring to find the barrel and slide assembly I picked up from the Langdons, already affixed with the SRO in the Langdon mount, *came pre-co-witnessed with the high-profile iron sights*, the rear of which was pyramidal

and plain black, and the front mounting a big, easy-to-see white dot.

I shot my LTT with its iron sights in early July 2020 at the Firearms Academy of Seattle on a 60-shot qualification course, and finished with a perfect score and about a 5” group. I shot the same course on my home range after the announcement, with the SRO on top. The score was the same. The group was a little bigger, but I’d had less time behind the SRO than I’d had behind the irons. I didn’t have students watching, but knew I was “shooting in front of 100,000 readers,” and believe me, the stress was greater in the latter shoot.

On the 25-yard line, the Langdon gun with the carry optic routinely gave me six for six on Bianchi Plates within the nine-second limit. That’s better than I was able to average with other guns in 11 times at the Bianchi Cup itself.

Something Magical

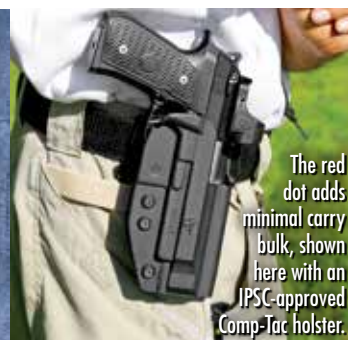
I’ve been shooting red dot sights on handguns since they came out. I shot an early Tasco ProPoint, then state-of-the-art, atop a Cannon/Ayoob Custom compensated 4” S&W 686 with Jarvis barrel weight at the 10th Bianchi Cup. I found this new combination of the Langdon Beretta and its very low-mounted SRO optic to *come to my eye faster* than any carry optic and pistol combination I’ve worked with yet.

Continued on page 60



Langdon LTT Elite with RDO mount modification. Note how low the red dot sits on the slide.

Right: Swapping slides on a 92-platform pistol is effortless, so ordering the side and barrel assembly allows quick change between optics-ready and iron-sight configurations.



The red dot adds minimal carry bulk, shown here with an IPSC-approved Comp-Tac holster.

DILLINGER'S COLT M1903 HAMMERLESS THAT WASN'T

WILL DABBS, MD

The Colt M1903 Hammerless .32 was an integral part of American gangster lore. The M1903 is shown on the left alongside a 1918-vintage Colt M1911. The submachine gun is an M1928A1 Thompson.



This customized Novak's M1903 shows just how far John Browning's original design is capable of going.
Photo: Roy Huntington



The slim, curvy and classy M1903 just seems to go with business attire and an overcoat.



issue weapons for General Officers in the U.S. military. The commercial production run spent itself in 1945 at around 570,000 copies.

While Generals the likes of Eisenhower, Patton, Bradley and Marshall all carried the weapon, it also found its way into more nefarious hands.

Public Enemy Number 1

John Herbert Dillinger was an unrepentant career criminal whose violent exploits captured the imagination of an American population ground down by the deprivations of the Great Depression. The younger of John Wilson Dillinger and his wife Mollie's two children, John's dark nature was apparent from the outset. Dillinger stole his first car at age 19. He

In 1903 Colt debuted John Moses Browning's Pocket Hammerless .32ACP pistol. This trim little automatic ran via unlocked blowback and featured a tight single action trigger. The gun actually rocks a conventional hammer, but it's nestled invisibly inside the rear of the slide to make the gun easier to conceal.

These pistols served until 1972 as

The modernized M1903 by Novak sports sights of the same name. A welcome addition to the svelte auto.



The thumb safety on the M1903 is certainly discreet, but not exactly easy to operate.



enlisted in the Navy and served aboard the battleship *USS Utah*, but eventually went AWOL.

Prison is where an amateur criminal turns professional and it was in jail Dillinger made the friends who would facilitate his meteoric criminal career. He learned how to rob banks from Herman Lamm's associates and established professional relationships with gangsters the likes of Pete Pierpont and Homer Van Meter. A month after his parole from the Indiana State Prison he robbed his first bank, making off with a cool \$10,000. *That would be about \$200,000 today.*

In a one-year span, Dillinger and his gang robbed an even dozen banks, becoming both infamous and wealthy in the process. However, with notoriety and fame came the relentless attention of Melvin Purvis and the U.S. Bureau of Investigation, the precursor to today's FBI. After sundry shootouts, jail breaks and girlfriends wooed and lost, John Dillinger ultimately found himself in Chicago.

Dillinger recovered from a gunshot wound to his calf incurred when he had blasted his way out of a St. Paul, Minn., apartment complex. He subsequently decided he now desperately needed a little anonymity. On May 28, 1934, Dillinger and his buddy Homer Van Meter went under the knife in the living room of a crooked local businessman named James Probasco. After nearly dying from the crude general anesthetic, *Dillinger awoke with a new face and obliterated fingerprints* thanks to an ex-con physician named Dr. Wilhelm Loeser. The procedure cost Dillinger \$5,000 or about \$95,000 today.

The Setting

After Dillinger's prostitute-turned-girlfriend Billie Frechette got collared by the feds he found himself a replacement named Polly Hamilton. Unfortunately for Dillinger, the madame at Polly's

brothel was an illegal Romanian immigrant named Ana Cumpanas who would do anything to avoid deportation. This included ratting out her pal Polly and her exceptionally dangerous boyfriend with the curiously fresh surgical scars.

At around 8:30 on the evening of July 22, 1934, Ana, Polly and John walked into the Biograph theater on the north side of Chicago to take in *Manhattan Melodrama* starring Clark Gable

and Myrna Loy. While history refers to Ana as the "Lady in Red," her dress that evening was orange. This was arranged in advance as a signal to Melvin Purvis she was in the company of Public Enemy Number 1, John Dillinger.

As the crowd left the theater, Purvis and Dillinger's eyes met for a pregnant moment. Purvis then lit his cigar, the prearranged signal for his men to move in. Dillinger reached for the Colt M1903 automatic pistol

Continued on page 58



The Colt M1903 .32ACP pistol is a slim and concealable pocket gun that found favor with users on both sides of the law.



Above: This M1903 has had the rear bits of the frame and slide milled clear and a spur welded to the hammer. The end result looks strikingly like a miniaturized M1911.



The Colt M1903 was a popular concealable pocket pistol in the first half of the 20th century.

The Ronin .45 comes with a fiber optic front sight paired with a big notch rear sight and brings a more compact carry size with its 4.25" barrel. All at a reasonable price point.

Image: Springfield Armory



SPRINGFIELD ARMORY

Images: Springfield Armory



RONIN OPERATOR

45

A SHORT, LIGHT AND SMOOTH HANDLING FIGHTING PISTOL

Mas blames a pull for the errant shot that opened up this 1.4" group from 25 yards with Winchester 230-grain JHP at 25 yards.



MASSAD AYOUB

Springfield Armory's recent addition to their 1911 line, the Ronin, offers classic retro styling combined with modern "improved shootability" features. Beginning with the all-steel 5" barrel gun, the next logical step was the shorter model with 4.25" barrel and light aluminum frame. It debuts under the Ronin Operator name. You can think of it as an homage to the Colt Commander .45 of the mid-20th Century.

It's about three-quarters of a pound lighter than the all-steel full-size model, something I appreciate after 60 years with 1911s. It comes with a single-lever

Slim grips give excellent trigger reach for Ronin, shown here in the hand of an average-size adult male.



thumb safety with positive on and off, beavertail grip-safety and a two-tone nod to the 1980s in finish. It comes with three Mec-Gar eight-round magazines. Sights are excellent: red fiber optic front and a big-notch rear sight with a ledge to allow one-handed slide racking against the belt in an emergency. The magazine well is lightly beveled.

This style of .45 has been with us for 70 years. Cocked and locked (modern Springfield Armory 1911s are drop-safe) and equipped with a properly adjusted grip safety, they're probably safer to tuck in a waistband than most striker-fired pistols in an emergency when there's no time to holster up. Think of it as "going commando" with your Commander-style .45 and the nine fat sluggers it has on board to protect you and your family.

Accuracy

I tested with my usual protocol, hand-held on a Matrix rest on a concrete table 25 yards from the target. I measured each group twice, center to center between the farthest-apart shots, to the nearest 0.05". The first measurement is all five hits, the second, the best three. Experience has shown me and others the all-five measurement gives a good idea what experienced hands can do with the gun and ammo combo under ideal conditions, while the best three closely duplicates what could be expected with all five of the same from a machine rest. Since few of our readers own a Ransom Rest, this is something they can test their own sample with to compare to our results.

The "best three" measurement also helps factor out unnoticed human error, which I suspect was present in our first two groups. I try to test with the three most popular bullet weights for the caliber, and in .45 ACP those are 185, 200, and obviously 230-grain. Choice for the latter was Winchester "white box" JHP, which had a 1.45" group spoiled by a single errant shot that stretched the measurement to 4.25" (not necessarily a proper group for a 4.25" barrel gun; I'm sure the bad shot was on me). The

Continued on page 66



Springfield Armory offers the short, light Ronin in 9mm, left, and .45.



Mas found the Ronin sights were dead on for elevation. His shots grouped slightly right — easily fixed with a quick rear sight adjustment. The target is shown horizontally.



Ronin lightweight .45 (top) with its inspiration, the Colt Commander LW .45 (bottom).



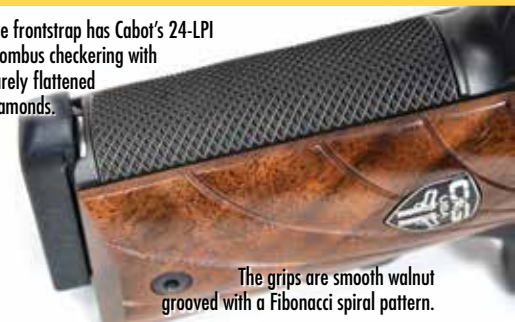
CONCEALABLE

CLASS

CABOT S103
COMPACT M1911

JEREMY D. CLOUGH

The frontstrap has Cabot's 24-LPI rhombus checkering with barely flattened diamonds.



The grips are smooth walnut grooved with a Fibonacci spiral pattern.



The barrel is deeply crowned, giving the muzzle a funnel-like effect. The practiced eye will notice the front stirrup cut is shorter than an ordinary Commander, an artifact of the S103's longer slide travel.

firing .45. Another unfortunate difference is their flagship pistol started over \$6,000, about twice the going rate for a custom pistol, until the introduction of the "S" line in 2015.

Intended to make Cabot's trademark



The front sight blade is mounted in a longitudinal dovetail covered by the barrel bushing, a design that makes it impossible for the sight to get knocked to one side and lose its windage.

Most of us were familiar with Cabot even before the meteorite guns. Founded in 2011 during the centennial of the M1911, Cabot Guns makes pistols to tolerances usually only available in guns built one at a time. The difference is Cabot produces the kind of precision with complete parts interchangeability, something unheard of in the M1911 world, and uses cutting-edge technology that lets them do things like figure out how to turn a space rock into a functional,



Cabot's Commander-sized S103 has trademark styling, a longer slide stroke for added reliability and is priced comparable with other premium carry M1911s.



The Cabot S103 (bottom) shown with the Colt Lightweight Commander (top).

The S103 has the shortened 4.25" barrel of the Commander while maintaining a longer slide travel for reliability.



Cabot machined a narrow, angled channel down the disconnect rail, creating a ramp for the disconnect to operate smoothly.

styling and performance available to the high-end carry market, prices run on the spendy side of the \$3,000 range, and include some changes from other Cabots, like incorporating the traditional hand fitting unnecessary on the higher end guns.

Carry Reimagined

Among the new models is the S103, a reimagined carry gun with the slide travel of a full-size Government Model but with the outward dimensions of the 3/4" shorter Commander and comes in 9mm or .45. Cabot sent an early transitional version of the S103 that had some teething issues, but replaced it quickly with a second improved one,

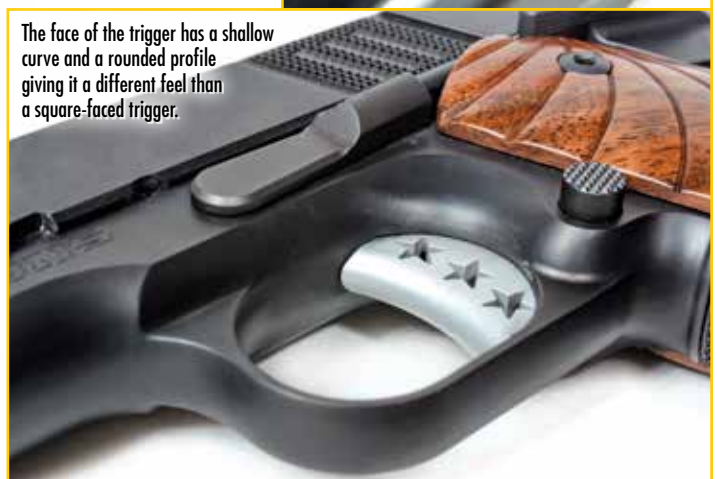
also in .45 ACP.

The test gun came with the businesslike matte black finish you'd expect (nitride on ours, now DLC) and walnut grips, with only the barrel and trigger adding a flash of silver. The rear sight is a genuine Novak LoMount and the front sight blade is mounted in a longitudinal dovetail closed by the barrel bushing, a design that makes it impossible for the sight to get to knocked to one side and lose its windage. Between the two sights is a machined flat with lengthwise

Continued on page 62



The S103 consumed over a thousand rounds of jacketed hollow points, handloads using Hunters Supply 225-grain flat points and D&L's 200-grain new defensive bullet.



The face of the trigger has a shallow curve and a rounded profile giving it a different feel than a square-faced trigger.

WILSON COMBAT WCP320 CARRY





COMBAT, COMPETITION OR BOTH

TOM McHALE • PHOTOS: ROB JONES/IMAGESMITH, LLC

The folks at Wilson Combat have a refreshing business model. Most handgun manufacturers produce their own designs and are loath to admit anyone else can come up with a good idea. Wilson has historically taken a fresh approach — one that benefits the end customer.

The company offers its own designs, including the time-tested 1911 platform in dozens of caliber and style variants. However, Wilson has also made a profitable business taking stock pistols from other makers like Beretta, GLOCK, and SIG SAUER, and building their own custom models and enhancement kits. This brings us to the WCP320 Carry.

Wilson Combat starts with raw, unmachined slides, choice barrels and fire control units from SIG SAUER's P320 platform. The company then machines the raw slide blanks into functional and precise works of art, nearly unrecognizable from the factory default P320 versions. When complete, slide and barrel are treated with a touch and durable black DLC (Diamond-Like-Carbon) physical vapor deposition finish. All of this is assem-

bled into the Wilson Combat P320 Carry grip module. Custom sights round out the package.

Wilson's Grip Module

While there's a metric boatload of "custom" in this pistol as compared to the standard SIG SAUER P320, a significant departure from the stock handgun is the frame itself. The P320's modular (and serialized) internal fire control unit contains the entire action including trigger, sear, springs, safety components and operating controls — everything except the magazine release button and striker assembly. This allows one to treat the frame, what most consider "the gun" itself, as an accessory. No federal regulations required if you want to swap it out.

The Wilson Combat frame offers a handling-friendly full-height grip with a carry-friendly 3.9" barrel. Benefits of this approach include improved handling without sacrificing full capacity. The two included X-Series magazines hold 17 rounds each.

One less visible frame improvement is internal compartments in the rear of the magazine well for weights. If you field strip the WCP320, you'll notice three vertical channels (empty by



WILSON COMBAT WCP320 CARRY





AMERICAN
HANDGUNNER®



default) where you can insert optional Tungsten bars. The set of three (two narrow bars and one larger) adds 42 grams to the back end, helping recoil control and providing some balance against the heavier fiery end of the pistol. If you go this route, consider using some grease or perhaps silicone for a more permanent, rattle-free installation.

If I were a serious competitor, concerned with shaving milliseconds from rapid-fire shot strings, I'd give

the weights a try. For carry or recreational applications, I had no trouble with the WCP320's tame recoil and muzzle flip impulses.

Combat Or Competition?

You can purchase a WCP320 Carry in two functional varieties. If your intended use is concealed carry or home defense, choose one of the standard models. These, available with black or tan frames, included standard straight trigger systems from SIG SAUER. If your primary goal is competition, the company offers models with pre-installed Action Tune trigger kits from Grayguns. Don't decide lightly as the Action Tune kits, with either straight or curved trigger options, will give you a very light trigger appropriate only for competition and recreational use.

Competition Legal

As configured, the WCP320 Action Tune Straight Trigger model is built for the competition bays. Its optimized trigger is fantastic, but somewhat too sensitive for safe carry, as the WCP320 Carry is a striker-fired pistol without a manual safety. As I write this, it's

become legal for IDPA Stock Service Pistol Class and USPSA Production/Carry Optics classifications. The company has sold over 2,000 units (more by now) so the WCP320 Carry isn't considered a custom race gun — it's a legitimate production model.

Trigger Options

The model shown here is the competition-optimized version built around the Grayguns Adjustable Straight Trigger System. This kit includes a new competition sear and associated springs. The good news is Wilson Combat gunsmiths install all this for you, so the pistol is ready to go out of the box. You'll get a bag including the original SIG XFULL flat-faced trigger, sear, sear springs, trigger bar spring and safety-lever pin. You'll also get the Grayguns Intermediate sear spring kit if you want to make your own fine adjustments.

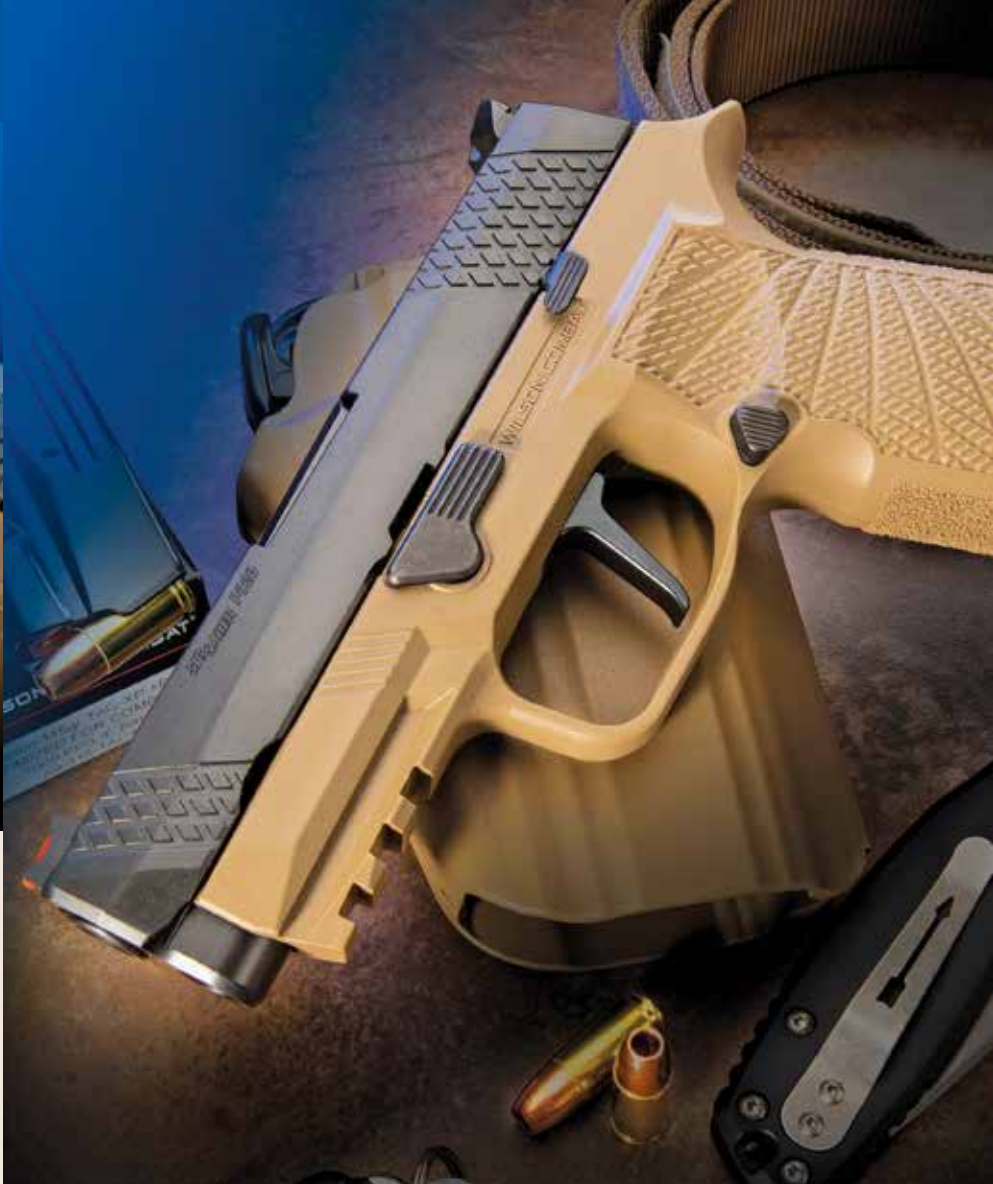
The upgraded competition trigger system will spoil you rotten. You'll get about 1/8" of take-up followed by 1/4" of constant pressure before a crisp break. The reset offers a satisfying "click" all its own after 1/4" of forward travel at the base. You can't miss it. Using a spring trigger gauge, I measured 3.5 lbs. when pulled from the center of the flat trigger face. When pulling from the bottom of the trigger face, the measured weight went as low as 2.5 lbs. Do note Wilson Combat and Grayguns insist this competition kit is for range use only; it's not intended for carry. If you want to carry your WCP320, reinstall the factory sear and springs. You can also order the WCP320 with a standard trigger, so if you intend to carry exclusively, this one's your huckleberry.

Carry-izing

While I enjoy the occasional competition, I'm not a gun gamer. When I do compete in something, I always use my regular carry gun and gear considering the inherent disadvantage to those with souped-up race guns and rigs. My interest lies solely in becoming more proficient with the stuff I carry every day, extra milliseconds on a competition clock be damned. With this in mind, I decided to re-install the factory sear, springs and flat trigger system.

Digging into the guts of the fire control unit (FCU) is not a project for the faint of heart. If you venture into this realm, do be careful as a bent spring here or there can make your pistol non-functional. Similarly, loss of a tiny part, even a fictional one as it turns out, can cause some serious frustration and delay.

When I ever-so-carefully removed



and disassembled the FCU to replace the sear, sear springs, trigger bar spring and safety lever pin, I noticed at one point the safety lever lifter spring was missing. I searched for hours using a high-powered light, to no avail. Clearly this was proof of the incomprehensible mysteries of quantum mechanics. Matter had indeed converted itself to anti-matter before my very eyes.

The next morning, I called the folks at Wilson Combat, and after some discussion to zero in on the specific part in question, I learned at some point in the production process SIG has discontinued use of said spring. Someone figured out it was no longer necessary for reliable function. Since I hadn't actually seen the spring launch, this new theory held water. I reassembled the pistol, and it works like a champ. The more you know.

With the new closer-to-default trigger configuration, performance changed to a more carry-appropriate mode. Trigger travel was close to identical as determined by my not-very-precise wooden ruler. However, the pull weight is now about 5.5 lbs. measured from the center of the trigger face. From the foot, the weight reads 4.25 lbs. The reset is the same, and the audible and tactile reset "click" is unchanged. This pistol is now deemed carry safe in my book and that's exactly how I intend to use this WCP320 Carry.

Handling

The WCP320 is built for speed — literally. I'm a 1911 grip angle kind of guy, so pistols like Browning's original, M&Ps, Springfield Armory XD-

family pistols, and most SIG SAUER platforms point naturally for me. If I raise any of those (unloaded) to target with my eyes closed, I'll be lined up pretty darn well right off the bat, with no vertical sight movement required. If I try the same thing with a GLOCK or similar pistol, I almost always have to lower the front sight into position as the pistol naturally points a bit high for me. No hate mail please; I'm perfectly happy with a GLOCK, I'm just sharing a personal observation about the convenience of built-in natural point of aim. Of course, plenty of other shooters have the exact opposite experience and raked grip pistols point naturally for them. To each his or her own.

The WCP 320 with its custom Wilson Combat frame maintains the more vertical grip angle, so it's a natural fit for me. Raising the gun to target from a holstered or low-ready position is an exercise in efficiency. Thanks to its natural pointing (for me) there isn't a millimeter of wasted motion or nanosecond of extra sight alignment time required.

The sights are also built for speed.



The front sight houses a red fiber optic tube. Given the nature of fiber optic sight construction, it's simple to pick your color of choice and insert a new tube, so don't feel limited by red if green or orange are more your thing. The rear sight is flat black on the back (no dots) and features a "U-shaped"

Continued on page 71

TRAINING WITH BUSHNELL'S RED DOT SIGHTS

Denny completed the Gunsite program with the Bushnell RXS-250 and a Gen 5 GLOCK 17.

CONNECTING THE DOT

DENNY HANSEN

Mounting red dot sights (RDS) on handguns is nothing new; it's been done for at least a couple of decades. In the beginning it was first widely accepted by competitors in the shooting sports. Tales of short battery life and recoil knocking them out of adjustment abounded.

The nonbelievers thought of them as only toys for competitors. Everyone knew serious shooters used the ever-dependable iron sights, while forgetting it was the competitive world that introduced us to using RDSs on carbines. The cop or soldier who does not have a red dot sight mounted now is more the exception than the rule. A lot has

changed since those early years.

I was recently invited by Vista Outdoor (the parent company of Bushnell) along with other writers to attend an event for the debut of two new red dot sights from Bushnell: the RXS-100 and RXS-250. The RXS-100 has an MSRP of only \$99 and the RXS-250 will sell for \$250 — great prices for quality red dot sights. The event was hosted at Gunsite — the world's oldest privately run shooting school and staffed by some of the best instructors in the nation.

Pair Of Dots

While the RXS-100 (100) is loaded with features, the RXS-250 (250) is more rugged and suited for duty. A few of the upgrades on the 250 includes 10 brightness settings, a user selectable 12-hour timeout to increase battery life and a more rugged, chamfered hood to reduce the chances of the sight snagging on clothing or other objects.

The event used the RXS-250 attached to a Gen 5 GLOCK. The Bushnell sights will mount directly to a pistol using the DeltaPoint footprint. The sight also comes with a Weaver-type low profile mount for use on other platforms.

The attendees were asked by a show of hands how many had previously used

A student taking on the famous Gunsite robotic charging target.





The battery, rubber sight cover, Weaver-style low-profile mount, Bushnell multi-tool and basic adjustment tools and Spudz cleaning cloth are included with the RXS-250.

a red dot sight on a pistol. I was the only one not to raise my hand and had not fired a GLOCK in over 10 years. However, I was looking forward to the experience and learning new techniques.

The SOP with an RDS on a carbine is turn it on and leave it on. Admittedly, not keeping up with the times, this was a concern to me for defensive use. A critical incident is not the time to turn the sight on or find out the batteries have died.

I was pleasantly surprised to learn the 250 has a 50,000-hour battery life — that's more than five years — when left on mid-level 5 setting and selectable 12-hour timeout for even more battery life.

The RXS-250 uses a 4 MOA dot, and as mentioned has 10 brightness settings, with the lowest setting being night vision compatible. The readily available CR2032 top loads without needing to remove the sight — no need to re-zero when changing batteries.

Included with the RXS-250 is the battery, rubber sight cover, Weaver-style low-profile mount, Bushnell multi-tool and basic adjustment tools and Spudz cleaning cloth.

Gearing Up

After morning introductions, we were given product presentations from Bushnell and Blackhawk — another Vista Outdoor company. Another product presentation was on the Federal 147-grain Train/Defend ammo we would be using for the next three days. We were issued a GLOCK with sight mounted and Blackhawk holsters, belts and magazine pouches.

After lunch we assembled on the square range and commenced with dry fire exercises so instructors could evaluate everyone was on the same page in terms of safely presenting the pistol.

The first live fire drill of the day was only at three yards and sounded simple: find the red dot, fire a single shot, place the dot on the bullet hole for an aiming point and fire four more rounds. I wound up with a group of about 2" while almost everyone else had fired a single, ragged hole. Hmm, there may be more to this red dot stuff than I had thought...

On the second day we were given



Shooters drilling on the line with the Bushnell RXS-250.

demonstrations and then coached by Bushnell professional shooters Jessie Harrison and KC Eusebio.

Dot Technique ... Learned

I learned the suggested technique is to raise the pistol to eye level and push straight out in an Isosceles stance, look at where you want the bullet to strike, letting the dot appear and pressing the trigger.

The event made me feel like I was shooting in a parallel universe. I gave up on GLOCKS a decade ago because no matter how much I tried, they always shot high for me. Additionally, after shooting 1911s with really nice triggers, going to a mediocre trigger is not conducive to accuracy.

On top of this, for five decades I've been trained to not look at the target but to focus on the front sight, and for almost as long used the Weaver stance instead of Isosceles.

Determined to get the most this class had to offer, I made a point of trying to overcome my deeply ingrained habits and take the instructor's advice. My groups began to improve dramatically except for when I found myself not looking at the target and chasing the dot.

The final day on the range found the class in both the outdoor and indoor

(shoot house) simulators. On a different square range than what we had been using — and offered a 180-degree field of fire — we were challenged by Gunsite's robotic charging target.

The RDS didn't seem to help me get on target faster than iron sights at close range, such as in one of Gunsite's shoot-houses, but this could change as I become more familiar with them.

Where I did notice a distinct advantage was at longer ranges. Gunsite's outdoor simulators uses terrain to conceal steel targets and you must "slice the pie" in this environment just as you would indoors. On one target in the North Draw, 60 yards distant, only the head and upper shoulders were visible. I placed the dot on the head and took the target down with a single shot. Honestly, quite possibly a shot I could not have made reliably with irons.

After only three days working with the Bushnell RXS-250, I can definitely see the advantages of using a red dot sight on a pistol. For me personally, it would likely take thousands of repetitions to build enough confidence before I would carry it daily for defense.

Both the RXS-100 and RXS-250 come with a five-year transferable warranty.



For more info: Bushnell.com, Gunsite.com

Center: The top loading tray allows you to install a readily available CR2032 battery without removing the sight from the pistol.



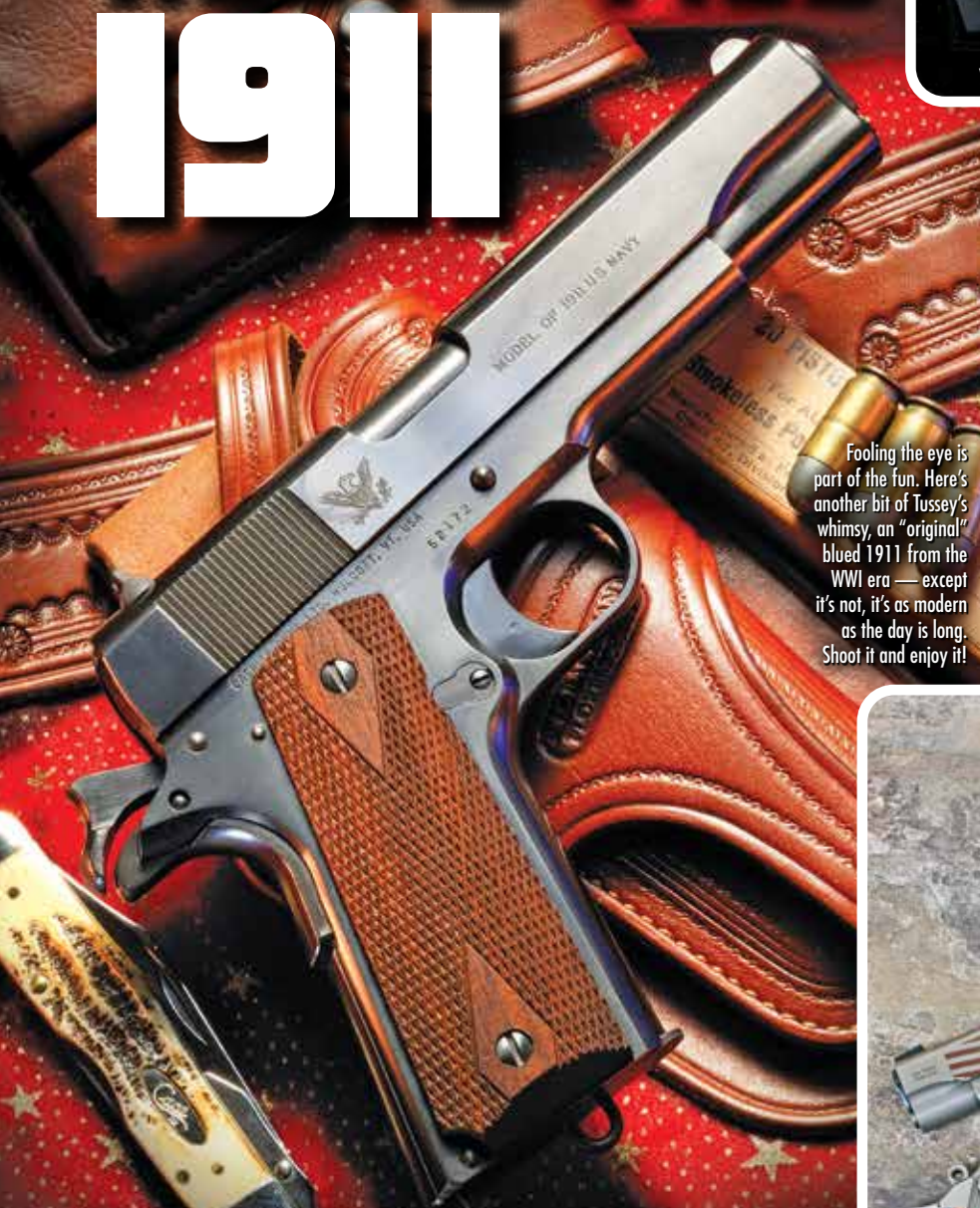
RXS-250 with Weaver-type rail attached.

Elevation and windage dials are detented and the power/brightness switch is shrouded to prevent accidental shutoff.

TUSSEY CUSTOM RESTO-MOD 1911



The man himself. Terry's never let any life set-backs slow him down and he's as active and innovative today as he was 50 years ago. Those eyes have seen it all when it comes to the 1911.

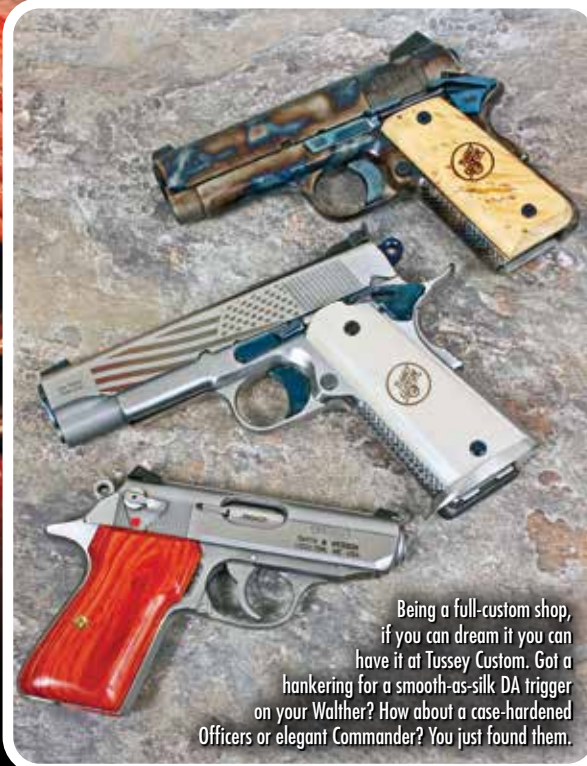


Fooling the eye is part of the fun. Here's another bit of Tussey's whimsy, an "original" blued 1911 from the WWI era — except it's not, it's as modern as the day is long. Shoot it and enjoy it!

I've known Terry Tussey for about 35 years — translating to just a bit more than half the time he's been working on 1911s. Terry has, in all honesty, a lifetime of experience behind him. To call him an icon with the design is to sorely understate the situation. Without knowing it, you've likely already benefited from his innovation and expertise. Look to major makers in the industry and many have incorporated some of Terry's ideas into their designs. And he continues to innovate today. When Terry calls, I always wonder what remarkable new thing am I about to hear about. "Roy, you know how the disconnecter always ..." — and then I find myself smacking my forehead asking why I didn't ever see this before.

60 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE — DISTILLED

ROY HUNTINGTON



Being a full-custom shop, if you can dream it you can have it at Tussey Custom. Got a hankering for a smooth-as-silk DA trigger on your Walther? How about a case-hardened Officers or elegant Commander? You just found them.

During the 1960s and '70s, Terry worked for Colt and Safariland as a factory representative, building industry experience as he grew his 1911 knowledge. Finally, in 1980, Terry quit his "real" job and hung his shingle as a full-time gunsmith, never looking back. I used to attend the Del Mar gun show in San Diego in the middle and late 1980s and the highlight of the show was the time spent talking guns with Terry. His table was always full of surprises, delights, unusual design ideas and innovative custom touches.

Terry would unfailingly reach under the table and hand me a cloth-wrapped gun. "Here, tell me what you think," he'd say. The first time I saw his "Carry Comp" Officer's ACP with the built-in comp system, hard chrome finish, crisp trigger and attention to detail it floored me. I'd never seen anything like it — and no one else had either. "How is this possible, Terry? How do you think these things up?" I'd say. He'd always just grin.

As the years passed and my writing career grew, I had the distinct pleasure of showcasing many of Terry's particularly special guns. The world's first Damascus 1911 landed on the cover of *GUNS Magazine* courtesy of Terry, Caspian and an editor who liked to take chances. Customized Colt Mustangs (before anyone was doing them), multi-caliber sets built on a single frame ("Six Calibers In One: Tussey's Multi-Caliber Marvel!" May/June 2015) and any number of often mind-boggling custom 1911s passed through my hands. A 1911 engraved "Dream Gun" (May/June 2004) landed on *Handgunner's* cover — lighting a fire among readers. All had a single, consistent theme — they were all 100% reliable and shot like lasers. Working with Terry's guns made me understand it's possible to create a 1911 able to shoot into less than 1" at 25 yards. I saw it, I did it, and he'd always laugh when I told him about it. "I told you it would shoot," he'd laugh. "Why do you sound so surprised?"

Options Abound

The Tussey Custom shop can handle any repair or general gunsmith project coming up. But 1911 and Hi-Powers are highlights. Terry created a groundbreaking pair, a short "Detective" and "Long Slide" Hi-Power — from parts — ultimately gracing the cover of *Handgunner* ("Hi-Power Perfection," March/April 2009). Until you feel a Hi-Power having a crisp 1911-like trigger and be amazed at the accuracy honestly possible when the right 'smith gets their hands on



Are Hi-Powers your forte? How about this pair, a hard chrome/blued custom long slide (made using two slides, cut and welded) and a "Detective" using an Argentinian short slide and a very rare Belgian police aluminum frame! Grips by Esmeralda O'Sheehan, knife by William Henry.



Tussey Custom's "Resto-Mod" classic 1911 (top) offers modern parts, Tussey's unparalleled workmanship and shootable enjoyment for any 1911 fan. Bottom gun is Roy's original WWI-era 1911. A pair to draw to, for sure.

one, consider yourself unfulfilled.

I'd also be remiss if I didn't mention his work with revolvers of all sorts. I have a Python with a double action measuring an honest 6.5 lbs. on my gauge. A hard-chromed S&W Highway Patrolman's DA pull is so

smooth and light people who try it just stare at the gun afterward, mumbling about "Can I try it again?"

But it's the 1911 work tending to be the most magical, if you ask me.

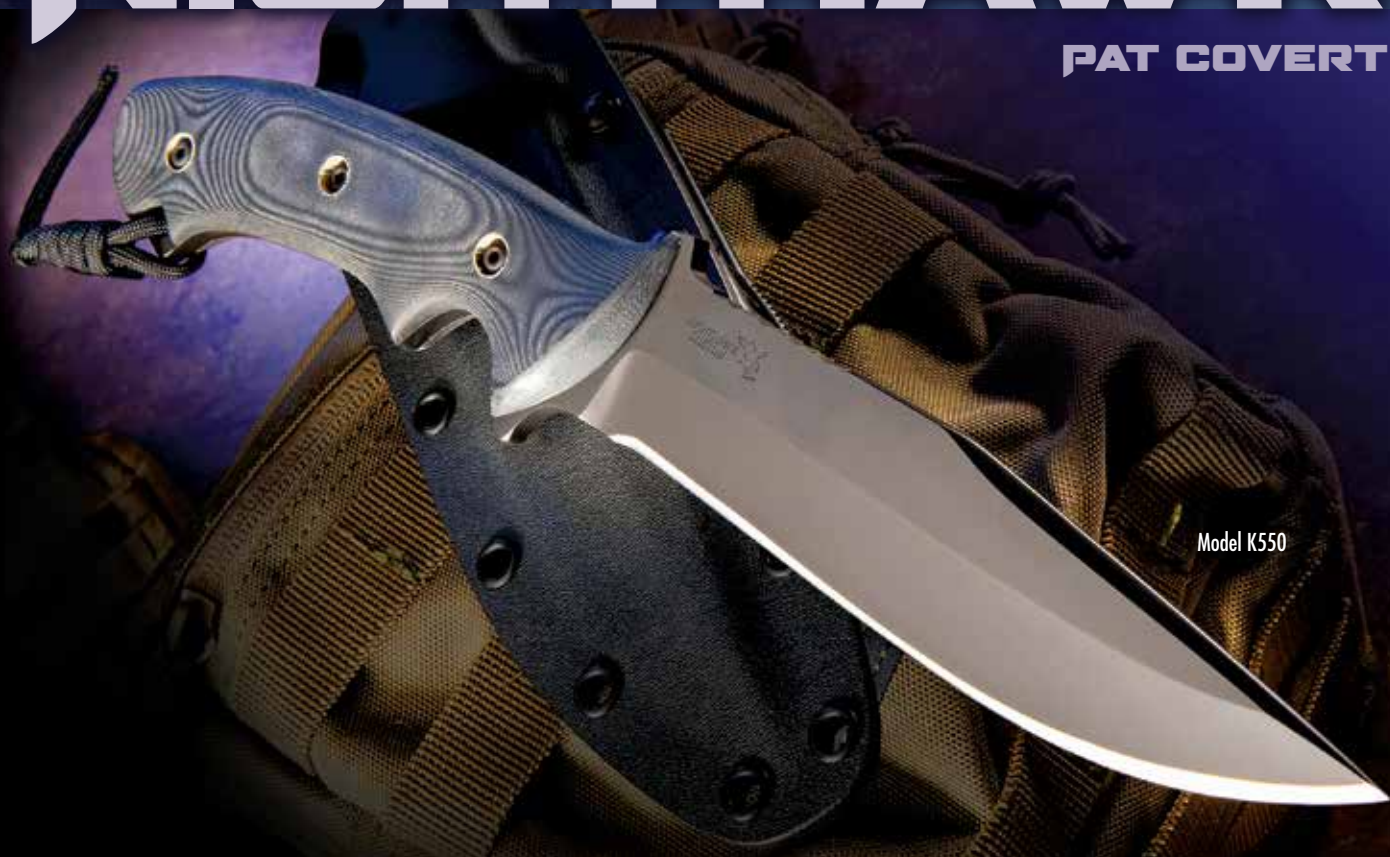
Less Does Equal More

Terry's latest idea, while not entirely a new one, innovates by being what I'm tempted to call "An Ultimate" version of the idea of a retro-1911. A handful of makers craft painstakingly authentic recreations of early years' 1911s,

Continued on page 64

NIGHTHAWK

PAT COVERT



NIGHTHAWK CUSTOM OFFERS KNIVES BEFITTING THEIR MIGHTY FINE 1911S.



If you're a fan of tricked out 1911s you're already familiar with Nighthawk Custom, but you may not know they offer some mighty fine cutting steel to boot. Located in Berryville, Ark.

just north of the Ozarks' highest peaks, Nighthawk Custom happens to be in a hotbed of excellent custom knifemakers — one in particular going by the name of Keith Murr. A seasoned knifemaker, Keith was raised just down the road from Berryville in Huntsville, Ark. and began making knives in 1987.

Small town life and good old-fashioned Southern hospitality being what it is, Murr got to know some of the folks at Nighthawk Custom and, as the old saying goes, a deal was struck. According to Keith, "A couple of guys from Nighthawk Custom knew me and appreciated the quality of knives I built. We're located just a few miles apart and knew a partnership would be great for each of our companies. In 2007, I started making knives for Nighthawk

Custom with both the Murr and Nighthawk Custom logo on them. It's been great for us both."

Synergy Built In

Knives and guns have always had symbiotic ties. When firearms were introduced and became the popular mode of procuring food and self-defense, the knife became a valued back-up and was still the prime candidate for field chores. They both serve those essential roles today, side-by-side after hundreds of years. What makes Keith Murr such a great fit for Nighthawk Custom is his ability to create and offer knives both traditional and modern. In his line you'll find classic bone-handled knives sitting next to high-tech tactical fare.

"My favorite handle would have to be Stag Bone, which is cow bone that is jigged and dyed to resemble Sambar Stag," Keith tells *Handgunner*, "It's my favorite because it's the closest you can get to real Stag, which has become more expensive and harder to get your

STRIKES!

Model K675

hands on.” He also offers Buffalo, Ram and Elk horn for traditionalists, plus G10 and Micarta for those who wish to go the black tactical route.

“The two types of steel we offer are D2 tool steel and Damascus. D2 is my favorite because it holds an incredible edge and is super durable. It’s semi-stainless, which keeps the rust away.” D2 has enough Chromium to qualify as a stainless steel, but its high carbon content technically prevents it from being classified as such. Having owned dozens of knives made with D2 steel I can honestly say I’ve never had one rust. Murr’s knives with Damascus blades are for those who prefer a higher end custom look. This exquisite patterned steel dates back to the 13th century and is still a top choice for custom knife buyers today.

Super Selection

We asked Keith to tell us about the Nighthawk/Murr Collection, starting with their hottest seller. “The most popular model is the K325 with Damascus blade and Ram horn handle.” Keith states, “I believe the reason is because it’s an all-around knife. This a perfect skinner and utility knife with a 3.5” Drop Point blade. The handle is very comfortable and natural feeling to most people. It’s so useful to people it’s sold a lot of our other models as well.”

Murr’s Stag Bone knives are also a hit with Nighthawk’s customers. “The K650 is the ultimate carry.” Keith notes. “The short Drop Point blade is D2 steel and the Stag Bone handle gives the knife a rugged and classic look. The overall length is 7” and blade length is 2.5”. This comes with an ambidextrous horizontal leather sheath outfitted with snaplocks and a leather lanyard. The K675 is a longer version of the Model 650 with a Trailing Point 4” blade.” Murr

adds, “Along with the Model 650, it has mosaic handle pins that set it apart from other knives. Its overall length is 8.25” and the K675 comes with a beautiful leather sheath and leather lanyard.”

As mentioned above, if you’re into stealthy black tacticals, Murr has you covered. Those who like to play with the big boys will appreciate the K515. “This knife is a reminiscent of a WWII fighting knife with a new take on high quality materials and craftsmanship.” Keith relates. “The blade is D2 with a Black Nitride finish and the handle is Black and Gray Micarta, or you can get it in Black G10. The K515’s overall length is 10.875” with a blade length of 5.75” and comes with a hand-formed Kydex scabbard with a Tec-Lok.”

Want bigger? The K550 is a tactical juggernaut. “This is a hard-use knife for those with hard-use needs.” Keith explains. “It has an overall length of 12” and blade length of 7”. The Black Nitride coated Clip Point blade is D2 and the Black and Gray Micarta grip has a built-in lanyard hole — and a hand-wound black Nylon lanyard is included. It also comes with a custom Kydex sheath and is accessorized with a Tec-Lok for ease of carry.”

There are many more Murr models to be had on the Nighthawk Custom website. If you’re into classic 1911s one of Murr’s traditional models are sure to fill the bill, or for those who like the company’s state-of-the-art, high-tech offerings Keith has you covered in spades. All of Murr’s knives are pure-blooded customs with the quality craftsmanship and fit ‘n finish you’d expect from a handmade. Prices range from \$345 for the knifemaker’s standard D2 models to \$475 for a higher end fixed-blade with Damascus steel, or Keith can custom build one according to your

Model K515

Model K325

specifications. Keep in mind Nighthawk Custom also offers revolvers and shotguns if you’re so inclined. These folks aim to please!

For more info: NighthawkCustom.com

DAVID FREEMAN

COLT .22

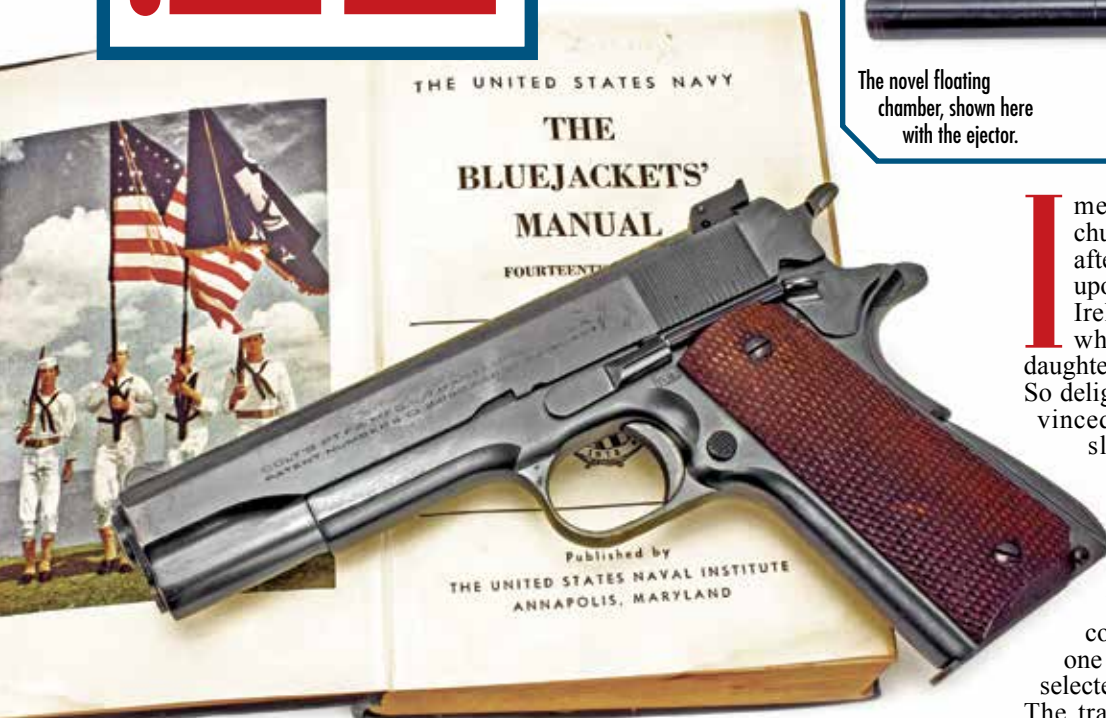


David compared his Walther made .22 Colt 1911 to the Service Model Ace during his range session.

SERVICE MODEL ACE PISTOL



The novel floating chamber, shown here with the ejector.



The Colt Ace was designed as a lower cost training option to the Colt 1911 .45 Service Pistol. Joe Ireland was a WWII Navy veteran and newly minted ensign when he bought this one for his wife.

I met Joe and Reecy Ireland at a church in Fayetteville, NC, shortly after being stationed at Fort Bragg upon my return from Vietnam. The Irelands invited me to their home where I found their 17-year-old daughter Joyce a delightful companion. So delightful, after a few months I convinced them to sign the permission slip to allow her to marry me. This was in 1973. Through a miracle or two, I've managed not to run her off.

Joe and Reecy were married in 1946. A Navy ensign, battle of Midway veteran and combat patrol submariner, he was one of two *USS Drum* enlisted men selected to attend naval officer school. The training took Joe to GA Tech in Atlanta, where he later met Reecy. At the time of their marriage, Joe had been

A FAMILY HEIRLOOM DESIGNED IN ... PRISON?



Checking on the hammer, slide lock, thumb safety, magazine release and main spring cover assisted in training new 1911 shooters.



David's in-laws, Joe and Reecy Ireland, married in 1946. A week prior, Joe bought her a gun for protection.



Takedown for the .22 Ace Service Model is standard 1911, except for the floating chamber and ejector addition to the barrel.

transferred to Norfolk, Va., where he was on the Admiral's staff for the battleship *USS Wisconsin*.

Before CCW Was Cool

An elder relative gave the couple a monetary gift with which Reecy planned to buy silverware. However, Joe felt she needed a gun instead. She was a small, pretty, young girl who would live in a military town while he was away from home. Before they left Atlanta for Norfolk, Joe bought her a \$45 gun from a small shop in downtown Atlanta. Joe took Reecy shooting on her family's land and she hit the bullseye every time, which surprised and pleased him. He deemed her ready to carry. Reecy, who is now a spry 91-year-old, told us she carried the gun in her purse with her everywhere she went, which included frequent trips on a ferry between Portsmouth, where the couple lived, and Norfolk, where she did her shopping, attended church and took organ lessons. That's amazing when you learn she only weighed 98 lbs. and the gun they'd chosen was a heavy Colt 1911, weighing 41.7 oz. plus 9.25 more for the holster. But wait; it wasn't just any Colt 1911.

A Special Gun

I knew it was a special gun after getting a brief look at it during a visit to Reecy's home shortly after Joe's death in 2011. It wasn't until later I learned of the gun's value as a limited production, very unique .22.

As far back as June 1913, the U.S.

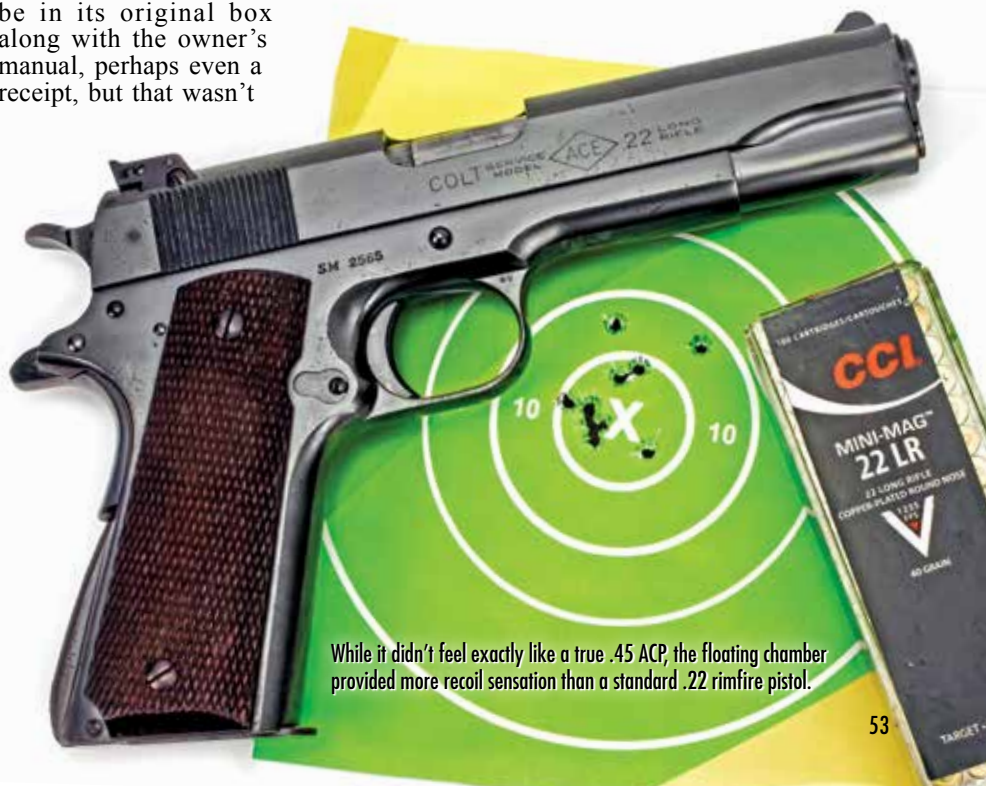
Military was attempting to develop a .22 caliber rimfire handgun for training. Those earlier designs used blowback operation and didn't provide the training similarities to the .45 1911 the military desired. Colt had some success with them on the commercial market, but it wasn't until David M. "Carbine" Williams designed a floating chamber, the WWII U.S. Army contract Model 1911A1 "Service Model" Ace pistol chambered in .22LR duplicated the weight, feel and function of the original Model 1911A1 pistol. Total production of Service Model Aces was only 13,800.

When I knew I would get the opportunity to handle, photograph and even shoot the Ace, I anticipated it might be in its original box along with the owner's manual, perhaps even a receipt, but that wasn't

the case. It turns out Joe purchased it as a used gun. It's in a GI holster and has a few minor scratches and a bit of pitting here and there.

I obtained a factory letter from Colt indicating this pistol was shipped to the Commanding General, Springfield Armory, Springfield, Mass., on December 16, 1941 in a lot of 60 guns, processed on Colt Factory Order #9966. It sure would be interesting to know how this military-owned gun was in civilian hands when Joe bought it five years later. It's possible Joe picked the make and model because he had trained with one like it in the Navy. Then again, there weren't a wide variety of handguns

Continued on page 70



While it didn't feel exactly like a true .45 ACP, the floating chamber provided more recoil sensation than a standard .22 rimfire pistol.

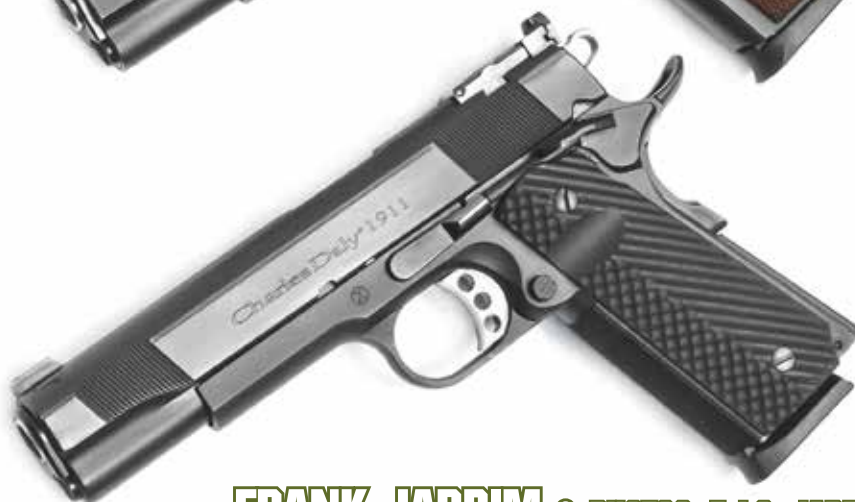
CHARLES DALY FIELD G.I. GRADE

1911

Choose your quality grade (top to bottom): Field G.I., Superior Grade and Empire Grade.



Right: Typical 25-yard, 5-shot group with Black Hills 230-gr JHP, the most accurate self-defense load of those tested.



FRANK JARDIM • PHOTOS: F.J.G. JARDIM

VALUE-PRICED PISTOL HISTORY



When you think about Italian Colt handgun clones, chances are you're thinking of the many (and excellent) Civil War and Old West replica six-shooters. Charles Daly's new Field G.I. 1911 pistol will force you to widen your perspective. It's one of three 1911 pistols made exclusively for them by Brixia. All are quality guns and great values. At their core, they're actually the same pistol, copied from the original military specification drawings.

The frames are machined from a steel forging, the slides from a solid billet of steel, and barrels are made of 4140 steel with cut rifling. The guns differ in their level of fitting and custom enhancements, with the Empire Grade on top, the Superior Grade in the middle and now the Field G.I. recreating the classic U.S. military issue M1911A1 service pistol.

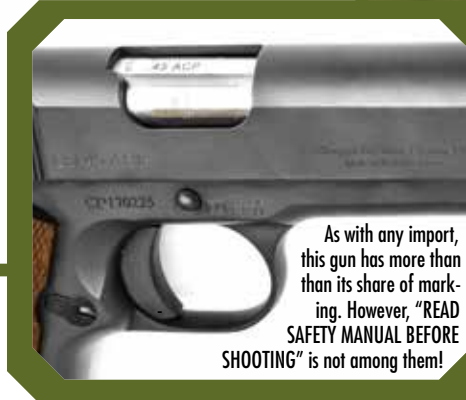
If you think the M1911A1 is *perfect just the way it is*, this pistol is for you. The original lines are there, but it's finished in a dark, smooth, matte black manganese Parkerizing, and has pre-World War II walnut "double-diamond" varnished grips. This is a nice gun at



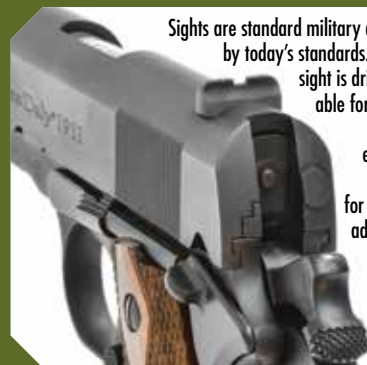
The Field G.I. 1911 is a M1911A1 clone aside from markings, grips and magazines. It's also a screaming bargain at \$449.



Grips on this pistol are the same "CD" logo walnut as on the Superior Grade model.



As with any import, this gun has more than its share of marking. However, "READ SAFETY MANUAL BEFORE SHOOTING" is not among them!



Sights are standard military and small by today's standards. The rear sight is drift adjustable for windage and high enough to file down for elevation adjustment.

a reasonable price. The MSRP is only \$449 so we can expect the actual street and online prices will be lower still.

Quality 1911? Brixia-It!

Truth be told, there is another 1911 platform made in Italy by Tanfoglio but it's aimed at the highest tier of the market and priced accordingly. The Charles Daly 1911 line is aimed at the typical consumer who wants a well-made 9mm or .45 ACP 1911 handgun for protection, recreation and competition shooting that won't require a second mortgage.

In Italy, Brixia has a reputation among shooters as a respected maker of sporting shotguns. Among insiders in the European firearms industry, Brixia is well known for manufacturing high quality parts, and assembling the firearms products of other, more well-known manufacturers. This was why Charles Daly selected them to make their 1911 handgun line. Brixia had the facilities, skilled work force and quality

control procedures to build the guns to Charles Daly's exacting specifications. It's noteworthy, unlike American made guns, every Italian made Charles Daly 1911 is tested at the government proof house with an *excess pressure load*, and then stamped to prove it. After the proof testing, assembly of each gun is completed at the Brixia factory where they are test fired for proper function before Charles Daly accepts it.

Price Performance

You can pay a lot for a 1911 from a flagship manufacturer, but you won't be paying for more gun with the extra money. The Charles Daly Field G.I. is a value priced pistol that shoots as good or better than a famous maker 1911 built to a "Government Model" standard. It's not a Gold Cup level

Among the features differentiating the Field G.I. (left) from the Superior Grade (top right) and Empire Grade (bottom right) are the latter's adjustable front sights, solid recoil spring guides and belled muzzle match barrels.



target gun (the Empire Grade) nor is it a custom carry gun (the Superior Grade).

The Charles Daly G.I. Field seems to have just the right amount of tolerance between the slide and frame to digest all the .45 ACP hollow-points I tried in it with only the slightest initial hiccup.

Continued on page 74



WIN!

AMERICAN
HANDGUNNER

HANDGUN OF THE MONTH

ALTOR



**SELF-
DEFENSE
PISTOLS**

9MM & .380

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 31, 2021 WINNERS CHOSEN BY RANDOM DRAWING. Limit one entry per household. To protect the privacy and security of winners, their names will NOT be made public. Contest void where prohibited by law. Winners must undergo a background check and comply with all other federal, state and local laws. Taxes and fees will be the responsibility of the winner. Contest open to U.S. residents only. Employees and agents of Publishers' Development Corp. are not eligible. No purchase necessary. Winners will be notified by certified mail on official letterhead. Winners must respond within 30 days of receiving notification or an alternate winner will be selected. Attention deployed military: use stateside address! Giveaway guns and accessories may have evidence of being test fired or exhibit minor handling marks. Factory warranties may apply in some cases. The *Handgun of the Month* package is awarded only to the entrant drawn and will not be awarded if the firearm presented is illegal in the jurisdiction of the winner. An alternate, authorized winner will be selected. No substitutions or transfers to a third party are allowed. **UNABLE TO ENTER ONLINE?** Mail a postcard with your name and address (no envelopes please) to American Handgunner Magazine, GOM January/February 2021, P.O. Box 501377, San Diego, CA, 92150-1377.



SCAN TO ENTER

SINGLE-SHOT

In the *GUNS Magazine* November 2020 issue, writer J.B. Wood described the *ALTOR Pistol* as weird, but "also beautifully made and it works, every time." J.B. concluded his review by saying the gun is carefully manufactured, dependable and inexpensive, thus "the ALTOR pistol is not so weird after all!" Roy Huntington designated the pistol his "official tractor field rat gun" after testing it for *American Handgunner Insider* (Sep.-Oct. 2020). Roy wrote, "... the ALTOR shows excellent workmanship, using high quality reinforced nylon polymer and 416RS stainless for the barrel and metal bits. Thanks to CNC machining, it all fits together perfectly and works as designed." The pistol has six parts and only two connect to load and fire. Offered in .380 ACP and 9mm Luger, it's a simple striker-fired operation. Lightweight and ambidextrous, the ergonomic design makes it easy to hold and carry. Two ALTOR pistols are at stake in this giveaway — one in each caliber.

Our next prize is the *DPx HEST/F Urban G10*. The Urban is small and light with features making it at home in your jeans as well as in the tackle box. The CPM 154 steel blade is 2.9" long and 0.16" thick. Handle is Black G10 Phenolic resin with the lock side in Titanium.

Streamlight's *ProTac 1L-1AA* produces up to 350 lumens on high for up to 1.5 hours. The dual-fuel, compact flashlight is made of anodized aluminum and is waterproof to one meter for 30 minutes. It comes with a nylon holster, a CR123A lithium battery and one AA alkaline battery.

Win the giveaway and get two pistols! Plus a knife and a flashlight too! All you have to do is join at AmericanHandgunner.com/giveaways. Or send a post card. —Jazz Jimenez

ALTOR PISTOLS

MAKER: ALTOR CORP., ALTORCORP.COM, (602) 441-4077
CALIBER: 9MM AND .380 ACP, CAPACITY: 1, OAL: 6.75"
BARREL LENGTH: 2.25", WEIGHT: 10.2 OZ.
VALUE: \$129 AND \$119

DPX HEST/F URBAN G10

MAKER: DPX GEAR INC., DPXGEAR.COM, VALUE: \$280

PROTAC 1L-AA

MAKER: STREAMLIGHT, STREAMLIGHT.COM, VALUE: \$71.40

TOTAL VALUE: \$599.40

PLUS



DPX HEST/F
URBAN G10



PROTAC 1L-AA

DILLINGER COLT

Continued from page 35

in his coat pocket and headed down a nearby alley. Unbeknownst to him, agents already had the alley surrounded.

The End Game

Three agents pursued Dillinger into the dark alley, guns drawn. Charles Winstead fired three times, Clarence Hurt fired twice and Ed Hollis got off a single shot. *Of the six rounds fired, four of them struck Dillinger.* Two bullets grazed him while a third inflicted a superficial wound to his right side. However, one of Winstead's rounds struck the villain in the base of the neck, severing his spinal cord and passing through his brain before exiting his right eye. John Dillinger was dead where he fell. He hadn't time to retrieve his trusty Colt.

Two female bystanders were wounded in the crossfire, but both survived. In a macabre display of depraved curiosity, souvenir hunters mopped up the blood with handkerchiefs and skirts. Dillinger's body was put on display at the Cook County Morgue and some 15,000 people filed by to gaze upon it.

Colt later produced the same pistol chambered in .380ACP as the M1908.

Al Capone was a fan. Bonnie Parker taped one of the trim little guns to her thigh and used it to break her beau Clyde Barrow out of prison. These weapons were also popular with French Underground and OSS operators during WWII. Japanese Prime Minister Hideki Tojo attempted suicide with a Model 1903 just before he was arrested for war crimes in 1945. Tojo's gun is on display at the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, Va., today.

Trigger Time

The Colt M1903 is the American counterpart to the Walther PP-series of pocket pistols. The gun feeds from a seven-round detachable box magazine held in place via a heel catch after the European fashion. The M1903 has a small thumb safety on the left rear aspect of the frame. The gun has a handy grip safety and later versions incorporated a magazine safety as well.

The entrails of the M1903 are shockingly similar to those of one of John Browning's other masterpieces, the M1911. My friend and boss Roy Huntington sent me some snaps of an M1903 that has had the hood machined off the back of the slide. The result is an adorably miniaturized .32ACP version of the classic M1911.

The M1903 is slim and easy to conceal, yet remains substantial enough to

be both controllable and accurate for its genre. The Browning single action trigger is comfortable and fun. After a little trigger time I can see why the likes of John Dillinger and Clyde Barrow swore by the M1903.

Denouement

John Dillinger was an archetype. A professional criminal in an era of professional criminals, in his short 31 years Dillinger became a national icon. Despite all the chaos and violence that followed him *Dillinger was only known to have killed one man*, a Chicago patrolman named William Patrick O'Malley. O'Malley, whose name tenders its own generalizations, had the poor fortune to have first shot Dillinger in his bulletproof vest during a robbery.

Federal Agent Ed Hollis died some four months later in a gunfight that also claimed the life of Baby Face Nelson. Charles Winstead, the agent who fired the fatal shot, eventually had a falling out with J. Edgar Hoover and resigned from the Bureau. He was ultimately responsible for security at Los Alamos, New Mexico, during the Manhattan Project, the behemoth undertaking that produced America's first nuclear bomb. Ana Cumpanas, the infamous Lady in Red, was eventually deported back to Romania anyway. 



CLICK BAIT:

Catch more handguns daily!

New website loaded and made ready for you.

Visit americanhandgunner.com

ROY HUNTINGTON

AMERICAN LEATHERSMITH

With today's nonsense going on in the streets more and more people go armed when driving. Too many, though, just stuff a handgun into the center console, under the seat, in the door compartment or just leave it in a purse. The reality is if you "need" a gun you need it instantly, so having it securely stashed where you can get to it fast — while keeping it safe — makes good sense. American Leather-Smith's Leather Car Holster comes in dozens of fits and is delivered complete with mounting hardware. My test sample shows good fit and finish. It's a "press fit" so doesn't need a thumb break for security. Keep in mind, if you're right-handed, you likely need a holster looking like it's made for a lefty due to the way it's mounted. It can go onto a transmission hump, under the dash, under your desk, in your shop — anywhere you feel a need to be discreetly armed. At only \$74.95 it's a solid deal and gets to you within seven to 10 days.

I'm partial to paddle holsters so I also ordered a strong-side paddle rig for my Kimber Solo. The paddle is all-leather and sort of "molded" into an "S-shape" which, surprisingly enough, is both comfortable against your side and secure. During a few days of carry I found it to hold the gun "just so" and stayed put during practice draws. The major convenience of a paddle rig is you just slip it off when you get home without having to unbuckle belts, un-snap snaps, or fuss around. Going back out? Just slip it back on and you're good to go. At \$65, it's affordable for a true custom leather rig, and there's a lot of options in fits and colors. *AmericanLeathersmith.com*



TOM McHALE

HOGUE HANDALL BEAVERTAIL GRIP SLEEVE

Hogue grip sleeves are nothing new. I added one to a GLOCK 32 well over a decade ago and it did a yeoman's job of taming the sharper recoil of that hot little bottleneck .357 SIG round. Back then, grip sleeves were ... sleeves.

The newer HandAll models are still slip-on accessories but perform more like permanent grip modifications — a good thing. The sleeve is sturdier and as the name implies, extends all the way up to cover most of the beavertail. I appreciate the finger grooves up front. The result is a sure grip surface that also changes the whole profile by adding "meat." For slim single stacks and compact pistols, you'll get a more usable surface area.

Do follow the instructions precisely, even the odd suggestions. These grips are tight, and somewhat difficult to install. That's a good thing as they won't move or rotate like earlier models — at all. *HogueInc.com*



BLUE FORCE GEAR DOUBLE PISTOL BELT POUCH

TOM McHALE

A magazine carrier is a magazine carrier, right? Well, not so much. The Pistol Belt Pouches from Blue Force Gear, available in single and double configurations, bring flexibility to a new level.

The pouches are soft, made from a material Blue Force called ULTRAcamp. Think elastic, but orders of magnitude tougher. The inherent flex in the material allows one-size-fits-everything for single- or double-stack magazines, or anything else for that matter. The key is there is no "memory effect," so you can carry something thin one day and thick the next without loss of tension. I like the Double Pistol Pouch model not just for carrying two magazines, but because it offers the flexibility to carry other items like a flashlight, multi-tool, or even car keys.

The other benefit of the design is comfort. The hook and loop belt loops allow attachment to belts up to 2" wide and the soft contour helps the pouch mold around the body. You'll also appreciate the lack of hard edges and corners. *BlueForceGear.com*



CUSTOM CORNER

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.

~ Wyoming Sight Drifter ~ LLC



- Easily adjusts sights in the field or at the target range.
- Uses kinetic energy instead of an awkward hammer and punch.
- Eliminates the need for a gun cradle.
- Not much larger than a standard ink pen.

4127 Riata Road,
Carpenter, WY 82054

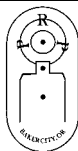
Tel: 307-421-2127

\$35.00

plus \$7.00 shipping.

wyomingsightdrifter.com

Try it, it'll work. Guaranteed!



**POWDER RIVER
PRECISION, INC.**

www.powderriverprecision.com



QUALITY AND TIMELY PISTOLSMITHING
SPECIALIZED IN:

SPRINGFIELD XD/XDM/XDS AND 1911's

541-523-4474

DLSPORTS.COM



DL SPORTS INC.
928.636.1726

P.O. Box 4843 CHINO VALLEY, AZ 86323



**GLOCK THUMB SAFETY
INSTALLED \$115 + SHIPPING**

Not available for Gen 5, 42 & 43.

TEN-RING PRECISION, INC.

Fine custom revolvers and semiautomatic handguns.

210.494.3063 • FAX 210.494.3066

1449 Blue Crest Lane, San Antonio, TX 78232

tenring.com • email: alex@tenring.com



"One Masterpiece at a time"

11160 S. Deer Creek Rd., Littleton, CO 80127

Phone: 303-884-8654

www.volkmanprecision.com



The Kitchen Table Gunsmith

An introduction to
S & W Revolver Maintenance

Disassembly, Inspection, Repair,
Assembly, Theory of Operation

Check it out at:
Amazon.com

LANGDON TACTICAL

Continued from page 33

At this writing, I've now had the Langdon RDO Beretta in the hands of six other handgunners. Most of them are match-winning shooters, and all are familiar with red dot sights. They hold several state and regional shooting championships, one or more national titles among them, and two are IDPA Five-Gun Masters. And we all came to a unanimous conclusion.

To a man (and two state champion women) we all found the Langdon Beretta brought the red dot to the eye faster than any other optic combo we had worked with.

Getting the red dot to the eye is the single biggest hurdle to overcome, all the more so for those of us habituated by years or even decades to open iron handgun sights.

I don't know about you, but I identify with felines on this. You know how hard your pet house cat works to catch the red dot you project with your laser pen/cat toy? Well, I had almost as hard a time "catching the red dot" on carry optics. The Langdon treatment of the SRO on the Beretta seems to cure this.

I'm still trying to determine what it is about this combination that makes it work so well. It may be the SRO sight, with its generously large window, significantly larger than its super-popular predecessor, the Trijicon RMR. It may be the very low-to-the-bore-axis placement of the red dot which Langdon Tactical Technologies rightfully emphasizes on their website. And it might be the Langdon Beretta itself.

If you order one of these, do yourself a favor and get Langdon's famous action job — it's famous for a reason! I got my first one about 20 years ago on a stock 92G I had won at a police event. It has since won several IDPA matches for me with the overall top score, and as best as I can remember, three out of four NRA Police Service Pistol matches I've shot with it. The current options are better than what we had 20 years ago: My LTT has the NP3 treatment on critical parts, created by the now-retired Robbie Barrkman, that reduces friction and makes the action both smoother and a bit lighter.

Bottom Line

This gun ain't cheap, but it's more than worth its price. You can buy the whole gun from Langdon Tactical Technology, just the slide, or send your slide in for the work, provided it's a Vertec style. While you're at it, I'd urge you to invest in the action job: It darn sure proved its worth to me.



For more info: LangdonTactical.com

GUN RIGHTS

Alan Korwin

BLACK LIVES WON'T MATTER— AND NEITHER WILL YOUR GUNS

The U.S. Constitution won't matter if the opposition party ignores it and their troops go along to get along. Which, fully woke, they'll be doing. This magazine you're holding may face its demise, along with every gun you currently own, if the very old decrepit white male of privilege takes the reins of power. He has said so — in writing — to Congress, and you. You don't know this, because the so-called "news" media, a now unethical totally controlled open ally of left-wing socialist, has kept it a secret. But it's on the web. You have only to look for H.R. 5717.

But that's nothing. Here, read this for yourself, word for word. It's the very first line of the bill his team proposes to enact as soon as they have the votes on November 4, and are in office on January 20, 2021. I don't want to scare you but, well, yes I do:

"It shall be unlawful for any individual who is not licensed under this section to knowingly purchase, acquire, or possess a firearm or ammunition."

This applies ("possess") to every gun you own, and any other gun you get ("acquire"). What is a license under this section? Let me explain it to you.

In 10 long chapters called "Titles," H.R. 5717 sets out a licensing scheme that totally infringes on firearms in America. It makes the Second Amendment null and void so it cannot legitimately be a floor bill. I know, I know, these things require amending the Constitution. Just watch them. Like I said in the opening, they don't care. The only thing stopping them is your vote — they lack power. With power, No Lives Matter, you're disarmed, and the Constitution is illegally gutted. Who do you point your gun at?

Training, not described, will be required to get a mandatory license, including taking a class, passing a

written test, completing a shooting test, demonstrating knowledge of firearms laws, and knowing the government's concept of safe use, under undisclosed conditions, times and places. Instructor qualifications and duration — to keep the guns you already own, or get any new ones, will follow. Absolutely nothing prevents these usurpers from creating impossible classes, conditions and repetitive fees.

**"Empowering
bureaucrats to
determine 'pre-crime
scores' for citizens
is Orwellian ..."**

Procedures for obtaining this license to own your own firearms will be established by the U.S. Attorney General, appointed by the President, including explaining why a given person is found ineligible. Expect some "rights" groups to argue over the details, instead of suggesting revolt against abrogation of the Constitution, which this bill is. There is no legitimate authority to even suggest such a bill. They don't care.

Issuing a license can be denied if, among other grounds, "factors suggest that the individual could potentially create a risk to public safety." Owning guns of course has risks, that's the whole point, since guns can be dangerous. Empowering bureaucrats to determine "pre-crime scores" for citizens is Orwellian, which must be excised and never tolerated. Arguing with any terms of this bill is futile. The infringement is *de facto* total, specific conditions moot.

If a state meets the new standards on its own in the federal government's judgment, it will be exempt. Officials will be exempt (of course). All proper authorities can access the records of people who are accepted into the license database. The bill says so.

An annual federal background check of everyone in the database shall be conducted to ensure compliance. The terms of the repeated annual check will be spelled out later. Is it a safe bet taxes called fees will apply to renewals?

You'll need a federal firearm license at the time of purchase, rental or lease of a firearm, or purchase of ammunition, during the entire period of ownership or possession of a firearm or ammunition. You won't be able to legally buy, rent or lease more than 10 firearms in any year.

Federal authorities plan to commandeer local law enforcement officers to administer the licenses. This was banned under the Brady bill fiasco, but here it is again. There is no other way to implement this massive scheme, so they expect local police to do it for them. How that comports with defunding the police is a mystery. No one ever said these people are rational.

There is an undefined "sound mind and character" requirement for gun involvement too, and "any other requirements the State determines relevant," to "make a determination of suitability" so the chances of actually gaining access to firearms may be quite remote. Standards will be set later, with no time frame provided.

National red flag laws, an apparent sneak attack on carry (under the must-be-locked-up-and-inoperable section), and no private transfers. I'm only up to Title 2. Then there are the gun bans in Title 5. If you don't vote these people out of power, it's on you. 

Alan Korwin's website features plain-English books on state and federal gun laws for the public, and more common sense like you just read. He invites you to write to him or see his work, at GunLaws.com, where you can get books and DVDs that help keep you safe.



CABOT COMPACT

Continued from page 39

serrations ending in an arrow pattern intended to draw the eye to the front sight. While gold bead and tritium inserts are available, ours came with a plain black rear and white dot front.

Cocking serrations, located at the rear of the slide only, are Cabot's distinctive Trinity Stripes. Designed by architect Tom Pierce, it's a checkered panel interrupted by three smooth recesses. The barrel is deeply crowned, giving the muzzle a funnel-like effect, and the flat wire recoil spring wraps around a one-piece full-length guide rod. The practiced eye will notice the front stirrup cut is shorter than an ordinary Commander, an artifact of the S103's longer slide travel.

Controls are an extended, strong-side only thumb safety machined from billet and a standard slide stop, and a slightly extended, checkered magazine release and an alloy trigger with Cabot's trademark three stars EDM'd through it.

The face of the trigger has a shallow curve and a *rounded profile* (similar to early M1911/M1911A1 service pistols) rather than the usual square contact area, giving it a substantially different feel. The trigger itself was a bit loose, with fore-and-aft play in its raceway, but once the slack was taken up, it broke crisply at 4 lbs., 3 oz. with zero creep and no discernible overtravel. With the sole exception of the free play, an outstanding trigger and a good reminder of one of the biggest reasons people love the M1911.

The hammer is skeletonized and

carefully beveled to remove all sharp edges, and well-protected by the upswept beavertail grip safety, which is equipped with the customary "speed bump" at the bottom of its contact pad.

A reimagined carry gun with the slide travel of a full-size Government Model but with the outward dimensions of the 3/4" shorter Commander ...

Both the frontstrap and flat main-spring housing are wrapped in what Cabot calls its rhombus checkering in a 24-LPI pattern consisting of barely flattened diamonds formed on the diagonal as opposed to the usual checkering layout where lines run straight up and straight across the gripping surface. While offering excellent purchase, the flattened rhombi lack the aggressiveness of the square cut checkering that has ripped the lining out so many of my jackets.

While several grip options are available (it is, after all, an M1911), ours came with walnut panels grooved with a Fibonacci spiral pattern. The magazine well is thoroughly beveled for fast reloads, and while one of the four Cabot magazines we had didn't always drop free (and the mags themselves were a little stiff to insert at the beginning), we had no trouble finding the magwell or

doing reloads once the magazines had broken in a bit.

Interior Details

Much of what makes the gun, though, isn't immediately visible from the outside. For example, dimpling the rear of a slidestop is a pistolsmith's way of avoiding premature slidelock. Cabot, however, also added a groove that lets you insert the slidestop more easily, avoiding the *ugly rookie marks* careless users leave on M1911 frames during reassembly.

Similarly, take a look at the disconnect rail on the underside of the slide, that both trips the disconnect to reset the trigger and picks up the next cartridge in the magazine. Beveling the square front of the rail makes the action reset smoother, but also reduces the surface area available to pick up a cartridge and reload the gun. Cabot's solution is to machine a narrow, angled channel down the disconnect rail to create a ramp for the disconnect while keeping a square profile to ensure the rail has adequate surface area to pick up the next cartridge. Very clever.

Reliability Features

Shortening the slide of a M1911 generally comes at the risk of reducing reliability. Shorter slide travel means the action has less time in which to feed the next cartridge before the slide moves forward, making the gun much less tolerant of magazine springs that may have weakened. Cabot's answer was to shorten the barrel and slide but maintain the full-length slide rails and travel of the Government Model.

And it works. I spent quite a bit of time with the S103, running over a thousand rounds through it, and never cleaned it. I did, however, oil it once when we disassembled the gun to restake in the plunger tube, which, while laser welded in place, I nonetheless managed to dislodge.

A Diverse Ammo Diet

The S103 consumed a wide-ranging diet of jacketed hollow points (JHP), Inceptor ammo with lightweight 130-grain copper-polymer projectiles and handloads assembled on a Dillon 550 using 225-grain cast lead bullets from Hunters Supply and a newly designed 200-grain bullet from Dave Lauck of D&L Sports.

Current defensive bullet design focuses on the outside of the bullet rather than the inside, a tacit acknowledgement hollow point bullets often don't expand. The D&L bullet combines the cutting shoulder of the Keith/SWC design with a rounded nose in the 200-grain weight that John Moses Browning originally chose for the M1911. Available in profiles designed for both revolver and semi-auto, I fired

several hundred rounds of it through the S103 with zero problems and superb accuracy.

I experienced one premature slide-lock with the blunt nose of a round-nose Inceptor bullet, and the gun got a little sluggish after we passed the 1,000 mark. Other than this, there were no failures to feed. There is still no discernible play in the slide-to-frame fit, fore or aft, nor in the barrel lockup.

Anything I'd change? I prefer a wide notch rear sight, which helps compensate for the shorter sight radius, and I'd replace the magazine release with one of standard length. Extended mag releases tend to drop the magazine when you don't intend (which did not happen) and if you press them in too far, can keep the magazine from falling free (which did).

Although I didn't do a formal accuracy test, I managed to put five bullets through a single caliber-sized hole at seven yards and cut down a 2" post from 25 yards with the S103, in both cases shooting from a modified Weaver. I can't give you an average group size, but it's better than I am and better than I need to defend myself.

Carry Options

I paired the S103 with two different holsters from Galco, one for dress and one for deeper concealment. Since special guns deserve special leather, the first is a Concealable model in black Stingray. Stingray has a very distinctive, glossy finish and the craftsmanship on the holster is truly impressive: The edge work, for example, is almost wet in its shine and very well done. For those who carry their guns under a suit, a Stingray Concealable with a matching belt and mag case makes an elegant presentation.

The second is Galco's KingTuk Air, a tuckable hybrid design using a leather backing plate to which a Kydex holster is attached, and a pair of steel clips that attach to your belt. The leather conforms to the body and is more comfortable than Kydex, while Kydex is thinner and generally offers better retention than leather. The Air version shown here is ventilated with many small holes to reduce the uncomfortable warmth of wearing leather directly against the skin.

The S103 proves precision doesn't have to be unreliable or priced out of reach. It is a well-thought out carry pistol with all of Cabot's trademark styling cues and attention to detail, at a price point likely to bring it into the holsters of many who can't otherwise afford Cabot's pricier offerings.

Expect to see them in gun shop display cases near you.



For more info: CabotGuns.com,
DLSports.com, GalcoGunLeather.com,
Hunters-Supply.com

VZ GRIPS
CUSTOM GUN GRIPS

VZ TWISTER GRIPS FOR THE KIMBER K6

WWW.VZGRIPS.COM

NEW COLOR

BLACK & RED
G-10 GRIPS FOR 1911S

© 2020 VZ, INC. • 3616 Jackson Bluff Road • Tallahassee, FL 32304 • 850-422-1911

CABOT GUNS MAGAZINE

FREE
2019 Digital Download with your paid order

1-YEAR PRINT SUBSCRIPTION ONLY \$24.95!

Order at fmgpubs.com
or Call (866) 820-4045
M-F 8am-3pm PST

(\$64.95 outside U.S.) P.O. Box 509094, San Diego, CA 92150



BELTMAN belts are the gold standard in gun belts and are suitable for concealed carry, competition, or when you just want to look sharp! Starting at \$69.95 and available in Bullhide, Horsehide, Shrunk Bison, Shark, Elephant, and Alligator.

THEBELTMAN.NET
(205) 415-5000



TUSSEY CUSTOM

Continued from page 49

genres from specific decades and even “battle-worn” WWI and WWII honor guns. All can be wonderful; all are welcome and all deserve high praise. But what we have from Tussey Custom benefits from the 60-plus years of time-in-grade experience.

Remember, this isn’t a restoration, it’s a brand new “retro” gun. A “shooter” WWI era 1911 starts at about \$1,000 and goes up from there. And this would likely be a fairly rough gun. A clean, complete original hovers in the \$2,000-plus range — at least. I’ve attended NRA shows and visited the Colt collectors booths, seeing dozens of minty early military 1911s, yet none ever get fired. They’re for looking only and rarely touching. I understand the desire to collect and preserve, but shooting is an integral part of the fun for me. Tussey Custom’s “Mil-Spec” 1911 opens the “shooter” door to anyone, including the collectors.

In the collector car world, the iconic Model T and ground-breaking Model A cars continue to remain at the top of the popularity chart. Yet each has hundreds of “modernized” components available to enhance their driveability and safety. Better brakes, more reliable engine and steering components, modern tire designs — all geared toward keeping them on the road safely. Look at this retro-gun in the same light. Except we’re starting with a brand-new Caspian frame and slide rather than a rusty Model T frame.

Build Specifics

Terry said, “We use Caspian frames and slides because they understand what’s needed in an ‘original’ 1911. We also use some other Caspian-sourced parts, but reach out to Clark for the barrel, Ed Brown for the sears and hammers and then various other companies as needed to assure the best quality goes where we need it.”

Terry hand fits the frame, slide and barrel just like he’d fit any match-grade 1911. Being a true custom gun, a customer can have a wide range of options but Terry prefers to honor the original gun. “The military-style hammer, thumb safety, grip safety, flat mainspring housing, lanyard loop and short trigger all contribute to the authentic look,” explained Terry. “If someone wants a custom gun, we can go in another direction, but to add adjustable sights or an ambi-safety to this style just doesn’t seem right.”

And I agree.

The barrel lock-up on my test gun is rock-solid, yet I could turn the bushing by hand to take things down. Handfitted to shoot 1.5” at 25 yards, yet can still be field-stripped like an original. This

takes talent and skill.

The trigger pull is a perfectly repeatable 3.0 lbs. give or take an ounce in either direction. Interestingly, it’s not the crisp break of a modern gun, but offers the classic feel of the military trigger, with some pre-travel, a sort of smooth, rolling break and a bit over-travel. It’s vintage military 1911 in feel, just smoother and more consistent. Very shootable too.

The thumb safety snicks nicely and a five-point safety check revealed all things operating as intended. The flat, smooth mainspring housing offers a subtle bit of authentic feel to an experienced hand and even the slight bump showing from the extractor on the rear of the slide made me smile. Lying next to my original WWI era Colt it’s hard to tell them apart at first glance.

Working with Terry’s guns made me understand it’s possible to create a 1911 able to shoot into less than 1” at 25 yards.

Sights are like the originals so are hard to see, but then again, it’s part of the panache. You’ll learn them, I promise, and when you shoot it you re-live what a GI saw in the middle of a dense forest in Europe 100 years ago.

Options

Keep in mind Tussey Custom has built their reputation on 100 percent reliable defensive guns. But Terry is always ready for a dream-gun build too. He’s also partial to Hi-Powers so if you have a dream there, make sure you ask him about resolving the issue. Why not a retro Hi-Power, but made to shoot like gang-busters?

Terry says a gun like our sample is in the \$2,995 range, but might be a bit higher or lower depending on component costs and any options or specifics you might want. One of the best parts of this is he guarantees a three- to six-month delivery time. With many custom gun makers talking about five-year waits today, this is just a snippet of time. When you call, you’ll talk to Terry himself. I recommend you do it since you will honestly be talking to an industry legend.

Real ones are few and far between these days.



For more info: TusseyCustom.com, Ph: (775) 246-1533. Search “Tussey Custom ‘Resto-Mod’ 1911 Pistol” on YouTube.com to see Roy’s video.

SIXGUNNER

Continued from page 21

guess she isn't tied to the past as much as I am. When Ruger chambered the stainless-steel Vaquero in .357, I had Gary Reeder cover a pair of these in cattle brands for her and finished the package with buffalo horn Eagle Grips Gunfighters. One New Model I do like is the Bisley. Mine has been tuned and expertly finished in bright blue by Gary Reeder, who also fitted it with an extra cylinder in .356 GNR. This wildcat is a .41 Magnum necked down the .357 giving the power of the .357 Maximum in a standard sized cylinder.

In recent years Ruger has combined the past with the present by resurrecting the original .357 Blackhawk with the 50th Anniversary Model of 2005. While this .357 is a New Model, it's the same size as the original, including the Colt-style and size grip frame, which is now steel. I really like this new version of the .357 Blackhawk and have had it fitted with checkered rosewood grips complete with the black eagle medallion.

Recently Ruger dropped their .44 Magnum sized Vaquero, replacing it with the Colt S&W-sized New Vaquero. Available in .357 Magnum, it makes a dandy *Perfect Packin' Pistol* with a few modifications. I did away with the original barrel replacing it with a properly marked Flat-Top barrel cut to 4 7/8" and fitted with one of Hamilton Bowen's windage adjustable front sights, a Bisley style hammer and trigger from Ron Power, and exotic wood grips from Larry Caudill. The front sight will be filed to allow point of aim shooting of heavy cast bullets.

In 1983 Freedom Arms began producing the finest SA to ever come from a factory. Those first guns were chambered in .454 Casull followed by .44 Magnum and then .357 Magnum. The full-sized Model 83 is a five-shooter and when fitted with a scope makes an excellent hunting sixgun, especially for head shooting Texas turkeys. In 1997 Freedom Arms scaled down the Model 83 to come up with the Model 97, which is slightly smaller than a Colt SA while still being a *bona fide* six-shooter. The Model 97 is offered in both adjustable sighted and fixed sighted versions. Just like its older and heavier brother, it is superbly accurate.

With fewer SA models to choose from than found among double action .357 Magnums it's easier, but only slightly so, to choose a favorite. My heart says pick the original .357 Blackhawk while my head says Freedom Arms. I'm glad I have both of them.





STRIKE READY.

MODEL : AC-800-S

INCOGNITO™ AUTOMATIC

58-60 ROCKWELL

2-5/8" BLADE LENGTH

3-1/2" CLOSED LENGTH

2.6 OZ. WEIGHT

EXTRAS: AUTOMATIC,
POCKET CLIP PROVIDES
FOR TIP-DOWN CARRY,
DEEP CARRY PEN-TYPE
CLIP & QUICK ACCESS

**SANDVIK STEEL BLADE
WITH GRAY STAINLESS
STEEL HANDLE.**

ALWAYS BE READY to get the job done with a stainless steel handle and Sandvik steel blade, perfectly weighted

— **MADE STRONG WHERE FREEDOM RINGS.**

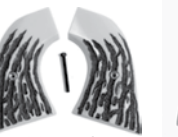



0.25" ULTRA-SLIM PROFILE

GET YOURS AT
BEARANDSONCUTLERY.COM



Exact Size Line Drawings© · Comparison Charts
View and Order at www.GunGrip.com

 C165RR HERITAGE .22 SMALL BORE ROUGH RIDER RELIEF CARVED.....\$55.00	 C173C PIETTA 1873 S.A. CHECKERED IVORY-LIKE, ALSO C180C & C200C...\$45.00	 J180 HERITAGE BIG BORE ROUGH RIDER REPRO JIG BONE GRIPS ALSO J173,J200...\$55.00	 C190RM RUGER WRANGLER IVORY-LIKE WITH MEDALLIONS\$70.00
 GAC44RM S&W COMBAT GONCOLA ALVES K & N FRAME ROUND BUTT...\$235.00			

Over 2400 Reproduction Grips & Buttplates for sale
N.C. ORDNANCE, INC. P. O. Box 3254 Wilson, NC 27895
Phone: 252-237-2440 • Fax: 252-243-9845
BBB A+ RATED • 45 YEARS OF WORLDWIDE SERVICE
100% Satisfaction Guaranteed • \$7.00 Postage • 22 Page Catalog \$5.00

DON'T
LET THIS HAPPEN!



Install a Digital-Locking
Steel Security Drawer in
less than 20 minutes.

www.thedrawersafe.com

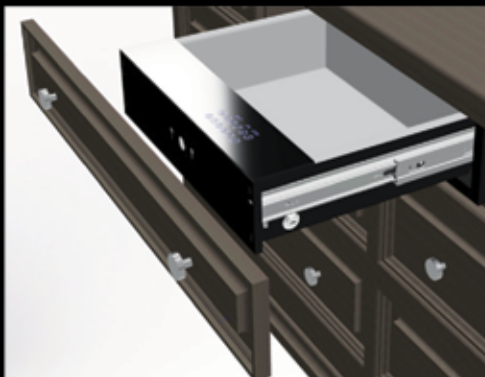


DIY CONCEALED DRAWER SAFE



**10,000 combinations with
backup key entry. Heavy
duty steel construction.**

**Available in two sizes to
fit furniture, cabinets, and closet systems.
Uses existing drawer front. (2 keys included)**



RONIN OPERATOR

Continued from page 37

best three of the five hits were in 1.25", which probably better showed the true accuracy potential of this gun and load.

For 200-grain I chose Black Hills' LSWC (lead semi-wadcutter hollow point). Its five big holes measured 3.60" apart, with four of them in 1.65" and the best three in 1.55".

The 185-grain proved to be the star of the accuracy show, with Remington's Express load jacketed hollowpoint delivering a quintet of holes in a 2.05" cluster, with the best three exactly an inch tighter at 1.05". This has always been a very accurate load, and while it doesn't expand as aggressively as some wider-mouth .45 JHPs, it always seems to feed in any gun that runs with ball ammo. With generations of 1911s designed for round-nose full metal jacket cartridges, that's an important selling point for this Remington round.

Another part of the accuracy picture is point of aim compared to point of impact. For me, the test pistol shot a tad right with everything but was "on" for elevation. Had I kept it, it would have been simple enough to loosen the set screw and drift the rear sight a wee bit to the port side of its dovetail. No big thing.

Handling

I wasn't able to test it in a class or match for handling under stress (darn pandemic!) so I took the light .45 down-range for drills. It ran consistently on Bianchi plates, six shots for six hits, and then I tried it on a drill developed by one friend and shared by another: Dave Spaulding's Fade-Back, which I got from Tom Givens. It's a dozen and a half rounds in three-shot sequences done at 3, 5, 7, 10, 15 and 25 yards. I shot it standing Isosceles. The target is a 3X5 card, and the goal is to keep all 18 rounds "in the white part." I would normally have taped the card on vertical, but remembering the test pistol had drifted a little to starboard for me from the bench, I placed it horizontal. Not as clever a move as I thought ...

The short Ronin gave me a one-hole group out to 10 yards, where it started to open up. At 15, I pulled one high and at 25, one more. I'm pretty sure my subconscious was trying to spot the hit, which causes the head to lift and the gun to lift very slightly with it. I only got 16 hits, which rounded off to 89% (88.888, if you want to put a fine point on it).

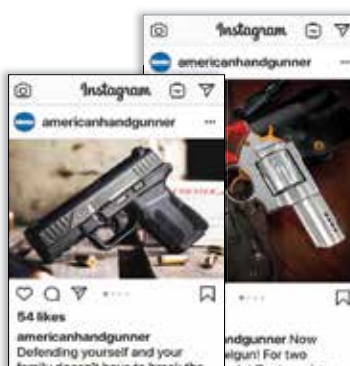
Ironically, the 4.70" group was dispersed vertically, and had I not put the damn card sideways all the shots would have been "in" with a perfect score. I had done the "hoist by my own petard" thing, but the take-away point is, the

**Instant
eye-candy**

Follow us
on Instagram



[instagram.com/americanhandgunner](https://www.instagram.com/americanhandgunner)



pistol itself could have easily delivered a 100% score.

Overall handling? I think the lighter weight makes it quicker from the holster, and the beavertail grip helps guide the firing hand into position at the beginning of the draw. I love the slim grips. This pistol doesn't have a short trigger per se and the reduced girth improves trigger reach. I was able to get my distal joint to the center of the trigger face, which I find improves my leverage.

The skeletonized trigger had a (desirable) light take-up followed by a very short, smooth roll that brought it to a clean break, with little perceptible backlash. On a Lyman digital gauge, pull weight averaged 5.2 lbs. I've found this to be a sweet spot for a "street trigger" in a 1911.

Another part of the accuracy picture is point of aim compared to point of impact.

Wooden grip panels, half-checked in the front in a diagonal pattern, seem to be a signature feature of Springfield's Ronin series. Along with the checkered (flat) mainspring housing in the back, they gave an adequately solid hold despite the smooth front of the grip-frame. The pistol never shifted in my hand.

As we've come to expect with aluminum framed .45s, they kick more. If you've shot +P .45 ACP in a steel frame 1911, you've had a preview of the push-back and muzzle jump you'll experience with a lightweight 1911 .45 and standard pressure 230-grain loads. It's nothing that can't be handled with a firm grasp and an aggressive forward firing stance.

Bottom Line

In several hundred rounds in various hands, we experienced only one malfunction with the test gun, a failure to feed with hardball. The shooter was a rugged six-footer who looked locked on to me but felt he might have limp-wristed the gun. This was an anomaly in the first 200 break-in rounds and was not repeated. About the only beef anyone had with it was lack of an ambi safety and a sharp edge on the rear of the slide stop, which one straight-thumbs shooter found uncomfortable.

At \$849, the expanding Ronin series joins the same maker's Range Officer series in the "best buy" category in sub-\$1K 1911s. It's also available in 9mm; look for a test of the variation in our sister magazine, *GUNS*.



For more info: Springfield-Armory.com

a Moment of Clarity



*It all happens so very fast... heart racing, muzzle rising, eyes focusing, brain trying to process the situation... not the place for second guesses or compromise. This sliver in time is yours to pass or fail... then the moment that it all becomes **clear...***

Whether on the range, in competition or out on the streets, your sight package should cut through the confusion and the fog of the moment. HIVIZ LiteWave H3* combines a proven tritium element with our legendary LitePipe technology to offer you unequalled firing solutions in any light or weather. Check us out online to...

SEE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING!

HIVIZ

SHOOTING SYSTEMS

HIVIZ, LLC • 620 South Adams Street • Laramie, WY 82070 • 800.589.4315 • hivizsights.com

PROFESSIONAL PARTS FOR PROFESSIONAL RESULTS

Our Trigger Pull Sets are made to last!

Our premium parts are CNC wire EDM cut from billet alloy steel stock and finish machined on CNC machining centers. These parts are then heat treated to proper hardness throughout the entire part, not just on the surface.

Sets Available for:
1911, Browning Hi Power
Beretta 92

- Special Billet Alloy Steel
- Precision CNC Machined
- Heat Treated to Rc 50/55
- Unique Design Geometry
- + .0005 Tolerances



Cylinder & Slide, Inc. 245 E. 4th St. Fremont, NE 68025
PH: 402-721-4277 ORDERS ONLY: 1-800-448-1713

Use Promotional
Code: DIY2020
for free shipping.

Shop On-Line, Complete Pricing Available www.cylinder-slide.com

AYOOB FILES

Continued from page 79

his life, and neither the saber nor a revolver with five or six shots might have sufficed. There had been little time in the melee, needing one hand to control the reins of his horse, to eject spent casings and insert live cartridges into a wheel gun. Notes another biographer, Martin Gilbert in *Churchill: A Life*, “The cavalry charge was over, and the troop dispersed. ‘It was, I suppose, the most dangerous two minutes I shall live to see,’ Churchill told Hamilton. Of the 310 officers and men in the charge, one officer and 20 men had been killed, and four officers and 45 men wounded. ‘All this in 120 seconds!’ Churchill commented. He had fired ‘exactly 10 shots’ and had emptied his pistol, ‘but without a hair of my horse or a stitch of my clothing being touched. Very few can say the same.’” (4)

Churchill The Shooter

Winston Churchill owned a substantial collection of fine guns, including magnificent bespoke shotguns from the finest English makers, and loved to hunt. No one knew his proclivities in firearms better than his long-time bodyguard, Scotland Yard Inspector Walter Henry Thompson. “Churchill offered to pay me five pounds a week as his bodyguard in a purely private capacity. He gave me his Colt automatic to use — and I may say with pride that I am the only man Mr. Churchill has allowed to handle his guns. He is a first-class shot and takes a jealous pride in his personal armory.”

Thompson added, “Although he recognized some measures had to be taken for his security, he was confident in any real pinch he, Winston Churchill, would probably be able to look after himself, personally. When we were at Chequers, the country home of Britain’s prime ministers, he often went to a nearby range and proved himself a first-class shot with his Mannlicher rifle, his .45 Colt automatic and a service .38 Webley. He was particularly deadly with the Colt and there would have been little chance for anyone who came in range of that weapon with unfriendly intent.” (5)

Just what did Thompson mean by “first-class shot”? “We set up an outdoor range at Chequers and to this he would frequently repair and fire a hundred rounds or so with his Mannlicher rifle, 50 rounds from his Colt .45, or an equal number from his .32 Webley Scott. He gets well onto the target with all three, but with the Colt Automatic he is absolutely deadly ... A gun is something he understands entirely.”

Adds Thompson, “Near the war’s

end, while practicing with me at outdoor targets, with officers of the guard in competition and firing an old Colt .45, only one of Churchill’s bullets was on the fringe of the bullseye, the other nine being dead center. This target was taken down and marked by me and noted by those who were with him then. Later I had it officially entered and dated, and it is now in the Chequers library.” (6)

The Concealed Carrier

Winston Churchill learned early in his adult life the value of a discreetly concealed handgun. In 1899 during the Boer War, he was captured but managed to escape. A sympathizer furnished him with provisions and a concealable revolver before he sneaked onto a train to get farther out of reach of the enemy. He kept the revolver, described as a six-shot pin-fire. A part of his estate, it sold for 32,000 English pounds at auction in 2002.

“What few history students learn about him is Churchill was very much a gun guy. He had killed enemy combatants with a pistol, loved to shoot and routinely carried a gun.”

Richard Law, one of the leading lights fighting for gun owners’ rights in Great Britain, is a prolific writer and skilled researcher. He discovered when he learned Thompson, Churchill’s long-standing bodyguard, carried a .32 caliber mouse gun, Churchill requisitioned a Colt .45 and furnished it to him. Later, discovering Thompson was still carrying the .32, a disgusted Churchill demanded the .45 back and stuck it in his overcoat pocket to use as his own. Law’s research turned up photos of Churchill in which a remarkably 1911-looking object is printing under his suit coat or his ulster, in the right hip area.

Bodyguard Thompson is our most thorough source of information on the Prime Minister’s concealed carry habits. In Thompson’s autobiography he said of Churchill, “People ask me if Mr. Churchill, in times of danger, was not usually armed, and this is my answer. He was when he remem-

bered to carry his weapon. He was an unusually fine shot, with either rifle or revolver, and later became deadly with some of the most lethal of the automatic weapons that we were to develop, including the Sten. *He loved firearms* and I believe loved the sound of them. He practiced target shooting in the basements of his various residences and never refused to ‘have a shoot’ with me when I felt it was time to check his handling of arms. Being a good shot is like being a good pianist: One cannot grow rusty and return suddenly to dependable controls. One can leave his guns alone for weeks and, by practicing a few hours each day for several days, recover all his skills, but he cannot recover them immediately. So, while it was all right for Mr. Churchill, in periods when he was not a protected public servant in high office, to ignore this somewhat realistic side of survival, I never recommended it, knowing these periods would be brief.”

Throughout his book Thompson constantly describes himself as carrying two handguns, usually two revolvers. Unfortunately, he seems to have the curious habit of describing all handguns as revolvers. One gets the inference he is often referring to the pistol Scotland Yard issued for such close protection details: the 1914 Webley .32 auto. Heavy-for-caliber at 2.5 lbs. and with the pointing characteristics of a T-square, this rickety-looking pistol had a reputation as a jam-o-matic and remains a contestant for the ugliest handgun of all time. Churchill himself owned one, and perhaps his experiences with it were part of his concern when he tried to switch his bodyguard to a Colt 1911.

Thompson’s remark quoted here earlier indicates the Prime Minister wasn’t strictly consistent with carrying a firearm. “His sense of personal safety had largely left him, to the extent that he would tire of carrying his revolver and forget it. He’d lay it down somewhere and leave it if I didn’t check it each time. Sometimes when I found him unarmed, I’d have to give him one of my own revolvers. I didn’t like to do this and didn’t often have to. I’m very used to the few that I work with, but it was of course essential that he should not be alone at any time — even in the middle of the night in his own bed — without a revolver in reach ... He would draw his gun and pop it into sudden view and say roguishly and with delight: ‘You see, Thompson, they will never take me alive. I will get one or two before they take me down.’”

Fortunately, Winston Churchill never got the chance to find out. There were many Nazi assassination plots against him: During the Blitz, bombs fell near his residences, obviously tar-

geted. In at least one case, Nazi agents parachuted into Britain to kill him. None got close. Between Scotland Yard and the military, all were scooped up before they could get in position to take a shot at the great man.

The Heads-Up Gunner

Winston Churchill liked his automatic weapons. In one of his most famous photos, he is wearing a pinstripe suit and chomping on his ever-present cigar as he holds a .45 caliber Thompson submachine gun with drum magazine and pistol grip fore-end. Adolf Hitler, historians say, despised Churchill with a venom exceeded only by the Prime Minister's hatred of him. Hitler used the photo of Churchill with the "tommy gun" to claim the English leader was merely a clone of a stereotype American gangster.

Churchill was also an *aficionado* of Britain's signature SMG, the Sten gun. He had his own Mark III Sten, which had been presented to him personally, as well as a Thompson in his own battery. He reportedly had one or the other in his limousine, depending on his conveyance of the day. And he shared his appreciation for buzz guns with others he knew were at risk of assassination.

In his excellent new book on the time of The Blitz, *The Splendid and the Vile*, Erik Larson focuses primarily

on Churchill and those around him. Larson writes, "The queen began taking lessons in how to shoot a revolver. 'Yes,' she said, 'I shall not go down like the others.'" (7)

Other sources say Churchill arranged for a Thompson — and competent instruction — to be delivered to all the Royal Family. All of them shot it: King George, his consort, and their daughters Elizabeth and Margaret, then 14 and 10 years of age. One source says the Queen Mother liked to shoot rats in the gardens of Buckingham Palace, though presumably not with the tommy gun.

Disproportional Influence

Winston Churchill's two minutes with a Mauser C96 in his hand during the charge at the Battle of Omdurman had a profound influence that went far beyond his own survival. If you read Churchill, it becomes clear he went to war as a young man seeing combat as a theater for chivalry. The battle of Omdurman changed this for him profoundly. Against a vastly greater force, the English and their allies had decisively prevailed. The enemy had been softened up by massive barrages of British artillery and Maxim machine guns. Winston Churchill rode out of the battle alive only because he had the most modern, high-tech firepower

that could be wielded in one hand in the year 1898.

WWI found Churchill as a young member of Parliament, advocating for high-tech warfare. He's credited with convincing the British government to develop tanks. As Prime Minister in WWII, he consistently funded newer and better airplanes, espionage apparatus and more. The epiphany that brought about those war-winning changes was born in two minutes of shooting the most modern handgun of the day, with his life on the line. And, as we've seen, his example of being constantly ready for individual combat against a homicidal foe is an inspiration to every free individual.



Footnotes: (1) Boothroyd, Geoffrey. The Handgun. NYC: Bonanza Books, 1970, p. 397. (2) Manchester, William. The Last Lion: Winston Spencer Churchill Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1983, pp. 277–279. (3) Manchester, William, Ibid. (4) Gilbert, Martin. Churchill: A Life. NYC: Henry Holt & Co., 1991, p. 96. (5) Thompson, W.H. "I Guarded Winston Churchill," Maclean's, 10/15/51, pp. 10–11. (6) Thompson, Walter Henry. Assignment: Churchill. Arcole Publishing 2018 edition, originally published 1955. (7) Larson, Erik. The Splendid and the Vile. Random House, 2020, p. 130.

NOW AVAILABLE

.357 MAGNUM

127 Gr. HoneyBadger™

AT CARBINE VELOCITIES

24" penetration | 100% weight retention | 6" wound cavity



Velocity 1365 FPS
Energy 526 FT. LBS.



Ammunition

**TO LOCATE A DEALER
NEAR YOU, CALL 800.568.6625
WWW.BLACK-HILLS.COM**





**STRONG HANDS
SHOOT STRAIGHT**



The fastest route to a stronger grip

IRONMIND®
www.ironmind.com

Free Ron Avery Grip Training for Shooters booklet
with any order, keycode AH-RA10.

Plenty
More
to 
Here...

Follow
us on
Facebook



**AMERICAN
HANDGUNNER®**

facebook.com/
americanhandgunner

COLT .22 ACE

Continued from page 53

to choose from back in 1946.

Reecy's pistol has a two-line Colt address with patent numbers on the left side of the slide with the Rampant Colt logo at the end of the markings. The right side of the slide is marked, "Colt Service Model ACE 22 Long Rifle." The left side of the frame has a W.B. proof mark indicating the gun was inspected by Col. Waldemar Broberg, U.S. Army.

The ACE has an adjustable rear sight with target height front sight. The front strap is smooth, while the main spring housing is arched and covered with a checkered pattern. The hammer has a widened, checkered thumb pad and the trigger is curved and checkered. The grips are reinforced Colt wood grips with no markings or logo.

A Unique Design

The military desired a .22 training pistol that emulated the recoil of their larger .45 semi-automatic. Ammo cost was a major issue during wartime. The designer of the "Floating Chamber" which accomplished the desired goal was not a trained engineer working in a large manufacturing company but was a young man from the small town of Godwin, N.C., *who worked out many of his design ideas while in prison.*

After being released from the Navy for lying about his age, David Marshall Williams ("Marsh" to his friends) worked in a blacksmith shop while running a still on the side. During a raid on the still, Williams engaged the raiding officers with gunfire and killed a deputy sheriff. He was charged with first degree murder, which in North Carolina would have meant the death penalty, but they later changed the charge to second degree. Williams was sentenced to 30 years at the Caledonia State Prison Farm.

While serving his sentence, Williams spent hours sketching diagrams for various firearm mechanisms. As he gained the confidence of the prison superintendent, Williams was given access to the prison workshop where he spent his spare time repairing and maintaining equipment, including the guards' rifles, and working on some of his firearm ideas. Friends and relatives campaigned to have the governor commute his sentence. These efforts proved successful, and Williams was granted parole in 1929 and released from prison in 1931.

Williams continued to refine his ideas and eventually filed four patents, including one for the floating chamber and one for the short gas stroke piston. Over his career, he worked at different times for Colt, Remington and Winchester and was responsible for several

designs including the Colt ACE .22 and the M1 Carbine. Jimmy Stewart starred in the movie *Carbine Williams*, about David Williams' life, making him somewhat of a legendary folk hero.

The floating chamber *practically quadruples the recoil power* of the .22 long rifle cartridge. The result is recoil that strongly reminds the user of the .45, though in fact it's considerably less. It's unnecessary to reduce the weight of the slide or the strength of the recoil or mainspring to build a reliable .22 on a 1911 frame.

**The floating chamber
practically quadruples
the recoil power of the
.22 long rifle cartridge.**

When a Service Model Ace is fired, pressure on the front end of the floating chamber drives the chamber to the rear until a lug on the bottom strikes a corresponding lug on the barrel and stops the motion. As the floating chamber rests against the breech block, the motion is transmitted to the slide which is thrown to the rear against the action of the recoil spring, cocking the hammer and compressing the main spring.

Does It Shoot Like a .45?

Since I have a much newer Colt .22 1911 made by Walther under contract, I figured it would be interesting to shoot the two pistols side by side for comparison. Ammunition for the mission consisted of 100 CCI Mini-Mag .22 Long Rifle cartridges. I shot 10 rounds in one gun, then 10 in the other, repetitively, until I ran out of ammo. I fired each 10-round magazine at a different target with the targets out at 10 yards.

Did the Ace feel much more like a .45? Not to me. I could see the muzzle flip, but I knew I was shooting a .22 the whole time. The Walther Colt's muzzle flipped also, but it's a lighter gun, weighing in at 36 oz. The trigger pull on both guns was similar at just over 5 lbs. I could have shot either all day except for the difficulty I had pulling the little button down against the spring to load .22 magazines. The Ace grouped inside of 3" and the best inside of 1.5". The Walther Colt grouped inside of 4" across the board.

What an opportunity — to fire a unique WWII firearm and better yet, to know it's in the family. Reecy has assured us it will be for perpetuity as the Ace has special memories for her of her husband's love and concern for her safety.



WILSON WCP320

Continued from page 45

notch. Combined with the narrow front sight post, the picture is fast to acquire. If you're a bullseye shooter, you might struggle a bit with the extra daylight on either side of the front sight post as it takes an extra picosecond or so to ensure you're precisely centered. For me, however, this design is a benefit, and it's done entirely on purpose. The narrow front blade translates to speed. For competition or carry, you'll love it. As a side note, the rear body uses a combination of front flat edge for emergency slide racking with beveled top surfaces for cut-free slide racking and snag-free reholstering.

The distinctive Wilson Combat X-TAC pattern on the frame and slide are outstanding. The pattern is subtle if you consider the raw "depth" of pattern grooves but is remarkably effective in preventing movement of the gun while firing. I've been shooting the WCP320 in 95-plus temperatures with 100-plus heat indexes, so sweaty hands have been the norm. No worries — once you take a grip on this pistol, it stays put. The subtlety of the pattern cuts offer another benefit for concealed carry. The grip pattern won't

tear up holsters, clothing, or your midsection nearly as much as other pistols using aggressive sandpaper-like surfaces. I'm happy to report the WCP320 supports my favorite cause: Save the love handles!

As for recoil, the 9mm chambering makes it gentle right off the bat, but the frame shape, contours and texture provide additional help in softening what you feel in the hand while shooting. Even +P defensive ammo was perfectly controllable. I had no trouble keeping this handgun under control, even with a more relaxed grip.

Accuracy Games

I've had this pistol out to the range on numerous occasions for testing, but given how 2020 is going so far, I shouldn't be surprised the best laid plans went awry on accuracy day. I like to shoot lots of groups from a solid, lead-shot-bagged pistol rest to get an idea of what a gun will do when most of the shooter error variables are removed. Normally I do this with five-shot groups at 25 yards. Since it's 2020, I shouldn't have been surprised my regular outdoor range was limited to just 12 on the day I chose for the Group Olympics.

No worries. Because I excelled at 2nd grade math, I quickly figured out doubling my measured 12-yard group

size would give be a decent indication of 25-yard performance. Yeah, I know. Advanced math!

I shot 10 different varieties of ammo for accuracy, including four manufactured by ... Wilson Combat. Yes, they make ammo too. In my sample kit I had two match loads (125-grain HAP and 135-grain HBFP) and two defensive loads (Wilson's Gold Dot 124-grain +P and Wilson's Barnes TAC-XP +P 115-grain). Other ammo in my bag that day included Black Hills HoneyBadger 100-grain, SIG SAUER V-Crown 124-grain, Norma MHP 108-grain, Norma Hexagon 124-grain, SIG SAUER FMJ 124-grain, and Black Hills FMJ 115-grain.

After the smoke cleared, I figured out this pistol will shoot. Three different loads produced single ragged hole groups. The Wilson Combat TAC-XP +P won the day with a 0.71" five-shot group. The Norma MHP and Wilson Combat HAP 125-grain were close contenders for the smallest group title with 0.75" and 0.87" center-to-center measurements.

The WCP320 carries an MSRP of \$1,195 or \$1,350 if you choose the Grayguns trigger set. It's not inexpensive, but you'll get top-notch performance in return.



For more info: WilsonCombat.com

AMERICAN

HANDGUNNER®

ONE-YEAR PRINT SUBSCRIPTION

ONLY \$19.75!

Plus **FREE** 2019
Digital Edition CD
with your paid order.



Call (866) 820-4045 • www.fmgpubs.com

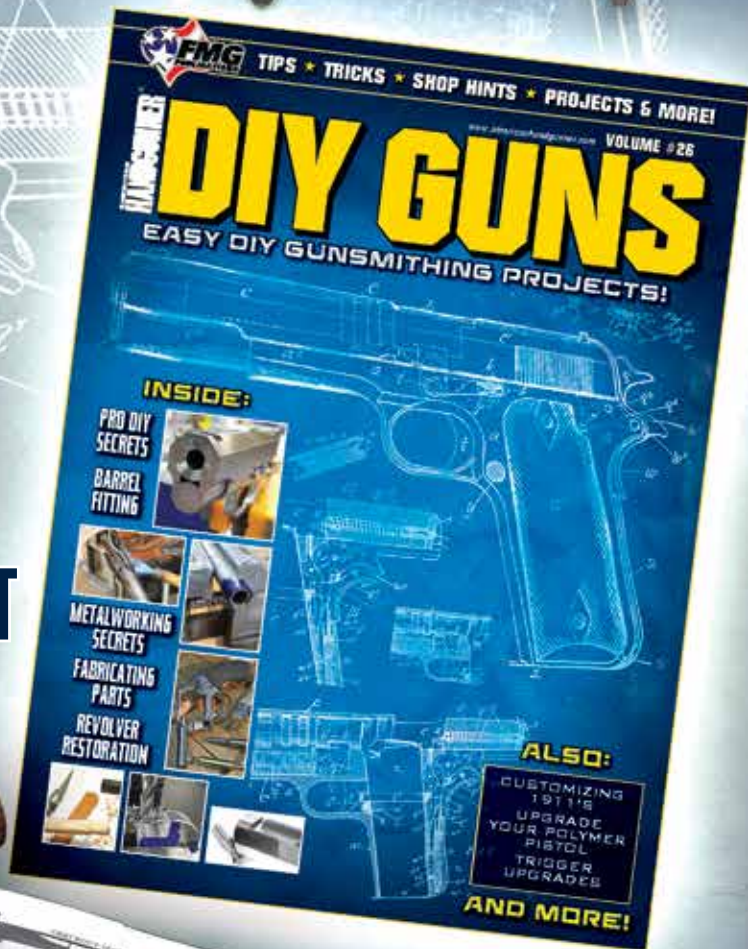
M-F 8am-3pm PST (\$54.75 outside U.S.) • P.O. Box 509093, San Diego, CA 92150

YOUR NEXT DIY PROJECT IS HERE!

Do it yourself
gunsmithing
tips, tricks
and ideas for
every skill level.

AVAILABLE IN
PRINT AND DIGITAL FORMAT

fmgpubs.com/DIY20



ALSO AVAILABLE
FROM AMAZON



SPEAK OUT

Continued from page 11

indeed the “spiritual anchor” of a great set of parents waiting for my return. That bit of writing excellence was then succeeded by his Love Story. Seldom, if ever, have I seen an explanation of the word “Love” explained so succinctly, and on such a broad emotional landscape.

The 5.7 x 28mm FN Five-seveN so stirred the soul that after its introduction by FN, no less an icon than Tom Clancy used it as the weapon of choice. Quite the tool. Although I have a full complement of firearms, and lack only the time to shoot them all, I want a Ruger-57. I don’t need one, but I want one. I hope Dr. Dabbs gets a commission off each and every Ruger-57 sold. He deserves it. Tell him “thanks” for me and please ask him to keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Hal
Via email

When Dr. Will Dabbs wrote a probationary piece for *Guncrank Diaries* I thought that he might be a decent stand-in for Connor. After reading “Free To Good Home” about “Dog” in the July/August edition I hereby proclaim the good doctor to be a worthy successor! The last couple of paragraphs got kind of blurry as I remembered the mixed breed, part-beagle who did more for me than I did for him as he worked for 16 years to make me a better human being.

Well done, Dr. Will!!

Richard D. Huddle
Via email

More Specs Please

I couldn’t help but notice as good and informative as your reviews on pistols are, they don’t mention prices unless the numbers are in secret code. I can only assume you’re applying the rule, “if you have to ask you can’t afford it.” I also prefer a format that gives the statistics from weight, trigger pull, etc. Other than those minor issues I love your magazine.

Roger Wilson
Via email

AMERICAN HANDGUNNER® welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit all published letters for clarity and length. Due to the volume of mail, we are unable to individually answer your letters or email. In sending a letter to *Handgunner*, you agree to provide Publishers’ Development Corp. such copyright as is required for publishing and redistributing the contents of your letter in any format. Send your letters to *Speak Out*, American Handgunner, 13741 Danielson St. Ste. A, Poway, CA 92064; www.americanhandgunner.com; e-mail: editor@americanhandgunner.com.

Check out www.americanhandgunner.com to enter the Gun Give-away, enjoy our thousands of online articles, videos, digital editions, novice, women and new shooters articles, and lots more — and it’s all updated daily!



The Mount it Anywhere Car Holster With Effortless, Natural Draw (Even Inverted)

20% OFF!
Enter code
HANDGUNNER
at checkout

Handmade in TEXAS by true craftsmen and backed by our **LOVE IT OR RETURN IT** guarantee

Complete Mounting Kit Includes riser and all necessary hardware (black matching screws, nuts and washers). All holsters made to order and ship within 5 days.

Visit us online at
www.AmericanLeathersmith.com
or call 512-793-7704



Powered by Wolff!



For over 50 years Wolff has been the name you trust for precision gunsprings

- Recoil Springs
- Magazine Springs
- Hammer Springs
- Firing Pin Springs
- Other Springs
- Performance Kits

For hundreds of Semi-Auto Pistols, Revolvers, Rifles and Shotguns.

Like oil in your car, springs need to be changed from time to time.

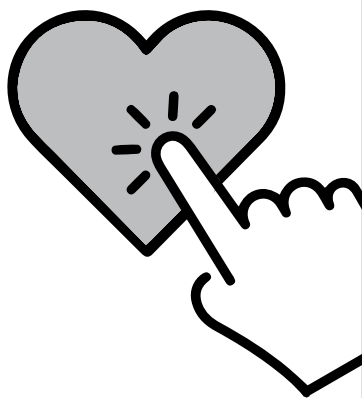
Isn’t it time to make sure your gun is **Powered by Wolff!**

w.c. **wolff** company
GUNSPRINGMAKERS

P.O.Box 458, Dept. 381, Newtown Square, PA 19073
Toll-Free at 800-545-0077 or 610-359-9600

www.gunsprings.com

We
want
your



Follow
us on
Instagram



AMERICAN
HANDGUNNER®

instagram.com/
americanhandgunner

DALY G.I. 1911

Continued from page 55

I didn't shoot the Empire and Superior Grade guns for this story, but both have match style barrels with belled muzzles and solid recoil spring guides. The Field G.I. had the standard profile barrel, recoil spring guide and plug. The Superior Grade's slide to frame fit was just like the Field G.I., with just enough tolerance to keep it reliable. By comparison, the slide to frame fit on the Empire Grade was so tight, it made me wonder if it was hand lapped.

On the range with the Field G.I., in casual offhand shooting at seven yards, I was able to easily shoot groups under 2". The Field G.I. trigger has a little take-up before it meets resistance from the sear, then the break comes at no more than 6 lbs. of pull. Despite a little creep, it doesn't detract enough to warrant a trigger job. I can't recall any military M1911A I ever shot being better.

From The Bench

I bench rested the Field G.I. at 25 yards and tested three popular self-defense loads and one bargain ball load for accuracy and function. Black Hills Ammunition's 230-grain JHP averaged 873 fps, with *five-shot groups of 2.39"*. This was the first and most accurate of the hollow points I tested, but it had a couple hang-ups initially when fired from an out-of-the-box new gun. In both cases, the second round in the magazine hung on the feed ramp, failing to feed. As the problem didn't repeat itself, I chalked it up to the break-in period.

While the Black Hills bullet was the longest of the hollow points tested, it's still shorter than a standard 230-grain ball cartridge. However, the Black Hills bullet resembles a truncated cone in basic profile and the diameter of the ogive at the tip is actually fatter than a ball round at the same point of measurement. I had no other issues with function with this or any other ammo in the rest of my testing, but I intend to polish the feed ramp a little just in case.

Federal Premium 230-grain HST JHP averaged 899 fps and 2.53" groups. Winchester PDX1 Defender bonded bullet JHP averaged 911 fps and 2.5" groups. Take note all of the hollow points tested are engineered to expand massively in soft targets. Ballistic gelatin test results I examined show them petalling back like deadly flowers, and in the case of the Black Hills and Federal Premium HST bullets, about doubling in size. Penetration appeared on the order of 12" to 14" for all three.

The last round I tested was the Remington UMC 230-grain FMJ with an average velocity of 834 fps and groups

opening up to 3.96". Overall, accuracy was better than average and better than I expected for a gun at this price point.

Aim & Impact

Out of the box, the windage was almost right for me, printing my groups about 1" to the right of my point of aim at 25 yards. A slight hammer tap of the rear sight, with an improvised brass drift made from a .22 LR case on the end of a 10-penny finishing nail, got it moved over enough in its dovetail to center my groups. Elevation needed no correction at seven yards, but at 25, I found the pistol's issue military style sights centered my groups about 7" above the point of aim.

There's a lot of rear sight there to work with, and I bet one could bring the point of aim and the point of impact together with a little judicious filing once you decide on a load you like. This is an easy DIY project, but it's probably best to do the filing after removing the sight from its dovetail slot to avoid accidentally marring the slide finish if you have any ham-handed tendencies. You can get an idea how much to take off by nestling the front sight down in the notch to various degrees while shooting your preferred load and noting the point of impact change of your group with the different sight pictures.

Capacity Matters

It's funny sometimes how a little change can make a big impression. For me, such was the case with the *eight-round magazines* shipping standard with the Charles Daly 1911s. Back in the day before high capacity double-stack magazines were the norm, the 1911s always struck me as a little deficient in the firepower department with their eight-round total capacity (seven in the magazine plus one in the chamber). So much did this concern me, I carried a Browning Hi-Power. Though I had no great love for 9mm, 13 rounds, plus one in the chamber, was more than I could conceive needing in an emergency.

These days, as a gun writer, I try to give autoloaders a good function test by loading them to full capacity, and with the Charles Daly Field G.I., that's nine rounds of .45 ACP. I guess nine was the tipping point for me, because now I'd have no qualms about using this 1911 for personal protection. Since this is a basic Army .45, it's fully serviceable in that role right out of the box.

The level of quality in manufacture I found in the Charles Daly 1911 line is incongruous with their extremely attractive price points. You could actually buy three of these Field G.I. models for what you'd pay for one famous brand 1911 of the same configuration.



For more info: CharlesDaly.com



CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE

When it comes to improving handgun performance, design options are often limited. As a result, stock fit, component and assembly quality become critical.

READ FULL ARTICLE



CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE

There's nothing more satisfying than a tight shot. The look followed this point of view. I captured the trigger as the trigger was about to fire.

READ FULL ARTICLE



CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE

It's a common sight. A handgun is being held in a way that is not intended. It's a common sight. A handgun is being held in a way that is not intended.

READ FULL ARTICLE



CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE

It's a common sight. A handgun is being held in a way that is not intended. It's a common sight. A handgun is being held in a way that is not intended.

READ FULL ARTICLE



CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE

When it comes to improving handgun performance, design options are often limited. As a result, stock fit, component and assembly quality become critical.

READ FULL ARTICLE



CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE

There's nothing more satisfying than a tight shot. The look followed this point of view. I captured the trigger as the trigger was about to fire.

READ FULL ARTICLE



CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE

There's nothing more satisfying than a tight shot. The look followed this point of view. I captured the trigger as the trigger was about to fire.

READ FULL ARTICLE

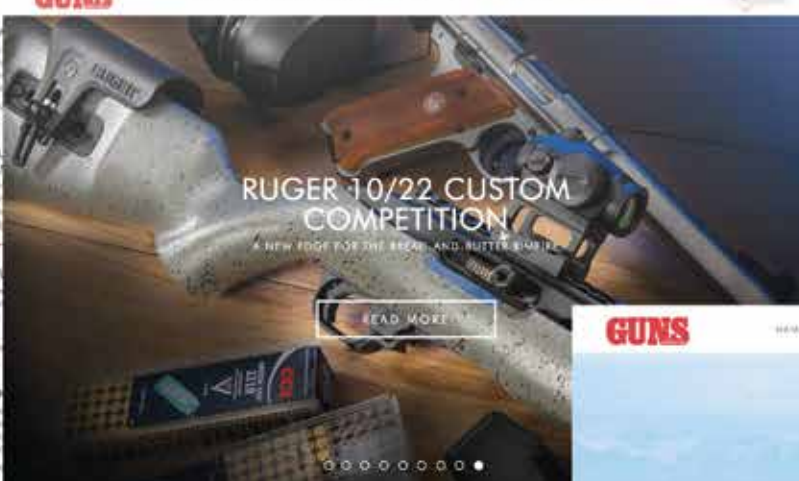


CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE

There's nothing more satisfying than a tight shot. The look followed this point of view. I captured the trigger as the trigger was about to fire.

READ FULL ARTICLE

WANT MORE?



RUGER 10/22 CUSTOM COMPETITION

A NEW EDGE FOR THE BEAR AND BUTTER BUNNIES

READ MORE



THE NIGHTHAWK CUSTOM AGENT 2

SAVE THE PLANET. AND GET A GOOD BANG OUT OF IT.

READ MORE



TRAIL-BOSSIN' TRAPPERS

THE NEW LEVEL OF REVOLVER ACCURACY, DEFINED

READ MORE



THE ESSENTIAL OPTIC

THE NEW LEVEL OF REVOLVER ACCURACY, DEFINED

READ MORE

Click Here:
gunsmagazine.com



URUS .357 MAGNUM RAGING HUNTER

THE NEW LEVEL OF REVOLVER ACCURACY, DEFINED

READ MORE



NEW PRODUCTS

ACTION ENHANCEMENT TRIGGER FOR THE HELLCAT

Apex Tactical Specialties



Apex Tactical Specialties releases the *Action Enhancement Trigger for the Hellcat* from Springfield Armory. The package includes the Apex trigger, Apex Sear Spring and Apex Striker Spring. When installed, these will improve the feel of the trigger pull while reducing trigger travel and pull weight appropriate for a duty or carry pistol. The Action Enhancement Trigger is a direct drop-in replacement of the factory polymer trigger and springs of the Hellcat. MSRP: \$79.95 to \$89.95. For more info: (623) 322-0200, ApexTactical.com



MASTER SIGHT PUSHER

Real Avid

The *Master Sight Pusher* is a professional grade tool for replacing

or upgrading pistol

sights. This gunsmithing tool is designed to work with most modern pistol sights and slides. The oversized, ergonomic Easy Torque Handle works well with extra-fine-drive threads for maximum torque. This tool can safely remove and install press-fit pistol sights. MSRP: \$149.99. For more info: (800) 286-0567, RealAvid.com

BLACK WIDOW SHOOTING GLASSES

Hackett Equipment



The *Black Widow Shooting Glasses* are high-quality, Aviator-style glasses with ballistic lenses.

They could be worn anywhere — the beach, the range, or even during a gunfight. Made with all-black components, only

150 units of these glasses are for sale. Get them now while they're available. MSRP: \$146. For more info: (773) 570-0338, HackettEquipment.com



KIMURA BUTTERFLY

Bear OPS

Bear OPS worked with Bradley Cutlery Co., designer and distributor of the original Kimura Butterfly, to design a new *Kimura Butterfly* — the Model BCC907. It has the same quality, design and smooth flipping action the legendary Kimura is known for but with natural G10 handles. The 3¾" blade made of 154CM steel with a Rockwell hardness of 58-60 has a bead-blast finish. Pivot bearings ensure a smooth deployment from a 5¾" closed length to a 9" open length. MSRP: \$164.99. For more info: (256) 435-2227, BearAndSonCutlery.com



THE GREAT AMERICAN RESCUE MISSION

Fathers in the Field

Published by Fathers in the Field, *The Great American Rescue Mission* looks into the leading societal issue destroying America's families — fatherlessness and generational fatherlessness. The book is written by outdoor industry veteran and Fathers in the Field founder John Smithbaker, who himself was abandoned by his father at an early age. MSRP: \$39.95. For more info: (844) 472-4241, FathersInTheField.com

MINI TANIMBOCA PUUKKO

TOPS Knives

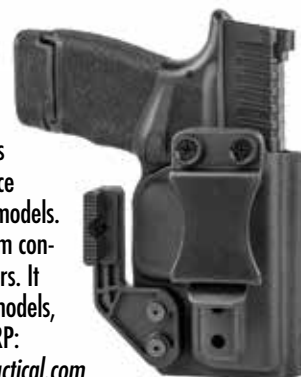
The *Mini Tanimoca Puukko* is a smaller version of TOPS Knives' Tanimoca Puukko. It's ideal for whittling and making bushcraft items in the woods. Smaller than most knives, this mini knife doesn't have a guard so use it with caution. OAL is 4" with a 1.63" cutting edge. Blade steel is 1095 RC 56-58 with a tumble finish. Handle is Black Cavas Micarta. MSRP: \$110. For more info: (208) 542-0113, TOPSKnives.com



KO-1

N8 Tactical

N8 Tactical introduces the company's first all-Kydex holster called the *KO-1*. The modular holster is ideal for concealed carry practitioners who like to carry IWB. The KO-1 has a one-piece Kydex pocket form-fitted to specific handgun models. The pocket ensures minimal bulk and maximum concealment compared to conventional IWB holsters. It is initially offered for several GLOCK and SIG models, the Ruger LC9 and the Springfield Hellcat. MSRP: \$34.95. For more info: (888) 732-5011, N8Tactical.com





GSX100 GLOCK

The *GSX100* is a fully serialized, 100% handgun frame sold through FFL dealers. It's the solution to a worn-out GLOCK 19. For a brand new build, it will make your next handgun your very own design. The *GSX100* is made from quality, glass-filled polymer for a rigid and stable platform. It features sophisticated grip ergonomics and texturing. MSRP: \$129.99. For more info: (800) 601-8273, GlockStore.com



BCA 3.0 GUN HOLSTER

Bravo Concealment

Bravo Concealment has added a retention setting to the *BCA 3.0 Gun Holster*. A user can choose from medium light to very heavy retention. A lightweight at 0.04 oz., the holster is made of a rigid and strong Polymer plastic to protect your firearm. This concealment holster for OWB 3 o'clock carry has a tall sight clearance and can be used with guns with a threaded barrel and red-dot sights. MSRP: \$42.49. For more info: (956) 783-7682, BravoConcealment.com



SWINKY

Outdoor Edge

The *Swinky* is a multi-purpose tool from Outdoor Edge. It has a 2" Wharnccliffe/Cleaver blade made of 7Cr17 stainless steel. The *Swinky* can be used as a bottle opener, flathead screwdriver or pry bar tool by rotating the blade. The handle is made of Grivory glass/nylon with a non-slip basket weave pattern. With an OAL of 5.1" and weighing 1.9 oz., the *Swinky* is ideal for backpacking, camping and everyday carry. MSRP: \$24.95. For more info: (800) 477-3343, TheOutdoorWire.com



CLENZOIL SYNTHETIC GUN GREASE

Clenzoil

Clenzoil Original Field & Range Solution accomplishes the tasks of multiple products. Use it to maintain firearms, fishing reels, boats and other outdoor equipment. In the past few months, demand for *Clenzoil* solution has increased so it is now offered in one- and five-gallon sizes. MSRP: \$99.99 and \$379.99. For more info: (800) 645-4887, Clenzoil.com



GLX RIFLESCOPE MOUNT

Primary Arms Optics



The *GLx Rifle Scope Mount* has four models to accommodate 30mm and 34mm scopes with a 0 or 20MOA cant. The *GLx* mount features a 6061-T6 Aluminum alloy construction with MIL-SPEC hard-coat anodization. High-strength steel hardware has a black zinc phosphate coating to improve corrosion and abrasion resistance. MSRP: \$99. For more info: PrimaryArms.com

RANGER

Versacarry

The *Ranger* is an affordable holster from Versacarry. It's made of vegetable tanned water buffalo leather and sewn together with industrial-grade bonded nylon thread. It is for use with a standard 1.5" wide belt in sizes fitting compact to full-size pistols. MSRP: \$44.99. For more info: (979) 778-2000, Versacarry.com



DPX HEST/F 3.0 TI DECADE

DPX Gear Inc.

Designed by author/adventurer Robert Young Pelton, the *DPX HEST/F* knives are tools for rugged environments. The initials stand for "Hostile Environment Survival Tool/Folding" knife. The *3.0 Ti Decade* edition has classic *HEST/F* features like the 6A1-4V Grade 5 Titanium alloy frame lock, tungsten carbide insert glass breaker, thumb grip/bottle opener on the blade and more. OAL is 7.82". MSRP: \$350. For more info: (619) 780 2600, DPXgear.com



Ruger MK Pistols Reassemble Correct & Quick Every Time

One-Time Fix

- * Stays in Pistol
 - * No Experience Needed
 - * Not for 22/45 or MK IV models
- HammerStrutSupport.com
256-527-3527 **\$16**

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Registered Publications)

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title: **AMERICAN HANDGUNNER**

2. Issue Date: **January 2021**

3. Issue Frequency: **Quarterly**

4. Number of Issues Published Annually: **4**

5. Annual Subscription Price: **\$12.00**

6. Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

7. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

8. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

9. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

10. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

11. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

12. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

13. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

14. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

15. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

16. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

17. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

18. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

19. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

20. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

21. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

22. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

23. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

24. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

25. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

26. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

27. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

28. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

29. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

30. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

31. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

32. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

33. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

34. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

35. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

36. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

37. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

38. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

39. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

40. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

41. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

42. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

43. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

44. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

45. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

46. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

47. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

48. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

49. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

50. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

51. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

52. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

53. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

54. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

55. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

56. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

57. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

58. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

59. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

60. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

61. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

62. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

63. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

64. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

65. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

66. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

67. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

68. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

69. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

70. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

71. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

72. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

73. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

74. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

75. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

76. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

77. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

78. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

79. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

80. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

81. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

82. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

83. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

84. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

85. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

86. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

87. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

88. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

89. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

90. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

91. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

92. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

93. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

94. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

95. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

96. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

97. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

98. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

99. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

100. Total Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions: **PAID \$12.00 UNPAID \$0.00**

VISIT THE SITE FOR MORE!
WWW.AMERICANHANDGUNNER.COM

AMERICAN HANDGUNNER INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

American Handgunner Sub.	71	Heckler & Koch	C2	SCCY Industries LLC	3
American Leathersmith	73	HiViz Shooting Systems	67	Simply Rugged Holsters	11
Armed Citizens Leg. Def. Net. Inc.	6	HSS Corp.	78	Smith & Wesson	19
Bear & Son Cutlery	65	IronMind Enterprises Inc.	70	Spartan Blades USA	66
Beltman Inc.	64	Kemp Hardware	66	Springfield Armory	C4
Black Hills Ammunition	69	KRUDO Knives	64	Ten-Ring Precision	60
Charles W. Gradie	60	Les Baer Custom	23	TOPS KNIVES	25
Cylinder & Slide	67	MTM Case-Gard	27	Tussey Custom	11
Diamond D Custom Leather	29	N.C. Ordnance	65	Volkman Precision	60
Dillon Precision Products	7	North American Arms	27	VZ Grips	63
D & L Sports Inc.	60	O.F. Mossberg & Sons	C3	W.C. Wolff Company	73
European American Arm. Corp.	17	Powder River Precision Inc.	60	Wilson Combat	29
FMG Special Editions	72	Real Avid	15	Wyoming Sight Drifter LLC	60
Harbor Freight	31	Ruger	13	XS Sights	62

AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

CLASSIFIED

Classified ads \$2.00 per word per insertion. (\$1.50 per word per insertion for three or more) including name, address and phone number (20-word minimum). Minimum charge \$40.00. Bold words add \$1.00 per word. Copy and rerun orders must be accompanied by PAYMENT IN ADVANCE. NO AGENCY OR CASH DISCOUNTS ON LISTING OR DISPLAY CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING. All ads must be received with advance payment BY NO LATER THAN THE first of each month. Ads received after closing will appear in the following issue. Please type or print clearly. PLEASE NOTE*** NO PROOFS WILL BE FURNISHED. Include name, address, post office, city, state and zip code as counted words. Abbreviations count as one word each. Mail to AMERICAN HANDGUNNER CLASSIFIEDS, 13741 Danielson St. Ste A, Poway, CA 92064. NOTE: WE NOW HAVE DISPLAY CLASSIFIED ADS IN BOTH GUNS MAGAZINE AND AMERICAN HANDGUNNER. ASK FOR OUR NEW RATE CARD, or call (866) 820-4045.

ACCESSORIES

FOR SALE

INSTRUCTION

MISCELLANEOUS

When conceal matters!

PS30 6 round belt side
PS31 Speed Loader
PS6 Series Systems include:
Belts, Mag Pouch, Holster
PS6SA Holster
PS6DA Holster
PS6 System 1

Mernickle Custom Holsters
13043 County Rd. C, Pampa, Texas USA 79065
Phone: 806-665-0656 Email: sales@mernickleholsters.com
Internet: www.mernickleholsters.com Phone: 1800-497-3166

AMERICAN HANDGUNNER ONLINE

VIDEO VAULT

CHECK OUT OUR BINGE-WORTHY COLLECTION OF LIVE ACTION CONTENT

WWW.AMERICANHANDGUNNER.COM

STATESMAN, GUNFIGHTER, SHOOTER, CONCEALED CARRIER

SITUATION: The evilest mass murderer on the planet has targeted you. You've been furnished security, but you aren't sure it's enough.

LESSON: If you can't take care of yourself, you can't take care of those who count on you ... and the innermost bastion of security is yourself.

The world remembers Sir Winston Churchill as a long-serving British statesman and the Prime Minister who guided an underdog Great Britain successfully through World War II. What few history students learn about him is Churchill was very much a *gun guy*. He had killed enemy combatants with a pistol, loved to shoot and routinely carried a gun.

Churchill The Gunfighter

In 1898, at the battle of Omdurman in the Sudan, Churchill was a young cavalry officer. More than half a century later he would tell a biographer, "On account of my shoulder (which had been dislocated in India) I had always decided that if I were involved in hand-to-hand fighting, I must use a pistol and not a sword. I had purchased in London, a Mauser automatic pistol, then the newest and latest design. I had practiced carefully with this during our march and journey up the river." (1)

Churchill was part of a cavalry charge under way through a gulley when he found he and his comrades were up against a much larger enemy than they had anticipated: an estimated 3,000 fighters who far outnumbered his own contingent. He told one biographer, "I drew my Mauser pistol — a ripper — and cocked it. Then I looked to my front. Instead of the 150 riflemen who were still blazing I saw a line nearly (in the middle) 12 deep of closely jammed spearmen — all in a nullah with steep sloping sides six feet deep and 20 feet broad." (2)

Churchill was soon amidst a maelstrom of enemy troops, profoundly outnumbered. The great historian William Manchester would later describe what happened to Churchill in those moments, sometimes using Churchill's own quotes. Churchill saw his men being "dragged from their horses and cut to pieces by the infuriated foe." Finding himself "surrounded by what seemed to be dozens of men," he "rode up to individuals firing my pistol in their faces and killing several — three for certain, two doubtful — one very doubtful." One was swinging a gleaming, curved sword, trying to hamstring the pony. Another wore a steel helmet and chain-mail hangings. A third came at him "with uplifted sword. I raised my pistol and fired. So close were we that the pistol itself actually struck him." The dervish mass, he saw, was reforming. He later recalled, "The whole scene seemed to flicker." He looked around. His troop was gone. His squadron was gone. *He could not see a single British officer or trooper within a hundred yards.*

Hunching down over his pommel, he spurred his pony free and found his squadron 200 yards away, faced about and already forming up. His own troop had just finished sorting itself out, but as he joined it a dervish sprang out of a hole in the ground and into the midst of his men, lunging about with a spear. They thrust at him with their lances; he dodged, wheeled and charged Churchill. "I shot him at less than a yard. He fell on the sand and lay there dead. How easy to kill a man! But I did not worry about it. I found I had fired the whole magazine of my Mauser pistol, so I put in a new clip of 10 cartridges before thinking of anything else."

It occurred to him if he hadn't injured his shoulder in Bombay, he would have had to defend himself with a sword and might now be dead. Afterward he reflected, "One must never forget when misfortunes come that it is quite possible they are saving one from something much worse." He wrote his mother Jennie: "*The pistol was the best thing in the world.*" (3)

Churchill and his biographer were not the only ones to conclude the 10-shot Mauser saved

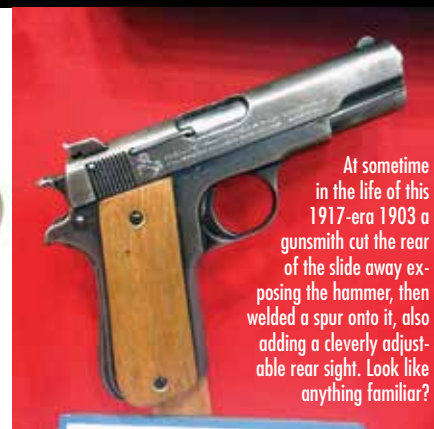
Continued on page 68

if you don't need it, whether it be in philosophy — or gun designs. This famous view has morphed over the years and is now spelled as "Occam's Razor." The "razor" portion represents the "... shaving off of unnecessary assumptions or unnecessary attributes, facts or theories." And I think, amazingly enough, this 800-year-old principle is exactly why the 1903 (and later 1908 in .380 ACP) was popular almost 120 years ago and remains so today. There is, simply put, everything you need in a pocket auto — and nothing extra.

The sights are sufficient for their role, the gun has thumb and grip safeties, there is a secure magazine release at the butt, the gun's operation is simple and rugged



While called an "Army 45" Roy's antique store toy gun score is clearly a 1903.



At sometime in the life of this 1917-era 1903 a gunsmith cut the rear of the slide away exposing the hammer, then welded a spur onto it, also adding a cleverly adjustable rear sight. Look like anything familiar?

and the calibers are at least adequate for their role. Over the decades of production, there have been only a small handful of changes, proving as to the soundness of Browning's original design. The 1903

went from an external bushing to a bushing-less design, the slide length morphed from 4" for the 1903 to 3.75" when the .380 was introduced, and the grip, and later, magazine safeties, were added. There actually wasn't really a "1908" model or even a "1903" model but both names came into common usage. The 1908 label is simply when the .380 version was introduced.

Interestingly enough, the .32 sold nearly three times as many as the .380 version. Some wonder if it's because the .32 magazine holds eight while the .380 "only" holds seven. I think it's because the .32 is so delightful to shoot! While the .380 is arguably more effective, especially with today's ammo, it is a bit snappier to shoot. Most who bought the autos were not accomplished shooters and stopping power was something few worried about. So, I'm guessing lighter recoil and capacity won out to the

tune of three times as many sales. Total production numbers were in the 775,000 range, give or take, with production ceasing in 1945.

Some Mechanics

While the guns look as if there's no hammer, in reality there's one lurking just under the nicely curved back end of the slide. The thumb safety "locks" the trigger from moving and if your gun has a grip safety, it too blocks the trigger from moving. It's a straight blow-back action but being all-steel and weighing in at about 24 oz., it's also beefy enough to take a recoil beating. Take down is easy and you simply align a scribed mark on the recoil spring dust cover with the front of the frame, rotate the barrel then slide the slide forward off the frame. The barrel comes out easily, along with the recoil spring and presto — the innards present themselves for cleaning. That Browning was a clever fellow.

I count my blessings because I own three. Two 1903 models (made in 1919 and 1917) and one 1908, vintage 1920. I'm doubly blessed though because one of the .32s has been highly customized by Wayne Novak and presents with tiny Novak sights, an extended thumb safety, forward slide serrations, stippling



The original "fingernail" sights on the gun at right are a challenge to use, but are also snag-free. The tiny Novaks on the custom gun at left offer a bolder sight picture without being too snaggy.

ADD IT UP

68

Percentage of U.S. adults feeling fake news is more of a problem than sexism, racism, illegals or terrorism.

10 MILLION

Archers in the U.S. 10 years ago.

22 MILLION

Archers in the U.S. today.
About 1/3 are women.

500

Working spacecraft in orbit.

1 MM

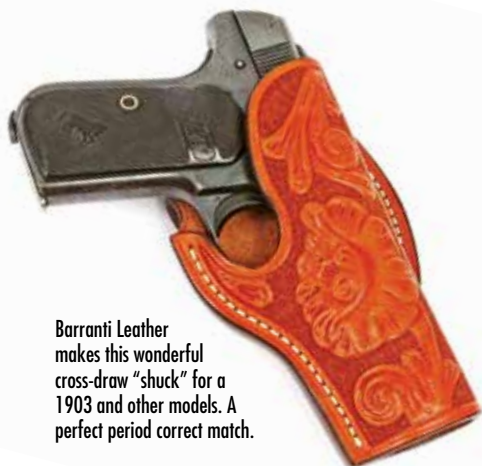
Paint chip in orbit going 22,000 mph.

.22 LR

Generates the same impact force as the paint chip.

\$66

Advertised price of surplus GI .30 Carbine in 1963 — equivalent to \$560 today. Still a good deal!



Barranti Leather makes this wonderful cross-draw "shuck" for a 1903 and other models. A perfect period correct match.

and — be still my thumping heart — has been converted to a 1911-style magazine release button. I know ... I know ... even the term "amazing" doesn't do it justice.

I shoot all of mine regularly, and 3.5" at 15 yards off-hand is quite possible. And, much to my never-ending delight, my 80-yard torso-sized gong makes tiny little "tink" noises when the various .32s and .380s bounce off of it. Great fun? Silly to even ask.

While strolling the NRA show some years ago, I stumbled onto a 1903/08 collector. We had a good visit but then I spotted what looked like a tiny 1911 on his wall. Closer inspection revealed it was a 1903 a back-room gunsmith had modified at some point, cutting off the rear of the slide, exposing the hammer, then brazing on a hammer spur. He capped it off by installing adjustable rear sights. Check out the picture and tell me if it doesn't look like a certain "other" auto Browning designed later.

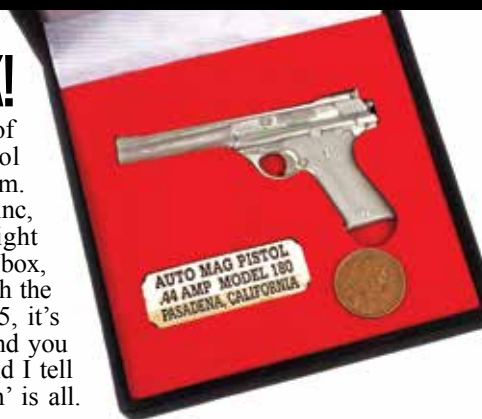
I readily admit to carrying one or the other of my guns in a lovely paddle, cross-draw holster by old friend Mike "Doc" Barranti of Barranti Leather. It's suitably hand-tooled and outspokenly perfect for the little guns. Say hi to Doc when you call him for your own.

Lest any of you wring your hands in terror and point accusing fingers over the Novak custom work, keep in mind it started out as a beater with no collector value. They're around and you can find 'em if you look. Many are good shooters — but not pretty any longer. I'm looking around as we speak for another beater to make my own "mini" 1911. I just can't get this out of my mind. When I find one and do the job, I'll document it and you'll likely see the adventure in our pages down the road some. Thanks for listening.

For more info: BarrantiLeather.com, Ph: (421) 860-4804

THE AUTOMAG IS BACK!

Well, sorta'. This is actually one of the on-going series of very cool minis by Firearms Assure Freedom. This one is 2.87" long, cast in hard zinc, silver plated, then antiqued to highlight the details. It comes in a black velvet box, complete with a gold finished plate with the model name and info. At about \$21.95, it's an easy way to own a \$5,000 pistol and you can honestly tell your friends, "Hey, did I tell you I bought an Automag?" Just sayin' is all. FirearmsAssureFreedom.com



ROSEN RIFLE REST

In the "over-built and must-have" category we have this no-limits rifle rest from Mitch Rosen of the "Extraordinary Gunleather" line. You might not know Mitch is an accomplished machinist and I'm proud to say I introduced him to the black art. He recently sent me this pic of a "simple rifle rest" he made. I had to share it. It's of 4140 Chrome Moly, 304 stainless and aluminum bronze. It weighs 16+ lbs. and is about 10" at maximum extension. If you know Mitch you also know it's hard to be sure if he's serious or not but he did say, "As an added value, at no additional charge, a high-quality, flat-woven lanyard is included. This can be used to wear the rest as a neck pendant at important local, state or international shooting events." I think he's kidding — possibly. It's, as he says, "Made in the USA in his shop." He wouldn't quote me a price, which scares me. MitchRosen.com

APEX TRIGGER FOR HELLCAT

I just got this and wanted to make sure you knew about it.

Springfield Armory's hot new Hellcat defensive pistol has taken the CCW crowd by storm. SA showcased a 20,000-round endurance test of one Hellcat and it had no issues and was running strong at the end of the test. Amazing performance for a small, concealed carry handgun.

Apex, known for their long line of custom trigger systems for a wide-range of autos, recently introduced this model for the Hellcat. I can hardly wait to install it, and you can too using their excellent online "how-to" video. I'll report back in a video of what I learned about it, but if it's like other Apex triggers I've installed and use now, it'll be crisp and reliable. ApexTactical.com



S&W OPTICS-READY M2.0 COMPACT

Our old friends at S&W have expanded on the M&P line to include the M2.0 Compact pistol in an optics-ready variant. This 4" gun is chambered in 9mm, featuring slide cuts for a dot sight, and includes co-witness white dot front and rear sights. It comes with seven mounting plates designed to fit most slide-mounted optics on the market today, two 15-round mags, four interchangeable palmswell grip inserts and lots of other goodies. MSRP is \$616. Smith-Wesson.com





COLT'S 1903 HAMMERLESS

'IF I HAD A HAMMER ...'

**OH WAIT
— IT DOES**

The Savage 1907 Pocket Automatic, advertised as "Ten shots — fast" was a peer to Colt's 1903. Roy feels the Colt wins in style points.

Lest I be accused of over-using "genius" — this time I'll reach for more adjectives. To call John Browning a star of steel, a prodigy of protection or even a marvel with metal is still, nonetheless, inadequate. Nothing short of his real label — genius — does him justice. In the history of firearm design there's simply nobody else who comes close to his wide-ranging accomplishments and influence. While some did create one spectacular model — think Garand,

Take a gander at the simple take-down and the fact there is indeed a hammer hiding inside.



Note the two-tone magazine, a hallmark of the model.

Luger, etc. — nobody has the extensive palate of successful, mainstream designs Browning brought forth. And the 1903 is but one of them.

Okay ... two.

Sublimely elegant, this quintessential pocket pistol effortlessly re-wrote what Americans — and then the world — expected in a personal defensive pistol. If you look at most European autos of the time (those not designed by Browning, of course) you find abrupt shapes (Bergman), odd angles (Webley & Scott) or strange actions (the blow-forward Schwarzlose). When the Colt Automatic Pistol, Pocket Model, Hammerless was introduced in Browning's own .32 ACP cartridge in, oddly enough, 1903, America and the world took notice. It rapidly rose to the top, at home in the pockets and holsters of tens of thousands (eventually over 775,000) of police officers, bank guards, businessmen, home defenders, good guys of all kinds and no small number of bad guys.



Top to bottom: Colt 1903 .32, 1908 .380 and a custom Novak 1903.



At 15 yards off-hand the .32 hits right where you aim it. And yes, Roy's taken some small game with his using HP ammo.

It was one of Bonnie Parker's favorites, the issue pistol to U.S. General Officers and was deployed by the thousands during WWII by the U.S. government to arm the OSS, agents and freedom fighters in Europe. On the home front it guarded factories, kept police safe and assured thousands of citizens their families slept securely. Even today, this classy auto rests in desk drawers and pants pockets still doing its job. But why is this so in this age of polymer and stamped-out sameness?

Occam's Razor

William of Ockham, a 13th century philosopher and logician, has grown famous over the centuries for his belief: "Plurality must never be posited without necessity." Essentially, don't add "stuff"

Continued on page 80

MOSSBERG | MC2c® COMPACT

**13+
REASONS
TO FEEL
CONFIDENT.**

MC2c Double-Stack Magazines in 13-Round & 15-Round



#89012
MC2c 9mm
Semi-Auto

SAFETY TIP 
Store firearms securely,
inaccessible to children
and unauthorized users.

YOU'VE GOT AN EXTRA STACK OF PEACE OF MIND.

Engineered to be ultra-slim in spite of its double-stack capacity, the MC2c 9mm sits comfortably in your hand and is easily concealable for everyday carry. Lightweight, ergonomic, and providing 13 or 15 rounds at the ready, it sets the new standard for high-capacity semi-auto personal protection.

Mossberg — Makers of dependable, hardworking firearms for more than a century.

LEARN MORE AT
MOSSBERG.COM

MOSSBERG®
SINCE 1919

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY.

XD^M ELITE



The Springfield Armory® XD-M® Elite 3.8" Compact in 9mm packs all the features of the popular Elite line into a versatile CCW-ready package. The Match Enhanced Trigger Assembly (META™) gives you the finest factory trigger available in a polymer-framed pistol and the removable magwell ensures fast reloads with the standard 14-round magazine. With a compact slide and short, concealable frame the pistol is easily converted to a full-size grip with the addition of the optional sleeved 19-round magazine.



META

MATCH ENHANCED
TRIGGER ASSEMBLY



XD-M® Elite 3.8" Compact
With Short Magwell



XD-M® Elite Precision
With Standard Magwell



XD-M® Elite Tactical OSP™
With Standard Magwell



XD-M® Elite 4.5"
With Short Magwell



XD-M® Elite 3.8"
With Short Magwell