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GUNS Magazine (ISSN 1044-6257) is published monthly by Publishers' Development Corporation, 13741 Danielson Street, Ste. A, Poway, California 92064. Periodicals Postage Paid at San Diego, CA and at additional mailing offices. SUBSCRIPTIONS: One year (12) issues \$24.95. Single monthly copies, \$5.95. CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Eight weeks notice required on all changes. Send old address as well as new. SUBSCRIPTION PROBLEMS: For immediate action email subs@gunsmagazine.com, write Subscription Dept., 13741 Danielson Street, Ste. A, Poway, California 92064 or call (866) 820-4045. CONTRIBUTORS submitting manuscripts, photographs or drawings do so at their own risk. Material cannot be returned unless accompanied by sufficient postage. PAYMENT will be made at rates current at time of publication and will cover reproduction in any or all GUNS Magazine editions. ADVERTISING RATES furnished on request. Reproduction or use of any portion of this magazine in any manner, without written permission is prohibited. All rights reserved. Title to this publication passes to subscriber only on delivery to his/her address. The opinions and recommendations expressed by individual authors within this magazine are not necessarily those of Publishers' Development Corporation. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to GUNS Magazine®, ATTN: Circulation Dept., 13741 Danielson Street, Ste. A, Poway, California 92064. Copyright © 2020 by Publishers' Development Corporation.



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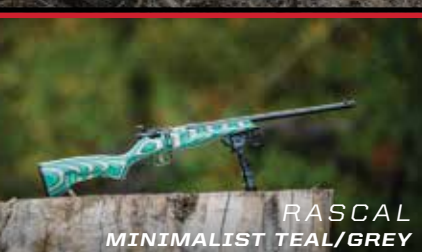
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HEAVY-HITTING HANDGUNNER

Your podcast interview with Mark Hampton (GUNS Magazine Podcast Episode #53 — "Handgun Hunter") was very interesting. One thing I did miss was — what caliber did he use in his handgun for the Big 5?

R.J. Nice

All the Big-5 and other large/dangerous game have been taken with a Thompson/Center Encore in .375 JDJ.

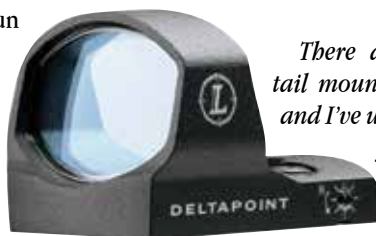
Mark Hampton

RED DOT SIGHTS

I just listened to the podcast (GUNS Podcast Episode #54) about red dots on pistols. I'd like to know your thoughts on mounting them. I don't want to get my slide

milled so I think that just leaves pushing out the rear sight and using the dovetail to mount the appropriate plate. I want to put it on a Colt Govt Competition model.

Jeff Stunkel



There are various dovetail mounting plate options and I've used a couple of different ones — but I've been disappointed. When you consider how violent the recoil impulse is on a semi-auto pistol, plus the wear and tear a carry gun receives, it's no wonder gun manufacturers aren't too keen on such a thing. You need a bunch of steel-on-steel contact, plus robust screws and a thread

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GUNS

MAGAZINE
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EDITORIAL 858.842.3943 • EMAIL: ed@gunsmagazine.com

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THE SPECIAL .44 SPECIAL A CLASSIC IS STILL TOPS

At the dawn of the 20th century America Smith & Wesson introduced the New Century revolver. This beautiful sixgun had other names such as the Model of 1908, the .44 Hand Ejector 1st Model but it is more widely known to both collectors and shooters as the Triple-Lock.

Both Colt and Smith & Wesson had produced double-action sixguns in the 1870s and 1880s, however in the 1890s

they started looking forward at what would become the first modern double-action revolvers. For Colt their premier design was the New Service while Smith & Wesson came up with the smaller-frame Military & Police. Both of these revolvers featured swingout cylinders and simultaneous ejection. The S&W Police was first chambered in the .38 Special in 1899 or 1901, according to which expert you choose to believe, and in 1907

they expanded the medium-frame Military & Police to a large frame .44.

SMITH & WESSON

The Triple-Lock featured an enclosed ejector rod and the cylinder locked in three places — at the rear, at the front of the ejector rod and with a beautifully machined third locking feature at the front of the cylinder on the frame. Even today this Smith & Wesson is still regarded by many as the finest revolver ever produced. Smith & Wesson already had the superbly accurate .44 Russian and could have easily chambered the new sixgun for this cartridge. However, they chose to lengthen the .44 Russian's 0.97" length to 1.16" and the result was a new cartridge, the .44 Special.

They did not know it at the time but Smith & Wesson was on the brink of perfection. They now had a beautifully crafted sixgun and a new cartridge that could easily be safely loaded to eclipse the .45 Colt. But, as so often happens, instead of making a real change in sixgunning the .44 Special was loaded to the exact same specifications as the .44 Russian using the same round-nosed bullet. Instead of a 250-grain bullet that could easily have been loaded to 900–1,000 fps, the .44 Special stayed at the same 750 fps as the .44 Russian. It was an accurate and easy-shooting load but could have been so much more.

The .44 Special may have started as a sedate sixgun cartridge, but did not stay this way very long. What S&W and ammunition factories did not do, handloaders did. Starting in the 1920s men like Elmer Keith, Gordon Boser, Ray Thompson, John Lachuk and others who were members of the .44 Associates experimented and traded information on the .44 Special. Foremost of these was Elmer Keith who spent 30 years selling the attributes of the heavy-loaded .44 Special.

Using balloon head brass, which had a larger capacity than current solid head brass, Keith started first with #80 powder and then when it arrived, #2400 powder loaded under his #429421, a 250-grain semi-wadcutter bullet. Keith claimed 1,100 fps with #80 and 1,200 fps with the new #2400 powder. I have duplicated his loads using the original style brass, both powders and his bullet and found him to be correct.

The Smith & Wesson Triple-Lock was only produced until 1915, and then to save



Two of the finest .44 Specials ever produced, the Smith & Wesson Triple-Lock and the Freedom Arms Model 97.



Top to bottom: Smith & Wesson's 1st, 2nd and 3rd Model Hand Ejector .44 Specials.

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\$2 per gun, they dropped the third locking feature and the enclosed ejector rod and the result was the 2nd Model Hand Ejector. Dedicated sixgunners asked over and over again for Smith & Wesson to bring back the Triple-Lock. In 1926 the 3rd Model Hand Ejector arrived with a return to the enclosed ejector rod, however not the third locking feature.

After World War II the 4th Model or Model of 1950 arrived and this would be used in a few short years as the platform for the .44 Magnum. The 1950 Target Model .44 Special is probably in reality an even better sixgun than the Triple-Lock. These were offered in 6-1/2" for target shooting and outdoor use and the 4" version for an easy packing sixgun for self-defense or general everyday carry. A very few 5" were also offered. The 1950 Target was dropped in the mid-1960s. However, in the early

1980s Smith & Wesson brought it back as the Model 24-3 and also a stainless version, the Model 624. Both of these were offered in standard 6-1/2" and 4" versions.

THE HORSE

Colt chambered their New Service in .44 Special both in standard and Flat-Top Target versions. I have found the latter to be

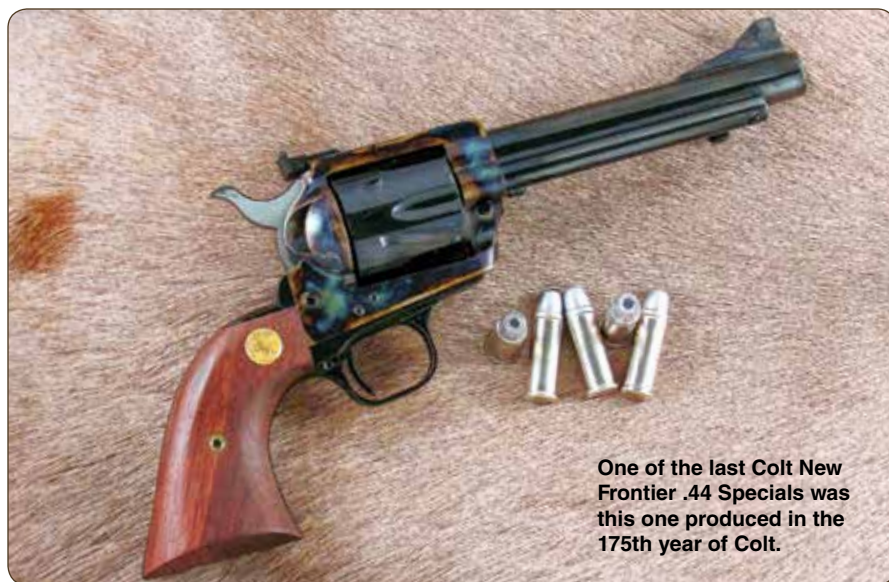
a superbly accurate sixgun. Colt also chambered all three generations of their Single Action Army in .44 Special and the 2nd and 3rd Generation New Frontiers were available in .44 Special. The .44 Special New Frontiers make exceptionally good hunting sixguns. During the 175th Anniversary of Colt in 2011 I acquired one of the 5-1/2" New Frontier .44 Specials and found it to be an excellent shooting .44. Today, if you want a .44 Colt about the only way to get one is to search gun shops and gun shows for a used example. USFA also offered both Single Action and Flat-Top Target versions in .44 Special before they closed their doors. These were beautifully finished and fitted Specials.

SPECIAL HUNTER

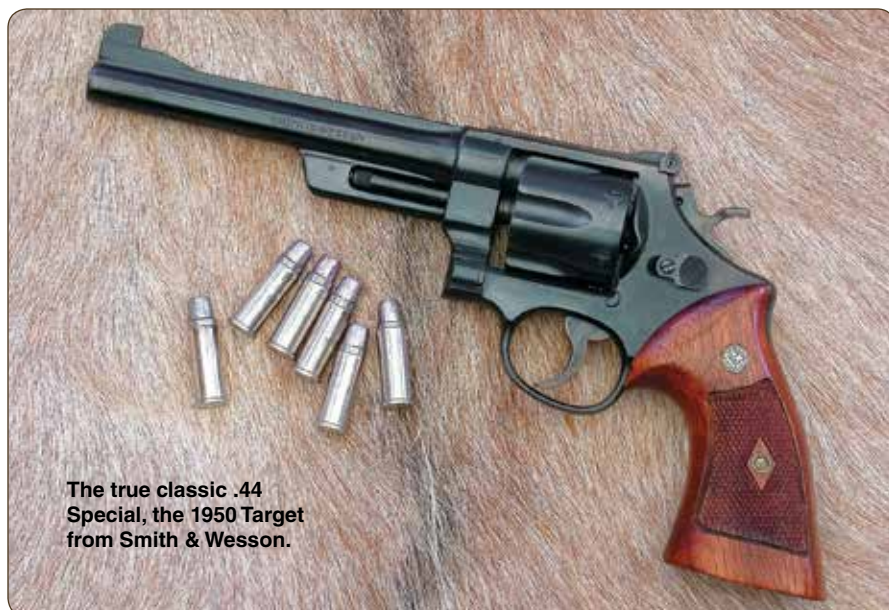
The .44 Special with heavy loads in the early Smith & Wesson and Colt Revolvers was the first true hunting sixgun cartridge and remains an excellent choice today for deer-sized game at reasonable ranges. I have taken some large feral pigs in the 500- to 650-lb. class with the Keith Heavy .44 Special load. As an everyday working load today, my standard choice is now Skeeter Skelton's load of a 250-grain semi-wadcutter over 7.5 grains of Unique for right around 950 fps. This will do all I require of a sixgun at this stage of my life. To duplicate the original .44 Special I use the same bullet over 6.0 grains of Unique, 5.5 grains of W231, or 4.5 grains of Red Dot or Tite Group. The more I shoot, the more I enjoy this easy shooting and accurate load.

As a self-defense proposition it would be hard to find a better cartridge than a properly loaded .44 Special. The Keith load is definitely not the best choice nor at the other end of the spectrum, the standard original 246-grain round-nose bullet load which has been the standard for over 100 years. There are a few offerings such as the Speer 200-grain Gold Dot HP offered as a self-defense load.

**"AS A SELF-DEFENSE PROPOSITION
IT WOULD BE HARD TO FIND
A BETTER CARTRIDGE THAN
A PROPERLY LOADED .44 SPECIAL."**



One of the last Colt New Frontier .44 Specials was this one produced in the 175th year of Colt.



The true classic .44 Special, the 1950 Target from Smith & Wesson.

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THE .41 COLT COMING FULL CIRCLE ON AN ENIGMA CARTRIDGE

The .41 Colt and I have a love-hate relationship. I love the ancient round because it was a verifiable part of Old West history. Chambered in my first firearms' love – the Colt SAA – it was the fifth most popular caliber in terms of numbers made in 1st Generation production. In Colt's SAA "Bisley," the .41 Colt was fifth in numbers produced. The Model 1877DA, nicknamed Thunderer, was specifically .41 Colt. It was made by the thousands.

LOVE/HATE

What I hate is the .41 Colt is not exactly a handloading sweetheart. When I first started handloading for a nice Colt SAA .41



Duke has only seen Colt revolvers for the .41 caliber simply marked "41 Colt."

in 1982, factory ammo was rarely encountered, reloadable brass and proper bullet molds were almost nonexistent. Finally, having gathered the necessary items, my first handloads would have been embarrassing if anyone else had been present. The pull of the sixgun's trigger resulted in a "pow" rather than a "bang" and the bullets actually bounced off my half-inch plywood

target backboard. We will get back to this later.

Without delving into definite introduction dates, here's how the .41 Colt story played out. In the 1870s a little pop-gun called Colt's New Line Pocket revolver was introduced. Its cartridge was .41 Colt with a case length nominally of 0.63" with 163-grain heel-type lead bullet over 15 grains

"A DOZEN YEARS AGO ALL THE .41 COLT REVOLVERS AND RELOADING TOOLS WERE SOLD TO SCRATCH THIS ITCH. I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER."



During the 1st Generation of Colt SAA production, the .41 Colt (aka .41 Long Colt) was fifth-most-popular caliber in the Peacemaker and fourth in the Bisley.

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of black powder. A few years later, along with the revolutionary Colt Model 1877DA, a more powerful .41 Colt load appeared. It had a 0.93" case with 200-grain heel-type lead bullet and 21 or 22 grains of black powder. This second round gained the moniker "Long" and the former one was then called "Short." Various sources rate these heel-type bullets as being from 0.401" to 0.408" in diameter. The single .41 Short Colt round in my collection has a 0.401" bullet.

In my opinion, heel-type bullets were the idea of a handloading demon. They have a full diameter upper body with a reduced diameter shank to fit inside the cartridge case. Bullet lube was usually carried in exposed grooves on the full-diameter part. This type of bullet was *deadly* — not because it was fired from powerful revolvers but because all the crud stuck to the exposed lube, setting up horrible infections if one lodged in a victim's body. The same crud did nothing beneficial for revolver barrels either.

ANOTHER IDEA

Sometime in the late 1800s an unknown

person involved in ammunition production got a brainstorm. I imagine him thinking, "Why don't we make the bullet fit inside the case just like .44 S&W Russian and .45 Colt had done since the early 1870s?" The fly in the ointment was this — Colt .41 barrels were 0.400" to 0.408" across their rifling grooves and reducing bullets

enough to fit inside cartridge cases made them only 0.386". Of course the Civil War was recent history at the time and the most famous projectile used therein was the Minie Ball. It was a hollow-based, pure lead bullet, undersized in regards to rifle-musket barrels. Minie Balls would slide easily down a rifled barrel. When fired the



The five most popular chamberings of the Colt SAA/Bisley were from left: .45 Colt, .44-40, .38-40, .41 Colt and .32-20.

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soft lead “skirts” of the projectile expanded into rifling grooves. The miracle isn’t such a system worked but that it worked so well — to the distress of hundreds of thousands of Civil War soldiers.

And so, another .41 “Long” Colt was born. Cases were made 1.13" with a deep hollow base in a 200-grain very blunt bullet. Powder charge remained 21/22 grains. By the early 1900s factory loads with smokeless propellants became available.

BACK AT THE BENCH

Now back to handloading. In 1982 I managed to find an old Lyman bullet mold #386177. Sadly it was the heel-type design. Also found were “new” .41 Long Colt factory loads in plain white boxes. The supposed story is Winchester made a million rounds in the 1970s for some distributor. They were good — my SAA shot great with them and I got brass for reloading. The handloads giving bouncing bullets carried Bullseye powder. The heel-type bullets just set friction tight over the powder. No crimp was possible. (A friend figured out a possible crimp by altering wire-stripping pliers but that’s another story.) Even fast burning Bullseye



Cartridge at left is an original factory load of the .41 Colt, later named “Short.” At right is a factory load of the .41 “Long” Colt.

would not ignite properly without a crimp even with magnum primers. End of story; the Colt was sold.

My second work with the .41 Colt went much better. (Note: Never have I seen a Colt revolver of any type stamped “.41 Long Colt.”) Along the way I acquired Lyman’s long discontinued bullet mold

#386178 for a 200-grain hollowbase 0.386" bullet. Also a (now defunct) mold maker named Rapine offered a hollowbase 200-grain 0.386" bullet. My Colt SAA and 1877DA Thunderer shot fine with either bullet.

FULL CIRCLE

And then things changed. I decided my vault needed a large assortment of World War II firearms. A dozen years ago all the .41 Colt revolvers and reloading tools were sold to scratch this itch. I should have known better. My favorite song by the late Harry Chapin was “Circle” and it’s exactly what I’ve done. In 2020 I bought two .41 Colts: a fine Colt SAA and another Thunderer, and picked up a spare .41 Colt cylinder for my SAA .38-40.

Also spent were several hundred gun’rter bucks for more reloading tools. The situation is easier now. Starline makes .41 Long Colt brass and a hollowbase mold for 200-grain flat nose bullets arrived five days after ordering. I’m purposefully saving the details of the mold and its maker for another column because ingenuity deserves better than a mere mention. 🔫

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THE .22-250 NOT POPULAR, BUT STILL EFFECTIVE

Big-case .22 centerfires such as the .220 Swift, .22-250 Rem. and .223 WSSM aren't in big demand at present. Medium-capacity cases are most popular, especially the .223 Rem. that has just steamrolled the competition. If anything, the trend has been to even smaller capacity cases and smaller bores such as the .221 Fireball, .204 Ruger, .17 Hornet. I have to admit my .22-250 and .220 Swift rifles haven't seen much use in recent years.

TWIST IS THE KEY

I see a future for big-case .22s in hunting for game such as deer, antelope

and feral pigs. Innovations in bullet technology have resulted in 0.224" bullets with higher ballistic coefficients and stronger construction, making them very capable deer/antelope cartridges, ideal for light rifles with light recoil. I like 75-grain bullets as a good compromise of velocity, ballistic coefficient and terminal performance on game. Such bullets require a fast twist if they are to stabilize, especially at the colder temperatures often encountered when hunting deer. A 1:9 twist is about the minimum acceptable, a 1:8 or faster is preferable for use in cold temperatures with heavier bullets.

Of course one can always order a custom barrel with whatever twist you desire but I am more interested in what's available from manufacturers. There are a few factory rifles in .223 with 1:8 and 1:9 twists but the pickings in .22-250 are slim. Looking around on the Internet I can find models with 1:14, 1:12 and 1:10 twists. I believe Tikka made a small run of T3x .22-250s with 1:8 twist on special order but these are not shown on the Tikka web site. I know of no 1:8 twist .22-250 rifles in current production and only one in 1:9, the Browning X-Bolt.

BROWNING BEAUTY

The X-Bolt shown here is a Composite Stalker model I bought at a local gun shop. The X-Bolt has been a very successful model for Browning and deservedly so. The rifle

"I SEE A FUTURE FOR BIG-CASE .22S IN HUNTING FOR GAME SUCH AS DEER, ANTELOPE AND FERAL PIGS."



Dave likes 75-grain bullets such as the Hornady BTHP and ELD-M for deer hunting with the .22-250. Both RL-17 and Superperformance powder provide high velocity and excellent accuracy.

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The Missile Strike is a great combination of combat and utility. Its narrow blade with long swedge allows for great penetrating stabs (the swedge can be sharpened upon request). The 1/4" thickness provides enough weight to add some power in stabbing, slashing, and when smashing using the pointed pommel.

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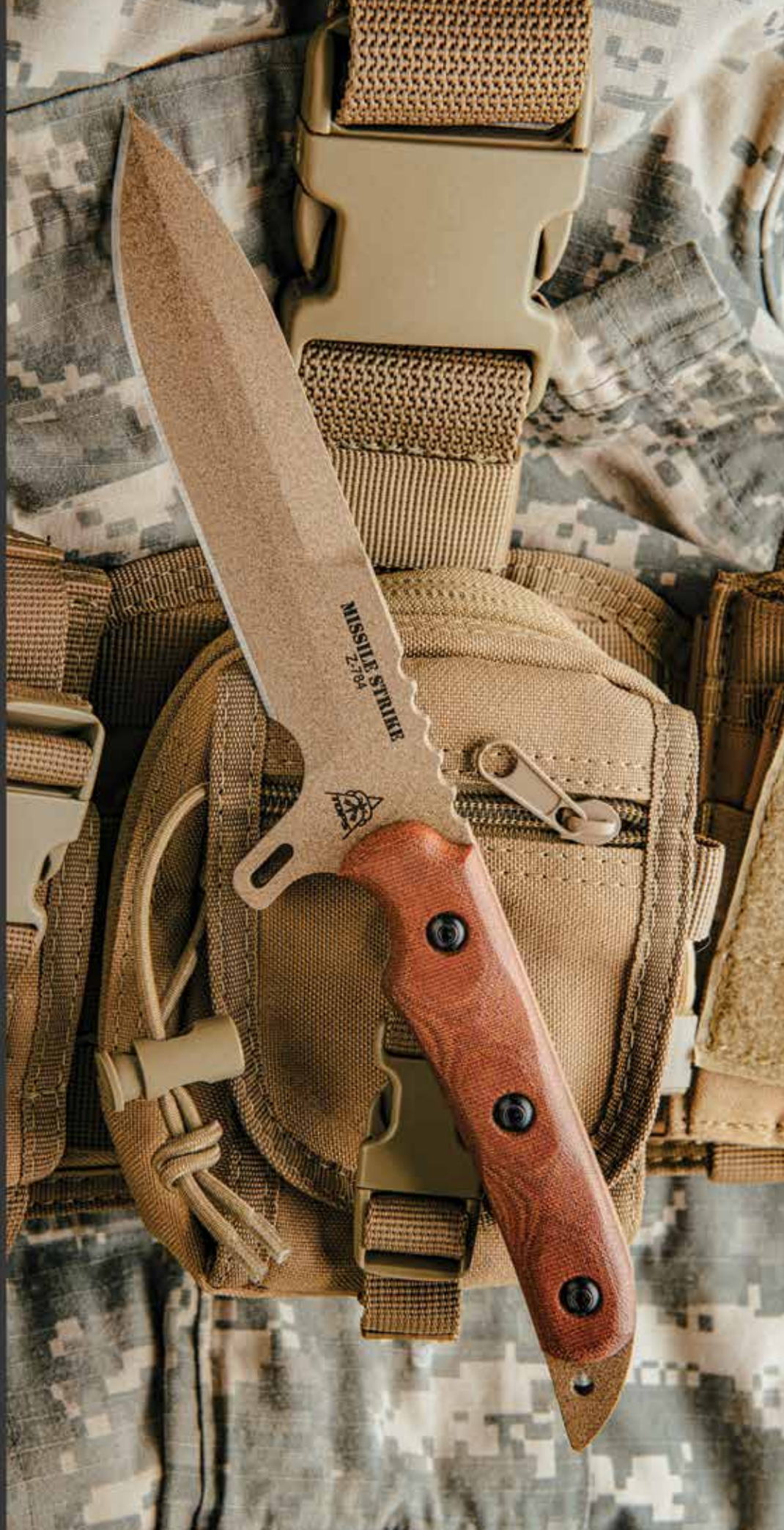
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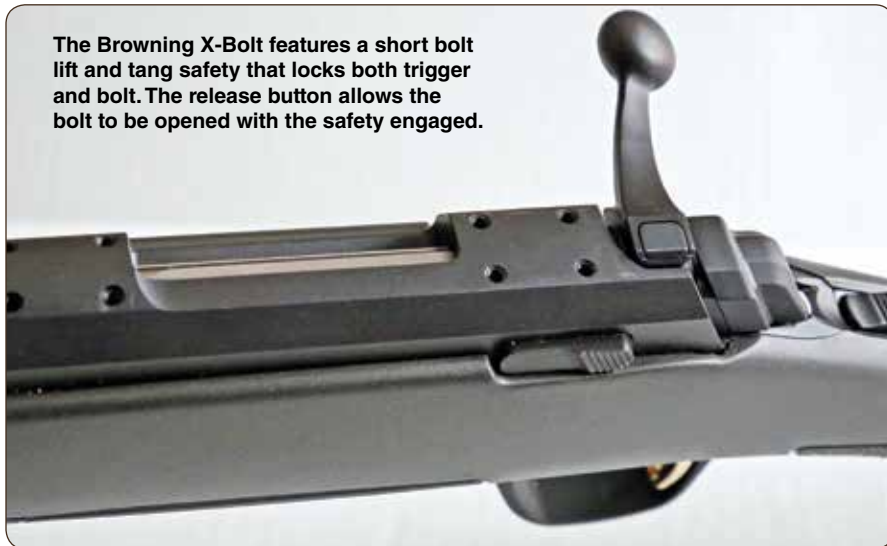


is very well designed, made with excellent workmanship from high quality materials. It is accurate, easy to shoot well and has been completely reliable.

The X-Bolt has three locking lugs with a short 60-degree bolt lift. The detachable magazine is a rotary style with a single position straight-line feed for smooth cartridge feeding. It is made of some sort of very tough synthetic and feels as though you could drive over it without damaging it. Browning barrels are highly regarded for their smoothness and accuracy. I like the four screws per scope base and the soft recoil pad — not really needed on a .22-250 but nice to have on the .300 and .338 Win. Mag. models.

My only criticisms of the rifle are purely personal aesthetics. I don't care for the gold-plated trigger or the Browning buck head logo on the underside of the trigger guard. Browning has gone to a lot of effort to make the logo instantly recognizable — I guess I'm jaded. I remember a northern fishing trip where every second pickup had

The Browning X-Bolt features a short bolt lift and tang safety that locks both trigger and bolt. The release button allows the bolt to be opened with the safety engaged.



the Browning logo on the rear window, and every second person was wearing a buck's head cap.

LOADS

All my shooting was done with handloads using .22-250 Hornady brass and

two 75-grain Hornady bullets — the BTHP at 0.981" long and the plastic-tip ELD-M measuring 1.121" overall. The loads I used came right out of the Hornady #10 manual, working up to the maximum listed, 379-grain Alliant RL-17 rated at 3,300 fps, and 41.0-grain Hodgdon Superperformance

Quality .22-250 components — Hornady brass, SuperPerformance and Alliant RL-17 powders, 75-grain Hornady BTHP and ELD-M bullets.





A beefy receiver and four-screw scope base attachment provide a great foundation for building accuracy.



Browning X-Bolt Composite Stalker has a short bolt lift with plenty of hand clearance between bolt and scope for Dave's choice of a Nightforce 2.5-10x42 scope on a 20 moa Talley rail.

at 3,350 fps. The Hornady velocities were taken in 24" barrels. In the 22" barrel of my rifle the Oehler 33 chronograph showed 3,220 fps with RL-17 and 3,255 with Superperformance.

A gripe I have with this, and most rifles, is they can't seem to get barrel twist, barrel throating, and magazine length all working together. The 1:9 twist is acceptable — depending on bullet profile, the barrel throat will allow a cartridge overall length of 2.500" to 2.600". But to fit the magazine, maximum overall cartridge length is limited to 2.388". The 75-grain bullets must be fairly deep-seated and then they have to jump as much as 0.21" to reach the rifling. I don't consider this a deal-breaker as the accuracy was excellent. Some handloaders like a bit of free bullet travel to reduce peak pressure. I just like having the option to seat bullets out to the rifling and still having them fit the magazine.

Both bullets stabilized in the 1:9 twist shooting in temperatures of around 50 degrees F. According to the online JBM stability calculator the longer ELD-M bullet becomes only marginally stable at a temperature of 0 degrees F. Which is why, come deer season, I'll be using the Hornady 75-grain BTHP at 3,200+ fps.

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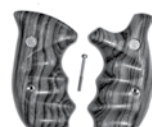
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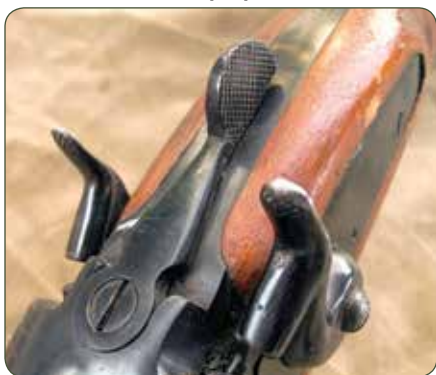
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Relying on a physiological factor to deter an attack is folly, but seen from the business end of a double barrel, the cavernous twin muzzles does give reason for pause!



A simple bead sight between the barrels will suffice for most purposes.



Pushing the top lever to the left will allow the gun to break open for loading and unloading.



Logically, the left trigger fires the left barrel and the right trigger fires the right barrel.

DOUBLE THE BARRELS, DOUBLE THE FUN

FACING BIRDS OR BAD GUYS, IT'S STILL IMPRESSIVE

Side-by-side, alley sweeper, street artillery, guard gun, coach gun, scattergun or simply “double” are some of the monikers the double barrel shotgun has gone by.

The side-by-side has been romanticized in countless western movies and TV shows. In the movie *Tombstone* the double was featured in several scenes including the shootout between the Earp and Clanton factions.

Try to find a scene with a stagecoach where the driver was not accompanied by a man with a shotgun. This is where the nickname *coach gun* came from. It is also

cocked. The internal hammer models have a manual sliding safety behind the top lever and cock automatically when the action is closed.

With the internal hammer guns, for safety many hunters will break the gun open and carry it in the crook of the support side arm in case the safety is inadvertently pushed off. It is also a comfortable way to carry afield.

Unlike any other type of shotgun double barrels don't have ejectors, only extractors.

As one would surmise, on doubles with two triggers the left trigger fires the left

**“HOLDING THE FOREARM WITH THE
SUPPORT HAND, OBTAIN TWO SHELLS,
INSERT THEM IN THE CHAMBER, CLOSE
THE ACTION AND FIND WORK.”**

where the terms “riding shotgun” or “I call shotgun” originated.

In coach gun format, the guns usually employ 20" but are still shorter (and handier) than a shotgun with an 18" because of the longer receivers on pumps and semi-autos.

TYPES

There are two types: exposed hammers and internal hammers, though they share some similarities. Both are break-open types and are opened by pushing a top lever to the left. The versions with exposed hammers are obviously safe when the hammers are not

barrel and the right trigger fires the right. On doubles with a single trigger there is usually a selector for which barrel is fired first.

AT WORK – OR PLAY

In Cowboy Action Shooting (CAS) action events the internal hammer versions are preferred by competitors because it takes less time off the clock than cocking the hammers manually before firing. It's simply a matter of sliding the safety forward as the gun is brought to bear on target.

Double barrels — in both shotguns and rifles — are regulated to shoot to the



The double — it might not be “the gun that won the West” but it sure saved a lot of gold shipments!

same point of aim out to a certain distance. For shotguns the patterns start to diverge around 40 yards. Since this is beyond the practical range of shot shells — with a few notable exclusions — the subject of regulation is almost irrelevant.

Except for a few very accomplished shooters, a double barrel is faster to fire the first two shots. In a gun with two triggers both barrels can be touched off together.

Legend has it when Wyatt Earp encountered Curly Bill Brocius at Mescal Springs, he fired both barrels from his 10-gauge shotgun, almost cutting Brocius in half.

RELOADS

Performing an emergency reload with a slide-action or semi-auto with a single shell is fast — simply drop a shell in the open ejection port and close the action. In the same amount of time the side-by-side can be loaded with two rounds.

For the shooter who knows how to run a double barrel, maintaining a continuity of fire may not be as hard as it seems at first blush.

One technique for unloading/loading the double is to open the action and then quickly and forcefully jerking the gun to the rear. Holding the forearm with the support hand, obtain two shells, insert them in the chamber, close the action and find work.

If I were to compete in a CAS match, I would choose a double with internal hammers for the reasons described above. My personal taste, possibly only for nostalgic reasons, is for a double barrel with exposed hammers.

The gun shown was imported by Intrac Arms and belongs to my son Flint. It has seen hard use and taken countless dove and quail, and served to protect hearth and home. I appreciate the fact it came with sling swivels installed as I subscribe to the line of thought — a sling to a long gun is as a holster is to a handgun.

In the defensive role and stoked with standard nine-pellet 00-buckshot loads, both barrels will place the 18 pellets in a 10" circle from 30 feet. I consider this a realistic distance for self-defense.

No, the double barrel shotgun is far from obsolete. As with any firearm, technique matters more than anything. Get your grandpa's old double barrel out of the closet and double your fun.



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THE “PLAY LIKE YOU PRACTICE” THING ... REALISTIC PRACTICE CONDITIONS ARE CRITICAL

It's axiomatic — we “play like we practice,” and therefore should be “building our repetitions” with the same gear, even the same clothing, and as much as possible the same conditions we're likely to encounter on “game day.” If the game in question is defensive shooting then it's really no “game” at all, and the stakes are very, very high.

ON THE RANGE

We all know the shooter who appears at the match wearing shorts, sweat-wicking T-shirt, high-tech Solomon running shoes and runs a long-barrel pistol replete with optical sight and recoil compensator, drawn from an uncovered belt-mounted gun shelf competition holster extending far enough from the body to knock over passing children. Some of them actually carry a Ruger LCP .380 or 2" J-Frame .38 in the pocket of tight-fitting skinny jeans or perhaps a tailored suit when out and about, often shod in flip-flops on off-days and leather-soled dress Florsheims on work days.

Not exactly relevant, is it? When I first donned badge and gun in the early 1970s, it was common for cops to carry Elmer Keith Memorial Magnum ammunition in their service revolvers, but to qualify with mouse-fart .38 Special wadcutters? Heck, I remember a Texas cop who told me in the '80s he qualified with his 6" K-38, but carried a 4" Model 29 on duty with full power .44 Magnum. This sort of thing turned out not to end well, and the paradigm changed. This same paradigm has played out in other ways, and it's not limited to choice of guns and ammo.

DRESS FOR (DEFENSIVE PRACTICE) SUCCESS

For concealed carry, it makes sense to practice drawing from what you're likely to be wearing in an actual defensive situation. Quick draw from open carry can actually be counterproductive to the concealed carrier because it usually won't incorporate the movement pattern you need to clear the cover garment.

Do you have to wear suits, as I do for court and such? A suit jacket, particularly in tropical weight, may not be as easy for the drawing hand to clear back as, say, a photographer's vest. In hot weather, my typical casual garb is a T-shirt under an untucked, open-front Columbia style shirt. The light fabric will be slower for the drawing hand



Mas drills on drawing and firing a GLOCK 26 from under a suit coat.



to clear than, say, the stiff canvas-like material of the Armadillo vest I might wear for maximum speed concealed carry draw in an IDPA match.

What about cold weather? Heavy weather clothing can prevent full arm extension for some who favor the Isosceles stance; the bent arms of a Weaver stance might work better. Have you worked with reaching under, say, the topcoat and suit coat you might use to cover your gun in Sunday-go-to-church garb? Leaving the inner jacket unbuttoned and the outer coat fastened no lower than the solar plexus will still allow strong side hip draw — if we've practiced it.

I remember about 30 years ago at an early National Tactical Invitation event when Jeff Cooper acolyte Mark Moritz competed wearing a suit jacket. He got an award for High Realist. Made sense to me.

Winter gloves make the pistol harder to hold. A finger with thick glove may apply trigger pressure early in a handgun with small trigger guard, such as a 1911, and may block trigger return on a double action revolver after the first shot. A gloved thumb may fumble with a manual safety or decocking lever. Gotta try it to know.

UNIFORM CONSIDERATIONS

As a police firearms instructor, I always tried to get each officer to qualify in full uniform instead of utility fatigues or jeans and T-shirts at least now and then. A tailored Class A uniform can bind the arms in

These Florida Highway Patrol troopers are qualifying in uniform with their issue GLOCKs — a realistic approach. In cold weather, practice drawing from under heavy coats and shooting with winter gloves. Below, the traditional double action auto like this SIG Legion P229 9mm works well in those conditions.



certain shooting positions, and even limit flexibility in kneeling and other types of "position shooting."

Body armor can also limit range of movement. I've seen big guys whose ability to shoot from an arms-extended Isosceles was hampered by a frontal vest panel too large for them, or too rigid. Sometimes, a person's build is such they can just barely reach a strong-side hip holster with their weak-side hand if the gun arm is taken out of play, and the body armor adds just enough girth they can no longer do so. If you were the officer, wouldn't you want to find out beforehand and compensate with a backup gun where the non-dominant hand can reach it in a worst case scenario?

"You Play Like You Practice" is real. And, as noted, it goes beyond the guns and the holsters.

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LEVERGUN LOADS: .45 COLT PART III – JACKETED BULLETS GO HEAVY, GET ACCURATE

The .45 Colt arrived in the early 1870s mostly due to the fact the military would not accept the '71-72 Open-Top .44 Colt had submitted for the trials. Colt was sent back to the drawing board with a request for a sixgun with a top strap as well as a larger caliber. The result was

the almost supernaturally inspired Colt Single Action Army. For 100 years this was *the* .45 Single Action. Then Ruger came out with their .45 Blackhawk on the .44 Magnum frame and suddenly we had a sixgun capable of handling heavier .45 Colt loads than was possible in the Colt Single

Action. In the early years of the Ruger .45 Blackhawk we were pretty much confined to the use of cast bullets and even then, to get heavier bullets, we found it necessary to size-down 300-grain .45-70 bullets.

NEW BULLETS

It wasn't long before jacketed bullets started to appear. By the mid-1980s we had the Sierra 240 JHC, the Hornady 250 JHP and the Speer 260 JHP. I used the latter especially in Long Range Silhouetting. In 1983 Freedom Arms brought out the first .454 Casull Single Action from their new factory in Freedom, Wyo. Not only did Freedom Arms produce the finest single actions ever to come from a factory they also offered loaded ammunition, brass cases and jacketed bullets including 240-, 260- and 300-grain versions. Now we had a good supply of suitable jacketed bullets for use in Marlin and Winchester lever actions.



The proper way to shoot a Marlin or Winchester levergun is to leave it on the shoulder while working the action.



John's Marlin Trapper compared to longer-barreled Marlins. Micro-groove rifling can be exceptionally accurate when paired with the right load.

To go along with my Ruger and Freedom Arms sixguns, I acquired a pair of Winchester 1894AE Trapper .45 Colt leverguns with 16" barrels. Today I still have my two Winchester Trappers and both wear receiver sights. However, in those early days one of them was equipped with a 4X scope just to see what kind of accuracy was possible. All of my testing was done with three-shot groups at 50 yards. It did not take long to find the Winchester Trappers were quite accurate. All of my work in those days was done with Hodgdon's H110 and Winchester's W296 powders. At the time and for many years after, reloaders argued about these two powders being the same. Hodgdon now owns Winchester Powders and a check of their Annual Manual shows the exact reloading data for both powders. This is also true of HP-38 and W231 — same powders.

Using the 240 Sierra Jacketed Hollow Cavity bullets gave the following results from the Winchesters: 23.0 grains of H110 registered 1,550 fps with a three-shot group of 1-1/4" and 25.0 grains, 1,681 fps, 1-1/4". A 250 Hornady and the same 23.0 grains of H110 charge resulted in just under 1,600 fps with three shots in 7/8". The same charge



with the 260-grain Speer was 100 fps slower, with three shots in a one-hole, 1/2" group. This was 35 years ago and unfortunately the black and white pictures from those days are long lost. I really pushed the Freedom Arms 300-grain JHP and the Winchester. Using 27.0 grains of W296 gave me 1,750 feet per second and a 1" group. This load was much more powerful than factory .45-70 loads available at the time and these days I don't feel like I need this kind of power nor do I want to shoot anything so heavy off my shoulder, now in the second year of its ninth decade.

MOVING TO MARLIN

Moving up to more modern times, I have now equipped my Marlin 1894 Trapper .45 Colt with a 4X scope. In the last installment I mentioned how accurate this rifle was with cast bullets. Even with all the experience I've had shooting Micro-Grooved barreled Marlin's over the past 40+ years I was still quite surprised not only at how well this little Marlin shoots but also how easy it is to acquire excellent results.

I found it almost impossible, no actually impossible, to come up with a bad-shooting group using jacketed bullets in this Marlin Trapper. My loads have been toned down somewhat from 35 years ago making it quite pleasant to spend several hours at a time shooting from the bench. Here are some of my results: With 21.0 grains of #2400 the Sierra 240 JHC gives a muzzle velocity of 1,568 fps and a 1" group; Hornady 250 XTP,

1,543 fps, 1-1/4"; and with the relatively new Speer 250 Deep Curl Hollow Point the muzzle velocity is right at 1,500 fps with the ruler reading 3/4" on the three-shot group. These are excellent results, however only the beginning and the accuracy continues to surprise.

ULTIMATE ACCURACY

Switching to Accurate #9 using the same bullets and the same charge of 21.0 grains resulted in the Sierra 240 JHC at 1,441 fps and a 7/8" group; the Hornady 250 XTP, 1,505 fps, 5/8"; and the Speer 250 DCHP puts three shots into 3/4" while traveling 1,535 fps at the muzzle. My milder shooting loads, which are easy shooting but still plenty potent for most uses, are assembled with Hodgdon's IMR #4227. With the above-mentioned Speer 250-grain bullet 23.5 grains results in 1,364 fps and a 3/4" group while the 300-grain Speer DCHP designed for use in the .454 Casull loaded over 21.0 grains is just under 1,200 fps and 3/8" — which continues to astound me. Either of these loads are more than adequate for hunting in the lower 48 while still being very pleasant to shoot.

Over the years I've had Marlin rifles with Micro-Groove barrels chambered in everything from .22 Long Rifle up to the .45-70 and everything in between. This Marlin .45 Colt is overall the most accurate centerfire Marlin rifle I have ever experienced. I wonder what it would have done when I was still in my invincible period?



John uses a variety of jacketed bullets (above) from Hornady, Sierra and Speer for loads in the Marlin .45 Colt levergun. Speer's latest Deep Curl Hollow Point bullets (below) along with H110 and IMR 4227 all result in excellent easy shooting loads in the Marlin .45 Colt.



THE NAME IS AIR ... POWER

UNLIMITED AMMO IS ALL AROUND US!

Guess who isn't having any trouble with the Great Ammo Shortage of 2020? Airgunners, that's who. On the simple end of the air power spectrum, the shelves of my local Rotten Mart are chock full of BBs, pellets, and CO₂ cylinders. And the prices are ... the same as they've always been.

The same observations hold true at the high end of the market. If you're into shooting those masterpieces of compressed air perfection — high-end PCP rifles — you generally have to supply your own compressed air. Sorry, but those garage air compressors from Lowes and Home Depot won't cut it. You can "buy" 3,000 or 4,500 psi pre-compressed air and store it in SCUBA or carbon fiber tanks for later use. It works pretty well. With a tank or two, you can survive on a monthly trip to your local dive shop or paintball center to stock up.

Note: they never run out of compressed air, no matter how much panic buying sets in.

Or, if you want to control your own destiny, you can invest in your own compressed air factory. A "proper" unit will last a couple of centuries and cost you a couple large. However, companies like Benjamin and Air Venturi have been busy turning the compressor market on its ear with new portable, and affordable, offerings.

BENJAMIN TRAVELER

The Benjamin Traveler is a "direct fill" design. While the big, multi-thousand-dollar compressors are built to fill large containers, like carbon fiber tanks, with dozens of cubic feet of 4,500 psi air, the Traveler is built to fill a rifle or pistol's air reservoir directly — a much simpler undertaking. The trickle-down benefit of the design is reduced cost — you can buy a

Traveler for about \$500.

The Benjamin Traveler system consists of two boxes (compressor and power supply), an AC power cord, a DC power cord with alligator clips, and a high-pressure air hose with integrated moisture filter. The pump itself measures 10"x10"x16" and packs a convenient carry handle. The separate power unit handles the conversion of AC to DC power. If you're running from a car or other vehicle battery then all you need is the compressor unit and the right battery cables. Yep — you can power this little wonder directly from a car, boat, or ATV.

After connecting the hose's Foster fitting to your gun or probe adapter, just use the pressure gauge needles to the desired fill pressure and turn the unit on. The Traveler will shut itself off when pressure is reached or if the unit overheats. The process couldn't be simpler. Do remember to

The new crop of portable compressors, like this Air Venturi Nomad, are designed for direct fill use. They'll top off a rifle in just a couple of minutes.





release the pressure from the hose before disconnecting from your airgun. Can you say “angry airborne snake”? Trust me on this one.

The Traveler isn’t as quiet as the bigger and more expensive stationary units but you can take it just about anywhere, and therein lies the win. Bring it to the range or hunting fields and shoot as much as you like with an unlimited air supply.

I tested fill times for a variety of different guns, and in most cases, the process to “top off” an airgun with an extra 1,000 or 1,500 psi took between three and four minutes.

AIR VENTURI NOMAD

Like the Traveler, the Nomad is a portable unit that runs just peachy on 12-volt or 120-volt systems so use it at home or take it on the road. I would describe the Nomad as slightly higher on the premium scale as it offers more features at its slightly higher \$699.99 price point.

It comes with a canvas carrying case holding everything you need including the alligator clips for vehicle use. The Nomad II has a pressure gauge with an easy-to-set pressure dial. Just set the bugs at your desired pressure and the Nomad takes care of the rest. Do be sure to watch the filling process. You’re dealing with mega-pressures here so it’s always safer to make sure everything is working as expected. Unlike the Traveler, the Nomad divides power and “compressor on” functions between two buttons. When the unit is powered

Above, moisture trap — important for preventing wet air from getting into your expensive guns. Below, The Air Venturi Nomad packs both compressor and power supply into a box about the size of a canned beverage 12-pack.



up, lights, cooling fans and status indicators operate. When ready to fill, press the second button.

There are a couple of additional features you won’t find on other portable models. A moisture drain allows discharge of water buildup. There’s also an oil fill port for silicone-based lubricant. The big difference is the internal power supply — everything you need for 120- or 12-volt operation is contained in the main unit.

Here’s the bottom line. These units are handy with a capital H. If you like shooting PCP small or big bore airguns, run, don’t walk to your nearest dealer and pick up your own infinite air supply. 

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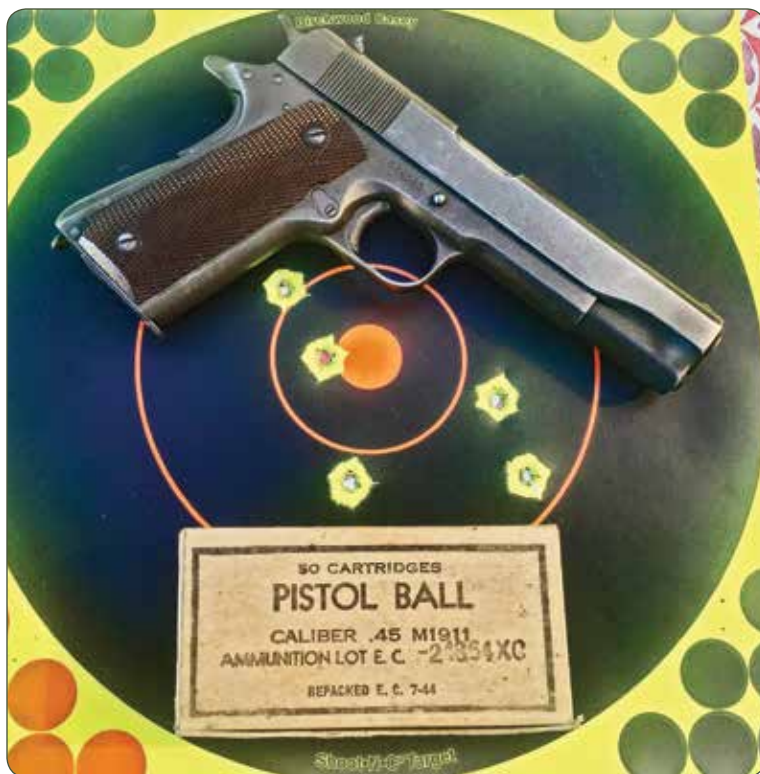
UNION SWITCH & SIGNAL 1911A1

SPAM CAN AND STEEL CASES: GI 1911A1 WITH ISSUED AMMO

Payton Miller

“We’re about to find out what 1944 air smelled like,” Thomas Mackie said jokingly as he started turning the key to open our sealed WWII vintage 600-round “Spam Can” of .45 ACP ammo. He was only half-kidding. The olive drab, yellow-lettered can — in all its glorious air-tightness — had been withstanding the elements for longer than either of us had been alive.

This remarkably compact, yet ass-bustingly hefty 6"x8"x5.5" container weighed around 30 lbs., give or take a couple of 230-grain increments. The shopworn 50-round cartons within bore the inscription “Repacked 7/44” that would indicate this “invasion can” was more than likely destined for Japan.



At 25 yards, the old 1911A1 delivered serviceable accuracy with vintage military ball — certainly within “minute-of-enemy” accuracy!

And it had sat for some 76 years, waiting for a couple of aging civilians to open it up and shoot it — but now, it wouldn’t be destined for a Thompson M1 or an M3 Grease Gun. For us, the stuff was destined for a prized Union Switch & Signal 1911A1 we’d temporarily obtained — after signing in blood — from our semi-regular shooting buddy, Nils Grevillius.

THE “SURPLUS” IS LONG GONE

In case you’re still wondering, the days of acquiring a modestly priced surplus 1911A1 are long, long gone. So if you’ve any fond memories of late 1950s/early ’60s gun magazine ads breathlessly touting “Ithaca or Colt GI .45s in VG Condition:

\$39.95,” please refer to L.P. Hartley’s dictum, “the past is a foreign country, they do things differently there ...”

Although our borrowed specimen wasn’t in minty enough condition to command the stratospheric prices I’ve seen on various auction lists and reference book estimates, it was still in good enough shape to fully justify the “kid gloves” treatment we gave it.

Some contractor-branded military guns — say, Rock-Ola M1 Carbines or International Harvester M1 Garands — just ooze desirable, collectible cool somehow, and a Union Switch & Signal 1911A1 is one of them. I don’t know why the incongruity between the contractor’s pre-war specialty (jukeboxes, pickup trucks, railroad accessories) sounds “funny” or what. But that’s my story and I’m stickin’ to it.

In terms of raw numbers, a US&S gun rates as a “choice piece.” Second only in rarity to the Singer contract guns of collectible legend (500 units produced), the Swissvale, Pennsylvania-based company specializing in railway signaling gear issued a relatively scanty 55,000 pistols. The big producers were, of course, Remington-Rand (900,000), Colt (400,000) and Ithaca (400,000).

According to Hallock’s *.45 Auto Handbook*, “The Union Switch & Signal Company received an order for pistols in 1943. This order was fulfilled but no other orders were placed as the railway equipment which this company manufactured was too badly needed. This is one of the scarce models.”

A BLOODY AND PRODUCTIVE YEAR

As anyone with even a cursory knowledge of WWII can tell you, the year 1943 was a momentous one. If any of the war years could classify as a “turning point,” 1943 would’ve been it. It saw the victorious resolution of the Battle of Stalingrad, and the Guadalcanal, Sicilian and Tunisian campaigns. It also encompassed the production run of Union Switch and Signal 1911A1s (SN 1041405 to 1096404). And it also matched the actual “1943” headstamp on

the cartridges.

Even being a relatively modest player in the 1911A1 sweepstakes was no small undertaking. Around 600 different machining operations on US&S pistol parts required 658 different machines, 421 types of cutting and drilling tools and 447 different gauges. Each pistol had 4/5ths of its original weight machined from the original forging during the course of 106 operations.

Cosmetically, our US&S specimen was typical — Parkerized finish, signature arched mainspring housing and those cool brown plastic checkered grip panels. They rated highly as far as fit, finish and parts interchangeability goes.



Compact combo: Thirty-nine ounces of US&S 1911A1 backed up by nearly 30 lbs. of .45 ACP ball, conveniently sealed up in a 600-round “Spam Can.”

The grip panels, incidentally, were made by separate contractors for all 1911A1 producers.

76 YEARS LATER

Our aim for this WWII gun/ammo exercise? Well, it was something we always wanted to try. Namely, a period pistol with period “issue” ammo. Straight wartime stuff all the way around. All my life I’d paid lip service to the glories of the 1911. But in all honesty, most of my experiences along those lines were with high-dollar guns (custom and semi-custom) using high-zoot defensive ammo packed in expensive 20- or 25-round “sampler packs.”

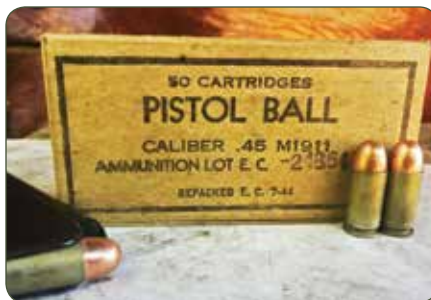
Now it was time to see what happens when the ideal of “what is” collides with “what was.” And a dead-stock issue GI US&S gun with a big old sealed can of “invasion ammo” would, I figured, give me a pretty good picture.

So, what could we expect, velocity and accuracy-wise, while laboring under the handicap of geezer eyeballs, a vintage pistol (with the original half-dip magazine) and a spam can full of steel-cased hardball (the economy wartime blend)?

The results were impressive and enlightening. They totally reaffirmed our faith in our country’s ability to field good stuff in vast quantities back in the day.



The term “Spam Can” is well-named. Once you pry the key off the can, use it to start rolling the metal strip to remove the lid and get to the 50-round cartons within.



Sealed up all these years: 50-round GI cartons of steel-cased 230-grain hardball. The stuff was pretty consistent — 820 fps average with an ES of 36 fps.

First off, the ammo. The average is 820 fps with an extreme spread of 36 fps. No, probably not quite match grade, but pretty gosh-darned good for service ammo pushing eight decades.

The trigger on ours — while not quite equal to a tuned Gold Cup — was plenty fine (and about ideal) for a military pistol: 4-1/2 lbs. and crisp enough for any discerning civilian hobbyist.

I’d like to report silver-dollar sized groups at 25 yards, but it would be a bit much to expect from old eyes, older ammo and a GI gun with sights which are, well ... somewhat vestigial. It drove home the fact, at least for me, higher profile sights (not necessarily adjustable ones) constitute the greatest single advancement in the 1911/1911A1 platform.

But the gun itself was fabulous. And, truth be told, a couple or three of those 600-round Spam Cans would still pretty much serve as a Doomsday Backup Ammo Supply for all of us not seriously anticipating the Great Zombie Apocalypse.

I love old WWII-era pistols — Soviet TT-33s, Polish Radoms, Finnish (and Swedish) Lahtis, Brit Hi-Powers and even German P-38s. Heck, I even like Italy’s .380 Model 1934 Beretta.

But this US&S 1911A1 is the coolest, and arguably the most effective, hands down! 🖱️

DENNY HANSEN

Twice a year gun writer Dick Williams organizes a three-day theme shoot and I recently attended one of these events at Gunsite. The theme for this event was the handguns peace officers working on the Southern border used in the period of 1900–1917. The class would cover single- and double-action revolvers and semiautomatics from the time period (or modern variations) with a different platform used each day.

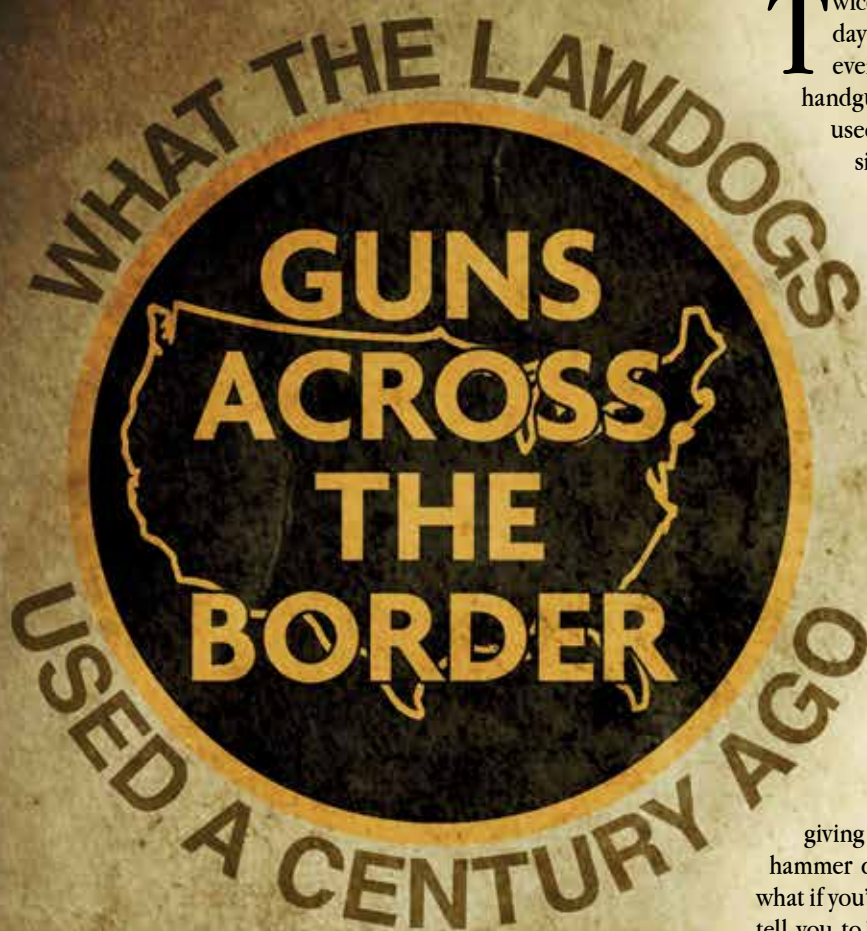
THE OLD WARHORSE

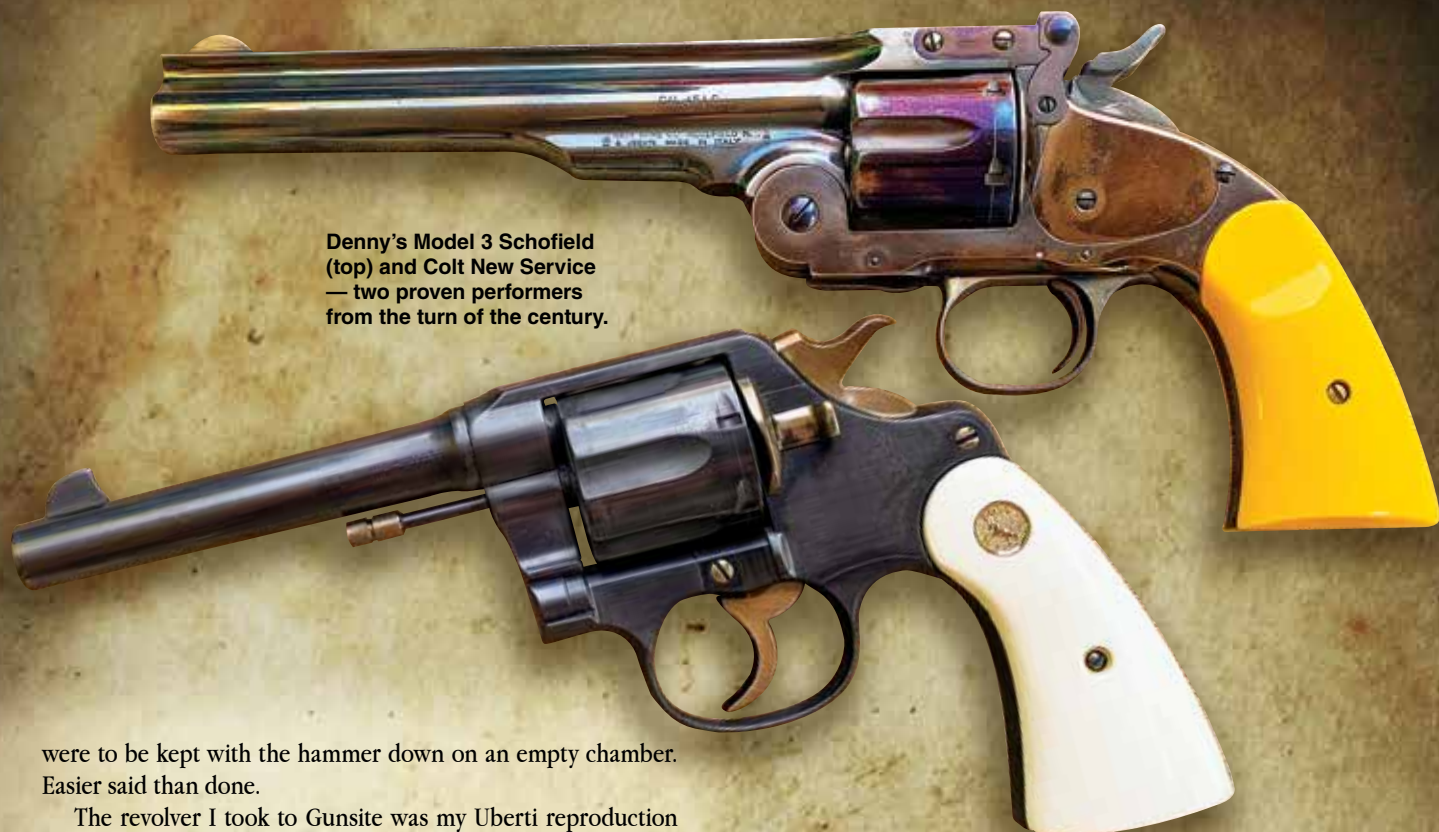
For “double-action day” I used my Colt New Service, chambered in .45 Colt, made in 1907. Two years after this one was made, the U.S. Army adopted this large frame revolver as the Model 1909 — two years before the 1911 became the standard-issue sidearm. A while back I had it expertly refinished for both recreational use and self-defense

Although not as light and easy to conceal as almost any modern pistol, there is something comforting about a big heavy revolver launching a 250-grain Black Hills Ammunition’s RNFP semi-wadcutter at 900 feet per second.

LOAD AND SHOOT

In the movie *The Shootist* with John Wayne, when giving a shooting lesson, J.B. Books tells Gillum to leave the hammer down on an empty chamber for safety. When asked what if you’re expecting trouble, he says, “load six if your insides tell you to.” Trying to keep the event as true to the period as possible, this became difficult on “Single-action day” as the guns





Denny's Model 3 Schofield (top) and Colt New Service — two proven performers from the turn of the century.

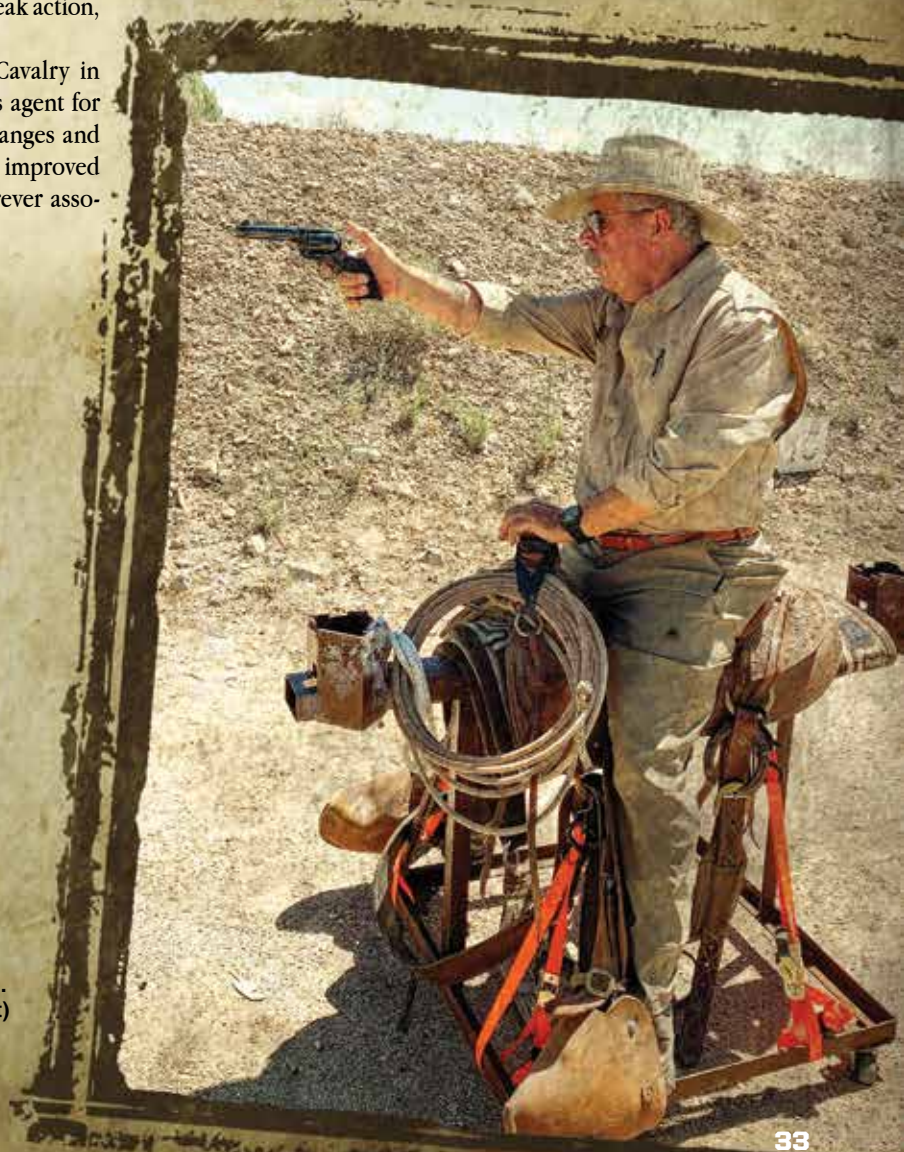
were to be kept with the hammer down on an empty chamber. Easier said than done.

The revolver I took to Gunsite was my Uberti reproduction S&W Model 3 Schofield. The unique top-break sixgun is always sure to attract interest and curiosity. Due to the top-break action, it's easy to load and unload.

Major George Schofield, serving with the 10th Cavalry in Kansas, learned of the No. 3 and became S&W's sales agent for Colorado and Kansas. He later made some design changes and was granted patents including a different latch and an improved extraction system. Hence the name Schofield was forever associated with the Smith & Wesson revolver.



The group enjoyed hearing about and shooting historic shotguns. Top to bottom: Winchester Model 1887, Winchester Model 1897 and 1905 vintage Remington Model 11. Retired Border Patrol officer Ed Head (right) back in his element, protecting the border from banditos. Photo: Mike Detty



The No. 3 has four hammer positions. After pulling the trigger, the hammer is all the way forward at rest with the integral firing pin protruding from the breech face.

Cocking the hammer to the first click retracts the firing pin, and the cylinder remains locked. This actually allows the Schofield to be carried fully loaded, although I've always been a bit wary about any "half-cocked" position — there is a good reason for the old saying, "Don't go off half-cocked."

Another click back unlocks the cylinder so it rotates freely. In either one of these partially cocked positions, the latch can be activated and the barrel and cylinder rotated down to simultaneously eject the shells.

The fully cocked hammer position is all the way back ready to make a loud noise.

While the Uberti reproduction will also chamber .45 Colt, I used authentic .45 Schofield ammo from Black Hills Ammunition.

COMING TO AMERICA

For the "semi-auto day" I took another reproduction — a 1911A1 imported by SDS Imports. Made in Turkey by TISAS, it is the closest reproduction of the gun used by the U.S. Army I have found. About the only thing different from the original is the magazine well is slightly beveled, and it has a polished feed ramp and barrel lip.

I didn't just want to compete with the 1911A1, I wanted to give it as much of an evaluation as I could during the short time I had. Over the day I fired in excess of 200 rounds of mixed ammunition including 230-grain full metal jacket, 228-grain cast round nose lead and 200-grain cast semi-wadcutters and did not experience a single malfunction.

Since I wanted to remain pure to the "period correct" theme, I used a GI flap holster on a web belt and web magazine pouches. I knew full well this would leave me out of the running in any man-against-man contests, but I did manage a respectable third place. Considering the flap was secured by the stud/hole arrangement on the holster I was quite content with my placing.

One of the differences between the 1911 and 1911A1 is the longer spur on the grip safety to avoid hammer bite. And although I was not bitten by the hammer, the narrow hammer spur caused enough discomfort to the web of my hand to make me appreciate the wide beavertail on modern 1911s.



At the Gunsite event Denny used an M1911A1 with a period-correct GI flap holster and web gear.

One thing all three handguns had in common were the small and narrow front sight with matching small rear sights. As expected, as distance increased, accuracy decreased even more than usual.

LAWDOG SCATTERGUNS

For a break from the late July Arizona sun, we had a show-and-tell session planned. When my turn came, I brought out three shotguns used by lawmen — and outlaws — in the early 1900s. All three were John M. Browning designs I have covered extensively in my *GUNS Magazine* shotgun columns.

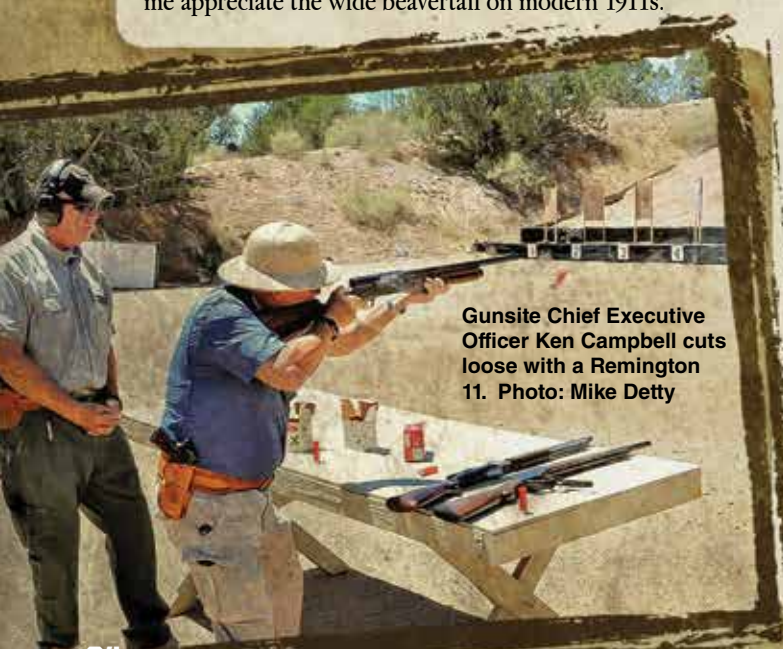
The first was a reproduction Winchester 1887 lever-action. This was a gun Browning really didn't want to design, but Winchester insisted on it for brand identity. Up next was an original Model 1897 made in 1907. This pump gun is probably the most identified shotgun used by U.S. troops in the trenches of World War I.

Finally I presented the Remington Model 11. Introduced initially as the Browning Auto-5, Remington purchased the rights to produce it starting in 1905. My Rem 11 is part of the first production run by Remington in 1905.

An interesting side note on the Remington 11 is by rearranging friction rings on the magazine tube and recoil spring, it can be set for either light or heavy loads. I demonstrated to the class how to accomplish this.

All attendees were given the chance to shoot each shotgun.

All shooting does not need to be tactical, or even practical for that matter. An event like this gives us the chance to kick back, reflect on our heritage and just have fun.



Gunsite Chief Executive Officer Ken Campbell cuts loose with a Remington 11. Photo: Mike Detty

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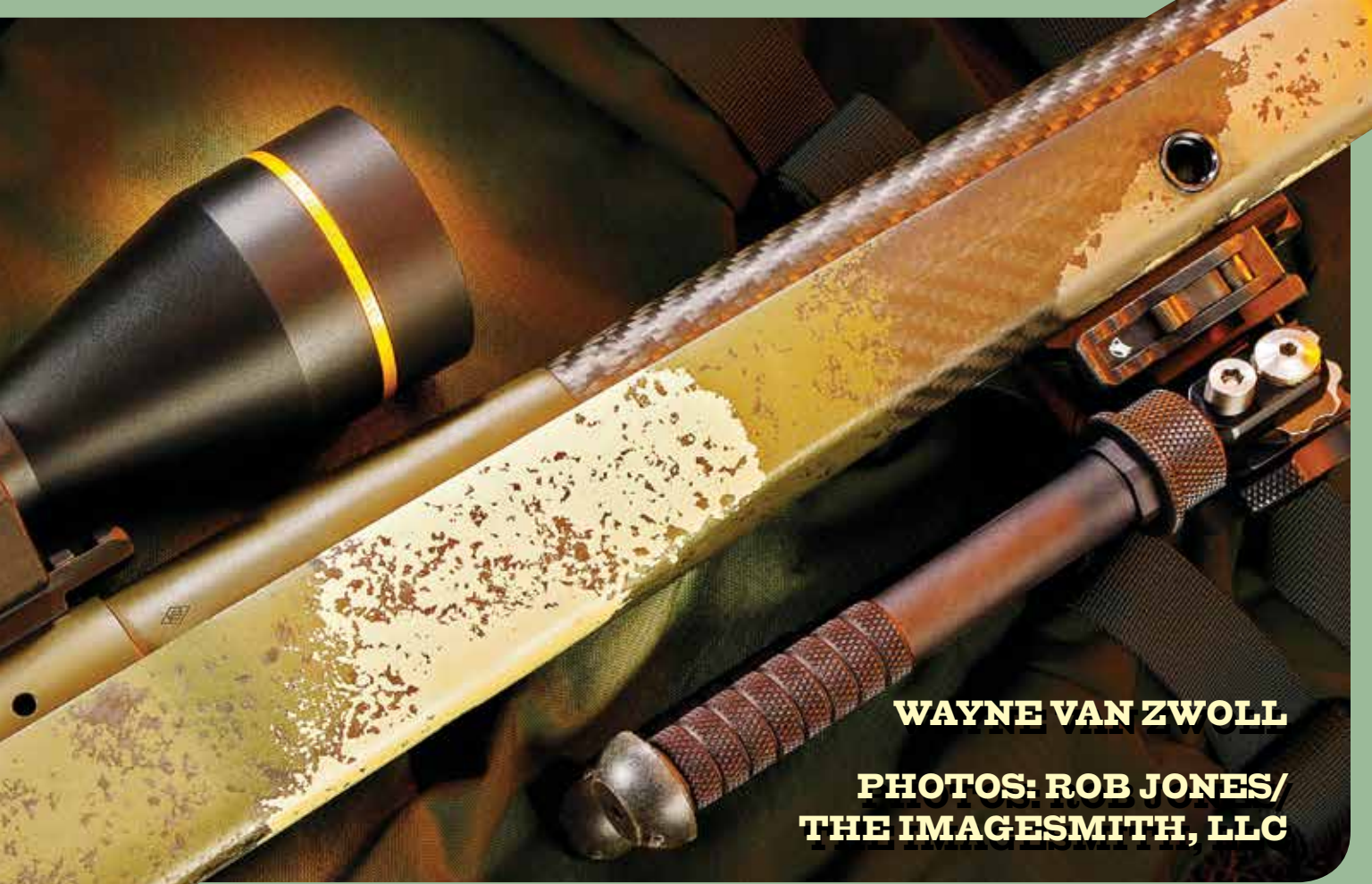
SPRINGFIELD ARMORY® *WAYPOINT* *RIFLE*

*HISTORIC NAME
MOVES BACK TO BOLTS!*



The single-stack AICS-pattern magazine mates securely into the Rem 700-pattern action and is released by a smaller lever inside the trigger guard.

The Springfield Armory 2020 Waypoint Rifle offers high quality and impressive accuracy at a great price. It's also the first bolt-action with the Springfield name in over 100 years!



WAYNE VAN ZWOLL

**PHOTOS: ROB JONES/
THE IMAGESMITH, LLC**

Planet Earth doesn't need another bolt rifle. But, when the east wind brought scent of this one, I had to look twice at its origin — Springfield Armory. The name is as old as our Republic, as current as new SAINT self-loaders. But not since 1903 had the name been pinned on a bolt-action. What was this new Waypoint?

BACKSTORY

Tapping out the Springfield name brought me to the confluence of the Connecticut and Westfield Rivers in Massachusetts. There, early in 1777, George Washington established for his Continental Army a repository for muskets and a storage facility for powder and ball. By 1795 it had grown to include a foundry and "water shops" edging the Mill River dam powering the manufacturing tools. Springfield was the first federal armory and produced our first U.S. musket, the Model 1795. A century later it would turn out the Krag-Jorgensen rifle. The 1903 Springfield followed, and, on the heels of the Depression, the Garand. A 1968 budgeting decision by Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara shuttered the Armory. It would become a National Historic Site in October, 1974.

Quick to spot value in the storied Springfield Armory name, Elmer Balance snared it immediately to re-brand his L.H. Gun Company, then building a civilian version of the M14 rifle. Designed in 1954 and adopted as a U.S. service arm five years later, the M14 remained in production until 1980, well after adoption of the M16. Roughly 1.3 million were shipped. In 1974, six years after L.H. Gun Co. took the Springfield label, Balance peddled his Texas business to Robert Reese in Geneseo, Illinois. Since then, the Reese family has continued to produce

the Springfield Armory M1A, and has added new versions of it. Handguns followed, from a 1911 series to the polymer-frame XD and compact Hellcat. The AR-15-based SAINT rifle arrived a couple of years ago. Under CEO Dennis Reese (Robert's son), the company has grown as a manufacturer and purveyor of reliable self-loaders.

HISTORY REPEATS

The Model 2020 Waypoint fills a gaping hole in its offerings as it plunges the company into the competitive field of hunting/match rifles. Those of us who recall column-shift automobiles, black-and-white episodes of Lassie and lament the march of figured walnut toward extinction can be forgiven the instinctive pause over Waypoint's hand-laid carbon fiber stock. A steep grip and tall comb, reinforced M-Lok slots in the forend and five QD swivel cavities reflect contemporary tastes and priorities.

On the other hand, even traditionalists approve light weight. Waypoint's AG Composites stock scales an ounce shy of 2 lbs. with a standard comb, 2 lbs. 11 oz. with an adjustable cheek-rest. Cataloged in Ridgeline and Evergreen Camo finishes, it is pillar bedded and wears a black 1" Pachmayr Decelerator pad.

ACTION AND BOLT

The action, produced stateside, has a Remington 700 footprint. Departing from the washer-style 700 recoil lug, Springfield Armory gave Waypoint a lug integral with the receiver ring. Four 6-48 screws and two recoil pins secure a supplied Picatinny top rail. Receiver, bottom metal, barrel shank and muzzle brake are Cerakoted.

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY®

WAYPOINT RIFLE

Accessories: Mystery Ranch
Beartooth 80 pack, Hornady
143-grain ELD-X Precision
Hunter ammo, Leupold VX-3i
4.5-14x50 scope, Seekins
Precision HD rings, Leupold
Bx-5 HD 10x binos

INT



GUNS[®]

MAGAZINE

The twin-lug, spiral-fluted bolt glides in races cut in the stainless receiver by an electrical discharge machine. To ensure dimensions of the steel hew to close tolerances, bolt and receiver are finish-machined after heat-treating. The bolt is Nitride-coated to make its surface hard and slick. Dual cocking cams add a nudge to its already-easy 90-degree lift.

You won't need tools to disassemble this bolt. The shank is long enough for easy manipulation without bumping your knuckles or hanging up in gun cases. Its ample, cylindrical bolt knob is removable. The left-side bolt release is unobtrusive, perfectly inletted. It pivots silkily.

TRIGGER

Waypoint accommodates after-market triggers for the 700. But the TriggerTech

Twist rates are one turn in 7½" for the 6mm Creedmoor, one in eight for the 6.5s, one in 10 for the .308. These brisk spins excel in accuracy trials with the leggy, ballistically efficient bullets so popular now.

Each BSF barrel is "jacketed in a roll-wrapped carbon fiber sleeve and loaded under tension so 95% of the sleeve doesn't contact the barrel, providing cooling air gaps and promoting cold bore to warm bore repeatability." Fluting under the sleeve trims weight, increases area for surface cooling.

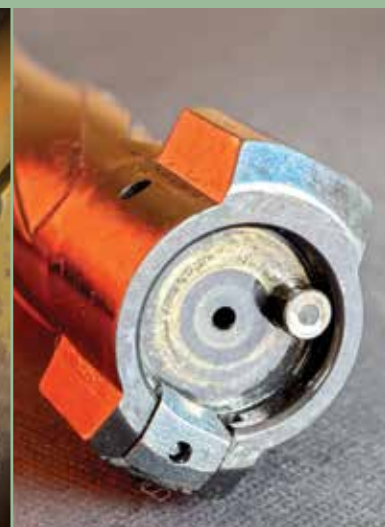
HANDLING

A couple of weeks before Springfield Armory announced its new rifle, I wheedled one of the first Waypoints from Geneseo. Its 24" carbon fiber barrel in 6.5 PRC, and the standard stock in Ridgeline

paws of normal dimensions.

No, Waypoint's stock isn't as lively as a 1952 Mannlicher-Schoenauer carbine's, or a Model 94 Winchester's. But as I pre-date promises of free college, health care and prosperity, Mama's reminder "you can't have everything" still resonates. If stocks with steep, ample grips cradled easily and leaped to cheek, we'd see them on British 20-bores. If broom-stick wrists and sliver fore-stocks put more bullets in the middle, they'd grace Olympic position rifles.

Waypoint's comb is just high enough to align my eye quickly with the Leupold's axis. It would be perfect behind slightly lower rings. The available height-adjustable comb will accommodate any glass. While M-Loks and QD swivel pockets reflect market trends, traditional QD studs fore and aft would be helpful, to add a Harris



trigger installed is a dandy, outside-adjustable from 2½ to 5 lbs. Its "free-floating roller" smooths take-up and break. The Remington-style two-position safety blocks the trigger only. Springfield trimmed lock time to a sliver of a blink — 1.9-milliseconds — putting bullets in the air as soon the trigger trips. Springfield's claim: "Up to 45% faster than the competition."

Engineers settled on a detachable AICS-pattern, single-stack magazine for centerline feeding. An unobtrusive latch inside the trigger guard holds it snugly, but yields readily when you must re-load now. Chambered in 6mm Creedmoor, 6.5 Creedmoor, 6.5 PRC (Precision Rifle Cartridge) and .308, Waypoint comes with button-ripped BSF carbon fiber barrels as well as fluted stainless. All are floated and threaded 5/8-24 for the included radial brake.

Hornady's 6.5 PRC loads averaged 0.69", well inside the Waypoint's .75 MOA guarantee (above, left). Wayne's first three shots off sandbags drilled this tight .62 group. The integral Picatinny rail (middle) attaches with four 6-48 screws and also has dual recoil pins to further lock it down. The spiral-fluted bolt sheds weight and looks great! A beefy in-lug extractor (right) and plunger ejector in the recessed bolt face pull and kick cases smartly.

finish fit my request exactly. A 2.5-10x45 Leupold on the rail brought the 6½-lb. naked weight to an even 8 lbs. My Timney gauge registered trigger break at a clean 3¾ lbs.

This rifle balances well. The vertical grip feels good at the bench, prone and standing. It's long enough for my skillet-size hand, with a deep dip to comb for comfy palm placement. It has a useful palm-swell, a gentle flare below to keep my hand from slipping off. From prone and sitting, it puts my firing finger too far forward, a common failing with stocks designed for the 95% of shooters with

bipod or borrow a sling from another rifle so equipped. The forend has a pleasing profile. It bellies nicely to a rest and favors open-hand and thumb-and-fingers support standing. Gradually losing width and gaining a more rounded cross-section as it tapers forward, it rests nicely in my palm in field-shooting positions. I like its generous length: 12¾" from the front guard screw. The stock is well inletted around receiver and bottom metal, which stands slightly proud. The channel lets the barrel float, but the gap either side won't swallow loose ammunition.

Neither velvety nor rough, the stock's

surface qualifies as smooth, with subtle texture. I like the Ridgeline Camo, an open patch-work of cream and brown and shades of gray, with dark freckling.

RANGE TIME

Bore-sighting at the range, I found Waypoint's bolt shank drops the smooth knob in just the right place for fast cycling. At cock, the striker protrudes 3/8" from the trim shroud. Bolt travel is piston-slick, with

engagement. Waypoint's peppy plunger ejector kicks from 4 o'clock.

My first bullet, at 35 steps, struck near center. I adjusted the scope, moved the target to 100 yards.

The barrel-diameter brake, Cerakoted to match the action, tamed recoil from Hornady's 6.5 PRC Match loads to a mere bump. The Decelerator pad added its cushion. I had used this ammunition in other rifles. The 147-grain ELD Match bullets, sent

had kept 12 shots from chewing a 1-MOA crater. Such consistent accuracy from a rifle that, stripped, scales under 6¾ lbs. cheers the soul.

Carbon fiber-stocked, carbon fiber-barreled bolt rifles with Remington footprints are popping up like dandelions these days. Factory-produced renditions show their pedestrian pedigree in forgettable fit and finish, even before you put them on bags. The tariffs of custom rifles with superior

"THE MODEL 2020 WAYPOINT FILLS A GAPING HOLE IN ITS OFFERINGS AS IT PLUNGES THE COMPANY INTO THE COMPETITIVE FIELD OF HUNTING/MATCH RIFLES."



The nitride-coated bolt (above, left) has a 90-degree throw and Wayne found little slop or wiggle even at full extension. The generous bolt handle is removable for customization. The optional free-float carbon-fiber barrel (middle) sheds weight while demonstrating remarkable accuracy. The muzzle has a removable brake to reduce felt recoil. Three M-LOK slots (right) in the carbon fiber stock allow attachment of a variety of accessories. Five QD sling points along the sides offer multiple options for carry.

essentially no rattle and very little end play at full retraction. Running this rifle is fun! It slurps cartridges from the box without so much as a hiccup. The magazine is a cinch to seat and release. You can induce a slight wiggle with it inserted, but it remains silent during normal handling.

The extractor, inserted through a slot in the center of the right-hand (lower) locking lug, is stouter than it looks. Beefy shoulders secure it and resist breakage should you get too ambitious with handloads and stick a case. The claw is 0.24" wide across most of its face, 0.20" at its leading edge. A gentle face angle makes for easy push-feed

at 2,910 fps, had delivered exceptional accuracy, making it a perfect load to test Springfield Armory's .75 MOA Waypoint guarantee!

ACCURACY

Over my Caldwell bag, I pressed the trigger as if to nurse the bullet downrange. The next two hit very close, punching a 0.62" row, cheek to jowl. Three more groups mic'ed 0.63", 0.70" and 0.82". (A pulled shot on the last series spoiled a pair nipping an oblong hole.) Average of four groups: 0.69", comfortably under the 0.75" bar. Superimposing targets later, I found only my flier

components and workmanship can test your marriage. Springfield Armory's Waypoint Model 2020 is notable for its value — no-compromises materials and assembly, no-apologies looks, feel and function, with accuracy you can put up against much costlier hardware. Starting price: under \$1,700. Cycle the bolt, thumb the safety, dry-fire the trigger. Just hold Waypoint on target. You know you've something special in hand.

With the versatility we once expected from rifles of much different form, Springfield Armory's first bolt rifle in a century should impress hunters as well as shooters doping wind and grabbing clicks in long-range competition, and those just banging steel at four-figure yardage.

Springfield-Armory.com



The Taurus G3c is a compact version of the popular G3 9mm striker-fired pistol introduced last year.

TAURUS G3C

The Little Brother
Can Hold Its Own



DAVID FREEMAN

The Taurus G3 hit the market as a resounding success. It's a 15- or 17-round gun about the size of a GLOCK 19 but costing half the price. I heard the question somewhere, "Why buy a GLOCK when you can buy two Taurus G3s for the same price?" Now, it appears G3 fans are wanting a little brother.

The Taurus G3c is a 9mm semi-automatic pistol with a 10- or 12-round magazine. The G3c continues the Taurus tradition of a single-action striker-fired pistol with restrike capability. It has a manual safety, a trigger safety and a striker block. The frame is black polymer and the slide is alloy steel with a matte black finish. Weighing 22 oz. unloaded, it has an MSRP of \$307.74.

THE SAME BUT DIFFERENT

When the G3c Taurus sent me for this review arrived, the first thing I did was compare it to my Taurus G2, a subcompact frequently compared to the S&W Shield. The profile is almost identical, but there are slight modifications here and there. The G3c has more — and more aggressive — stippling to help secure the gun in wet or sweaty hands.

The front and rear ambidextrous "memory pads" unique to Taurus are present on the frame to accommodate firing and non-firing thumb and index finger placement. These pads do an excellent job of promoting a proper grip. The G3c definitely feels more secure in my hands than its predecessor.

The trigger guard is the same on the two guns, but the G3c's accessory rail is slightly longer, giving an edge for handling a variety of aftermarket lights and lasers. The G3c trigger has a broader, flatter face than the G2's and it angles more forward. All Taurus striker-fired pistols have a long take-up before the break but the trigger on the G3c is smoother, with a crisper break than the G2. I measured both guns with my Lyman Trigger pull gauge and with an average of five pulls each, both guns averaged 5.1 lbs.

The three magazines arriving with the G3c at first glance appeared identical to those of the G2, but upon closer inspection there are scallops along the seam of the mag extension and the bottom of the grip to assist in mag swaps. The mags with the test gun are 12-rounders, but if you live in a state that limits magazine capacity, 10-rounders are available.



This group of 5 shots at 10-yards are the typical results David got using several different brands of ammunition. The tightest group was with Hornady's 147-grain Subsonic XTP.

The G3c slide assembly is similar to the slide of its G3 big brother. Instead of the G2's deep scalloping forward of the ejection port, the G3c slide has a square profile with rounded edges along its entire length and, like the G3 slide, there are forward serrations. The G2 uses a mechanical "loaded" indicator but on the G3/G3c, Taurus elected to provide a notch at the rear of the barrel lug for a visual inspection of the chamber. The G3c uses the same striker-fire system with restrike capability as the G2 & G3. Both guns have a dual internal/external recoil spring.

The sights are different and at first, I didn't like what I saw. My G2 has 3-dot sights with the rear being adjustable for windage and elevation. The front sight on the G3c has a small white dot while the rear sight is black and only drift-adjustable. The notch is the same size used by many aftermarket sights, making it easy to add night sights or other sights to match a user's preference. The installed rear sight will work as the all-so-important ledge for one-handed slide cycling but I also decided TRUGLO orange night sights would be just the ticket for my old eyes.

We truly live in the Golden Age of Gun Ownership in many ways. It was Saturday night around 9:30. No gun stores open, but I found the TRUGLO sights I wanted on Amazon, clicked the order button and before the end of the day on Sunday I had them.

AT THE RANGE

While testing with a varied diet of Winchester SXZ9 Personal Protection 115-grain JHP, Speer Gold Dot Carry Gun 135-grain JHP, SIG SAUER V-Crown 147-grain JHP and Hornady Subsonic 147-grain XTP, all three of the Taurus G-series pistols performed well. The two smaller pistols are quite snappy but the enhanced texture of the G3c helped tame it. The TRUGLO sights worked as I had hoped and I was able to put rounds on target to my satisfaction with all three guns.

After I'd been shooting a while, I set up a new target at the 10-yard mark and shot five rounds of each type of ammo with the G3c to see what kind of groups I could produce. It handled all the ammo well. The best grouping was with the Hornady Subsonic 147-grain XTP with three of five shots practically in the same hole. My overall assessment of the new G3c is it's a fine pistol at a price enabling lots of people who might otherwise not have the resources to have a reliable carry gun for their personal safety.



TaurusUSA.com



The Tim McCoy Commemorative Colt Single Action by Jim Martin. Martin went a step further and commissioned a leather vest and slide like those worn by McCoy in some of his films.

JIM MARTIN TRIBUTE REVOLVERS

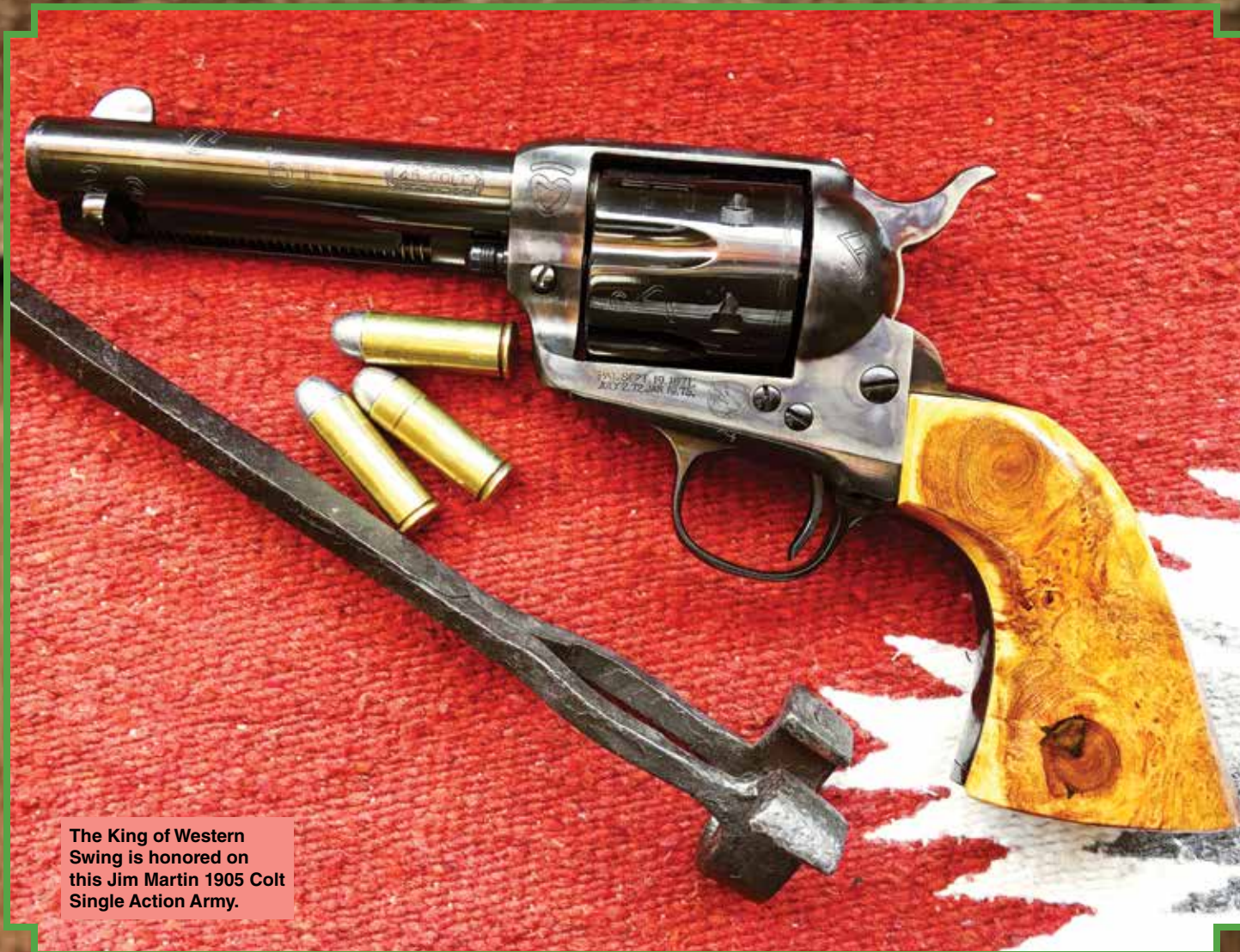
A STEEL (EM)BRACE OF WESTERN ENTERTAINMENT HISTORY

ALAN GARBERS

Jim Martin is legendary. He has won countless fast-draw awards, holds shooting records, has advised movie stars on gun-handling and stood in during fast-draw clips for movies and television shows. He has amazed audiences using the twirls of a drum major combined with the nimble-fingered moves of a vaudeville juggler.

His ability with a Colt single-action revolver isn't limited to trick shooting and fast-draw contests. Martin is also a magician in making Colt Peacemaker actions as smooth as Tennessee whiskey. For a half century, gun importers and manufacturers have sought his wisdom and many Colt aficionados consider Jim Martin to be the top Colt gunsmith, bar none.

“Eventually, the movie producers didn’t just want *Arapahos* in their movies — they wanted an authentic cowboy. *Tim McCoy* was it.”



The King of Western Swing is honored on this Jim Martin 1905 Colt Single Action Army.

While Martin is a demi-god wherever Colt Single Action Army is spoken, he too has heroes — men who influenced his childhood on the silver screen and whose images decorate his home to this day.

Coming from humble rural beginnings, they punched wild-eyed cattle, pulled leather breaking broom-tail mustangs and ended up winning America's hearts on the silver screen and radio airways. So, what does master craftsman Jim Martin do to honor his heroes? He immortalizes them in Colt steel!

TIM MCCOY — MOVIE STAR

To learn Timothy John Fitzgerald McCoy — “Tim McCoy” — is one of Jim Martin's heroes comes as no surprise. While the life of Tim McCoy is too complex to fully cover, he was a man worthy of emulation.

Inspired by Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show he took a train west, ending up breaking horses in Nebraska then drifting into Wyoming to work on cattle ranches. In 1909 cattle drives, rustling and range wars were still a thing.

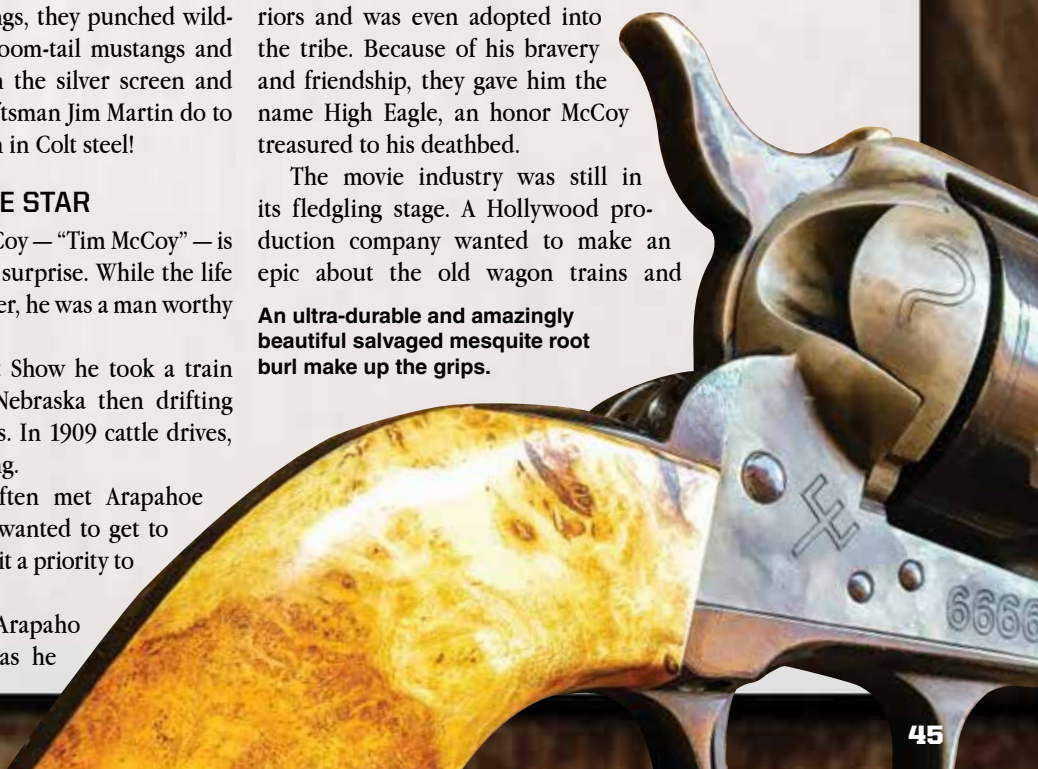
While riding the range, McCoy often met Arapahoe Indians. Unlike most cowboys, McCoy wanted to get to know the tall, quiet Arapahos and made it a priority to learn their universal sign language.

McCoy's relationship with the Arapaho blossomed into powerful friendships as he

became entwined in their beautiful and complex culture. At the time, many of the warriors who fought against Custer were still alive and McCoy listened to their stories of the old ways. McCoy became like a son or nephew to many of the old warriors and was even adopted into the tribe. Because of his bravery and friendship, they gave him the name High Eagle, an honor McCoy treasured to his deathbed.

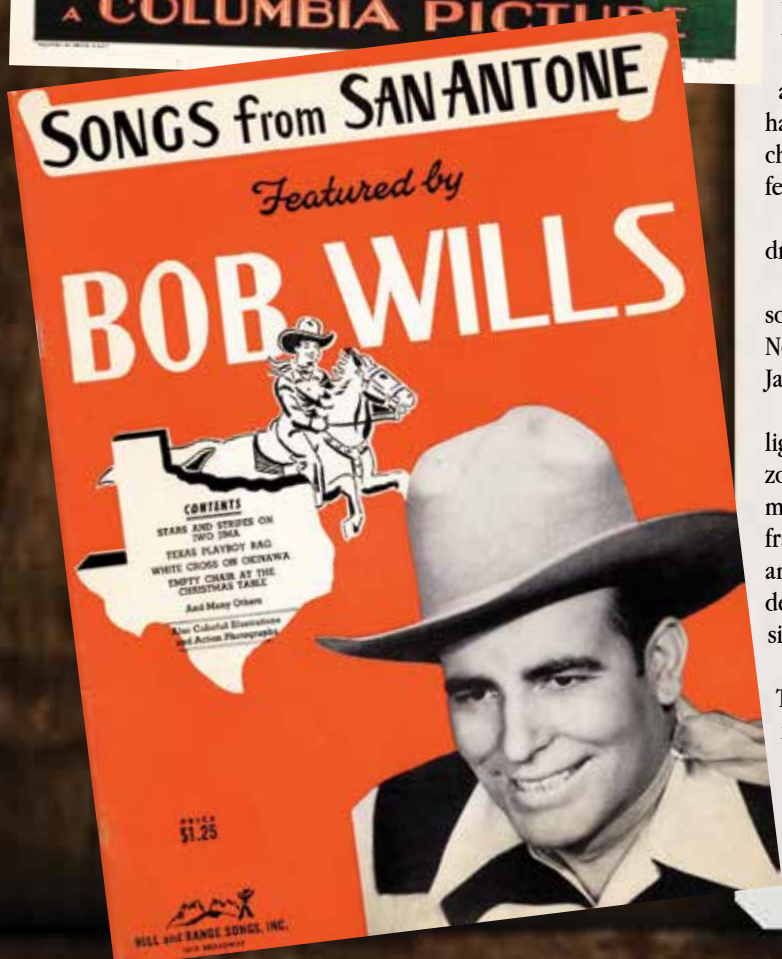
The movie industry was still in its fledgling stage. A Hollywood production company wanted to make an epic about the old wagon trains and

An ultra-durable and amazingly beautiful salvaged mesquite root burl make up the grips.





Tim McCoy had an intimate relationship with members of the Arapaho tribe. For his friendship, honesty and bravery they named him High Eagle. It was an honor he cherished and worked into his cattle brand — Rafter HE Connected. Left, McCoy made over 80 films, many featuring his signature wide-brimmed, 7½" crown hat, appropriately highlighted on the right stock of the Martin-crafted Colt.



needed Indians, lots of them. Word of Tim McCoy and his friendship with the Arapaho had reached Hollywood so he was approached with the idea of hiring hundreds of Indians as extras. McCoy agreed, provided the Arapaho were treated with respect and compensated fairly.

Eventually, the movie producers didn't just want Arapahos in their movies — they wanted an authentic cowboy. Tim McCoy was it.

McCoy shared the screen with John Wayne, Walter Brennen and Buck Jones. McCoy's steely-eyed stare, tall, wide-brimmed hat, and quick draw earned him the admiration of countless children (and adults) across America — so much so Wheaties featured McCoy on their cereal box.

McCoy was authentic in his shooting ability and lightning on the draw. He was captured on film drawing and firing in 0.25 seconds.

After a stint in the army in WWII, McCoy gave up acting, sold his Wyoming ranch, moved east, and then southwest to the Nogales, Arizona region. He passed away at the age of 86 on January 29, 1978.

Jim Martin's tribute revolver touches on some of the highlights of Tim McCoy's life. Movie names and dates are emblazoned on the cylinder, frame and barrel. Two of the military medals McCoy was awarded are engraved on the top of the frame. McCoy's Rafter H-E Connected brand, his full name, birth and death dates as well as "High Eagle," McCoy's Arapaho name, decorate the back strap. The grips feature a relief of McCoy's signature hat and the head of an eagle.

Like the life of Tim McCoy, the revolver is an amalgamation. The frame, trigger guard and back strap were manufactured for American Western Arms. The barrel, cylinder and inner workings are Second Generation Colt SAA components. The imitation antique ivory grips were made by Martin with Bar S Tru Ivory and cut to a flat bottom configuration to provide a natural pointing ability for hip shooting. The nickel-plated revolver sports a 7.5" barrel and is chambered in .44 Special.



The McCoy commemorative revolver has a custom serial number (above) featuring Tim McCoy's initials and birth year (1891). The Bob Wills commemorative is covered with cattle brands (above, right) from the area of Texas Bob resided in. They're off-kilter because cattle brands are never straight and level! Jim Martin included his own brand (right), JRM Connected, on the rear of the frame.



BOB WILLS – KING OF WESTERN SWING

Immortalized in song and film, Bob Wills needs little introduction.

James Robert (Bob) Wills was born in east-central Texas in 1905 to a cotton farming family. Growing and picking cotton was back-breaking work under the hot Texas sun. Relief from the drudgery came in the form of local dances, at which John Wills, Bob's father was in constant demand. At an early age, Bob followed in his father's footsteps and learned to play the mandolin as well as the fiddle.

Growing cotton rapidly depletes farmland and by 1913 the Wills family had moved to Hall County in the Panhandle of Texas. The talents of Bob's family were in constant demand and if they weren't playing dances elsewhere, they were hosting dances at their humble home. Learning to play fiddle and other instruments, he started performing at a young age. The siren call of adventure pulled Bob away from home at the age of 16 and after performing all over the southwest, he started his signature band — The Texas Playboys — in 1934.

His popularity skyrocketed. Bob and his band were guaranteed to pack any hall on any day. In 1940, the song "New San Antonio Rose" sold a million records becoming their signature song. Hollywood took notice and wanted Bob's "ah-hah" in the movies.

Bob and his Texas Playboys were featured in westerns starring Russell Hayden, Charles Starrett (*The Durango Kid*) and Tex Ritter. While Bob had some supporting roles, usually he and his band were friends or musical cowhands to the stars. Producers had Bob and his Texas Playboys play their popular songs in an obvious ploy to prop up the movie.

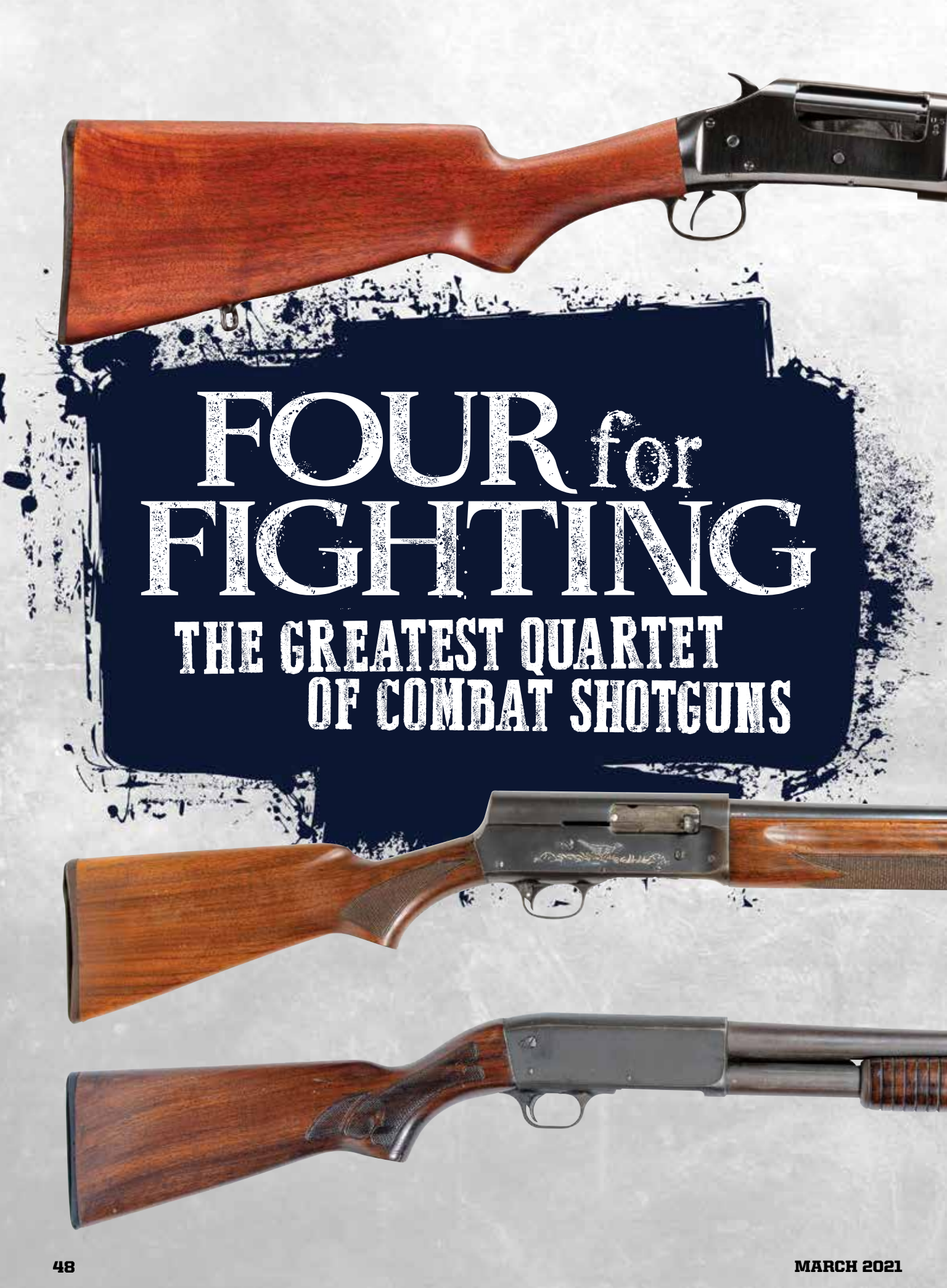
Bob Wills was hugely popular into the '50s and outdrew Tommy Dorsey and Benny Goodman. But music tastes eventually changed and his popularity plummeted until poor health forced Wills to disband the group in 1963. In 1973 Merle Haggard seduced Bob back into a recording studio, but it was

too late. The effort caused Bob to have a stroke, which put him into a coma lasting until he passed away on May 13, 1975.

Jim Martin's tribute choice was a First Generation Colt SAA in .45 Colt that came to life under the "Blue Dome" in 1905, the same year Bob Wills was born. The finish on the revolver was reconditioned by Jim and Bill Adair. Bill Adair was also the engraver. Like many other Texas Colts, the revolver is covered with Texas brands from the areas where Bob lived and worked. Unlike other cattle-brand Colts, none of the brands are placed straight.

Martin's reason? Brands are never straight on cattle so why should they be straight on the gun? The top of the backstrap sports Bob's signature fiddle and bow as well as his birth and death dates and name. The grips are a story in themselves. When Jim Martin lived in Cave Creek, Arizona he noticed the removal of a massive mesquite tree. Too late to salvage the tree trunk from the landfill, Martin was permitted to take the 2,000-lb. root ball. After years of cutting, drying, and the use of lapidary tools, Martin used the wood to fashion beautifully unique grips.

Like Jim Martin's gun handling, there is one last spin — Jim Martin's brand, the JRM Connected is prominently displayed on the frame.



FOUR for FIGHTING

THE GREATEST QUARTET
OF COMBAT SHOTGUNS

The Model 1897 Winchester was the first commercially successful pump. Slam-firing 00 buck, it provided a fearsome volley of fire in trench warfare. Photo: Turnbull Restoration



JEREMY D. CLOUGH

Presumably, it would take a bit of effort to get the WWI Germans to accuse you of war crimes but the 12-gauge Winchester 1897 managed it. The great granddaddy of all combat shotguns, the '97 is best known in trench guise with a 20" barrel, bayonet mount and heat shield.

Designed by John Moses Browning — who basically invented everything — the M97 is a refinement of his earlier 1893. Its popularity was one of the things that broke Winchester's long-standing relationship with Browning, delaying the introduction of the gun that eventually became the Remington Model 11.

Torched off by an exposed hammer, the '97's externally reciprocating bolt bites the web of the shooter's hand, the carrier mechanism appears to disassemble itself when stroked and the rear-set trigger guard gives it an unusual, awkward look. However, what it lacks in pretty is made up for in trench-war ugliness, where its six rounds of 9-pellet 00 buck were absolutely devastating.

Since the '97 slam-fires — hold the trigger, run the pump and the gun discharges when the pump comes home — the rate of fire was tremendous against the bolt-action German Mausers. A

line of doughboys so armed produced a wall of metal through which no sane man would wish to advance, inspiring the Kaiser's War Crime complaint. The '97s were also reportedly used to down carrier pigeons and deflect incoming hand grenades flung towards the U.S. trenches, though there's a fair degree of skepticism about the latter.

FIRST STOP

The Great War, however, isn't the first place the '97 saw battle. It was fielded in the Philippines during the Moro Uprising, where the gun was brought into play against the Moro *juramentados*. It's hard to encapsulate the pure ferocity of these charging warriors and it's no wonder some U.S. soldiers preferred the bison-flattening power of the obsolete .45-70 Trapdoor Springfield to the standard issue .30-40 Krag bolt action. The 1897 offered the same features distinguishing it later in the trenches: increased hit probability, better rate of fire and devastating stopping power. For battles determined at bolo length, it was uniquely effective.

A NEW DESIGN

Browning understandably had high hopes in 1899 when he sent Winchester a newly-designed shotgun he considered "the best thing I ever made." The long-recoil mechanism was less sensitive to fouling than gas operation, a major advantage as some shotshells of the day still used black powder. The barrel's movement back into the receiver required its distinctive "humpback" shape, and a clever series of friction rings around the magazine tube adjusted the gun for more or less powerful loads.

The new design immediately put Winchester in a quandary: failure would sully their reputation, while success would take a painful bite out of the 1897's profitability. Seeing no good options, Winchester slow-walked the new design for nearly two years until Browning, justifiably angry, forced the issue. When Winchester refused his request for royalties, Browning collected his prototypes from the drafting room and left.

ACROSS TOWN

Browning promptly made an appointment with an enthusiastic Marcellus Hartley, president of Remington Arms. Browning reported to Hartley's office, prototypes in hand, and was duly waiting for his appointment to start when Hartley died of a heart attack.

No doubt feeling snakebit, Browning then contacted



Essentially a Browning A5 by any other name, the Remington Model 11 is a recoil-operated semi-auto. In the close fighting of the Pacific, it proved dispositive.



The Ithaca 37 was the longest-made of the four guns profiled, with over two million produced. It saw its greatest usage in Vietnam and even had a memorable role in Miami Vice!

“HOWEVER, WHAT IT LACKS IN **PRETTY** IS MADE UP FOR IN TRENCH-WAR **UGLINESS**, WHERE ITS SIX ROUNDS OF 9-PELLET 00 BUCK WERE **ABSOLUTELY DEVASTATING.**”

Fabrique Nationale in Belgium, which had already produced his first pistol design. Thus, in 1903, production began on the Browning Automatic Five (usually called “Auto-5” or A5), so named for its 4+1 capacity. It was the first mass-produced semi-automatic shotgun.

Remington also produced the design in the U.S. starting in 1905. The Remington version, lacked the magazine cutoff of the A5, was named the Model 11 in 1911.

Seeing little use in WWI, the Model 11 was much more widely used in World War II where sporting versions were used to teach aerial gunnery. Remington delivered over 60,000 M11s during the war and Savage produced an additional 14,000 identical Model 720s. Early military M11s still have a stamped-in game scene on both sides of the receiver and a commercial-level polish. Later guns with a rougher finish were stamped “military finish,” perhaps because it would have hurt Remington’s pride

for people to think it met their standards otherwise.

T.C. Johnson, the firearms designer tasked by Winchester with creating a semiauto shotgun to compete with the A5, said it took him nearly a decade to design one not infringing on Browning’s patents. The end result, the Model 1911, fared poorly, partially as a result of having no charging handle, a feature Browning had patented. Instead you grasped a checkered portion of the barrel and pulled it backwards, an awkward arrangement leading to unsafe handling and enough deaths to give it the nickname “Widowmaker.”

GETTING IT RIGHT

Johnson did much better with the Model 12 pump, introduced first in 1912 in 20-gauge and followed quickly by 12- and 16-gauge versions. Sleek and clean of line, the hammerless Model 12 is elegant as a cobra and even with the passage of a century,



The Winchester M12 saw heavy use in the Pacific during WWII. Nearly two million were made; this late '40s model was converted to 1918-era riot configuration and blued by Turnbull.



The Model 11's barrel, like the A5, has a distinctive "Hump-back" shape. Due to wartime exigencies, many military shotguns still had a hunting scene stamped on the receiver.



In the A5/M11, Browning incorporated a clever series of fouling-insensitive friction rings around the magazine tube to adjust the gun for differing loads.



A holdover from the Model 97, the M12's takedown feature is a clever, tool-less way to break the gun down. It can also be adjusted to accommodate for wear.



The Model 37 both loads and ejects through the bottom of the receiver, with no opening on top or sides to allow in water, dirt or garbage into the bowels of the receiver.

its classic lines don't look dated. It was quickly nicknamed the "Perfect Repeater" and renowned for smoothness.

Like the '97, the Model 12 slam-fires, which makes it possible to fire very fast — so fast Ernest "Papa" Hemingway claimed he could shoot one faster than a Sten submachinegun.

The Model 12 arrived too late to see widespread use in WWI. It remained in inventory long enough to serve in Vietnam but the perfect repeater came into its own in the bloody Pacific during WWII. They were available either as a 20" riot gun or in trench configuration with heat shield and bayonet mount. The '12 was much beloved by Marines who did the heavy lifting in the Pacific's bunkers, caves and jungles — they often resorted to outright theft from supply depots and other units to acquire enough shotguns for their task.

ITHACA MODEL 37

Perhaps as a bit of repartee Browning designed his last repeating shotgun, a pump, in 1913 right after the M12 surfaced. Initially produced in 20-gauge as the Remington Model 17, Ithaca waited patiently for the patents to expire before marketing its version in 1937.

Also slam-fire-capable until liability concerns led to a rework eliminating the feature, the Model 37 both loads and ejects through the bottom. There is no opening on the top or either side of the receiver. A unique shell carrier does double duty,

flinging the empty out the bottom while the next shell rides along its upper surface, ready to be pivoted up and into the chamber as the pump comes forward.

Helpful for lefties, it leaves a bit more of the mechanism visible from the bottom than we're used to seeing but this is offset by the benefit of only having a single downward-facing entry point for debris.

Arriving too late for WWI, the M37 nonetheless saw action in WWII, though it's one of the rarer military shotguns of the era. Used in training, trench and riot versions, just under 6,600 were delivered as the Ordnance Department quickly decided Ithaca's manufacturing capacity was better spent making M1911A1 pistols.

Where the 37 made its greatest impact, though, was in Vietnam. Ithaca produced somewhere over 40,000 riot Model 37s, 22,000 of which were for the South Vietnamese Army. A smaller number of trench guns were made, most of which were for a 1967 contract with the Navy and reportedly used by the SEALs.

An unusual accoutrement was the muzzle-mounted "duckbill" diverter, a choke-like device intended to broaden the gun's pattern. Whatever its effectiveness in the field may have been, it hasn't really lived past the conflict. Vietnam also saw the advent of the Remington 870 as a military shotgun, but that starts another list of shotguns ...

Savage Arms STEVENS 301

MARK HAMPTON

Looks can be deceiving. As I was walking, rather *fighting*, my way through the crowded aisles of the SHOT Show, I stopped by to visit friends at Savage. JJ Reich and I started talking turkey hunting when he showed me the new Stevens 301 Turkey — a .410! At first, I thought this was a kid's gun — and it certainly will be a great shotgun for youth. JJ then told me about Federal's new turkey load lineup that included a .410 load. Well, this did sound intriguing but to be frank, I was a bit skeptical about a .410 for turkey.

SERIOUSLY?

I was born at night — but not last night. After hunting turkeys for almost 50 years, I probably harbor some preconceived ideas, and hunting big toms with a .410 is not in the

cards. Small game on the other hand, well, the .410 is a great option. I've heard shooters claim the .410 bore is the ideal shotgun for younger hunters chasing squirrels and rabbits. The other school of thought is the .410 is for the well experienced, highly proficient shotgunner. Regardless, I wanted to give this gun a run for the money, and see for myself.

The Stevens 301 Turkey is a break-action, single-shot with an overall length of 41.5" and is also available in 20 gauge. It weighs a tad over 5 lbs. and is easy to pack around all day. The synthetic stock and forend are covered with Mossy Oak Obsession camo, hence the name. Swivel studs come standard on the stock and forend. The 26" barrel wears an extra full choke and is designed for Federal Premium heavyweight TSS turkey loads, though it will accommodate other 3" loads.

TURKEY OBSESSION SHOTGUN



The Stevens 301 Turkey Obsession with Mossy Oak camo. Hunt big 'ol Missouri gobblers with a .410? You bet!

An UltraDot HD optic was a perfect fit for the 301's removable one-piece rail. The 2 MOA dot and wide field of view get the #9 pellets on target quickly.



Mark's wife Karen filled her Missouri tag with a 22-lb. gobbler with an 11" beard. Shot was 33 yards with Federal Premium TSS#9 — in a .410!

CHECK OUT

I appreciated the removable one-piece rail for optics. While the gold bead sight is compatible with TruGlo sight systems, this rail was screaming for a red dot. A typical gold bead front sight can cover a turkey's head at 40 yards. On the other hand, a red dot is just right for aiming at a turkey's neck area. I thought my wife just might use this gun during turkey season and a red dot would be just the ticket for her — or me. The gun features a recoil pad although recoil is not an issue with the .410.

An UltraDot HD-Micro was fitted on the rail and its small size made for a perfect fit. This neat little unit features push-button brightness adjustments in 10 different settings, allowing the dot to adjust to the current lighting conditions. The 2 MOA dot size is just right for a variety of hunting situations. The HD-Micro features a built-in rail clamp and can be mounted in a minute. This little unit worked like a charm on the 301.

THE LOAD

When JJ told me Federal's new turkey load for the .410 came in #9 shot, I thought he was joking. You see, old turkey hunters like me don't believe a smaller size shot is ideal on turkeys. Heck, for years I hunted with #2 shot until Missouri prohibited any shot larger than #4. This tiny load was a totally new concept for me until I learned

A WHOLE NEW WAY TO HUNT GOBBLERS



The stock features a thick rubber buttpad — not really necessary for the .410 but keeps the butt anchored in your shoulder while waiting for Big Tom to stick his head up.



An extra full choke on the 26" barrel is engineered specifically to enhance long-range performance of the Federal Premium HEAVYWEIGHT TSS turkey loads.

Tungsten Super Shot (TSS) is extremely dense — 56% denser than lead and harder than steel.

Federal Premium Shotshell Engineer Adam Moser said, "This increased density retains velocity and the hardness prevents pellet deformation, which improves pattern efficiency and penetration." One claim I often hear against sub-gauge shotguns for turkey hunting is the lack of pellets and penetration. Moser said a 13/16-oz. load of #9 TSS has about 295 pellets. For comparison, a 2-oz. load of #4 lead has only about 270 pellets. The #9 shot carried in the HEAVYWEIGHT TSS .410 carries as much penetration energy as a #5 lead pellet at all ranges. Well, as a turkey hunter living in the Show-Me State, this was something I'm going to have to see.

CHECKING IT OUT

Karen and I took the 301 to the range with both 3" #6's and Federal's TSS turkey load. We backed off 25 yards and shot both loads multiple times. Karen appreciated the lack of recoil

compared to some of our 12-gauge shotguns. The high brass #6 load proved to be a worthy option for small game. I adjusted the red dot sight up to where the center of the pattern was spot on with the 2 MOA dot.

To be perfectly honest, I was shocked at the performance of the TSS turkey load. It shot a much tighter pattern at 25 yards than the #6 shot. We both shot this load a few more times and I walked away with a much different opinion than before. The real test would come when a big tom strutted his way toward our decoy.

THE FIELD

After seeing how well the Stevens 301 Turkey with TSS ammo performed on paper, Karen wanted to give it a try. Years ago if you told me I'd be hunting with a .410 shotgun shooting #9 shot — I probably would have guessed you were on some type of narcotics. Karen also mentioned she liked the fact this shotgun was much lighter than her 12- and 20-gauge shotguns she normally carries for turkey hunting.

Bless her heart — Karen is incapable of sitting still, just like a



The Federal Premium TSS with 13/16 oz. of #9 shot performs well. The tungsten pellets are 56% heavier than lead yet harder than steel.

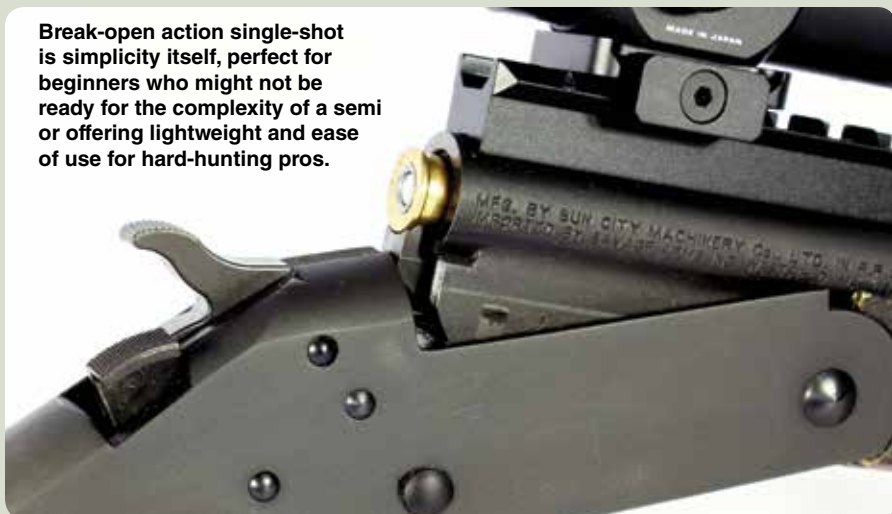
six year old, meaning we have to hunt from a ground blind so the turkeys won't see her squirming around. We got to our blind opening morning, set up two decoys and immediately heard a couple of birds gobbling. A few minutes later when they flew down from the roost, I called a couple of times and one of them answered. We waited a few minutes as the woods became silent.

I called one more time and he answered again. I told Karen to get the gun out of the window and watch. Sure enough, a few moments later I saw his head bobbing around in the field. The moment the gobbler spotted the hen decoy, he gobbled and began to strut. It was the kind of morning a turkey hunter dreams about. The big gobbler came working his way toward the decoy, strutting and gobbling all the way. When he got within shooting distance Karen's heart was beating in over-drive!

I tapped her on the leg, our predetermined signal it was time to shoot. At 33 yards the big gobbler raised his head momentarily as Karen tugged the trigger. Well, those TSS #9s dropped him on the spot and boy was Karen thrilled — and I became a believer in the .410 bore shotgun!

After reviewing and writing about a lot of different firearms, I generally return them to the manufacturer. The Stevens 301 will not be returned — I'll be sending a check. Karen wouldn't

Break-open action single-shot is simplicity itself, perfect for beginners who might not be ready for the complexity of a semi or offering lightweight and ease of use for hard-hunting pros.



have it any other way. While the 301 is definitely utilitarian, it provides more functions than just a turkey gun. It would also make a great option for youth or anyone else wanting to enjoy small game hunting.

If you have unwanted vermin sneaking in to your garden, stealing those delicious tomatoes, the 301 could eliminate the produce robbers. Whatever you see a practical situation for the .410, the Stevens makes a dandy choice. They say the .410 is a kid's gun — well, I guess I'm just a kid at heart.

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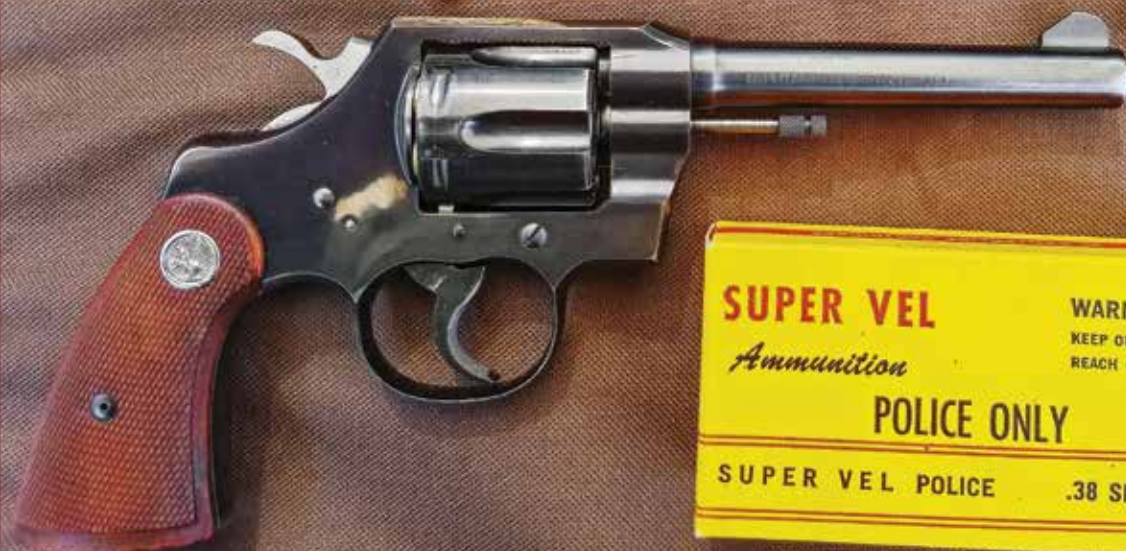
www.northamericanarms.com



The M10's grip is more amenable to a wider range of hand sizes.

COLT OFFICIAL AND

Smith or Colt? The S&W M10 (top) and Colt Official Police (bottom) were the two preeminent .38 Special platforms through most of the double-action revolver era.



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REACH OF CHILDREN

.38 SPECIAL



The OP features a longer, stagier DA trigger pull than the M10, but not necessarily heavier.

COLT POLICE

S&W MODEL 10

THE GREAT .38s — TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN

PAYTON MILLER

Long before cops shifted to auto-pistols, there was a time — a fairly *long* time — when the LE market was dominated by the humble .38 caliber double-action revolver. The old “Best Brand/Model” debate has kept shooters energized for generations but none of them were any more sharply focused than Colt vs. Smith & Wesson.

We’re talking “primary sidearm” here, not just as a backup or small-frame plainclothes tool. While the era of the service revolver has (sadly) passed, the shelf life of a good medium-frame wheelgun is a long one. This means there are a lot of mighty fine duty-grade .38s out there in gun shops, not to mention private collections.

TOP-TIER TWO

If anyone ever asked me to pick the two .38 Special service revolvers epitomizing the struggle for primacy in the LE market, they would have to be Colt’s Official Police (OP) and Smith & Wesson’s Model 10.

Neither sprung fully formed “as is.” The Official Police’s manufacturing run was a lengthy one from 1908 to 1969. It began as the Army Special, but was “deluxified” in 1927 and christened the “Official Police.” The final three years of its run saw the original format altered to the Mk III line (in essence, a different gun), which never achieved the success or cachet of the original. By 1970, Colt had made 400,000 Ops — a whole lot of Colt anything.

The Model 10 was the culmination of S&W’s original M&P



Smaller-handed OP Colt shooters often employed a Tyler T-grip adapter for better fit.

series. It only became the Model 10 in 1957 when Smith went to numbers. In 1968, the Model 10 listed for \$76.50 (blued). The weight, in 4” trim was 30.5 oz. My specimen is a “10-5,” made in 1972 by the numbers. Still early enough to enjoy beautiful bluing, Magna grips, and a pinned barrel.

The Colt Official Police was a bit pricier circa 1968 — \$110 blued and slightly heavier because it was built on Colt’s .41 caliber frame (35 oz. in 4”). For a steeper price tag, of course, either could be had in nickel. The OP shown here is a 1958-vintage 5” model, not quite as minty as the Smith.

Both guns feature a hammer-mounted firing pin, square



The M10's shrouded ejector rod was another plus for an LE sidearm.

checkered-walnut butt, and, in deference to their service roles, fixed sights. Adjustables were for sporting/target revolvers and made more sense on guns with .357 Magnum capability, considering the larger range in velocities and resulting shifts in point of impact.

Plain vanilla .38 Specials generally employed a 158-grain bullet with an initial velocity of 800–900 fps but there were a couple of hotshot invigorated options, of course. Magnums were not universally adopted but if they were, many agencies required

them to be loaded with .38 Specials as controllability, overpenetration and a shortened service life were all factors to be considered — not to mention the PR controversies associated with magnum loadings.

COMPARE AND CONTRAST

The Smith and the Colt, in terms of operation — loading, unloading, etc. — are similar enough only subjective preference comes into play. However, in terms of differences, there are several.

Model 10: Semi-shrouded ejector rod, push-to-open cylinder release latch and counter-clockwise rotation. Skinny “pencil barrel.” Official Police: Naked ejector rod, pull to open cylinder release latch, left to right rotation.

Looking to the loud end, the 4" barrel of our M10 mic'd .660 at the rear to .539 at the front, a more substantive taper than the OP's .660 to .603. The front sight width of both guns was an easy-to-acquire and reasonably glare-resistant serrated 1/8".

The Smith lived up to its reputation for a shorter, more manageable double-action trigger pull at 10 lbs., while the Colt, although measurably lighter at 9 lbs., was significantly longer and “stagier.” Both single-action pulls were dreamy, with the Smith at 2.5 lbs. and the Colt at 2.75 lbs. and both are practically target-grade crisp.

THE WINNER

So what was the reason for Smith M10's (and the related medium-framed M15 and M19) eventual primacy in the LE market? Well, there was the cost per unit difference. Although the actual MSRP differential in 1968 was around 34 bucks, shelling out an additional 65 bucks over the OP's asking price would get you a Python! Then there was the fact the M10's grip was more user-friendly across a broader spectrum of hand sizes.

I've wound up sticking a Tyler T-grip adapter on nearly every '50s to mid-'60s Colt I've ever used. The exception? The Python — but I haven't ever been wealthy enough to own enough of them to worry about!

Aside from these reasons, I'm pretty certain Smith just did a better job of marketing their revolvers to the LE community. Colt was heavily occupied with the AR15/M16, Peacemaker and Government Model. Their DA revolvers, prestigious as they may have been, were simply sucking up too much money. Although



Two vintage solutions for increasing the effectiveness of the .38 Special were (above, left) Winchester-Western 150-grain Metal Piercing (right) and the original high-speed hotshot — disco-era Super-Vel Police 110-grain JHP.



Service-grade accuracy from the S&W Model 10 with Black Hills 158-grain LRN Cowboy Loads.



Colt's OP (top) is built on the .41 caliber I-Frame. The Police Positive (below) is built on the D-Frame. Both feature the distinctive "pull-to-open" cylinder release latch.

the OP wasn't as expensive to make as say, a Python, it was still a fairly pricey item.

Then there was the signature naked ejector rod on the OP. Perhaps some PDs were leery of timing and alignment issues should some patrolman damage his while attempting to use his OP as a club.

RANGE TIME

We shot both guns with three loads in keeping with the vintage aspect of the whole project. The first was a pretty close approximation of the maligned 158-grain lead RN service cartridge — Black Hills' excellent Cowboy Action load. The other two were sexier and rarer but high on the cool factor.

The first was from a cherished box of the original Super-Vel Police 110-grain JHP we decided to sacrifice in the interests of ballistic curiosity. This was a noisy little beast, clocking just over 1,200 fps from the 5" Colt and just under 1,185 from the 4" Smith. It printed low at 25 yards and results — while certainly service-gun adequate — was not match-grade from either gun.

The second was Winchester-Western's long-defunct but very interesting pointed 150-grain Hi-Velocity Metal Piercing load. This one clocked just over 1,000 fps from the Colt and just under 970 from the Smith. Accuracy at 25 yards was excellent from the Colt and more than acceptable from the Smith.

Nothing changes the fact the Smith product eventually

outlasted Colt's. Today, S&W's catalog lists a still-impressive array of revolvers. The K-Frame models coming along (and in some cases, gone) in the last 50 years — Models 15, 19, 13, 14, 66, 65 to name a few — are all essentially Model 10s at their core. The M10 itself, incidentally, still exists in the S&W catalog in 4" service trim, along with its stainless version, the M64.

Colt, by comparison, is now offering a couple of "throwback" models for the collector/nostalgia segment. But if the Official Police is ever resurrected, it's unlikely to be in its classic format.

CHOICES TO MAKE

So who'd pick which of these two specimens and for what purpose? As a double-action defensive house gun or carry gun, I'd go with the Model 10. For deliberate single-action recreational shooting, I'd go with the Official Police.

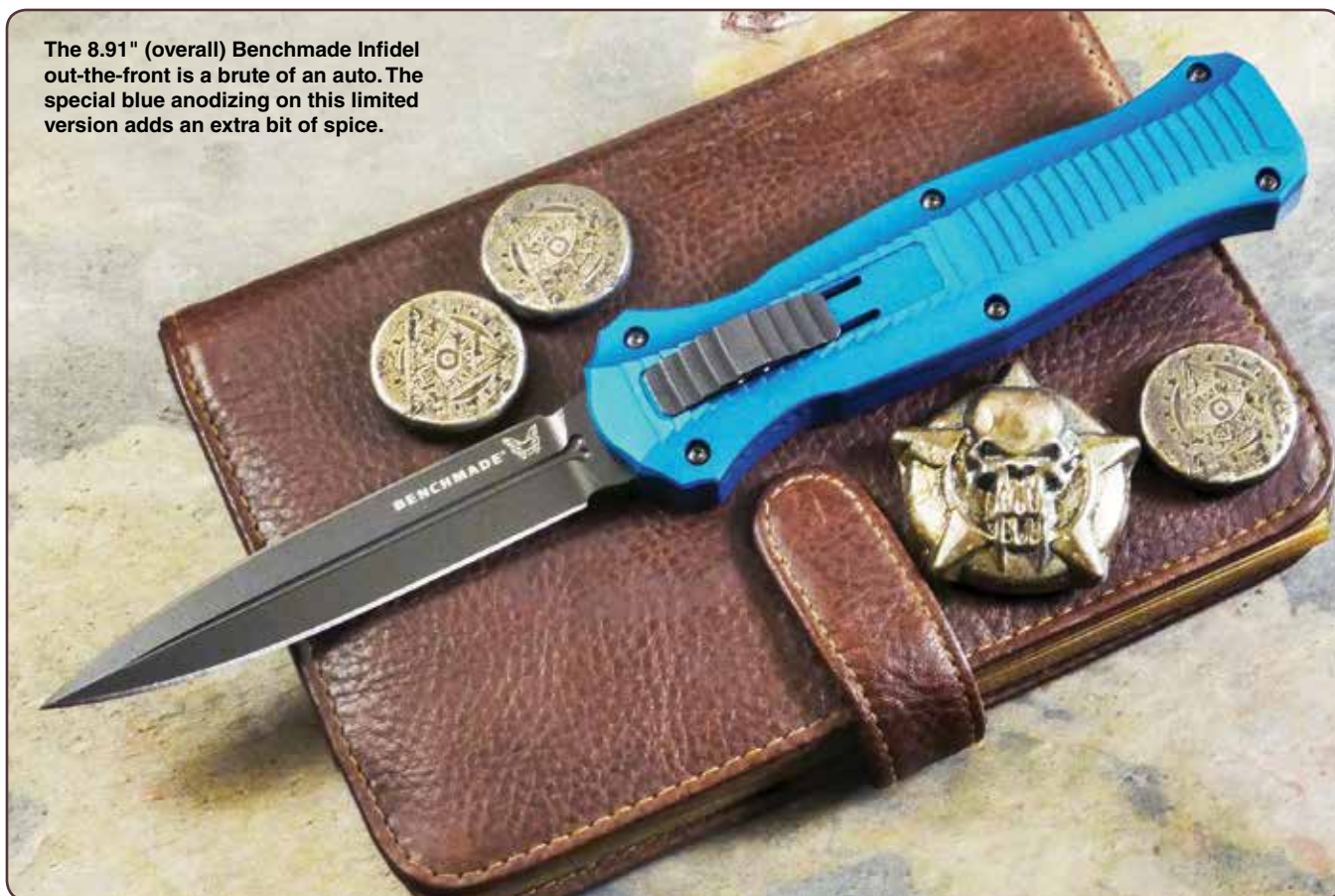
In the interests of participatory democracy, I let shooters of different generations shoot both to give me a bit of feedback.

We're talking four experienced revolver guys. Three of them went with the Smith M10. But the one "old-school" geezer with a serious background in slow-fire competition in his youth, went with the Colt OP. Either gun served in both capacities admirably during their heyday. Both would continue to do so now.

And although I'm a card-carrying Smith guy these days, if I ever saw a nice used Colt Official Police in any barrel length — 4", 5" or 6" — I'd grab it in a heartbeat.



The 8.91" (overall) Benchmade Infidel out-the-front is a brute of an auto. The special blue anodizing on this limited version adds an extra bit of spice.



BENCHMADE INFIDEL OUT-THE-FRONT FUN!

Benchmade was making autos when autos weren't cool. I bought my first, a Phil Boguszewski-designed Spike, back in the early 1990s and it hooked me on these free flying, push-button, spring-fed folders forever. The Benchmade Infidel out-the-front model, introduced in 2006, was an instant hit and today it's a classic.

The attractive bright blue anodized model you see here is available in a limited run for one year ending in June 2021.

If ever a knife fit its name, the Infidel hits the mark. At 4.9 oz., it feels like a tank in the hand and the slide release sends the blade out like a Howitzer round. Simply pull the slide back and the blade retracts back into

the handle pretty as you please. Many out-the-fronts feel light and airy but this isn't one of them. The 3.91" CPM-S30V stainless steel blade, with an attractive fuller groove up the middle, is double-ground in fine fashion. The 5.0" handle has the sturdy feel of a fixed-blade in the hand.

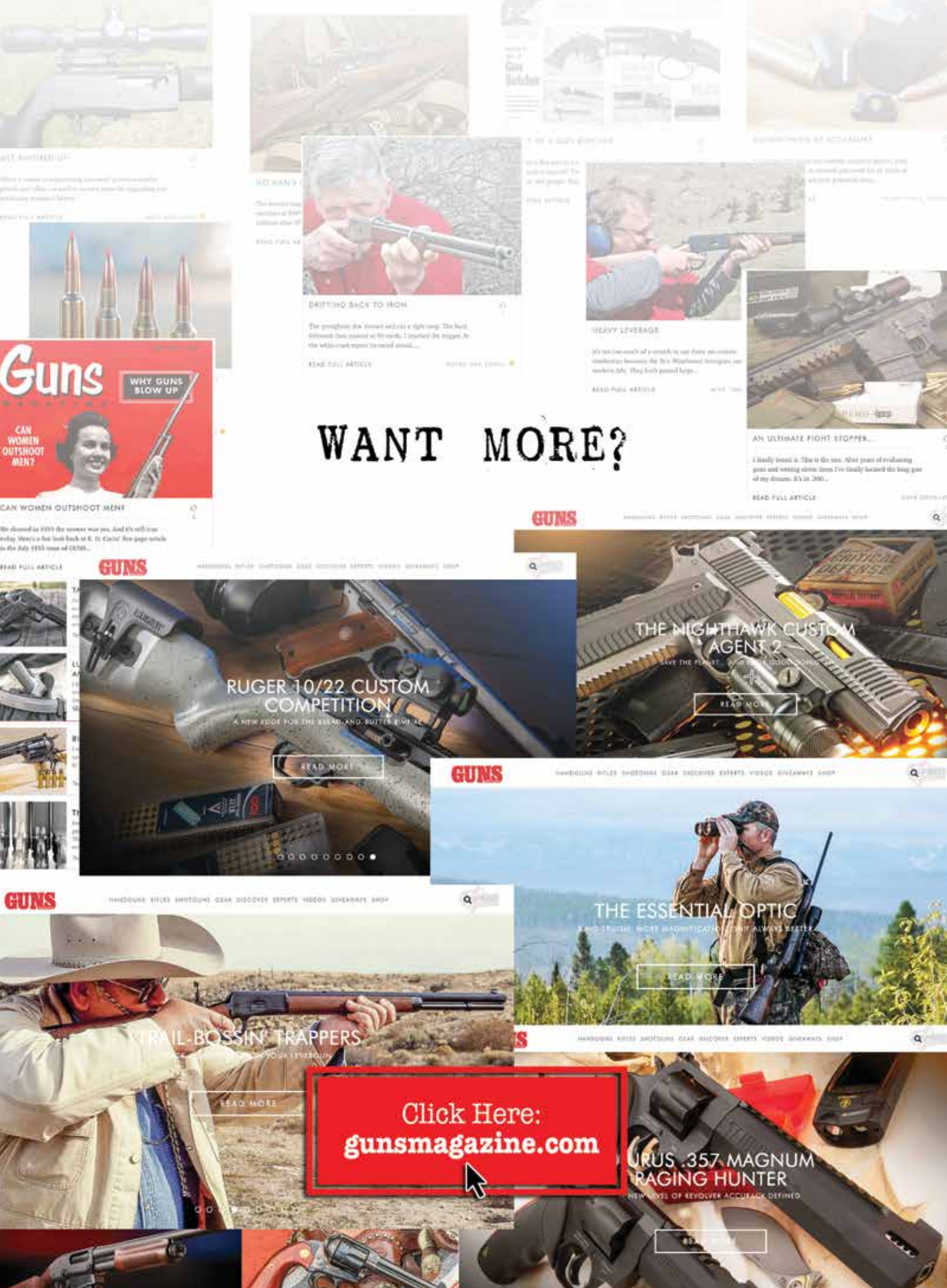
WHY YOU'LL LIKE IT

Out-the-front fixed-blades are simpler to use and orient in the hand than those propelling the blade out the side. With the Benchmade Infidel you simply push the slide forward and the hand quickly adjusts to the hammer or forward grip — no twisting and turning the handle to reposition the grip. Of course, Benchmade is known for manufacturing quality knives but there's an added bonus. The special edition Blue Infidel will run you \$525 MSRP but also available are two Black versions, a full-size and Mini version, which go for \$495 and \$425 respectively. As beastly out-the-front autos go, you'll be hard pressed to find one with the battle-hardened track record of the Infidel.



Push the Infidel's slide forward and the double-ground dagger blade slams into action. Pull the slide back and the blade snicks tidily back into the handle.

Benchmade.com



GET AHEAD UP
When it comes to mounting a scope, you have many options. But which one is the best? We'll show you the pros and cons of each, and help you choose the right one for your needs.



CAN WOMEN OUTSHOOT MEN?
We decided in 2015 the answer was yes. And it's still true today. Here's a fun look back at G. D. Galt's five-page article in the July 1955 issue of GUNS.



GUNS
HANDGUNS RIFLES SHOOTING GEAR DISCOVER EXPERTS VIDEOS GUNWINKS SHOP



DRIFTING BACK TO IRON
The gunsmiths did indeed notice a slight dip. The hand followed their point to the right. I repeated the trigger. As the whole craft began to move around...

READ FULL ARTICLE



HEAVY LEVERAGE
If you're one of the many who say that you can't shoot, you're wrong. You're just not using the right leverage. The first thing you need to do is to get your hands on a heavy lever. They both point large.

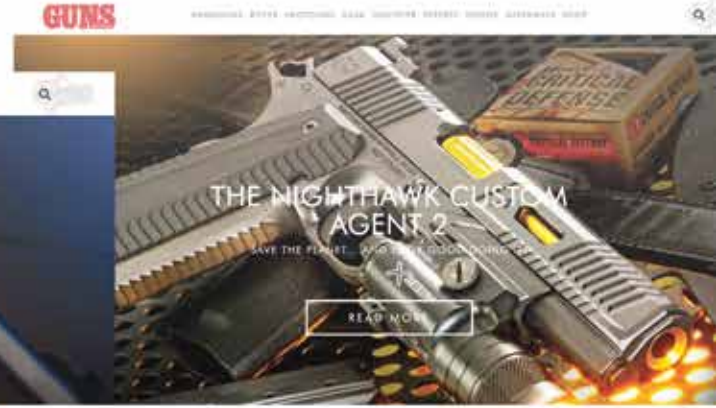
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FIGHT BACK AGAINST ANTI-GUN SOCIAL BIGOTRY

DON'T FEED THE GUN PROHIBITIONISTS!

Dave Workman

For the past few months, a major gun rights organization has been quietly — and sometimes not so quietly — conducting what amounts to an educational campaign, alerting the nation's gun owners about anti-gun businesses and their CEOs who use their profits to discriminate against the Second Amendment.

This is not a “boycott list,” as some have unfairly described it. According to the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms (CCRKBA), the purpose is to provide gun owners with information so they can decide where to spend their money.

LINE 'EM UP

The list includes restaurants, airlines, banks, theaters and even insurance companies. You can find this list on the CCRKBA website (CCRKBA.org), in the left-hand column under the heading “General Interest.” Scroll down to “Anti-gun Businesses” and take a look. You will find such familiar names as HBO, Hallmark Cards, GEICO, Levi Strauss & Co., MTV, PayPal, Royal Caribbean Cruises, Yelp and Dick's Sporting Goods — and this just scratches the surface. There are some 200 companies and CEOs on the roster.

This list can be updated. Each gun owner can do his or her part by simply paying attention. If you spot a sign or decal on the door of a business saying, “No Firearms” or simply has the artwork of a handgun with the traditional red cross-out, take a picture with your phone and take a picture of the name of the business. Alert the Citizens Committee and they can do the rest.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

But you can do a bit more. Social media is a powerful tool and you can advise friends and a wider circle of acquaintances when you spot such signs. You're not committing an injudicious act by simply noting “I found this sign on the door of . . .” whatever establishment posts it. Just don't say anything else. Keep your disappointment, your anger and/or frustration to yourself. Don't tell anyone to boycott the establishment; don't say bad things about the business or the people who own it. Allow people to decide for themselves.

When a business declares itself a “gun-free zone,” accept it and simply spread the word. The best way to “challenge the establishment” is at its bottom line. These businesses and the people who own and run them are part of the establishment.

Their naiveté could one day result in tragedy, since criminals and madmen ignore such designations and they don't waste time reading signs on doors.

CHALLENGE THE ESTABLISHMENT

Back in the late 1960s and early 1970s, self-styled anti-establishment types told anyone who would listen to “challenge authority.” What they were really saying was “challenge the establishment,” and today, like it or not, the gun prohibition crusade is imbedded in the establishment.

Therefore, anti-gunners think they get an automatic pass — don't allow it.

For example, when a Seattle-based gun control group tried to exploit last summer's troubles in Portland, Oregon by smearing the “gun lobby,” incredibly arguing “peaceful” protesters' rights were being violated by police and federal agents, CCRKBA's Alan Gotlieb struck back quickly. He issued a statement declaring Seattle's Alliance for Gun Responsibility was “siding with rioters, looters and urban terrorists.” People who had become weary of the protests — devolving into fests of vandalism, looting, arson and assault — took notice.

TALKING POINTS

A while back, during an online discussion about the Portland riots, people remarked all the peaceful demonstrators should not be judged by the actions of the troublemakers. I took the opportunity to draw a parallel between this dilemma and the

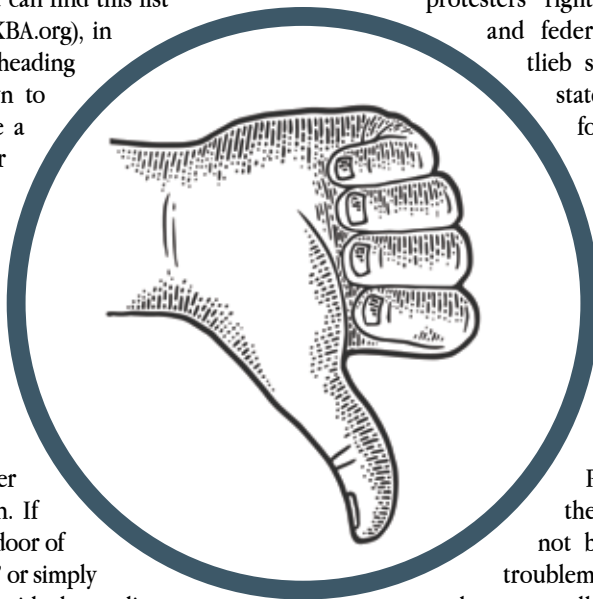
one constantly faced by gun owners. I wrote, “What about firearms owners? They often complain — with considerable justification it appears — that they all get penalized because some jerk misuses a gun.”

One fellow demanded to know, “how might we stop killer gun jerks without oppressing the law-abiding majority? And why does that majority need assault weapons and multiround (*sic*) magazines?”

My response was simple: Treat the killers the way we treat other criminals. Lock them up, or in some cases, apply capital punishment.

This guy wrote back, “The real problem isn't assault rifles, it's multiround (*sic*) magazines one would think normal gun owners wouldn't need.”

Then I struck: “Who says gun owners don't ‘need’ full- and original-capacity magazines? You? Who put you in charge of what anybody else owns?” It was the end of the conversation. Point made.



Learn something from this anecdote. When you encounter such people, be diplomatic but direct. Remain calm, keep your voice low or don't write in all capital letters if communicating on social media.

When someone declares they have "a right" to be safe, agree with them. "I have that right, also, and I carry a firearm to make sure I stay safe."

clear social bigotry. Gun owners alerting one another about businesses and people practicing such discrimination isn't social bigotry, it's education.

STAND UP FOR US

Don't play the victim, however. It's the whiny approach of people for whom the concept of self-reliance is incomprehen-

"DON'T PLAY THE VICTIM, HOWEVER. IT'S THE WHINY APPROACH OF PEOPLE FOR WHOM THE CONCEPT OF SELF-RELIANCE IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE AND FRIGHTENING."

FACE IT, WE'RE NOT POPULAR

Always keep in perspective ours may be a just cause but it isn't a popular cause. Billionaires aren't going to publicly support you and the mainstream media will frequently demonize you.

You and your rights are the scapegoat of incompetent politicians who cannot solve the crime problem because their very social policies breed and cater to criminal behavior. They refuse to acknowledge this failing because above all else, gun-hating politicians will never admit they're wrong nor will they accept blame. It's always someone else's fault, no matter what "it" is.

Indeed, gun owners appear to be the only social group against which it remains fashionable to discriminate, which is

sible and frightening. Cities are full of such people while rural areas are home to people who take care of themselves and their families, including assuming the role of "first responder" if and when the need arises.

Gun owners are self-reliant people who have what we used to call a "low B.S. tolerance level." Posting one's business as a "gun-free zone" falls well within the definition of stockyard fertilizer because it will not prevent a tragedy.

The best you can do is avoid places where tragedy could strike. Help others do likewise by alerting your friends about businesses supporting gun control and prohibiting firearms on the premises. Post the information on social media and pass it on to CCRKBA. They'll tell the whole world. 

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N8 TACTICAL OT2 IWB HOLSTER

Brent T. Wheat

We all get jaded when hearing the stereotypical new product sell-points of “Versatile” and “Comfortable.” I mean, really, when’s the last time you heard a new product tout the fact it was horribly uncomfortable and dedicated to a single narrow task? Regardless of my curmudgeonly carping, I was amazed to discover the N8 Tactical OT2 IWB holster really does take such marketing concepts to new heights.

It’s also a stereotypical “I-didn’t-think-I’ll-like-it” rig. Admittedly, it’s huge and incorporates elastic webbing. In my experience, such holsters require pants two sizes too big, while elastic fits like a glove during initial use but often becomes loose and sloppy after a few weeks of wear, tear and sweat.

However, after slipping the big holster inside my waistband, I let out an audible “Oooooo” as the velvet-like suede backing caressed my middle flab. With moisture-proof neoprene core to protect the top leather, the holster prevents the gouging



common to most IWB holsters. I’d definitely nominate it for “most comfortable holster of the year.”

The elastic gun pouch fits most any pistol you care to park there and — so far — seems very secure. The adjustable-cant polymer belt clip appears immune to abuse and when you add in the N8 Tactical’s two week “Try it free” guarantee, my lackluster opinion rapidly became one of enthusiasm. And, at \$39.99 MSRP — I’ve paid much more for far less!

N8Tactical.com

MAGWELL MOUNTS BRASS GOAT

Brent T. Wheat

Goats are well known for their gustatory proclivities. The males, known as billies, are especially prone to chew on anything alive or dead, organic or not, it doesn’t matter. They don’t actually eat things like tin cans or

gloves but their curious nature often causes them to sample such fare. Thus, Magwell mounts chose a good name for their AR brass catcher.

Such devices have been around for years but most brass catchers present significant drawbacks — they are fiddly and often invoke malfunctions. Now, with this “Next Generation AR Brass Catcher,” Magwell has finally figured out a simple, non-fiddly way to capture shell casings without affecting rifle action.

The catcher is simplicity itself — you slide the polymer catcher clip to the front of the AR magazine well and it’s ready to go. When the device is full, you drop the Brass Goat’s “magazine” and empty it. Slap in a new full magazine of bullets into the gun, an empty magazine into the brass goat and you’re ready to rock and roll.

In testing, my Rock River Arms carbine performed flawlessly and the brass catcher, while adding some bulk to the right side of the rifle, stayed in place. I can’t vouch for performance in an all-out “run-n-gun” competitive stage but the whole rig clings like a remora and would probably stay put, happily eating brass like its namesake.

MSRP: \$39.99

BrassGoat.com

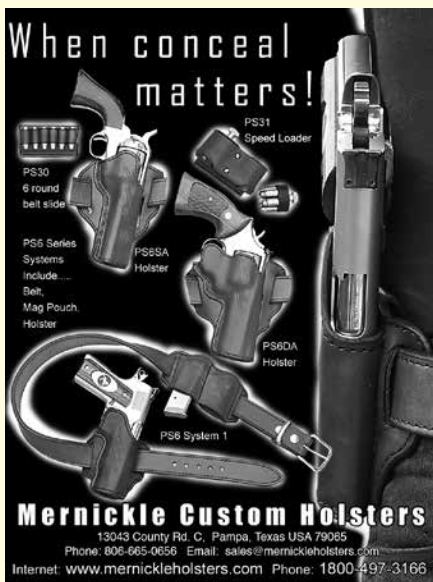


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With Savage Arms' 110 Timberline, low temperatures, dry air, low pressures and long shots are attainable. The rifle has a 22" fluted barrel made of carbon steel, overmold surfaces, a target crown and omni-port muzzlebrake. The Model 110's AccuFit system lets hunters customize length-of-pull and

comb height of the Realtree Escape synthetic stock. Receiver is made of carbon steel with a Cerakote finish. Weighing 8.1 lbs., the rifle has an OAL of 42.375" and a 1:8" rate of twist. The OD Green Cerakote on the barrel, receiver and critical parts protects against corrosion and harsh terrain. MSRP: \$1,129. For more info: (413) 642-4260, SavageArms.com



LUCHA — BLACKWASH KERSHAW KNIVES

Kershaw Knives' Lucha is now offered in BlackWash giving it a well-worn look. Its 4.6" drop-point blade is made of Sandvik 14C28N stainless steel. The all-steel handle has a black-oxide BlackWash

finish. Weighing 5.9 oz. with an OAL of 10.25", the Lucha features dual KVT ball-bearing pivots for easy operation. The handle has a rounded bevel so it rolls effortlessly in the hand. MSRP: \$219.99. For more info: (800) 325-2891, Kershaw.KaiUSA.com



M&P9 M2.0 COMPACT 4" OR SMITH & WESSON

Smith & Wesson has expanded its line of M&P M2.0 Compact pistols to include an optics-ready variant: the M&P9 M2.0 Compact 4" OR. The new models are chambered in 9mm with a 4" barrel and feature a slide cut for optics, co-witness white-dot front and rear sights. The M&P9 M2.0 Compact OR comes standard with seven mounting plates designed to fit popular slide-mounted optics, two 15-round magazines, four interchangeable palmswell grip inserts and more. MSRP: \$616. For more info: (800) 331-0852, Smith-Wesson.com



ST-3X PRECISION RIFLE STOCK RIVAL ARMS

Rival Arms introduces the ST-3X Precision Rifle Stock for the precision long-range shooter. Weighing 28 oz., the ST-3X is machined from billet aluminum. Comb height and length-of-pull are user-adjustable and the recoil pad can be adjusted and canted for better shoulder fit. Many precision rifle chassis systems use a buffer-tube style attachment similar to stock AR-15 systems. The ST-3X stock uses the same mounting system, but since it's purpose-built for chassis rifles, Rival Arms added an adjustable cheek riser that passes through the stock. MSRP: \$236.99. For more info: (888) 811-9277, Rival-Arms.com



6.5 PRC HSM AMMUNITION

HSM Ammunition has added a new cartridge to their Trophy Gold offerings: the 6.5 PRC. Often characterized as a "magnumized" 6.5 Creedmoor, the 6.5 PRC has a larger case capacity. Using only the finest components, the HSM 6.5 PRC is completed with the 140-grain Berger Hunting VLD bullet. MSRP: around \$60 per box of 20. For more info: (406) 777-3908, HSMammunition.com



SCOUT 3.0 IWB HOLSTER GALCO GUNLEATHER

Galco's Scout 3.0 IWB Holster is made of rough-out steer hide. It has an open top and a reinforced mouth for easy holstering. The holster is adjustable for cant and converts for right- or left-hand use. Two different belt clips are included: a UniClip for belts up to 1-1/2" and an Ultimate Stealth clip for belts of unlimited width. MSRP: starting \$89. For more info: (800) 874-2526, GalcoGunleather.com



THREADED 9MM BARREL ALTOR CORP.

ALTOR has introduced a Threaded 9mm Barrel for the Single-Shot Self-Defense Pistol. The new accessory could make the ALTOR the quietest pistol ever with a suppressor since it doesn't have any moving parts except the trigger. The Single-

Shot Self-Defense Pistol is lightweight and fully ambidextrous. Its ergonomic design makes it easy to hold and carry. MSRP: \$99. For more info: (602) 441-4077, ALTORCorp.com

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STORM VECTOR

TOPS KNIVES

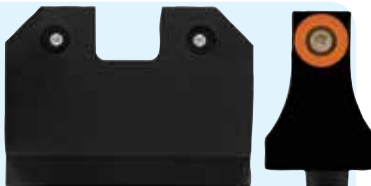
TOPs Knives' *Storm Vector* is capable of handling anything from small tasks around camp, to clearing brush. It has the "broken back" style of the Seax, the Viking dagger. Although not very

practical for EDC today, in the Viking Age you would never leave home without it. Weighing 24 oz., the Storm Vector has an OAL of 18.25". Its 12.63"-long blade is made of 1095 RC 56-58 with an acid rain finish. MSRP: \$280. For more info: (208) 542-0113, TOPSKnives.com

R3D NIGHT SIGHTS

XS SIGHTS

XS Sights is changing the name of its popular 3-Dot RAM Night Sights to *R3D Night Sights* due to a trademark issue. They are also introducing R3D Suppressor Height sights for GLOCK pistols. The radioactive material night sights have a traditional 3-dot tritium and notch and post sight picture. The rear sight is blacked out to increase contrast against the front sight (offered in bright orange or green). R3D Night Sights are CNC machined from bar-stock steel and treated with a rust-preventative coating. They fit standard holster options and can be installed by hand or with a sight pusher tool. MSRP: \$140. For more info: (888) 744-4880, XSSights.com



HOLSTER FOR SPRINGFIELD ARMORY HELLCAT

RECLUSE HOLSTER

Recluse introduces *Holsters for the Springfield Armory Hellcat*. There are three models: the TS Cargo (Model HCat2-Q), TS Front (Model HCat2-F) and TS Solo (Model HCat2-S). The holsters are handmade to order using high-quality Horween horsehide. MSRP: from \$77.95. For more info: (866) 960-1264, RecluseHolster.com

RMP PLATE CARRIER & HELMET RACK

GREY MAN TACTICAL

Grey Man Tactical's *RMP Plate Carrier & Helmet Rack* can be attached to anywhere a Rigid MOLLE Panel (RMP) is mounted like the back of your vehicle seat. Use the Tough Hook, aluminum spacer and RMP backers to secure your plate carrier so you're ready to go at a moment's notice. Made of injection-molded Glass Reinforced Nylon Polymer, Grey Man RMPs allow easy transport and organization of firearms and other items. MSRP: \$90 — Plate Carrier; \$50 — Helmet Rack. For more info: (985) 290-3161, GreyManTactical.com



FUSION WIRELESS TRAIL CAMERA

STEALTH CAM

The *Fusion Wireless Trail Camera* from Stealth Cam takes the guesswork out of cellular activation and will have you transmitting images in a matter of minutes with their quick scan QR setup. Combined with Stealth Cam's new data plans, FUSION offers affordable options for every budget and need. Downloading the new COMMAND App will allow Fusion owners to control, customize and manage their wireless cameras from their mobile devices. MSRP: from \$199.99. For more info: (877) 269-8490, StealthCam.com

CHAINSAW BRIAN'S PREMIUM DOE ESTRUS

WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER

Wildlife Research Center introduces *Chainsaw Brian's Premium Doe Estrus*, a high-octane Doe Estrus Scent made with Doe Urine with Estrus Secretions, and then supercharged with Territorial Musk plus another secret ingredient. Part of the new line of Micro Brew Craft Scents, the revved-up estrus helps enhance your hunting experience.

This line of high-performance lures is made in small batches to optimize their strengths in various attraction qualities. MSRP: \$29.99 for a 4-fl. oz. bottle. For more info: (800) 873-5873, Wildlife.com



SIG SAUER® P365 PISTOL *Giveaway*

Game-changer. That's how SIG SAUER describes the P365, a Micro-compact pistol in an everyday carry size. With a 10+1 full-size capacity, the P365 is striker-fired and has the clean crisp trigger pull you expect from a SIG. Lightweight and easy to conceal, the P365 is chambered in 9mm and rated for +P ammunition. Included standard are XRAY3 Day/Night sights, a 10-round flush fit magazine as well as a 10-round extended magazine. Optional 12-round or 15-round extended mags bring the total capacity to 13 or 16 rounds. Win the new P365 and you'll be ready to defend yourself and others if ever the need arises.

Carry the P365 in 1791 Gunleather's *Ultra Custom Holster*. With Memory-Lok technology for a customized fit, the holster has Kydex-like retention with the comfort of leather. Made from ultra-soft cowhide, it can be customized to your firearm multiple times in a three-step process. The holster has a sweat guard to give a layer of protection between you and the firearm. A reinforced synthetic tuckable clip is included for IWB carry.

The *COMPACT* is a powerful PepperBall launcher you can carry in your pocket. Preloaded and ready to shoot with a launch distance of up to 30 feet, the COMPACT fires a projectile with a pepper irritant. The pepper ball bursts to release a pepper cloud upon impact to incapacitate a threat.

Do join this giveaway for a chance to own SIG's P365, 1791 Gunleather's custom holster and the PepperBall COMPACT. These will amp up your self-defense stockpile. Click on GunsMagazine.com/giveaways or mail a post card. —Jazz Jimenez



PEPPERBALL COMPACT

MANUFACTURER: PepperBall
(888) 874-3491
PBLifeLite.com
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MANUFACTURER: 1791 Gunleather
(800) 407-1791
1791gunleather.com
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MICRO-COMPACT**

MANUFACTURER: SIG SAUER
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(603) 610-3000

CALIBER: 9mm, **CAPACITY:** 10+1
BARREL LENGTH: 3.1", **OAL:** 5.8"

WEIGHT: 17.8 oz.
VALUE: \$579.99

MARLIN'S TRIPLE-FOUR

A STORY OF LEAD, LOVE AND LEVER GUNS

The lure of the lever gun is a contagious one. Once bitten, the symptoms rapidly progress. Cures include names like Marlin, Winchester, or Rossi. Today's anecdotal remedy focuses on the most accurate lever gun, caliber-wise, I've ever had the pleasure of shooting. There are a few tricks to getting them to shoot to their potential, but I'm happy to share them with you.

HISTORY

Marlin brought out their Model 444 in 1964 in hopes of capturing riflemen's enthusiasm with a powerful lever gun in the new .444 Marlin cartridge. In a partnership move, Remington Arms and Marlin joined forces, designing the new cartridge. Designed to fill the gap the .45-70 left in newer rifles, the .444 Marlin is basically a lengthened .44 Magnum, with bullet diameter being the same.

The .444 Marlin is nearly identical to the



Here's Tank's simple "fixins" for an accurate .444 Marlin handload.

.405 Winchester ballistically, but the Marlin model 444 is slimmer and lighter, compared to the bulkier and heavier Winchester model 1895.

A NEAR-FATAL CASE

During the early '90s, I contracted a severe case of *Marlinitis*. According to the proprietor of my local gun shop, it was one of the worst cases he'd ever seen.

Fortunately, he kept a steady flow of new and used Marlins trickling into his shop. The staff started stashing every Marlin entering the shop for me, my case was so severe.

Seems the more Marlins I bought, the better the shop owner and I both felt, compassionate guy he is. The guns perking me up the most were pre-safety Marlins. Configuration or caliber didn't matter at first.

The last two Marlin levers Tank bought after he was seduced by their impeccable factory wood. The Model 444 "Outfitter" (top) pairs with a standard Model 444 (bottom).





The LEE APP press is a fast, easy, fun way of sizing and crimping gas checks onto your cast slugs. Remember, 0.432" is the way to go for top accuracy.

After developing a resistance to 336s in .30-30 and .35 Remington, I went for the heavier stuff. I can't remember the order, but I know there were .356 and .375 Winchester, along with 1895s in .45-70 and the .444 Marlin mixed in.



Tank's favorite molds for the .444 Marlin — LBT 330-grain LFNDCGC at left and MP Molds 300-grain HP on right. Both molds work wonderfully in .44 Mag too!

A SHOOTER FOR SURE

When you have the fever, order or semblance doesn't matter. I remember the Triple-Four being the last of my quests, but boy, what a doozy it is for power and accuracy. Marlin model 444s are innately accurate and not just mine. Every recovering Marlin addict I've talked with agrees, .444 Marlins are the most accurate lever guns they ever shot! Many shoot as well as their bolt-action brethren! I know mine do.

RE-LAPSE

Around 2000-2001, Marlin did a dastardly deed. They started putting out lever guns in the most gorgeous wood you ever saw from a factory rifle. I guess Marlin was sitting on this figured walnut and decided to finally use it. I know it snagged the likes of me and several others! In a year's time, two more .444s joined the family — an Out-fitter Carbine (444P) and another Model 444. They are the two pictured here. Can you blame me for my weakness?

THE LOAD

Triple-fours aren't finicky so I never really did much load development. All my .444s like the following, with all shooting it very well. I never deviate from it because I never saw the need. Sure, I shoot different cast bullets, anything from 300 to 330 grains but I always use H335 as my propellant and I always size

my cast bullets 0.432" for utmost accuracy. I always use a LEE Factory Crimp — I think it makes a difference.

When using Remington brass, I use 56 grains of H335. For Starline brass, which they started making a few years ago, I use 55 grains of H335, due to the brass being thicker.

Velocity runs around 2,150 FPS, depending on barrel length and has all the smackdown power you need for anything in the U.S. Large Standard Rifle primers are used, usually Winchester. My two favorite molds are an LBT 330-grain LFNGC (long flat-nose gas check) design and an MP Molds 300-grain HP GC (hollow point gas check) design.

The LBT solid is great when deep penetration is needed, while the HP GC from MP Molds is great for soft-skinned game like whitetail, or mule deer. I've used both on whitetail, and deer don't travel far after being struck with either one.

THE LAST WORD

While I'd never wish an illness on anyone but if you are going to get a virus, let's hope its *Marlinitis*, or Lever Gun Madness, or something along those lines. While the symptoms can last a lifetime, it's a great road to travel and a fulfilling one at that.

GUNS[®]

MAGAZINE

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of ripped parachutes. As with any type of hunting, it was great fun.

We watched the store like it was our job, waiting for new arrivals to expand our collection of worn-out militaria. Whenever word of a fresh shipment reached our ears, the neighborhood boys descended like a swarm of buzzards, ripping and tearing through the piles in order to find a perfect specimen.

The finest items were not the most pristine but those with interesting damage. We'd buy wholly worthless junk and make up elaborate stories — known today as *bald-faced lies* — about small surface dings we claimed were the result of a German sniper attempting to kill General Patton “as he drank from this very canteen.”

All of our lawn-mowing money went for necessities such as rusty bayonets and dry-rotted gas masks, mandatory gear for any overnight sleep-out when you are 12 years old — this was long before parents discovered everyday dirt was more dangerous than communism. As “our gang” (which meant something entirely different in those days) traipsed to the top-secret campsite in the woodlot across the cornfield, we resembled a platoon of half-pint soldiers *en route* to a date with destiny and burnt marshmallows, minus the rifles. Those hand-me-down single-shot .22s were safely locked away at home until we reached a more mature age — say 15.

CHANGE HAPPENS

Unfortunately, we got eventually older, the world moved on and the old-fashioned Army Surplus/Gun Store ran into a new generation with seemingly unlimited amounts of discretionary income and a distinct contempt for products with active visible mildew. Today's kids would no more sleep in a smelly, patched army pup tent than to wear last year's snowboarding apparel — at least those who still venture outdoors.

It's obvious the changing tastes of younger outdoors enthusiasts signaled the death knell for these weird, wonderful and delightfully untamed retail emporiums.

Then again, looking back at all the nights I froze in a worn-out G.I. sleeping bag while dreaming of owning my own poorly sporterized 6.5x52mm Carcano, perhaps the current generation did us a big favor. 🦏

locker to keep it all in place.

If you want an RDS on the Colt, bite the bullet and get it milled. On the other hand, there are plenty of factory guns with ready-to-use mounting platforms so maybe a new gun would be best if you don't want to cut steel on the Gov't model.

In other words, an Official Gun Journalist just authorized you to buy a new gun — tell your wife/girlfriend/significant other you now have no choice in the matter! —BW

I'm going to share my opinion on red dots from an old dog. I've tried red dots in the past and it was “hunt and search” for them. I will admit the GLOCK grip angle no longer suits me and that's what they had been mounted on. I also put one on an S&W PC Victory pistol and it was “about OK.” I preferred the fiber optics.

My regular carry guns are a SIG P365 and a Springfield Hellcat w/ optic. The SIG with night sights and laser suits me fine however I often find myself carrying the Hellcat with optic if I'm going to the store and want 14 rounds without an extra magazine. I found on the Hellcat, the dot comes right up to my eye and it's just a matter of trusting the dot for a damn near perfect shot every time. I will say I like the SIG trigger better and the 10 rounds allows me to carry in restricted states. So I'd say it's a toss-up! Shall I use the adage “location, location, location?” Keep up the good work!

Jim Lieto

Sounds like you've got a very thoughtful arrangement for carry guns. As I always say, “Your mileage may vary...” —BW

Regarding RDS, my vision is definitely old guy — my next prescription is a dog. I've transitioned to a Kimber .45 with an RDS and co-witness irons. I now have five pistols red-dot equipped and there probably is no going back. I do have shooting glasses with a right-eye reading lens that lets me see iron sights clearly but it's purely a “fun-on-the-range” thing.

Brad Gray

I actually laughed out loud at “my next

prescription is a dog.” I'm gonna have to use this in Crossfire. Everybody is using RDS but I'm still struggling — old dog/new trick — maybe someday. —BW

PHOTO CREDITS

I just got my copy of the Jan 2021 GUNS. Excellent all around with one puzzling exception: aside from the feature on the CZ Custom, I don't see any photo credits for any of the other features. The work of superb photogs deserves recognition.

Robert Bruce



The majority of photos for story packages come from the writers so we feel his or her byline gives appropriate credit for the entire work. If we use other photos, appropriate credit is given, usually in the caption. In the case of Rob Jones, Mike Venturino or Massad Ayoob, where the entire photo package is done by someone else, we give a byline as we did in the January issue. —BW

DLC DUNCES

I've noticed many firearms enthusiast magazines reference amorphous carbon coating, commonly called “DLC” and make the mistake of calling the process “Diamond-Like Coating.” You did the same thing in the review of the CZ “Gun-crafter Industries Executive Series” (Jan '21 issue).

DLC actually is short for “Diamond-Like Carbon,” not “Diamond-Like Coating.”

The process was used on suspension parts in the motorcycle industry well before discovery by the firearms manufacturers. I used it 30 years ago on race motorcycles.

Otherwise, I love your publication!

René LaPrevotte

Our bad! René is correct and I've shared it with all the editors at FMG Publications. Our apologies to all DLC-coated machine parts for the misidentification. —BW 🦏

WHERE THE MILDEW GROWS ... KIDS JUST DON'T APPRECIATE JUNGLE ROT ANYMORE

Today I was perusing a nearby “outdoor” store. I use quotation marks around the word Outdoor, as most of these stores are nowadays quite unrecognizable as such. This sad state of affairs comes after mega-corporation “box stores” destroyed the local retailer scene, rendering bait shops, camping emporiums and gun stores obsolete and out of business.

Entering the glass-and-chrome building to purchase a box of shotgun shells, I was momentarily disoriented after making a wrong turn at the tire care center. Stumbling around, I turned left instead of right and wound up in the skateboarding section. I didn't realize it as such because most of the clothing appeared to be military surplus or resembled my lucky rabbit-hunting pants after several seasons of briars and barbed-wire fences.

SHOCKING DISCOVERY

On a whim I decided to check out the duds before leaving the area. Looking at price tags, it became immediately apparent all the “old” clothes were designer-labeled apparel costing more than my first boat, lawn chairs included. This was just for a pair of camouflage pants — a high-tech jacket with integrated Bluetooth and GPS capabilities cost the equivalent of a small condominium in Boca Raton.

As the salesman came up and greeted me with a highly-trained “S'up, my Dude-ly?” I fled from the area lest he think I was some kind of weird late-50s man looking to purchase a mid-life crisis — I am, but didn't want him to know it.

LAND OF 1,000 CLAMSHELLS

I eventually found the shooting department and was amazed. In terms of selection, the breadth and depth of the clam-shell-packaged accessories was stunning. The ammo tables were groaning under stacks of every sort of shell and cartridge in current production, while the walls and glass cases were filled with hundreds upon hundreds of firearms of every description. There was even a “fine gun room” exuding a strong gravitational pull, drawing me into the darkened walnut-clad alcove to ogle the

wares. Fortunately, they were all safe and sanitary behind glass, immune to the drool stains such guns often elicit from writers and other small boys.

However, after frolicking for uncounted minutes through the gun section like a sugar-buzzed toddler, I walked away strangely unsatisfied. It all seemed so sterile, so organized, so unnatural.

The weird feeling persisted and weighed heavy on my mind as I headed to the 74-lane checkout queue. Mulling all this, I waited for the gender-neutral Summer Fawn (according to her/his nametag) to finish a phone call and ring up my shells. As Fawn tried unsuccessfully to operate the cell phone, run the cash register and make change simultaneously — conversation with a paying customer far down her/his list — I recognized my upset was due to yet another cherished piece of childhood had been subverted, perverted and ultimately killed by a multinational corporation. A crashing wave of melancholy flooded me as I realized one of my favorite youthful hangouts was gone forever: the corner Army/Navy Surplus Store & Gun Shop.

It distresses me to realize my cohorts and I were the last generation to understand the joy of walking into these entirely-male-oriented retailers with a hard-earned dollar burning a hole in our non-stone-washed jeans and walking out an hour later with enough junk to outfit a light infantry brigade, minus artillery and sidearms. Today, a child walking into an outdoor store with one dollar couldn't even purchase a small pumpkin spice decaf latte.

THE BOUQUET OF NOSTALGIA

For stirring up faded memories in any guy of my era, there is nothing quite like the scent of rotting canvas, gun oil and rancid boots to immediately transport you back to 1975. The air in a surplus store was not only fragrant but also undoubtedly highly contaminated with military fungicide, various



tropical mold spores and bacteria from places where politics is usually practiced with firearms. Sometimes I wonder if these noxious-yet-intoxicating fumes adversely affected my brain development, forcing me into a life of gun writing instead of gainful employment.

A trip to the surplus store/gun shop was always full of surprise and adventure. Since most of these establishments were run by crusty and slightly disreputable old men, inventory control and hygiene standards were lacking by Civil War standards but we happily dove into the oversize crates lining store walls, tunneling through mountains of stained sleeping bags and other unrecognizable jetsam in search of hidden treasure.

At my tender age the gun counter was still off-limits to hands-on handling. Yet, we still spent countless hours ogling the pickup-truck-worn lever actions, sleek bolt guns and the weird selection of old military rifles, most of which were peddled in the back of magazines for \$29.95.

Because of our incessant digging and lack of interest by the proprietor, the store displays tended to be highly disorganized, making any shopping trip an extended scavenger hunt where a broken Norden bombsight or moth-eaten .45 flap holster might be found buried under a huge stack

continued on page 73

2021**NEW**

PRODUCT SHOWCASE

By Jenna Buckley & Jade Moldae



TK11 TAC

FENIX

(888) 775-9996
fenixlighting.com

The Fenix **TK11 TAC** is a flashlight designed with the tactical user in mind. Its two operating modes were designed to support the law enforcement and security markets specifically. This unique design features a toggle tail switch allowing users to quickly switch between Tactical Mode — limiting the light to only the highest brightness level and strobe for tactical situations — or Duty Mode which accesses all lighting modes for on-duty demands.

The **TK16 V2.0** flashlight delivers functionality and performance as a reliable and necessary emergency and tactical tool. With 3,100-lumens of output and a dual tactical tail switch, the TK16 V2.0 provides professionals in security, public safety and law enforcement the necessary one-hand operation their jobs require.



WEATHERBY INC.

(307) 675-7840
weatherby.com

Weatherby adds to its Vanguard series with the **HIGH COUNTRY** rifle. The Monte Carlo polymer stock features textured forearm and grip areas, Vanguard recoil pad, integral recoil lug and hinged floorplate. The cold hammer-forged barrel — finished in Flat Dark Earth Cerakote — is fluted and threaded (1/2"-28) with a seamless thread protector. Additional features include an adjustable match quality two-stage trigger; fluted, one-piece machined bolt body; fully enclosed bolt sleeve and a three-position safety. The High Country is available in several calibers, including .257 Wby. Mag., 6.5 Creedmoor, 6.5 PRC, .270 Win., .30-06 SPRG., .300 Win. Mag. and more. Barrel lengths for Magnum-chambered models measure 26" and non-Magnum barrel lengths are 24".



ROCK RIVER ARMS

(866) 980-7625
rockriverarms.com

Rock River Arms' **MARKSMAN 6-POSITION STOCK KIT** features a six-position Mil-Spec receiver extension, adjustable cheek piece and buttplate/plate. A quick-detach socket is found on both sides. The kit is not for use with Rock River Arms' LAR-8. The stock kit is offered in black (ARO250K) or tan (ARO250KT).



PROLIX LUBRICANT

(800) 248-5823
prolixlubricant.com

Prolix has launched a new look for its top-class cleaning products. It debuted its BIO-TECH product line to clean, preserve and lubricate in 1995, and were the first pioneers of a successful "all in one" gun-care-product, now deemed "Bio-Technology." Its recyclable (strain and reuse) products are made of 89% (or greater) renewable resources. Prolix removes carbon, copper, lead, shotgun plastic residues and black powder. Prolix has many practical uses and won't damage wood, freeze, flash off or stain clothing.

ALIEN GEAR HOLSTERS

(208) 215-2046

aliengearholsters.com

Alien Gear Holsters added **SHAPESHIFT MODULAR HOLSTER SYSTEM MODELS FOR THE SPRINGFIELD HELLCAT and HELLCAT OSP**. The Hellcat OSP holster model includes a pocket for use with an optic, compatible with the Shield RMSc or compact optic of the same dimensions. The optic pocket provides protection for the optic, as well as keeping the user from being poked or prodded, or clothing torn by the optic when carrying the pistol. The Hellcat and Hellcat OSP will be available for every ShapeShift holster, including the Core Carry Pack. This includes the 4.0 IWB Holster, Appendix Carry Holster, ShapeShift Shoulder Holster, Drop Leg Holster and all others.



SMITH & WESSON INC.

(800) 331-0852

smith-wesson.com

Smith & Wesson expanded its line of M&P M2.0 Compact pistols to include an optics-ready variant, the **M&P9 M2.0 COMPACT 4" OR**. Building on the M&P9 M2.0 Compact pistol series, the new models are chambered in 9mm and feature a slide cut for optics, co-witness white-dot front and rear sights and enlarged forward slide serrations. The M&P9 M2.0 Compact pistols include the M2.0 feature set and are available with or without an ambidextrous manual thumb safety. Each pistol comes standard with seven mounting plates designed to fit popular slide-mounted optics, two 15-round magazines, four interchangeable palmswell grip inserts and more.



WILSON COMBAT

(800) 955-4856

wilsoncombat.com

Wilson Combat's P320 grip frame is now offered in **COMPACT** and **X-COMPACT** models to optimize the practical shooting potential of SIG SAUER P320 pistols. The molded polymer grip module enhances the user's grip and improves recoil control. The improvements in shape, texture and overall ergonomics will give a P320 the feel of a hand-sculpted custom gun with a simple grip change. Color options include black or tan. The grip frame is also available in Full Size model.



SPRINGFIELD ARMORY

(800) 680-6866

springfield-armory.com

Springfield Armory's **MODEL 2020 WAYPOINT** strikes a critical balance between light weight and rugged durability through the use of a premium, 100% carbon fiber stock by AG Composites. Available in adjustable and standard configurations, the stock features five QD mounts for versatile carry, M-Lok slots and is hand painted in Ridgeline (pictured) or Evergreen camo. The free-floated carbon fiber sleeved barrel enhances its packable weight and performance. It's also offered with a traditional fluted, Cerakote finished, stainless steel barrel. A TriggerTech "Field" trigger, adjustable from 2.5 lbs.-5 lbs., provides a crisp, clean break and the action is fed by AICS-pattern magazines. The Model 2020 Waypoint is available in 6mm Creedmoor, 6.5 Creedmoor, .308 Win. and 6.5 PRC.



BLACKHEART GEAR

(717) 492-8030

blackheartgear.com

The **MAX SLING** line of premium gun slings from BlackHeart Gear consists of a 16" x 3.5" neoprene pad with non-slip backing. It also includes a 12" neoprene scope cover. The neoprene scope cover conveniently stores in the Max Sling's built-in neoprene storage pocket. The storage pocket is also an ideal storage option for rangefinders, ammo, camo face paint and additional firearm tools and accessories. The Sling is fully adjustable with 1.25" nylon slider hardware and metal swivels. The Max Sling is offered in black and a Bottomlands Camo edition.



INFORCE

(401) 294-2030
inforce-mil.com

The **WILD2** provides 1,000 lumens of white light with up to 1.5 hours of runtime. Ultra-light and durable, weighing 4.7 oz., it provides a well-defined hotspot with the perfect balance of spill. Wild2 is made out of 6061-T6 aluminum and a Type III Mil-Spec hard-anodized finish. The device is impervious to dust, sand and dirt, and is waterproof to 66'. It's compatible with 1913 or GLOCK Universal rails. Users can transition between rail types by reversing the patented INFORCE crossbar in the mounting fixture. All three functions (constant, momentary and strobe) are activated by pressing laterally on either the left or right paddle.



PRIMARY ARMS OPTICS

(713) 344-9600
primaryarms.com

The **ACSS GRIFFIN MIL RETICLE** for the GLx 2.5-10x44 FFP riflescope from Primary Arms brings the advanced ranging tools and innovative horseshoe design of traditional ACSS reticles to a MIL-grid system. It's built to enhance both agility and accuracy of mid-range precision rifles. The fully multi-coated, low-dispersion glass provides exceptional light transmission for a clearer sight picture downrange, while the lightweight body and 2.5x minimum magnification improve handling speeds in close quarters. GLx 2.5-10x44mm FFP riflescopes have enhanced locking turrets with return to zero, AutoLive motion sensing reticle illumination and hardened steel-on-steel adjustment system.



BADLANDS

(800) 269-1875
badlandsgear.com

Badlands' **HURON UPLAND JACKET** features 40-gram Primaloft Active Insulation on the front and the top of the arms. On the back and underside of the arms, insulation is absent to reduce bulk, improve mobility and prevent overheating when wearing a vest. Durable Water Repellent (DWR) coatings and four-way stretch fabrics keep things dry and flexible, while a high abrasion-resistant overlay prevents damage to the jacket. Magnetic-closure front pockets feature shell holders and are darted to expand when cargo needs demand extra space. The jacket is available in Tan/Blaze or Olive.

The **HURON UPLAND PANT** features the same DWR coatings, four-way stretch and durable abrasion-resistant overlay. Articulated knees and a gusseted crotch increase flexibility and improve comfort. A zippered thigh pocket and deep front pockets, featuring an overlay for clipping in a knife, offer plenty of storage. The pants are available in Tan/Brown or Olive.

VERSACARRY

(979) 778-2000
versacarry.com

Key features have been added to Versacarry's **COMFORT FLEX IWB HOLSTER** made from water buffalo leather that surrounds a polymer insert for strength. A new feature of the holster is its optics compatibility, and it will fit most pistols with Reflex sights. A new padded pillow foam backing provides extreme comfort while also acting as a sweat barrier between the leather and skin. The polymer and foam backing are leather lined for durability and to protect the gun finish. It's draw-tension adjustable for a custom fit and secure carry, and the forward cant allows for easy draw. The holster is held in place by a newly designed strong belt clip that provides stability and fit. It's offered in four sizes to fit most popular handguns.



S404 SYNCHRO XTC

J.P. SAUER & SOHN

(210) 377-2527
jpsauer-usa.com

Sauer adds to the S404 series with the **SYNCHRO XTC**, a carbon fiber, bolt-action rifle in camouflage green. Weighing 6.1 lbs., this lightweight rifle delivers German precision, accuracy and reliability. The hand-laid, carbon-fiber stock features advanced recoil-reducing properties in addition to a thumbhole and adjustable comb. The cold hammer-forged barrel is fluted for optimal balance and additional weight reduction. The crisp adjustable trigger offers four different pull weights (1.2 lbs. to 2.7 lbs.). Adjusting to the preferred pull weight is easy using the settings marked by Roman numerals just above the trigger. S404 rifles are designed and engineered to allow easy changing of bolt heads and barrels for quick caliber conversions.

The ultra-light **S101 HIGHLAND XTC** carbon-fiber rifle weighs just 5.4 lbs. in the .308 Win. version, and features a hand-laid, carbon-fiber stock with advanced recoil absorbing properties. The barrel is fluted and threaded and cold hammer-forged for guaranteed precision of less than 1 MOA at 100 yards. The barrel and receiver feature Sauer's DLC surface for maximum corrosion protection. The rifle also boasts superb balance, a crisp match-grade trigger, fluted bolt and Sauer's Dura Safe direct firing pin safety. It's available in all current calibers in the S101 series and, depending on the caliber, in barrel lengths from 18" to 24".

LEE PRECISION

(262) 673-3075
leeprecision.com

The **AUTOMATIC CASE PRIME PRESS (ACP)** priming tool from Lee Precision guides cases into position using a "finger guide" and has the ability to automatically feed cases up to 2.5" long. No shell holders are required. Priming is positive, effortless and uniform. Positive and consistent seating depth is assured with the new dead-length priming device. Primers are seated uniformly without "feel" or adjustments required.

The **RAM SWAGE** primer pocket swager works on all single-stage presses with 7/8"-14 threads in the press frame that can accept universal press shell holders. It features spring-assisted case extraction, and an all-steel case guide ensures cases will be positively centered on the push rod. The shell holder-less design allows users to swage any small or large primer pocket without swapping to a different size shell holder.



RAM SWAGE

AUTOMATIC CASE PRIME PRESS



BREAKTHROUGH CLEAN TECHNOLOGIES

(888) 455-5499
breakthroughclean.com

The **CLEAN BATTLE ROPE 2.0** from Breakthrough Clean is an on-the-go cleaning option for those needing a quick and efficient clean on the range. The upgraded design includes an integrated flip-out pull handle that doubles as a weight allowing the cable to easily feed through the barrel of a firearm. The integrated bronze brush (one for handgun, two for rifle and shotgun) scrubs away stubborn carbon, while the extra-thick rope wipes up residue for a superior clean. Several calibers are available.



AMMO ARMOR

(800) 542-2666
ammoarmor.com

Ammo Armor announces the release of several new models, including the **AMMO ARMOR** and **AMMO KLIP** for the GLOCK 43X/48, GLOCK 19, S&W M&P Shield EZ 380, S&W M&P Shield EZ 9mm and Springfield XDS. Both products are made from military-grade ABS plastic to withstand even the most rigorous environments. Ammo Armor is currently available for hundreds of different magazines and in three different colors. By adding a custom Discreet Carry Concepts steel clip to the Ammo Armor, the Ammo Klip can be worn on a belt or concealed inside of a pocket for fast and easy access to spare magazines.

HOGUE KNIVES

(800) 438-4747
hogueknives.com



Conceived to be the perfect match for the SIG SAUER P320, the **K320** from Hogue Knives is a full duty, tactical knife. Each 3.5" stainless steel blade is finished from the same vendor as SIG SAUER firearms in Black Cerakote or Coyote PVD, depending on the model pairing. The blade maintains a high grind profile and keen edge, leading into an auxiliary hold feature. The frame features an ambidextrous pocket clip. A pushbutton automatic lock allows for single-handed deployment with rapid, swift action, while other models feature a manual ABLE Lock (Ambidextrous Bar Lock Enhanced) mechanism. The K320 is available in a range of variations to pair with SIG P320 SKUs.

HENRY REPEATING ARMS

(866) 200-2354
henryusa.com



Henry Repeating Arms' **ORIGINAL B.T. HENRY 200TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION** rifle chambered in .44-40 WCF is limited to 200 units worldwide — the rarest Original Henry the company has ever released. The hardened brass receiver features full coverage scrollwork engraving that surrounds a portrait of Henry on the right side and the words "One of 200" on the reverse side. The presentation-grade American walnut buttstock is capped with a crescent-shaped brass buttplate. The 24.5" polished blued steel octagon barrel is topped with a folding ladder rear sight and blade front sight. Each rifle in the series bears a unique serial number ranging from 001BTH200 to 200BTH200.

RIVAL ARMS

(888) 811-9277
rival-arms.com



Rival Arms' **R-22 PRECISION CHASSIS SYSTEM** is designed for Ruger 10/22-style barreled actions with a 1" maximum barrel diameter. The R-22 chassis is CNC-machined from billet aluminum for precise consistency, strength and rigidity. The chassis includes scalloped texturing on the forend to enhance grip and includes 11 integrated M-LOK slots to mount accessories and to reduce weight. It accepts most vertical or angled AR-style pistol grips and is threaded to accommodate 1 3/16"-16 Mil-Spec buffer tubes for a wide variety of stock options. The forend is also tapped to accept a sling swivel stud, positioned for sling or bipod use. The chassis is available in hard black-anodized, KG GunKote Flat Dark Earth (FDE) and Satin Gray finishes.



APEX TACTICAL SPECIALTIES

(623) 322-0200
apextactical.com

Apex Tactical Specialties' fully machined 5" **LONGSLIDE FOR THE FN 509** is optics ready with the RMR pattern cut and has been lightened to mimic factory slide mass with both front and rear cocking serrations. The sight dovetails accept FN sights. The slide comes fully assembled with Apex's Heavy Duty Striker, Apex Failure Resistant Extractor and an Apex premium hammer-forged 9mm barrel with a 1:10" twist rate. A standard length 5" barrel or a 1/2-28 threaded barrel with thread protector and captive O-ring are offered. The slide is shipped with either standard height XS 3-Dot night sights or suppressor height sights (black/black). It's available in a stainless or black Melonite finish.



GERMAN PRECISION OPTICS

(844) 692-4667
gpo-usa.com

German Precision Optics' (GPO) **SPECTRA 4X** riflescopes offer precise, reliable and high-quality performance for diverse hunting scenarios. Featuring a 30mm main tube, the proprietary GPObright high-transmission lens coating technology, PASSIONdrop hydrophobic exterior lens coatings and a double HD glass objective lens, the new 2.5-10X44, 2.5-10X44i and 4-16X50i riflescopes provide hunters with enhanced clarity, exceptional brightness and true color. The easy-to-read adjustable turret, fast-focus rubberized ocular and extra-wide magnification adjustment ring make these three new scopes ideal for any hunting situation.

TRUE TIMBER

(864) 472-1720
truetimber.com

The TrueTimber **HYTREK PACKABLE PARKA** and **PANT** are constructed with quiet face, 100% waterproof breathable fabric. Super-pack technology allows the parka to stuff into its own zippered chest pocket and side pocket on the pants for easy storage and unmatched mobility. The HyTrek parka features a 360-degree peripheral hood as well as waterproof zippers on all exterior pockets and leg zippers on the pant for easy on and off. The HyTrek Parka and Pant are available in TrueTimber Strata and Kanati camo.

The **LONGTAIL WATERFOWL PARKA** and **PANT** are constructed with a 100% polyester waterproof and breathable weather-lock shell fabric. An independent interior standup collar and adjustable draw cords on hood, including rear crown adjustment on the parka keeps water and wind out. Adjustable hook-and-loop sleeve cuff closures with water-resistant spandex internal cuff and waterproof zippers on all exterior pockets keeps hunters and their belongings dry in even the wettest conditions. The Longtail pant features zippered leg entry for easy on and off. The TrueTimber Longtail Parka and Pant is available in new TrueTimber Prairie camo pattern.

The **AKOKEEK TRUESUEDE LONG SLEEVE SHIRT** is designed to keep hunters quiet, comfortable and concealed. The shirt is constructed with 100% poly TrueSuede fabric that is exceptionally soft and quiet. The Akokeek is water repellent and features a button-down collar and dual chest pockets with flap-over closure. The Akokeek TrueSuede Long Sleeve Shirt is available in TrueTimber Strata, Kanati and Prairie camo patterns.



OZONICS HUNTING

(979) 285-2401
ozonics hunting.com

The Ozonics **O.N.E. GEAR LOCKER** (Ozone Neutral Environment) pre-treats hunting gear and is designed to be used in conjunction with Ozonics ozone generating devices. The O.N.E. Gear Locker safely and effectively deodorizes and sanitizes hunting clothes, gear and equipment, destroying unwanted odors and surface pathogens. At 70"H x 46.5"W x 29"D, and with a weight of 30 lbs., the O.N.E. provides the space to hang gear effectively, but is still easy to take down and bring to a hunting location or destination.



VIP AGENT 2

NIGHTHAWK CUSTOM

(877) 268-4867
nighthawkcustom.com

The newest edition to the Nighthawk Custom VIP Collector's line is the **VIP AGENT 2** — the result of a partnership between Nighthawk Custom, Turnbull Restoration and Agency Arms. It features a classic case-hardened and polished frame with a high polished, charcoal blued slide that matches the slide stop, magazine release and thumb safety. Additionally, it features an 18k solid gold bead front sight, mammoth ivory grips and a custom case.

The most compact .357 Magnum revolver ever offered by Korth, the **MONGOOSE 2.75" CARRY SPECIAL** holds six rounds of .357 Mag./38 Spl. ammo. (It's also available with a unique interchangeable cylinder system that allows for .357/.38 and 9mm to be interchanged quickly.) It boasts a high polished trigger face, smooth action and is fully machined from the finest billet steel available.

EAA CORP.

(321) 639-4842
eaacorp.com

EAA and Girsan's **MC9 OPTICS** is housed in a sleek, light, ergonomic package and includes three interchangeable backstraps. The MC9 boasts EAA's patent pending Fast Acquisition Red DOT optics (FAR-DOT). With FAR-DOT and the MC9 there is no optics plate and no red dot hunt. The MC-9 standard and the MC9 Match only come with the FAR-DOT system.



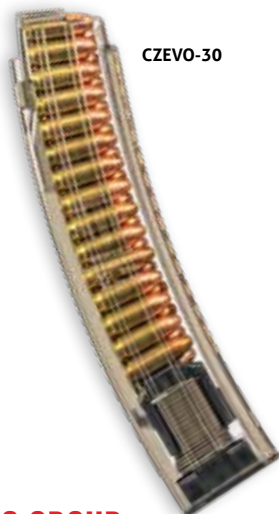


LGL-160

NIGHTSTICK

(800) 233-2155
nightstick.com

Nightstick introduces a new series of dedicated long-gun weapon lights with its **LGL-150, LGL-160 AND LGL-170** models. The LGL-160 model boasts an output of 1,100 lumens and 22,541 candela. With a 300m beam from two included CR123 batteries, the LGL-160 provides powerful downrange light for two hours. Weighing in at only 4.2 oz., and made of 6061-T6 aluminum with a black hard-anodized satin finish, it's IP-X7 rated waterproof. Each kit includes both a standard and 45-degree offset rail mount with thumbscrews, tail cap and 6" remote pressure switches, RPS rail mount and Nightstick's proprietary NS-WM1 wire-management clamp to eliminate snags.



CZEVO-30

ETS GROUP

(855) 887-5452
etsgroup.us

Elite Tactical Systems (ETS) Group's **CLEAR POLYMER MAGAZINES FOR THE CZ SCORPION EVO** are available in 30- and 40-round models. They're lightweight, durable and compatible with all CZ Scorpion EVO generations. Polymer construction ensures the magazines are extreme impact-resistant, as well as resistant to harsh chemicals, and won't become brittle even when exposed to harsh environments or extreme cold. The magazines are compatible with ETS' C.A.M. Universal Loader and a clear body makes it easy for operators to observe ammo count and type.

TAYLOR'S & CO.

(540) 722-2017
taylorsfirearms.com

A unique perspective of an 1858 New Army, Taylor's & Co.'s **THE ACE** features a 3" octagon barrel making it a snub-nose version. At 2.4 lbs., it's a comfortable weight and size for carrying. The Ace accepts .45 LC conversion cylinders (sold separately) to fire modern cartridges. In addition to the brass trigger guard and blued finish, a grip choice of checkered walnut, smooth walnut or white PVC maintain the historical accuracy of the six-round revolver chambered in .44. The Ace sports a fixed front blade sight and notched rear sight.



TRISTAR ARMS

(816) 421-1400
tristararms.com

The **BRISTOL SILVER SXS** line of side-by-side shotguns from TriStar feature a nickel-finished receiver with 24K gold inlay. Available in four gauges — 12GA, 20GA, 28GA and .410 — each model is built on a true steel frame with precision laser-engraved detail. The Bristol comes standard with select Turkish walnut, auto ejectors, five Beretta-style choke tubes (SK, IC, M, IM, F), brass bead front sight, single selective trigger and selective top tang safety.

BERGER

(660) 460-2800
capstonepg.com

New for 2021, Berger's **.223 REMINGTON** ammunition is assembled with Lapua cartridge cases, clean-burning propellants and Berger's competition proven projectiles. Berger also offers options for long-range competition and military/law enforcement use such as 6mm Creedmoor, 6.5 Creedmoor, .260 Rem., .300 Win. Mag., .300 Norma Mag. and .338 Lapua Mag.



EMERSON KNIVES

(310) 539-5633
emersonknives.com

The **BULLSHARK** is the first automatic knife produced by the Emerson Knife Company. Specifically built for EDC, its size is compact, opening is lightning fast, aluminum handles are hard anodized and designed for a range of tasks by Ernest Emerson. The Bullshark features a 1.9" blade, weighs 4 oz. and is 3.4" long when closed.



STANDARD MANUFACTURING CO.

(860) 225-3401
stdgun.com

Standard Manufacturing's **16721** sporting rifle chambered in 5.56 sports a 16" barrel with 1:8" twist and has been updated to include a 13" M-Lok handguard. The 16721 has a direct impingement gas system, standard charging handle, A2 flash hider muzzle, salt bath nitride carrier group and Mil-Spec trigger. Additional specifications include a Rogers Super Stock, Mission First pistol grip and six-position carbine buffer tube. The 16721 measures 32" to 35.5", weighs 6.4 lbs. and includes two 30-round magazines.



VULCAN BALLISTIC

(864) 991-9847
vulcanballistic.com

Vulcan Ballistic's **QUICKLOAD PISTOLOADER PL003** is a fast, simple, compact and an easy way to load a semi-auto detachable magazine. It loads everything from .22 LR to .50 AE, as well as all types of cartridges, including rimmed, semi-rimmed, rimless, rebated, rimfire and centerfire. It loads magazine types of any length: single-stack, double-stack and drum, and eliminates the need to buy a separate speedloader for every mag and caliber. Mags can be loaded with either hand, and to unload, the front or side edge of the thumb plate is used. The PistoLoader is compact, rugged, durable, made with quality materials and only has two non-moving parts. Three graphic options are available: Plain edition, American Flag edition and QuickLoad edition.



ALPS OUTDOORZ

(800) 344-2577
alpsbrands.com

The ALPS OutdoorZ **GHOST 30** EDC pack was developed to provide discreet carry options in a practical, daily use platform. Padded shoulder straps with an integrated sternum strap and a padded back panel provide optimal load distribution and a custom fit for comfortable carry. Interior and easy-access pockets store up to two laptops and other essentials. An ambidextrous-access carry pocket is positioned behind the back panel and secured via left- and right-side zippers. The material inside the pocket is lined with loop fabric, allowing holsters with hook-and-loop backing material to attach inside the pocket for quick firearm deployment. The front panel also features loop fabric so users can position their holster for front-panel access, or additional accessories.



EXPANDABLE BATON

HOUSTON GUN HOLSTER

(305) 205-9394
houstongunholsters.com

Houston Gun Holster's **TERMOFOIL GUN CASES** are carefully designed to fit shotguns, rifles, carbines and more. The extra-dense foam padding and heavy-duty 600x600 PVC-coated waterproof polyester with reinforced stitching and zippers deliver superior protection for storing guns. The attached carrying strip makes it easy to transport. A variety of sizes are available.

The nylon-injected **EXPANDABLE BATON** is divided in three telescopic sections. The top section is made of steel with nylon coating, and the anti-slip rubber grip handle provides a firm purchase. The heavy-duty baton measures 24.5" fully expanded (10" closed).

RITE IN THE RAIN

(253) 922-5000
riteintherain.com

The **ALL-WEATHER 100M SNIPER TARGET** (No. 9131) from Rite in the Rain is a dedicated milliradian-based target for precision shooters. Its 1cm (1/10 mil at 100 meters) grid is designed for true-distance zeroing. A 1cm block within the central diamond defines the point of aim when using high-magnification optics. A scaled bull's-eye and scoring rings represent an MR-1 target presented at 500 meters. Pre-formatted fields assist in the calculation of data on previous engagements (DOPE), and 1, 2 and 3 MOA rings check grouping in accordance with published standards. Durable and weatherproof Rite in the Rain cardstock holds up under rain and through abuse to deliver well-defined groups, no matter the conditions. The targets are sold in packages of 100.

ALL-WEATHER COMBAT CARDS keep important forms in a pocket-friendly 3" x 5" index-card format. Fifty pocketable and weatherproof cards fit into any uniform pocket and survive any environment. Each 6" x 5" card provides ample room to write and is scored to fold down to 3" x 5" size. Four styles are available and sold in packs of 50: Call for Fire, Medevac, Range Card and TCC/Combat Care Card.



ALL-WEATHER
100M SNIPER
TARGET



LAPUA

(660) 460-2800
lapua.com

Lapua cases are now available in **6.5 PRC**, **.284 WINCHESTER**, **.300 PRC** and **.300 WIN. MAG**. Cases are sold in boxes of 100.

EXO CASE

ASP INC.

(800) 236-6243
asp-usa.com



ASP's **EXO CASE** is a sleek, lightweight, rapid-access belt carrier custom-designed for ASP's Ultra Cuff restraints. The tough polymer case features ASP's exclusive Snap-Loc clip, which attaches anywhere on the belt without having to thread or unthread other duty gear. It's width-adjustable to securely fit popular duty belts, dress belts or MOLLE gear. A spare handcuff key (included) stows in its own compartment on the back. The case includes two interchangeable floor pads — one for ASP Chain Ultra Cuffs and one for Hinge Ultra Cuffs.

The **REVOLUTION SCABBARD** offers the speed, protection and durability of an open-top polymer case, with the enhanced retention and security of a covered scabbard. A semi-rigid retention strap releases with a quick downward push and pivots clear of the baton grip for instant, unimpeded access and deployment. The body of the revolution scabbard is offered in sizes to fit 40, 50 and 60cm Talon Baton models. On the back is ASP's Snap-Loc clip, and it's width-adjustable to securely fit popular duty belts, dress belts or MOLLE gear. The clip also rotates 180 degrees, with seven click-stop positions, to set a user's preferred carry and draw angle.

ARMSCOR USA

(775) 537-1444
armscor.com



The "little brother" of the Armscor VR80, the 20GA **VR82** features a mag-fed design (5-round magazine capacity) and 7075 T6 aluminum structure for long-lasting durability and performance. The VR82 has lightening cuts combined with an 18" barrel for lightweight, less-recoil feel. VR82 attributes include ambidextrous controls, flip up sights, barrel shroud and a forend compatible with most aftermarket accessories.



MCMILLAN FIBERGLASS STOCKS

(877) 365-6148
mcmillanusa.com

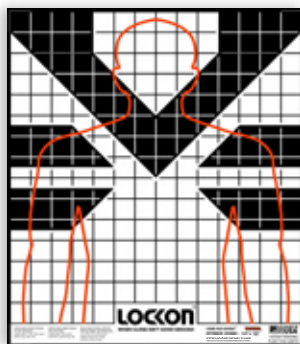
The **Z-10 BAG RIDER** from McMillan is based on the company's A-10 tactical stock, and replaces the A-10's butt hook with a swept butt profile to more easily accommodate rear bags for bench or prone shooting. The Z-10 Bag Rider features a universal inlet design to fit most Remington and Remington-clone barreled actions, and accepts a wide range of barrel contours. Key features include an adjustable cheek riser height, adjustable length-of-pull, forward-positioned vertical grip, integrated left- and right-hand thumb shelves and multiple color and finish options. The universal inletting makes the Z-10 Bag Rider drop-in-ready direct from the factory.

LOCKON

(575) 779-1987
lockondesigns.com

STRIKE ZONE

LockOn Designs' **HOME RUN SERIES** is a series of targets designed to provide the marksman an exact point of aim for nearly all firearms and sights from 3 yards (pistol) to 700 yards-plus (rifle). The Grand Slam, Line Drive and Strike Zone targets are designed to be the most accurate and effective target available. Targets, measuring 24" x 24", are available for use with long-range optics, three-dot pistols, aperture sights, red dots or lasers. Each target comes in a tactical version including a high-visibility human silhouette. The Home Run Series targets were developed with insight from three former 5th Special Forces Group soldiers.



CANCOOKER

(877) 844-2772
cancooker.com

The **CANCOOKER ORIGINAL** is now available in a ceramic, non-stick coating. Using steam, it creates a convection oven environment to quickly cook food that would normally require simmering all day. The CanCooker Original can prepare up to four gallons of food and be placed on any direct-heat source. Its ceramic non-stick coating makes clean up quick and easy. The CanCooker is made of high-strength aluminum and uses a silicon-sealed lid with a latch closing system to seal in flavor, ensuring years of hassle-free cooking.



NIGHT FISION

(313) 293-7100
nightfision.com

Night Fision has expanded its line of **OPTICS READY STEALTH SERIES** night sights to include options for GLOCK (17 MOS, 19 MOS, 34 MOS, 35 MOS and 45 MOS) and SIG SAUER (optics-ready P-series) pistols. The sights have tritium vials with an optically engineered domed lens, as well as serrations on both the front and rear sight. The front ring is available in yellow, orange and black, and the rear sight is available with a black ring around the tritium vial or blank without tritium. The rings are made of a ballistic polymer and guaranteed to not chip, crack, fade or peel under even the most adverse conditions. Stealth Series sights have a smaller front sight with a ring diameter of 2.4mm and a wider notch in the rear sight.

GUNCRAFTER INDUSTRIES

(224) 321-5044
guncrafterindustries.com

The .50 GI conversion unit for GLOCK is now available as a complete dual-caliber pistol that fires both the .50 GI and .45 ACP cartridges: the **GOLIATH**. It features a high-quality polymer frame with improved ergonomics, enhanced trigger pull, Wilson Combat battle sights and is available in stainless, Melonite and Cerakote finishes.





SCENT CRUSHER

(877) 575-3173
scentcrusher.com

Utilizing ozone technology, Scent Crusher's **RAPID MOBILE SHOWER** ensures a hunter's skin and clothes are odor- and bacteria-free in minutes. The 2-lb., one-size-fits-most suit includes a digital maintenance-free ozone generator with attached hoses for recommended ozone penetration to become scent-free. The Rapid Mobile Shower is equipped with heavy-duty zippers, adjustable closures and leak-free fabric. The suit is powered using the included 110v AC or 12v DC cords.

The 108-qt. **TRUNK** container can be used for permanent storage or for traveling. Constructed from polypropylene and polyethylene the Trunk is even safe for food storage. It measures 36.5"L x 18"W x 14"D and is 12 lbs. Included is the Halo Series Ozone generator that lasts 4+ hours on a single lithium-ion battery charge. The generator circulates ozone with a whisper-quiet fan for maximum ozone output with timer settings of 10, 20 and 30 minutes. The Trunk also has reinforced removable lid with hinged latching and four tie-down points for a lockable feature. The Trunk comes with AC/DC charging cords and a maintenance-free, two-year warranty.



OUTDOOR EDGE

(800) 447-3343
outdooredge.com

The **RAZORTUFF** from Outdoor Edge is the latest addition to its trendsetting lineup of knives featuring the company's patented RazorSafe replaceable blade system. Blades change quickly and easily and have a convenient, easy-to-store case that fits into the sheath. The RazorTuff features a replaceable scalpel-sharp 3" Wharncliffe blade made from heat-treated Japanese 420J2 stainless steel. The blade has been designed to transfer the cutting power directly to the blade edge, making it ideal for tradesmen and everyday carry. The blade is seated in a black-oxide coated steel blade holder, providing the strength of a traditional knife. The handle is constructed from a lightweight, one-piece, non-slip Grivory polymer.

ONTARIO KNIFE CO.

(800) 222-5233
ontarioknife.com



Launching 2021, the **BERSA** knife from Ontario Knife Co. features a 2.875" stainless steel sheepfoot blade with stonewashed black PVD coating. The Bersa's ball bearing pivot system houses caged bearings with stainless steel balls, and the reversible pocket clip can be oriented for tip up or tip down carry. The handle is comprised of linen Micarta with a stonewashed black PVD coating and frame-lock system. The OAL of the Bersa is 7.25" and 4.25" when closed.



WRANGLER

DAVIDSON'S INC.

(800) 367-4867
davidsonsonc.com

Davidson's has once again teamed with Ruger to offer an exclusive version of the **WRANGLER .22 LR SINGLE-ACTION REVOLVER**. The single-action chambered in .22 LR is a great choice for recreational shooting to rimfire competitions to training new shooters. Davidson's exclusive Wrangler has a Plum Brown Cerakote coating on the frame and 4.625" non-tapered barrel. The aluminum cylinder is finished black and the hammer and trigger are stainless.

Davidson's is also the exclusive distributor for Century Arms' **THUNDER RANCH AK-47** developed in conjunction with Clint Smith. The Thunder Ranch AK features an enhanced safety lever, U.S. Palm Marine Corps red grip, U.S. Palm AK 30-round magazine, walnut furniture, barrel-mounted Picatinny rail, engraved Thunder Ranch logo on right of receiver and a Thunder Ranch two-point sling.

B&T INDUSTRIES

(316) 721-3222
accu-shot.com

Since the Atlas Bipod introduction in 2005, B&T Industries has designed a variety of optional feet. The company's newest offering is the **BT74 ATLAS RAIDER CLEAT FEET**. Turned from 416 stainless steel bar stock in one piece for strength and durability and will fit V8, PSR and CAL model Atlas Bipods. Easily installed with the press of a stainless steel plunger. Total weight of the pair is 2.65 oz.

B&T Industries also introduces the **BT75 ATLAS 5-H & SUPER CAL RAIDER CLEAT FEET**. They're turned from 416 stainless steel bar stock in one piece for strength and durability, but will fit 5-H and Super CAL model Atlas Bipods only. Easily installed with the press of a stainless steel plunger. Total weight of the pair is 4.7 oz.

BT74 ATLAS RAIDER CLEAT FEET



ENDURANCE



REFLEX

HAWKE OPTICS

(877) 429-5347
us.hawkeoptics.com

ENDURANCE sights from Hawke Optics have a 3 MOA red dot with eight-stage digital brightness controls to match lighting and shooting conditions. The sights come in a 25mm and 30mm body size; both have 25-layer multi-coated optics for ultimate clarity and are parallax-free from 10 yards. Endurance red dots are supplied with two Weaver-style bases: a low mount ideal for shotguns and pistols, and a quick-detach high mount for co-witnessing AR iron sights.

Two new models of **REFLEX** sights are now available. The sights have been designed with the smaller 3 MOA red dot; the Micro Reflex Dot being compatible with optics-ready pistols. The sights also have 25-layer fully multi-coated optics and eight levels of brightness control. The one-piece aluminum sights are parallax-free from 10 yards and come with a detachable Weaver base. The Micro Reflex is ideal for pistols, while the Wide View is great for AR-pattern rifles and shotguns.



DSG OUTERWEAR

(608) 665-0303
dsgouterwear.com

Constructed with breathable, ultra-lightweight ripstop and moisture wicking/quick dry fabric, both the **BEXLEY 2.0 RIPSTOP ULTRA-LIGHTWEIGHT TECH SHIRT AND PANTS** from DSG are designed to keep users cool and completely covered in warm weather. Both the shirt and pants are available in the Realtree Edge camo pattern and incorporate DSG's signature aqua blue stitching accents. The shirt has an attached hood and comfort-length sleeves with thumbholes. A concealed zipper in the upper chest pocket and the front pouch pocket provide ample storage. The pants feature darts at the knees for enhanced mobility, several pockets for essentials and an elastic waistband with wide belt loops. Adjustable inseams allow for manual adjusting from 33.5" to 29.5". The shirt and hunting pants are available in sizes XXS-5XL.



WOOX

(828) 310-2411
wooxstore.com

ROCK62 WITH X-GRIP TECHNOLOGY knives from WOOX were inspired by Pirelli tires: The X-Grip Technology is designed with grooves and threads to help fluids naturally and quickly flow away from the handle. Fluids such as water and blood, as well as mud and other liquids get displaced 10 times faster than with conventional handle designs. Thus, the new Rock62 X-Grip Technology knives offer superior grip and handling in any environment or weather. Like all WOOX Rock62 knives, these new models also feature superior Sleipner Steel (Rockwell HRC 60-62), custom fitted screws and German Micarta handles. Models are available in two different color configurations, Stonewash and Mil-Spec.



MKS SUPPLY

(877) 425-4867
barnaulammo.com

From MKS Supply, Barnaul Ammunition introduces **9MM SUBSONIC**. Originally developed as part of the Silver Sport line of cartridges aimed at the shooting sports competition's IPSC/USPSA, the cartridges are loaded to meet with a minor power factor to provide soft-push recoil. Subsonic ammo cartridges feature a soft zinc-coated bullet jacket and zinc-coated steel case. The 9mm, 148-grain bullet reaches a velocity of 918 fps.

OZCHAMBER 5K OZONE COMBO



BE:1 DIVERGENT JACKET



SCENTLOK

(231) 777-7565
scentlok.com

The **OZCHAMBER 5K OZONE COMBO** by ScentLok delivers ozone gear storage and odor destruction in a new, smaller size with an included new Radial IQ ozone generator. The 26" x 14" x 14" bag is large enough to hold hunting apparel, while still remaining easy to handle. The included Radial IQ is intelligently designed to emit just the right amount of ozone to fill the bag and destroy odors with a simple press of a button. The Combo includes the 600D PVC-backed polyester OZChamber 5k Bag with reinforced 2" grab straps and adjustable shoulder strap, plus the Radial IQ ozone generator, 12V DC power supply and a vehicle power adaptor.

Expanding the Bowhunter Elite Series, the **BE:1 DIVERGENT JACKET AND PANT** features consist of a quiet poly/wool shell bonded to a microfleece lining, Carbon Alloy odor control, thermal mapped Primaloft Gold performance insulation and Precip-X water-repellent technology. The half-zip, pullover jacket has a removable, adjustable hood with a built-in Carbon Alloy neck gaiter/facemask, a concealed safety harness port, half-zip side, open handwarmer pocket, multiple storage pockets and a Primaloft Gold Insulation Aerogel chest pocket. The pants have removable, adjustable suspenders; nine covered pockets for dry storage and articulated knees. Both are available in men's sizes MD-3X in True Timber O2 Whitetail, Realtree Escape or Mossy Oak Terra Gila.

FEDERAL AMMUNITION

(800) 831-8100
federalpremium.com

Designed in partnership with Henry Repeating Arms, velocities of Federal Premium's **HAMMERDOWN** loads are customized to produce superior ballistics and terminal performance through lever-action barrel lengths. New-for-2021 calibers include .45 Long Colt, .444 Marlin and .35 Rem. The construction of the molecularly bonded soft point bullets has also been adjusted for the best accuracy and expansion at those velocities. The geometry of each round's case, bullet and cartridge ensures flawless cycling through tubular magazine and typical lever-action feeding systems.





KRIEGHOFF

(610) 847-5173
krieghoff.com

The 12-ga. **K-80 PAROURS-X** from Krieghoff was designed to meet the needs of Sporting Clays and FITASC shooters who want the nimble, lively feel of the Parours with just enough weight in the barrel for a balanced smooth-swinging shotgun. The Parours-X boasts the reliability of the K-80 receiver with a tapered rib design (10mm to 8mm) without a center tramline for a clean sight picture. The Parours-X sports a white pearl front bead and metal center bead; hardened, nickel plated steel receiver with satin grey finish; single-selective mechanical trigger, adjustable for finger length; approximate 3.75 lb. trigger pull; and finely checkered Turkish walnut with satin epoxy finish. It features a 32" barrel with 3" chrome chambers and the new Krieghoff Thin-Wall flush-mounted chokes in Improved Mod and Mod constrictions.

O.F. MOSSBERG & SONS

(203) 230-5300
mossberg.com

The **MOSSBERG INTERNATIONAL RESERVE SERIES** has replaced the Silver Reserve Series. The over/under line of sporting shotguns includes the Silver Reserve Synthetic (12GA), Silver Reserve (12GA, 20GA, .410 Bore, and 20GA Youth), Gold Reserve (12GA, 20GA, .410 Bore), Gold Reserve – Black Label (12GA) and Gold Reserve – Super Sport (12GA). Silver Reserve shotguns feature shell extractors, a tang-mounted safety/barrel selector and a Mossberg logo-engraved receiver available in Satin Silver (paired with walnut stock) or matte blue finish (paired with black synthetic stock). Gold Reserve shotguns feature competition-ready shell ejectors and a polished silver or blued finish. Gold Reserve stocks all feature Grade-A black walnut and a 24k gold inlay on the underside of the receiver.



GOLD RESERVE – SUPER SPORT



RED ARROW WEAPONS

(833) 940-0068
redarrowweapons.com

Available in RAW's two staple color packages, Midnight Bronze and black with red accents, the **RAW15 300 AAC AR PISTOL** has forged 7075 T6 aluminum upper and lower receivers complemented with a Tailhook Mod 2 brace. The package features a 10" barrel and a 9" M-Lok RAW-Rail. The Diamondback barrel features 4150 Chrome-moly construction with a black nitride coating process and operates with a 1:8" twist rate. A drop-in 3.5 lb. single-stage trigger and a Mil-Spec 8620 magnetic particle, nitride coated bolt-carrier group complete the package.



DANIEL DEFENSE

(866) 554-4867
danieldefense.com

The **DELTA 5 PRO** from Daniel Defense evolved from the DELTA 5 bolt-action rifle and features the same stainless steel action with three-bolt lug, as well as stainless barrels cold hammer forged to profile. It includes a one-of-a-kind thumb rest configurable to each shooter, whether right- or left-handed, a tool-less configurable buttstock, Area 419's HELLFIRE muzzlebrake and other custom enhancements. The rifle is available in .308 (20" Heavy Palma barrel), 6.5 Creedmoor (24" Heavy Palma barrel or 26" varmint barrel) and 6mm Creedmoor (26" varmint barrel).



SPARTAN BLADES

(910) 757-0035
spartanbladesusa.com

The **SPARTAN HARSEY FOLDER 3.25** (SHF 3.25) from Spartan Blades is a reliable titanium frame-lock knife with a 3.25" CPM S45VN stainless steel drop-point blade. The SHF 3.25 is made entirely of 6AL-4V titanium with the exception of the pivot, blade and stop pin. This medium-sized folder has a reversible pocket clip and dual thumb studs allowing for left and right hand carry. Its OAL is 7.125" and it weighs 2.9 oz.



UMAREX

READYAIR

(479) 646-4210
umarex-usa.com

Umarex's **READYAIR** is an oilless, portable air compressor ready to fill high-pressure air guns at home, on the range or in the field. It utilizes a patented oilless technology to fill PCP reservoirs up to 4,500 psi. The ReadyAir can be run on 12 volts with the included 8' battery clamp cables using a vehicle, ATV or lawn mower battery, or plugged into a standard 110-volt electrical outlet without the use of an external converter box. It can be electronically programmed to fill to any desired pressure up to 4,500 psi. A smart on-board computer automatically shuts the compressor off if the set running temperature is ever exceeded, thereby preventing shooters and hunters from being without air while in remote locations.

T4E, an UMAREX brand and manufacturer of air-powered rifles and handguns, released the **PREPARED 2 PROTECT HDP 50** (P2P), a .50-caliber handgun engineered to shoot spherical pepper, rubber or inert powder rounds with an effective range of up to 50'. The pepper projectiles are filled with a pepper-infused chemical irritant that bursts upon impact, affecting the eyes, nose and respiratory system. It's powered by a single 12-gram CO₂ cartridge and its multiple rounds (6) combined with the ability to engage a threat at greater distance provides confidence if faced with a threatening situation. Each Prepared 2 Protect HDP 50 includes a sealed tube of 10 pepper projectiles and a tube of 10 inert solid rubber ball projectiles.



THERE ARE 6 MILLION FERAL HOGS IN AMERICA.

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Trijicon IR-HUNTER® Thermal Riflescope Technology

Let's put wild hogs where they belong. Underground. With the superior thermal imaging technology of the Trijicon IR-HUNTER®, you can shoot with lights-out precision and take back your land.

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- MaxPol technology for maximum multi-polarity control
- 8x E-Zoom digital electronic zooming system
- Enhanced Target Recognition (ETR) eliminates "washout"

See the technology at [TrijiconEO.com/IR-HUNTER](https://www.TrijiconEO.com/IR-HUNTER).

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY.

HELLCAT[®]



HELLCAT OSP
(Optics Ready)
Optic Not Included

THE WORLD'S HIGHEST CAPACITY MICRO COMPACT



THE NEW 12-ROUND MICRO COMPACT

14-ROUNDS
W/ EXT. MAGAZINE

It's a jungle out there. Protect yourself with the all new 9mm HELLCAT[®] from Springfield Armory[®]. Featuring a patented magazine with best in class capacity of 11+1 and 13+1 with included extended magazine, the HELLCAT is designed specifically for every day carry with Adaptive Grip Texture[™] and high visibility sights. Available in standard and optics ready OSP[™] configurations, the HELLCAT from Springfield Armory gives you The Capacity to Defend[™].



2020 HANDGUN OF THE YEAR