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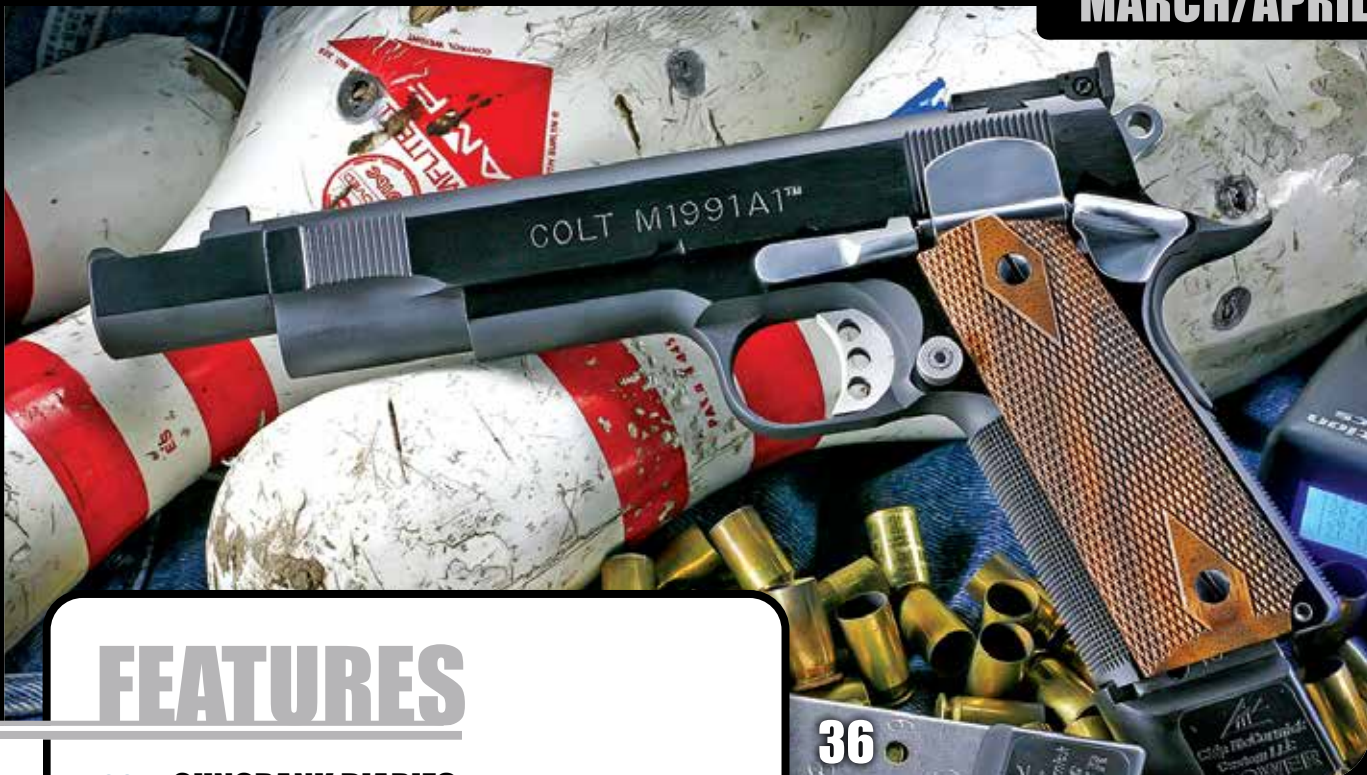
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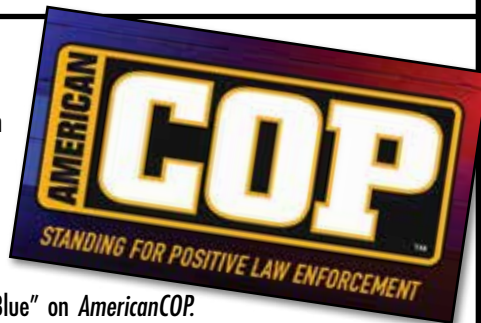
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COOL SQUARED

On the lower left-hand corner of page 26 (Nov/Dec 2020) are two “cool” items; the late Steve McQueen and a BAR. In the last 15 minutes of the movie *Sand Pebbles* one can see McQueen with a BAR fighting a rear-guard action to let his friends escape from Chinese rebels. Does that make the scene “Cool Squared”?

Chuck Naretto
Prescott, AZ

As it relates to the coolness of Steve McQueen and the BAR that's kind of like contemplating multiples of infinity. To fully grasp this you'd have to be able to divide by zero. I am reliably told McQueen and Chuck Norris are the only two humans ever to have pulled that off. —Doc Dabbs



Photobomb

Please update your picture. Dear Abby's was more current than yours is. It appears to be about the same age as the one my Dad took when I came home from a USMC tour in beautiful downtown I-Corps, RVN.

R.C. Clark

Thanks so much for pointing this out! I've dropped everything to resolve this crisis, as you can see in this issue's Vantage Point column! —Tom

My Father's Colt

I was naturally inspired and edified on reading, “My Father's Colt: Faithful Service Through 30 Years And 3 Wars” (Nov/Dec 2020).

Though not a military veteran myself, I see great value in the personal handgun and laud the sidearm highly. In the 1967 *Pistol & Revolver Guide* by the late Major George C. Nonte, a quote states, “After food and mail, the possession of a handgun in the face of enemy guerilla activity is probably the most powerful psychological force in sustaining a man's morale.” This statement speaks volumes in extolling the virtues of having a personal handgun on one's person, whether inside a war zone, or elsewhere.

Thanks Bruce Cherry for your fine article in remembrance of your late father, Clyde Cherry.

Jim Farmer
Merrill, OR

The Value Of Freedom

I retired from the Army a few years early due to serious injuries sustained in Iraq in 2006. The really painful part

of the ambush has been felt for all the years since then. Two of my soldiers died due to their injuries. In fact, neither one lived long enough to get MEDEVAC'd. One of them was our platoon medic, and in typical medic fashion, he refused buddy aid in order to direct treatment of “his guys.”

Dr. Dabbs' story “A Tale of Two Roys” (Jan/Feb 2020) brought all of that emotion roaring back. Not many “get” why people like us do what we do. Will gets it, because he is one of us. The true value of our freedom can never be calculated. It's been bought at the highest price possible — the blood and lives of the very people who value their country.

This is what I think of when I go to vote, when I encourage friends and family to vote. We owe my heroes our active participation in our republic. It's truly the very least we can do.

Eric Haines
U.S. Army retired

Slow Press

I have been a long time *AH* subscriber, and I felt that it is finally time for me to ask my question. Back about 50 years ago, when I was first learning to shoot pistols and revolvers, the focal point of control was to “squeeze the grip and trigger slowly, like a lemon. If the shot breaks and you didn't know it was going to happen, then you did it right.” This works fine at the range with paper and other assorted stationary targets, and lots of time to shoot. What about personal defense and non-stationary targets? I have read brief comments about “trigger press” and “the press.” My assumption is this trigger manipulation is the answer to moving

away from the old “squeeze and wait” method. Can you enlighten me?

Gary N.
Ocala, FL

Since you're asking for an opinion, here's mine! And you know what they say about free opinions ...

I see the slow press as skill development — learning to press the trigger without moving the gun. Over thousands of repetitions, the time element no longer matters as you've learned how to move the trigger without moving the muzzle. So, whether you do it slowly or extremely fast, the gun stays on target.

It's like the Karate Kid “wax on, wax off” thing. As you repeat a motion, even at slow speed, you train your muscles and brain to do it right. I always practice holster draws in super slow motion, focusing on perfect form and consistent movement every time. And do you know what? When I need to do it fast, it just works.

So, both sides are right, at least in my opinion. —Tom

Police And The Second?

I have to say I'm worried and scared. I'm a retired lieutenant from a Detroit suburb. I took an oath as an officer, sergeant and lieutenant. I swore to it and meant it.

We're looking at the strong possibility of having to decide if we surrender our rights or defend them. I am not a violent man and have no wish to harm anyone. However, I can't imagine turning in my guns, period.

Perhaps your team could explore this topic. I'd be interested in how your team thinks current law enforcement would react to confiscation.

I guess I'm just looking for perspective from other professionals instead of basement commandos on gun forums. I don't scare easily, but this has me terrified.

Alan B.
Prescott Valley, AZ

Commitment!

It was September 1976; I was about 30 years old. I walked into my gun store, Kurt's Fine Firearms, and there on the magazine rack was a copy of a new book. On the cover was a S&W Chief's Special along with a red banner that read, "First Issue!" It was *American Handgunner* #1. I bought it immediately, read it cover to cover, and sent off my check for a subscription.

Now we move forward 43+ years. I still have all 259 issues and have read each of them. I'm writing this to thank *American Handgunner* for the many decades of reading enjoyment and education on thousands of handguns. I will be sending my check for the next three years and anxiously awaiting each issue's arrival.

George E. Scott
Payson, AZ

The Whinery



Electoral Dysfunction?

New format sucks. Worthless issue. Took one minute to look through it and in the trash. Coincidentally, the mailman delivered it the day President Biden accepted his election.

Frank White

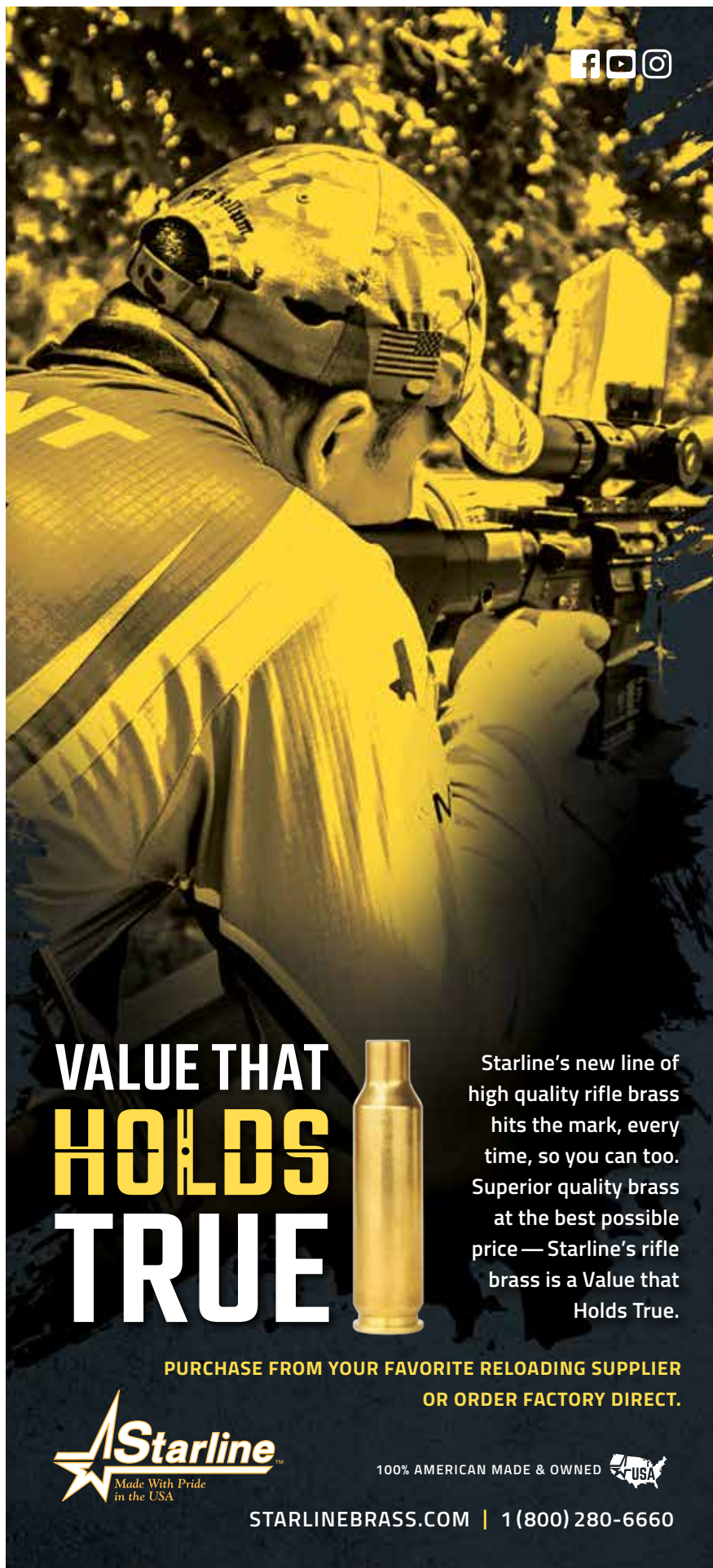
Well Frank, you've got us stumped since we don't have a "new format." Same writers, same layout, same types of stories. Are you by chance suffering from a case of electoral dysfunction? —Tom

Dig the .357 SIG

It was nice to see Dave Anderson's one page on 9mm cartridges, but why not the .357 SIG? It's gun writers who have almost killed the .357 SIG, either by negative reporting or by not covering it at all. I go into gun shops that sell .357 SIG handguns and salespeople know nothing about the cartridge and don't mention it to buyers.

Do the Secret Service, Air Marshals, Texas DPS, etc. just use it for show? No, it's a very effective cartridge. It's not louder, nor does it wear out guns faster. I have about 9,000 rounds

Continued on page 75



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Serena joined the United States Young Eagles developmental team this year with hopes of attending the World Shoot in South Africa in 2023.



STUDENT HANDGUNNER

We've added a treat for new and experienced handgunners alike in this issue. Serena Juchnowski is an experienced High Power and Palma rifle shooter (Distinguished badge!) who is stepping into the world of handgunning. If you're new to handguns, you'll enjoy learning with her through her stories. If you're a grizzled veteran, you might enjoy the inspired memories of your past experiences — or perhaps you have some advice to help her along. Welcome Serena!

One of a kind? This combination of a SIG SAUER P320 XCompact and Wilson Combat XCarry frame works perfectly for me. It fits my hand better and offers two extra rounds to boot.



FRANKEN-WILSON-SIG

I liked the Wilson Combat WCP320 so much I bought the frame. As described in "Wilson Combat WCP320" (Jan/Feb 2020), the gun builders at Wilson Combat make customized SIG P320s complete with their own frame and slide designs. The Wilson frame is very 1911-like and ... I love it.

I've been carrying a SIG P320 XCompact with a red dot. It's a nifty solution but the grip isn't quite perfect for my finicky tastes. Then I had an "Oh duh!" moment and remembered the modular nature of the SIG P320 allows one to do things like ... switch out the frame. Then I had a

second epiphany. The frame length of the Carry and Compact models is identical, but the Carry version features a tad more height and two more rounds. So, I ordered one of those. Now, I've got a "custom" pistol that fits me like a glove. Maybe it's the world's only 17+1, full-height, Wilson-SIG-P320-XCarry-Compact? WilsonCombat.com



This one isn't going back. My well-used original XD-S is going to be spending more time in the safe as this one takes its place in the carry rotation.

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY XD-S OSP

My favorite pocket/ankle pistol has an upgrade. The new XD-S OSP from Springfield Armory is now optics ready. The test model shown here came with a Crimson Trace CTS-1500 mini red dot sight pre-installed and ready to go. In fact, when I took it to the range to zero the optic, I found it was already dead on. And I do mean precisely. At 15 yards it was shooting right through the red dot superimposed on the target.

Stay tuned for more on this. We've got a full review in the next issue and you'll see a video look at this spiffy little pistol at AmericanHandgunner.com by now. Springfield-Armory.com

NIFTY COMFY HOLSTER

I've been carrying a N82 Tactical Original Holster for years. And after all this time, I'd agree with the marketing claim. They are the most comfortable holsters on the planet.

The generous backing is three layers thick, with suede against your love handles, neoprene in the middle, and heavy leather backing the gun. All those layers have a specific purpose. The suede isn't just comfortable, it provides a natural grip to clothes and body. Since it doesn't slide around, the weight of your handgun is distributed properly, and it feels lighter than it is. The middle layer is the same stuff 007 used underwater in movies like *Thunderball*, so it serves as a moisture barrier, keeping sweat from your gun and gun goop away from your clothes and body. The leather protects your gun and creates a smooth draw.

The one tiny gripe I had with the original was it took some practice to get the draw right. With the full body panel, great for separating gun and body, you had to "hook" the gun out with your fingers and finish the grip process as it came out.

No more. The new N82 Tactical OT2 IWB offers the same benefits as the original with a few bonuses. The backing features a combat cut so you can get your firing hand fingers around the pistol before you start any un-holstering motions. There's another change. The clip on this model is tuckable, so you can use it like a standard IWB with a cover garment or go stealth mode with a tucked-in shirt. Only the clip is exposed. *N82Tactical.com*

The Beretta Vic FieldTac Shirt is nifty on its own with a sharp-looking design, sturdy construction and IWB-carry-friendly fabric choice. The hidden secret is the hook and loop bottom closures aiding a rapid and snag-free draw from concealment.



BERETTA TEAR-AWAY CLOTHING

I'm pretty sure the male dancers at Chippendales don't see the benefits of tear-away clothing quite like I do. I've been carrying inside-the-waistband almost exclusively for a couple of decades now, and in all that time, and thousands of associated practice draws, I've found one variable capable of throwing a wrench in the works. Shirts.

In a perfect world, you'd wear a shirt that's huge around the waist. It would be made of heavy material so it won't show a concealed pistol imprint, but the *ginormous waist size* would prevent your shirt from ever getting hung up on the gun when you violently fling it up and over the gun grip during stage one of the concealed draw. The problem with a 72" waist shirt is it looks dorky. Unless of course you have a 72" waist. The smaller and more normal looking the shirt tail, the more frequently it's going to foul you up during a speed draw.

Try it sometime. Bring a loose and tighter fitting shirt to the range. Do 50 speed draws from complete concealment with each and see what percentage of the time things get fouled up. On the range it doesn't matter as long as you're being safe. In a self-defense encounter, it might have life altering implications.

Fortunately, there's a solution. Tear-away shirts.

The Beretta Vic FieldTac Shirt offers a great solution for those who carry inside the waistband. It holds its own as a general purpose — and quite nice looking — garment, but it really shines thanks to its concealed carry features.

The FieldTac is shaped to look just fine tucked or untucked, but unlike most off-the-rack shirts, this one is trim and very un-tent-like. What makes it work for belt carry is the unique combination of standard buttons and hook and loop closure tabs. The shirt features buttons going from the neck to the central stomach area. From that point down to the base of the shirt, small hook and loop square patches hold the shirt closed.

With a normal button-down shirt, you must lift the shirt cleanly over an inside-the-waistband holster and gun when performing a draw. That's where hangups can get you tangled up. With the Beretta Vic FieldTac, when you vigorously yank the shirt out of the way, the Velcro tabs separate, making it easy to clear the holster and gun. It's a brilliant solution and the "reliability" of a snag-free draw surprised me.

You'll appreciate the Vic FieldTac for other reasons too. It's made of sturdy, but breathable material, so it does a stellar job of hiding the outline of your gun. The fabric is somehow infused with a silver compound to fight off smelly bacteria and offers UPF 50+ UV protection. The hidden button down design looks sharp and it comes straight out of the dryer wrinkle free. Two front pockets and a handy sleeve pocket help out with your daily carry gear.

BerettaUSA.com



The new N82 Tactical OT2 IWB features all the "comfy" and body protection of the original, but improves draw process with its combat cut.



DON'T DAMAGE THE SCREWS!

It happens to everyone. A slip of the wrist and “bam!” — a bugged screw. I hate to see it when looking at the side plate of a classic S&W Registered Magnum or a Colt Python.

I see a lot of mangled screws on my bench — mostly from unknowing gun owners who used the wrong tool. That means I need to fix it. *I refuse to see a bugged screw leave my shop!*

Gun screws are usually a bit shallower than household screws and rarely Phillips heads. Twisting a screw slot can be a real problem when the screw head sizes are unique and use odd thread pitches, so using the right screwdriver from the start is important. I use all “hollow ground” screwdrivers. The driver is not tapered like a wedge, and the blade is flat across the entire tip edge. This allows the blade to sit deep in the slot and not cam or twist out as pressure is applied while turning. When you have a valuable pistol on the bench, it's an important detail.

A pin vise is useful for holding the screw while polishing off damaged areas.



PROPER GEAR ... AND PATIENCE

I get many collectible guns in the shop for maintenance, which sometimes means taking them apart for the first time — ever. I first match the screw slot to the right screwdriver. Make sure you have a variety of screwdriver sizes on hand. I make sure the slot is clean using a toothpick or small pointed metal probe. Then with the best fitting driver I apply a slow turn. Too fast and the blade could slip. If the screw comes out, all is good. If not, I apply a little heat. Lots of screws get stuck from light rust or old oil that has solidified over the years. Or a new screw might have been glued in place. I first try a wood burning iron to apply heat directly to the head of the screw. If that doesn't work, I move to my small butane torch and heat the head plus surrounding area, turning the screw while it is still hot.

I use three commercially available screwdriver sets: Forster, Brownells and Chapman. The Chapman set is great for the range or home gunsmith. It has a number of interchangeable bits with a single handle. The bits range from flathead to Phillips and hex keys in a lot of sizes. Each one is numbered for easy replacement. I've broken a few of the blades and rounded a few of the hex drivers over the years, but replacement bits are only \$1.50 each. The Brownells “Magna Tip” system is larger, with a



Note how well the hollow ground screwdriver fits this gun screw.

few choices for handles. It offers some gunsmith specific blades like a 1911 grip bushing bit and specific tips for unique screws. Brownells offers the mother lode of variety with hundreds of tips and handles. I find myself using the Forster set most often. They're single blade drivers with hardened tips. The shafts are long enough to allow me to see the screw I'm working on. Even the smallest blade has never slipped or bent under pressure. Drivers are numbered and Forster offers a chart on the web showing which specific screwdriver is used for specific screws on many firearms. All three manufacturers make them in the USA.

UN-BUGGER THAT SCREW

Fixing a bugged screw can be done in a few ways, provided the screw is not too torn up — some screws are just beyond repair. If you can, it's worth the effort to save the originals and make them right. Many times, a screw head can be ground down and polished without losing too much of the head.

I like to hold the screw in a pin vise and remove the defects with a 3M Scotch Bright wheel on my bench grinder. Being sure to run parallel to the screw slot, I take just enough off to clean up the head. I then move over to a felt wheel with polishing compound to remove the fine scratches of the Scotch Bright wheel. From there I can apply whatever finish I want.

On some small touch ups, I use Brownells' liquid Oxpho-Blue. Pro tip: if you degrease and hit it with a small torch, the blue seems to take better. Some screws with flat heads require a file to remove the flaws, then a stone to polish the head.

It sounds trivial, but screws can really stand out on a handgun. Good ones can make it shine, and bad ones look terrible. Even if the handgun is in for something unrelated, I try to fix the screws for fear of someone thinking I made them look bad.

For more info: Brownells.com, ForsterProducts.com, ChapmanMfg.com



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TIMELESS SHOOTING PRINCIPLES

Some things don't change. Some principles were true long ago, are true today, and will be true far into the future. Back in 1985 I took a two-day shooting seminar with J. Michael Plaxco, at the time one of the best practical shooting competitors in the world. By constant repetition, Mike drilled into us what he considered basic principles.

ACCURACY OVER SPEED

You must hit the target. Speed comes from smoothness and economy of motion. Work on accuracy and the speed will come. If you focus on speed accuracy will never come.

If your objective is personal defense or practical pistol competition, a reasonable goal is to hit an 8" circle every time. This does not mean your shots will be spread evenly over the target. Most of your shots will be clustered in around a 4" circle, with only the occasional sloppy trigger break or loss of focus resulting in a shot straying out near the edge.

When you are hitting 100% of the time, resist the notion of reducing target size. Instead, work on going faster without sacrificing accuracy. There's no advantage in hitting the middle button of your assailant's shirt. But there is an advantage in getting your shot off in one rather than three seconds.

Accuracy first is a time-proven principle. So consider these proven proverbs. "Take your time, fast," and "Speed's fine, but accuracy is final."

SIGHTS DICTATE CADENCE

How fast can you shoot? Sight alignment will tell you. Shooters err in both directions. Some just love to hear the gun go rat-a-tat and seem satisfied with a fast miss. Others freeze on the trigger, not trusting sight alignment. Sight alignment must be satisfactory before breaking the shot, whether it takes a half second or five seconds. When it is satisfactory smoothly break the shot. *It takes the time it takes.*

ACCEPTABLE?

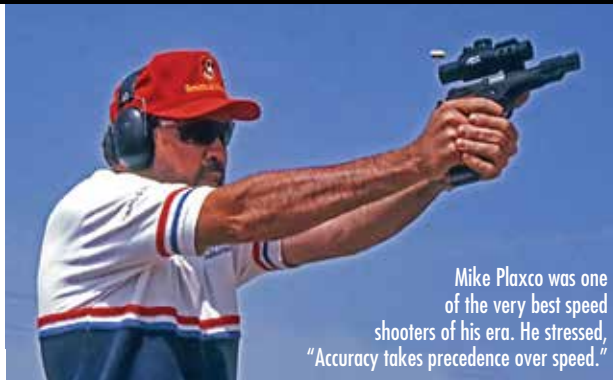
You must learn to recognize an acceptable sight picture for the shot required. If the sight picture is not acceptable do not break the shot. To this I would add you also need acceptable trigger control for the shot required. "Acceptable" is the key word. Yes, at 50 yards you need near-perfect sight alignment and a flawless trigger break which adds no movement to the gun. But you don't need perfect at three yards. Some-

times good enough is good enough.

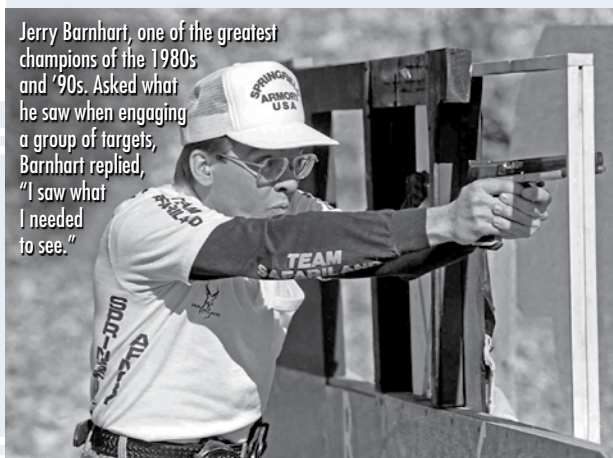
Recognizing what is acceptable defines your objective for the rest of your shooting career. Moreover, as your shooting skills improve, it changes for you. As your grip on the gun and recoil control becomes more consistent and your trigger control improves, your view of acceptable sight alignment evolves.

Jerry Barnhart, one of the great champion competitors, was asked what he saw when engaging targets at high speed. Jerry thought for a moment and replied, "I saw what I needed to see." He wasn't being flip-pant or ducking the question. What he saw was relevant only to shooters with equally developed consistency and trigger control, of whom there were maybe 10 or a dozen in the world. *What you need to figure out is what you need to see.*

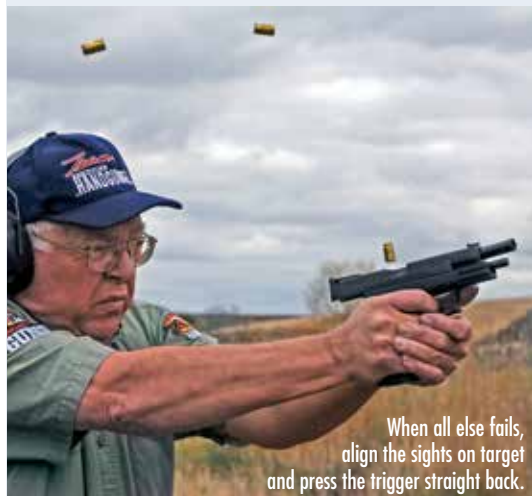
When all else fails align the sights on target and press the trigger straight back. Whether in a match or on the street, it's a great comfort to know you can hit the target. Good shooting is largely a mental game. Confidence is a big part of the mental game. Nothing builds confidence like knowing you can make the shot.



Mike Plaxco was one of the very best speed shooters of his era. He stressed, "Accuracy takes precedence over speed."



Jerry Barnhart, one of the greatest champions of the 1980s and '90s. Asked what he saw when engaging a group of targets, Barnhart replied, "I saw what I needed to see."



When all else fails, align the sights on target and press the trigger straight back.





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THE PROPER FIT— FOR YOU

Imagine if you will, you're a gun manufacturer. You and your design team are building a firearm for the masses. You're attempting to provide a product with appeal to the general shooting public as you create the grip. A difficult endeavor, no doubt. The final product is complete. It looks great and should fit the majority of the shooters. Wonderful! Now put the shoe on the other foot. Will this grip fit your hand perfectly for your intended purpose? Would the grips fit you better if they were a bit thicker or thinner?

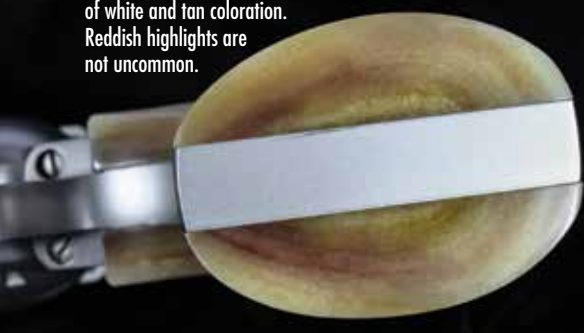
Experienced handgunners know how important grip place-

ment and grip tension

becomes when seeking consistent accuracy. Having a grip that fits your hand precisely is beneficial in most every application. Some folks want an eye-pleasing grip, perhaps for the Saturday evening BBQ. Others prefer stocks for target shooting or range work. Handgun hunters often lean toward grips that mitigate stiff recoil. Regardless of purpose, the proper fitting grip for your hands will be an asset.

These dall sheep horn grips fit Mark's hand perfectly. The fit and finish is first class. It feels great, plus it is strong and durable. Photos do not do the grips justice.

Dall sheep horn is light colored and usually found with a mix of white and tan coloration. Reddish highlights are not uncommon.



WOW FACTOR

All of Rob's grips are handcrafted, custom fitted, dated and serial numbered to your gun. And I must confess, some of this beautiful wood stretches beyond the "wow" factor. Wood varieties include five types of walnut including French, Turkish, Claro, Bastogne and American walnut. If you have a desire for checkering, Rob utilizes common patterns such as a scalloped border or diamond featuring 24 lines per inch. Rob also offers horn from dall sheep, bighorn, Stone sheep and musk ox. Horn often features unique characteristics with each set providing different coloration — exquisite if you will.

After drooling over some exhibition grade wood, it was the dall sheep horn that really tripped my trigger. I traced an outline of my hand along with explaining exactly what I needed to fit my needs before sending the gun to Virginia.

During the process, Rob sent photos and called several times to discuss

how things were developing. It became apparent he wanted to make these grips to the customer's satisfaction and requirements. He's a perfectionist.

When I received the revolver wearing the dall sheep horn grips, I was most impressed! The fit and finish was perfect. Honestly, the horn looks like it grew out of the frame. Not only do the grips look immaculate, at least to my eyes, they fit my hand impeccably. I immediately went to the range as I couldn't wait to shoot the .44 Mag. with the new grips. The horn feels great, and these grips provided the ideal addition

to the Freedom Arms revolver.

Shortly after I received the grips, I headed to Alaska for a mountain goat hunt. It may sound ludicrous to attempt taking a mountain goat with a revolver, but I'm not the sharpest knife in the drawer. Somehow, I managed to get it done with the Freedom Arms .44 Mag. and it was a bit special taking the dall horn grips to Alaska.

If you're looking at custom grips for a special handgun, I know a guy.



For more info: RowenCustomGrips.com

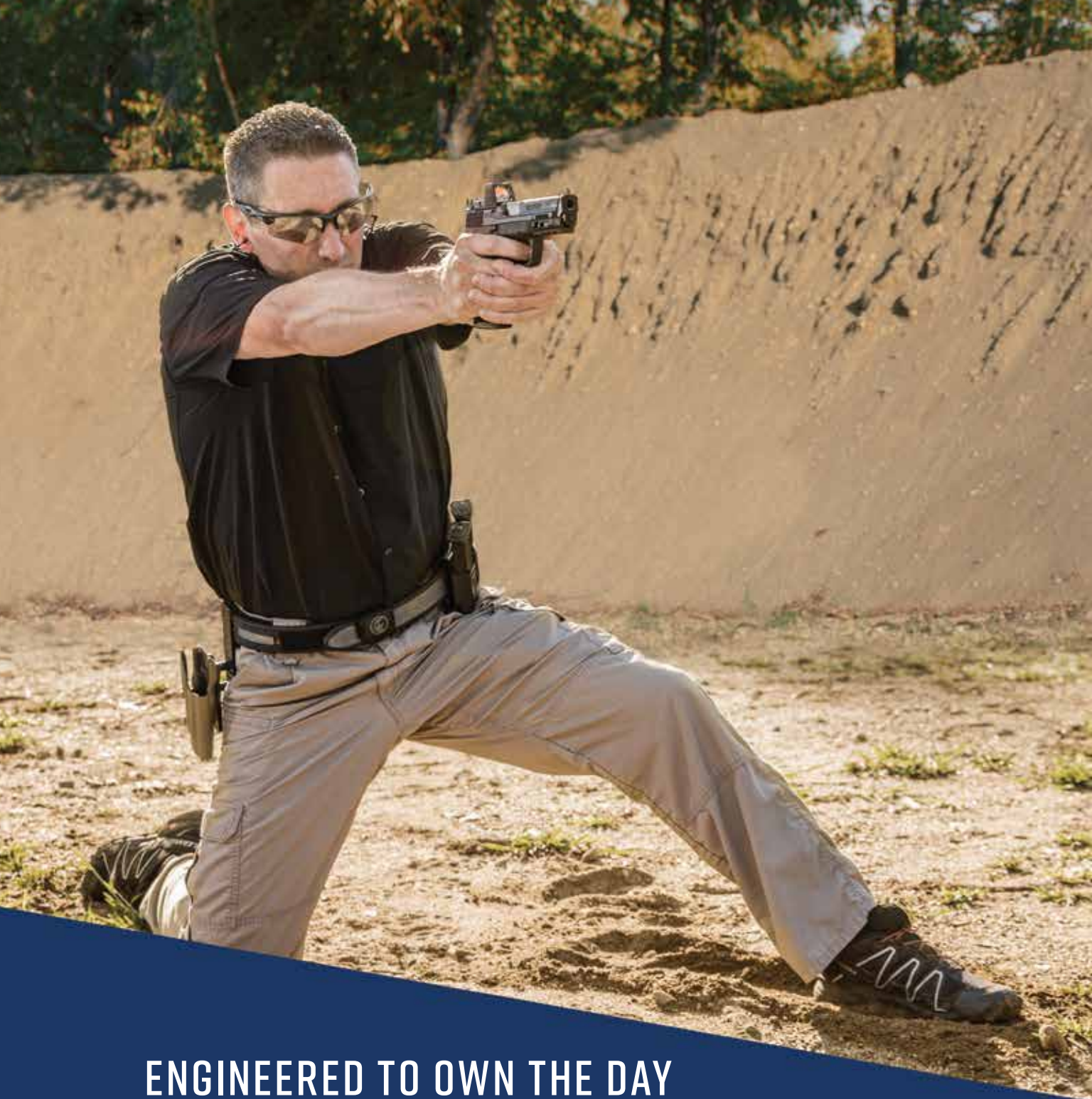
ROB ROWEN CUSTOMS

A few issues back (*Handgunner*, September/October 2020, "Grail Guns"), I wrote about my "Grail" gun, a Freedom Arms Model 83 in .44 Mag. I wanted something aesthetically pleasing but more importantly, a grip purpose-built for my hand. Enter Rob Rowen of Rowen Custom Grips. The Virginia-based grip maker always had a passion for firearms with a special interest in fine walnut and beautiful wood. He started dabbling with rifle stocks back when he was only 17, using a folding card table as a workbench.

Somewhere around 2004, Rob started shooting S&W revolvers and wanted to make his own grips, so he did. A couple of years later he discovered a "real" grip maker lived a short distance away, so he made an appointment to meet Roy Fishpaw. Roy was very generous with his time and remarkable talent, offering ideas and suggestions to Rob. Over a decade they became great friends as Roy continued to challenge Rob. During this time Roy also introduced horn as a unique, elegantly appealing grip option.

In 2013, Rob left a successful sales career and went into full-time grip making. In 2019, Rob earned professional membership in the American Custom Gunmakers Guild.

Knowing a bit about Rob's background, and through recommendations of discriminating shooters who cherish fine revolvers, I felt confident he'd deliver a set of grips perfectly suited for the Freedom Arms.



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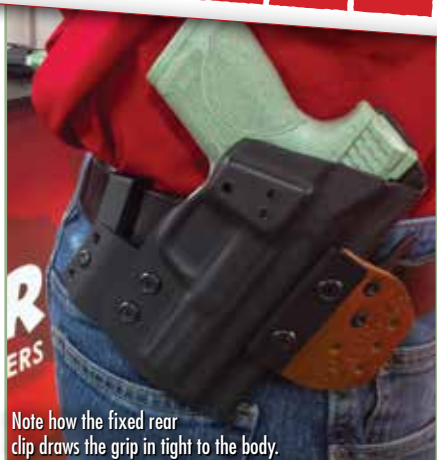


COMMON CONCEALED CARRY MYTHS...

SOLVED

Like many of you, I've got boxes of misfit holsters. Mind you, they're not necessarily bad products, they just didn't work for me for one reason or another. That's not surprising, as carry is a very personal thing. We're all different shapes and sizes, and we have different wardrobe and carry requirements. If I had to wear a suit every day, my carry method choices might be different than they are now given the shorts and T-shirts in my daily rotation.

There is a silver lining to excess holster investment. Hundreds of trial-and-error iterations have brought forth innovative gear solutions to sticky concealed carry problems.



Note how the fixed rear clip draws the grip in tight to the body.

Thanks to the innovative hinge design of these Clinger No Print Wonder holsters, Tom regularly carries larger guns like this S&W M&P and Beretta APX under a T-shirt.



What Tom likes about the 5.11 Tactical Holster shirt is the gun pocket placement. Slightly forward of the side, it's far easier to reach yet remains hidden.

I CAN'T CARRY A FULL-SIZED GUN

Yes. You. Can. You don't need NFL linebacker body proportions to carry a mid or even full-size gun. It may not be as effortless and convenient as packing a pocket mini-sub-micro-compact, but *you sure as heck can hide a larger handgun if you want*. Unless you live in a cold climate, you'll need to resort to inside-the-waistband (IWB) carry to make it work. The way I see it, with IWB, muzzle length is "free" since it's hidden inside your pants. Who cares if the muzzle extends two or five inches? The challenge lies with hiding the larger grip.

Enter a holster solution to help hide the extra bulk. Clinger Holsters came up with a nifty invention called the No Print Wonder. This polymer holster shell mounts to your belt using a clever hinged approach. The front clip attaches to the holster body with a flexible piece of either rubber

or leather, depending on the specific model. The rear clip mounts to the holster body via a rigid piece of polymer. When you fasten the rear clip to the belt, it pulls the holster body in tight to the curve of your body thanks to that flexible hinge in the front. Voila! The full-height grip of a large pistol like a 1911 or service pistol *tucks in close and doesn't tent the back of your cover garment*. It really works. I regularly carry a 1911, full-size SIG SAUER P320, and other similar guns wearing shorts and a T-shirt for cover. Piece of cake.

Do be sure to order the optional Clinger Cushion. This padded backer attaches to any polymer holster and provides a comfy interface between your body and the holster itself. Just attach the self-adhesive hook and loop dots to the back of the holster body, and you can easily move the padded portion between multiple holsters.

TUCKED-IN SHIRTS?

Some folks are burdened with a "tucked-in shirt" dress code every day. I was one of them for a dozen or so years. No worries, you can still carry a concealed handgun. It just requires some conscious tradeoffs. After trying all manner of "work environment permissive" carry options, I settled on an undergarment approach.

The 5.11 Tactical Holster Shirt is a Spandex-ey compression shirt that makes you feel (and look) skinnier than you are, so that's one benefit. The other is its hidden holster compartments on both sides of the chest. I call out this

particular shirt for good reason. There are some similar designs that place the holster pocket directly in the armpit area. That's great for concealment, but it's tough to reach that location with your opposite hand. And if there's a retention strap, you're looking at even more time. The 5.11 shirt places the pockets in more of a 3/4 position on the forward edge of your side. Instead of a retention strap that has to be opened, the gun pocket is held closed with hook and loop patches. Just blade your hand right through the opening and you can assume a firing grip before you draw. Access is much easier.

Do take note the "cost" of this ultra-concealment method is a slower draw. You'll have to get into your shirt first, which may require undoing a button or

two. Trust me, they won't fly off with a vigorous tearing motion like in the movies. If you want to get fancy, you can create some fake buttons and use Velcro or snaps underneath to allow quicker access. It's not the fastest solution for accessing your gun, *but if you absolutely, positively need total concealment*, it's a great option.

I'll never argue with the convenience of carrying a tiny micro-mini, but I'm a heck of a lot more confident in my shooting capabilities when using a physically larger handgun. With the right gear and some commitment, you don't have to limit yourself to a mouse gun for daily carry.



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



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

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READY POSITIONS

Searching the internet for “handgun ready positions” reveals more “ready positions” than I ever imagined. I found examples including compressed, inside, modified, mid, high, single and ambush-ready positions just to name a few. Who knew such a simple concept and technique as the ready position could be so complicated? Having too many tools in the box is just as bad as not having enough. Simple is usually best and a traditional “low-ready” does almost everything needed.

READY... BEFORE

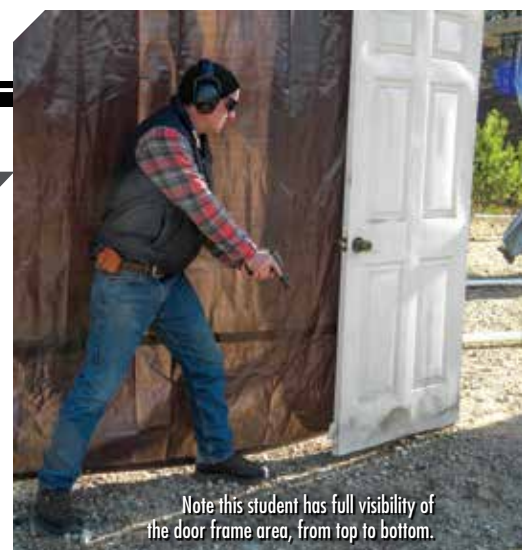
“Ready” means poised, prepared. In this case, ready to fire if necessary. Until you decide it’s time to engage the threat, the basic safety rules are still in effect. Obviously, you’re treating the weapon like it’s loaded; it better be. The muzzle isn’t covering or sweeping anything you haven’t decided to shoot — including the possible threat. The sights are off target, so the trigger finger is off the trigger, and clear of the trigger guard. Having a finger on the trigger too early won’t make you any quicker when it’s time to fire a shot on target, and it does make you unsafe, increasing the probability of negligent discharges. Rule 4, making sure to identify the threat and you have a clear angle of fire or background to stop any errant rounds is always in effect. This is where “low-ready” comes into play.

Your arms are extended, with both hands maintaining a proper firing grip. The angle you hold the arms, hands and weapon depends on what you need to see. If you’re worried about what might come around the corner at the end of the hall, your pistol is held low enough so the bottom apex of the corner is visible above your weapon. With a ready position that’s too high — a common tendency under stress — your arms, hands and weapon will block you from seeing a possible threat as they come around the corner. It also increases the chance

of shooting the wrong person.

When facing a potential threat and it’s not time to shoot, your arms, hands and weapon are held low enough you can see the person’s feet above the gun. A look through the sights reveals you’re aiming at the ground about two feet or so in front of their feet. This ensures you’re not muzzling or covering the possible threat. You probably should also be issuing verbal commands to the threat — they may comply. If not, you’re ready to acquire a sight picture on the threat and prep the trigger to fire with a minimal amount of movement. A ready position that’s too low requires extra time to come up on target. A ready position that’s too high is unsafe and visually blocks you from seeing what you need to see.

Besides being safe, low-ready allows you to see all of the threat. Obviously, you’re watching the hands to determine if they’re armed, and if so with what type weapon. It’s also important to watch their feet. “Why,” you ask, “do I need to watch their feet?” The feet are actually the most expressive



Note this student has full visibility of the door frame area, from top to bottom.



The angle you hold the arms, hands and weapon depend on the situation. The weapon needs to be low enough you’re not sweeping or covering anyone with the muzzle, and so you’re not blocking the ability to see everything of importance.

part of the body. A person’s feet will tell you what they’re thinking, often before they’re even consciously aware of their thoughts. People reposition the feet when anxious, preparing to run or prior to an attack. Don’t pay any attention to their face — bad guys learn to mask their facial expressions at an early age. Ignore what their cake-hole is saying.

READY... AFTER

Low-ready is used after the immediate danger is over. The threat is down or gone. You assume a low-ready in order to scan for additional threats. You created the opportunity to move in behind cover and start looking for an exit. Again, the arms, hands and weapon are positioned so you can actually see the environment. All of these will require you to hold at a different angle. And always remember, just because the immediate danger is past, it doesn’t mean the fight is over. You stay ready. Plus, your body language is telling anyone watching that you’re still both mentally and physically plugged in.

The traditional low-ready technique, with slight variation as necessary, is good for almost anything you may come across. What you don’t need is two dozen ready positions. “Hick’s Law” tells us the more options we have to choose from, the longer it takes — exponentially — to decide what to do, and finally act. Most personal, defensive situations are only going to last a matter of seconds. Simple works best, and usually more efficiently.



In low ready you’re maintaining a proper firing grip, and finger is off the trigger and clear of the trigger guard.



All that’s required to acquire a sight picture on target is to bring the weapon up, rotating at the shoulders.

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GENEROSITY OR STUPIDITY?

Back in the 1970s, during the years I lived in and around Yellowstone National Park, I became friends with a Mississippian named Jim Shumaker. For several years we lived in that area having lots of good times as single men in their 20s are apt to do. Jim was the sort of friend who stepped up when I busted my knee in 1976. Until I got back on my feet, he stopped by my place every afternoon after work to see to it my dog and I were cared for.

I WANT THAT

Not long into our friendship, we discovered a shared interest in single action revolvers. His was a Ruger Blackhawk (Old Model) .357 Magnum. Mine were Colt SAAs (2nd Generation) in calibers .357 Magnum and .45 Colt. As soon as he laid eyes on my Colts, he became covetous. Many times he said, "Sell me one of your Colts: either one." Of course, my answer was always, "Nope, ain't gonna happen."

One fine spring day while I was still on crutches he came by and said, "Put on your boots. You need to get out in the sunlight. And get both your Colts out too." He had permission to shoot "gophers" (actually ground squirrels) on a nearby ranch. The place was truly infested with the little varmints, and we shot away lots of my .357 and .45 handloads that afternoon. Jim intermittently pleaded, "Sell me one of these." And I always said, "Never." In those years between the end

Duke sold this 2nd Generation Colt SAA .357 Magnum to Jim Schumaker in 1977 and bought it back from him in 1996.



of 2nd Generation production and beginning of 3rd Generation production, you couldn't just walk into a gun store and buy a Colt SAA off the shelf.

One Saturday in 1976 Jim and I drove to Bozeman, Montana, and as usual perused gun stores. In the Powder Horn on Bozeman's main street, we were looking over the used gun racks for anything of interest. A fellow walked past us and I, ever being observant, noticed the grip of a Colt SAA sticking out of the fellow's front trouser pocket. So, I sort of followed him and eavesdropped as he spoke to the store owner behind the new handgun counter. He wanted to trade his Colt SAA .45 for a S&W .357 Magnum. The store owner said he wasn't interested.

ART OF THE DEAL

At that point I intruded and asked the gent if we could look at the Colt. It about made me speechless — a condition my friends think is nigh impossible. It was an early 1900s 1st Generation .45 with 4¾" barrel in very nice condition. I asked, "How much?" He said, "That .357 S&W I want is about \$250. I'll take that much." Now this is where the question about me being generous or stupid arises. I turned to Jim and said, "Well there's your Colt, right there." The deal was consummated, and we walked out of the store with what turned out to be a 1914 vintage SAA. The .45's seller was happy to get his .357 Magnum, and the store owner was happy to make a sale.

Walking down Bozeman's main street we both were enveloped in the pleasant aura of a job well done when suddenly the thought hit me, "I could have sold Jim one of my Colts and bought that .45 for myself." Almost simultaneously, Jim turned to me and

Jim Schumaker's 1914 vintage Colt SAA .45 — a happenstance find in 1976.



said, "Why didn't you buy this one for yourself?" The question remains unanswered to this day. Was it generosity or stupidity? I'll let you readers decide for yourselves.

Jim got set up to reload .45 Colts and we did lots of SAA shooting. In fact, we both bought 3rd Generation SAAs after they came out. His was a 7½" barreled .44 Special and mine was the same barrel length .45. Ironically, Jim did end up with my .357 SAA, after I became involved in varmint shooting and needed some bucks for a new scope. Nineteen years later Jim visited, and I bought it

back from him and still have it.

As always, time changes things. We both got married and began careers. Jim was hired by a nationwide hotelier and managed establishments from coast to coast. And of course, I became a gun'rter and stayed in Montana. We kept in touch over the years and Yvonne and I were pleased he and his wonderful wife Karen decided to return to this area upon retirement. He still has that Colt .45 and once in a while we get together and I get to shoot it again. Always we reminisce about those great old bygone days.





TAVOR TS12

The Tavor TS12 is a 15-round, self-loading, gas regulated bullpup shotgun. Compact, easy to use, maintain, and ideal for home defense or sporting.

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Jeremy's first "budget" setup: Lee dies, hand priming tool, and single-stage press.

CONTROL YOUR DESTINY BY ROLLING YOUR OWN



Clamped to a kitchen counter, it kept him shooting through college.

It's times like these many explore the world of reloading their own ammo. It's nice to have some control over one's shooting destiny, isn't it?

My trip began with cost. I found a used Lee reloading press for some \$30, and a new Lee hand primer and die set. The press was a single-stage, meaning only one die could

be installed in the press at a time. Even

with all the die swapping and hand priming, I could turn a hundred casings back into live ammo in about an hour. Complete with components for the first 500 rounds, I had a total investment of less than \$100.



RCBS Chagemaster Lite (left), Lee balance beam scale (right) and powder measure (center).

The powder measure dispenses by volume, while the Chagemaster Lite weighs each charge. Both have their place.

GETTING STARTED

Reloading requires removing the spent primer, resizing the case and putting a slight bell in the mouth of the case so a bullet can be inserted. Seat a new primer, add powder, and the bullet is pushed into the correct depth and crimped in place.

The biggest variables are powder and bullet selection; what powder you use and how much varies from load to load. Charges can either be weighed out individually, or measured by volume, which is how most

powder measures work. The Lee die set I bought came with a yellow scoop and a helpful chart showing how much of each powder that scoop would, well, scoop up, and what bullet it could safely be loaded under.

As I started to experiment with more unusual calibers for which there was no handy "scoop chart" I needed some means to weigh charges, so I purchased a balance beam scale and powder measure. With the scale, I could adjust the measure until it produced the correct charge: once set, rotate the handle and it dumped out the correct charge. It was faster and more precise, but loading still took time.

CRANK UP THE VOLUME

Enter my buddy Roger, who decided I needed his Dillon 550. It was a godsend. The 550 is a progressive press, holding all required dies at once. It has a multi-station plate that, revolver-like, holds several cases, rotating under each die until a completed case drops out as a loaded round. While some people can pro-

duce 550 rounds per hour — hence the name — I manage about 350. I'll never know how many rounds I've loaded on that machine, but in one year I shot 6,000 rounds of .45, most of it off the Dillon.

Since all the dies and the powder measure mount in a single, removable toolhead, changing calibers is very easy. After sliding out the toolhead, replace the shell plate with the one for the new caliber and change the primer feed. Primers, both for rifle and pistol, come in two sizes: large and small. On the 550, they're fed down a tube to a slide that aligns them for automatic seating. Since changing everything out takes time, I now have a pair of 550's, one set up for small primers and the other for large.

For calibers I don't load often enough to justify purchasing an entire toolhead, or that don't lend themselves to a progressive press, I use an RCBS Rock Chucker. Equipped with a neat little priming arm that does away with the need for a separate priming tool, the dies are held in a bushing that can be removed to install larger, non-standard

dies like brass shotshell ones. Virtually all other dies have a standard thread, regardless of manufacturer, and can be used in this single-stage press.

While balance beam scales do a fine job, they're best for setting up and occasionally checking a powder measure. Even with magnetic dampening, it takes a while for that beam to settle. If I want to weigh each individual charge, I use the electronic RCBS Chagemaster Lite. Pour the powder into the hopper, calibrate the scale, and enter the charge you want. It trickles the powder out until the correct weight is reached. Remove the pan, pour it into your casing, and when you put the pan back in place, it will start dispensing powder again.

This combination of equipment meets my needs now, but it's only a very narrow slice of the available equipment. For those who have never tried it, reloading still saves a tremendous amount of money over buying new factory ammo, and in this world of ammo scarcity, it's very useful to be able to produce your own.



For more info: DillonPrecision.com, LeePrecision.com, RCBS.com.



Jeremy uses this Dillon 550 for volume reloading and the single-stage RCBS Rock Chucker for small batches and less mainstream calibers.

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AMERICA'S ULTIMATE WEAPON



Behold the woobie. The GI Poncho Liner is the most beloved piece of kit in the military inventory.

Soldiers develop an unnatural attachment to the tools of their peculiar profession. Let a stockbroker suffer a catastrophic laptop failure and some critical PowerPoint presentation will likely suffer. The same failure of an Infantryman's primary tool carries substantially greater gravitas.

Soldiering is a young man's game. Not only could my knees not bear a proper road march, my general comportment would no longer tolerate the job. If ordered to take some forsaken hill these days, I'd be more inclined to nuke the site from orbit just so I could get home for a good night's sleep. Old guys make formidable if unpredictable adversaries.

Details

Military service, for all its exoticism, regimentation, and abject lunacy, is quite the rush so long as you're not getting vaporized. The toys simply have no peer. If you put a 23-year-old male behind the controls of a multimillion dollar gunship helicopter you can't honestly be

surprised when he rolls it inverted just to see what might happen. *It drops out of the sky like a greased brick ... or so I'm told.*

An M1A1 tank weighs 135,000 lbs. yet can get you stopped for speeding in many suburban locales.

An Mk19 automatic grenade launcher throws high explosive grenades out to 2,200 meters at a rate of 380 rounds per minute.

Watching rocket artillery work over an impact area is like glimpsing the death angel at play. However, all that cool-guy stuff pales in comparison to the one piece of GI kit that rules them all — *the humble woobie.*

Weapon: Mass Relaxation

The National Stock Number is 8405-01-547-2559. The technical appellation is the Poncho Liner, USGI Issue, ACU Pattern (UCP). Everybody who has ever worn the uniform calls it *the woobie.*

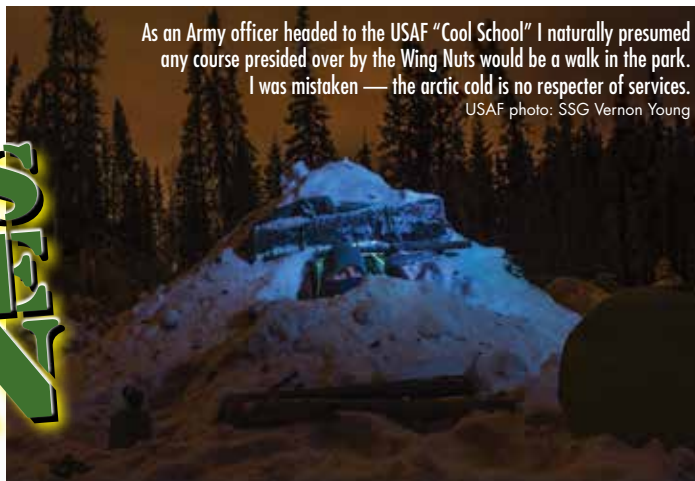
The term itself has murky origins. The military version holds "woobie" is mil-slang for "You Would Be cold without it." I don't buy that. In the 1983 Michael Keaton film *Mr. Mom*, the kid calls his security blanket his woobie. I subscribe to the Mr. Mom school myself.

The item in question was first issued in the Vietnam era. The woobie consists

of two layers of gossamer nylon material within which is sandwiched a thin stratum of polyester filling. The whole shebang is sewed crossways and edged for exceptional durability. Those earliest woobies were crafted from WWII-surplus parachute material. Hence the camouflage.

The woobie was intended to be secured

As an Army officer headed to the USAF "Cool School" I naturally presumed any course presided over by the Wing Nuts would be a walk in the park. I was mistaken — the arctic cold is no respecter of services.
USAF photo: SSG Vernon Young



within a GI-issue poncho by means of tie strings along its edges. My ponchos always smelled like roadkill. By contrast, my woobie was more like a portable all-weather womb.

Military Intimacy

I signed into my battalion in Alaska amidst what would ultimately be one of the coldest winters on record. Once I made my introductions at the S3 shop the ops NCO said, "Hey, sir. You want to go to Cool School?"

I was an Army Aviator. Of course I wanted to go to Cool School. Perhaps I could teach the instructors a few things concerning the refined art of being awesome. Just what was Cool School again?

Cool School is the Air Force Arctic Survival Course. This five-day jaunt into the Alaskan tundra is also colloquially referred to as *The Air Force Food Appreciation Course*. Two days in the arctic on a single MRE is hardly the Bataan Death March, but I licked every scrap of that thing down and also ate a boiled rabbit. You burn a lot of calories at 40 below zero.

The first night outside was 34 below zero. The second was 43 below. I spent the entirety of that second day building a snow cave. Think of it as a tomb just big enough for your fart sack (sleeping bag) and surrounded by about three feet of packed snow. I wrapped myself in my woobie before inserting my miserable carcass into my cold-soaked sack. Two hours' worth of shivering later, I was snug and toasty, while my woobie and I were enjoying a relationship that was not altogether professional.

I learned a lot about life when I was a soldier. I enjoyed some extraordinary fellowship and did indeed see the world. I also discovered that I really, really hate eating boiled rabbit.

Forget hypersonic missiles, carrier battle groups, and CAG operators HALO-ing out of the darkness. That's all just comic book stuff. America's most effective combat multiplier is undoubtedly the humble woobie.



Even today more than two decades after I left the military, I still use my woobie. Nothing's better for snuggling up with a warm wife on a cold night.

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MICRO RED DOTS ON POLICE SERVICE PISTOLS

Trending among gun enthusiasts who carry concealed, compact red dot sights have found their way into law enforcement, too. MRDS, micro red dot sights, are very much the rage now among high-tech concealed carriers. They are also finding their way into police duty holsters.

Instructor Karl Rehn demonstrates with an RMR on a GLOCK 48, a good choice for a plainclothes or small-handed officer.



FOR EXAMPLE

It has been reported that SOG, the elite Special Operations Group of the U.S. Marshal's service, has adopted the Staccato P, a 9mm double-stack 1911 style pistol. And what else might that high-performance pistol have? The NRA reports, "Topping the slide is Leupold's DeltaPoint Pro red-dot sight, backed up by the Universal Optic System from Dawson Precision — co-wit-

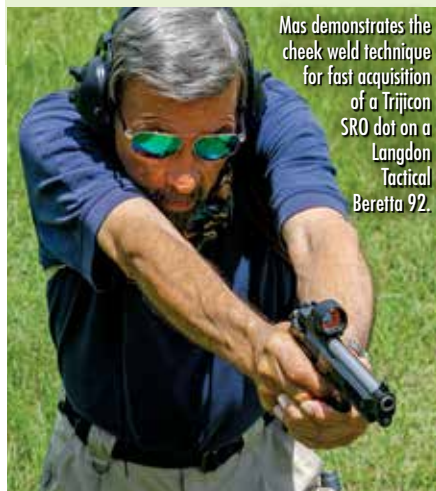
nessing iron sights pairing a black notch rear with a fiber-optic front."

A number of other law enforcement agencies have put red dot sights on the duty sidearms of their SWAT teams as standard equipment. Many departments have authorized them for plainclothes duty and uniform patrol, too, usually on privately owned or department approved handguns.

Conspicuous among these is the Las Vegas Metro Police Department, which has long had a very broad policy of optional handguns, and indeed requires all their officers to buy their own.

LVMPD covers a tough city where the cops get into a lot of gunfights, and dashcam and bodycam videos of some of their shootings show an increasing number of optical sights on their duty pistols.

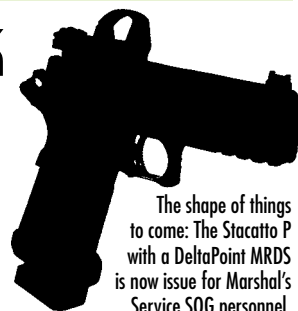
The Houston Police Department patrols the fourth largest city in the nation, with a population of over 2 million. They have been experimenting with RDS on duty pistols for a while, and by the time you read this will have graduated their first entire recruit class trained and qualified with Red Dot Sights on their service pistols.



Mas demonstrates the cheek weld technique for fast acquisition of a Trijicon SRO dot on a Langdon Tactical Beretta 92.

FIELD FEEDBACK

What really counts is how they perform in the field. The first actual shooting with an RDS-equipped service pistol is believed to have happened in 2017. Police1.com published an article by Jason Wuestenberg on a survey of actual police shootings with RDS pistols done by the National Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors' Association. He reported, "To date, there have been 75 rounds fired with only 39 hits, which is a 52% hit ratio. This is higher than the national average (typically well below 40% depending on the source). However, one incident had a high miss count — 23 rounds fired and only three hits from 11–15 yards away. Without this incident, the hit ratio jumps to 69%."



The shape of things to come: The Staccato P with a DeltaPoint MRDS is now issue for Marshal's Service SOG personnel.

WHAT'S THE TRAINING COST?

Jeremy Tye writes in the Firearms Training Association publication *Protect*, "I'll give a brief background on my shooting experience in order to put my observations and opinions in perspective. I've been a sworn LEO for just over nine years now and am currently assigned to a regional task force that does pretty exciting stuff on a regular basis. I've got all the standard LE instructor certs for firearms and high-liability stuff (DTs / less-lethal / MACTAC) and I do a small bit of firearms instruction in the private sector. I also shoot quite a

bit in the competitive arena. I hold a 92% Master classification in USPSA Single Stack and have significant experience in IDPA, Steel Challenge, Multigun/3GN/Outlaw 3-gun and NRL precision rifle. I don't mention this to boast, but rather just to establish that my shooting experience and perspective is pretty diverse. I carry just about 24/7/365, regardless of whether I am on the clock or not."

Tye seems to have his trigger time in. He comments, "Last week while at a Frank Proctor pistol class in central CA, I broke the 15,000-round mark on my personally owned duty pistol, an FN509 Tactical that has a Trijicon RMR Type 2 RM06 mounted on it. Every round fired

through the gun since I first picked it up in August 2018 has been documented in a spreadsheet, along with any maintenance performed and malfunctions observed. I have shot this pistol almost exclusively for the last year, the only exceptions being when I need to shoot my agency quals with the few other handguns I keep current in my file." So far, he seems satisfied with the durability and reliability.

Acquisition expense and training expense may slow the adoption of optic-sighted police service pistols, but it seems clear they are here to stay.



For more info: DawsonPrecision.com



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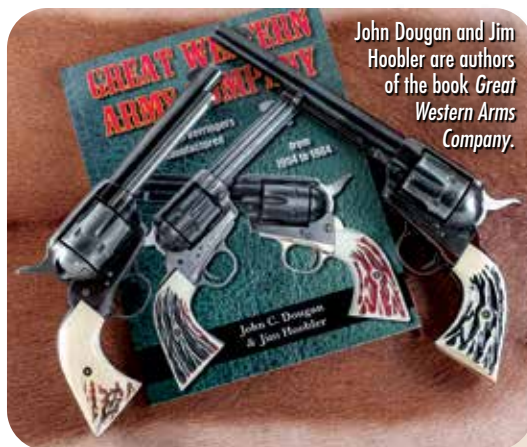
MYSTICAL, MYTHICAL, MYSTERIOUS MAGNUM: .357 ATOMIC

When it comes to sixguns, the 1950s were not just magnificent, they also seem to be magical.

In the beginning of the 1950s S&W introduced the first J-Frame, the Chiefs Special and the 1950 Target chambered in both .44 Special and .45 Auto Rim. In 1954, the .357 Highway Patrolman was introduced. It was just a matte finished version of their Bright Blue original .357 Magnum. One year later was the arrival of the first K-Frame Magnum, the .357 Combat Magnum followed in December of that same year by the first .44 Magnum.

Over at Colt we find the introduction of their first .357 Magnum in 1954, followed by the Python one year later. And although Colt had dropped the Single Action Army in 1940 "never to be produced again" it came back as the Second Generation SAA in late 1955.

Bill Ruger arrived on the scene in 1949 with his Standard Model .22 semi-automatic and then brought out an SA .22, the Single-Six in 1953. The first .357 Blackhawk arrived in 1955, followed by the .44 Magnum Blackhawk in 1956. Before the '50s ended Sturm and Ruger covered both ends of the spectrum with the introduction of the .22 Bearcat and the .44 Magnum Super Blackhawk.



John Dougan and Jim Hoobler are authors of the book *Great Western Arms Company*.

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

S&W, Colt and Ruger are still producing firearms, of course, however there was another manufacturer arriving in the 1950s. One William Wilson, after receiving word from Colt saying they had no intention of reintroducing the Single Action Army, began producing his

Great Western Frontier Model Single-Action in Los Angeles in 1954. Contrary to some beliefs, this was an All-American sixgun produced in America with All-American parts. In early advertising Wilson even used Colt SAs and some Colt parts in the guns. A keen eye can spot the difference between a Great Western and a Colt, but most observers wouldn't notice the difference, at least until the Great Western was cocked to reveal a Christy Gun Works style upside down "L" shaped hammer to match the frame-mounted firing pin. They show up quite regularly in western movies and TV shows from that time period. Some were also produced with regular Colt hammers.

Great Westerns were produced in the standard Colt SAA barrel lengths of 4¾", 5½", and 7½" and the rarer 3" Sheriff's Model, Target Model, Buntline Special, and the very rare Deputy Model with a 4¾" ribbed barrel, and adjustable sights. Standard calibers for the standard production barrel lengths were .22 LR, .38 Special, .44 Special and .45 Colt. The standard grip was a "B-Western" faux plastic stag, however such materials as ivory and pearl were offered at extra cost as was custom engraving. Between the arrival of the Great Western in 1954 and the introduction of the .44 Magnum from S&W and Ruger for the general public in early 1956, Bill Wilson saw the need for a more powerful sixgun than the .357 Magnum. The result was the Great Western .357 Atomic.

ATOMIC AGE

In 1935, the original S&W .357 Magnum with ammunition from Winchester used a 158-grain bullet over 15.4 grains of #2400. Elmer Keith reported at the time, citing this load, the pressure was 46,000 CUP. Current SAAMI Specs for the .357 Magnum is 35,000 psi. The Great Western .357 Atomic increased the powder charge to 16.0 grains, and in the 1956 edition of *Gun Digest* editor John Amber reported on the .357 Atomic loading of a 150-grain bullet over 16.0 grains of #2400.

Great Western barrels were marked on the left side with “.357 Atomic.” To this day researchers are still trying to find out more about the .357 Atomic cartridge. John Dougan and Jim Hoobler have written an excellent book on the Great Western revolvers, but mysteries still remain. To this date no one has come up with a cartridge head stamped .357 Atomic, nor have any cartridges been found that were longer than the original .357 Magnum.

We have discovered some chambers found in .357 Atomic cylinders will accept cartridges longer than the normal Magnum cartridge case. Does this mean there were longer cartridges available or simply quality control was not the best when chambering the cylinders? If the case was longer, increasing the powder charge by such a small amount probably wouldn't gain anything.

Early advertising for the .357 Atomic Great Western Frontier Revolver proclaimed: “The most powerful handgun ever made. For the peace officer, big-game hunter, or householder who wants real stopping power and long range. Ballistics from a 7½” barrel are 1,660 fps with 906 ft-lbs. muzzle energy. Note: These revolvers have been tested with ammunition generating internal pressures of 52,000 lbs. per square inch without the slightest indication of failure.”

John's Great Western .357 Atomic Frontiers have 5½” and 7½” barrels.



John is still using his Great Western .357 Atomics, but only with standard .357 Magnum loads.



CHARGE ORIGINS

Where did Great Western get their 16.0 grain powder charge? Remember, this was 1954. Doing a little research in my collection of Lyman Reloading Manuals, I found the 1958 *Handbook of Cast Bullets* edition listed the 150-grain Thompson HPGC (Hollow Point Gas Check) over 16.0 grains of #2400 for a muzzle velocity of 1,617 fps. This same load is also listed in the 1955 *Ideal Handbook #40*. They also list 15.5 grains for the 158-grain Thompson GC for 1,538 fps. So, did they get this load from Great Western? Not so fast. We find this load also listed in *Ideal Handbook #39* which was published in 1953, one year before Great Western opened their doors. So, the superhot load from Great Western was actually a standard maximum loading found in a reloading handbook before Great Western arrived. Lyman currently lists the 16.0 grain load with the 158-grain GC bullet in the Pistol and Revolver Handgun, but only for use in the Thompson/Center Contender.



The .357 Atomic loads used Hercules 2400 and 150-grain bullets.

HOT STUFF

Col. Charles Askins tested one of the very early .357 Atomic sixguns. “Bill Wilson, chief guru at Great Western, contributed a 7½” .357 for the cartridge he calls the ‘Atomic’... The first six shots with the Great Western .357 Atomic indicated excessive headspace. Examination of the cartridges, not those provided by Bill Wilson but standard Western Metal Piercing stuff, showed the primers were almost pushed out of the primer pockets. The indentation of the firing pin had been completely ironed out, indelible evidence of excessive headspace. I

Continued on page 66



Serena competing in the 2019 National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio with her National Match Rifle. Photo: Max Crolser



One of the first handguns Serena shot — this Browning Buck Mark .22 — remains one of her favorites. Who doesn't love a rimfire pistol? Photo: Dave Juchnowski



Having earned Distinguished rank in Service Rifle, Serena is advancing through long-range Palma shooting with her .308 Krieger Barrel and Kelbly's action. Photo: Max Crolser

Is the safety on? I thought to myself as I continued to put steady pressure on the trigger. I noticed I was anticipating a shot that had not yet come, subsequently yanking the trigger the rest of the way. I realized how spoiled I am with my rifle match triggers.

I compete in High Power Service Rifle and Palma; Distinguished in the former and new, but progressing in the latter. In service rifle I shoot an MSR with a two-stage 4.5-lb. trigger from 200, 300 and 600 yards. I'm still getting used to the 2-lb. single-stage trigger in my .308 long-range gun, which I'm sure contributed to my astonishment at the weighty trigger on my Kimber .380 ACP carry gun.

You see, while I've got plenty of hours behind rifles, handgunning is a new learning endeavor for me.

Hello ... Handguns?

My first experiences with handguns took place after junior .22 smallbore rifle practice. Held Thursday nights, this was not only a time to train but a social event, providing me an escape from high school and the pettiness and homework that came along with it. I came to view shooting rifles as more serious practice — the occasional handgun shooting just a fun bonus. This doesn't mean I didn't learn anything. I can fire handguns safely, though I'm disappointed in my current target abilities, especially with calibers larger than a .22 and at distances farther than 10 yards.

Coming from a competitive rifle background, my thoughts of pistol shooting have long coincided with similar more stationary competitions, such as bullseye or silhouette. Run and gun pistol events were something I didn't

"GO BIG OR GO HOME, RIGHT?"

know existed. The idea of moving and shooting completely baffled me. As someone used to minimizing body movement, tweaking muscle tension and carefully measuring breathing — it appeared the polar opposite of everything I knew.

A .44 Mag S&W Model 29 was one of the first pistols I fired, and the recoil surprised me just a bit. Go big or go home, right? My coach, John Ross, showed me how to better grip the gun and not to lock my arms completely, as over time it could put considerable strain on my joints.

He brought many different handguns for me and the other juniors to try, including a Hi-Standard Supermatic Trophy and a .357 Magnum revolver. I quickly learned I preferred semi-automatics to revolvers. I assumed I wasn't made to shoot revolvers, but John explained the importance of grip fit and the reason the pistol seemed to be falling out of my hands — it was the wrong size for me.

A Rude Awakening

As someone accustomed to punching small holes in the center of targets out to 1,000 yards, I've learned to accept smaller victories and move on to larger goals. I don't expect handgun mastery to come right away. I want one thing

— to improve. Though not an experienced pistol shooter, I'm far from unfamiliar — largely because of the skills and principles I can transfer from rifle.

Taking steps now to be a better and more accurate pistol shot can help me in more ways than one — diversifying my skills and increasing my confidence as a concealed carry permit holder. I know marksmanship is important, but the types of competition I've been exposed to, even on such small levels, differ vastly from defensive shooting.

Though I'm still new to the concealed carry and personal defense world, I get the importance of ongoing learning and training. While attending college on an urban campus only miles from East Cleveland, "protected" by an inadequate campus police department, I learned precisely why. Armed robberies, carjackings and assaults — the frequent email alerts came to not only be expected but accepted among the student populace.

My freshman year I was confronted by a man I didn't know on the way back to my dorm. Luckily a car driving by pulled between me and the apparent drug-addled stranger, shielding me until I was safely out of harm's way. In that moment, I understood the need to protect myself and that anything could happen anywhere.

Firearms weren't permitted on campus and I wasn't yet old enough to carry one, but I'll never forget the feeling of being helpless. Now 21 and out of college, I'm entering a whole new world of handgun shooting and self-defense. I'm looking forward to the next steps in my ongoing education.



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The Trijicon RMR red dot sight sits atop combat handguns issued to members of the U.S. Special Operations Command. This thing is built like a tank.



Not satisfied to rely on polished steel like everybody else, the HK guys designed an O-ring interface between the barrel and slide on the VP9L OR pistol.



Note the suppressor-height sights, also set up to co-witness through an optical sight.



THE HK VP9L OR

Nicely accessorized, the HK VP9L OR looks like something you'd find on an orbital battle station. Like most everything HK makes, the gun runs as well as it looks.



WILL DABBS, MD

BECAUSE ANYTHING WORTH DOING IS WORTH DOING EXCESSIVELY

If you're the kind of guy who can't really be satisfied with anything less than perfection, the HK VP9L OR is your heater.



The new HK VP9L OR is the latest iteration of HK's extraordinary VP9 striker-fired polymer-framed combat handgun. Designed to dominate combat pistol matches, the VP9L OR applies the expected HK over-the-top attention to detail to the optimized competition pistol. After a lifetime of squeezing triggers for fun and money, this is quite possibly the nicest 9mm pistol I have ever fired.

They naturally started with the superlative VP9. HK was fashionably late to the striker-fired, polymer-framed pistol party. However, when they arrived, they were rocking an Armani suit, a \$500 haircut and matching smoking-hot supermodels on each elbow. A VP9 sits on my bedside table

The frame is common to all HK VP9 handguns. Swapping uppers lets you configure the gun for various missions. My VP9L OR upper came as a drop-in conversion kit.



Below: If I really took my time, I could keep my rounds in a single hole at 15 meters. This is one exceptionally sweet-shooting handgun.

for those times the dog won't shut up at 2 a.m. I have no higher accolade.

Cool Things

The stock VP9 is chock full of cool little things. The grip is the most customizable in the industry. With three different backstraps and six interchangeable side plates, the company claims 27 different combinations.

I personally think there are more than that. However, like most folks, higher math was the first thing to go when I gravitated into a job that no longer required it. Sadly, though I seem no longer to be able to calculate mathematical permutations, I will likely be quoting the lyrics to the *Gilligan's Island* theme song on my deathbed.

There are the niftiest little removable ears on the back of the slide that help with racking chores. HK calls them Charging Supports, and they are the most inspired mechanical accessories since windshield wipers. The slide stop and magazine release are both bilateral and perfect.

The particulars are incomparable, and the smooth striker-fired trigger is to die for. A captive flat recoil spring and polygonally rifled barrel come standard. What really blew me away, however, were the O-rings.

The Humble O-Ring

Most normal people don't think much about O-rings. It was an O-ring failure in the right solid rocket booster of the space shuttle *Challenger* on January 28, 1986, that allowed a high-pressure jet of plasma to burn through the external fuel tank and destroy the spacecraft. Seven great Americans died in that conflagration.

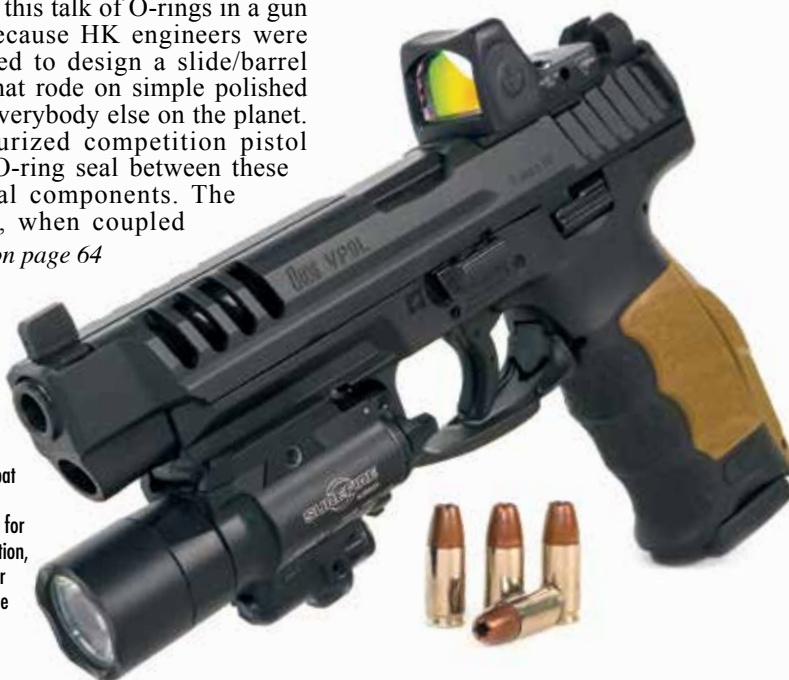
For the technological luddite, the humble O-ring is an elastomeric torus usually used to form a gas or liquid seal. Typical terrestrial applications for O-rings include scuba tanks, underwater cameras, refrigeration systems and paintball guns. As with most such mundane objects, we seldom think much about O-rings. However, our lives would indeed be way suckier without them.



Why all this talk of O-rings in a gun article? Because HK engineers were not satisfied to design a slide/barrel interface that rode on simple polished steel like everybody else on the planet. Their accurized competition pistol sports an O-ring seal between these two critical components. The end result, when coupled

Continued on page 64

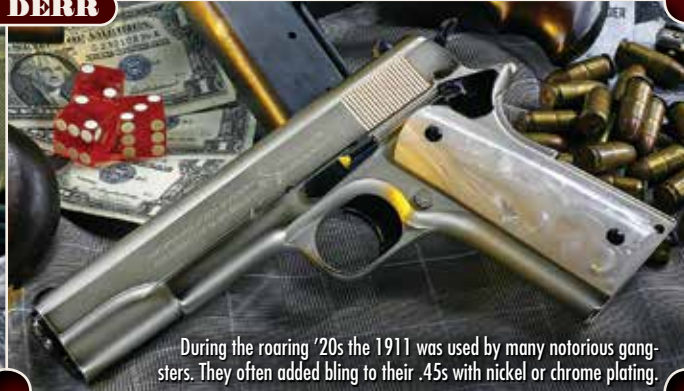
The HK VP9L OR is the race gun variant of their superlative VP9 polymer-framed, striker-fired combat pistol. While it is purpose-designed for handgun competition, the gun makes for a superb defensive tool as well.



THE 1911 THROUGH THE DECADES

GREG DERR

Some servicemen would take broken aircraft windscreens of plastic and carve them into "sweetheart grips" with images of family, friends and movie stars.



During the roaring '20s the 1911 was used by many notorious gangsters. They often added bling to their .45s with nickel or chrome plating.

TIMELESS TRADITION

The more things change, the more they stay the same. John Moses Browning's Model 1911 proves it every day. There have been hundreds of new pistol designs patented since the 1911 was accepted by the U.S. Military, but it's still the most iconic handgun in the United States and beyond.

Four years ago, a client, Mike Gregorski, approached me with a request to build a Colt 1911 in the predominant style for each decade. That's 11 guns, all .45 ACP Colt 1911s. I didn't have to think about it — I was all in.

Mike had a few requests. All would be .45 ACP and the original frame and slide had to be from the

proper decade. I went to work right away doing research and making a large binder for the 11 different pistols in the project. I scoured the internet for ideas while Mike searched for "unmolested" base guns to serve as blank canvases.

The First Decade

From the outset I knew there would be some decades that would have few modifications to the 1911, like the 1910s. We found a rather nice 1915 Colt US Army, on which I changed a few worn internals. We decided to leave this pistol as original as possible.

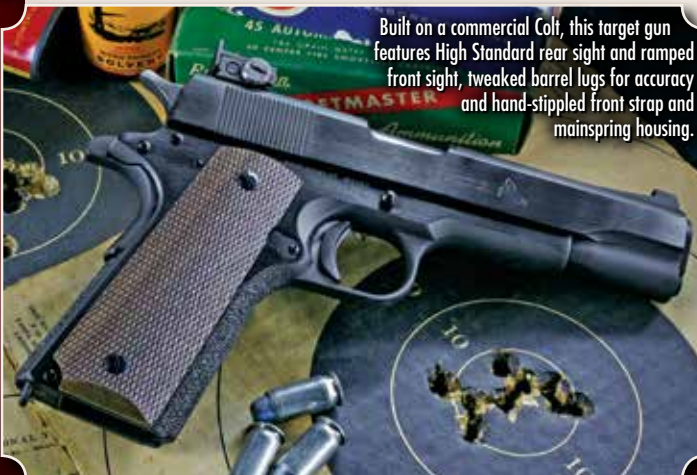
Roaring '20s

The '20s called for a roaring '20s "gangster" style gun. Dillinger, Capone and Nitti all wielded the 1911. I started

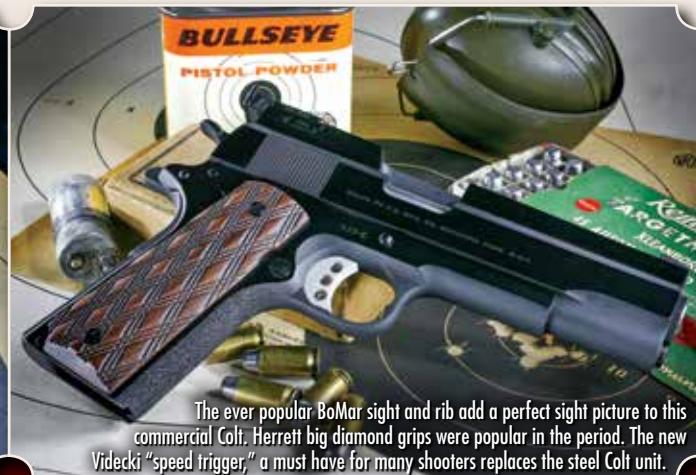
out with a 1921 Colt commercial. I replaced the internals with new bar stock parts made by Extreme Engineering, tightened the slide to frame fit and replaced the old barrel with a new Colt barrel and a custom fit bushing. For the finish I went with satin nickel and nitre blue accent parts to give the gun some flash. The grips are a synthetic mother-of-pearl — the genuine version is too fragile.

'30s

The 1930s saw the first Colt National Match pistols and my client wanted to pay tribute to his dad with a 1936 Colt NM. He found one that had been "bumper chromed." I stripped the chrome and bought period parts to keep it as close to original as possible.

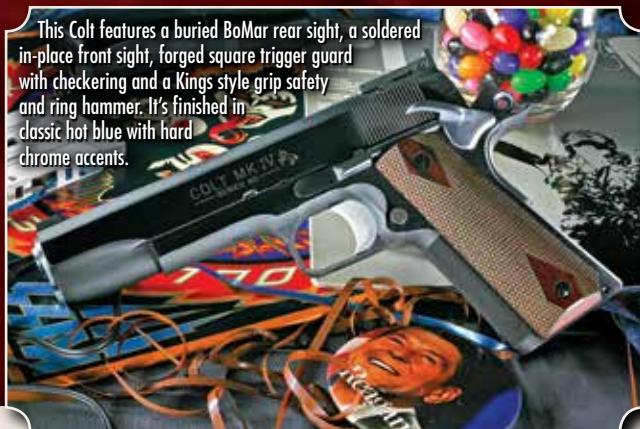


Built on a commercial Colt, this target gun features High Standard rear sight and ramped front sight, tweaked barrel lugs for accuracy and hand-stippled front strap and mainspring housing.



The ever popular BoMar sight and rib add a perfect sight picture to this commercial Colt. Herrett big diamond grips were popular in the period. The new Videcki "speed trigger," a must have for many shooters replaces the steel Colt unit.

This Colt features a buried BoMar rear sight, a soldered in-place front sight, forged square trigger guard with checkering and a Kings style grip safety and ring hammer. It's finished in classic hot blue with hard chrome accents.



An Armand Swenson-inspired design with ambidextrous safety, unique matte slide top treatment, squared trigger guard and S&W revolver sight. The finish is matte hard chrome.



The rear sight cut on the '70s pistol turned out to be ... an adventure.

The barrel was pitted, so I replaced it with an unbranded Kart National Match barrel. I acid etched the hood with the proper logos and inspection marks. The slide had fixed sights I machined for an original Stevens adjustable target rear sight and new clone front sight. Carbonia blue is elegant, and we hired Turnbull Restoration to return this 1911 back to like-original condition.

World At War: The '40s

The '40s saw World War II and the 1911 was produced by the millions as the Allies' combat sidearm. It's getting harder to find a nice one, even with the CMP selling off thousands of war-era Colts. Mike found a close-to-original Colt made in 1943 needing a new sear and disconnector. The rear sight was wrong, and the steel trigger was gone. I tightened the slide to frame fit, re-Parkerized, and added clear "Sweet-heart" grips — a popular modification by GIs at the time. Rita Hayworth is on one side and the image of the Iwo Jima flag raising on the other.

Postwar '50s

The post-war '50s in the U.S. saw shooting sports on the rise and the .45 1911 was now the favorite of NRA Bullseye style shooters at matches like

the US Championships, Camp Perry, Ohio. Returning soldiers cast aside old revolvers and turned to the new semi-auto they loved during their service. Thus, began the 40-year era for modifying the Colt 1911.

I wanted to build a traditional bullseye gun with features found on most of the target 1911s of the 1950s. I replaced fixed sights with a High Standard rear sight and a Patridge-style ramped front sight. I tightened the frame and slide and welded up and refit a Colt barrel. I hand stippled the frame front strap with a hammer and punch. Then I honed the sear and hammer to produce a crisp 3.5-lb. break. Last, I added a trigger shoe to the short steel Colt factory trigger.

The '60s

The '60s continued to see the NRA Bullseye community push gunsmiths to innovate the 1911 and squeeze out all possible accuracy. Aftermarket parts manufacturers made hundreds of 1911 bits available. BoMar started making dedicated sights and ribs for the 1911, which offered precise adjustment, durability and a longer sight radius. Stippling was still popular.

This build utilized the first generation of the BoMar rib with the remov-

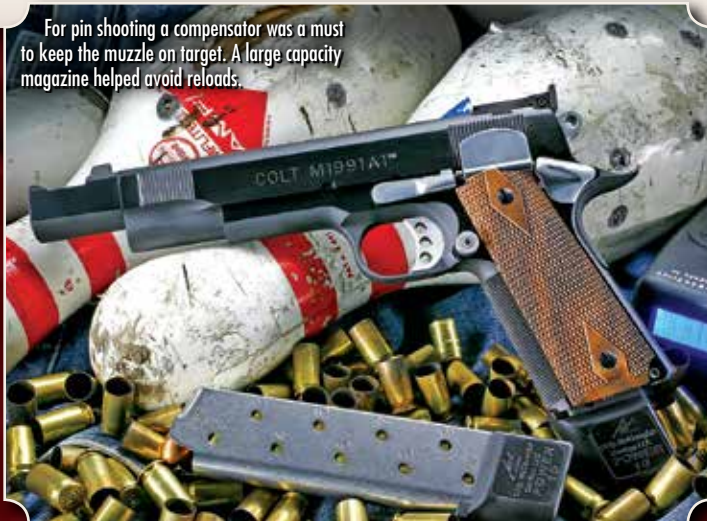
able rear sight. It also featured a Micro bushing and Herrett grips. Tuned to shoot cast lead semi wad-cutter bullets at 50 yards, I silver soldered a band of steel on the first locking lug of the barrel, as was the process at the time. Last, I finished this pistol in traditional hot blue.

The Wild 1970s

The '70s was a wild decade for the 1911. On the west coast, shooters and gunsmiths were pushing more of a practical shooting style and gun. Jeff Cooper and his group of Southwest Combat Pistol League members were making defensive shooting more realistic than ever before. Gunsmiths like Frank Pachmayr, Arnold Capone of Kings Gunworks and Armand Swenson raised the bar with accurate and ergonomic features. The '70s saw ambi thumb safeties for

Continued on page 79

For pin shooting a compensator was a must to keep the muzzle on target. A large capacity magazine helped avoid reloads.



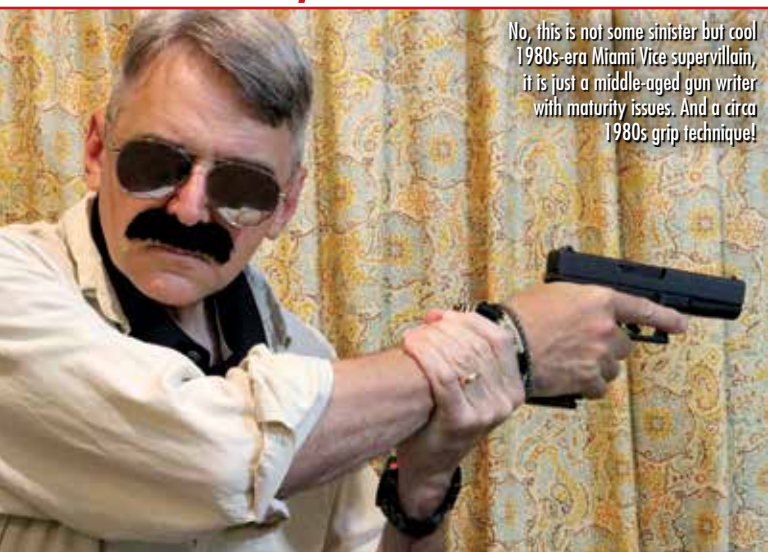
The 2000s inspired a serious battle gun built on a 1943 Colt like the USMC did.



The new retro P80 GLOCK from Lipsey's perfectly replicates the very first Gen 1 GLOCK 17 that so took the world by storm.

THE LIPSEY'S GLOCK P80

Will Dabbs, MD



No, this is not some sinister but cool 1980s-era Miami Vice supervillain, it is just a middle-aged gun writer with maturity issues. And a circa 1980s grip technique!

THE ORIGIN OF EVERYTHING

The cool minimalist frame treatment is identical between the original Gen 1 GLOCK and the new Lipsey's P80 retro version.



The original Gen 1 G17 on the left is essentially identical to the Lipsey's retro P80 version. The new guide rod is captive, but that's about it.



There is currently a pervasive primal urge to possess trinkets indicative of a Quixotic romanticized past. This is likely either because 2020 is *the most sucktastic year in all of human history* or folks are just too young to remember the past was not all that awesome, either. Regardless, Lipsey's has recently launched the ultimate retro gun.

The Lipsey's GLOCK P80 is an authentic modern reproduction of the first plastic pistol that started it all. From its revolutionary polymer frame to its groundbreaking Safe Action striker-



My high-mileage Gen 1 GLOCK 17 is on the left. The new Lipsey's GLOCK P80 is on the right. The only difference is my gun looks like it served in the Crimean War.

fired trigger system and rakish grip-to-frame angle, the P80 captures all that was righteous and wholesome about that first radical GLOCK handgun. To understand this uber-cool gun's origins, however, we have to set the way-back meter to 1980.

Philosophy Of Greatness

Wouldn't it be awesome to be the guy who invented something that truly changed the world? I'm not talking about silly stuff like the Pet Rock (Gary Dahl, 1975), Instagram (Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger, 2010), or Paris Hilton (Rick and Kathy Hilton, 1981). I mean something that legitimately made a difference.

Thomas Crapper was a master plumber who worked in mid-19th century England. At the time of his death he held nine patents, mostly for toilet components. He developed the U-bend plumbing trap as well as the floating ballcock. Wouldn't "The Floating Ballcocks" be an awesome name for an intramural sports team? There is an apocryphal tale that his name was the original source of the universal epithet "crap." Regardless, the guy revolutionized the way the world poops. He died in 1910, appropriately enough, of colon cancer.

In 1958, a Taiwanese-Japanese man named Momofuku Ando invented Ramen Noodles. A poll taken in 2000 reported a preponderance of Japanese citizens believed Ramen Noodles to be the preeminent invention of the 20th century. The number of college students rescued from starvation by Momofuku's



Yep, the Lipsey's P80 GLOCK shoots great. This is a pretty typical 12-meter group.

delectable contrivance boggles the mind.

All this pales, however, when compared to the genius of Gaston Glock. The gun that bears his name changed the way the world made weapons. The details of how Gaston dreamt up his eponymous wonder are indeed fascinating.

Origin Story

In 1980 Gaston Glock was an engineer with extensive experience in industrial polymers. His company made things like combat knives and machinegun links for the Austrian military. Glock had never produced a firearm before and actually had very little experience with guns.

The story goes he was walking the halls of an Austrian Army facility and overheard a pair of officers talking about the

The wholesale price of the new retro GLOCK P80 is \$15 more than a new-production Gen 5. This covers the cool outer box that holds the trigger lock and similar stuff that wasn't required back in the 1980s.



upcoming handgun trials. The Austrian Army still used WWII-era Walther P38 pistols and was in dire need of replacements. As this initial contract would ultimately be for some 25,000 guns, all the major European arms manufacturers were taking part.

Glock gathered up examples of all the common combat handguns he

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The Lipsey's P80 comes in a cool "Tupperware"-style box, just like the originals.





ROY HUNTINGTON | PHOTOS: ROB JONES,
THE IMAGESMITH, LLC

BY
**KORTH AND
NIGHTHAWK CUSTOMS**

ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE EMBRACES ARTISTIC STYLE



THE MONGOOSE CARRY SPECIAL AND HERITAGE MODELS

Nighthawk Custom's collaboration with the German makers of the astounding Korth revolver series has helped serve to rewrite expectations on what a revolver can — or might — be. Essentially full-custom guns, Korth combines famous Teutonic technological marvel with the eye-appeal of Nighthawk Custom's design ideas. The result, a collaboration of engineering excellence and artistic flair setting the Korth family apart from

— essentially — anything else.

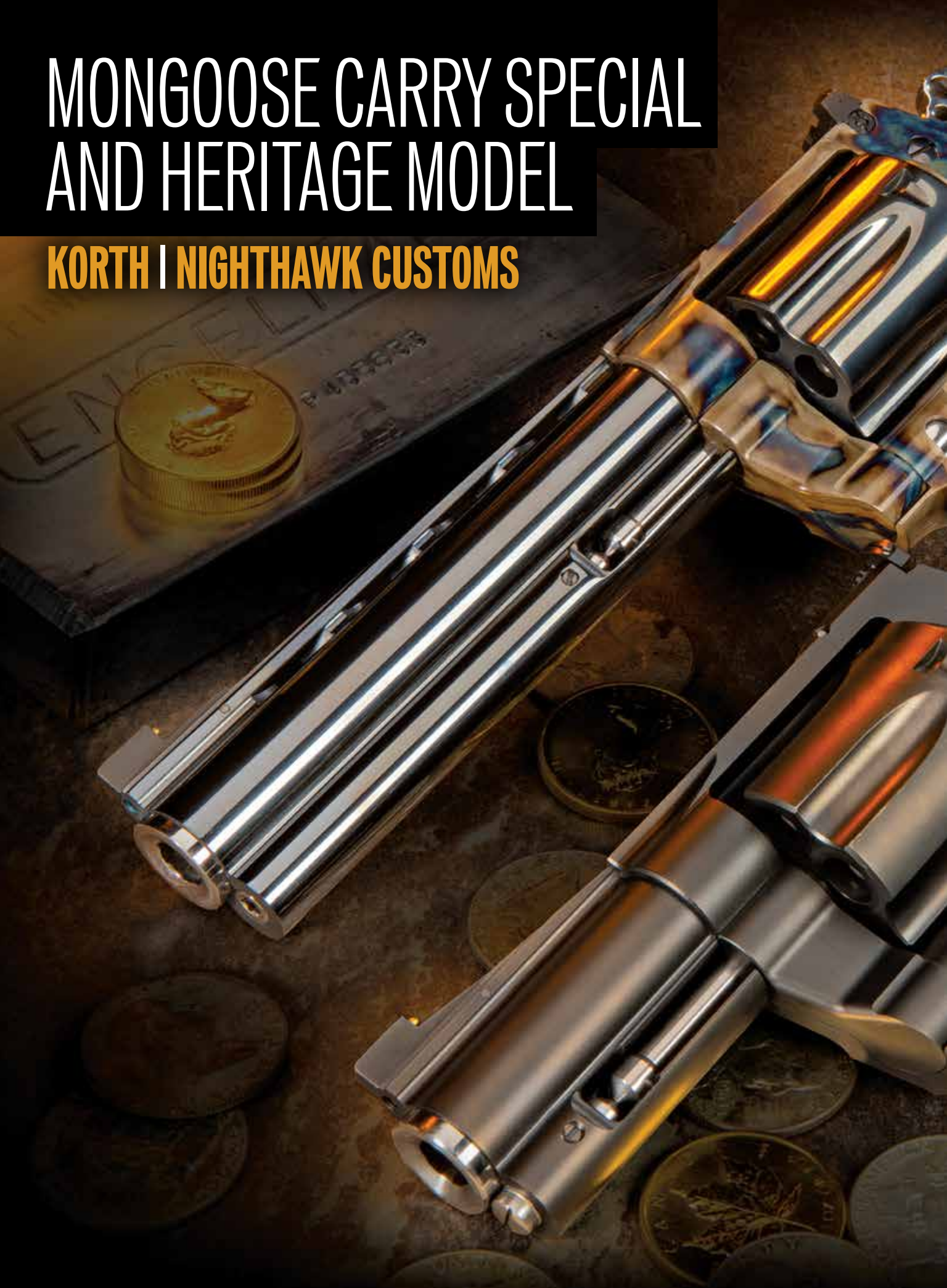
But first, let's clear the air and tackle the obvious. These are not price-point revolvers. They are works of shooting art deserving of a place at the very highest peak of gun-making skill and distinctive design. They're an inspiring celebration, showcasing what gifted engineers and artisans in steel and wood can do when no limits on expectations force them into that corner where price-point meets polymer. They are, in short — breathtakingly unique and shameless

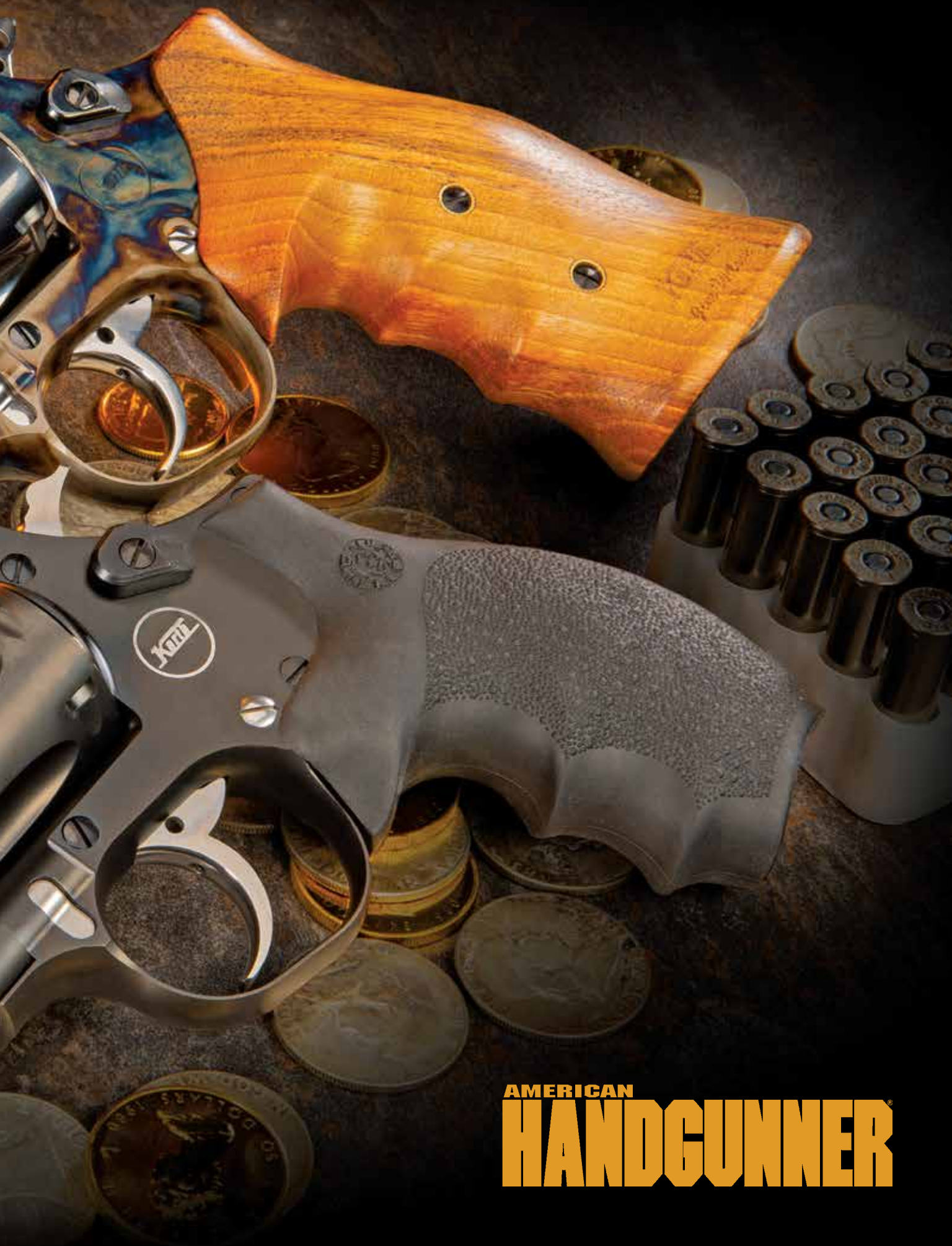
in their obvious beauty and functional distinction.

While a Custom Korth Heritage — the lovely case-colored model in Rob's sublime photos — may not be within your budget, you can still allow yourself to enjoy what it is of its own accord. We were once mortified to read about custom 1911s in these very pages costing "upwards of \$1,200!" in the late 1970s and early '80s. The same price seems quaint today, nudging what many stock factory handguns cost. So, lest

MONGOOSE CARRY SPECIAL AND HERITAGE MODEL

KORTH | NIGHTHAWK CUSTOMS





AMERICAN
HANDGUNNER



you risk your hair catching on fire at the “horror” of it all; let’s agree this little adventure with the Korths is just that — a modest exploration in creative and capable excellence.

Building The Brand

What we have here are two guns, very different yet very much the same simultaneously. Both come from the fertile mind of Herr Willi Korth, a German engineer having a gift for firearms design. Born in 1913, Korth grew into

machining and in the summer of 1944, worked briefly at the Mauser-Werke as a designer of small arms. Bouncing around a bit, in 1952 he decided to pursue his own ideas, designing a 9mm blank firing “gas” revolver. At the time “real” guns in Germany were heavily restricted, and Willi’s blank guns were so over-built they were easily converted to “real” guns! Something evidently not lost on Herr Korth.

Following the post-war ban on gun-making in Germany, Willi founded his first gun-making company in 1955 — “Willi Korth, *Waffenfabrikation*.” His first revolver was in .32 S&W Long (due to restrictions) and had some interesting design ideas. Perhaps the most novel was the button on the frame’s right side you could push to easily remove the cylinder and crane. That touch is still in the designs today.

As the brand grew to more resemble today’s guns, Korth’s quality of workmanship followed the lines of Rolls rather than Ford. Five gunsmiths made revolvers at the bench, building an average of 120 guns a year. Except for a small handful of screws, every part was made in-house. Rather than being milled

or cast, each part was ground to size and fit. It took 70 man-hours and over 600 operations to create a single revolver. Major parts were surface hardened to 60 Rockwell — unheard of even today.

Original production ended in 1981, and much to my surprise, included not only .38/.357, but also 9mm, .22 LR and even .22 Magnum. Can you imagine a Korth in .22 Magnum? Barrel lengths ran the gamut of 3” to 6”, with 5- and 6-shot cylinders.

Market Challenges

At this point, the company bounced around a bit from one investor and gunmaker to another, with some production maintained off and on. Improvements to Willi’s designs were made, but the Korth brand struggled with marketing and consequently sales. Never, however, losing their reputation as one of the world’s finest revolvers.

Herr Korth passed away in 1992. In 1999, Korth underwent bankruptcy, but it was taken over in 2000 by *Armurerie Freylinger* of Luxembourg. During this ownership, the eye-catching plasma TiAlNPVD surface coating was introduced and the U.S. market grew.

MONGOOSE CARRY SPECIAL AND HERITAGE MODEL



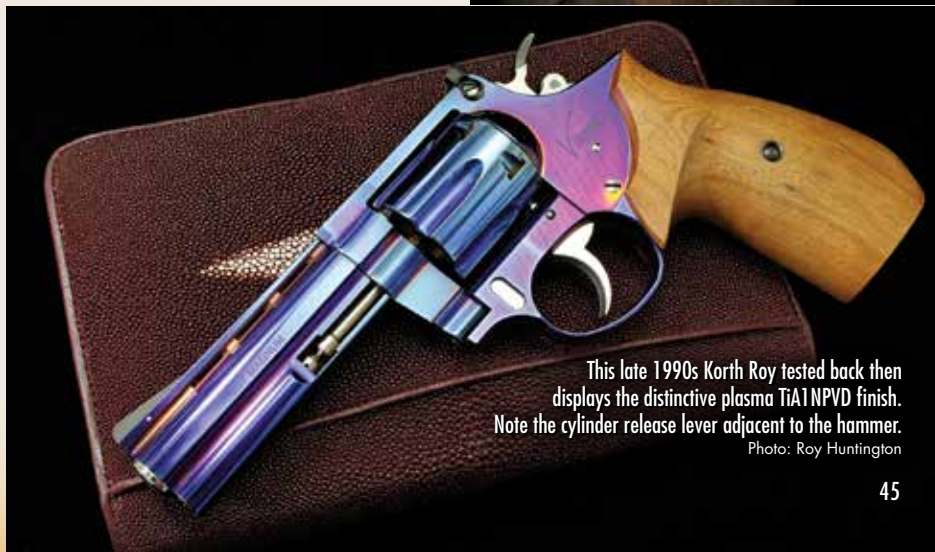
But more changes were in the works. In 2008 the Korth factory shut down, but the Korth trademark was reborn in 2009, exhibiting revolvers — and Korth's auto — at the SHOT show in 2013. A few years after that, Mark Stone, president of Nighthawk Custom met with the Korth team, forming an alliance and breaking entirely new ground for both companies. Korth now had a sure method for U.S. distribution, and NHC embraced the elegant designs and engineering — mirroring their own guns — of the respected Korth brand. Magic was about to emerge in the U.S.

A Fortunate Meeting

"In January 2016 at SHOT we went over to the Korth booth and introduced ourselves," Mark explained to me. "Great people at every level. They've been awesome to work with and we truly have a friendship that has developed. Everyone at Korth, from the owner, Martin Rothmann, to their gunsmiths and machinist are simply first class," Mark told me. "We've been at their factory in Lollar, Germany several times, and they've visited us as well several times. It's always a great experience!"

"What struck me at first — and still does — is the quality of the Korth revolver, their long history of perfecting the designs, and how their build strategy is very similar to ours," Mark explained. "Just like we here at Nighthawk Custom do with our guns, every part of a Korth revolver is fully machined out of a block of steel — and a single gunsmith hand fits each part, building the revolver from start

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This late 1990s Korth Roy tested back then displays the distinctive plasma TiAlNPVD finish. Note the cylinder release lever adjacent to the hammer.

Photo: Roy Huntington

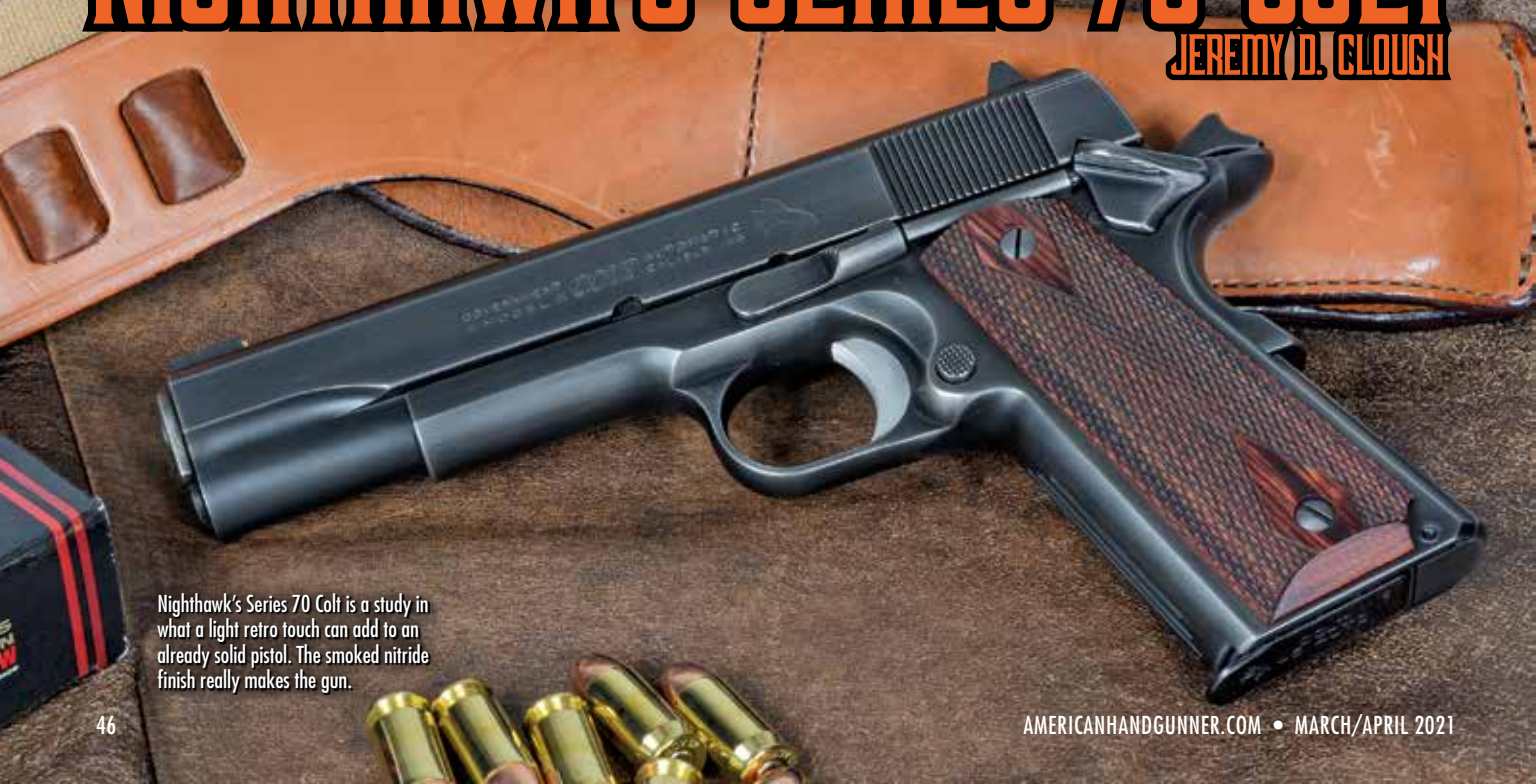


Even with a factory barrel, the Nighthawk Colt proved satisfyingly accurate. This is Jeremy's best 25-yard group, fired standing, unsupported — about 2" center to center.

A LIGHT TOUCH

NIGHTHAWK'S SERIES 70 COLT

JEREMY D. CLOUGH



Nighthawk's Series 70 Colt is a study in what a light retro touch can add to an already solid pistol. The smoked nitride finish really makes the gun.



Nighthawk starts with a current production Series 70 Colt and adds several subtle touches that give it added functionality and style.



The fixed rear sight is a high profile one from Harrison Design with a serrated rear face to cut glare.



The spur hammer is a nice retro touch, as is the accent line machined across the top of the slide and the smoked nitride finish.



A short spur hammer is mated to a grip safety with an equally short beavertail. It's more than adequate to stop hammer bite and help spread out recoil.



Both the flat mainspring housing and the frontstrap sport vertical serrations to add purchase.



The Nighthawk Colt comes with a 14k gold bead front sight — the original night sight.

We've grown so accustomed to seeing Nighthawk turn out finished guns built in-house most people don't realize it also offers gunsmithing services on pistols manufactured elsewhere. This includes their Series 70 Colt Government Model, a retro .45 with a distinctive smoked nitride finish.

Detail Work

Sometimes the lightest touch is the best, and in this era, where a custom pistol means things like cocking serrations machined to look like a primitive circuit board, a little simplicity is refreshing. For starters, the gun *begins life as a Series 70 Colt Government Model*, which eliminates the sometimes-controversial Series 80 passive firing pin safety that some users say spoils the trigger pull on an M1911. Personally, I have no problem with it: Coupled with a captive half cock hammer, it's about as safe as a M1911 can get. My Series 80 guns have excellent triggers. At the same time, adding parts to John Browning's design invites trouble, and the trend has long been back toward the basic action of the Series 70.

The sights consist of a dovetail front with a gold bead, while the rear sight is a high-profile fixed sight from Harrison Design. Similar in profile to the basic M1911A1 rear sight, the Harrison is taller and has a serrated rear face to cut glare, along with a broad notch to give plenty of light for the front post, and is held in place with a hex screw located in the bottom of the sight notch.

The original old school night sight, a gold bead, tends to collect available light, drawing your eye to the front sight. Using actual gold means it never tarnishes. It's a favorite of mine and several of my carry guns have Novak's gold bead front sights installed.

Smooth

All the sharp edges have been removed from the gun that sports the traditional vertical cocking serrations, and the ejection port is not flared. A single accent line is machined down the side of the slide where the flat meets the rounded top: Not technically a French border as it is often called (that usually has a second outline within the lines of the slide), it's still an elegant touch. While the pistol retains the stock Colt barrel, it has been throated and polished to ensure maximum reliability and mated with a match barrel bushing.

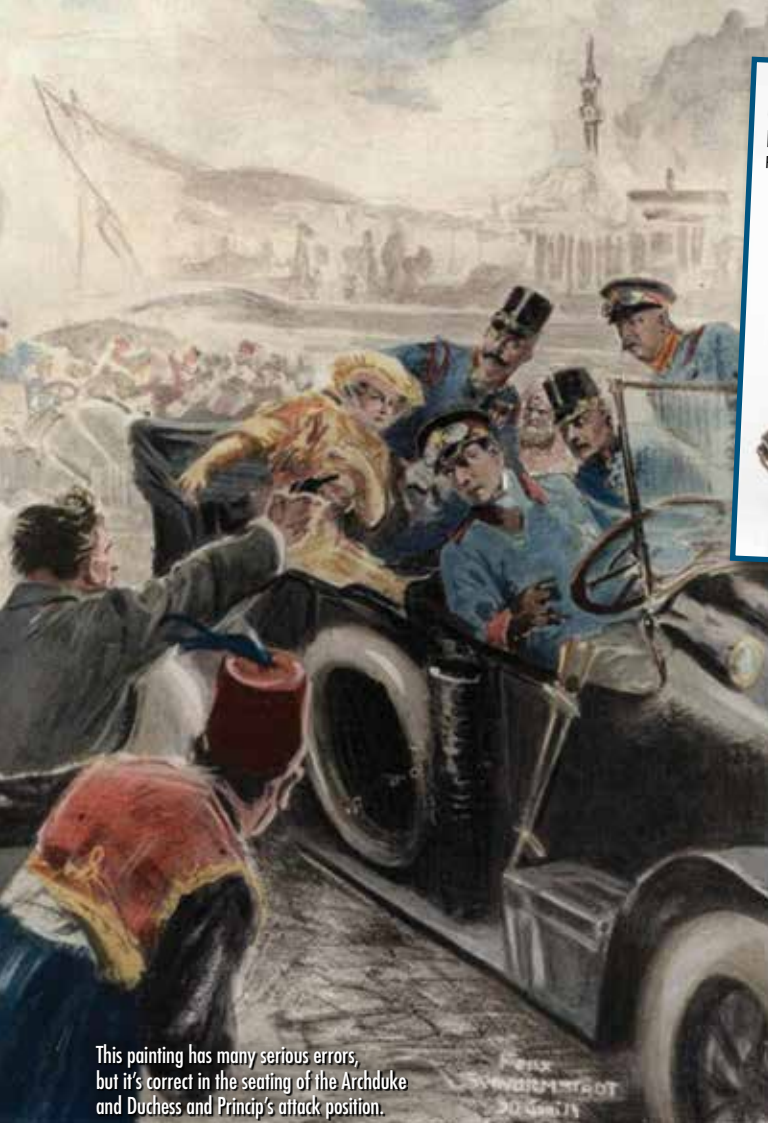
The shortened spur hammer is paired with machined internal lockwork and a short aluminum trigger, all provided by Nighthawk, and the combination creates

an excellent, crisp trigger pull that broke cleanly at 3 lbs., 11 oz., as measured on my Lyman digital trigger pull gauge.

Recoil Ergonomics

Unlike the usual upswept grip safety we're all used to, this beavertail barely protrudes beyond the tip of the hammer spur, which, candidly, is probably short enough to eliminate hammer bite for most shooters. That does not, however, make the beavertail unnecessary: *one of its main purposes is to spread out recoil across the web of the hand*, which is a bigger deal than you think, as a gun with the narrow rat tail safety can be so unpleasant to shoot that it actually feels like hammer bite, even when it isn't. The other controls — safety, slide stop, magazine release — are all standard Colt parts tuned to the individual gun. While many of us are used to extended

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This painting has many serious errors, but it's correct in the seating of the Archduke and Duchess and Princip's attack position.

This FN Model 1910 is believed to be the gun used by Gavrilo Princip to assassinate Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie.

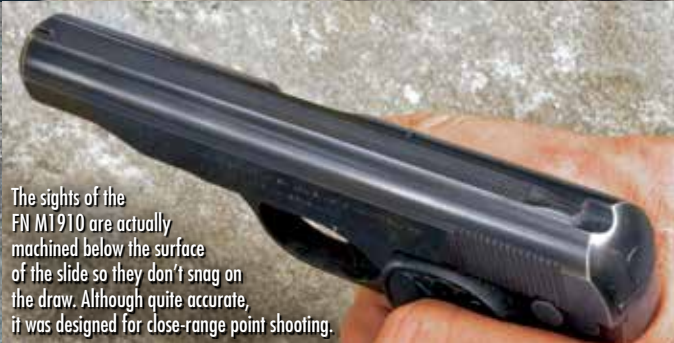
Photo: Heeresgeschichtliches Museum



FN'S 1910 POCKET AUTOMATIC

COULD MY MOTHER-IN-LAW HAVE STARTED WORLD WAR I?

FRANK JARDIM ■ PHOTOS: F.J.G. JARDIM



The sights of the FN M1910 are actually machined below the surface of the slide so they don't snag on the draw. Although quite accurate, it was designed for close-range point shooting.



Shooter Two firing at the silhouette targets of the Archduke (right) and Duchess (left).

The spark that ignited the fuse leading to World War I was the assassination of the heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire on June 28, 1914, in the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo by 19-year-old Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip. The weapon he used was a six-shot FN Model 1910 Browning chambered in .380 ACP.

This gun was John Browning's most advanced pocket pistol to date when he presented it to Colt, but they passed on the new patent. Colt was already making a lot of money with the Browning-designed Model 1903 and 1908 and his new pistol didn't seem to offer enough to sidetrack a top seller

already in full production.

Instead, Browning sold it to *Fabrique Nationale* (FN) and it was hugely successful in Europe, remaining in production over 70 years. It was mainly a civilian firearm, but also saw wide use by police agencies and military forces around the globe. It was eventually exported to America as the .380 ACP Browning Model 1955 from the mid-1950s until the Gun Control Act of 1968 proscribed it.

A Gun With A Story

I recently got an excellent Model 1955 in trade and it got me to thinking about the tragic, world altering, act of state-sponsored terrorism committed 116 years ago that ultimately led to the deaths of at least 15 million people in the First World War.

Though the murder of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, and his wife Sophie, was widely reported, newspaper accounts differed significantly at times in their details. Amazingly, physical evidence from the crime still survives. Three of the reportedly four FN Model 1910 pistols provided to the Serbian assassins still exist with serial number 19074 being the one believed by many to be the actual murder weapon. After the trial of the assassins, it was given to a Jesuit priest for an exhibit honoring the murdered Archduke and his wife, both of whom were devout Roman Catholics. The blood-stained tunic worn by the Archduke was also part of that exhibit and likewise remained in the custody of the priests.

Miraculously this evidence survived and was eventually put on exhibit at the Heeresgeschichtliches Museum, in Vienna, Austria, where the car from the fateful motorcade is preserved, complete with a bullet hole in the side. The hole is from the shot believed to be the one that fatally wounded the Arch Duke's wife.

Re-writing History?

In my research, I found an essay on the assassination that didn't sit well with me on the Royal Armouries Museum website, a highly esteemed British institution. The author suggested Princip's shots that killed the Duke were the "luckiest shots in the world" due to his inexperience with firearms, probable adrenalin rush, and difficulty, in the museum man's experience, aiming the FN M1910 because of the grip safety. I disagree. There was luck, or fate, at play that day; but Princip hitting the target with that weapon was all



This photograph, taken the day before the assassination, shows the highly exposed position of the Archduke and Duchess.

but certain under the circumstances.

The original plan to assassinate the Archduke that June morning actually failed, but a series of decisions and mistakes that seem fateful, or lucky, put Princip alone in a position to complete the mission on his own initiative. It all came down to a wrong turn by an uninformed chauffeur who stopped to back up in full sight of Princip, outside the cafe where he'd stopped to get a sandwich.

Princip was the youngest of the assassins, but clearly unwavering in his dedication to his cause. He quickly made his way through the spectators gathering around the open touring car until he was five or six feet from it, drew his pistol, and fired at least twice. He hit the Archduke in the neck, cutting his jugular vein, and hit his wife in the abdomen. Both victims were immediately incapacitated by their wounds and soon died from blood loss and probably shock. Witnesses reported three shots. There was a bullet hole near the upper edge of the side of the car where the Duchess was seated that may have been the shot that hit her.

The historical record shows Princip was given some instruction and practiced shooting this pistol in a public park in Belgrade, Serbia, the month before the assassination. How proficient he became or how much previous experience he may have had with firearms is

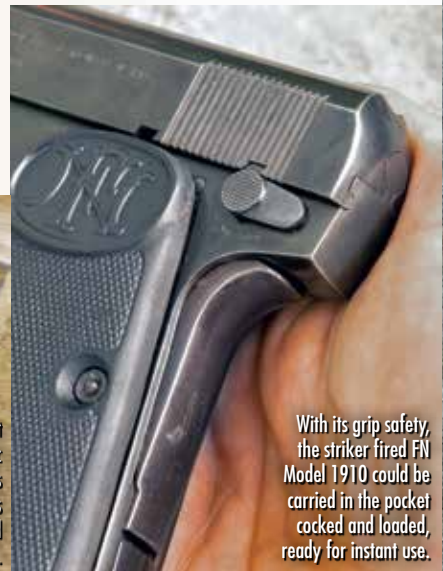
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The combined results of all three re-enactment experiment shooters.



Triple K is a great source for authentic reproduction grips and magazines for rare and obsolete pistols.



With its grip safety, the striker-fired FN Model 1910 could be carried in the pocket cocked and loaded, ready for instant use.



Ucon Hawk



Mini Tanimoca

ENDLESS EDGES!

TOPS KNIVES AND THE PURSUIT OF EDGINESS

PAT COVERT
PHOTOS: ROB JONES
THE IMAGESmith, LLC

For 22 years TOPS Knives has been generating hot knife designs with a relentless passion few other manufacturers can match. Simply look at their catalog. Case closed. The sheer volume of offerings boggles the mind. In 1998 this fledgling Idaho company set out with a dream to provide our military troops with affordable tactical fixed-blade knives to fight the enemy abroad. TOPS caught on like wildfire and the flame is still red hot.

Idaho proved to be fertile ground for TOPS. “The reason we’re in Idaho is that Mike Fuller, who ran TOPS for many years, was looking for a place to settle down.” TOPS’ General Manager and Marketing Director Craig Powell tells *Handgunner*, “Idaho Falls just spoke to him and that was that. Of course, some of the criteria that made Idaho — and Idaho Falls in particular — attractive as a place for the company is that cost of living is low and, in general, freedom for businesses and



3 Pointer with Tan Canvas

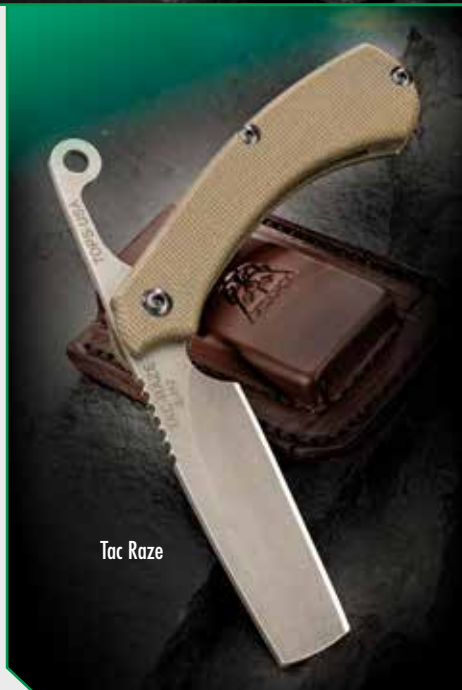
individuals is high. There is definitely a reason there are a lot of companies throughout the state that manufacture knives and guns.” Fuller retired in 2015 and his longtime right-hand man, Leo Espinoza, took his place, continuing the company tradition in fine fashion.

“It wasn’t until several years in that TOPS started making anything not geared toward tactical use,” Craig notes. “Idaho being the sportsman’s paradise that it is, it was only natural for TOPS to start working hunting and survival knives into the line-up.”

Expanding Edges

By 2010 the TOPS Knives catalog was burgeoning as a result of Fuller’s zeal for new designs, which also included contributions by Leo and a host of collaborations by industry experts. In 2011 the modern day Bushcraft movement began taking the sporting end of the cutlery industry by storm and TOPS wanted in. The first Bushcraft effort was the B.O.B. Fieldcraft fixed-blade and it was a viral sensation even in prototype form.

“It’s hard to pinpoint any one thing that allowed TOPS to gain such clout in Bushcraft, but the Fieldcraft definitely had a huge impact,” Powell reflects. “Mike worked with a group of guys called the Brothers of Bushcraft (B.O.B.) who were all experts in different areas and he had them all come to some type of agreement on the best knife for them. Turns out it was spot on. Aside from Bushcraft gurus and survival experts the Fieldcraft has been exceedingly popular with guys going through SERE training and other similar schools. Tactical guys, it turns out, mostly use their knives for whatever comes up outside of combat, not so much in it, so the Fieldcraft has been a great addition for them, too.” The Fieldcraft also spun

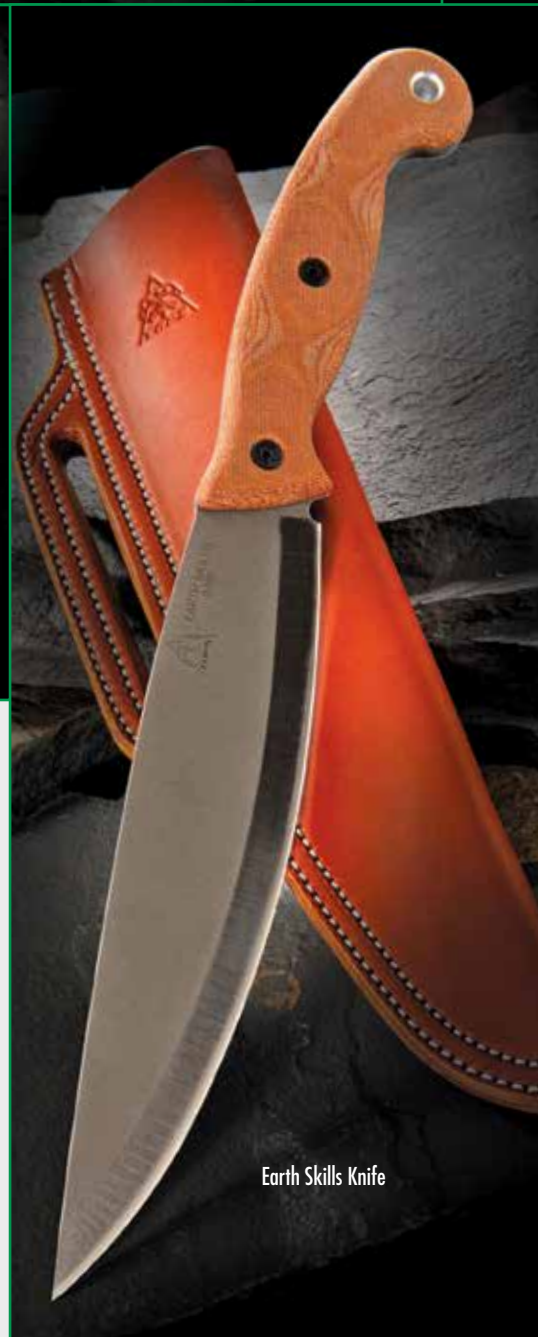


Tac Raze

off a folding knife version in large and small models as well as a smaller send-up of the original fixed-blade.

Another rare trait about TOPS that only a few manufacturers share is quite a few models have stayed in the line-up for years, even decades. We asked Craig to give us a breakdown of TOPS’ popularity among the various genres of knives they sell. “There is a lot of overlap from survival to tactical — but not necessarily from tactical to survival — but in terms of knife choice we are selling more survival knives, which includes Bushcraft and primitive skills knives, than tactical. That said, tactical is still high in importance for us. Now more than ever, we want to make sure the guys who serve have the tools they need. Some of our most popular models right now are the Mini Scandi Knife,

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Earth Skills Knife

GUN RIGHTS

Alan Korwin

THREE MAJOR AMERICAN PARTIES SEEK CONTROL OF WHITE HOUSE

Sit down for this one and listen hard: The election results don't matter quite as much in the big scheme of things as the three major power blocs seeking control of our country, and for what they stand. They go by the name of "parties," and they party plenty, but they're all about power and they're deadly serious. Win, lose or draw, they do not go away. Elections give them temporary big power levers with lasting effects, but they all continue to eat the jumbo shrimp.

Only one party embraces the idea of an armed populace to balance out the power we the people invest in this thing we call government. It is not the communists.

Communists, who now rule one-third of the world's people and have their eyes (weapons, satellites and armies) set on us — do not allow their subjects to have guns. They're a dictatorship. Whether it's the bigger ones like communist China or Russia, or the little squirts like Cuba, North Korea or the other also-rans and socialists, they know full well what would happen if their people could get their hands on guns. They would all be shot. That's the way it is with brutal armed dictators.

No one doubts the communist Chinese oppressors want to take over America and are working on it night and day. They have said so, have infiltrated our institutions, manipulated our culture, technologically assaulted our industries, created economic dependencies and flooded us with clap-trap and mind games. They are not allies. And they have no Constitution or Bill of Rights or anything like it. Under their rule, their people live in servitude. In case anyone has forgotten what communism is like, get caught with a gun over there. You'll get executed. You basically can't "leave."

Only one party embraces the idea of an armed populace to balance out the power we the people invest in this thing we call govern-

ment. It is not the Democrats.

Democrats have a bill in Congress right now, in both houses, to effectively outlaw every privately held gun in the nation. Type HR5717 into a search engine and read the first few lines yourself. Without a federal license they issue as they see fit, guns are illegal — no guns for anyone. The license requires a psych test, a test of your moral character, a determination of your personal relative safety to the community, and any other factors they decide to include after they pass the bill. A national red-flag, sort of "brown shirt" provision turns every citizen into a snitch who can send SWAT teams to any neighbor for raids without warrants and property confiscations — anonymously and without evidence.

**"THEY ARE NOT ALLIES.
AND THEY HAVE NO
CONSTITUTION OR BILL
OF RIGHTS OR ANYTHING
LIKE IT. UNDER THEIR
RULE, THEIR PEOPLE
LIVE IN SERVITUDE."**

Like we saw during the city riots in the summer of 2020, where mayors leashed their police forces and released what few perpetrators were detained without bail or meaningful recognizance, using your Second Amendment right is now upside down. Defend yourself, or even display arms, and you become the focal point of the Injustice Department.

HR5717 even brings back exactly what the U.S. Supreme Court's Heller case overturned as outrageous. Under the Democrats, if you could have a gun at home, it must be unloaded, locked up and can only be unlocked and loaded while you are being assaulted in your home. Otherwise, it would be a crime to possess.

No, Democrats do not support an armed public for all the reasons you

want a public armed. The Founders understood the problem, and the solution. Modern politicians have no idea. Make that the wrong idea. For them, guns are only good as long as they don't work. We can't even bring these malfeasants to court, let alone find the time and spirit for armed revolt.

While the abomination of HR5717 sits in both houses, the nominally constitutional woke Republican party parties and campaigns instead of protecting gun rights. They show no spine or taste for our issue. Marksmanship safety in schools? Fuggedaboutit! They count on having enough votes to block the bad legislation from moving, so they don't act to eradicate it on constitutional grounds. It is blatant infringement and at the least it violates ethics and the oath of office. Would they let stand, without comment or counterproposal, a bill that proposes to remove math education from a select group because you need it to make bombs, or English because it facilitates speech and uprisings? Wouldn't someone stand up and object then?

JPFO recently released this good message for us all: "Only force keeps freedom in your hearth and home — away from 'officials,' adversaries, mobs — seeking to take it. Common wisdom says, 'You can't arm slaves and expect them to stay slaves.' It works the other way too — disarming free people enslaves them. Communists sure know it.

Citizens still recommend ...
Cling to your guns
and Bibles."



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

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SCAN TO ENTER



Protect yourself and your family with the Mossberg MC2c, the gun we're giving away in this issue of *American Handgunner*. Featuring a 3.9" barrel, OAL of 7.1", a slim width of 1.10" and height of 4.90", the compact 9mm pistol is ideal for concealed carry. It has increased capacity with its 13- and 15-round double-stack mags. The MC2c has a frame constructed of high-tensile strength, glass-reinforced polymer with Mossberg's aggressive grip texturing and palm swell. The slide is stainless steel with the option of Black DLC (Diamond-Like Coating) or Matte Stainless finish. Integrated into the slide is the Mossberg STS or Safe Takedown System. Sights are dovetail mounted and come standard in a low-profile, snag-free white 3-Dot configuration.

The next prize in our giveaway is Streamlight's TLR 7-A Flex. If you win this giveaway, you can attach or detach the gun light to or from your MC2c's front rail with no tools and without putting your hand in front of the muzzle. Weighing 2.4 oz., the 2.58"-long TLR 7-A produces 500 lumens of light, has a beam distance of 140 meters with a run time of 1.5 hours.

The *Phrike*, named after the goddess of horror in Greek mythology, is designed as a self-defense tool. Its small, lightweight 4.25" blade and minimal inset handles allow comfortable carry. The *Phrike* can be used for daily tasks or in unexpected situations or emergencies.

Let others know you read our magazine by wearing the *American Handgunner* shirt from Nine Line Apparel. This limited edition shirt displays the *Handgunner* logo in front and a diagram of the Les Baer 1911 at the back.

A Mossberg pistol, a Streamlight gun light, a Spartan Blades knife and a Nine Line T-shirt! This is a terrific deal! Don't miss the chance to win these prizes. Go to AmericanHandgunner.com/giveaways or send a post card! —Jazz Jimenez



PLUS



STREAMLIGHT TLR 7-A FLEX



SPARTAN BLADES PHRIKE

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CALIBER: 9MM, CAPACITY: 13 (FLUSH) AND 15 (EXTENDED), OAL: 7.1"
BARREL LENGTH: 3.9"; WEIGHT: 21 OZ. (UNLOADED)
VALUE: \$490

TLR 7-A FLEX

MANUFACTURER: STREAMLIGHT, (800) 523-7488, STREAMLIGHT.COM
VALUE: \$135

PHRIKE

MANUFACTURER: SPARTAN BLADES, (910) 757-0035, SPARTANBLADESUSA.COM
VALUE: \$250

AMERICAN HANDGUNNER T-SHIRT

MANUFACTURER: NINE LINE APPAREL, (912) 480-4250, NINELINEAPPAREL.COM
VALUE: \$26.99

TOTAL VALUE: \$901.99

DAVID FREEMAN



BARRELBUDDY PUSH THROUGH BARREL CLEANER

After seeing the two inventors of BarrelBuddy demonstrate their product at a writer's conference, I knew I wanted to try it. My tried-and-true method of gun cleaning involves running a bore brush soaked in Hoppe's #9 through the barrel and following it up with cloth cleaning patches until I get one to come out clean. Those patches are square. The inside of the barrel is round. That's one reason it takes so many passes to get a clean patch.

With the BarrelBuddy push through barrel cleaner, I still run the brush through a couple of times with solvent, but I only have to push through a couple BarrelBuddy cleaners and I've got a shiny barrel. With BarrelBuddy, cleaning is easier and so is cleaning up — just toss them in the trash. BarrelBuddy.com

NORMA RANGE TRAINING AMMUNITION

DAVID FREEMAN



Norma Precision entered the handgun ammunition market in a big way. Following introduction of their MHP Defensive ammo, Norma's latest handgun ammunition is an FMJ round built for range training. I tested the 115-grain 9mm Range Training ammo in several handguns, beginning with an S&W Performance Center M&P 2.0 Ported C.O.R.E. pistol with a Sousa Optics R.A.I.D. red dot sight installed. Shooting from the bench at 25 yards the gun/ammo combination allowed me to put a full 15-round magazine of rounds into a 3" group with half of those falling within 2". The Norma Range Training ammunition also performed well in my Mossberg MC2c, Taurus G3c and SCCY CPX-1 with excellent accuracy and no feeding or ejecting issues. Norma-Ammunition.com

TOM MCHALE



CAT TOURNIQUET

Before rolling your eyes at the "tactical tourniquet" craze, consider this. A hospital worker acquaintance of mine applied seven of them in just one week. That's because tourniquets aren't just for the rare gunshot wound — they can save lives from many types of severe extremity bleeds. While you may not encounter a gunshot wound in your lifetime, odds are pretty high you'll be a first responder to some type of accident sooner or later.

The CAT Tourniquet is simple to use with basic training. The hook and loop adjustment design makes it easy to apply to your own arm or leg in a pinch. Once "rough-sized" with the Velcro, crank down the windlass and lock it in place. There's even a tab on which to write the time of application.

I keep them in my shooting bag and car because you never know. You just might save a life. CombatTourniquet.com

MINI-SILHOUETTE STEEL TARGET

TOM MCHALE

CTS promotes this particular steel as a rifle target, but I've found it to be the perfect pistol training aid. The mini-silhouette target is built to IPSC proportions but scaled at half the size of a standard IPSC target. When you factor in the minimum recommended safe distance for handguns of 15 yards, it's small enough to keep you focused on accuracy and big enough you can press your speed limits.

CTS builds this one with 3/8" AR500 steel, so some might consider it "overbuilt" for standard handgun calibers. That's just fine with me as the extra thickness also allows magnum caliber use, and if you want to use it for rifles too, knock yourself out.

My preferred mounting setup uses the CTS 2x4 "X" ground base and Pro Shooting Target Hanger. Cut a scrap 2x4 to the desired height and you have a portable, but stable, target system. Get a couple for transition drills! CTSTargets.com



MISSILE STRIKE

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.

There is a very generous finger guard to ensure that your hand will not slip onto the blade.



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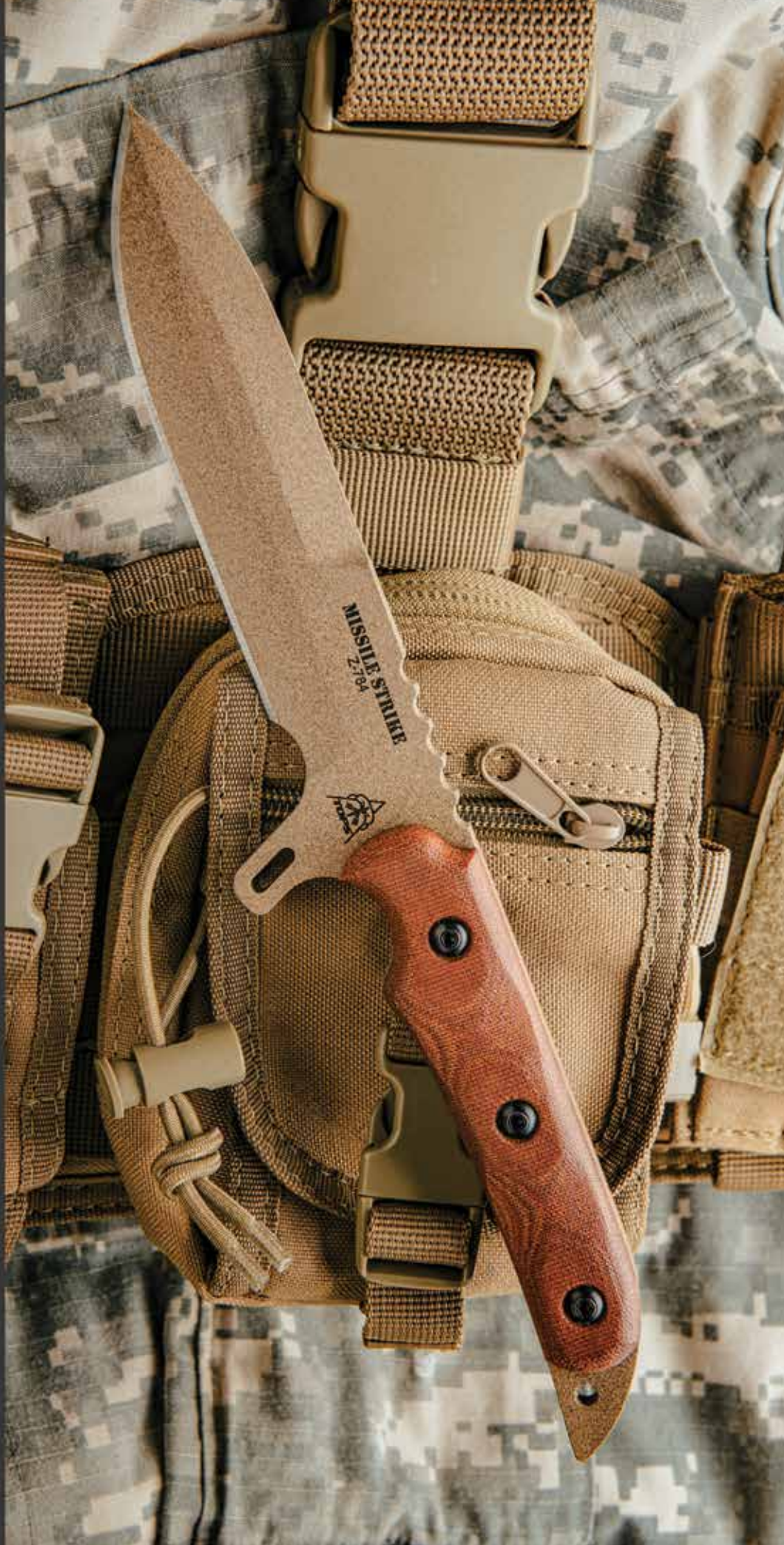
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KORTH NIGHTHAWK

Continued from page 45

to finish. The pairing of our products, engineering and skills is a natural and has been reflected in the enthusiasm our customers have for the Korth revolvers."

According to Mark, Korth is selling a lot of revolvers in the United States thanks to the relationship with Nighthawk, and Nighthawk is pleased to offer a great product line here. Every Korth imported from Germany has the Korth logo and the Nighthawk Custom proudly visible.

"If we sell something we stand behind it," said Mark. "That's why we wanted our logo on each revolver. We don't just import and resell like many importers. We have input on the design, cosmetic and artistic details. Once the revolver arrives at NHC, we will log it into our books and then each revolver is checked over by one of our gunsmiths. Each revolver goes through a quality control inspection and is then test fired, targeted and cleaned before it ships to our customers," explained Mark. "The program is every bit as rigorous as our 1911 inspection and testing procedures."

When a proud owner opens his Korth Nighthawk Revolver, it's accompanied by a Nighthawk test target, signed off by the gunsmith who inspected and tested the revolver. According to Mark, their customers love the Korth Revolvers.

"I love getting reader feedback," said Mark, "Things like 'Great Gun! Unbelievable!' and 'Best trigger I've ever felt on a revolver!' are common. Another one we hear regularly is 'Truly a work of art!' — and I agree completely!"

Mongoose Carry Special

Custom barrel lengths are all part of this package and our test gun had a handy 2.75" barrel. A 6-shot, all-steel hand-built revolver, there's an optional 9mm cylinder assembly available and easy to manage thanks to the push-button cylinder change built into each Korth. It's a conventional DA/SA revolver but that's where convention pretty much stops. The action is smooth, and the polished trigger face excellent, yielding a comfortable DA and SA experience. My test gun had a consistent 3-lb. SA pull (average over 10 tries) and a smooth 7-lb. DA pull (average over 10 pulls). The DA trigger pull has two distinct stages but isn't grabby or gritty at all and the SA pull sort of "rolls" off rather than "breaks."

Keep in mind too, the hammer spring tension is easily adjusted by the user, as well as the trigger return spring. So, they can be tuned to your own desires and ammo needs. The majority of domestic revolvers require the attention

of a talented gunsmith to accomplish the same thing.

Sights are bold but compact and fully adjustable via a clever design. The fit, finish and interplay of the parts is uncommonly admirable, spoiling you for other factory revolvers more commonly encountered. I was particularly taken by the obvious care and attention taken with the muzzle crown. It's, dare I say, perfectly done — and no doubt a strong contributor to these guns' outstanding accuracy. The business-like coating on the gun is the modern "industrial" DLC type.

“They're an inspiring celebration, showcasing what gifted engineers and artisans in steel and wood can do when no limits on expectations force them into that corner where price-point meets polymer.”

Handling was a bit like an L-Frame S&W when it comes to size and weight. At about 30 oz. give or take, the Mongoose is no lightweight, but the Hogue designed "rubber" grips really lend a hand in control, comfort and feel. Small things like the slippery "snick" of the cylinder locking home and the unusual hammer spur shape helped to create a revolver shooting experience different from the norm for me. I have experience with a Korth from around 2000 (with the sort of lever arrangement to the right of the hammer unlocking the cylinder) and I confess this is a much better gun in design, action and feel. I like the more conventional cylinder release although the classic style is still available on some models.

Shooting, with full-power .357 from several makers and various .38 Special loads was, as you might expect — a delight. All were in the sub-2" range, regardless of maker, with most doing much better at the 25-yard line. The classic 148-grain wadcutter — from Black Hills — dropped into a solid 1" at 25 yards when I used my "computer" glasses with the innovative "Eyepal" peep sight attached to the lens. This gun is a shooter!

Korth Heritage

This is a new design and idea built on the collaborative efforts of NHC and Korth. While it hints at a sort of

"Python-esc" look with the lugged and ribbed barrel, this is no Python. Featuring everything good about the Korth design, it ups the game with the "Heritage" finish and even higher attention to detail.

While it seems longer, the barrel is actually 5.25" but looks just right. I've always noticed about older DA revolvers — most feel "just right" with 5" barrels. But being a custom gun, you can have the barrel length you desire if you're willing to pay the piper. The grips are Turkish Walnut and in typical German fashion I might label them more "functional" than beautiful. They feel good, even great, in the hand and definitely contribute to how this gun handles. But if it were me — I'd find someone to make me some custom grips worthy of this genuine barbecue gun.

Alas, I confess I didn't shoot it. I know Mark Stone would have encouraged me but I just couldn't bring myself to do it. It mirrors the Mongoose in all-things mechanical, right down to the remarkable muzzle chamfer. The included NHC test target showed a slightly oval one-hole group at 12 yards — so what was I going to prove? And since this gun will ultimately be sold to a customer (and it's passed NHC's quality control already) I simply didn't want to risk a scratch or get it dirty. I want this "first shot" experience to go to the first delighted owner. Will that be you?

Closing Considerations

The Nighthawk Custom Korth Mongoose 2.75" Carry Special MSRP's right at \$3,699 — well within the price range of custom 1911s from Nighthawk. The even fancier Heritage 5.25" rings the bell at \$8,999. Just like a Nighthawk Custom 1911, Korth Revolvers are not inexpensive. But when you actually get to see how they're built, the attention to detail and craftsmanship going into every build then you can understand the price — and many don't mind paying it.

"We had a customer a few weeks ago write a note to us," Mark Stone told me recently. "He said, he could be blindfolded and pick up a Nighthawk 1911 and know it's a Nighthawk just by the feel. Korth Revolvers are the same way — and that's just one thing making our collaboration really special."

I'm sure, as I've said before, you own guns you rarely — or never — shoot. They're possibly even guns worth a good deal. With an open mind to your dreams, cast a critical eye at your gun safe and ponder the possibilities lurking within. Then feel free to wonder what might be in your own future.



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1910 POCKET AUTO

Continued from page 49

unknown. During his interrogation and later testimony, he said he pointed, rather than aimed, the pistol at the Archduke and fired but did not know how many times he shot because he was excited. He claimed to not know he had shot the Duchess. Later he added he had closed his eyes while shooting.

Fired at such close range, at stationary, elevated targets in plain view seated in the high touring car rear seats, I don't see Princip's shots as lucky. Training or no training, eye's open or closed, it would have been amazing if he missed. Unlike a revolver, the single action FN Model 1910 trigger pull is much less disruptive to the aim. That's one of the reasons pocket automatics were so popular for personal defense for so long. They are a lot easier to shoot well with minimal experience than are revolvers.

Re-Enactment

The murder weapon was an exceptionally good pocket pistol too. The first time I picked one up, I discovered it was designed for point-and-shoot use. I was able to fire six rapid fire shots into a group 2" across by pointing alone. The sights are so small, you can really only

use them in slow fire.

To test my "miracle-if-he-missed" assertion, I had three shooters of varying experience fire my M1955 Browning at an oblique silhouette target of the Archduke and Duchess from five feet away. To get into the historical spirit of the experiment, I installed a set of reproduction period FN logo grips from Triple K on my pistol. Triple K was also my source for a new magazine to replace the one missing when I got the pistol. The grips usually require a little fitting, but the magazines were ready to go right out of the packaging.

Test protocol required the shooter to approach the target with the pistol in hand, loaded and ready to fire, but down at their side. The shooter stops at the five-foot line, points the pistol at the target, and fires all six rounds in the magazine as fast as possible.

My first shooter was a 72-year-old woman, of slight stature, with no previous experience shooting, or even handling firearms. After a safety briefing, she fired her first rounds in this experiment. Her first shot was a fatal wound to the Archduke's chest. Her five subsequent shots trailed down the target. Three of those shots, through the "car-door," could likely have caused injuries to the lower abdomen and legs of the Archduke if they traveled without significant deflections. Had the angle of fire been

different, they could also have hit the Duchess in the legs or lower abdomen.

The second shooter was a 42-year-old woman with experience handling firearms, but very little practice doing so, and none over the past year. For reasons known only to her, she fired just five shots at the target. However, all were lethal hits to the lungs and belly, and clustered in a group 5.25" across.

I was the third shooter. In rapid-fire point-shooting, I put six shots into the "heart" of the target in a group measuring 2.25" across. Then I repeated the test, closing my eyes at the moment I leveled the pistol on the target. The group was strung out over 6" this time, but all were lethal shots to the heart and belly. This is the kind of shooting the FN Model 1910 was made for.

This is why I don't think Princip's shooting was lucky. He had the right tool for the job and was committed to seeing it through. His convictions were so strong he was determined to kill the Archduke at the cost of his own life. He demonstrated this by taking a cyanide pill before bystanders restrained him. In a few places he's considered a national hero to this day, but for most of the world his actions resonate louder than his cause, and he remains, first and foremost, a terrorist.



For more info: TripleK.com

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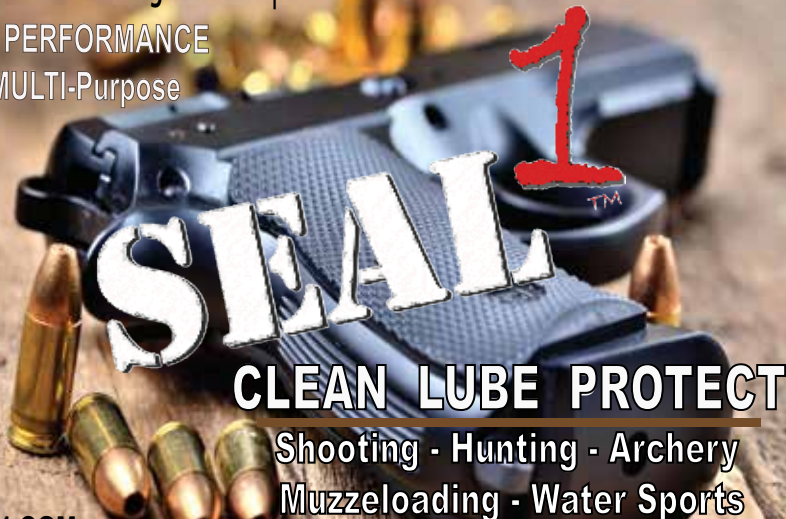
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LIPSEY'S GLOCK

Continued from page 39

could find and tore them apart. He drew from experts in military, law enforcement and sport shooting circles to assess what attributes the perfect military pistol might exhibit. He went from initial idea to working prototype in a mere three months.

Gaston ultimately named his new gun the GLOCK 17 as it represented the 17th patent held by his company. He submitted several samples to the Austrian military trials, passed all of their abusive endurance tests and won the day. Along the way, he beat out eight different handguns from five established manufacturers.

The primary reason Glock's pistol was so different was he held so few preconceptions. The use of polymer in the frame lowered the overall weight, mitigated felt recoil, and dropped the production costs precipitously. The gun operated via the short recoil system pioneered by the Browning Hi-Power, but most everything else was indeed fresh and new.

Those first Austrian pistols were serialized on the slides rather than the frames and were technically designated the Pistole 80 or P80. The similar Gen 1 GLOCK 17 hit U.S. shores in 1986 and was soon supplanted by the Gen 2 guns two years later. Original Gen 1 GLOCK 17s are subsequently tough to find.

Previously if you wanted a Gen 1 G17 of your own, you had to haunt the online gun auctions with both money and luck. I paid top dollar for my copy that is older than Britain's Prince William and looks like it was carried operationally by the Apostle Peter. Nowadays, however, thanks to Lipsey's and a three-year effort to convince GLOCK to make the gun, you can pick up your own NIB GLOCK P80 for essentially the same price as any other modern GLOCK pistol.

The GLOCK P80

One of the most compelling attributes of the GLOCK pistol is its simplicity. The GLOCK 17 pistol has only 34 parts total. Unlike most every other handgun made before 1982, the P80 sported no external switches.

The P80 was not technically the world's first polymer-framed pistol, nor did it pioneer the striker-fired trigger. The Heckler and Koch VP70 machine pistol featured both more than a decade earlier. However, as the trigger pull on the VP70 was measured in metric tons, that abortive rascal was just too much too soon.

The GLOCK 17 has evolved through five generations thus far. Minor changes to the frame stippling, grip design and



recoil spring assembly define each generation. It is striking, however, how much the latest Gen 5 GLOCK 17 resembles the earliest 1982-vintage P80.

The Lipsey's P80 has but a single set of gripping grooves cut into the rear aspect of the slide. The magazine catch is left side only. The slide stop is likewise present only on the left. *As near as I can tell left-handed people weren't actually invented until about 1985.*

I write left-handed but shoot right-handed, so I don't really have a dog in that fight. However, left-handed shooters must feel mightily put upon. They have been actively discriminated against ever since Al Gore invented the alphabet. Be strong, my persecuted brothers. Down with Righty!

The P80 frame eschews finger grooves and sports that cool retro minimalist pebbled stippling pattern. There is a cutout on the front of the frame as well as the back to facilitate gripping a sticky magazine. The very earliest mags did not drop free. Today's are better. These mags leap out of the butt of this P80 GLOCK pistol like boiled okra amidst a stomach virus.

The captive recoil spring assembly consists of a single flat coil spring. The sights are the standard pedestrian plastic sort that have graced GLOCK pistols from the beginning. The steel bits are finished in the classic GLOCK

ferritic nitrocarburizing, something else Gaston pioneered in the manufacture of firearms.

In addition to all the classic retro cool-guy stuff, the new Lipsey's GLOCK P80 comes in a vintage plastic Tupperware container just like the originals. Once you have the gun stashed in your safe, you could always use the container to refrigerate your leftover meatloaf. It might leave your dinner tasting vaguely of ordnance, but the GLOCK box would indeed be thought-provoking in the fridge should you ever have houseguests.

How Does She Run?

The Lipsey's GLOCK P80 shoots great, just like every other GLOCK pistol you have ever fired. They are all the same. That's the point. GLOCK handguns are the McDonalds of combat pistols. No matter what mischief you might be up to they never, ever change. This retro P80 will do any real-world thing a Gen 5 might.

The grip-to-frame angle is that raked 22-degree sort that seemed so weird the first time you hefted one of these revolutionary plastic pistols. This geometry mimics the P08 Parabellum Luger rather than the more traditional 18-degree cant of the American 1911. This either suits you or it doesn't, but it does lower the bore

access and better distribute recoil into the shooter's arm.

The striker-fired trigger runs about 6.5 lbs. and will feel familiar to anybody who has ever fired a GLOCK pistol. With a trivial predictable take-up and a pleasant break, this trigger pull is the same from the first round to the last. There are purists out there who make great hay over the nuances of GLOCK triggers throughout their generational evolution. I'm not that smart. They all feel about the same to me.

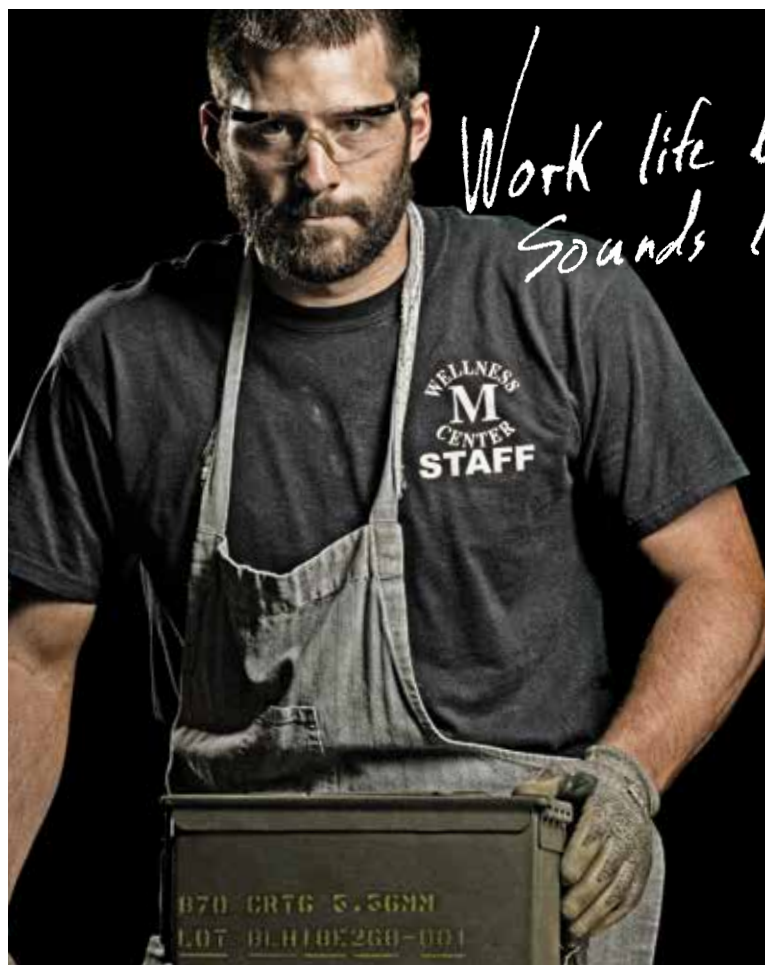
Ruminations

I stripped the new Lipsey's P80 down alongside my vintage Gen 1 G17 and pored over every bit. My old GLOCK has a small hole at the bottom rear of the grip that the new P80 doesn't, but they look otherwise identical. All the parts I interchanged did so seamlessly.

Pawing over this spot-on rendition of the first P80 GLOCK 17 that started it all was indeed fascinating. This P80 would render superb service as a defensive handgun even today, some 38 years after its introduction. Sometimes something is just so awesome the passage of time enhances it. The new Lipsey's GLOCK P80 is just such a remarkable thing.



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HK VP9L OR

Continued from page 35

with comparably compulsive attention to detail everywhere else in the gun, means equipment shortcomings will no longer be viewed as a viable excuse for poor performance.

This may seem a small thing, but it is not. I have built a modest career out of falsely depicting myself as a steely eyed killer with gun-handling skills capable of putting John Wick to shame. Reality is I'm just a 54-year-old guy with a word processor and diagnosable maturity issues. Take away the equipment failure pretext and abject public humiliation will assuredly follow. Thanks to HK, I suppose now I'm doomed.

Details

The HK VP9L OR differs from the more pedestrian version in lots of ways other than O-rings. The standard superlative frame assembly remains unchanged. However, the cold hammer forged barrel is extended by an inch, as is the slide to accommodate. Lightening cuts in the slide minimize both weight and lock time.

After a lifetime of squeezing triggers for fun and money, this is quite possibly the nicest 9mm pistol I have ever fired.

Elevated non-nuclear luminous sights co-witness nicely with a red dot, and the rear slide deck is cut to accommodate. All the steel bits are finished in a high-tech nitro-carburized finish. Naturally, the dust cover includes a Picatinny accessory rail.

The barrels are cut from cannon-grade steel and are legendary. Polygonal rifling offers slightly higher muzzle velocities and longer life when compared to cheaper, more conventional barrels. Similar barrels on HK P30 pistols survived a 90,000-round torture test back in 2010. The feed ramp arrives beautifully polished from the factory.

The standard VP9L OR includes a brace of extended 20-round magazines. I built mine with a drop-in kit so I'm still rocking my flush 15-round mags. Current standard VP9 handguns include 17-round magazines. I have no idea how they crammed 17 rounds into the same space my mags used for 15. Magic, I guess.

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Not unsurprisingly, my VP9 is a bit weird. I have a pal with an FDE gun. I gave him my grip panels, and he gave me his. While some might feel the resulting bi-chromatic dichotomy looks lepreous, I think it is the cat's pajamas.

The VP9L OR conversion kit is not a firearm, so it ships through the mail without troubling your FFL. With this conversion I can drop the longslide gear in place for competition and target shooting but still use my suppressed upper for home defense. In case you're wondering, the kit comes with plenty of spare O-rings.

Accessorizing

The glass is a Trijicon RMR sight. RMR stands for Ruggedized Miniature Reflex. This indestructible compact red dot is waterproof to 20 meters and features a patented sight housing that diverts stresses away from the lens in the event of impact.

The sight is powered by a standard CR2032 button cell battery. It also features a built-in light sensor that adjusts the intensity of the dot for ambient conditions. That's one less thing to fret about when you might be interacting socially with people trying to kill you.

The Trijicon RMR is hardly the cheapest micro red dot on the market. However, it is sufficiently awesome that the U.S. Special Operations Command selected it to sit atop their tactical handguns. That seems like pretty high praise to me.

The SureFire X400 Ultra is the Terminator of tactical illuminators. The X400 puts out 1,000 lumens of blinding white light along with a 5-mW green laser powered by a pair of CR123 batteries. The whole rig is built like a main battle tank yet weighs a paltry 5 oz.

Trigger Time

Zeroing the RMR and X400 literally couldn't be easier. The RMR uses a cartridge rim. The X400 laser requires a small Allen wrench included with the illuminator. Just pick a typical engagement range, adjust the dots to match the iron sights on your pistol and call it a day. The RMR sight uses so little power you just leave it running all the time and change the batteries every other birthday or so.

Dropping a red dot sight on top of your favorite competition or defensive pistol doesn't automatically make you a better shooter. You have to practice a bit to teach yourself how to bring the dot up into your field of view during the draw. Once you do that, however, the world is your oyster.

With both eyes open, the dot hovers out over your target no matter the orientation of the sight. The extra weight and length on the VP9L OR upper thoroughly tame perceived recoil. That

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makes follow up shots smooth, fast and painless.

The synergistic combination of the heavenly trigger, ample barrel length, that curious O-ring interface, and optimized everything meant single ragged holes at 15 meters off of a simple rest. I've honestly never shot anything quite like it. This thing runs like a monkey after Milk Duds.

Denouement

You certainly don't have to run a competition pistol that uses O-rings to create the perfect barrel-to-slide lockup. Lots of lesser guns shoot

almost as well. However, if you're the kind of shooter for whom "almost" is the sort of profanity you wouldn't utter in church or in the presence of your Momma, then the HK VP9L OR is the gun for you.

Whether on the range, in your glove box, or tucked inside your nightstand, the HK VP9L OR is quite literally as good as it gets. Somebody may indeed someday improve upon this gun, but not anytime soon. The VP9L OR is my new home defense piece.



For more info: HK-USA.com, Trijicon.com, SureFire.com

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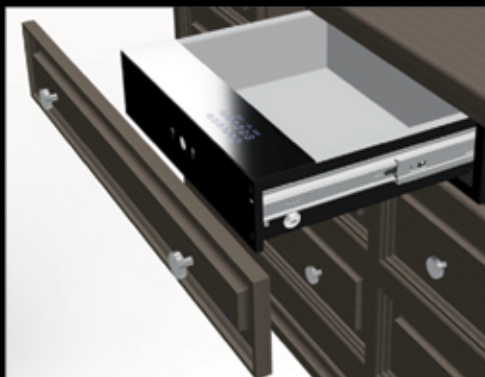
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SIXGUNNER

Continued from page 31

did not fire the GW after this showing.” This problem was soon corrected and is not exhibited in my pair of .357 Atomic sixguns.

Today's Alliant #2400 seems to be slightly hotter than the original from Hercules. Both friend Brian Pearce and I have concluded charges should be cut about six percent, which means 15.0 grains is about as high as we should go with today's powder. For many years I used 15.5 grains of Hercules #2400 with the 158-grain Thompson GC bullet. Now I am older, and so are my sixguns, and I rarely top out over 14.0 grains.

**Great Western barrels
were marked on the left
side with ‘.357 Atomic’.
To this day researchers
are still trying to find
out more about the .357
Atomic cartridge.**

However way back in the 20th century I did do some testing with the 16.0-grain Hercules #2400 under the RCBS #38-150 KT bullet which is very close to the original design from the 1930s by Phil Sharpe used in the Winchester factory loads of the time. Before I publish my results here, I would say *do not use this load with current #2400*. Highest muzzle velocity from an 8" Colt Python was 1,638 fps. Others in chronological order were Dan Wesson 10", 1,585 fps; S&W 8 3/8" .357 Magnum, 1,493 fps; 6" Dan Wesson, 1,418 fps and a 4 5/8" Ruger Flat-Top Old Model at 1,402 fps.

Before the doors closed on Great Western in 1964, at least a baker's dozen calibers had been listed. In addition to the above standard chamberings, others included .22 Magnum, .44 Magnum, .44-40, .38-40, .22 Hornet and .30 Carbine, all of which are extremely rare. Just because the caliber was listed does not mean one can find a Great Western so chambered.

The .357 Atomic lasted about two years and continues to be shrouded in myths and mystery. When one considers the .357 Magnum and .44 Magnum have been around for 85 and 65 years respectfully, and are still surrounded by myths, it isn't very likely the mystery of the .357 Atomic will ever disappear.



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AYOOB FILES

Continued from page 81

holding the bat horizontally in both hands across her throat, trying to crush her larynx.

The beatdown has turned into attempted murder in progress.

Closing to a distance of about 15 feet from attacker and victim, Adam stands in the street, levels the gun at Brandon and shouts, "Get the f**k off of her! Sit the f**k down or you'll be shot!"

The big, angry man turns to face the rescuer. He flings the bat at Adam. It lands halfway between them on the lawn, some six or seven feet from the armed citizen who is still standing in the street.

Safe for the moment, the little girl runs into her apartment, followed by her mom. Brandon sits on the steps and puts his head in his hands. Adam lowers his SIG to a ready position. The man has obeyed his commands. Adam hopes it is over.

It isn't.

Attack

The lull in the action lasts about 30 seconds. Then Brandon rises, his muscled body tensed with rage, and screams at Adam, "You don't know me, motherf**ker!" He starts moving toward Adam and yells, "You gonna shoot me, motherf**ker? You aren't going to do anything with that [gun], you fat ass!"

Adam is backing away from him, the pistol raised again now, and he is shouting, "Stop! Don't do it! Stop! Stop!"

But the antagonist can move forward faster than the defender can backpedal, and is closing the distance fast, and at last there is only one thing left to do.

Shots Fired

Under the streetlights, the sky nearly dark, the green Trijicon night sights on the SIG glow like beacons. Adam Nesvick puts the front sight high on his attacker's chest.

He fires as fast as he can hold the front sight in place. He sees blood squirt toward him from the man's chest. Suddenly Brandon falls, pitching forward at about a 30-degree angle, and lands heavily face down in the street, motionless.

And, just that quickly, it's over.

Immediate Aftermath

The Clarksville Police arrived quickly, some 30 seconds after the last shot had been fired. Adam's wife Shannon had described the situation to the police before they got there, and none of the cops felt a need to take Adam at gunpoint. Per protocol, however, they patted him down, handcuffed him, and placed him in the back seat of a patrol car.

Adam said later, "I remember sitting

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in the back of the car praying for the soul of the man I had been forced to shoot, praying for the mom and daughter, praying for the well-being of my family, praying the police understands the situation and I actually get to go to my daughter's wedding in four days and am not sitting in jail. While I was in the car, I noticed my left hand and arm were covered in blood spatter."

It didn't take the police long to sort things out. Haycraft had not survived. Nesvick's aim for upper chest had been true. One of his four hits had pierced the man's aorta, accounting for the blood spurt and spatter, and another had smashed the spine; that bullet, Nesvick opines, was likely the shot that finally dropped the attacker.

Nesvick's first realization he wasn't in trouble was probably when a female officer approached him while he was still handcuffed and confided, "You know you're a hero to that woman and little girl." Adam later told *American Handgunner*, "That remark helped steady my nerves and ground me." He added, "I ... was approached by the Chief of Police for our town and he said, 'What you did was heroic, you probably saved their lives.' He told me they had had prior dealings with the man and he was a dangerous individual."

Says Adam, "Fast forward another hour and I'm sitting in the office area of the police station waiting to make my statement, watching the forensics officer check in the evidence ... I saw them check in my gun, and there was blood on the slide. They checked in the bat, and they checked in a chunk of hair that had come from the mother, and a few other miscellaneous things."

Adam continues, "While I was sitting there, finally in some kind of light, I noticed blood stains all over my shirt and pants. He was really close when I shot him. Anyway, I gave my statement, keeping it simple and to the point. The biggest thing I remember them pressuring me on was 'Was it an accident? Did you inadvertently fire?' My answer was 'No, officer, I was scared shitless, but it was a conscious act to fire because I knew my life was in danger.' I had my wife bring me new clothes so they could put mine in evidence, and I walked out and got in the car. The officers thanked me repeatedly for being cooperative."

It took a while for the prosecutor to call Adam to confirm he considered Adam a hero, and he definitely wasn't going to be charging him with anything. At this writing, no lawsuit has been filed, and the window for plaintiffs to do so will have closed by the time you read this. The prosecutor's finding actually came sooner than that.

Wave3 News reported soon after the shooting, "He did approach the individual who was assaulting the lady and her child and did, at gunpoint, instruct

him to leave them alone and sit down on the curb," said Clark County Prosecutor Jeremy Mull. Police said the man complied for a while, but then tried to attack the neighbor and ignored warnings to stop. When he came at the neighbor, police said he shot him. "Based upon what we learned last night, I'm of the belief that it was self-defense, that it was justified under the law and therefore there was no arrest made in the case," Mull said. "In a case where an individual was acting violently and had just violently assaulted a child and a defenseless lady. Due to his intervention, the assault was terminated, and this individual was ultimately killed in an act of self-defense."

The legal side of it was, for all practical purposes, over. It had clearly been a justified homicide. But there were still the emotional and psychological elements to deal with.

Personal Aftermath

It is common for defensive gun usages to happen at or near one's home. Often, family members are present, and it's a traumatic thing for them to experience. You'll recall Adam's wife, Shannon, was outside the house and in fact the first to call 911. She told *American Handgunner*, "When Adam stepped out with the firearm, I told 911, 'My husband has a firearm, he has a permit, he's trying to get the guy to sit down.' I heard the dispatcher say 'Weapon involved' or 'Weapon on scene.' My husband walked over to the curb and had the husband sit down. I saw the woman and girl run into the house. A car blocked my view of Brandon, I couldn't see if he was sitting or lying. In 30 seconds, I saw the man jump up and come rapidly toward my husband and when they got about 10 feet apart, my husband started backing up. He was telling my husband, 'You aren't going to do anything with that, you fat ass.' He began to lunge at Adam, and Adam fired. I thought it was three shots. He collapsed. I saw blood squirting everywhere."

Altered perceptions are extremely common in these incidents. Far more often than not, auditory exclusion or auditory muting will occur. Adam Nesvick was no exception. He told *AH*, "I had auditory exclusion so bad I didn't hear everything he said as he came at me while I was screaming 'Don't do it!' When I fired, I remember hearing muffled gunshots. I heard little pops, but I was deaf as a post for three days later."

Another extremely common phenomenon is tunnel vision. Adam told us, "When the woman and the little girl went into the house and he got up, I realized 'Oh, my God, this is going to happen, I'm probably going to have to shoot,' and I hyper-focused on him from then on."

When multiple shots are fired, relatively few participants remember the

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round count correctly. This was true here as well. Adam and Shannon each thought Adam had fired three shots, while one eyewitness insisted five shots were fired. All were incorrect: Evidence incontrovertibly proved Adam had unleashed four rounds.

After you've been in an incident like this, people treat you differently. Dr. Walter Gorski, the great police psychologist who is credited with defining "post shooting trauma" as something separate and distinct from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) referred to it as *Mark of Cain syndrome*. Sometimes, you are excoriated as a murderer. On the opposite end of the spectrum, you may be treated like a hero. The latter of course is better, but can still leave you wondering whether people still see you as the good neighbor, the good professional, the good worker at your job; instead, they see you as "He Who Killed," and it changes the way they treat you, which in turn can change the way you feel about yourself.

Nesvick's first realization he wasn't in trouble was probably when a female officer approached him while he was still handcuffed and confided, 'You know you're a hero to that woman and little girl.'

Little kids had always seemed to play outdoors in their neighborhood; after the shooting, not so much. The mom and daughter whom Adam had rescued spent a couple of days in the hospital, refused to look at Adam or Shannon after coming home, and soon moved away. Other neighbors started moving away too.

That said, though, Adam reports, "No one really dumped on us. One of the little kids, who was a friend of the little girl who used the bat to try to get Brandon to stop beating her mom, saw us on the street and gave us a big thumbs up. Brandon's best friend told me, 'I'm sorry he died, but you did what you had to do.' The apartment complex gave us a \$50 gift certificate to go to dinner on them."

Sleep disturbance is a virtually universal experience among those who've had to kill to survive. "I didn't sleep for three days afterward," Adam told us. "This eventually went away. I had flashbacks for a long time and still do occasionally, but not as bad or as vivid. Shannon had really bad flashbacks. We were comfortable talking about it, and that got us through a lot. Shannon got counseling. I got help from friends who had been through similar things, maybe more help than I would have gotten from a psychologist."

In 2020, the Nesvicks moved

to another state. "I thought getting away was the best thing, not being in the place every day where I had shot someone," Adam explained.

The police gave him his gun back a month later. He was deeply touched to note the cops had not only wiped the blood spatter off the SIG but had cleaned and oiled it too.

His SIG went away. It carried too many unpleasant memories. Today Adam carries a CZ P10C.

Lessons

Excellent marksmanship, delivered at speed with the front sight visually indexed, put every shot where it needed to go and quickly ended the attack. The SIG M11-A1 had a full magazine of fifteen 9mm rounds. If Brandon had gotten it away from Adam, that was enough to kill the rescuer, his wife Shannon, and Brandon's own significant other and her little girl, and any other witness who came into the line of fire. Adam Nesvick's defensive gunfire very

likely saved more lives than his own.

Adam had worked hard to develop shooting skill. He had learned from friends, read many books, and participated in gun-related internet forums. After the incident, he decided to seek formal training, and took a class from nationally recognized instructor John Murphy of Virginia. John told me Adam was very competent. Indeed, it was John Murphy who put me in touch with Adam and brought his story to these pages.

A lot of gun owners think home carry — wearing a handgun on their physical person when at home — is paranoid. If we think about it, the practice is a minor inconvenience for which in trade the homeowner gets instant access to a loaded gun when deadly danger suddenly presents itself. Had the SIG been on his hip instead of on his desk, Adam might have been able to back down Brandon before the latter put his bat to the throat of his victim. But there is no telling for certain.

You've all heard of "suicide by cop," the self-destructive person who forces a lawman to kill him. This incident is a case of "suicide by armed citizen," not the first such I've seen.

Adam Nesvick did the right thing. The criminal justice system immediately recognized that. Adam doesn't consider himself a hero. He's the only one who doesn't.



ENDLESS EDGES!

Continued from page 51

Operator 7, C.U.T. 4.0, Street Scalpel, Camp Creek and Wild Pig Hunter. The Tom Brown Tracker and the Fieldcraft are both still way up there, too.”

A Steelapalooza

The knifefest never stops at TOPS. We’ve featured some of their newer models here and we’ll start out with some steel guaranteed to make hunters, outdoors fans and survivalists lick their chops. The Earth Skills Knife is, in Craig’s words, “A very thin, very light-weight short machete designed by survivalist and outdoors athlete Matt Graham.” The overall length is 14.25” and the knife’s long, leaf-shaped blade is reminiscent of the old Canadian Hunter pattern. This knife will skin large game and prep meals for a camp full all day long.

The Ucon Hawk is a 15.0” full-tang chopper TOPS calls, “Camp Hatchet Heaven.” With 4.87” of cutting edge there’s plenty of blade to work with and the bearded design of the head and flare at the top of the handle make the Ucon hawk an excellent carving axe. The handle uses a new material called Orange/Black SureTouch which is made up of alternating layers of G10 and Rubber. Finally, fans of the TOPS Tanimboca Puukko Scandi-style Bushcraft knife now have a 4.0” “Mini” version that can get down to the nitty-gritty on fine carving and whittling projects.

The 3 Pointer is a 6.63” fixed-blade that’s just at home as a tactical EDC as it is in the wild. Designed by TOPS leader Leo Espinoza, the 3 Pointer can be had in Natural or Black Linen Micarta handle scales or, for those who desire super stealth, a skeletonized version. A black Kydex belt sheath with two horizontal snap-on belt loops is included.

TOPS Tac-Raze 2 is the second in what is now a series of friction folders — and this one actually has a razor-style blade. Friction folders have no lock per se. Rather, a “rat tail” extension of the blade tang is used to deploy the blade and when fully opened it disappears into the back of the handle where the grip of the hand holds it in place. It’s a throwback to the frontier days before locks were common, brought up to modern day standards.

Where does TOPS go from here? Wherever their imagination takes them. “We don’t tend to worry too much about what everyone else is doing or going to do,” Powell remarks. “We just make the best tools that we possibly can.” And that’s exactly how TOPS Knives has gotten  where they are today!

For more info: TOPSKnives.com

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A LIGHT TOUCH

Continued from page 47

thumb safeties, there's nothing wrong with the original one, and I had no problem operating it.

The top of the frontstrap has been modified where it meets the trigger guard, an important ergonomic touch that lets the gun sit lower in the hand, which helps reduce felt recoil. Both it and the flat mainspring housing have received vertical serrations to help add purchase. In all candor, the ball mill cut serrations look a little anachronistic on a retro gun — the narrow serrations usually cut with a slitting saw would look more period correct — but they do help add texture to the gun without being as aggressive and abrasive as checkering. For those of us who have ruined many jackets and shirts with checkered .45s, that's appreciated.

A Looker

Grips are the traditional double-diamond checkered wood and the magazine well has been mildly beveled to help speed reloads. The entire package is finished in what Nighthawk calls a smoked nitride. I will be the first to admit that I know little about smoke — its effects on meat are of most compelling interest to me — and even less about nitride, but have mercy, what a finish. As a general principle, I am no fan of pre-worn finishes. The scuffs and wear marks you put on a gun tell your story, and buying one artificially worn is a bit like paying someone to forge your signature. That said, the grayish,

silvering color is quite attractive, and is the most striking feature about the gun; with the light touch used to modify this Colt, you'll probably notice the finish before any of the other features.

Range Science

In my experience with Nighthawk pistols — of which about 10 have passed through my hands — they usually come out of the box, make it through my standard 500-round test without cleaning, oiling, or malfunctioning, and they average 2" at 25 yards from the Ransom Rest, with the last couple guns shooting increasingly tighter average groups.

“For those of us who have ruined many jackets and shirts with checkered .45s, that's appreciated.”

As per my usual, I put about 500 rounds through the Colt. I usually fire a mix of ball and jacketed hollowpoints when testing, but I ran a more eclectic array this time ... something we'll probably all be doing soon. This included ASYM's 185-grain match JHP (which my Wiley Clapp Commander loves), 135-grain HoneyBadger from Black Hills, as well as conventional JHPs from them in 185-, 230- and 230-grain +P, as well as their 200-grain lead SWC.

Load Up supplied loaded ammunition using David Lauck's (D&L Sports)

service pistol bullet. In keeping with modern bullet design, where the performance results from the outside of the bullet as opposed to the shape of the cavity inside a hollowpoint, it's essentially a 200-grain SWC redesigned to feed in autos. It comes in two profiles: one for revolver use and one for autos. In addition to trying both versions of the loaded ammo, I loaded a couple hundred rounds using the revolver bullet. The final load used was Double Tap's +P 255-grain SWC, a massive hard cast lead slug that moves out around 875 fps. It's an unusual load, more akin to a .45 Colt, but one I like a lot for its sheer momentum and which would be useful for predator defense where penetration carries the day.

All that said, sometimes you're testing the gun and sometimes you're testing the bullet, and this is a bit of both. The Nighthawk Colt ran flawlessly with conventional ammunition — that is, all the hollowpoints — as well as the HoneyBadger. It did, however, have a couple misfeeds with the revolver bullet, although it digested some 200 rounds of the same load without incident. Similarly, there were a couple misfeeds with the 200-grain SWC, and the +P 255-grain SWC caused a couple cases of premature slide lock, a common problem with uncommonly potent loads, which the 255 certainly is.

Government Model pistols, since they are expected to function with everything a shooter might grab off the shelf, from light 185-grain target loads to full power hardball, come with a 16-lb. recoil spring. Nighthawk upgraded this one to 17 lbs., and the gun had no spring related issues with anything other than the 255-grain +P: everything else, from 135- to 230-grain +P did fine. Moral of the story? Either stay within the usual power range or swap in a stronger recoil spring, such as the 18.5 I usually put in my guns.

So how did it actually shoot? Very, very well. The sights gave a good, distinct sight picture and the excellent trigger made it easy to get off a good, clean shot. While I did not do a formal Ransom Rest test with it, I was able to fire a best group of 2" at 25 yards, standing and firing unsupported from a modified Weaver, which leads me to believe this gun is right in the accuracy range I expect from Nighthawk pistols, even though it still has its factory Colt barrel.

Sometimes more is more, but sometimes less gets it done, too. Machined from forged steel, unlike many of the other M1911 pistols, Colts are still excellent guns, and the carefully selected modifications Nighthawk has added make this one even better. 

For more info: NighthawkCustom.com, Black-Hills.com, DLSports.com, DoubletapAmmo.com.



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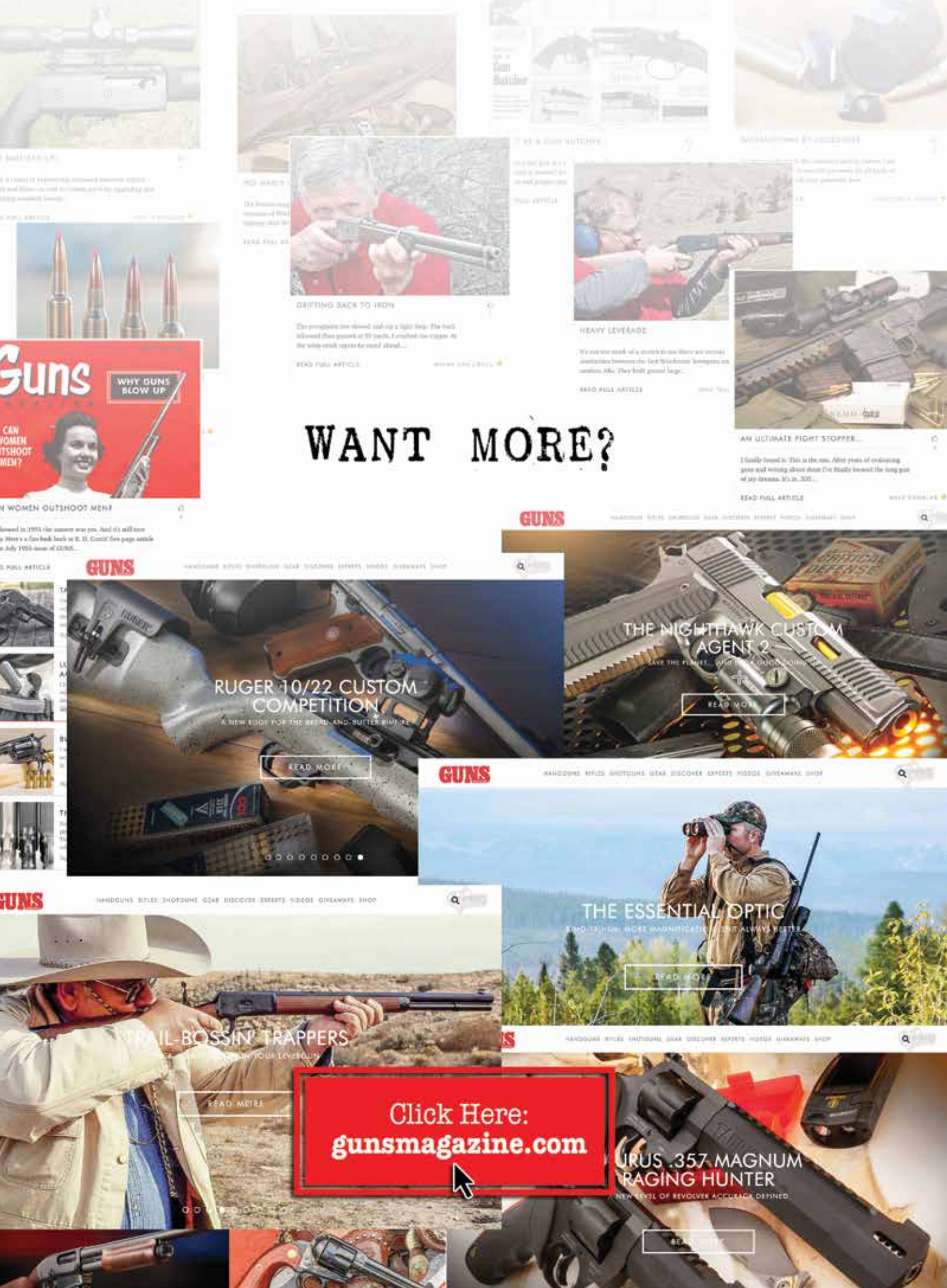
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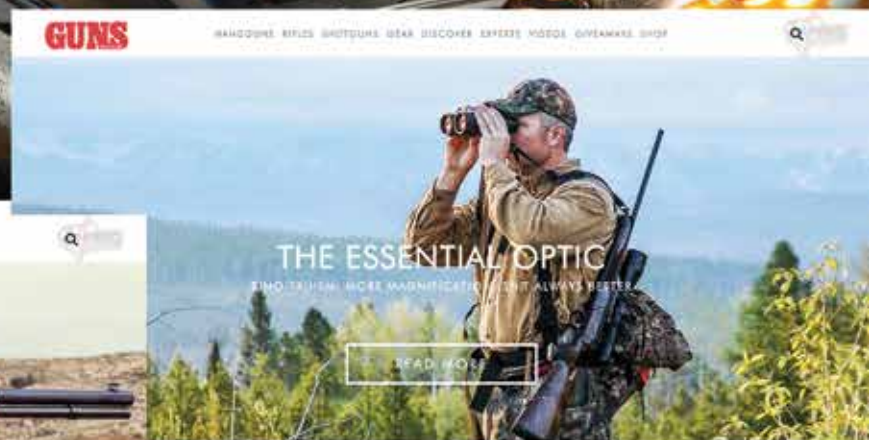


We use the word of a double to see there are some
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guns and writing about them I've finally found the long gun
of my dreams. It's in .350...

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SPEAK OUT

Continued from page 9

through one of mine and it is still functioning just fine. The only real problem is current manufacturers except for smaller companies have downloaded it like they have the .357 Magnum.

Jim Santory

American Plastic Pistols

I can't help but wonder if your magazine would not be better served by changing the name to *American Plastic Pistols* or *American 9mm*. Glad to get that off my chest. If you print this, let the hate mail begin!

How about testing guns we mere mortals can buy? Bowen's .44 Special is a great gun but once again out of reach for most of us. How about some semi-customs we can all afford?

Bob McMin

Is The .40 S&W Dead?

If Kimber is willing to make a 1911 style pistol and offer it in 9mm, .45 ACP, and 10mm configurations ("Kimber's Rapide Black Ice 1911," Nov/Dec 2020) why can't they (and others) include a .40 S&W version?

Over the last few decades, the .40 S&W gained popularity and is offered in a wide expanse of pistol makes and models, but never in any 1911 style guns. Why is this? Now that the 10mm is enjoying a resurgence in popularity, and more manufacturers are including it in the line-up, why not also by extension offer the .40 S&W? If a pistol can shoot a 10mm, then it wouldn't be any real effort to make the modifications or changes necessary to chamber the .40.

So, I'm curious: Is there some hidden reason why the .40 S&W is consistently left out of the 1911 styles of pistols? Am I missing something, or are the manufacturers missing out on some sales?

Brandon Fox
Montoursville, PA

Revolvers?

Massad Ayoob refers to Inspector Thompson of Scotland Yard in the Jan/Feb 2020 issue of *American Handgunner*. Ayoob wrote, "Unfortunately, [Thompson] seems to have the curious habit of describing all handguns as revolvers."

Not so curious. If you read enough books, articles, whatever by Brits, writings that refer to handguns, one will note Brits in general constantly refer to all handguns as "revolvers."

At some point, when the transition was made from predominantly revolvers to having a mix of revolvers

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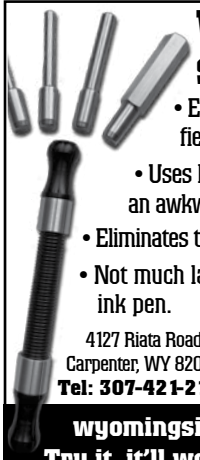
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and semi-automatic handguns, the word "revolver" stuck around as a catch-all for each and every handgun.

This is in the same vein as how the rear storage compartment on a car is called a "trunk." We haven't had trunks strapped to the rear of our cars in around a hundred years, but the term stuck.

Bill Sims
Captain USAF (ret.)

Understanding Police

Finally, Mr. Ayoob explains in clarity, the reason for Police using force (*Cop Talk*, Jan/Feb 2020). Unfortunately, it's lost on the readers of your great magazine who already know why the police need to enforce the law and

their use of force. All police are already trained in deescalating situations.

What is needed is these types of articles somehow reaching the general public.
Dennis D.

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NEWPRODUCTS

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Smith & Wesson

Smith & Wesson has expanded its line of M&P9 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 to fit popular slide-mounted optics, two 15-round magazines, four interchangeable palm swell grip inserts and more. MSRP: \$616. For more info: (800) 331-0852, Smith-Wesson.com

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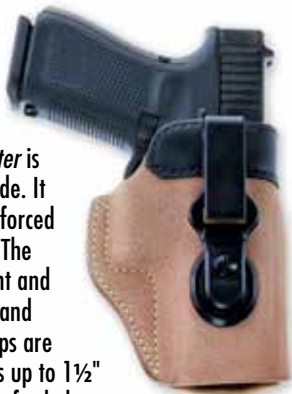


The *Trail Seeker* is a product of TOPS' 4th employee contest to design a knife to be put into production. This year, the winner was Luis Murillo, the Kydex manager at TOPS. He made sure the knife has a comfortable handle with a bit of a guard and a nice swell. Made of 1095 RC 56-58 steel with black traction coating, the Trail Seeker's 4.5" blade has a simple design with a good pointy tip. The knife comes with a Kydex sheath to make it easy to wear on the hip. OAL is 9.38". MSRP: \$180. For more info: (208) 542-0113, TOPSKnives.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 users. Two different belt clips are included: a UniClip for belts up to 1½" and an Ultimate Stealth clip for belts of unlimited width. MSRP: starting \$89. For more info: (800) 874-2526, GalcoGunleather.com



OT2 COMBAT CUT HOLSTER

N8 Tactical



N8 Tactical introduces the *OT2 Combat Cut Holster* for mid- to full-size pistols. It is a comfortable IWB holster merging N8 Tactical's Original and Tuckable Holster designs into a new platform that's ergonomic and compatible to all-day wear. The Combat Cut design allows for a full grasp on the pistol's grip while drawing. Built on a durable leather form, the OT2 Combat Cut Holster comes with a soft, suede backing and a moisture-proof neoprene core. The suede backing is comfortable on bare skin or when worn over thin shirts while the neoprene core prevents moisture buildup in warm carry conditions. The updated clip design and location even allows shirts to be tucked for a more formal appearance. MSRP: \$39.95. For more info: (888) 732-5011, N8Tactical.com

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We the Essentials

We The Essentials introduces *The Standard Issue*, their first apparel collection. With pieces for both men and women, the new line ranges from hats to hoodies representing a strong American spirit and handpicked for quality and customer comfort. We The Essentials stands with businesses, law enforcement and most importantly, the American people. In picture is the Standard Issue Black T-Shirt. MSRP: \$25. For more info: WeTheEssentials.us



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The *Hidden Drawer Safe* from Kemp Hardware & Supply provides subtle, secure storage of personal belongings. With a built-in light-up keypad, users can create their unique 6-digit pass code. The drawer safe can be easily installed into existing drawers and closets. Just put back the drawer front to hide the safe in plain sight. Made from cold rolled steel, the safe is offered in 18" and 24" sizes. MSRP: \$289.99 and \$399. For more info: (526) 634-2553, TheDrawerSafe.com

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Beretta USA

Beretta launches the *Beretta Tactical Defense Training Gear*, a clothing line featuring performance shirts, BDU pants, softshell jackets and more. Beretta uses its proprietary BCMS Layering System with Polartec fabrics to improve the line's thermal regulation, enhance ergonomics and expand mobility. The collection is designed to advance your performance in any training or defense situation. In picture is the Beretta Miller Polo Short Sleeves. MSRP: \$79. For more info: (301) 283-2191, BerettaUSA.com





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SIG K320A M17/ M18 AUTO FOLDER Hogue Inc.

The SIG K320A M17/M18 Auto Folder matches SIG's P320 pistol. The knife's 3.5" partially serrated Tanto blade is made of CPM S30V stainless steel with a hardness rating of 58–61 HRC. The SIG K320A folder has a Coyote PVD finish and a Coyote Tan polymer frame. OAL is 8.0"; closed length is 4.5". MSRP: \$179.95. For more info: (800) 438-4747, HogueInc.com



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American Tactical Inc.

The *FXH-45 in Flat Dark Earth* is a Commander-size hybrid .45 ACP from American Tactical. It's a single action, semi-automatic 1911 pistol with an 8+1 capacity. The frame was designed with built-in finger grooves for an ergonomic feel. Both slide and the 4.25" barrel are made of 416 stainless steel; grips are black polymer. The *FXH-45* has an overtravel adjustable, skeletonized alloy trigger with a silver tone finish. MSRP: \$599.95 For more info: (800) 290-0065, AmericanTactical.us



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OPTICS

WANTED TO PURCHASE

TRADITIONS

Continued from page 37

support hand shooting, magwells for speedy reloads, low profile sights for a snag-free draw and squared trigger guards for two handed holds.

For this build, I chose to build a Swenson(esk) clone. This would be the most difficult in the series. Armand Swenson was known for a few special features, including a slide top texture to cut down glare and use of the S&W revolver sight. I started with a 70 Series Colt and went with machine checkering on the front strap and MSH for neatness. With the help of my son Nick, we forged the trigger guard square and hand checked it in Armand's style.

As Swenson did a soldered in a filler piece at the rear dovetail, I had to figure out how to replicate his slide top texture. I asked a few folks for clues on how he did it, and as you might imagine, they were tight lipped. I practiced for about a year on and off with various tools and methods and finally realized after looking at a few originals that there was a lot of variety — Armand didn't do them all himself. I settled on using a file. The rear sight was something not done a lot today, so I called John Harrison — the last smith I knew who had done one. It required a special cutter of which he only had one, so I had to design a custom cutter for the rear sight slot. It was nerve racking, but I managed to make the cuts without any breakage. Swenson used a custom stud along with the sight tang screw to ensure the sight would not shoot off due to heavy recoil. It also had the owners' initial punched in it. I finished this pistol in a glass beaded hard chrome and period Colt grips.

The '80s

In the '80s the Colt 1911 was still being refined as a practical shooting tool. Smiths like Jim Hogue, Richard Heinie, Charley Kelsey, Bruce Grey and Ted Yost were refining the work of smiths from the '70s, closing tolerances and adding better finishes. There were also some very wild changes like the work of Jim Boland, which pushed the boundaries to the outer limits of creativity and function.

I went with a Hogue style build. I started with a new Series 80 Colt. The advent of the "Series 80" got a lot of pushback from the shooting community who thought the added safety parts ruined the trigger feel. Many either took them out, or like this example, soldered in a custom plug after removing the new parts from the slide. I again squared and checkered the trigger guard. I fit a new Bar-Sto barrel

with a custom bushing and use a replica of the Kings Gunworks grip safety part. I used an ambi Wilson safety to replicate the style of Armand Swenson's part. It's finished in hot bluing with hard chrome accent parts.

1990s

The 1990s included fun and games with the 1911 through steel plate shooting and "pin" shooting. This is an event where five bowling pins are placed next to one another, the shooter who can knock down the pins the faster wins. Lots of smiths were making compensators for the 1911 in a variety of calibers, allowing the pistol to stay on target during recoil.

For this project, I sourced a Colt 1991 model and a Clark "Pin Comp" and threaded it to a 6" Kart barrel. Press check serrations allowed the shooter to show range officers that the gun was unloaded quickly after shooting. A Wilson thumb shield enabled a high two-hand hold without touching the slide during shooting. I chose 10-round Chip McCormack magazines since reloads killed a shooter's chance of winning. I finished this pistol in hot blue with hard chrome accents and double diamond wood grips.

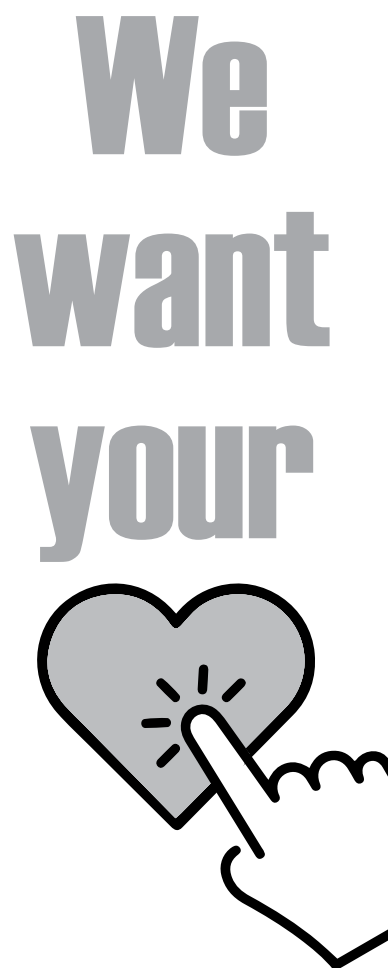
2000s

In 2001 the world was shaken by the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks, spawning an offensive not seen since WWII. Front and center was the 1911. The MEU(SOC) Marine Expeditionary Unit-Special Operations Capable M45 1911 was specifically built by USMC armorers for tough combat conditions of Iraq and Afghanistan. The Marines wanted serious knockdown power with the .45 instead of the 9mm M9 Beretta. Built on surplus WWII Colt frames and slides, the MEU(SOC) pistol was equipped with a Bar-Sto match grade barrel, large iron sights, ambi safety and a beavertail grip safety. For my MEU(SOC) clone I added all bar stock internals, beveled the magwell and soldered the front sight for durability. I finished it in IonBond instead of the traditional Parkerizing.

2010s

In 2011, the 1911 turned 100 and still was the choice for many front-line operators. We elected to pay homage to the SWAT teams still relying on the stopping power of the .45 by modeling the Colt Rail Gun — popular with many law enforcement teams. Equipped with a wide funnel magwell, textured VZ grips and a high intensity light, this 1911 is still ready for duty.

Four years, 11 guns, and countless hours of research, gunsmithing and creative problem solving later, Mike has a collection most can only dream of.



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HANDGUNNER®

instagram.com/
americanhandgunner



All of this can be greatly simplified by using a drop-in sear/hammer/disconnector/spring from Nighthawk Custom. It's supplied with a single finger sear spring to manage running the grip safety. This set-up keeps everything perfectly aligned and works great.

The slide moves forward then, chambering another round. Since the sear's bottom has clearance between itself and the trigger bow (the slide is holding the disconnector's foot down) it allows the top of the sear to move back to engage the hammer notch again. As the slide comes home, there's a small "valley" machined into the bottom of the slide allowing the top nub of the disconnector to move up, sliding the foot of the disconnector back into place between the trigger bow and the sear. Pull the trigger, and the magic happens again until you run out of ammo. Watch the video online to see it happen in real life.

By the way, the *left* finger of the sear spring presses on the bottom of the sear, sort of constantly pushing it to engage that hammer notch. The center finger also pushes against the trigger bow, to return the trigger to firing position. The right finger presses "backward" against the grip safety, keeping it engaged to prevent you from pressing it unless the grip safety is moved using a proper firing grip. Bending the fingers helter-skelter is a bad idea as each one does a specific job and "too light" or "too heavy" can change things for the worse.

A Fun Test

Take your 1911 apart and when you put it back together, don't put the thumb safety in. Install the hammer spring, sear spring, etc. and you can sort of hold the grip safety in place if you like to watch things. Now you can actually see the trigger bow, disconnector and sear bottom as they move. Just re-read all these 10 times and look at the pics, watch the animation video and look at your own gun and you'll get it eventually.

Take the slide off your fully assembled frame and cock the hammer. Now press the trigger normally (helping the hammer down slowly with your other thumb). Then, keeping the trigger back, try to cock the hammer. Ha! It won't, right? Now press the disconnector top (the nub sticking out of the top of the frame) using a plastic or punch or tool of some sort and you'll hear things go

"click." That's the disconnector moving down, getting out of the way of the bottom of the sear — "disconnecting" — allowing it to snap forward so the top can engage the hammer notch. Now cock the hammer and presto, the sear engages.

If the slide were on, the little cut-out on the underside allows the top nub of the disconnector to be "up" so you can move the sear with the trigger when the slide is closed. As the slide moves back, it pushes the nub down — just like you did — moving the bottom of the ejector so the sear can engage. That pesky Browning fellow was pretty smart, unlike we mere mortals.

Since you're asking, yes, there are a couple of quick safety checks you should do too. Unload your gun, cock the hammer and put the thumb safety on. Now press the trigger normally. Now, hold the hammer area close to your best ear and slowly "cock" the hammer spur again. If you hear a small "click" that means the sear had moved slightly when you pressed the trigger even though the safety was on. The click is the sear resetting in the hammer notch. That's a bad thing and you need your safety looked at. You can also do the same test but after pulling the trigger, click the safety off. If the hammer falls that's even worse! The cam on the safety needs careful fitting and will wear so perform this test.

The other one is just as simple. Unload gun, cock the hammer, thumb safety off, then, without pressing the grip safety in, try to press the trigger. The hammer should not fall, meaning the grip safety is doing its job. If you can press the trigger and the hammer will fall, get it looked at *pronto*.

Well, enough for now. This was a bit technical, I know, but it's also fun to better understand what's going on inside the guts. If there's a particular thing you'd like to learn more about, write us here at editor@americanhandgunner.com and I'll get right on it!

For more info: NighthawkCustom.com. Go here to see the simple gif showing the sear/disconnector at work: m1911.org/images/searanim.gif

TERRY TUSSEY PASSES

In November of 2020, I lost a dear friend of almost 40 years when Terry Tussey of Tussey Custom passed away. Terry was a robust, fit, outgoing man's-man for most of our friendship, but about 15 years ago he suffered a mountain biking accident leaving him wheelchair bound. Since he had the use of his arms and hands, Terry dove right back to work customizing 1911s, Hi-Powers and revolvers of all sorts. Terry was a source of constant innovation and ideas during his gunsmithing career and many factory guns today wear his ideas. I'm proud to say he appeared in our pages many times over the years and each time brought reader mail asking for more. Among his firsts, Terry built the first Damascus slide 1911, and his "Carry Comp" broke new ground decades ago. His customization of the Officer's ACP and Mustangs from Colt built a huge following and I still carry one of the very first he did for anyone — my first real "project" with him.

Terry used to call me and, with a voice like a long-suffering mother, would say, "You know, Your Editorship (sigh) — and I use that term loosely — (sigh) if you had any sense at all, you'd have known what you wrote about that gun in your last issue was completely wrong. Let me explain ..." Then I'd get a life-lesson in how guns worked, what needed doing to them, what Browning was thinking when he designed it that way ... and so much more.



ARMED CITIZEN RESCUES WOMAN AND CHILD: THE ADAM NESVICK INCIDENT

SITUATION: A man is beating a woman and child. He is armed with a bat. You are the only one effectively capable of stopping him.

LESSON: Aimed fire works at close range. Deadly force against a violent criminal attempting to disarm you is justifiable. And even the most righteous shooting can have devastating reverberations.

October 16, 2018, Clarksville, Indiana. Dusk is fading into darkness. It is early evening at the River Chase apartment complex, a pleasant neighborhood where families barbecue and children play on lawns. It is not the sort of place where one expects deadly violence to break out.

Until it does.

Brandon Haycraft, 31, lives there. He is a tormented man. His baby has died a short time before, while lying in bed next to him, and he is swamped by guilt. He has been caught up in a cycle of substance abuse. One co-worker will later describe him as “a mean drunk.”

THC is in his bloodstream now, but the marijuana hasn’t mellowed him. He has taken anti-depressants, but they aren’t helping. Neither is booze. At the moment, his blood alcohol content is 0.228%, almost three times the legally drunk limit. He has told his significant other that he’s going to die tonight one way or the other, and he might just take her with him.

His prediction is at least partly correct.

Meanwhile ...

Among Brandon’s many neighbors in this peaceful area is Adam Nesvick, 37. On this seemingly normal Tuesday evening he is home alone for the moment, preparing a dinner of tacos for the rest of his family who are due to arrive at the apartment soon.

He is interrupted by the sound of loud shouting. This is a neighborhood where children commonly play outside at this hour, and at first, he thinks it’s just kids getting a little rowdy. Glancing out the window, he sees his wife’s car has just pulled up, and he goes outside to meet her.

The tableau before him is unexpected. He notices his wife is on her cell phone, and he hears her scream, “My God, he’s going to kill her!” He’ll later learn 911 dispatch is on the other end of his wife’s conversation. A neighbor cries out plaintively, “My God, isn’t someone going to do something?”

And now Adam sees the cause of the trouble. His neighbor across the street is brutally punching his girlfriend in the face as she sits on the ground, feebly trying to protect herself. Her daughter, age nine, swings what appears to be an aluminum T-ball bat into the big man’s back, trying to stop him from beating her mom.

Adam watches in horror as Brandon rips the bat away from the child and throws her some six feet away.

Adam and Brandon both weigh about 240 lbs., but Adam is five-feet-nine while Brandon stands six-feet-two and is rippled with muscle. He’s also now armed: He has the metal baseball bat. Adam realizes he can’t deal with this bare-handed.

Adam runs back inside his apartment for his gun.

He’s had a carry permit since he was 18 years old. His current carry gun is a SIG SAUER M11-A1, fully loaded with 9mm Speer Gold Dot 124-grain +P bonded hollow points. He’s left it on his desk in an IWB Comp-Tac holster, and now he pulls it from its Kydex scabbard and sprints back toward the door, the pistol in his dominant right hand.

When he emerges from the door, he can see the situation has degraded. Before, the man had been punching the downed woman in the head, brutally. Then, she had been down on her butt as he beat her; now, she is down on her back on the front lawn with the boyfriend hulking over her,

Continued on page 68



1: Hammer/sear engagement, 2: Disconnecter, 3: Trigger bow. The foot of the disconnecter bridges the gap between the trigger bow and the bottom of the sear. When the trigger is pressed, the movement pushes the sear bottom back, releasing the top from the hammer sear notch. Boom.



DEMYSTIFYING THE DISCONNECTER

WHAT IS THAT DANG THING?

A disconnecter in a 1911 is a vertical bit of magic connected to the fire control system (hammer, sear, spring, etc.), moving up and down depending upon what's going on. The whole idea behind it is to make sure your 1911 only fires one shot with each trigger pull. And no ... if you remove the disconnecter you don't get a "machine gun" 1911. The gun won't fire, as a matter of fact. How's that again, you say?

Yup. The disconnecter, as Mr. Browning called it, is actually more of a "connector" in it bridges the gap between the rear of the trigger bow and the foot of the sear. Without it lurking there, the back of the trigger bow wouldn't be able to move the sear when you pressed the trigger, allowing the hammer to fall. Confused? Don't be alarmed. It is confusing — but let's un-confuse things a bit. Make sure to make liberal use of the photos and go to the link at the end to see a very cool computer animated video of the workings of all this.

If you ask someone, "How do you start a car?" they might say, "Oh, I insert the key and turn it, then the engine starts." But if you ask them to explain *how* the engine starts, the mumbling and stuttering likely begins. "Um, uh ... well ... um, you know ... the electricity goes to the

engine and it turns something and then the pistons go, and, um ... uh, it runs."

Right.

A 1911 is a bit like that. "How do you fire a 1911?" Easy peasy — load the gun, point it at the target and press the trigger — it fires. But why? But *how*? Aye — that's the rub.

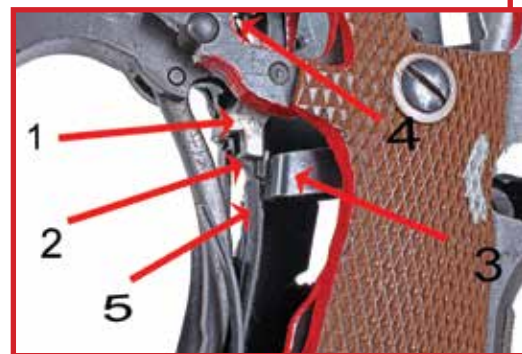
Springs & Safeties

We won't get into too much here, but touching on some basics helps to build the foundation. Let's say we've got a 1911 with a loaded chamber, hammer cocked, and thumb safety on. To make it go bang, you need to move the thumb safety down. That action moves a cam on the safety out of the way allowing the sear to move when the trigger is pressed. Gripping the gun moves a lever attached to the inside/front of the grip safety out of the way of the back of the trigger bow, allowing that bow to move back when the trigger is pressed. So far, so good.

At this point the top of the sear is engaged in a notch on the front of the hammer. To fire the gun, we need to get the sear to move forward out of that notch, allowing the hammer to fall thanks to the hammer spring in the lower grip area. As the trigger is pressed, the very back of the "bow" presses against the lower "foot" of the disconnecter (which is sitting neatly between the bottom of the sear and the bow). The disconnecter is under spring pressure from the middle finger

After firing the disconnecter is pushed down (by a cam on the underside of the slide), allowing the trigger bow to clear the bottom of the sear. This frees it to snap back and engage the hammer sear notch as the hammer is cocked by the slide during cycling.

This "disconnect" prevents the gun from firing more than once per trigger press. Note gap at "A."



1: Sear, 2: Disconnecter, 3: Trigger bow, 4: Sear in hammer sear notch and 5: Center sear spring "finger" applying force to disconnecter and trigger bow. You can see here how pressing the trigger will push the foot of the sear back, allowing the top to come free of the hammer sear notch. Ta-Da!

of the sear spring, pushing it up.

As the trigger is pressed, the disconnecter foot pushes against the sear, moving it backward causing it to rotate on a pin, moving the top of the sear out (forward) and out of the hammer "sear" notch. At some point the hammer falls. A "gritty" trigger is often the movement of the sear grinding its way out of that notch under pressure from the hammer spring.

The gun fires and as the slide moves back under recoil, it cams the disconnecter down (the top "nub" of the disconnecter protrudes from the frame top), moving its "foot" from in-between the bottom of the sear and the trigger bow.

The top of the disconnecter "nub" protrudes from the top of the frame, resting inside of a cut-out on the bottom of the slide, or being pushed down by the camming action of the slide running during recoil. Here's an early 1911 set-up showing the disconnecter nub and the half-moon cut-out on the slide.

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2021**NEW**

PRODUCT SHOWCASE

By Jenna Buckley & Jade Moldae



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 (AR0250K) or tan (AR0250KT).



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.



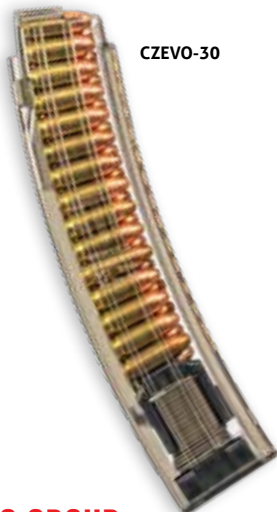


LGL-160

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

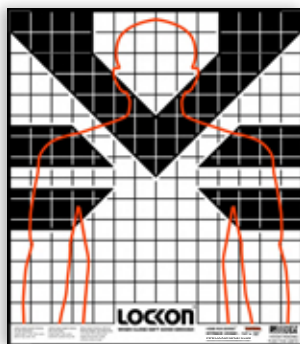
The **Z-10 BAG RIDER** from McMillan is based on the company's A-10 tactical stock, and replaces the A-10's butt hook with a swept butt profile to more easily accommodate rear bags for bench or prone shooting. The Z-10 Bag Rider features a universal inlet design to fit most Remington and Remington-clone 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.

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2020 HANDGUN OF THE YEAR