



**WIN! MITCHELL PPS50/22 .22 LR**

**AND MORE!**

\$4.95  
OUTSIDE U.S.  
\$7.95  
APRIL  
2012

**GUNS**  
MAGAZINE

# GUNS

**STAND READY**  
**TAURUS**  
**24/7 G2**  
**.40 S&W**

**HOME DEFENSE**  
**WEATHERBY**  
PA-459 TR  
12-GAUGE  
SHOTGUN

**MUSTANG RETURNS**  
COLT .380  
POCKET LITE

**QD SCOPE MOUNTS**  
DO THEY WORK?

**TRIJICON**  
3-15X50MM  
LONG-RANGE  
SCOPE

**10 CALIBERS!**  
T/C DIMENSION  
SWITCH-BARREL  
BOLT-ACTION RIFLE

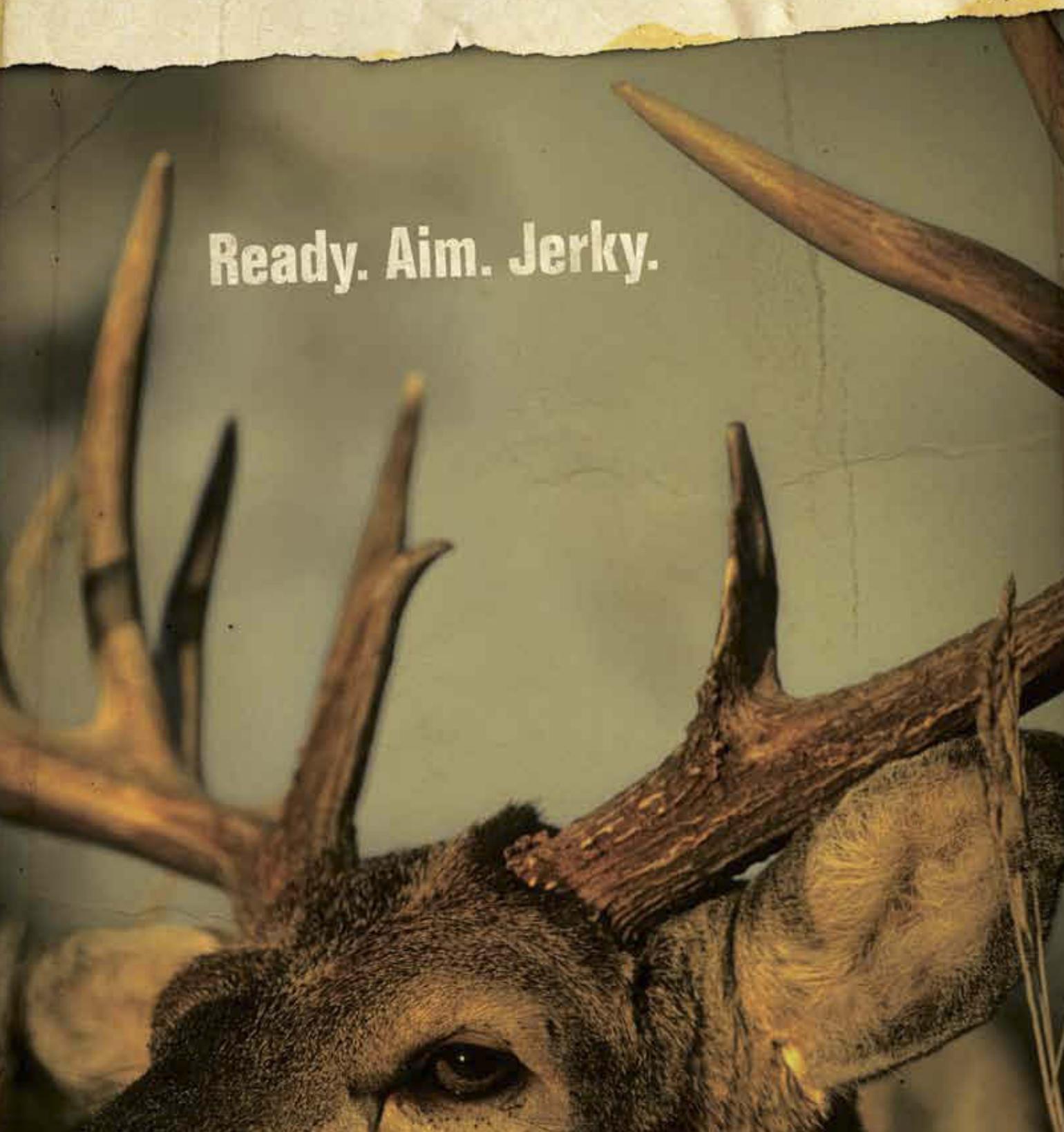


Load up with one of Hodgdon's  
27 smokeless powders. Match your gun, your game,  
the weather – you've got it bagged.



Phone 913-362-9455 • [www.hodgdon.com](http://www.hodgdon.com)

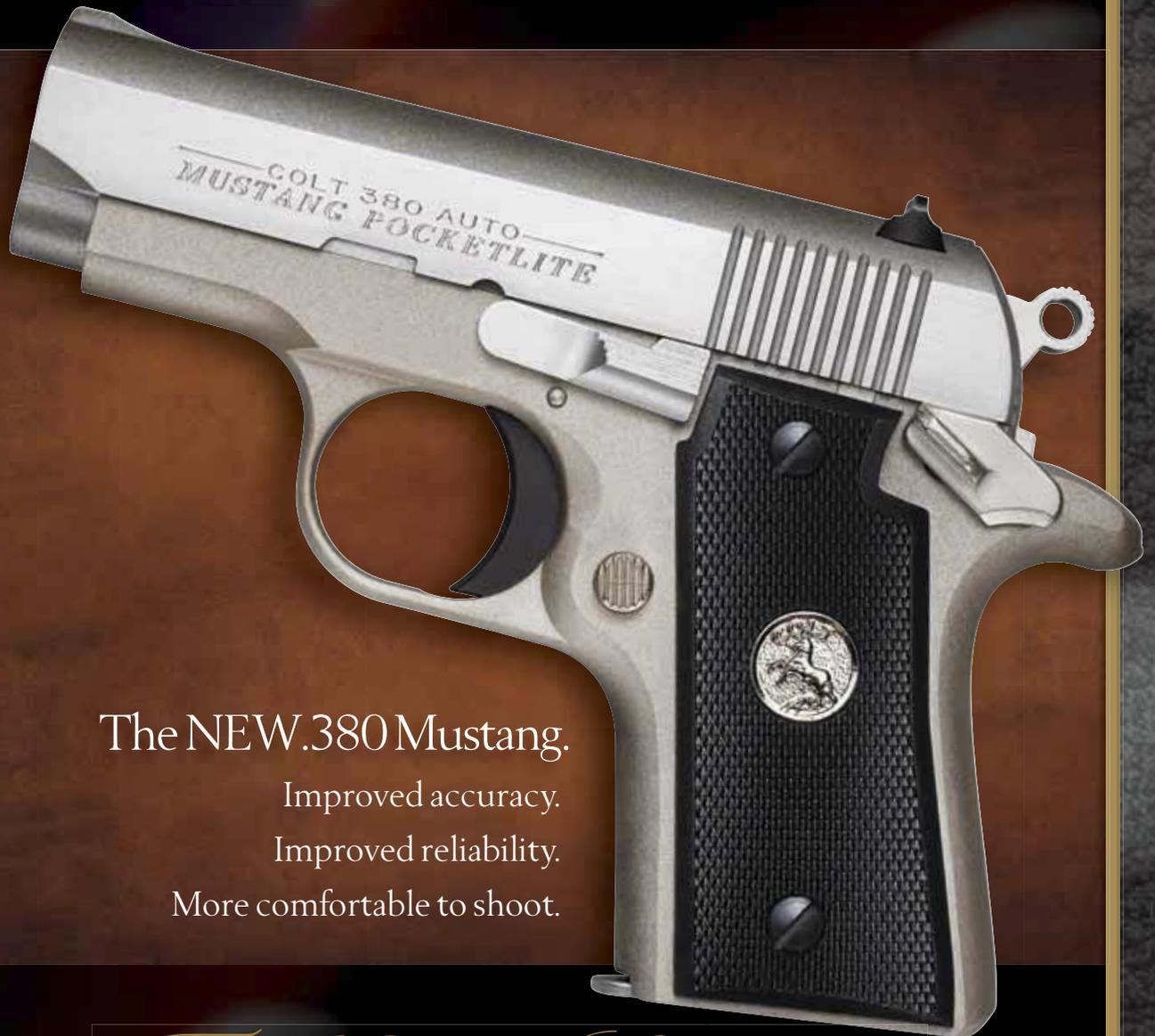
**Ready. Aim. Jerky.**



SAME **SMALL** PACKAGE.

SAME **BIG** PUNCH.

BRAND **NEW** ATTITUDE.



The **NEW** .380 Mustang.

Improved accuracy.

Improved reliability.

More comfortable to shoot.

*The Legend Continues.*



Visit your dealer or go to [www.coltsmfg.com](http://www.coltsmfg.com) MADE IN THE USA

# GUNS

MAGAZINE

APRIL 2012

Vol. 58, Number 03, 675th Issue



**76** **GUNS**  
MAGAZINE  
**GIVEAWAY PACKAGE!**  
**MITCHELL PPS50/22**  
**.22 LR AND MORE!**



**12**



**58**



**74**



**32**

## COLUMNS

**6** CROSSFIRE  
**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**8** SHOTGUNNER  
**HOLT BODINSON**

**12** RANGING SHOTS™  
**CLINT SMITH**

**16** OPTICS  
**JACOB GOTTFREDSON**

**20** MONTANA MUSINGS  
**MIKE "DUKE" VENTURINO**

**22** HANDLOADING  
**JOHN BARSNESS**

**26** HANDGUNS  
**MASSAD AYOUB**

**28** GUNSMITHING  
**HAMILTON S. BOWEN**

**30** RIFLEMAN  
**DAVE ANDERSON**

**58** KNIVES  
**PAT COVERT**

**60** VIEWS, NEWS & REVIEWS  
**RIGHTS WATCH: DAVID CODREA**

**78** ODD ANGRY SHOT  
**JOHN CONNOR**

**82** CAMPFIRE TALES  
**JOHN TAFFIN**

## DEPARTMENTS

**32** SURPLUS LOCKER™  
**THE ELUSIVE MADSEN**  
**HOLT BODINSON**

**34** OUT OF THE BOX™  
**WEATHERBY'S PA-459 TR 12-GAUGE**  
**DAVE ANDERSON**

**36** QUESTIONS & ANSWERS  
**JEFF JOHN**

**68** QUARTERMASTER  
*Featuring GUNS All-stars!*  
THIS MONTH:  
• **JOHN CONNOR**

**72** GUNS CLASSIFIEDS

**72** CUSTOM CORNER

**74** NEW PRODUCTS

**76** GUN OF THE MONTH

**80** ADVERTISER INDEX



**TAURUS**  
24/7 G2 .40 S&W



**40**

## FEATURES

**38 SWITCH-BARREL MAGIC**  
T/C's new rifle redefines versatility.  
**JEFF JOHN**

**40 DAY OR NIGHT**  
Taurus 24/7 G2 .40 S&W delivers.  
**JOHN TAFFIN**

**46 BETTER THAN EVER**  
The Colt .380 Mustang Pocket Lite.  
**MIKE CUMPSTON**

**50 CLASSIC OR MODERN?**  
The skinny on big-game cartridge choice.  
**JOHN BARSNESS**

**54 CONSOLIDATION**  
How would retirement look?  
**MIKE "DUKE" VENTURINO**



**50**

**NEW ONLINE EXTRAS!**  
[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM)

**Online Feature!**  
**THUNDER RANCH HART**  
HIGH ANGLE RIFLE TRAINING AT 5,000'!  
**ROY HUNTINGTON**

**EXCLUSIVE ONLINE MANUFACTURERS PRODUCT INDEX:**  
[www.gunsmagazine.com/product-index](http://www.gunsmagazine.com/product-index)



**46**

**WARNING:** FIREARMS ARE DANGEROUS AND IF USED IMPROPERLY MAY CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH. DUE TO THE INHERENT VARIABLES IN THE RELOADING OF AMMUNITION, BE SURE TO VERIFY ANY PUBLISHED LOADS WITH MANUFACTURER'S DATA. PRODUCTS MENTIONED OR ADVERTISED MAY NOT BE LEGAL IN ALL STATES OR JURISDICTIONS. OBEY ALL FIREARMS LAWS. ALWAYS CONSULT A PROFESSIONAL GUNSMITH WHEN MODIFYING ANY FIREARM. BE A SAFE SHOOTER!

GUNS Magazine (ISSN 1044-6257) is published monthly by Publishers' Development Corporation, 12345 World Trade Drive, San Diego, CA 92128. Periodicals Postage Paid at San Diego, CA and at additional mailing offices. SUBSCRIPTIONS: One year (12) issues \$24.95. Single monthly copies, \$4.95. CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Eight weeks notice required on all changes. Send old address as well as new. SUBSCRIPTION PROBLEMS: For immediate action write GUNS Magazine, Attention: Circulation Dept., 12345 World Trade Drive, San Diego, CA 92128 or call (858) 605-0250. CONTRIBUTORS submitting manuscripts, photographs or drawings do so at their own risk. Material cannot be returned unless accompanied by sufficient postage. PAYMENT will be made at rates current at time of publication and will cover reproduction in any or all GUNS Magazine editions. ADVERTISING RATES furnished on request. Reproduction or use of any portion of this magazine in any manner, without written permission is prohibited. All rights reserved. Title to this publication passes to subscriber only on delivery to his address. The opinions and recommendations expressed by individual authors within this magazine are not necessarily those of Publishers' Development Corporation. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to GUNS Magazine®, ATTN: Circulation Dept., 12345 World Trade Drive, San Diego, CA 92128. Copyright © 2012 by Publishers' Development Corporation.

# CROSSFIRE

## LETTERS TO GUNS

# GUNS

MAGAZINE  
THE FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD SINCE 1955

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS** Thomas von Rosen, CEO; Thomas Hollander, Randy Moldé, Marjorie Young

**PUBLISHER** Roy Huntington

**Editor** Jeff John

**Managing Editorial Assistant** Stephanie Jarrell

**Art Director/Staff Photographer**

Joseph R. Novelozo

**Art Assistant** Jennifer Lewis

**Advertising Sales Director** Anita Carson

**Advertising Sales Assistant** Dana Hatfield

**Production Manager** Linda Peterson

**Website Manager** Lorinda Massey

**Promotions Coordinator** Elizabeth O'Neill

### CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

John Taffin, Holt Bodinson, Dave Anderson,

Clint Smith, Massad Ayoob,

Mike "Duke" Venturino

### FIELD EDITORS

Sam Fadala, David Codrea, John Morrison,

Glen Zediker, John Sheehan, Jacob

Gottfredson, Mike Cumpston, John Barsness,

Dave Douglas

**GUNS Magazine**® welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit all published letters for clarity and length. Due to the volume of mail, we are unable to individually answer your letters or e-mail. In sending a letter to *GUNS Magazine*, you agree to provide Publisher's Development Corp. such copyright as is required for publishing and redistributing the contents of your letter in any format. Send your letters to *Crossfire*, *GUNS Magazine*, 12345 World Trade Dr., San Diego, CA 92128; www.gunsmagazine.com; e-mail: ed@gunsmagazine.com

### Enough!

I am elated to see many of your readers have had enough of the 1911. I want to take it a step further and include the AR-15. I subscribe to five publications plus the *American Rifleman* all of which are full from front cover through to the rear cover with 1911s and ARs.

Even my friends, many of whom are diehard fans of both agree enough is enough. Makes one ponder about renewing one's subscription if the writers can't find something else to write about.

Randall Childers  
Cairo, Ill.

*It's difficult not to cover the AR and the 1911 when nearly every major company in the country offers one or both! Perhaps you'll enjoy this issue which is nearly AR and 1911 free. It won't take long to skip past any mention of either and get on with important new developments from Taurus, TIC and others.*

*Just remember, by reading every magazine you're getting overloaded the way you do if you watch several 24-hour news channels daily.—Editor*

### Bad Economics

Couldn't let Jacob Gottfredson's comments in "Having it Your Way" in the February issue pass. Where I live, \$1,000 is not inexpensive, looking around, I find I can buy a Howa 1500, with Hogue stock, in 6.5x55, for around \$500, new, in the box. That gives the same performance as the .260, and gives me \$500 for a good scope and mounts. The Howas I've had experience with give good, usable hunting accuracy, giving me 1" to 1-1/2" groups pretty easily. Good article, bad economics.

Lynn Moshier  
Stevensville, Montana

*The point was you could build your rifle in virtually any caliber for \$1,000, but if you were happy with the somewhat abbreviated caliber list Howa offers, Jacob mentions the price can come down to \$650.—Editor*

### Connor

My sincere apologies for not having written earlier but your estimable magazine is as rare as hens' teeth in the UK and it's only because a dear Texan friend sends me his cast-offs that I can find out what's what in shooting circles. "Better late than never," as they say.

I merely wanted to commend John Connor for his elegant piece on the proper English language. I'm Welsh but had the benefit of a classically formal education and speak what is known over here as "The Queen's English."

Cockney Rhyming Slang is virtually impenetrable, even for other Britishers, but see if you can decipher this: "Had a barny with the trouble, so went for a ball of chalk down the rub a dub dub for a swift Aristotle of pig's ear and a rabbit to me old china Biffo. He's mutton so I had to put my north and south right into his boat race before he earwigged...."

Good luck, I remain, sir, your most humble and obedient servant,

Nigel Parry-Williams  
UK

### Curmudgeon Status

I think something has been happening to me, and I'm concerned. Recently I've noticed I can become as happy for other people as if an event happened to me personally.

Case in point, in the February issue, I was reading about Duke Venturino's restoration of his K98K sniper rifle. As I read about the almost unbelievable luck, nay providence, of his ability to find all of the right parts, I found the widest grin had appeared on my face! My wife even asked what I was so happy about, but she didn't seem to understand my reasoning.

If this keeps up, I may have to surrender my official "Curmudgeon" status. I guess I'll have to read future issues of your fine magazines when I'm alone and unobservable. Keep up the good work.

Tom Stuart  
Ferrum, Va.

Check out [www.gunsmagazine.com](http://www.gunsmagazine.com) for our digital edition, news, our exclusive Product Index, Web Blasts, online features, to enter the Giveaway Package and more! And if you have any news about hot new products you've found, or anything you think we need to know about, drop me a line at [ed@gunsmagazine.com](mailto:ed@gunsmagazine.com)!



### FMG PUBLICATIONS

SHOOTING  
INDUSTRY

shootingindustry.com

**Publisher & Editor:** Russ Thurman

**Advertising:** Delano Amaguin, 888.732.6461

email: [delano@shootingindustry.com](mailto:delano@shootingindustry.com)



americancopmagazine.com

**Editor:** Suzi Huntington

**Advertising:** Phil Mendelson, 800.426.4470

email: [phil@americancopmagazine.com](mailto:phil@americancopmagazine.com)

HANDGUNNER

americanhandgunner.com

**Publisher & Editor:** Roy Huntington

**Advertising:** Steve Evatt, 800.533.7988

email: [steve@americanhandgunner.com](mailto:steve@americanhandgunner.com)



gunsmagazine.com

**Editor:** Jeff John

**Advertising:** Jason Moreau, 866.903.1199

email: [jason@gunsmagazine.com](mailto:jason@gunsmagazine.com)



Special  
Editions

fmgpublications.com

**Editor:** Sammy Reese

**Advertising:** Scott McGregor, 800.553.7780

email: [scott@gunsmagazine.com](mailto:scott@gunsmagazine.com)

**ONLINE ADVERTISING MANAGER:** Tracy Moore,

TEL: 888.651.7566, FAX 858.605.0205

[tracy@fmgpublications.com](mailto:tracy@fmgpublications.com)

**NATIONAL ADVERTISING:** 12345 World Trade Dr.,

San Diego, CA 92128, TEL: 866.972.4545, FAX 858.605.0211,

[anita@shootingindustry.com](mailto:anita@shootingindustry.com)

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING:** Lori Robbins,

TEL: 800.633.8001, FAX 858.605.0247,

[classads@fmgpublications.com](mailto:classads@fmgpublications.com)

**FMG EAST COAST SALES:** Sig Buchmayr, Buchmayr &

Associates, 28 Great Hill Rd., Darien CT 06820,

TEL: 203.662.9740, [sigbuch@optonline.net](mailto:sigbuch@optonline.net)

### CUSTOMER SERVICE

[www.gunsmagazine.com](http://www.gunsmagazine.com)

**SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES** ..... 858.605.0252

Express Service ..... [www.gunsmagazine.com](http://www.gunsmagazine.com) and click "contacts"

**EDITORIAL** ..... 858.605.0243

Email: [ed@gunsmagazine.com](mailto:ed@gunsmagazine.com)

**PRODUCTION** ..... 858.605.0216

Email: [production@gunsmagazine.com](mailto:production@gunsmagazine.com)

**BOOKS/MERCHANDISE** ..... 888.732.2299

Email: [lori@fmgpublications.com](mailto:lori@fmgpublications.com)

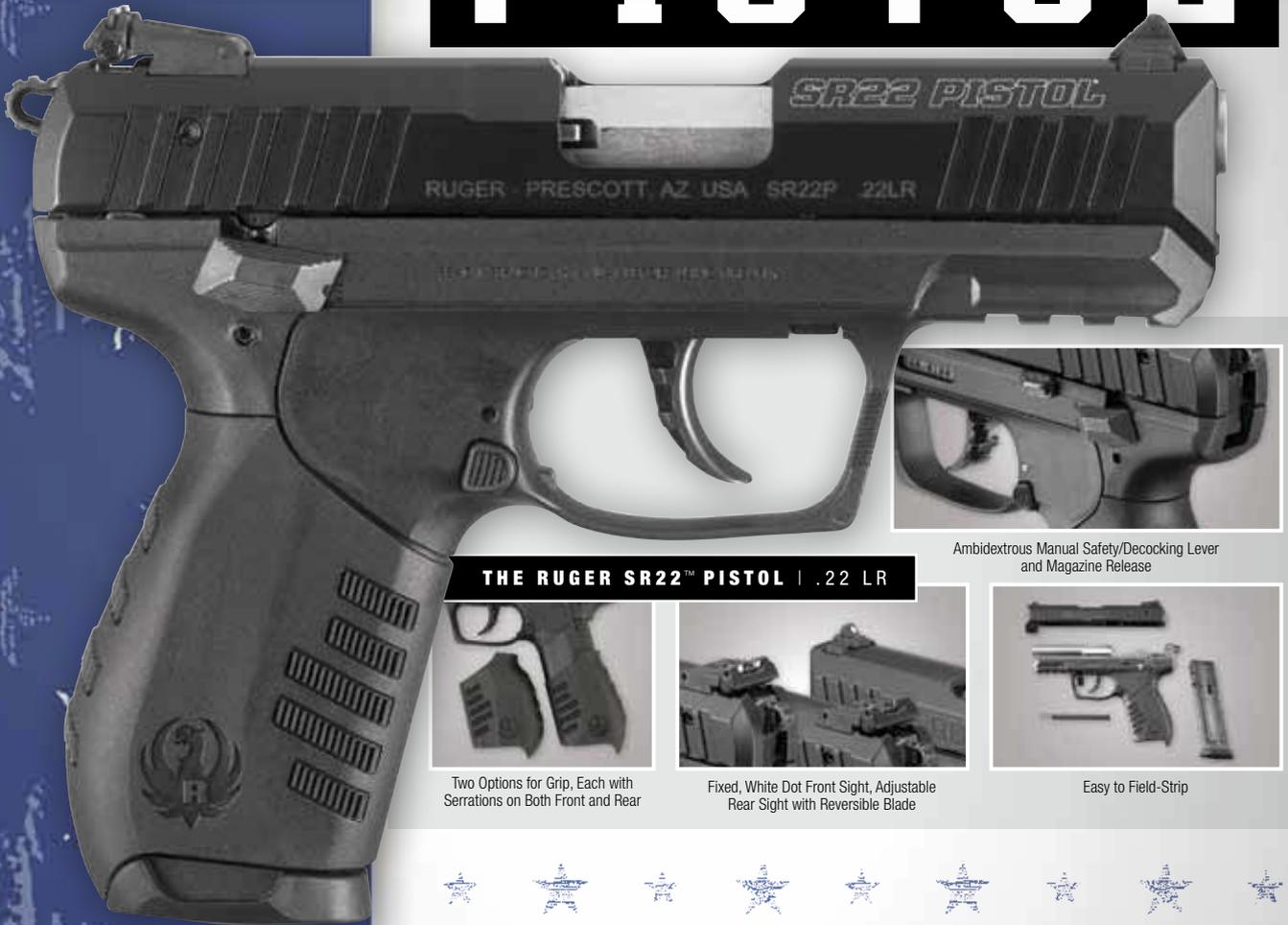
**General Counsel/Legal Affairs:** Steele N. Gillaspay

Email: [sng@g-glaw.com](mailto:sng@g-glaw.com)



PRODUCED IN THE U.S.A.

# THE RUGER® SR22™ PISTOL



THE RUGER SR22™ PISTOL | .22 LR

Ambidextrous Manual Safety/Decocking Lever  
and Magazine Release

Two Options for Grip, Each with  
Serrations on Both Front and Rear

Fixed, White Dot Front Sight, Adjustable  
Rear Sight with Reversible Blade

Easy to Field-Strip

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**THE RUGER® SR22™ PISTOL IS THE DO-IT-ALL  
.22 PISTOL FOR THE SHOOTER WHO  
APPRECIATES STYLE AND DEMANDS RELIABILITY!**

Packed with versatile features, the SR22™ pistol is lightweight (just 17.5 ounces) and perfect for just about anything - plinking, target shooting and even small game hunting. It is easy to field-strip, fun to shoot, and will reliably accept a variety of ammunition (not just high-velocity).

[WWW.RUGER.COM/SR22PISTOL](http://WWW.RUGER.COM/SR22PISTOL)

Join Ruger and help us raise \$1,000,000 for the NRA.

VISIT: [WWW.RUGER.COM/MILLION](http://WWW.RUGER.COM/MILLION)



# SHOTGUNNER

STORY: Holt Bodinson



*The Barrel Boss or Tico Tool (above) quickly removes powder and carbon residues. The advantage of the BoreSnake is that it contains an integral bore brush and rolls up for easier storage.*



## SHOTGUNNING MISCELLANY

**It's a horn-a-plenty for scattergunners.**

**H**ere's a new company with a couple of unique ideas for coloring shot and making it a marker for who shot what. The impetus for developing colored shot for waterfowling started with a situation that arose among a group of hunters shooting out of the same blind. As the birds came into the decoys, everyone opened fire. After the smoke had cleared, the ducks were retrieved, and one was found to be wearing a band.

Now if you've ever hung out with a group of serious waterfowlers, you know duck bands are considered the most precious prizes of the hunt. Strung along a duck call lanyard, they're worn as ersatz jewelry and symbolize the years a hunter has spent on the water as well as his prowess with a scattergun and decoy spreads. And so an argument ensued among the group as to who had downed the banded duck; of course, everyone present claimed they had.

### Spectra Shot—CSI In Box

Spectra Shot's solution to such problems is to offer the waterfowling public colored shot—four colors of colored shot to be exact—yellow, orange, blue and green. If there were more than four hunters in a blind, I guess you could add nickel-plated shot, copper-plated shot and plain steel shot as additional markers.

In any case, through the use of colored shot and a little bit of plucking, the winner of the band could be promptly determined. In the unlikely case more than one color of shot was uncovered, I suppose the hunters could draw straws or play dibs.

Every manufacturer of shot and shotshells has at one time or another tried to develop colored shot. In the past, the results were either toxic, too expensive or more likely, the colored coating would simply flake off the shot. What Spectra Shot has done is to develop a non-toxic coating and a process that insures the color adheres

to the shot. In the ammunition world, that's quite an accomplishment.

As we go to press, Spectra Shot is moving through the US Fish and Wildlife Service's testing protocol for non-toxic shot and should be available for the 2012 waterfowl season. Initially, colored Spectra Shot will be loaded as 1-1/4 ounces of No. 2 steel shot in 3", 12-gauge hulls with a muzzle velocity of 1,400 fps and competitively priced.

Another product under development by Spectra Shot is skeet size shot that becomes luminescent when shot in the presence of ultraviolet light. Stay tuned.

### In Season Cleaning

When the hunting season is in full swing, and my shotguns haven't been exposed to water or a lot of dirt, I don't tear them down to clean them on a daily basis. Typically, you don't need to and frankly, tear downs can add wear to the gun and often expose the barrel or stock parts to accidental damage.

Routinely what I'll do is reach for an Outers' Tico Tool or a Birchwood Casey's Barrel Boss or a Hoppe's BoreSnake and give the bore a good scrubbing.

The Tico Tool and the Barrel Boss are similar in concept. They are long, synthetic, fiber mops inserted through the breech or muzzle and run up-and-down with a twisting motion. No solvent is needed. The fiber surface does its job dry, removing both powder and carbon residues.

The Tico Tool has an oiling bob

# Connect the dots. Really fast. In the dark.



## New Meprolight night sights for semi-automatic pistols.



Ad-Com night sights.



Genuine Novak night sights.

New Ad-Com™ (Adjustable Combat) night sight sets combine the enhanced performance of an adjustable rear sight with Meprolight® brightness. They are the perfect size for smaller pistols from Glock, H&K and Kahr, as well as the Springfield XD. Genuine Novak® night sight sets fit Colt, Taurus and Springfield 1911 pistols, plus the Taurus 24/7. Modifications – if required – are minor. Backed by the strongest warranty offered today and 20% brighter than other brands, Meprolight is the right sight in any light.

The Kimber logo, featuring the brand name in a stylized, cursive script.

THE CHOICE OF AMERICA'S BEST  
[kimberamerica.com](http://kimberamerica.com)

**(888) 243-4522**

© 2011 Kimber Mfg., Inc. All rights reserved. Information and specifications are for reference only and subject to change without notice.

VARMINT™  
**MVP**  
SERIES

# Bolt-Action BREAKTHROUGH.



**INTRODUCING THE MVP™ SERIES**  
THE FIRST BOLT-ACTION RIFLE DESIGNED  
FOR USE WITH AR-15 STYLE MAGAZINES



- **Accepts Standard AR-15 Style Magazines**  
Breakthrough, patent-pending, drop-push bolt design allows MVP Series rifles to accept and reliably feed from AR-15 style magazines.
- **Ultra-Smooth, Spiral-Fluted Bolt**  
Purpose-built for smooth operation with standard AR-15 style magazines.
- **Creep-Free, Adjustable Trigger**  
Lightning Bolt Action™ (LBA™) trigger system is easily user-adjustable from 2–7 lbs.
- **Fluted, Button-Rifled Barrel**  
24-inch button-rifled, medium bull barrel features a 1:9 twist rate for optimized accuracy and an 11-degree varmint crown to protect the muzzle.
- **Chambered for 5.56mm NATO / .223 Rem.**  
Predator configurations COMING SOON.

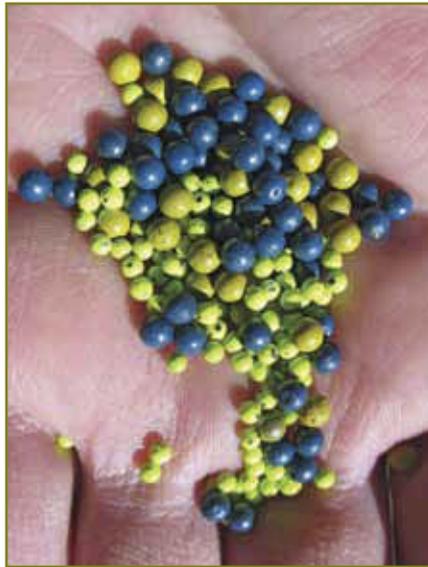


ALWAYS USE THE PROPER  
AMMUNITION FOR YOUR FIREARM



Made in the USA

[www.mossberg.com](http://www.mossberg.com)



**Spectra Shot 12-gauge shells (left) with No. 2 colored steel shot should be available for the 2012 waterfowl season. Spectra Shot developed the process to permanently adhere a colored coating to shot, and comes in four different colors, to aid hunters in identifying who shot which bird.**

Tico Tool or Barrel Boss, followed by a patch of Rem Oil. After a morning's dove hunt during which I'll burn up a box of inexpensive upland game shells, I'll select the Bore Snake with its integral bore brush to tackle the lead and plastic wad residues more prevalent when shooting promotional-quality ammunition.

In either case, I like to do my bore cleaning outside. It keeps powder, lead residues and odors out of the house and the wife happy. If you haven't tried the synthetic mop/floss systems, I highly recommend them.

### Impromptu Shotguns

I enjoy getting out in the country in a Jeep and exploring old tracks and byways just to see what's out there. My jaunts aren't taken with the purpose in mind of hunting, but often as not, during a day's outing, I'll scare up a cottontail or quail or two. If the season's on, a short impromptu hunt begins with the folding shotgun encased behind my front seat.

It wasn't so long ago that inexpensive, folding shotguns were fairly common. They were single shot, hammer guns in a variety of gauges, made primarily in Spain and Turkey. I don't think their utility was appreciated quite enough by the

inside its handle whereas the handle of the Barrel Boss contains a bronze brush to tackle any remaining lead and plastic wad residues.

Hoppe's original BoreSnake, now in an improved version called the Viper, is a self-contained pull-through with a bore brush imbedded in a strip of woven, synthetic flossing material.

The BoreSnake can be used dry or used with a multiple purpose solvent/preservative like G96.

When it comes down to making a choice between the two systems, it depends on how much shooting I've done. On a typical quail hunt this past poor season, I might have fired only three or four shells. If so, I'll use the

## Purpose Built for Shooters & Reloaders



**NEW**

**GunCleaning Patch Catcher**  
\*GCPC



**ZOMBIE**  
AMMO CAN  
ARE YOU READY?  
\*AC50Z

Limited Edition



**NEW**

**Ammo Can Organizer**  
\*ACO



**NEW**

**LT-150**













**DS-750**









**MTM Molded Products Company - (937) 890-7461 - [www.mtmcase-gard.com](http://www.mtmcase-gard.com)**

**STRIKING FEAR IN THE HEARTS  
OF VARMINTS EVERYWHERE.**



**NEW!**

**BARNES® VARMIN-A-TOR™**

Scored nose cavity, thin tapered jacket and DETON-A-TOR™ core assures that this bullet will VAPORIZE anything in its path.

- \* EXPLOSIVE
- \* ACCURATE
- \* CHEAP



**BARNES®**

OPTIMIZED FOR YOUR TARGET™

www.barnesbullets.com  
1-800-574-9200

Contact Barnes Bullets for a free catalog. Mention this ad to get a FREE Barnes Bullets DVD.

**GET YOUR GUNS GEAR!**



**Team GUNS T-Shirt**

Nobody ever had too many T-shirts, except us and we need to clear them out. Get this top quality, pre-shrunk 100% cotton T-shirt imprinted with Team GUNS logo on the front and back.

(Colors: Ash or Black)(Sizes: M,L,XL,XXL)

**\$21.95 each (\$31.95 Outside U.S.)**

(Price includes shipping)

**ORDER TODAY!**

**Call Toll-Free 800-628-9818**

**Order at www.gunsmagazine.com**



**For a 5-minute, 1-shot impromptu hunt, nothing beats a folding shotgun and, when stored in a small black case, is inconspicuous in a vehicle.**

shooting public because they've faded from the scene. It's too bad because they're the greatest impromptu shotguns imaginable.

The little 20 gauge I haul around is a Turkish made gun once imported by Century International Arms. It sports a 20" modified barrel and when the gun is folded in half, the overall length of the shotgun is still only 20". It weighs 4 pounds. Packed inside its plain black, 22" carrying case, it is low profile and inconspicuous, yet ready for action in a few seconds. It's filled the pot quite a few times on one of my 5-minute, 1-shot hunts.

You still see used folding shotguns at the gun shows for ridiculously low prices. They may look odd, but they're very practical. Keep your eyes out for one.

**GUNS**

BIRCHWOOD CASEY LABORATORIES  
7900 FULLER RD.  
EDEN PRAIRIE, MN 55344  
(800) 328-6156  
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/  
BIRCHWOOD-CASEY-LABORATORIES

.....  
G96

85-5TH AVE BLDG #6  
PATERSON, NJ 07524-1112  
(877) 332-0035

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/G96

.....  
HOPPE'S BORENAKE  
9200 CODY, OVERLAND PARK, KS 66214  
(800) 423-3537

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/HOPPES

.....  
OUTERS TICO TOOL  
N5549 COUNTY TRUNK Z  
ONALASKA, WI 54650

(800) 635-7656

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/OUTERS

.....  
SPECTRA SHOT  
901 W. CONGRESS, LAFAYETTE, LA 70501  
INFO@SPECTRASHOT.COM  
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/SPECTRA-SHOT

A POWERFUL COMBINATION.



### INTRODUCING THE LE6920MP RIFLES.

Colt has teamed up with industry leader Magpul® to outfit our LE6920, saving you over \$100. Now that's a powerful combination. Rifles are available in Black, Flat Dark Earth and OD Green. To order, contact your Colt distributor or dealer.

Additional models made in compliance with California bullet button.

COLT.COM || 800.962.COLT ||  FACEBOOK.COM/COLTFIREARMS ||  @COLTFIREARMS



QUALITY MAKES IT A COLT™

SCAN TO SEE THE COLT LEGACY VIDEO.



# RANGING SHOTS

STORY: Clint Smith PHOTOS: Heidi Smith

## UP DOWN?

### Dangle angle? Arguing with reality?

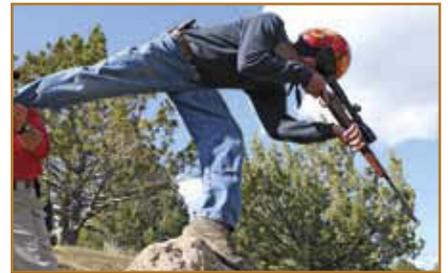
In our January 2012 issue, there was a massive work of computations and charts and the accompanying widgets to in theory compile the data required to send a bullet down range at angles. Or, in layman's terms, it was a buncha' figures so you can shoot up and down and hit stuff.

I truly believe some people do the techie gig in the interest of seeing how hard they can make shooting or—better put—how to generate something so complicated it covers the fact once in awhile you simply miss the target. And if you never miss, it is because you never shoot.

Point number one, if you're doing all the charts and cosine stuff you're on the right track to make shooting complicated and you might just drive

yourself a little nuts.

Second point, if this is about add-on parts for the rifle to improve personal field or life-saving skills A.K.A. as in combat, the time to apply these skills—if you actually learned them—is simply often not there. I have seen many people who had high-zoot equipment without the knowledge and personal skills to match. I would like to have \$5 for each time I have seen a scope marked



**Don't learn or practice fake skills like this hand-held, angle-dangle shooting position. Please don't try this—even with a helmet!**

with an arrow to raise the bullet impact (when it was required) but the shooter turned the adjustment knob the wrong direction adding to the problem instead of solving it.

The great thing is none of the stuff in or on the charts, dials and widgets are any better than a simplified hold up or down if you haven't practiced it in the field. All most of us need to decide is which system of skills we will have time to apply and will practice (like the old adage "this one is for shootin' and this one is for fun").

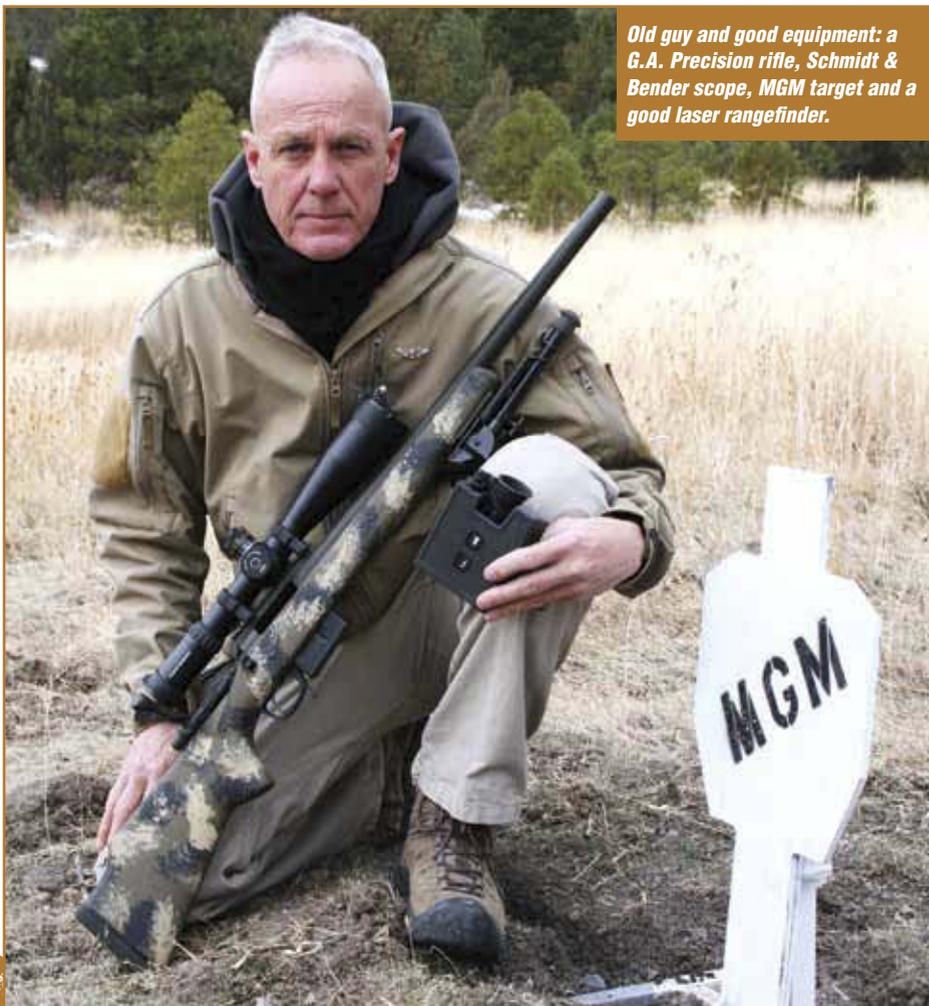
Most of the gadget and widget stuff's practicality is arguable out to 700 yards—and even to that distance practice is required. Beyond 700 yards the light saber stuff may start to earn a seat at the table, but again *not without lots of practice* up down short or far.

Yeah and I know "the world's record shot was..." Blah, blah, and it was good shooting, but it wasn't a first-round hit.

### Angle Dangle

While we're going up down and so forth we might as well address the clown show syndrome. I recently got a picture of a guy tied by a rope hung over the side of a sheer 90-degree rock face lying head down against the rock with his bipod deployed. Will this steep angle reverse-lynching firing position need to be addressed by purchasing a "thing" for cosine spin Coriolis effects?

Will you need to load ammunition differently to address the increased speed of the projectile in the shooting straight down at 90-degree angle or will the bullet get there faster because



**Old guy and good equipment: a G.A. Precision rifle, Schmidt & Bender scope, MGM target and a good laser rangefinder.**

gravity is pulling it? So the serious minded already know the angle dangle technique needs only to be addressed in that it is silly, dangerous and tactically stupid. Then again if you have never been in the military or a cop or in a fight other than getting out of the sheets in your bed, tactics or sanity aren't important, I guess.

### Reality?

I love people who argue with reality. Since we are here on data mode, with flow charts and computers, we might as well go along. I had a guy shooting a .30-06 at 200 yards. He was using 168-grain projectiles and had the gun zeroed for 100 yards. When he fired at 200 yards the projectile struck a nominal 4" low (all of this is pretty much correct). The problem, or the



*Find them and hit them in this world. Unless it is a bedded down deer, a shot better happen pretty quick.*



*Find a real target and they will not be there long. You might not have time to do the dial thing.*

reality was the projectile struck a nominal 4" low which he argued can't be correct because his computer generated chart showed the projectile would only drop 2" because it is a .30-06, shoots, flat, etc.

I agreed with him, "I know what your computer said it would do, what I am asking you is what did it really do on the target?" The student was stunned the reality of his charts and the following projectile impacts he fired were not the same—and he failed to believe it—like really failed

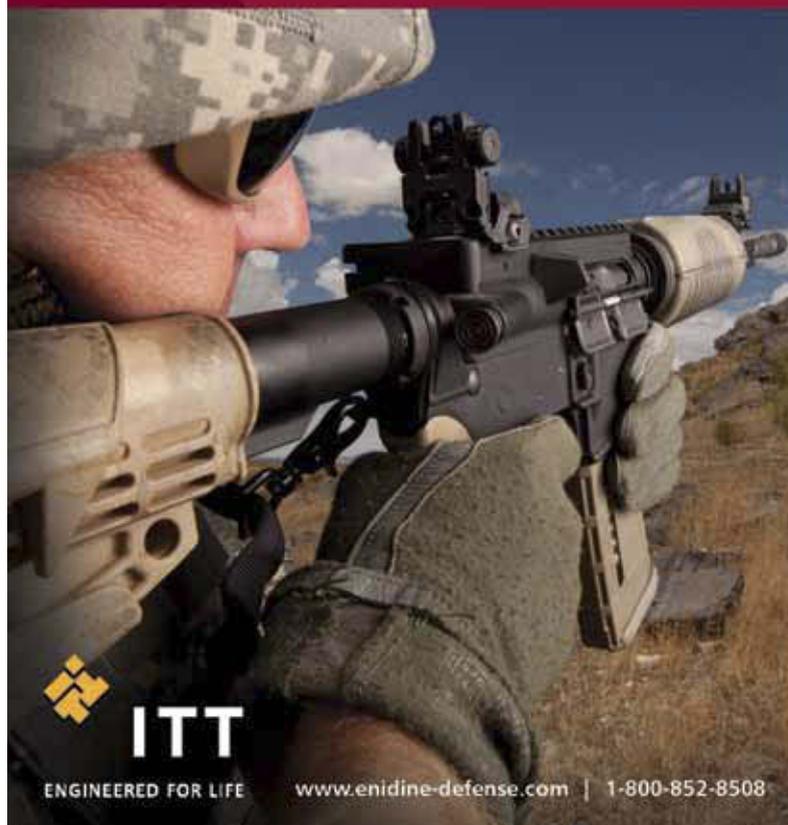
to believe this could happen to him. After about 20 minutes of being patient, really patient, it came too this: "Trust me, look at the holes. You dialed no dope up in the scope; the bullets hit 4" low... get over it and dial 2 MOA up the scope.

He grudgingly did, and he hit the target center.

Reality check: Because it is on a computer, a chart, a dial or widget, doesn't make it correct and it doesn't mean you'll have time to do it in real life.

**GUNS**

## Improving Accuracy from Shot to Shot.



ITT Enidine, a market leader in hydraulic energy absorbers for the defense and aerospace markets, manufactures hydraulic recoil buffers currently employed in US special forces weapons. These recoil buffers have a proven history of performance benefits to the soldier such as improved accuracy and target acquisition, recoil reduction and lower firing rates.

#### Features and Benefits:

- Improve Accuracy and Target Acquisition
- Control Firing Rate
- Conserve Ammunition
- Improve Weapon Reliability
- Easy Stock Buffer Replacement
- Reduce Felt Recoil

Available for .308 caliber, M4/M16/AR15 style rifles and Remington/Mossberg Tactical Shotguns



**ITT**  
ENGINEERED FOR LIFE

www.enidine-defense.com | 1-800-852-8508

# OPTICS

STORY: Jacob Gottfredson

## ON, OFF, ON, OFF How good are quick detachable mounts?

**H**ow many times have you heard the statement, "These mounts return to zero... perfectly"? You're left with the impression when the detachable mount is taken off and returned, it has no effect on zero or the grouping ability of the rifle and load. Is that true, advertising spiel, or just an aberration?

To test the statement's validity, I chose three of what I consider the best quick detachable mounts on the market and three excellent shooters. I used a very accurate rifle, capable of .3", 5-round groups. The groups were shot using a Harris bipod in the front and a competition benchrest bag in the rear.

The handloaded rounds were tuned prior to the test to deliver groups in the .3" range. The same brass was loaded carefully each time, with five loadings each for the duration of the test. The test rifle was a custom built .308 from Nighthawk with a proven tactical scope.

The tests were conducted at 60' elevation (approximately sea level), approximately 75 degrees F, 70 percent

humidity, and a barometric pressure of 29.90" of mercury.

The range was 100 yards. To set a benchmark, two of the shooters shot three 4-round groups using normal, tactical rings not removed. The aggregate for shooter one was .338" and for the second .361". The overall aggregate was .349" for six groups of four rounds each. All groups formed in approximately the same location at or slightly below the center dot. It was hoped the zero would not obliterate their aiming point (the center dot) as shots were fired. All but one shot was either in or touching the 1" inner ring. All were at approximately the same location inside the 1" ring.

When we began testing the quick detachable mounts, we expected



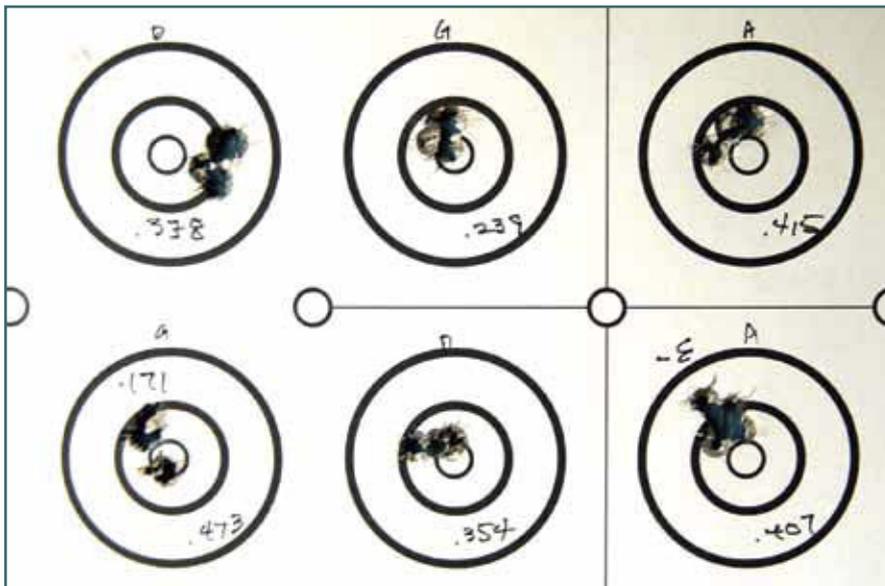
*The QD Mount from GG&G was very easy in mounting the scope and fast to remove and reinstall on the rail. The GG&G gave good results on the target. The handle is long, providing excellent leverage to disengage and reengage the mount from the Picatinny rail.*

the same aggregate and continued location of zero if the statement that "they return to zero" is true. From the statements made, it is assumed that the following would happen:

1. If the quick detachable mount is left on, it would perform as well as top-of-the-line tactical mounts. All did.
2. If the mount were removed and then replaced, it would continue to place shots into the same location as when left on.
3. The aggregate would remain approximately the same, given that everything else was equal, even when the mount was removed and replaced regardless of how often.

As the three testers shot, I would remove the scope and mount either every time or at random frequency. Each mount had slightly different means of grasping the Picatinny rail and different means of removing it. I would remove the scope and mount completely and then replace it, being careful the mount was registered in the slots the same way each time. The ease and speed of removal and replacement was noted.

It is admitted there is room for considerable variability in this test. I am a benchrest and tactical competitor and understand taking the scope off and replacing it robs the shooter of valuable shooting time in the exact



*The six groups produced using the AI Talbot QD mount on the Nighthawk .308 delivered an overall aggregate group size of .378". The scope was removed and replaced between each group.*



LaRue Tactical's mount (above) has been restored to its home on an AR-15 DPMS lower and LaRue upper. The mount is attached and removed from the Picatinny rail using the two small handles shown. The one in the rear reads "Open" with a direction arrow. That unlocks the lever. Mounting the scope takes a bit longer than either the GG&G or the Talbot QD mounts, but it gave very good results on the target. Although a bit of a different concept than the GG&G or the LaRue, the Talbot QD mount (below) was the clear winner in several respects. Groups and placement of the group after removing the mount several times during firing were as good as fixed tactical. Mounting the scope is easy and very fast. The mount is shown on the Nighthawk .308 with which the groups in photo nearby were shot. Note that this Talbot mount is a forward mounting version. The Talbot mount is manufactured in a great many configurations for most popular systems including rounded actions without a Picatinny rail. One version even has a windage adjustment in the rear.



same wind, and also the shooter has to readjust his hold, position, etc. during the removing and remounting of the scope. Even so, the results were excellent.

### The Results

QD mount 1 produced a .378" aggregate for 24 shots. Each three shooters shot two 4-round groups. All but one of the groups fell in the same location on the target, just high and to the left of the small .375" dot in the middle. The one that was out was due to confusion about my requested aiming point. The shooter's first group was .375" but on the wrong side of the dot. His next group was .354". From there on, each group was in the same location, just to the left of the dot and a bit high but still within the 1" ring. This mount was both easy and extremely fast to dismount and remount.

QD mount 2 showed more

# WILL YOU BE READY?

**Uncomfortable holster  
keeping you from carrying as much  
as you would like?**

**Why not try a  
CrossBreed TODAY!**

*"ABSOLUTELY the  
most comfortable holster  
I have ever worn."* Semper Fi

**Lifetime Warranty!  
Try-it-FREE Guarantee!**

## CrossBreed Holsters LLC.

**www.crossbreedholsters.com • 888.732.5011**

## THE SMALLEST, MOST POWERFUL PERSONAL PROTECTION YOU CAN CARRY!

**CALL FOR  
FREE BROCHURE!**

4.25 inch    3.5 inch    3 inch    2.5 inch

**MADE IN TEXAS BY TEXANS!**

*With just a quick turn of an allen wrench,  
you can change it to one of 16 barrels &  
22 different caliber combinations!*

**BOND ARMS!**

**BondArms.com • 817-573-4445**

Not available in California or Massachusetts.

## GUNS MAGAZINE ONLINE!

**www.gunsmagazine.com**

USA  
PROUD

©2012 BENCHMADE KNIFE CO. OREGON CITY, OR, USA. BENCHMADE.COM



581 BARRAGE®

BENCHMADE®

STING LIKE A BUTTERFLY

G10/ALUMINUM HANDLE  
M390 SUPER STEEL BLADE

variability in both group size and placement on the target. The overall aggregate group was .644". However, all 24 shots were inside the 1" ring. The mount was very fast to dismount and remount.

QD mount 3 posted a .556" aggregate for 24 shots. Three shots were slightly outside the 1" ring. The groups were approximately in the same location on the target. The mount was a little difficult to remove as the levers were tight, short, and took some muscle to turn. Thus it was not quite as fast as the first two.

Although the second two mounts did not provide the results of either the tactical mounts left on or QD mount-1 removed and remounted, all provided excellent results. If you think in practical terms, all were shooting well under 1 MOA and all were delivering shots to approximately the same location inside the 1" ring. All conditions being equal and given a perfect world, all would have posted 6" groups or better at 1,000 yards. Or, all would have hit an elk in the lung area at 500 yards with ease, even if the scope were removed and then remounted prior to the shot for some reason. In a competitive scenario, all would have hit a 1" dot at 100 yards, or a 6" plate at 600 yards during a 5-shot drill.

Why did QD mount 1, manufactured by Al Talbot, post much better results? The Talbot QD base mount is not removed from the Picatinny rail. It does, however, accomplish the same need as the others. That is, the scope can be removed with the rings attached so that another scope can be quickly mounted. For example, when you travel, you might want to carry the scoped in a pack to prevent damage in transit. You might want a second scope pre-sighted in if the first one becomes damaged. Or you want a low-power scope like a red dot for close quarters and another for long range. The list goes on.

### Stress Relief

The Talbot ring rail rides on hemispheric surfaces both front and rear below the rings on the base. The rear of the base mount is spring loaded. When replaced, the mount is forced back to the same location on those rounded hemispheres by the spring. An added benefit, if the temperature suddenly drops 30 degrees F, it induces differential expansion rates between metals with different properties. Until this stabilizes, stress is induced. This stress will make the crosshair begin to float off its original point of aim. This is easy to illustrate by setting the rifle up in such a way it can't move. Then heat the scope, receiver, and mounts

with a hair dryer. Watch the crosshairs as you do. Floating off the aiming point does not occur with the Talbot mount because the stress caused by differential expansion is taken up by the spring, which adjusts to the force being exerted between the receiver, the mount, and the scope.

There is another way to test the variability of QD mounts. A jig is used to hold a Picatinny rail so the scope and mount can be zeroed on a test pattern. The jig must be securely anchored. The scope is removed and then remounted a number of times. If claims are true, the crosshair should return to the same place on the test pattern each time. This was in fact done by the military, and the results were startling. The Talbot returned to zero so closely it was almost impossible to measure.

While the bottom portion of the Talbot mount remains on the Picatinny rail, co-witness sights can still be used. And other scopes with the same top can be sighted in with the bottom. The other mounts can as well, but require the entire assembly. Thus, once purchased for any rifle, you need only purchase the top of the Talbot mount rather than the entire assembly.

### Bottom Line

True, some QD mounts return to zero "enough" so most deliver practical and productive shots. I am not sure every QD mount on the market will perform as these three did. But I am willing to say the mounts tested performed productively. I can't think of a situation where taking off the scope and placing it back on would cause a miss on any practical target to any range.



#### MOUNT 1

TALBOT QD MOUNTS  
2210 E. GRAND BLANC RD.  
GRAND BLANC, MI 48439  
(810) 695-2497

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/TALBOT  
PRICE: \$255 (EXTRA RINGS: \$80)

#### MOUNT 2 ACCUCAM QD

GG&G  
3602 E. 42ND STRAVENUE  
TUCSON, AZ 85713  
(800) 380-2540

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/GGG-TACTICAL-  
PRODUCTS  
PRICE: \$200

#### MOUNT 3: OBR QD SCOPE MOUNT LT-111

LARUE TACTICAL  
850 COUNTRY RD. 177  
LEANDER, TX 78641  
(512) 259-1585

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/  
LARUE-TACTICAL  
PRICE: \$245

FOR  
**5% OFF**  
 REGULARLY PRICED  
 MERCHANDISE  
 USE CODE:  
**5GM2012**

# MAXPEDITON



**NOT  
 JUST FOR  
 BOYS...  
 NOW  
 AVAILABLE  
 IN PINK!**



**FATBOY™  
 VERSIPACK®:**

- STATE-OF-THE-ART SHOULDER SLING PACK
- SECURES & KEEPS ITEMS ACCESSIBLE
- MAIN COMPARTMENT CONTAINS WATER-RESISTANT STORM COLLAR WITH PULL CORD-LOCKED DRAWSTRING
- INCLUDES NON-SLIP SHOULDER PAD
- MULTIPLE EXTERNAL POCKETS & WEBBING FOR ORGANIZATION AND EXPANSION
- 'CONCEAL & CARRY' GUN COMPARTMENT FOR SELF DEFENSE



**#3501  
 UNIVERSAL  
 CCW HOLSTER**  
 PRICE: \$9.99  
 COLORS: BLACK  
 GUN NOT INCLUDED



**#0431  
 SITKA™ GEARSLINGER®**  
 PRICE: \$138.99  
 COLORS: B, G, K, F, KF, DFC



**#0621  
 COMPACT  
 RANGE BAG**  
 PRICE: \$153.99  
 COLORS: B, K



P.O. BOX 5008  
 PALOS VERDES, CA 90274, U.S.A.  
 TEL: 1.310.768.0098  
 EMAIL: INFO@MAXPEDITON.COM



UTX-Duraflex  
 Brand Hardware



GSA Trade Compliant  
 Country of Origin



Genuine YKK Zippers



Triple Polyurethane Coated  
 Fabric for Water Resistance



DuPont Teflon  
 Fabric Protector

**WWW.MAXPEDITON.COM**



# MONTANA MUSINGS

STORY: Mike "Duke" Venturino  
PHOTOS: Yvonne Venturino

## COMPETITION

### A good reason to shoot more.

**A**s all long-time readers of firearms magazines know, their editorial content is heavily slanted towards hunting. Article titles such as "The Best Elk Cartridges" or "Sighting in Your Whitetail Rifle" are all too common. That's understandable because big-game hunting is still very popular on this continent. Unfortunately it's a once a year endeavor for most participants and doesn't provide much shooting activity. But I think the truth is that most big-game hunters are not avid riflemen; most shoot because hunting requires it.

A much smaller percentage of big-game hunters are indeed avid shooters. They like to tinker with rifles, develop handloads, and try different calibers, different action types or scopes. They hunt big game because it gives a purpose to all that tinkering. I was one of those.

Why say "was"? Because my big-game hunting days are over. In my 60s now, with an injured knee, bad back, a heart damaged from a cardiac

infarction, and a lifetime losing battle with weight, I'm simply incapable of climbing to the top of the ridge behind my house like I used to do nearly every day during hunting season.

Before you readers think I'm looking for sympathy, I need to stress that I don't miss big-game hunting. How many deer, elk, pronghorn or whatever do you kill before satiety? I've kept my favorite deer and elk rifle, a restocked pre-64 Winchester Model 70 .308, but



*In his younger years, Duke was an avid and moderately successful hunter but he says those days are past.*

the simple fact is I wouldn't walk across a street to shoot another deer. (Maybe I would for an elk?)

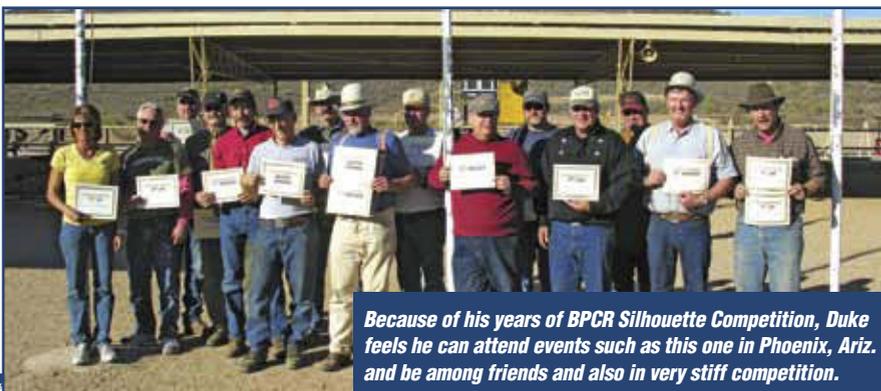
On the other hand, I would and do drive a 1,000 miles to shoot in a weekend competition. I came to formal competition rather late in life. Earlier I had fired in cow pasture turkey shoots and put my share of butterballs in the freezer. But it wasn't until my mid-30s that I fired in an event with set rules, scoreboards for all to see, and plenty of competition in the form of other avid shooters.

That match happened to be the trial one put on by the NRA to see if Black Powder Cartridge Rifle Silhouette would be a viable sport. From that very first match I was hooked and although I have fired in hundreds of matches over the past quarter century I have never grown bored with it. Why is that? Perhaps it's because the sport is so difficult. Despite a considerable amount of effort in the past 25 years my success is relatively small. I've won two state championship titles but the highest I've ever placed at the BPCR Silhouette national championships is seventh.

Perhaps an even more important contributing factor as to why BPCR Silhouette has not grown "old" to me is the competitors. Of course there have been a few bad apples encountered in over 25 years of competition but some of my closest friends at this stage of my life are fellow BPCR shooters. Furthermore I have driven to events in Texas, New Mexico, California, Arizona, Idaho, Colorado and known there would be friends to both shoot against and visit with. Where I have but one big-game rifle today, I have seven



*Duke's passion for competition over the last quarter century has been the very challenging game of Black Powder Cartridge Rifle Silhouette. Here he's shooting in the newer scoped division.*



*Because of his years of BPCR Silhouette Competition, Duke feels he can attend events such as this one in Phoenix, Ariz. and be among friends and also in very stiff competition.*



**In October 2011 at the CMP Western Games in Phoenix, Ariz., Duke discovered their vintage sniper rifle event. He hopes to get like matches started in Montana.**

dedicated BPCR Silhouette rifles.

More recently a life-long study of World War II history has resulted in also building a collection of firearms used in that largest of all human conflicts. There are currently about three dozen WWII infantry rifles and sniper rifles setting in my rifle racks. Many thousands of rounds have been fired through them in the last decade in an effort to learn their shooting idiosyncrasies.

Just about the time I was growing bored with that endeavor I learned of shooting events springing up around the country focused on competing with "vintage" military rifles. In the October 2011 issue of this magazine, I told of participating in a VIMBAR (Vintage Military Bolt Action Rifle) match held at the Golden Spike Range in Utah. If fate is willing I will certainly shoot there again in 2012.

Then last issue I wrote about the CMP (Civilian Marksmanship Program) Western Games in Phoenix, Ariz. last October. While I can't say that the 200 position events hooked me in the CMP games, their vintage sniper rifle match fired at 300 and 600 yards certainly did. I think I'm too old and too "stove up" to ever do well in the first type of shooting and my scores showed it. However, I didn't do too poorly in the sniper rifle match which was fired prone over sandbag rest. I certainly wouldn't mind shooting more of those events.

The problem is we don't have any vintage sniper rifle matches here in Montana. (At least none of which I am aware.) So perhaps I will try organizing one just the way I got BPCR Silhouette going in this state in the 1980s. If that plan comes to fruition in 2012, I'll post its dates and location on my website [www.mlventerprises.com](http://www.mlventerprises.com). Also, wouldn't it be a hoot to combine the clang and falling steel of silhouette with vintage sniper rifles?

What I'm trying to get across here is this. If hunting big game has lost its zing or your body just can't take it anymore, don't hang up your guns. There is plenty of shooting still to do.

**GUNS**

**The Turbo® you've trusted is now**

# TurboSonic™

Lyman is the name you've trusted for more than 30 years for the latest advances in brass cleaning technology. Our Turbo® Tumblers revolutionized the way cases were cleaned and polished. Now you can trust the experts to bring you the best equipment for the latest scientific advancement - Ultrasonic Cleaning.

Our Ultrasonic Cleaners incorporate all the features you need. Our smaller TS-700 model is perfect to clean a few small parts quickly. It has the same power that our larger units boast, but takes up only a small space on your workbench and is ready to use at any time.

Our larger tanks allow you to clean more brass at one time or even several whole gun frames in one cleaning cycle. Our TS-6000 unit features a convenient drainage spout and hose to empty the used solution. The heater and powerful transducers, combined with our scientifically developed cleaning solutions ensure that your items get cleaned thoroughly in minimal time.

**Lyman® Clean Brass is Our Business!**  
[www.lymanproducts.com](http://www.lymanproducts.com)

**Excellence**

Al Mar Knives  
 Our Sere Operator knives are handmade to exacting standards, assuring the highest quality in the industry.

**SERE**  
 Sere Operator™ 3" Blade Mini Sere Operator™ 4" Blade

learn more @ [www.almarknives.com](http://www.almarknives.com)

# HANDLOADING

STORY: John Barsness

## EXTRA-EFFORT RELOADING

**First lesson: Don't get rid  
of reloading dies—ever.**

Once in a while we run into rifles that require extra effort in reloading. A perfect example is the “between the wars” German combination gun my wife Eileen found at the gun show in Wisdom, Mont., a few years ago. If you’ve never heard of Wisdom, you’re not alone. It’s a tiny crossroads town in the big ranch country of the upper Big Hole River, but the gun shows attracts some real rifle enthusiasts, both sellers and searchers. We ventured there during a hot August, because Wisdom is one of the coolest towns in the state, both literally and figuratively, and found tables set up not just in several buildings but out in the streets.

One table had several nice German guns, including the drillings I like. Eileen finds drillings a little too heavy, though she’s always liked the idea of owning a versatile hunting gun. The combo gun was nice and light, with a 16-gauge barrel over what the price tag said was a 9.3x72R rifle barrel. Very nice engraving of game scenes covered the receiver, and the buttstock had a cartridge trap for extra rifle rounds. I explained to her that the 9.3x72R was a mild-recoiling woods round, which sealed the deal. Eileen isn’t fond of hard-kicking guns, and loves to sit on a cottonwood riverbottom in autumn, waiting for wild turkeys and whitetails to wander by. The gun even came with a half-fired box of RWS ammo.

Back home we ordered a set of RCBS dies and tracked down some Norma brass. The big problem was bullets. The 9.3x72R was originally a black-powder round, and the standard bullet is a cast .366" flatnose of about 200 grains. Some were finally purchased from Huntington’s, one of the great sources for hard-to-find components.

### Uh-Oh

When everything came together, I finally did something I should have done much earlier: measure the inside



*The extra effort put into Eileen’s old German combination gun was well worth it. It’s contributed quite a bit to the family freezer.*

diameter of the rifle barrel. Older German guns can vary somewhat in bore size. It turned out that Eileen’s combo gun didn’t have a 9.3mm (.366") bore. Instead it was a dead-on .35 caliber, with a .350" bore and .358" grooves.

This sort of thing also isn’t uncommon in older German guns—especially those without any markings as to the maker. These are often called

“guild guns” since the assumption is the various parts were made by several shops in a gunmakers guild, rather than by one “name” shop.

In one way the odd bore size of Eileen’s gun was a great help, since it solved the bullet problem. The cast .366" bullets could be used for practice in my several 9.3mm rifles, while any lighter-weight .35-caliber bullets could be used in Eileen’s gun. I had a pile of those on hand, ranging from .38/.357 handgun bullets to rifle bullets designed for the .35 Remington. The only major problem was that the expensive RCBS dies didn’t neck 9.3x72R brass down enough to hold .35-caliber bullets.

### Solution

The solution turned out to be pretty simple: We ran the necks of the 9.3x72R brass about 1/2" into my carbide .357 Magnum sizing die. Bingo! After some experimentation with bullets and powders, Eileen found the magic combination to be 43.0 grains of IMR4895 and the 180-grain Speer flatnose. This got about 1,900 fps and grouped into less than 2" at 100 yards, a light-recoiling load that knocks the snot out of deer out to 150 yards.

Another problem with a Euro-cartridge turned up a couple of years ago. After shooting out the .270 Winchester barrel on a custom-stocked FN Mauser, I asked Texas gunsmith Charlie Sisk to rebarrel the rifle to 6.5x55. Charlie tried to talk me out of it: “John, the 6.5x55 is a great round, but the ‘standard’ dimensions are all over the place. Why not just do a .270 again?” But I’d foolishly sold a very accurate Ruger 77 Mark II in 6.5x55 a couple years earlier, and insisted. Charlie finally caved.

He used a minimum-dimension reamer from Dave Kiff and a medium-weight Lilja barrel. I had high hopes for the rifle’s accuracy when it showed up, and immediately went out to the loading room to whip up some loads. Unfortunately, about a third of my Winchester and Federal 6.5x55 brass wouldn’t fit in the chamber. The rear of the cases was sometimes slightly too large, even after screwing down the Redding full-length die until the

# MTM SPECIAL OPS



BLACK COBRA NEOPRENE STRAP  
Also available in brushed silver finish

[WWW.SPECIALOPSWATCH.COM](http://WWW.SPECIALOPSWATCH.COM)

The MTM Special Ops line of tactical time pieces is exclusively available through MTM.  
Toll free at 1 800 284 9487 outside of USA 1 213 741 0808 1225 South Grand Ave. Los Angeles, CA. 90015.

press had to cam over hard. I also tried different shell-holders, since a slightly “short” shell-holder often allows a case to be sized a little more. In this instance it didn’t work.

Eventually a light went on in my dim brain, and I got out my Redding 7x57 die. After removing the decapper/expander spindle, I ran the big-butted 6.5x55 cases into the 7x57 sizing die. Suddenly they slid right into the custom chamber.

The problem was traced to the “Euro-minimum” chamber and American brass, apparently designed to match up better with the typically generous chambers of older military rifles. I eventually bought some Lapua 6.5x55 brass, and it all fit nicely.

Another problem can be finding brass for old rifles. About a decade ago I purchased four old Savage 99s from a collector. Three were in common chamberings, but the fourth was a takedown .303 Savage. Winchester had discontinued .303 ammunition a couple of years earlier, and any .303 stuff was becoming hard to find. One box of ammo was finally located at a gun show, but I wanted more than 20 pieces of brass. *The Handloader’s Manual of Cartridge Conversion*, by John J. Donnelly suggested .303 cases could be made from .220 Swifts, but



**One rule of handloading for extra-effort rounds is to never get rid of any dies, even if you don’t own a rifle in that chambering anymore.**

my 99 wouldn’t eject them.

Eventually I ended up converting .30-40 Krag. Sticking a new case over a .30" piece of steel rod, then putting the rod in my DeWalt drill motor allowed the use a sharp file to turn down the rims of Krag cases to .303 Savage diameter. Afterward the cases were reformed in an RCBS die and trimmed to length. A “new” .303 case could be made in about 10 minutes, and I made another 20 rounds of brass. (Of course, soon afterward both Bertram of Australia and Norma Precision started making .303 Savage cases, due to a sudden increase in interest in old 99s, but....)

One of the main lessons learned

from decades of wrestling with these sorts of problems is to *never* get rid of any dies, because they might help solve an extra-effort loading job someday. I’ve sometimes ignored this rule, and usually regretted the decision—but never have regretted figuring out how to make ammo for yet another rifle!

**GUNS**

NORMA COMPONENTS  
BLACK HILLS SHOOTERS SUPPLY  
P.O. BOX 4220  
2875 S. CREEK DR.  
RAPID CITY, SD 57709  
(800) 289-2506  
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/  
BLACKHILLSHOOTERS

.....  
*HANDLOADER’S MANUAL OF CARTRIDGE CONVERSIONS, 4TH EDITION*  
BY JOHN J. DONNELLY  
AND JUDY DONNELLY, ©2011,  
608 PAGES, PAPERBACK, ISBN: 978-1-61608-238-3, \$29.95 FROM: SKYHORSE PUBLISHING,  
307 W. 36TH ST., 11TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY  
10018, (212) 643-6816,  
WWW.SKYHORSEUBLISHING.COM.

HUNTINGTON DIE SPECIALTIES  
P.O. BOX 991, OROVILLE, CA 95965  
(866) 735-6237  
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/  
HUNTINGTON-DIE-SPECIALTIES

# CONCEALABLE. (EXCEPT FOR THE PERFORMANCE.)



**RUGER**

Introducing **CENTERFIRE™** laser series

from LaserMax. Designed specifically for **RUGER®** LCP® and LC9™ pistols.



CENTERFIRE shown on Ruger LCP

www.LaserMax.com

Ruger, Ruger logo, LCP and LC9 are Ruger trademarks.

**LaserMax**  
PRECISION. PROTECTION.

# XDS

NOTICEABLY UNNOTICEABLE™

MARCH 2012

SO SMALL. SO POWERFUL.



[WWW.XDSPISTOL.COM](http://WWW.XDSPISTOL.COM)

# HANDGUNS

STORY: Massad Ayoob

## THOUGHTS ON BREATH CONTROL

In conventional marksmanship, breath control is a cornerstone fundamental.

In combat handgun shooting, not so much. Is that as it should be?

**A** reader writes to ask about breath control related to handgun shooting. Editor Jeff John assigns me to write it. (Yes, readers can ask. Feel free!)



At 100 paces, NRA Hunter Pistol Champ Terri Strayer (above) applies breath control as she aims her Contender .22.



Mas' mouth (above) is slightly open as he draws a Bob Lloyd-tuned S&W 686 en route to victory at an ICORE match. Key here: "Remember to breathe!" Breath control is critical in bull's-eye shooting, seen here (below) at Camp Perry.



The answer is, the importance of breath control varies with the need for precision, and with the balance between precision and speed. As a young puppy of a shooter decades ago, I was told emphatically that breath control was one of the cornerstones of good shooting. When we breathe, our chests expand or contract. When the chest moves, we have to remember that "the chest bone is connected to the shoulder bone, and the shoulder bone is connected to the arm bone," as it were. Thus, the act of breathing moves the extended gun arm. You see it particularly in 1-handed shooting, such as standard American bull's-eye and the Olympic pistol disciplines.

We were taught to take a deep breath, let out a third to a half of it, and hold the rest as we focused on sight picture and trigger press. Five to 10 seconds was considered the sweet spot before the body was going to want more oxygen. I've been told on good authority that holding the breath too long can interfere with visual acuity.

Some of the Olympic coaches

supposedly worked on techniques to allow their shooters to press their triggers in between heartbeats, since a high magnification scope on rifle or pistol will allow the shooter to see his reticle move very slightly with each beat of the heart. That level of control is beyond most of us.

### Slow Fire, Rapid Fire

In bull's-eye, I generally saw no more than one shot per breath in slow fire. Timed fire strings of five shots in 20 seconds would find some shooters holding their breath all the way through, and some taking a quick inhalation after the second or third shot. In rapid-fire strings of five shots in 10 seconds, most shooters would squeeze off all five on one sustained breath. When I shot PPC, the 50-yard stage consisted of four strings of fire (including a draw and three reloads) in 2 minutes, 45 seconds. Some careful shooters took a breath on every shot. I did OK with a breath every three shots or so.

In the longer-range handgun disciplines—200-meter rams in the International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association, or smaller steel critters at 100 paces in NRA Hunter Pistol—you can be sure the winners aren't taking more than one shot per breath.

### Closer And Faster

It has been said that in "combat shooting," the definition of breath control is—"Gasp!" That may be a slight overstatement, at least in the sort of combat shooting where no one is shooting back, but it's true that breath control is "different" there. USPSA or IDPA shooting is going to have some explosive physical exertion as you sprint between cover points. The key thinking here is starkly simple: remember to breathe!

We humans have an errant instinct to hold our breath at what is often the worst possible time. I've seen many an amateur suck in a deep breath just before the start signal, lock it in... and forget to exhale. Martial arts instructors see the same in sparring. Sometimes, you can actually hear them make a "Hup!" sound as they go into vapor lock.



**Randi Rogers needs plenty of oxygen as she sprints to victory at a National IDPA Championship with her Glock 34.**

This, of course, is a bad thing, because you'll run out of oxygen, and when we humans run out of oxygen, we're like automobiles running out of gasoline. Personally, I shoot these matches with my mouth slightly open. It encourages breathing, and the ear doctors tell me it helps vent out sound vibrations from gunshot reports, helping just a little to save my shooter's hearing.

### Too Much

A lot of shooters miss the other bad outcome of poor breath control: too much oxygen. We get performance anxiety, that little voice in the head that says, "This is it!" Our anxious body starts pumping more blood and sucking in more air, but the extra-oxygenated blood isn't being burned off by physical activity, so we start to hyperventilate. That leads to dizziness and, unchecked, even fainting.

A paramedic who spotted you in that condition on the firing line would advise you to breathe into a paper bag for a while, knowing that inhaling exhaled CO<sub>2</sub> will quickly restabilize the O<sub>2</sub>/CO<sub>2</sub> balance. With no paper bag handy, while waiting your turn to shoot take a deep breath and hold it, perhaps pressing your hands together in an isometric tension exercise, then slowly exhale. It's an internalized version of the paper bag trick, known to martial artists as sanchin breathing, and to cops and soldiers as "combat breathing." It also helps to lower heart rate and stress, which is why similar Lamaze Breathing is widely taught for natural childbirth.

For combat shooting, if you just remember to breathe, you'll probably be fine. And, survivors of genuine combat tell us, remembering to breathe in the short term is a very good way to assure that you'll continue breathing for the long term.

**GUNS**

**NO RUST. NO KIDDING.**

- Zerust® Vapor Capsules for gun safes & cases
- Zerust® Vapor Bags for rifles & shotguns
- Use Barrel Strips for handguns
- Protects every metal surface
- Safe & efficient

**www.ZerustProducts.com**

Zerust • 9345 Ravenna Rd. Unit E  
Twinsburg, OH 44087 • (330) 405-1965

**Rio Grande** *Custom Grips*

**NEW! NOW YOU CAN ADD PIZZAZZ TO YOUR RUGER BLACKHAWK, SUPER BLACK HAWK, OLD VAQUERO and SINGLE SIX REVOLVERS!**

**NEW IMAGES FOR YOUR 1911 AND TAURUS.**

**QUALITY MADE IN THE U.S.A.**

**www.riograndecustomgrips.com**  
**303-330-2812**

# GUNSMITHING

STORY: Hamilton S. Bowen

## THE FINAL TOUCH Firearms markings.

**W**ithin most professions in this world, despite the best efforts of professional organizations and sanctioning bodies to achieve uniform standards of performance, there are often great discrepancies in skill and ability of members. In many cases, these differences of skill and talent are inconsequential. In others, say, for instance, brain surgery, you would like to think everybody out there practicing the craft is equally and supremely competent. In the world of the arts, manual and otherwise, these variations are not usually life threatening but merely reflect on the general skill level of the practitioners.



*Among the handsomest factory roll marks are those found on Mannlicher-Schoenauer rifles and carbines as this M1910 action clearly shows.*



*In the good now days (above), roll markings such as these were executed with a 26-piece manual roll stamp kit in People's Small Arms Factory No. 49273. The EDM markings on this custom S&W .327 barrel (below) came out pretty darn nice and are rarely any better than this.*



So it is with lettering from gun makers, custom and production alike. Some of us get downright persnickety about lettering while others have a more relaxed "Git 'er done" attitude. In my humble opinion, proper markings on receivers and barrels can make all the difference in the world, distinguishing stylish from otherwise indifferently rendered pieces of work. We'll take a look at some examples of lettering and contemplate available technology.

If you think about it for even a moment, you can imagine the difficulty or producing a stamping die. In the olden days, before photo etching, EDM (electro discharge machining) and N/C (computer-driven) technology arrived, roll marking dies were laboriously carved by hand in steel by engravers of otherworldly skill. In reverse. Or worse, in-the-round to follow a barrel contour precisely. Not surprisingly, these stamping dies were goofy expensive and used exclusively by major manufacturers who could amortize costs over tens of thousands of units of production.

### Hand Or Machine?

Even today, roll stamps made with EDM technology or with precision milling engraving, are very costly and beyond the reach of most small shops. Even after stamping technology was reasonably well perfected, it was not unusual to see models of limited production with some hand-cut



*The magical marking machine (above) with a nylon stencil and application tools. All hooked up (below), this Ruger single-action revolver is ready to be marked with a stencil.*



markings. I have a Colt large-frame Lightning pump rifle in .38-56 caliber with the caliber mark hand cut while more standard Colt marks, such as the classic "rampant colt" logo, were executed with a roll stamp.

Virtually all of the Victorian-era British sporting arms made for the carriage trade feature exquisite hand-cut markings. Engravers weren't paid much in those days and it was far cheaper to mark by hand, given that annual production of many of the best makers might be but a few dozen pieces a year. Roll markings or similar stampings represent the best of marking technology for production pieces.

In the interest of authenticity, some restoration enterprises will still trouble themselves to produce the

limited number of roll stamps their area of expertise requires. Turnbull Manufacturing can still apply most of the Colt SAA and Winchester lever gun roll marks found on original factory pieces. Fine firearms still benefit from the engravers touch. With elaborate productions of our best domestic, custom rifle makers will often sport hand-cut lettering. There are plenty of good engravers around to help.

### Simpler Way

But what of us small custom builders out there in the trenches? I simply refuse to spend my time and energy on even relatively ordinary work and then assault it with a \$12 set of imported hand stamps. Steel roll marks are out of the question as we have far too many impressions to make and would have to inventory stamps costing more than my net worth. Still, nothing wrecks an otherwise fine job quicker than lousy detail work such as lettering.

Happily, modern technology has offered up revolutionary and wondrous marking machinery both effective and cost effective. Our shop marking machine is nothing more than an M. Mouse EDM machine produced by Marking Methods that



*Someone in the Alex Henry shop must have awfully good penmanship to cut these lines of letters by hand in steel.*

does lettering and logos. It is amazingly simple to use. We provide their art department with the rough art in the form of notes or sketches, telling them what we need. In time, we receive a computer-generated stencil that is, in effect, made of super-fine rip-stop nylon that lays out the impression we need with great precision.

The stencil is taped to the part, wires attached, a hand piece with some sort of mysterious electrolytic solution daubed onto the stencil and, voilà, in a minute or two, we have markings that would be the envy of many manufacturers. Indeed, many firearms companies, including Freedom Arms, Thompson/Center and others, are using this technology. Our machine is one of those pieces of technology without which I would not

run a shop and is on the run-out-with-it-in-case-of-fire short list. Without it, my work would simply not exhibit the level of quality and professionalism I strive to achieve.

When you commission custom work than entails a change of caliber, where the maker wants to identify his work or you are simply restoring existing markings, be sure to query your gunsmith to ascertain the technology he plans to use. Like Bo-Mar sight installations on M1911 auto pistols, not all markings are created equal. Some are downright artful. Others you would pay good money *not* to inflict on a favorite gun. I like surprises as well as the next guy, just not those where the ensuing commentary can't be offered in polite society.

**GUNS**

TURNBULL MANUFACTURING CO.  
P.O. BOX 471  
BLOOMFIELD, NY 14469  
(585) 657-6338  
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/  
TURNBULL-RESTORATIONS

MARKING METHODS, INC.  
301 S. RAYMOND AVE.  
ALHAMBRA, CA 91803  
(626) 282-8823  
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/  
MARKING-METHODS

**L5AWM TRANSLUCENT MAGAZINE**

**L15 RECEIVER**

**WE'RE MORE THAN JUST MAGAZINES**

**LIGHTWEIGHT CARBON-FIBER HANDGUARD**

**MADE IN U.S.A.**

**LANCER**

7566 Morris Court, Suite 300 • Allentown, PA 18106 • 610.973.2600 • FAX: 610.973.2601 • www.Lancer-Systems.com

# RIFLEMAN

STORY: Dave Anderson

## LONG-RANGE OPTIC REDEFINED

Trijicon brings a thoroughbred to the tactical scope arena.

**T**rijicon has a well-earned reputation for high quality optics, from the combat-proven ACOG to the Accupoint hunting scopes. When they decided to make a long-range scope they didn't just dip a timid toe in the water. This is a company with technical know-how, facilities, resources, and a commitment to quality. In designing and building this scope they held nothing back.

Long range shooting demands a lot of the riflescope. Adjustments must be accurate. If the shooter dials in 15 Minutes Of Angle (MOA) elevation the scope has to deliver 15-MOA

movement, not 14.5. Adjustments, especially elevation, must be accurate over a wide range.

Optics must be high quality, so the shooter can resolve small, far-off



*Note the numbers on the turrets don't stop at 15. The Trijicon 3-15x50 has 1/4-MOA adjustments with 30 MOA per revolution.*

targets. The scope needs adjustable parallax. With hunting scopes parallax can be factory-set at some midrange distance (usually 150 yards), and be adequate over typical hunting ranges. Aiming errors which are inconsequential at moderate ranges become critical at long ranges.

The scope has to be tough and durable. Not just water resistant (that's basic), but tough in every way. Long-range shooters shoot a lot, often with rifles of considerable recoil. Everything about the scope (optical elements, reticle cell, focus and parallax adjustments) has to be tough enough to handle the recoil over a long period. The adjustments are used constantly, every time the range or wind changes.

It isn't enough to be mostly good. There's no point in boasting of brilliant optics if the adjustments aren't accurate. Accurate adjustments are useless if they aren't durable. The scope has to excel in every aspect. Such quality doesn't come cheap.

Trijicon's new scope, made in the USA, is a 3-15x50. Let's start with the foundation, the main tube. Many scope tubes have front and back sections, attached to a third section holding the adjustment turrets. Trijicon wanted a scope capable of handling the recoil of powerful cartridges such as the .338 Lapua and .50 BMG.

### Solid Construction

"Tough enough" was no part of Trijicon's thinking; the goal was "as tough as we can make it." The thick-walled, 34mm main scope tube is



*The Trijicon 3-15x50 scope, here on a Steyr SSG-08 rifle in .308 Win, has a main tube diameter of 34mm. Turrets are lifted to make adjustments, locked when pushed down. The 3" sunshade is included with the scope. Adjustments were accurate and repeatable. The Trijicon 3-15x50 long-range scope (below) on a Remington 700 in .308 Win. Turrets have 1/4-MOA clicks with 30 MOA per revolution. Flip-open scope caps are included.*



machined from one solid block of 6061 aluminum.

Both spherical and aspherical Schott glass lens elements are used. Lens coatings are mil-spec standard using technology from the ACOG sights. External surfaces are hard coat finished to resist scratching and moisture.

The left-side knob adjusts parallax from 40 yards to infinity. It also houses the battery (CR-2032) for the illuminated reticle. The illumination can be switched off or dialed to one of 10 settings.

### No See'um

Most illuminated reticles can be seen from the front, i.e. from the position of the target. For target shooters this is irrelevant. For police or military snipers it's a bad idea to provide your enemy a nice bright target. Just how Trijicon did it I'm not sure, but this illuminated reticle has no (as in zero) forward illumination.

The reticle is in the first focal plane and changes size as power is changed. The advantage is it can be used for Mil-Dot ranging at any power. Second focal plane reticles can only be used for ranging at a specific power.

### Reticles

Currently three reticle patterns are offered: JW Mil-Dot (JW is Jimmy White, a Marine sniper instructor and consultant to Trijicon), the "MOA" reticle with dots spaced 1 MOA apart or the thick/thin design which is virtually a standard on hunting scopes.

Adjustment turrets can be ordered to match the reticle, i.e. mil adjustments with the Mil-Dot reticle, MOA adjustments with the MOA reticle. Turrets are pulled out to make adjustments, firmly locked when pushed in. There's a zero-stop feature so the shooter can quickly return to the original setting.

### Wide Range

Adjustment range is generous: 150-MOA elevation, 120-MOA windage. By

## 3-15X50 LONG RANGE SCOPE

MAKER: TRIJICON  
49385 SHAFER AVE.  
WIXOM, MI 48393-0059  
(800) 338-0563  
[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/TRIJICON](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/TRIJICON)

**POWER RANGE:** 3X to 15X, **MAIN TUBE DIAMETER:** 34mm, **OBJECTIVE DIAMETER:** 50mm, **EYE RELIEF:** 3.33" (constant), **LENGTH:** 13.9", **WEIGHT:** 47 ounces,  
**ILLUMINATION:** 10 LED settings, zero forward emissions,  
**ADJUSTMENTS:** 1/4 MOA, **ADJUSTMENT RANGE:** 150 MOA (elevation), 120 MOA (windage), **RETICLES:** MOA, JW Mil-Dot, Thick/Thin, **PRICE:** TBA



*Dave "shot the box" at 100 yards with the Steyr SSG-08 rifle, Federal .308 Gold Match ammo, and Trijicon 3-15x50 scope. Lower right red diamond was aiming point for all shots. Dave dialed in 7.75-MOA (about 8.1") elevation, then 7.75-MOA left windage, then returned elevation to original zero. (Dave called the lower left as a less-than-perfect trigger break, even so the combined group would be not much over 1/2 MOA.)*

way of illustration, using a .338 Lapua with 250-grain MatchKings, from a 100-yard zero it takes (depending on velocity and various external factors) about 80 MOA to get to a mile, 100 MOA to get to 2,000 yards

While I can use Mil-Dot reticles for ranging and aiming, like most non-military shooters I'm more used to using MOA. I loved the MOA reticle, using turrets with 1/4-MOA clicks and 30 MOA per revolution.

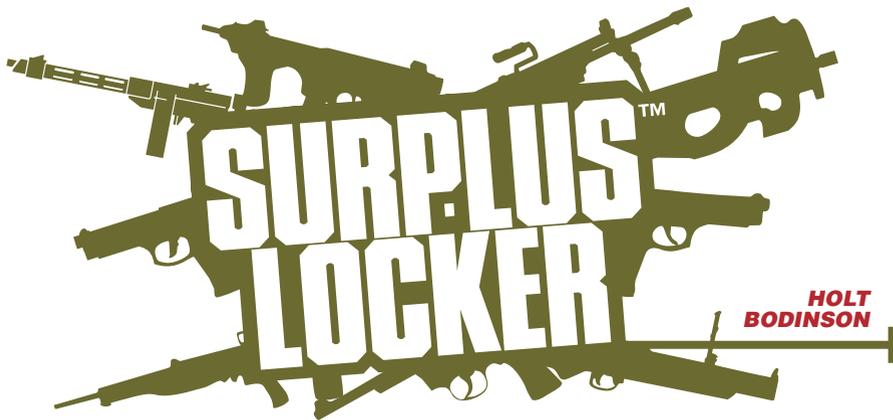
Testing a scope for accuracy is a waste of time unless rifle and ammunition are accurate. Trijicon made available scopes mounted on several accurate rifles, sighted in at 100 yards and with range cards showing come-ups out to 1,000 yards (the furthest target available was 950 yards).

I did most of my shooting with a Steyr SSG-08 in .308, using Federal's superb 168-grain Gold Match ammunition. This Steyr, incidentally, is an incredible rifle. Since it retails for a little under \$6,000 I'll likely never have the opportunity to shoot one again. The thought makes me sad.

Adjustments proved to be dead-on accurate. Using the range card numbers I dialed in elevation for various targets, from 100 to 950 yards. Invariably they were right on. The adjustments on this rifle got a lot of use. There were a few occasions when I dropped my guard and other writers got hold of the Steyr. Among us we probably fired 800-plus rounds through the Steyr, with elevation (and sometimes windage) adjusted for about every shot. Adjustments were completely reliable from start to finish.

Resolution and clarity are equal to any scope I've ever used, including those generally recognized as the very best. Trijicon's new scope is a gem. **GUNS**





## THE ELUSIVE MADSEN

One of the last of  
the military bolt-action rifles.

One of the most interesting, elusive and odd milsurps to reach our shores is the Danish Model 47 Madsen rifle. Odd? Well, considering that the Madsen was designed and manufactured after WWII, this unique rifle is considered to be the last, general issue, military bolt-action rifle ever designed in the 20th century. It's the timing of the Madsen bolt-action rifle which is so odd.

Introduced in 1951 to members of an international arms community, already awash in WWII surplus semi-auto and selective-fire rifles and carbines as well as surplus and newly manufactured military bolt actions, the fate of the new Madsen rifle was almost preordained—a preordained failure—which makes it all the more fascinating as a milsurp since so few were actually made.

There has been little written about the Madsen, which, given their rarity, is understandable so I went searching for some original Madsen publications. I had to look no further than Cornell Publications' incredible treasury of 3,000+ old gun catalogs and 600+ old gun manuals, including factory gunsmithing manuals.

Over the past decade, collectors all over the world loaned Cornell



*With its integral muzzlebrake and straight stock, the Madsen rifle delivers very little recoil. The elusive Madsen (below) is easily recognized by its distinctive profile and unique features.*



### MODEL 47

**MAKER:** Madsen, Copenhagen, Denmark, **ACTION TYPE:** Bolt action, **CALIBER:** .30-06, **CAPACITY:** 5, **BARREL LENGTH:** 23.4", **OVERALL LENGTH:** 43.3", **WEIGHT:** 8.5 pounds, **FINISH:** Baked-on, black enamel, Parkerized, **SIGHTS:** Adjustable aperture rear, hooded post front, **STOCK:** Stained beech, **VALUE:** \$400+

Pubs catalog and manual collections. Cornell prints out the catalogs and manuals on demand. The resulting reproductions in b&w or color are of high quality and inexpensive, compared to the cost of an original, if you could even find one.

Fortunately, Cornell had two Madsen catalogs: one devoted exclusively to the "Madsen Lightweight Military Rifle" and the second to much broader offerings of Madsen products including light and heavy machine guns, submachine guns, mortars, 20mm cannons and the Madsen-made Ljungman semi-automatic rifle.

### Top Successes

As an arms manufacturer dating back to the beginning of the 20th century, Dansk Industri Syndikat, known as the Madsen Company, located in Copenhagen, Denmark, was best known for the development of the first, really successful light machine gun in 1902. Eventually adopted by 32 countries in a variety of calibers, the Madsen light machinegun was in production as late as the 1960s. The Madsen submachine gun, too, was a successful development and even appeared in the hands of our Special Forces and indigenous allies during the Vietnam War.

Madsen never made it big as an arms manufacturer, but their quality products were well received in countries that had no significant domestic arms industries of their own, particularly in South America and Asia.

To quote from their catalog, "The Madsen Lightweight Military Rifle is a magazine rifle developed for the purpose of getting a weapon of lighter weight than the infantry rifles

most generally in use, and of a size and form convenient also for soldiers of comparatively small stature. At special request from a country in the tropics, a rifle of this development requirement was designed, and the first model became available in 1951."

The catalog goes on to say the rifle can be supplied in any standard military caliber from 6.5mm to 8mm, including 7.62 NATO, and can be fitted with a telescopic sight.

### Columbian Navy

As far as we know, the only major contract ever received for the Madsen Lightweight Rifle was for 5,000 rifles in .30-06 caliber for the Columbian Navy in the early 1950s. In Columbia, it was known as the Model 58. The rifle pictured here is from that contract, and the front receiver ring of this rifle and every Madsen I've ever examined carries the inscription "FUERZAS ARMADAS DE COLUMBIA" (Naval Forces of Columbia). What's curious to me about the Columbian purchase of the Madsen is that, at the same time, Columbia was buying FN Model 1950 short rifles in .30-06 from Fabrique Nationale. The international arms trade is indeed "a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma."

Mechanically, the Madsen is a simple rifle to produce to keep its cost as low as possible. The split bridge receiver, a la Mannlicher, is cylindrical. It's a rear-locking action. The front is threaded for a 23.4" barrel, and the interior of the rear split bridge is milled out with two locking recesses to receive the rear-lugged bolt. There are clip slots milled into the rear receiver ring, and the left receiver wall is cut out to form a deep thumb notch to aid charging the magazine with stripper clips. Madsen states the rifle could be ordered with either a 5-shot or 10-shot magazine.

The simple bolt consists of only seven parts—the bolt body, extractor, firing pin, mainspring, cocking piece, safety and end cap. It can be disassembled in seconds. The bolt body incorporates a long, integral rib serving to stabilize and insure the smooth operation of the bolt as well as functioning as

a third locking lug and gas release point. The bolt stop and mechanical ejector are cleverly combined in a single part depressed when the trigger is squeezed allowing the bolt to be readily removed from the receiver.

To place the rifle on "Safe," the latch-activated safety is rotated clockwise 90 degrees into a vertical position. When engaged, it retracts the cocking piece from the sear, locks the bolt handle and blocks the sights.

The rear sight is as unique as the Madsen itself. Mounted ahead of the front receiver ring, the sight combines a large aperture with a tangent ramp graduated from 100 to 900 meters. The sight also sports a micrometer windage scale and a large windage-adjusting knob on the right front portion of the sight. The front sight is a conventional hooded post. As odd as it looks, it's a practical and

precise sighting setup and fast to acquire.

Madsen deserves real credit for designing a rifle that minimizes felt recoil. The comb of the stock resembles that of a modern sporting rifle. The heel of the butt is very high and almost in line with the bore of the barrel. From that point forward, the thick, well-rounded comb slants gently toward a pronounced pistol grip while the buttstock itself is fitted with a thick, rubber recoil pad. It's a stock design that directs the recoil in line and straight back, protecting the shooter's cheek, and given its deep pistol grip, it provides excellent trigger control while getting the shooter's thumb out of the way.

Equally effective in moderating recoil is the Madsen's muzzlebrake. The end of the barrel is counterbored

and radially drilled with 36 holes arranged from 9 to 3 o'clock. It's a very effective brake, and when combined with the excellent stocking of the Madsen, transforms the .30-06 into a pussycat.

Again, keeping the cost down while providing a durable finish, Madsen used baked-on, black enamel on all metal parts of the rifle, except the bolt which is simply Parkerized. For naval use, the black enamel would be a Parkerized base would seem to be ideal.

How does the Madsen shoot? First of all, let me say the Columbian naval model does not seem to be either a "lightweight" or proportioned for "soldiers of comparatively small stature." On my Sunbeam scale it registers a weight of 8-1/2 pounds. The length-of-pull measures 13-1/2" while the circumference of the pistol grip scales out to a generous 6". This Madsen is a full-sized military rifle with an overall length of 43.3".

As I routinely do, I used a standard, target handload to see just what the military Madsen was made of. My .30-06 target load is assembled around a 168-grain Sierra MatchKing, 42.0 grains of IMR 4064, Winchester brass and a standard Winchester primer. Out of a target rifle, it will stay within 1/2" at 100 yards. Out of the Madsen, it averaged 2" for 5-shot groups at 100 yards. Not exceptional but not bad for a military rifle, military sights and a 7-pound, 5-ounce, trigger. What I like most about shooting the Madsen is its clear sight picture and lack of felt recoil. It's a very pleasant rifle to shoot, and it feeds, fires, extracts and ejects perfectly.

Elusive? Yes, but Madsen's do keep showing up at gun shows, on dealers' shelves and over the Internet. I have a hunch all 5,000 Columbian naval models ended up on our shores, so keep your eye out for this most unusual and historical Danish milsurp. **GUN**

MADSEN FACTORY CATALOG REPRINT  
 CORNELL PUBLICATIONS  
 P.O. BOX 214, BRIGHTON, MI 48116  
 (810) 225-3075  
 WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/  
 CORNELL-PUBLICATIONS



**The aperture rear sight features elevation adjustments from 100 to 900 meters and a micrometer windage scale.**



**The Madsen is a rear-locking action with a rear-locking bolt.**



**Engaged, the safety retracts the cocking piece, locks the bolt handle and blocks out the sights.**



**The Madsen was available with either a 5-round (pictured) or 10-round magazine box.**



**A long, integral bolt lug insures smooth operation and serves as a third recoil lug when the bolt is closed. Note the stripper clip guides ahead of the bolt.**



**The Madsen's 36-hole muzzlebrake is simple and highly effective. The front sight is protected by a hood.**

# OUT<sup>TM</sup> of the BOX

DAVE ANDERSON

## ON GUARD Weatherby's PA-459 TR 12-gauge shotgun.

**“Have you noticed something unusual at the range recently?”** my wife Simone asked as we were driving home on an August day. With several projects on the go we had been to the range at least daily, sometimes twice a day, for the past week. Simone generally goes along to help with photos and video.

I thought a moment. “Well, the range has been busy lately, but it often is in August with hunters getting ready for deer season. Is that it?”

“No,” she replied, “What I noticed was just about every day, there were more women shooting than men.”

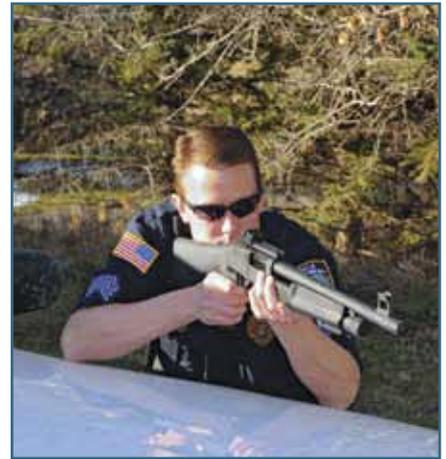
Staff at a local gun shop confirmed they are seeing more women buying guns than ever before. Customers, men and women both, are most interested in firearms for personal and home defense. Concealed carry classes have waiting lists.

We're located in a low-crime rural area where hunting is a tradition and sales of hunting firearms remain stable. But even here, self-defense sales drive the market. If you wonder why,

I suggest you read Mark Steyn's latest book on the decline of civilization, *After America: Get Ready for Armageddon*.

It's not a book about survival preparation (the only firearm advice is “get a gun”). It's about recognizing and (let's hope) reversing the social and economic decline. Steyn has the amazing ability to scare the daylights out of you and make you laugh out loud in the same paragraph.

With concealed carry in mind obviously many customers choose handguns. But for home defense there is a great demand for shotguns, and rightly so. Generally (not always), it's easier to reach an acceptable standard of marksmanship with a long gun



*Sgt. Shawn Wegner serves on his department's SWAT team in addition to regular police duties. He tested the PA-459 extensively and felt with a couple of added features (sling swivel studs and an adjustable stock for use when wearing tactical gear) it would make a good duty weapon. Currently Sgt. Wegner is serving overseas with his National Guard unit. I hope by the time you read this, he'll have returned safely and resumed his police duties.*

than a handgun. The shotgun adds decisive stopping power, versatility and a high intimidation factor.

One of the best choices, and certainly an outstanding value, is the Weatherby PA-459 based on Weatherby's well made and reliable pump-action PA-08 sporting shotgun. It uses a CNC-machined alloy receiver with a steel bolt locking into a barrel extension.

The PA-459 is built on the same reliable design as the PA-08, but with features making it better suited as a defensive shotgun. It has an 18-1/2" chrome-lined barrel with a ported cylinder choke tube. A steel Picatinny-style rail is bolted to the receiver.

An LPA rear sight is supplied which bolts to the rail and provides a “ghost ring” sight picture. The front sight assembly, a bright red fiber-optic sight protected by sight wings puts the



*Reasonably light (7 pounds), compact and fast handling, the Weatherby PA-459 is an excellent defensive shotgun. The long forearm provides flexibility in placement of the support hand.*

sight high enough to align properly with the rear sight.

The synthetic butt stock has a shorter 13-1/2" length-of-pull than the hunting PA-08, with a thick and very effective recoil pad. The stock has an integral pistol grip.

Police officer friends who tried the PA-459 felt the pistol grip makes the shotgun handier to maneuver in tight spaces, or to fire 1-handed if necessary (for example if opening doors or handling a flashlight with the other hand). And it gives the shooter a better purchase on the gun should an assailant try and grab it.

### Forward Rails

The synthetic forearm has a rail for accessories such as lights or laser aiming devices. The forearm is long, giving you lots of flexibility in hand placement. The receiver-mounted Picatinny rail can be used to fit scopes or red-dot sights, giving you multiple options in "sighting and lighting" gear.

There's an extended/enlarged slide release, easy to access under stress, or with gloves on. The crossbolt safety is located behind the triggerguard. It operated crisply and reliably. I wouldn't mind having an oversize safety button for more positive access, though I encountered no problems



*The LPA adjustable rear sight (above) bolts to the Picatinny-style rail mounted on the receiver. A large sight opening provides a "ghost ring" sight picture and is protected by the steel body of the sight. The system is accurate and very fast. The front sight (below) is mounted on a high base to bring sight in line with the rear sight. The bright fiber optic is easy to see in dim light and is protected from accidental impacts by steel wings. The ports on the extended cylinder choke tube help reduce muzzle jump.*



## PA-459 TR

MAKER: WEATHERBY, INC.  
1605 COMMERCE WAY  
PASO ROBLES, CA 93446  
(805) 227-2600

[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/WEATHERBY](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/WEATHERBY)

**ACTION TYPE:** Pump, **GAUGE:** 12, **BARREL:** 1-1/2", chrome lined, 3" chamber, **CHOKE:** Ported cylinder tube, **CAPACITY:** 5+1 (2-3/4" shells), 4+1 (3"), **WEIGHT:** 7 pounds, **OVERALL LENGTH:** 39", **STOCK:** Synthetic, **FOREARM:** Synthetic, with rail, **SIGHT BASE:** Picatinny sight rail, **SIGHTS:** LPA adjustable ghost ring rear, fiber-optic front, **RETAIL:** \$417

with it. The only other feature I might want would be sling swivel studs—not needed for home defense, but they'd be handy if you were using the shotgun to hunt deer.

The PA-459 weighs 7 pounds, is 39" long, and balances and handles very nicely. Operation is smooth, crisp and reliable. Trigger pull was a bit over 4 pounds with some creep. To check functioning, I ran 100 rounds of birdshot through it with no malfunctions. A friend who shot the gun extensively didn't care for the shape of the cartridge lifter, finding it would snag his finger while loading the magazine.

### Slugs & Buckshot

Rifled slugs from the bench in this light shotgun weren't exactly fun to shoot but the recoil pad and the ported choke tube helped make recoil tolerable. Accuracy proved to be very good, with groups at 50 yards in the 3" to 4" range. Such accuracy isn't exceptional in an era of rifled shotgun barrels and tubes, but is good for a conventional smooth barrel. Federal loads with 1-ounce slugs are rated at 1,610 fps and chronographed at around 1,480 fps in the short barrel.

The cylinder choke handled buckshot quite well. With Federal loads (00 Buck, 9 pellets) at 25 yards the Weatherby consistently put all 9 pellets on a standard USPSA target (about 18" wide, 30" high) with most in the A-zone (about 6" wide, 19" high). At 50 yards the PA-459 still placed a majority of pellets (five to seven) on target.

The PA-459 is very well made, reliable and smooth in operation. At \$417 it is an exceptionally good value. Hunters will want to check out the "Digital TR" version with camo stock pattern and sling swivel studs. Those preferring a more conventional stock/forearm design should check out the PA-08 TR, at an even more attractive price (\$368). I believe a good shotgun should be part of every home-defense plan; The Weatherby PA-459 TR is a good one.

**GUNS**

# CLASS 1

## EYE-SAFE INFRARED LASERS

250 YARD RANGE  
MILITARY GRADE  
AFFORDABLE  
LEGAL TO PURCHASE



**LASER DEVICES**  
Inc.  
MAKING WARRIORS MORE EFFECTIVE

Tel 831.373.0701 | 800.235.2162  
Fax 831.373.0903  
sales@laserdevices.com  
www.laserdevices.com

# ELITE SPORTS EXPRESS

Visit one of our three traveling showrooms at a dealer near you and get your hands on the hottest new products from today's top manufacturers.



See our 2012 show dates online at [www.elitesportsexpress.com](http://www.elitesportsexpress.com)  
To book the ESE or get your products on board, call Don at 702-528-6771

# Q&A

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Got a burning question to ask the editor? Contact him at:  
E-mail: [ed@gunsmagazine.com](mailto:ed@gunsmagazine.com)  
or postal at: GUNS Q&A,  
12345 World Trade Dr., San Diego, CA 92128. Due to the volume of mail received, GUNS cannot offer a personal reply.

### Rechamber A .22 Short?

**Q:** I have a Remington Model 4 Rolling Block in .22 Short and .22 Long. The bore and action are in excellent condition. There is slight surface rust on the exterior and the woodwork is bruised, so is not collector grade. Could it be rechambered to .22 LR?

Paul  
via e-mail

**A:** I would advise against rechambering the Remington. It's barrel will have the 1:20" twist of the .22 Short and won't stabilize .22 LR. CCI



Note the spot of thick rust at 2 o'clock just above the buttplate screw.



Spray a little G96 on the spot and gently rub it with a 5¢ piece (I prefer 5¢ pieces made of nickel). Note how the rust dissolves.



This buttplate has little original finish underneath, yet the area now is free of damaging rust and the patina is preserved.

**TOTAL ACCESS  
TOTAL CONCEALMENT  
TOTAL COMFORT!**

DeSantis Didn't Invent Concealment We Just Perfected It!

**Intruder™**

- Totally tuckable
- Detail-molded Kydex®
- Holster back made of premium steerhide for comfort
- Optional J-Clips available



MSRP  
**\$64.95**  
Style 105

**De Santis**  
GUNHIDE

800-GUNHIDE  
631-841-6300

Dept #GM42

[www.desantisholster.com](http://www.desantisholster.com)

431 Bayview Avenue,  
Amityville, NY 11701

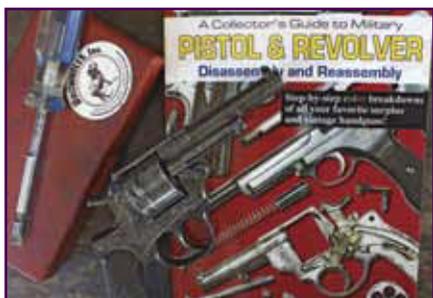


still loads .22 Short and .22 Long, so it's not like you can't shoot it. It'll be fun the way it is. If it just has light surface rust, go easy on it. G96 Gun Treatment really works well on rust and will leave the remaining blue and patina alone. Spray a little G96 on and gently rub the high spots off the rust with a 5¢ piece or a piece of brass (0000 steel wool will work, but be careful—steel wool can be a little aggressive).

G96  
85-5TH AVE BLDG #6  
PATERSON, NJ 07524-1112  
(877) 332-0035  
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/G96

### Answering Questions

A new book from Mowbray Publishing will be a boon to students of military firearms old and new. Even if you never want to disassemble your firearm, you may want this book as well if only for the detailed look at the mechanisms.



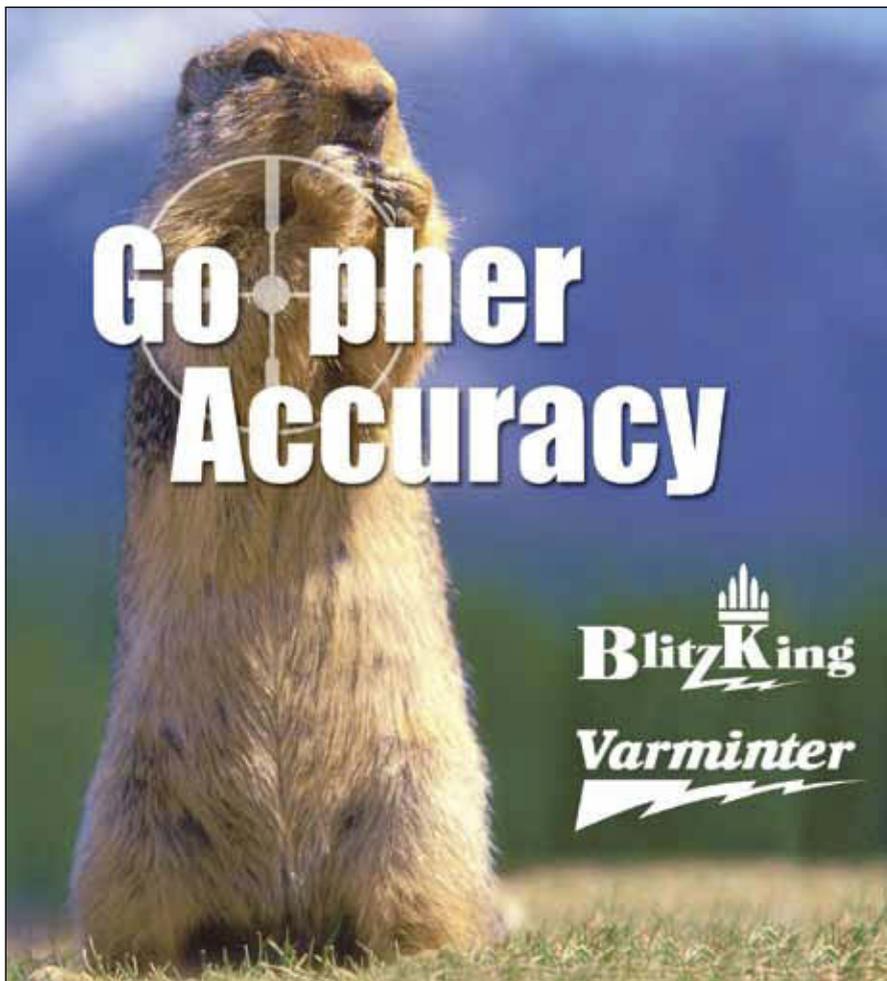
**The new book on disassembly of military pistols and revolvers by Mowbray and Puleo will prove a boon to both collectors and students. Be sure and buy the correct tools, including a good screwdriver set such as this one from Brownells!**

A total of 51 vintage European and American handguns spanning the globe from 1873 to late 1980s are disassembled as far as is practical for the average gun owner. The authors, Stuart C. Mowbray and Joe Puleo, stop the process when specialized tools or more gunsmithing knowledge than the average home gunsmith possesses becomes a requisite to further disassembly (such as with the Soviet Tokarev's hammer subassembly).

Many of the firearms are ones rarely seen and this glimpse inside their mechanisms is a fascinating study and a fun read in and of itself.

**GUNS**

A COLLECTOR'S GUIDE TO MILITARY PISTOL & REVOLVER DISASSEMBLY AND REASSEMBLY, ©2011, BY STUART C. MOWBRAY & JOE PULEO, 8-1/2"X11", 280 PAGES, 1,217 COLOR PHOTOS, ISBN: 978-1-931464-50-5, \$39.95, MOWBRAY PUBLISHING, 54 E. SCHOOL ST., WOONSOCKET, RI 02895, (800) 999-4697, WWW.MANATARMSBOOKS.COM



# Go-pher Accuracy

**BlitzKing**  
**Varminter**

Sierra BlitzKing and Varminter bullets are the most effective bullets for varmint and small game hunting. BlitzKing bullets have a MatchKing jacket for optimum accuracy and an acetyl resin tip for explosive expansion. Varminter bullets are designed with a thin jacket to enhance expansions over a wide range of velocities. Now available in .20 caliber to .30 caliber. When you get ready for your next hunt, go-pher accuracy.



**SIERRA**  
The Bulletsmiths®

Contact your favorite dealer for the complete line of Sierra bullets or visit [www.sierrabullets.com](http://www.sierrabullets.com)

1400 West Henry Street | Sedalia, MO 65301 | Tech support: 1-800-223-8799 | Other calls: 1-888-223-3006



WWW.SPARTANBLADESUSA.COM  
910-757-0035

MADE IN USA



# SWITCH-BARREL MAGIC

**Jeff John**

If you thought the science around rifles with interchangeable calibers had been settled, you're in for a great surprise. Most such rifles have European origins and are normally quite expensive. Thompson/Center's new Dimension Rifle Platform is not only inexpensive at \$599 retail for a complete rifle, it is a modular system allowing an owner to inexpensively acquire a new rifle in any of its 10 calibers and put it together in approximately 5 minutes. The caliber kits start at \$199 retail for barrel and magazine group, and \$99 if another bolt is needed due to a change in case head size.

The incredible versatility of the system offers calibers in four families called "A," "B," "C" and "D" based on case head size or cartridge length. The "A" family handles cartridges based on the .223 head size, "B" handles .308 Winchester-length, "C" .30-06-length cartridges and "D" the belted mags in the .300 Winchester Magnum length. By breaking down the calibers in this fashion and providing magazine groups for each family, the bolt only travels as far as needed in the receiver to feed and eject the cartridges in its family. The annoying problem of bolt overtravel during cycling of the small .223 in an action long enough for the .300 Win Mag is eliminated.

The rifle is a lightweight 6-1/2 pounds, slightly lighter in .223 and the initial offerings are hunting rifles. The weight reduction is chiefly accomplished by making the receiver out of aluminum, which also moves the balance point forward, giving the rifle superb handling characteristics. Since the steel bolt's locking lugs engage recesses CNC machined into the barrel, all pressure containment is confined to the steel parts. The aluminum receiver only houses the bolt stop and trigger, which has a user-adjustable range from 3-1/2 pounds to 5 pounds. On the four pre-production samples we fired, all broke crisply and cleanly.



**Wayne Van Zwoll shoots the new Dimension Platform rifle at the 100-yard range at Rancho Oso.**

The top of the receiver is drilled and tapped for Weaver-style scope mounts (factory supplied) and a nifty magnesium cantilever scope mount can be added for \$59. This dedicates the scope to a particular barrel so it will maintain its zero between swaps. The cantilever mount is also secured to a corresponding receiver mount by one screw, so the scope doesn't float over the action. Use of the supplied action torque wrench on this screw, as well as the action screws, ensures return to zero.

During initial testing, the scope-barrel combo stayed in reasonable zero when switched out. A hunter would want to re-zero in camp (always a good idea) and this would entail moving the point of aim no more than an inch or less. I took apart and reassembled the .223 and .30-06 multiple times during the test. Both went right back very close to zero.

The light, injection-molded polymer stock, which features Hogue overmolding in the grip areas, has two 1/2" spacers to adjust overall length down from 13-1/2" to 12-1/2" to accommodate smaller stature shooters or heavy clothing. The rubber recoil pad is a T/C design. Although not a Sorbothane pad, it still helped tame the recoil of even the .300 Win Mag. The initial guns will have hunting-contour barrels, and the stock's barrel channel is wide enough to accommodate varmint-weight heavy barrels, which are planned for



**All key components of the T/C Dimension are letter marked with the caliber family. The "A" series is dedicated to the .223 Remington case head size, and all of these components are necessary to switch from .30-06 to .223. On the other hand, a switch from .223 to .204 Ruger would only entail a new barrel.**



Jeff and several other writers tested the new T/C Dimension Platform rifle at the Rancho Oso private range in Arroy Grande, California in July 2011. Here, the .300 Winchester Magnum sits ready to ring the 1,000-yard gong with Hornady ammunition.

the future.

The action screws to a V-block upfront and a separate rear pillar, both molded into the stock. The rifle comes with the tools necessary to quickly and easily swap out the calibers. One

tool is a torque wrench to ensure the barrel lock nut, action screws and one screw at the back of the cantilever scope mount are given the exact foot-pounds of force necessary to maintain accuracy between swaps.

The fluted bolt runs smoothly through the aluminum receiver and feeding from the 3-shot detachable magazine was sure. The magazine is same as used in the T/C Venture. The barrels feature T/C's 5R rifling, which deforms the bullet less on its travel down the barrel, improving accuracy, so it fouls less and cleans up faster. T/C offers a 1-MOA guarantee with the rifle.

This system, easily mastered by anyone who can use a screwdriver, offers incredible versatility to the shooter. With many more calibers and styles of rifle planned, it is not unsafe to say the T/C Dimension Rifle Platform will become the "Mr. Potato Head" of bolt-action rifles. And I say that with all due respect. There will no doubt be an incredible array of aftermarket accessories for this platform in short order, creating many new dimensions.

**GUNS**



The Dimension .30-06 was disassembled between these two groups (above) and Jeff found shooting technique matters (note the vertical stringing of the group on the left of the target). After a third disassembly/reassembly, and ensuring the fore-end was held the same way as in group one, the third group (below) was much closer to the first group and exhibited no vertical stringing.



HORNADY  
3625 W. OLD POTASH HWY  
GRAND ISLAND, NE 68803  
(800) 338-3220

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/HORNADY

THOMPSON/CENTER  
2100 ROOSEVELT AVE.  
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01104  
(866) 730-1614

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/THOMPSONCENTER

# CZ P-07 DUTY



## Today's Most Versatile Handgun!

### FEATURES

- Convertible (safety or decocker)
- Compact size
- New Omega trigger system
- Polymer frame with light rail
- 16+1 9mm, 12+1 .40 S&W
- Two magazines



**CZ-USA**  
PROTECT • HUNT • COMPETE

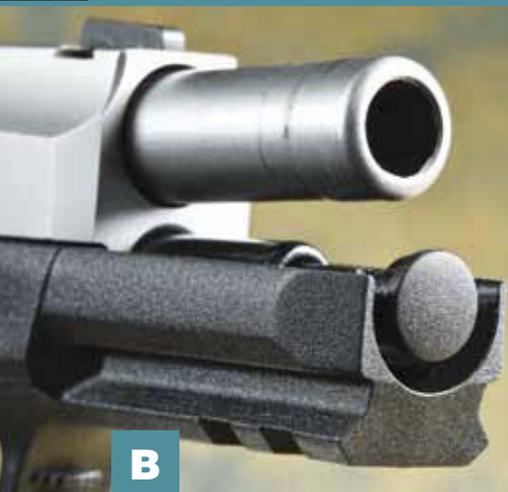
P.O. Box 171073, Kansas City, KS 66117-0073  
Toll-free: (800) 955-4486  
Phone: (913) 321-1811  
E-mail: info@cz-usa.com

**www.cz-usa.com**



A) The new Taurus 24/7 G2 is a compact, reliable 15+1 .40 S&W self-loading pistol. (B) The recoil spring is on a full-length rod and the end of the barrel has a slight "cannon muzzle" to fit the slide. (C) One extra safety is the lever in the center of the trigger to prevent its travel unless it is first depressed. (D) The slide-to-frame fit is excellent and an ambidextrous thumb safety is also provided. (E) A loaded-chamber indicator is provided atop the slide. (F) Fixed 3-dot sights are provided and deliver a clear, strong sight picture. (G) An accessory rail is provided under the frame for lights, lasers or both.

A



B



C



D

# DAY OR NIGHT

## Taurus 24/7 G2 **.40** S&W delivers.

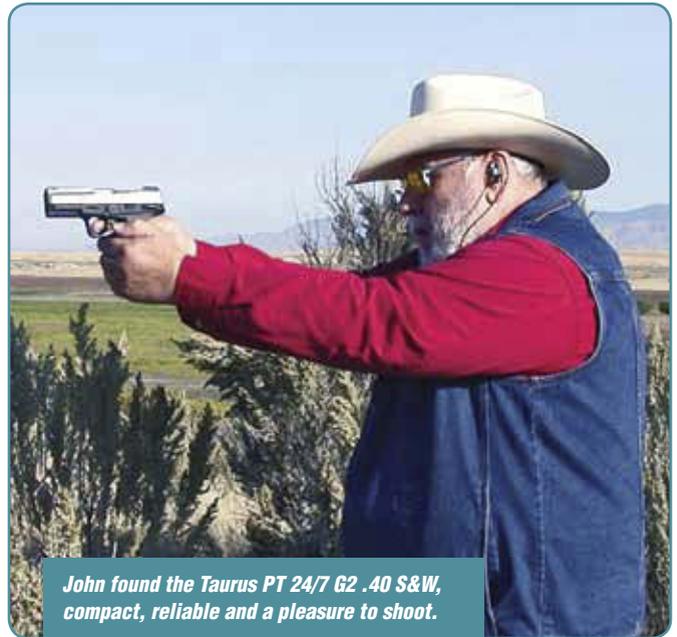
**John Taffin**

**Photos: Joseph R. Novelozo**

**T**aurus is one of the truly remarkable success stories in the firearms industry. I'm not sure when they changed from being a follower to a leader but for me the realization came more than 15 years ago with their introduction of the Raging Bull series of big-bore revolvers. Since that time, Taurus has been both innovative and aggressive and shooters have benefited. A perfect example of the path Taurus is following can be seen in their newest semi-automatic pistol.

I should say pistols as their PT 24/7 G2 is not simply available in one or two variations, but would you believe 24 choices await us with this one basic model? This includes eight versions each in three chamberings: 9mm, .45 ACP, and the test model before us, in .40 S&W. Taurus obviously does not know how to do things in a small way.

When the .40 S&W arrived two decades ago two of my very good friends, well known in the industry, dubbed it "short & weak." Since that time it has proven itself to be a serious self-defense and law enforcement cartridge and is the official chambering of many departments. Ballistically speaking, the .40 S&W is a dead ringer for the old .38-40 cartridge from frontier days. A 180-grain bullet at 1,000 fps was serious from a Colt Single Action



*John found the Taurus PT 24/7 G2 .40 S&W, compact, reliable and a pleasure to shoot.*

in the 1880s and it is certainly still serious today from a semi-automatic pistol. Add in the fact the Colt only carried five rounds while the Taurus 24/7 G2 has a carrying capacity more than three times that amount as well as being easily backed up by an extra magazine or two. Two extra magazines are certainly much easier to carry than a cartridge belt full of rounds.

The Colt along with a period holster and belt may look more romantic, but romantic is not what is needed in a serious situation. I have two Colt Single Actions with 4-3/4" barrels chambered in .38-40. One is 100-years old with a well-worn finish and pearl grips while the other is of more recent manufacture, fully engraved with ivory stocks. They are both beautiful, soul-stirring sixguns and I look oh so good packing them while at the same time



**E**



**F**



**G**

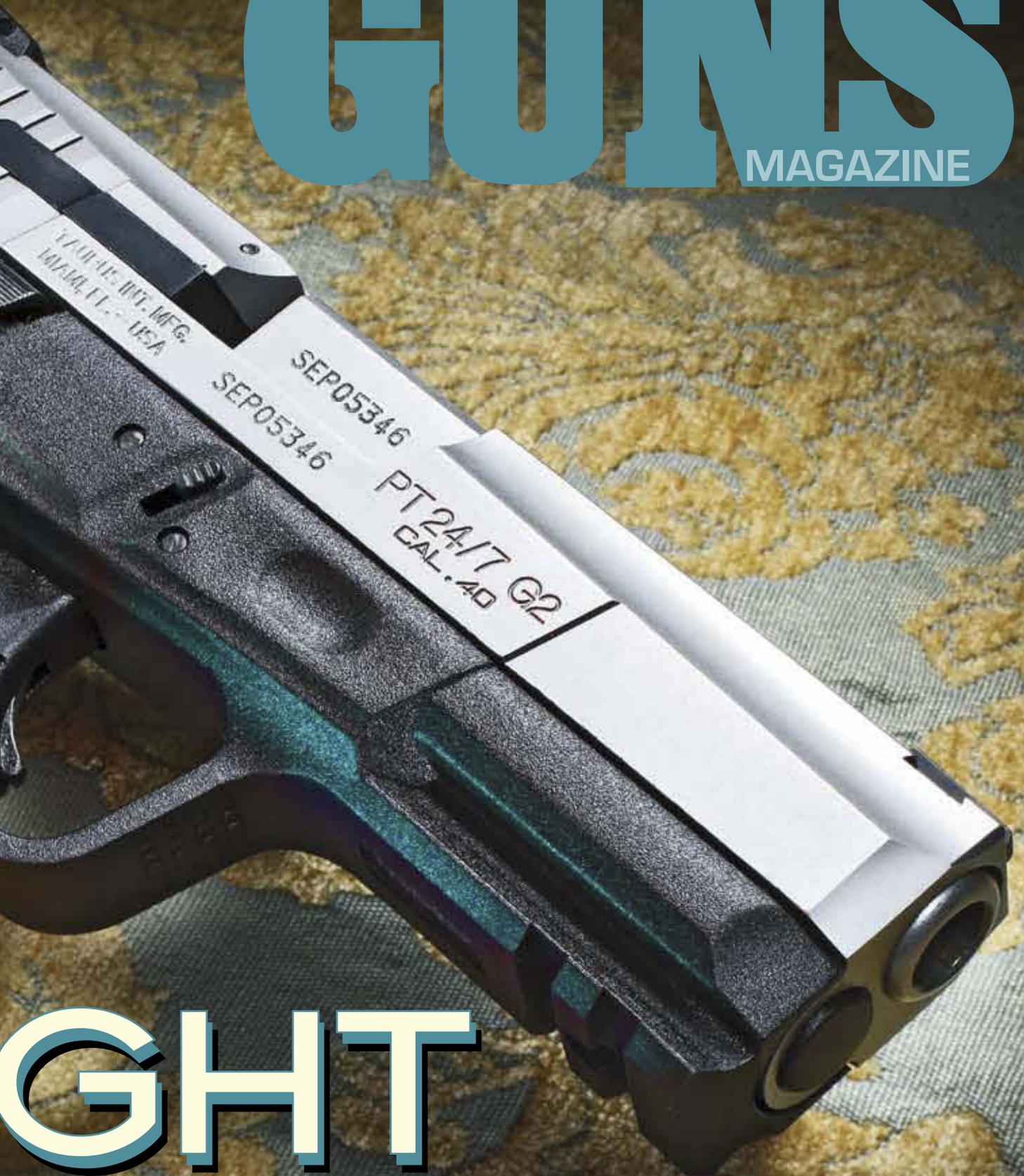


# DAY OR NIGHT

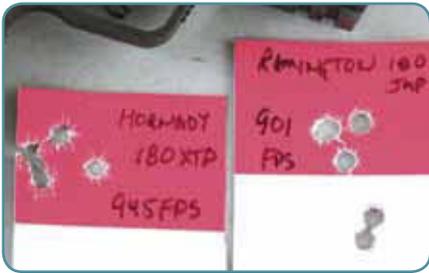
*Taurus 24/7 G2 .40 S&W delivers.*

# GUNS

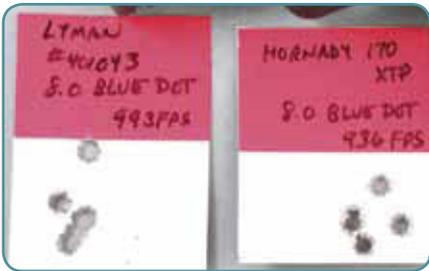
MAGAZINE



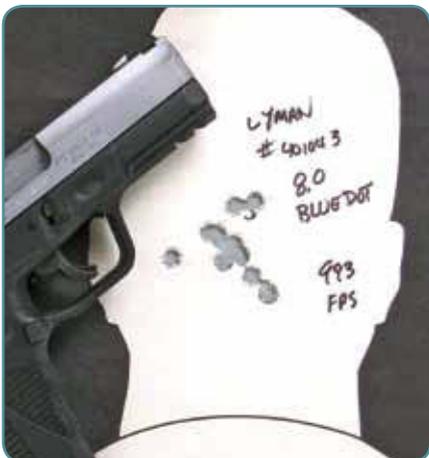
# GHT



The targets John fired with factory and hand-loaded ammunition at 20 yards proved the Taurus quite accurate. The G2 24/7 proved perfectly reliable, too.



Shooting rapid fire at 7 yards (above) with Black Hills 165-grain JHPs proved the Taurus a dependable, accurate pistol, and even so shooting rapid fire at 7 yards with cast bullet handloads.



connecting with the past. But you can bet if I was expecting trouble it would not be the .38-40 single actions I would choose. There would be no hesitation and even though it lacks engraving and ivory grips the Taurus would be riding under my jacket; so much for "short & weak."

That takes care of the cartridge and we can now turn our attention to the pistol itself. The Taurus 24/7 G2 is a polymer-framed, double-action semi-automatic pistol with a steel slide and obviously someone sat down and tried to include everything anyone would want in a high-capacity self-defense pistol. Our test version has a stainless steel slide and a 4.2" barrel.

Total length is just under 7.5" taking it out of the compact category but still small enough for easy carrying and concealability given the right holster and clothing. In .40 chambering weight is 27.5 ounces while the 9mm and .45 ACP versions are 1 ounce heavier and 1 ounce lighter respectively. Capacity of the .40 is 15+1 while the 9mm gains two rounds more and the .45 has three rounds less.

As far as operating mode the 24/7 G2 is striker fired, with both double- and single-action capabilities, and every time the slide cycles it pre-cocks the firing pin. Unlike many other similar polymer pistols if ammunition should fail to fire the Taurus is designed to automatically go to a double-action condition and pulling the trigger again allows the second hit of the primer without having to recycle the slide. Yes, even factory ammunition will sometimes fail to fire on the first strike while a second strike may ignite it. Hopefully, our ammunition never fails to fire, however if it should we at least get a second chance.

Sights on the 24/7 G2 are excellent being of the 3-white-dot variety having a fully adjustable rear sight with a square notch matched up with a post front sight. The front sight is set in a dovetail so it can also be adjusted for windage or changed if a taller or shorter sight is desired. There is a rail in front of the triggerguard for a light or laser. Thankfully, there is no magazine disconnect safety. That is, with the magazine removed the pistol will still fire. The magazine is easily removed by pressing the ambidextrous magazine release set in the grip frame at the juncture of the back of the triggerguard. The trigger has a trigger safety sent into the face of the trigger and this firearm will not fire unless it is depressed. Application of the Brownells Trigger Pull Gauge results in a double-action reading of 10 pounds.

The Taurus 24/7 G2 is loaded with

## 24/7 G2

MAKER: TAURUS INTERNATIONAL, BRAZIL  
 IMPORTER: TAURUS USA  
 16175 N.W. 49TH AVE.  
 MIAMI, FL 33014  
 (305) 624-1115  
 WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/TAURUS

**ACTION TYPE:** Semi-automatic, **CALIBER:** .40 S&W, **CAPACITY:** 15+1, **BARREL LENGTH:** 4.2", **OVERALL LENGTH:** 7.28", **WEIGHT:** 28 ounces, **FINISH:** Stainless steel slide, polymer frame, **SIGHTS:** 3-dot, fully adjustable, **GRIPS:** Integral polymer, **PRICE:** \$498

manual and automatic safety features. The most obvious ones, of course, are the mentioned trigger safety in the center of the trigger along with an ambidextrous manual thumb safety. In its center position the manual safety allows the pistol to fire. When moved upward it works as a normal thumb safety and when pressed downwards it de-cocks the firing mechanism while still allowing the pistol to fire in double-action mode.

There is also a firing-pin block which prevents the firing pin from going forward and igniting a primer until the trigger is in its full movement. This means dropping the pistol, something we hope never happens, will not result in an accidental (negligent?) discharge. On the top of the pistol behind the chamber we find a loaded chamber indicator which protrudes slightly upward when a cartridge is in place. It is red in color and easily seen or felt. At the rear of the slide a small red-colored pin protrudes when the pin striker is cocked. Finally there is the Taurus Security System which is activated by a special key which is inserted below the rear sight on the right side of the pistol. Engaging the mechanism locks the action.

The integral polymer grip is textured all the way around with slight finger grooves in the front and a slight depression for the thumb at the top of the grip. One size rarely fits all and Taurus addresses this with three different backstraps. Backstraps are locked in place by a tiny pin at the bottom which is easily punched out using the special key supplied by Taurus. The backstrap in place from the factory was the middle-sized one, which I removed before test firing in favor of the smallest and I never saw any reason to try the other two.

## Takedown

Disassembly of the 24/7 G2 is similar to other polymer framed pistols. First, the magazine is removed and the chamber checked for a live round. Then the slide is then drawn back ever so slightly which allows the disassembly latch on the frame

above the trigger to be pushed down. The trigger is then pulled as the slide is moved forward and away from the grip frame. The recoil spring and barrel can then be removed from the slide.

More than 20 different rounds, both factory and handloads, were tried in the 24/7 G2. Functioning was absolutely flawless, however when I started testing I was quite disappointed in the groups I was getting which were close to 4" for five shots at 20 yards. Had I stopped there I would have made a great mistake but as Winston Churchill said: "Never give up, never give up, never give up." Before I had fired the first box of cartridges the groups started to tighten up considerably so either a rough spot had to be smoothed out in the barrel or the pistol simply had to settle in. I would expect the latter is true.

In their manual, as with most other firearms manufacturers, Taurus warns against the use of handloads. If I had followed this advice I would have missed some of the best shooting loads. For most applications using any pistol firing the .40 S&W we think of self-defense situations and the first choice is normally jacketed hollowpoints. However, there are times when we would just like to strap on a pistol, and wander through sagebrush, foothills, forest, or mountains.



For these restful times cast bullets are just fine, and being the traditionalist I am, even though I'm wearing a thoroughly modern semi-automatic, high-capacity pistol, it pleases me to have a load which is a duplicate of the old .38-40. These are assembled with the Lyman 401043, the traditional cast bullet for the frontier cartridge. Loaded in Winchester .40 S&W brass over 5.0 grains of WW231 gives me

950 fps while 8.0 grains of Blue Dot raises this an additional 100 fps. These are most enjoyable shooting loads, five shots at 20 yards go in 1" and 1-3/8" respectively through the Taurus 24/7 G2, and while not my first choice for self-defense use I would not feel all that handicapped with either one of them.

With a capacity of 16 rounds this Taurus is quite comforting, however I saw no reason to use a full magazine for the more than 20 loads tested; I don't think I could concentrate to shoot that many rounds at a time for each load. As is my norm I fired six rounds, gave myself one stress-relieving Mulligan, and measured five rounds; distance was 20 yards. Full test results are in the accompanying chart. I did fire a few full magazines at silhouette targets at the normally accepted self-defense distance of 7 yards. Accuracy was well above adequate and functioning, just as when firing for groups, was absolutely flawless.

Everything I can find wrong with the Taurus 24/7 G2 can be written on the head of a pin. Yes, it is not blue steel with ivory grips; it's not even a sixgun. However, it represents just about anything and everything you could want in a semi-automatic, self-defense, polymer-framed pistol. At less than \$500 it seems to me to represent an exceptional value.

One final note: Every new firearm from every manufacturer comes with a user's manual. Some are good, some are fair, some are worthless. The Taurus manual is absolutely excellent; very well written, easy to understand, with very good illustrations. This is especially important to new shooters. Kudos to Taurus for a job well done.



### .40 S&W HANDLOADED AMMO PERFORMANCE

BULLET (BRAND, BULLET WEIGHT, TYPE)	POWDER (BRAND)	CHARGE (GRAINS WEIGHT)	VELOCITY (FPS)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)
HORNADY 170 XTP	WAP	6.0	747	2-1/8
HORNADY 170 XTP	WW231	5.3	929	1-3/4
HORNADY 170 XTP	AA7	8.5	862	2-1/8
HORNADY 170 XTP	Blue Dot	8.0	941	1-3/4
HORNADY 180 XTP	AA7	9.0	880	1-3/4
SIERRA 150 JHC	WAP	7.0	924	1-1/2
LYMAN 401043	Blue Dot	8.0	1,045	1-3/8
LYMAN 401043	WW231	5.0	937	1

Notes: Groups the product of five shots at 20 yards. Chronograph screens set 10' from the muzzle. CCI 300 primers used in Winchester brass.

### .40 S&W FACTORY AMMO PERFORMANCE

LOAD (BRAND, BULLET WEIGHT, TYPE)	VELOCITY (FPS)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)
BLACK HILLS 165 JHP	1,059	1-3/4
BLACK HILLS 180 JHP	897	1-3/4
COR-BON 135 POWRBALL	1,251	2-3/4
HORNADY 155 XTP-JHP	1,052	1-7/8
HORNADY 180 XTP-JHP	945	1-7/8
HORNADY 180 FMJ	938	1-3/4
IMI 105 FRANGIBLE	1,475	2-1/2
REMINGTON 155 JHP	1,073	1-3/8
REMINGTON 180 JHP	901	1-3/4
REMINGTON BRASS 180 JHP	921	1-1/2
SPEER LAWMAN 180 FMJ	897	1-3/4
WINCHESTER 155 FMJ	1,041	2-1/4

Notes: Groups the product of five shots at 20 yards. Chronograph screens set 10' from the muzzle.



# BETTER THAN EVER

## The Colt **.380** Mustang Pocket Lite.

**Mike Cumpston**

**T**he original Mustang was the smallest of a family of Colt .380 pistols produced between 1983 and the late 1990s. The first entry, the .380 Government model, was about the same size as the old 1903 Pocket Hammerless pistols but had fire controls and some design features common to the 1911. The Mustang was a smaller version with the same lockwork and shorter barrel and grip frame while the Mustang Plus II was an intermediate-sized hybrid of the two.

The Government model and particularly the Mustang developed a faithful following that persists to the present and manifests itself in premium prices on the online auction sites and elsewhere. Discussions of the numerous pocket-sized .380s recently introduced frequently contained significant sub-dialog about the Mustang and the hope it might be revived.

I found a pair of the brand new Mustangs at my local dealer, the retail outlet of L.M. Burney Distributors. The price was about the same in real dollar value as the first generation pistols and I paid 50¢ over suggested retail.

The slide and frame were closely fitted as promised by Colt and the barrel locked up tight with no slop fore or aft. The Mustang looks like the archetype of the ideal semi-auto implanted in the consciousness of people who learned their handguns in the early and mid 20th century.

Initial inspection and positive experiences with recent Colt products along with the company's promises of joy had me out the door in short order with one of the



*These groups were the result of rapid fire 2-handed and then 1-handed from 7 and 15 yards.*



*Teresa Gold (left) used the Pocket Lite to requalify for her concealed handgun license. The sights are visible and the trigger pull has settled to a comfortable 5.5 pounds. Consecutive frames shot at eight frames per second (left, inset) show the Mustang has a very fast cycle but torque and recoil are completely manageable. After a 7-year hiatus, The Colt Mustang Pocket Lite is back in an improved version smaller, lighter, tighter and more accurate. The cast frame and slide of the original are now made from CNC-machined bar stock.*

Mustangs. Takedown for initial lubrication revealed internal finish to be comparable to the excellent external metal treatment. The slide cycles smoothly and feels like something out of custom pistolsmith's shop—clear evidence mechanization gives way to skilled hand fitting in the final stages.

The Mustang barrel is enclosed and has cam-actuated locking into the interior of the slide with a single lug and is slide-fitted with no bushing at the muzzle. The front sight is integral with the slide and in stainless, in contrast to the blue steel Patridge rear. This tends toward poor visibility in bright sunlight but is very usable under most conditions.

The firing pin and internal extractor are retained by the traditional Colt/Browning firing pin stop. The ejector is dual purpose. Pulling the trigger lifts it, allowing it to disengage the passive firing pin block in the slide. It is necessary to make sure it is pressed down below the top of



*A 50' 2-handed, unsupported group with Buffalo Bore 95-grain FMG flat-points.*

## SERIES 80 MUSTANG POCKET LITE

MAKER: COLT MFG. CO.  
P.O. BOX 1868, HARTFORD, CT 06114  
(800) 962-2658  
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/COLT

**ACTION TYPE:** Locked breech semi-auto, **CALIBER:** .380 ACP, **CAPACITY:** 6+1, **FINISH:** Stainless slide, electroless nickel-forged alloy frame, **LENGTH OVERALL:** 5.5", **BARREL LENGTH:** 2.75", **HEIGHT:** 3.9", **WEIGHT:** 12.5 ounces, **PRICE:** \$599

the frame during reassembly.

The left-side, frame-mounted thumb safety is tensioned by a ball/spring arrangement that, in contrast to some of the earlier pistols, holds the lever firmly in place preventing inadvertent release or engagement. With the hammer down and the safety engaged, the slide is locked up tighter than the south end of a north-bound mallard. With the hammer at full cock and the safety engaged, the slide is not locked and you can cycle the slide and watch the ammo proceed into the chamber or out through the port. A pretty good hedge against sending a bullet thought the flat-screen TV.

There is an intermediate hammer notch "1/2-cock" step designed to stop the hammer short of firing pin contact in the event of fumbling while raising or lowering the hammer or, according to the owner's manual, in case of the very unlikely failure of the full cock notch. The two magazines supplied are very well constructed with steel followers configured for optimal feeding.

### Range Work

In addition to a couple of boxes of S&B 92-grain ball, I had a decent supply of Buffalo Bore loads on hand. My initial inclination was to chronograph the loads and then concentrate on using the pistol at ranges deemed "realistic"

for very small defensive arms to wit: 3, 7 and 15 yards. There were no malfunctions. I started out by firing two 6-round magazines into the head of the B27 target from 3 yards. The first shot 2-handed and the next from one hand in both cases shooting as fast as I could get the front sight back on target.

Throughout all of the shooting this did prove to be pretty fast as recoil and torque, even with the hotter loads, are minimal. I performed essentially the same drill at 7 and 15 yards—again shooting as fast as I could. My worst hit was an 8-ring at 2 o'clock amazingly perpetrated from the steady 2-handed hold. Most of the rounds landed in the 10 and X rings.

### Benchrest?

While somewhat phobic about trying my benchrest skills with pocket pistols, the mixed reports about accuracy with the earlier 'stangs coupled with claims of improve accuracy from Colt led me to shoot a couple of groups with the very hot Buffalo Bore +P 90-grain jacketed hollowpoint and the milder 95-grain flatpoint. I rested my hand across the bench and shot one group each of five shots at 25-yards with the hot JHP load clustering in 4.4" and the JFP an even 5". The JHP group was a couple of inches high and right of point of aim and the milder load pretty well centered.

Users of the early Mustangs reported accuracy of about this level from the bench at 15 yards. Some were satisfied with the accuracy and some not at all but my cursory bench results clearly indicate this new generation pistol is more than accurate enough for its intended purpose. My impression is the Buffalo Bore loads are significantly more accurate in this gun than the generic ball I had on hand. I could not keep the ball loads inside of the head of the B-27 at 50' shooting deliberately from two hands and standing unsupported. It was an easy feat with the 95-grain Buffalo Bore. The BB loads all recorded very low extreme spreads over the chronograph while the S&B loads varied by over 100 fps.

### Bullet Styles

Given the controversy constantly a-swirl around the various theories of stopping power, it is not surprising most shooters come to rely on their own judgment and prejudices about such matters. This is particularly apparent where the smaller calibers are concerned. Some shooters mistrust JHP bullets from the .380 questioning whether they will under penetrate because of bullet expansion or perform like a FMJ roundnose if they don't.

The Buffalo Bore loads, the ones designated +P, boost the velocities obtainable from pocket-sized .380s into the range expected with full-sized pistols on the order of the Colt 1908 or the Walther PPK. An aggressive JHP is likely



**Buffalo Bore has maximum velocity ammunition to suit anybody's personal theory of stopping power. The load on the left is a 100-grain hard cast bullet that matches the velocity of most circa-90-grain ball loads from full-sized pistols. The wide, deep JHP clocks 1,126 fps—faster than most 85- and 90-grain JHP loads from the old, full-sized .380 ACPs.**

to expand at those velocities. Other Buffalo Bore loads are predicated toward adequate penetration using flatpoint solids at standard to high velocities.

### CHL Qualification

Teresa Gold was up for renewal of her Concealed Handgun License so we did the range portion with the Mustang. Ms. Gold's hands are small but very strong and she has gone through several qualifications with intermediate-sized 9mms and full-size 1911s. She is living proof virtually everybody who shoots the Mustang will not find room for the little finger on the grip proper, but will curl it under the magazine.

### Recoil

The recoil of the Colt was inconsequential witnessed by a sequence of high-speed photographs. She had no problem with trigger control—the trigger having settled into a comfortable 5.5 pounds after lubrication and earlier shooting. There were no sharp edges and she found the Mustang comfortable to shoot. Somewhat surprisingly, she was not able to reach the safety lever or the slide drop with her strong-hand thumb without breaking her shooting grip. She used her support hand to work the controls. The pistol proved very suitable in its intended role as a deep concealment pistol for daily carry.

The Mustang Pocket Lite justifies my initial high hopes and cautious expectations. It's mine and I'll put it to use both as a backup and primary carry gun when the occasion calls for it. I would not be surprised to see it recognized as "Gun Of The Year" in some appropriate category. **GUNS**

BUFFALO BORE AMMUNITION  
P.O. BOX 1480  
ST. IGNATIUS, MT 59865  
(406) 745-2666  
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/  
BUFFALO-BORE-AMMUNITION

.....  
DON HUME LEATHERGOODS  
A DIVISION OF OKLAHOMA LEATHER PRODUCTS  
500 26TH ST. N.W.  
MIAMI, OK 74354  
(800) 331-2686  
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/DON-HUME

### .380 FACTORY AMMO PERFORMANCE

LOAD (BRAND, BULLET WEIGHT, TYPE)	VELOCITY (FPS)	ENERGY (FT-LBS)
S&B 92 BALL	846	146
BUFFALO BORE 90 FMJ FP	836	140
BUFFALO BORE +P 95 FMJ FP	1,080	236
BUFFALO BORE +P 90 JHP	1,126	253
BUFFALO BORE +P 100 HARD CAST	941	197

# 1-800-351-8900

# JANTZ SUPPLY

## DESERT IRONWOOD

Our ironwood is unsurpassed in figure and contrasting color. Book matched 2 pc sets.



### Scale Sets

- 5" x 1 1/2" x 3/8"
- EW170 High Contrast.....16.00
  - EW171 Dark.....30.00
  - EW172 Exhibition.....35.00
  - EW173 Presentation.....40.00

## MINI CORBY RIVETS

Designed for use in tang holes as small as 1/8" Use a 5/64" allen wrench (sold separately). Order a Jantz Rivet Drill to easily & precisely drill and countersink your handle material in one easy step.



- CP697 Brass, 5/32" head.....2.35
- CP627 Stainless, 5/32" head.....2.35
- RD8 Rivet Drill for 5/32".....19.95
- CP669 Brass, 3/16" head.....2.35
- CP629 Stainless, 3/16" head.....2.35
- RD1 Rivet Drill for 3/16".....19.95

## PRE-SOLDERED GUARD KIT

440C Stainless Steel Blade with a pre-soldered nickel silver bolster. Kit includes blade, pins, dymondwood handle material and instructions.

### Bearcat

- 
- 8 3/8" overall, blade 3 3/4" x 7/8", 1/8" thick.
  - SS874 Blade Only.....19.95
  - SS874K Bearcat Kit.....25.95
  - KT104 Leather Sheath.....14.50

### Nevada Drop Point

- 
- 8" overall, blade 3 3/8" x 1", .144" thick.
  - SS650 Blade Only.....19.95
  - SS650K Nevada Drop Point Kit.....25.95
  - KT104 Leather Sheath.....14.50

## WEEKEND PROJECTS

440C Stainless Steel Blade Kit includes blade, pins, dymondwood handle material and instructions.

### Renaissance Dagger

- 
- 6 1/4" overall, blade 3 3/4", 1/8" thick.
  - SS167 Blade Only.....12.95
  - SS167K Renaissance Kit.....14.95

### Cobra

- 
- 7 3/8" overall, blade 3 3/4", 1/8" thick.
  - SS166 Blade Only.....14.95
  - SS166K Cobra Kit.....16.95

### Sportsman

- 
- 7 3/8" overall, blade 3 1/2", 1/8" thick.
  - SS164 Blade Only.....14.95
  - SS164K Sportsman Kit.....16.95

### Ringtail

- 
- 7" overall, blade 2 5/8", 3/32" thick.
  - SS873 Blade Only.....14.95
  - SS873K Kit(w/brass bolster).....24.95

## LOCKING LINER KITS

### The 605 Kits

- 
- 8A stainless sub zero quenched. Overall length 5 3/4", 3 3/8" closed, cutting edge 2 3/8", 3/32" thick.
  - KV605MS 605 Mini Serrated.....34.95
  - KV605M 605 Mini Standard.....39.95
  - 605 Orig. overall 7-7/8", 4-1/2" closed, 3 1/4" blade.
  - KV605 605 Original.....39.95

### Black Widow

- 
- Black Anodized Stainless overall is 7 5/8", 4 1/2" closed, cutting edge 3 1/8". Is supplied with preshaped, drilled Quincewood handle material. Use a torx wrench T10 and a T6.
  - SS652 Black Widow.....19.95

### Hi Tech Folder

- 
- 8A stainless steel blade with satin finish. It is supplied with preshaped, drilled Quincewood handle material. Length 7-3/4" opened, 4-5/8" closed, the cutting edge 3-1/8". Use torx wrench T10 and T6.
  - SS3520 Hi Tech Fighter.....19.95

### Fallow Kit

- 
- High Carbon Stainless blade, NS bolster, belt clip. Supplied with preshaped, drilled Quincewood handle material. Overall length 7 13/16" 4-1/2" closed. 3-1/4" cutting edge. Use Torx T10 & T6.
  - SS656 Fallow Locking Liner.....19.95

## JEWEL OPENERS

For the 605 folder, Fallow, Black Widow and Hi-Tech Folder as well as other large folders using ambidextrous thumb openers with 1/8" or 5/32" holes, with supplied adapter. 7/32" dia. x.200" long each side.

- 
- 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12

Choose appropriate color code and add it to the end of the part number below.

- TB81-- Style 825 Opener.....19.95

## VG10 Folder Kits

- 
- Each kit includes all components except handle material. Easy instructions for the beginner.
  - VG10 Super Sharp Mirror Polished Laminated Blade. Overall length opened is 6 5/8", 3 7/8" closed, cutting edge is 2 1/2".
  - VG101 Blue Titanium Liner.....69.95
  - VG102 Silver Titanium Liner.....64.95
  - VG103 Stainless Liner.....59.95

Pre-Shaped Handle for VG10 Stabilized exhibition quality preshaped handle for the VG10 folder kits above.

- VG519 Stbl California Buckeye.....11.95
- VG570 Stbl Desert Ironwood.....11.95

## VG10 LITTLE BIGHORN

- 
- VG-10 33 layer Damascus, super sharp high colbalt steel blade.
  - Length 5 1/8", 3" closed, cutting edge is 2".
  - SS723 VG10 Little Bighorn.....59.95

## JANTZ USA BLADES

Made with pride in Jantz's Davis Oklahoma manufacturing facility, using Crucible steels. Each blade is double tempered & cryo treated for maximum wear resistance and edge holding capability. Brass bolsters available. Available in peened or satin finishes. Call if you do not see the part number for the finish you are wanting.

### Pattern 21

- 
- 7 7/8" overall, 3 1/8" blade, 5/32" thickness
  - J2108 440C Steel (Satin).....29.95
  - J2127 D2 Steel (Peened).....29.95
  - K214 Stainless Bolster.....6.95
  - KT103 Leather Sheath.....14.50

### Pattern 22

- 
- 8 3/8" overall, 3 1/2" blade, 5/32" thickness
  - J2207 440C Steel (Peened).....29.95
  - J2228 D2 Steel (Satin).....29.95
  - K214 Stainless Bolster.....6.95
  - KT103 Leather Sheath.....14.50

### Pattern 23

- 
- 9 9/16" overall, 4 5/8" blade, 5/32" thickness
  - J2308 440C Steel (Satin).....29.95
  - J2327 D2 Steel (Peened).....29.95
  - K214 Stainless Bolster.....6.95
  - KT111 Leather Sheath.....14.50

### Pattern 25

- 
- 9" overall, 4 3/16" blade, 5/32" thickness
  - J2507 440C Steel (Peened).....29.95
  - J2528 D2 Steel (Satin).....29.95
  - K214 Stainless Bolster.....6.95
  - KT111 Leather Sheath.....14.50

### Pattern 31

- 
- 7 5/8" overall, 3" blade, 5/32" thickness
  - J3127 D2 Steel (Peened).....29.95
  - J3148 154CM (Satin).....34.95
  - K314 Stainless Bolster.....6.95
  - KT104 Leather Sheath.....14.50

### Pattern 36 (SS573 Silver Moose)

- 
- 7 5/8" overall, 3" blade, 1/8" thickness
  - J3627 D2 Steel (Peened).....29.95
  - J3608 440C Steel (Satin).....29.95
  - K364 Stainless Bolster.....6.95
  - KT103 Leather Sheath.....14.50

### Pattern 37 (SS473 Silver Fox)

- 
- 6 5/8" overall, 2 5/8" blade, 1/8" thickness
  - J3727 D2 Steel (Peened).....29.95
  - J3708 440C Steel (Satin).....29.95
  - K374 Stainless Bolster.....6.95
  - KT116 Leather Sheath.....14.50

### Pattern 38

- 
- 7" overall, 2 1/2" blade, 5/32" thickness
  - J3828 D2 Steel (Satin).....29.95
  - J3837 CPMS 30V (Peened).....39.95
  - K384 Stainless Bolster.....6.95
  - KT104 Leather Sheath.....14.50

### Pattern 39

- 
- 6 1/2" overall, 2 1/2" blade, 1/8" thickness
  - J3907 440C Steel (Peened).....29.95
  - J3928 D2 Steel (Satin).....29.95
  - KT103 Leather Sheath.....14.50

### Pattern 40

- 
- 7 3/16" overall, 3 1/4" blade, 1/8" thickness
  - J4008 440C Steel (Satin).....29.95
  - J4027 D2 Steel (Peened).....29.95
  - KT103 Leather Sheath.....14.50

## LETTER OPENER

Available with or without a lightly etched Oak leaf design. 6" length, 4 1/2" blade, 7/16" wide, .046" thick.

### The Frisco



- SS204 Frisco w/ Engraving.....7.95
- SS205 Frisco without Engraving.....7.95

## The Burlington

This new opener is easy to customize. Nickel Silver bolsters are pre-pinned and ready to finish, the mirror finished stainless blade is 9-1/4" overall, 5-1/2" below the bolster. Kit includes blade, handle material, and pins.

- 
- SS203 Letter Opener.....9.95
  - SS203K Letter Opener Kit.....12.95

## The Pacific

The mirror finished stainless blade has 3/32" holes and is 8-1/2" overall, 4-1/4" blade. Kit includes blade, handle material, and pins.

- 
- SS201 Letter Opener.....8.95
  - SS201K Letter Opener Kit.....10.95

## KEEN EDGE BLADES

Light, flexible, well balanced. 8A blades, satin finished, flat ground to a super sharp edge that stays sharp. 4 styles to meet all your kitchen & camp needs.

### Chef's Blade

- 
- 12-1/2" overall, 8-3/4" blade, .078 thickness
  - SS107 Chef's Blade.....16.95

### Cook's Blade

- 
- 10-1/2" overall, 6" blade, .078 thickness
  - SS106 Cook's Blade.....14.95

### Steak Blade

- 
- 7-1/2" overall, 3-1/2" blade, .058 thickness
  - SS108 Steak Blade.....9.95

### Santoku Blade

- 
- 10-3/4" overall, 6" blade, .070 thickness
  - SS110 Santoku Blade.....17.95

## knifemaking.com

Download our on-line catalog free.

Jantz Print Catalog  
Knifemaking supplies, tools,  
equipment, leathers, craft,  
engraving and more.

JC47 Catalog \$5.00  
Free with any order.

Send orders to:  
309 W MAIN, DAVIS OK 73030  
1-580-369-2316

ADD \$9.95 FOR SHIPPING  
DISCOVER MasterCard VISA  
PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

# Classic OR Modern

## The skinny on big-game cartridge choice.

**John Barsness**

**T**here are three kinds of big-game hunters: Y2Ks, Traditionalists and Averages. The Y2Ks provide much of the profit margin of the modern shooting industry. They firmly believe any commercial cartridge introduced before 2000 A.D. is deeply flawed, and even the trendiest new rounds can be tweaked. Their hunting rifles have stainless-steel barrels, synthetic stocks and scopes with big turrets.

Traditionalists attach an expiration date to useful cartridge development. The year can be 1873 (.45-70), 1892 (7x57), or 1912 (.375 H&H), but the date doesn't matter as much as their belief that every cartridge since is a mere pimple on perfection. Traditionalists often pout when some company introduces a new factory round, even though they've never even seen one—and never intend to.

Averages are the men and women who pay the mortgage at Remington, Ruger and Winchester by buying whatever's already popular, happily hunting with a .243 Winchester or .30-06 Springfield because factory ammo can be purchased almost everywhere. (Please note that "men and women" isn't a politically-correct phrase. Instead it's the acknowledgement that women, quite sensibly, couldn't care less about their hunting round's "born-on" date.)

Practicality isn't a major point with Y2Ks or Traditionalists.

Instead, they're truly passionate about trivia, like the guys who paint their faces before going to a football game. I know this because of a personal passion for trivia, though not for face paint. The truth, however, is the design and usefulness of any centerfire rifle cartridge is both a mechanical compromise and a result of component evolution. Those constraints eventually resulted in the four basic types of hunting rounds in widespread use today: the .30-06s, the magnums, the shortened .30-06s and the shortened magnums.

The .30-06 rounds were developed in the two decades on either side of 1900, during the world-wide military changeover from single-shot, black-powder rifles to bolt-action smokeless rifles. Dozens of new bolt actions appeared, but the 1898 Mauser proved to be the most dependable and versatile. Eventually most other countries in the world either adopted the '98 or produced semi-copies, ranging from the Japan's Arisaka to America's 1903 Springfield.

The .30-06 is an Americanized version of the 8x57 Mauser, with exactly the same size rim, a slightly longer body and a smaller diameter bullet. The earliest version of the 8x57 appeared in 1888, 15 years before the earliest version of the .30-06, but the .30-06 eventually became the dominant round—primarily because America became the dominant country in the world. Eventually, dozens of variations of the .30-06 case were developed for sporting use, because so many bolt actions had been designed to handle the .30-06 itself.

The .375 H&H has been called "the .30-06 of dangerous game hunting," even though it's both longer and fatter than the .30-06. Originally Holland & Holland modified standard '98 Mauser actions to accommodate the .375 (as have other companies) but eventually most manufacturers developed bolt actions able to handle the length of the .375, plus the rounds based on its case. The pre-'64 Model 70 Winchester was among the first, introducing both the .375 and .300 H&H to the average American hunter in the late 1930s.

The shortened .30-06 rounds appeared almost immediately after the 8x57 and .30-06, in Europe with the "kurz" (short) Mauser rounds and in America with the .250-3000 Savage. But the most influential shortened .30-06 may have been the .300 Savage, introduced in 1920, both for the Model 99 lever action and new Model 20 lightweight bolt action. Thanks to powder improvements since 1906, the stumpy little .300 approximated the original ballistics of the .30-06 and became quite popular.

After WWII, however, it gave way to a slightly longer version called the T65, developed by the US military for automatic small arms. Winchester introduced the T65 as a sporting round in 1952, calling it the .308, claiming it approximated the ballistics of the .30-06. Inevitably, the .308 Winchester got necked up and down, and eventually



*The 6.5x54 Mannlicher-Schoenauer cartridge was designed specifically for the Mannlicher-Schoenauer rifle. The rifle became very popular, but because the cartridge didn't have the "standard" 8x57/.30-06 head size it was never chambered in another mass-produced rifle. Today only a couple of European companies make 6.5x54 ammunition.*



*Eileen Clarke used the modern .308 Winchester on her Alberta mule deer, while John used the classic 7x57 Mauser. The ballistics of the two rounds are so similar that field results are practically the same, yet hunters will argue endlessly about their “differences.”*

Savage had to slightly lengthen the action of the 99 to accommodate these new rounds.

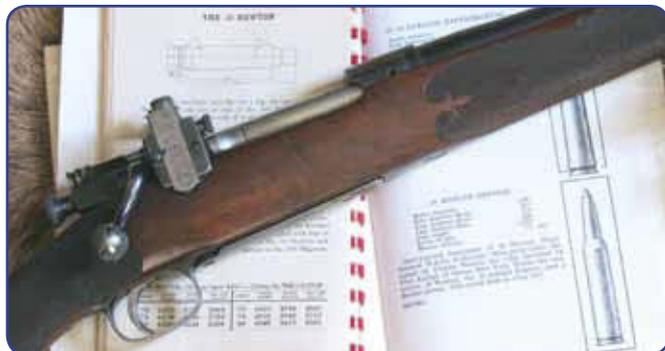
Today, however, the shortened .30-06 rounds are primarily used in “short” bolt actions, with magazines too small for the .30-06 and .375.

Eventually the magnums also got shortened. The first commercial magnums able to fit in the same size magazines as the shortened .30-06s were the .350 and 6.5mm Remington Magnums, introduced in the mid-1960s. They failed due to a bunch of reasons, but the concept of matching the ballistics of longer cartridges eventually triumphed in the form of the .300 Winchester Short Magnum.

In all this development there wasn't much emphasis on the trivia Y2Ks like to argue over, whether shoulder angles or bullets with slightly higher ballistic coefficients. Instead the major emphasis in centerfire cartridge design has been toward (1) getting the darn things to feed reliably in repeating actions, and (2) providing the muzzle velocities most hunters believe necessary for slaying big game.



*The Model 70 Winchester was the first American rifle to be manufactured in .300 H&H and .375 H&H, but not all pre-'64 Model 70s have a magazine long enough to accommodate such longer rounds.*



*The first .30-caliber magnum was not the .300 H&H but the .30 Adolph Express, which soon became the .30 Newton. Designed in 1912 to fit in the magazine of the 1903 Springfield, the case is almost exactly the same as the ultra-modern .375 Ruger, introduced almost a century later.*

The .30-06 turned out to be extremely versatile and “shootable.” This isn't a fortunate accident. Both the .30-06 and its father, the 8x57, were developed for the average infantryman. If much larger they'd have kicked the average guy into insensibility, and been too heavy and bulky to carry in useful quantities.

Partly because of those original design parameters, the .30-06 also turned out to be the most useful big-game cartridge in the world, elected to the position by millions of hunters—and still influences cartridge design. Oddly, the .375 Ruger—a round supposedly designed to correct the faults of the .375 H&H—is a prime example of this influence.

According to modern cartridge design theories, the .375 H&H is too long and tapered for top accuracy, and hampered by its useless belt. Belted brass not only wastes potential powder space (the case body could be the same diameter as the rim) but, according to some Y2Ks, doesn't feed as smoothly as unbelted brass.

Interestingly, a century ago these supposed faults were considered virtues. The smokeless propellants of 1912 were very heat-sensitive, especially Cordite, the problematic “powder” the British developed to avoid patents on better powders produced in other countries. A tapered case allowed easier extraction in the warmer temperatures of India or Africa (the favored hunting grounds of the British Empire), but in the .375 resulted in a case without much shoulder. Consequently the belt was required for positive headspacing, while still allowing cartridges to feed from the magazine. The .375’s long case was needed to hold enough Cordite to push a 300-grain bullet fast enough to stop lions and tigers.

The .375 Ruger case holds just enough more powder to slightly beat .375 H&H ballistics. This was probably necessary from a marketing standpoint—who’d buy a new .375 round with less velocity?—but essentially, the .375 Ruger provides similar performance to the .375 H&H in an unbelted, shorter case.

According to Y2K theory, shorter cases are more accurate, but it would be hard to prove that 3/4" groups are more effective on brown bears or Cape buffalo than 1" groups. Instead, the length of the .375 Ruger is primarily intended to allow the cartridge to fit inside the magazine of the “standard” Ruger 77 Hawkeye action. Not so amazingly, this magazine is just long enough for the .30-06.

The .30-06 length-limit has affected cartridge design throughout the last century. The first .30-caliber “magnum” was not the .300 H&H of 1920, but the .30 Adolph Express of 1912, designed by Charles Newton for a gunsmith from upstate New York named Fred Adolph.

With a few tiny changes, the .30 Adolph Express eventually became the .30 Newton. The .30 Adolph/Newton’s beltless



**A lineup of classic and modern hunting cartridges include (from left to right) the .257 Roberts, .270 Winchester, 7x57 Mauser, .280 Remington, .30-06 Springfield and .300 Winchester Magnum. All owe a large part of their design to the 8x57 Mauser.**

case had just about the same dimensions of the .375 Ruger—and for exactly the same reason. It was designed to provide hotter ballistics than the .30-06, yet fit in the magazines of 1898 Mausers and 1903 Springfields.

Does the .375 Ruger “solve” the design flaws of the .375 H&H? I purchased the second Ruger Hawkeye African to appear in local stores, and it shot well and functioned perfectly. I was impressed enough to think about selling my faithful .375 H&H, a semi-custom rifle based on a Whitworth Mauser-barreled action, and keeping the Ruger.

In the end, however, I couldn’t abandon my .375 H&H, both because of all our adventures over 20 years and because, like just about every .375 H&H, it feeds cartridges smoothly and is quite accurate. Plus, I’ve yet to encounter an African professional hunter who doesn’t have a supply of .375 H&H ammo, either his own or extra rounds left behind by previous customers.

### Most Accurate

There’s no doubt, however, that shorter cartridges are more accurate. Bob Nosler is a big fan of the .300 Winchester Short Magnum. Not only is the .300 WSM a fine hunting round, but it simplifies accuracy testing in the Nosler lab. Bob says they formerly used the .308 Winchester for testing lighter .30-caliber bullets, and the .30-06 and .300 Winchester Magnum for heavier bullets. Now they just use the .300 WSM for all their .30-caliber accuracy tests.

But that’s in an indoor range, with a custom test barrel. Does the same sort of accuracy advantage show up in factory rifles? Well, yes and no. I’ve shot many factory rifles chambered for various short-fat magnums, and some have been marvelously accurate, including the stainless/synthetic Remington 700 in 7mm SAUM still in my safe. But many other factory rifles have been just as accurate, even though chambered for old-fashioned belted rounds such as the .257 Weatherby, 7mm Remington and .300 Winchester Magnums. The difference is even less discernible in custom rifles.

Interestingly, many new cartridges approximate the ballistics of the .30-06, sometimes deliberately. Both the .300 H&H and .300 Savage appeared in 1920. The H&H approximated .30-06 performance at the lower pressures necessary in the tropics of the British Empire, and the Savage approximated .30-06 performance in a popular lever-action rifle.

Since then the list of introduced cartridges approximating .30-06 ballistics has steadily grown. Since 1950 these newbies have included, in no particular order, the .308 Winchester, .280 Remington, .280 Remington Ackley Improved, .284 Winchester, 7mm Remington Magnum, .338 Federal, 7mm and .300 Remington Short Action Ultra Magnums and .300 Ruger Compact Magnum. No doubt others exist, but that’s a good start. Take a look at the factory muzzle velocities of



**The 21st century theory is shorter cartridges are more accurate. The 6.5 Creedmoor (above) is an example, but is its accuracy due to the short case or today’s bullets—or both? The .375 Ruger design (below) follows all the modern rules—beltless, straight-sided, sharp-shouldered—but its biggest virtue is the ability to fit in a magazine designed around the antique .30-06.**



*Classic cartridges still work fine for hunting, and perhaps even better than when designed, due to modern powders and bullets. This Montana white-tail was taken with a custom 6.5x55 using a handload with Ramshot Magnum powder and the 140-grain Nosler Partition, a load that will easily handle 99 percent of big-game hunting.*



*The classic 6.5x55 (left) was introduced in 1894. The 6.5 Creedmoor (center) and .260 Remington (right) duplicate the 6.5x55's ballistics, but fit in a "modern" short magazine.*

each round. None vary more than about 6 percent from the standard velocities of the .30-06 with similar-weight bullets.

Of course a Y2K purist would argue the bullets of the 7mm rounds have a ballistic coefficient advantage over .30 caliber, or the fatter bullets of the .338 Federal hit harder. But out to 300 or 400 yards (about as far as most hunters ever shoot at big game) all of these rounds are pretty similar, and for the same reason the .30-06 remains popular: They're about all the average shooter can consistently handle.

Similarly, many other new rounds essentially duplicate older rounds. The .300 WSM is indisputably the most popular big game round introduced since 2000—and has just about exactly the same powder capacity as the .300 H&H. In fact, you can handload either cartridge with the same bullets and powder charges and obtain just about exactly the same pressures and velocities.



*The .300 Winchester Short Magnum's powder capacity is so close to the .300 H&H that reloading data is just about interchangeable, the reason both cartridges produce the same ballistics.*

Of course, the .300 WSM is "better" because it's more accurate and fits into a lighter, handier short-action rifle, right? Maybe. For a short while a few years ago I owned both a new FN-made Model 70 Winchester in .300 WSM and a pre-'64 Model 70 Winchester in .300 H&H. With the same model scope in Talley Lightweight mounts, the rifles weighed within an ounce of each other, and both shot very accurately. The only advantage of the .300 WSM Model 70 was 3" less overall length, due to the action and a 24" instead of 26" barrel. Did this make any difference in the field? Not that I could tell. In reality the only practical advantage of the .300 WSM turned out to be cheaper, more easily available brass.

Meanwhile, the .30-06 itself has been improved over the past century by better powders and bullets. The quoted factory velocity of the .30 Newton with a 172-grain bullet was 3,000 fps. Today this can be safely reached with 165- to 168-grain bullets with either handloads or hyper-velocity factory loads in the .30-06, and modern bullets in that weight range will do anything 220-grain bullets did in 1912, with a lot flatter trajectory. So the .30-06 itself isn't the same cartridge used by your great-grandfather.

The truth is that hunting cartridges are still limited by the rifles we carry, plus the recoil tolerances of the human body, even with miracle-polymer recoil pads. New powders and bullets have increased penetration and range in traditional rounds. Most real improvements have been due to cartridge components, not tweaking of shoulder angles, shortening cases or eliminating belts. This doesn't mean we shouldn't keep tweaking, or searching—or that any of the three categories of hunters are wrong. Luckily, there's a choice for all of us, unless for some reason you want to load Cordite in your wildcat 6.5 WSM.

**GUNS**



*Duke currently reloads for rifles and handguns chambered for 48 cartridges. To even think semi-retire he would plan to consolidate.*

# CONSOLIDATION

## What would retirement be like?

**Mike “Duke” Venturino**

**Photos: Yvonne Venturino**

**L**ately I’ve been thinking a lot about retirement. Not the sort of retirement where you just sit on the porch in a rocking chair and watch the world go. I’m thinking of the slowing down type where you’re supposed to smell the coffee or roses or whatever but still be active. I guess that would properly be called “semi-retirement.” I could get used to fewer deadlines allowing more time to drive to all sorts of shooting events around the West. Heck, I might even get wild and cross the Mississippi River again to shoot some matches “back East” or “down South.”

With that frame of mind I did a survey in the gun vault and surprised even myself. That is, I own firearms chambered for 48 different centerfire cartridges. Twenty-five are rifle calibers and 23 are handgun types. And that doesn’t include muzzleloaders or .22 rimfires! In bore size they range from .22- to a .577-caliber rifle musket. In long guns those firearms run the gamut from single shots, bolt actions, lever guns, and semi-autos to full-autos. In handguns they range from cap-and-ball sixguns to modern

semi-autos. There’re even a couple of shotguns in the mix. That also means that I am more or less actively involved in handloading for all 48 centerfire cartridges. My stock of smokeless powders is so large that I keep it in a shed about 50 yards from the house. The more volatile black powders are kept in another shed over 200 yards from the house. Boxes of jacketed rifle bullets from .22 to .45 caliber and jacketed pistol bullets from .30 to .45 caliber are stuffed in and under every shelf and bench in my office and gun vault. There are over 125 bullet moulds in my casting area along with four lead furnaces and literally tons of lead alloys. Of course reloading dies and cast bullet sizing/lubing dies are needed for all.

### Hungry Chambers

How in the world can someone even semi-retire and still feed so many different types of guns? No, semi-retirement is going to require some consolidation. I’m sure in some instances it will be painful. For example: perhaps I could make do with fewer than 13 rifles chambered for the .30-06? Or instead of having several dozen various types of single-action revolvers maybe a couple could suffice.

Since I’ve taken up firing a type of event called VIMBAR (vintage military bolt action rifle) one .30-06 keeper would be my Smith-Corona US Model 1903A3. Even with social-security-aged eyes I can still use its peep sights well. The second would be my Gibbs Rifle Company’s copy of the US Model 1903A4 with a 2.5X Weaver scope. I’ve shot it with good results all the way to 1,000 yards so it would suffice



*Duke kept this Remington Model 700 .222 Remington Magnum after selling off all his other varmint rifles ages ago. He keeps it by the door to deal with predators that come around looking to make a meal of his pets.*

for vintage sniper rifle matches which are also springing up around the country.

The other .30-06 military rifle I would keep is an “all Winchester” M1 Garand. During World War II only the US Government-owned Springfield Armory and Winchester Repeating Arms Co. produced M1 Garands, and it is very rare to find one of the latter still having all original parts. A friend spent much time and treasure in restoring a Winchester M1 back to its full 1944 dress. Then, when setting about on a quest for something else he traded it to me.

### Axis & Allies

Along with VIMBAR matches there are also VIMSAR (vintage military semi-auto rifle). The Winchester M1 will be retained for them. All my other historic military rifles of Russian, Czech, British, Japanese, German, Italian and Swedish origin could go with a single exception. That is the German K98k with turret mounts as written up a few issues back. Keeping only one of my 8x57mm military rifles would hurt like a stab in the guts but I can handle it.

Likewise only two of my many black powder cartridge rifles (BPCRs) could fill their specialized niche, which is BPCR Silhouette competition. When traveling to an event I always take two rifles of the same caliber in case one breaks down—and they have on several occasions. My keepers are both 1870s vintage target rifles on which I’ve had fitted new Krieger barrels chambered for .45-90. They are a Sharps Model 1874 Long Range and a Remington No. 1 Creedmoor. Both are drilled and tapped for scope mounts and shoot the same black powder handload superbly. Put a Montana Vintage Arms 6X target scope on any and they also serve for the scoped division of BPCR Silhouette.

At this writing my military pistol collection holds samples of American, German, British, and Japanese handguns but only two could keep me happy. I consider them the ultimate “classics” of their respective calibers, which are 9mm Parabellum and .45 Auto. The 9mm I would keep is a 1938 vintage, Mauser-made, German P08, commonly called the “Luger.” (There never was such a thing as a Luger factory.) The .45 is a Colt US Model 1911 made in 1918 and as fine a shooter as I’ve ever held.

That brings us to another facet of 9mm and .45 Auto. Back in 2007 I was bitten with the full-auto bug and scratched that itch in the form of several vintage WWII submachine guns. If and when I get into that semi-retirement mode two will stay until the bitter end because to me they are the embodiment of WWII sub-guns. Those are Germany’s MP40 9mm and the US “Tommy-Gun” .45 Auto. (My Thompson is the M1 version made in 1942.)

Now let’s jump to the Old West. In regards to single action revolvers it is hard for me to think of them without also considering lever guns chambered for the same cartridge. I have a beautiful matched pair of 7-1/2” barreled, nickel-



*After much agonizing in 2008 Duke sold off several guns to pay for a WWII vintage M1 Thompson submachine gun. He figures on keeping it forever.*

plated Colt Frontier Six-Shooters (meaning .44-40s) that I would never sell. For a companion piece I’d keep Cimarron Arms/Uberty Model 1873 .44-40 Sporting Rifle. I’ve had it for nearly 20 years and it’s never once let me down. What about full-size, rifle-caliber lever guns such as .45-70, .40-82, or even .38-55 or .30-30? Nah, I can live without them.

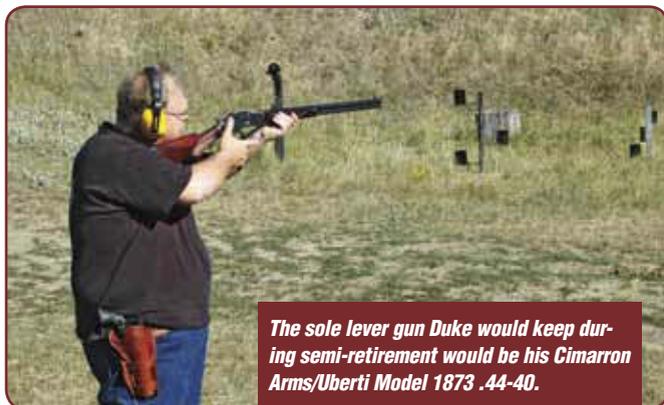
### Frontline Defense

I’d need to keep three firearms even in semi-retirement for home/self-defense. My primary handgun for that purpose will be my Les Baer Thunder Ranch Special .45 Auto. Whether kept by my bed or on my person it’s an amazingly reliable, accurate, and wonderfully made handgun. My secondary self-defense handgun is a .38 Special “snubnose” revolver, one of S&W’s alloy-frame Model 442s. It is the so-called “hammerless” (actually concealed/internal hammer) version with 2” barrel. Here in Montana I am seldom without it when away from home.

Clint Smith teaches at Thunder Ranch that a handgun’s primary self-defense purpose is as a weapon with which you should fight your way to a rifle. For me that rifle is an M1A1 .30 Carbine. As such it has a folding stock and can take either 15- or 30-round magazines. Again its peep rear sight still suits my aging eyesight.

Although I don’t hunt anymore I’d still keep two sporting rifles. One is always kept by my door for the occasional coyote or fox that hopes to make a meal of one of our dogs or cats. That varmint is a .222 Remington Magnum Model 700 ADL wearing a 10X Weaver scope. Bought used in 1980 this .22 centerfire stayed when all others were sold off long ago and has been used to kill hundreds of varmints from tiny ground squirrels to coyotes.

It would be hard to pick between my two Winchester Model 70 Featherweights. One is a .30-06 still “as-issued” in 1959. The other is a 1952 vintage .308 to which someone fitted a Mannlicher style stock before I bought it in 1980. It wears a 2-7X Leupold scope and I’ve used it on game from



*The sole lever gun Duke would keep during semi-retirement would be his Cimarron Arms/Uberty Model 1873 .44-40.*



*Duke would keep four military rifles upon entering a more laid back life-style, to include (top to bottom) a Winchester M1 Garand from 1944, Smith-Corona Model 1903A3 "Springfield" from 1943, Gibbs Rifle Company's replica of a Model 1903A4 sniper rifle, and a 1943 vintage German K98k with ZF39 scope in turret mounts.*

a tiny Steinbok in Africa to Montana elk. It shows the wear of the experience. I guess it would stick and I'd let the "as-issued" Model 70 go to a collector who would keep it in its pristine condition.

Going along with the concept of consolidation means likewise trimming down the variety of bullets bought, bullet moulds kept on hand, and powders kept in the sheds. With the number of guns reduced to a mere 18 that shouldn't be a problem. As long as Winchester makes their 150-grain Fail Safe factory load for .308 Winchester I wouldn't bother to handload for it in semi-retirement.

For my .30-06s I'd stick to 155-grain hollowpoint boattails by Sierra or Nosler. My 8mm Mauser does very well with 200-grain Nosler HPBTs. The only other jacketed rifle bullets needed then would be for the .222 Rem Mag. I've put many types through that rifle but it likes best 52-grain Speer hollowpoints. The one smokeless powder I'd need for all these "modern" rifles would be Hodgdon's Varget.

Am I forgetting .30 Carbine? No, I just wouldn't reload for it. Speer has that new Lawman 110-grain softpoint factory load out so I'd just keep a case of it on hand. Same with the .38 Special: I probably have enough .38 Special factory loads already on hand to last the rest of my life.

For the autoloading handgun cartridges I'd take two paths for bullets. The .45 Auto will do fine with lead alloy bullets. I'd pour them out of linotype alloy using my 4-cavity Lyman mould 452374. The 9mm Parabellum, I'd just feed 124-grain FMJ bullets. They're not all that expensive by the thousand from Zero Bullet Co. For .44-40, bullets ones from RCBS mould 44-200FN would be my picks. Already, in all three of these handgun calibers I predominantly use Winchester 231 for propellant (aka HP38 by Hodgdon).

Finally we get to the BPCRs. My main bullets for .45-90s are poured in custom Steve Brooks bullet moulds. They weigh 560 grains. Because a 560-grain .45 bullet delivers plenty of recoil, for the offhand segment of BPCR Silhouette I've taken to using a light 440-grain bullet

poured in a mould made by my Canadian friend Leo Bumphrey. All of my BPCR bullets are poured of 1:20 tin-to-lead alloy, and lubed with SPG. (It works fine for smokeless powder cast bullets too.) The only black powder used is Swiss 1-1/2 Fg along with CCI-BR2 primers.

There you have it. In my semi-retirement I can trim down to 17 firearms chambered for only 10 cartridges, of which I would handload for only seven. I'll only have to stock two smokeless powders and one black powder. Rifle bullets bought will be in only three sizes and four bullet moulds can supply projectiles for all other purposes. In semi-retirement all my other firearms and accessories could be liquidated and the money invested in one of those "toy-hauler" travel trailers. Then in its cargo area a reloading area could be set up. With whatever money is left I could travel around the country attending shooting events.

Sounds wonderful! But retirement or even semi-retirement for a gun'riter? Well, it's fun to dream!



BROOKS' TRU-BORE BULLET MOULDS  
1610 DUNN AVE.  
WALKERVILLE, MT 59701  
(406) 782-5114

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/BROOKS-MOULDS

BOOMERS BULLET MOULDS  
LEO BUMPHREY  
1221 BRODER ST.  
REGINA, SK CANADA S4N 3R3  
(306) 522-8760

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/  
BOOMERS-MOULDS

ZERO AMMUNITION CO. INC.  
P.O. BOX 1188  
CULLMAN, AL 35056  
(800) 545-9376

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/ZERO-AMMO

# Don Mitchell's LAST\* MAUSERS

"I'm Holding Last Year's  
Low Prices as Long as I Can!"

Plus - **FREE** -  
Original Accessories  
Worth More than \$100.00  
with each rifle.



Soon They'll Be  
**All Gone!**  
Act Now, Before It's Too Late!

*Original*

**1. The Original Mauser K98k from WWII Germany.** Every Collector wants this Famous Mauser, because it was made in WWII Germany with the Original military Markings. It oozes History! Factory overhauled and preserved in military storage. Copied by every major rifle maker since, but Never Beaten!

Souvenir Grade K98k Mauser \$399  
Collector Grade K98k Mauser \$499

**2. M48 Mauser Rifle.** The most modern of all the military Mauser 98 Karbines, this FN pattern Mauser was built in Serbia in peace time using superior materials after the Germans

had been driven out. Very few remain.

M48 Collector Grade Mauser \$399

**3. M2447 Mauser.** This 1924 FN pattern Mauser 98 Karbine was made in Serbia before WWII in both infantry and cavalry versions,

and then captured new by the Blitzkrieg in 1941. Never used. Standardized at the factory for infantry use in 1947. These rifles are still in Military New Condition. **Best Mauser Value** available today.

M2447 Collector Grade Mauser \$299

\* **Last Mausers:** For two years now, no more good Original German Mausers have been found in Europe. Only a few remain in our warehouse here. There are no more! **Don't Miss Out! Call Us!**

## Rare: Hitler's First K98k's



For years the prestigious Mauser factory had been building the highest-quality, finely-finished Commercial Mausers for the International Hunting Rifle market.

Beginning in 1934 the Nazis secretly confiscated them to make their first K98k rifles. These finely-made

Mausers with sniper-rifle quality bear the famous civilian Mauser Banner crest plus the German army inspection stamps. Of all the K98k's, the **Rarest and Most Beautiful.**

Only the **Last Few** remain. Call Us!

## Best Mausers! Best Selection! Best Support!

Our Mausers and our business have passed inspections by every major firearms publisher, like Rifleman, Guns & Ammo, Guns Magazine, etc; by the Better Business Bureau; by the ATF; and by the toughest judges of all . . . **Tens of Thousands of Happy Customers.**

Here's what *They* say:

I love it. It shoots like a dream and is highly accurate. I would recommend that everyone buy one.  
- Dan in Pittsburgh, PA

Just a short note to tell you how impressed I am with the quality of the rifle I received. It is one of the best C&R group rifles in my collection.

- Dwight in McKinney, TX

Received the Mauser today. It's beautiful. Thanks for all your help. Pleasure doing business with you . . .

- Warren in Metairie, LA

You can Purchase with Confidence!  
Our products are what we say they are.

**Your Satisfaction is Guaranteed!**

## All of our Mauser Rifles are:

- **Ideal** for Collecting, Shooting, and Preserving 20<sup>th</sup> Century History.
- **Purebred Original Mauser 98** system rifles with Mauser Accuracy, Reliability, Strength and Safety.
- **Thoroughly Inspected and Graded.** They are in beautiful condition; cleaned and ready to enjoy, with bright bores, solid stocks and dark-blue metal.
- Packed in American Packaging with **American Manuals and Certification.**
- Backed by our comprehensive, **Money-back Satisfaction Guarantee.**

**But . . . We Are Unable to Hold These Prices Much Longer!**

Call Us at **800-274-4124**

Ask about the **Layaway Plan to Lock Your Price.** Some other grades and models also available, including Snipers, Lugers, Walthers, PPS50's, Black Lightnings, etc.

**Mitchell's Mausers**  
P.O. Box 9295, Fountain Valley, CA 92728 714-596-1013  
Fax 714-848-7208 www.Mauser.net

**KWIK-SITE**  co.



**TOMORROW IS HERE NOW!**

Check out the new **SUPER LONG BASE** from Kwik-Site.

Made from aircraft aluminum, solid & strong!

Good looks at a fantastic price!

See it at your favorite dealer.

**NOW ON SALE!**

Retail Price **\$17.94** or less.

Available in Matte, Brite or Stainless.



**SUPER LONG BASE**

**KWIK-SITE**  co.

Leading U.S. Manufacturer of Scope Mounts

5555 Treadwell  
Wayne, MI 48184

Phone: (734) 326-1500

Fax: (734) 326-4120

E-mail: kwiksiteco@aol.com  
www.kwiksitecorp.com

# KNIVES

STORY: Pat Covert

## THE FORCE BE WITH YOU! Krudo Knives offers a different take on the folding knife.

**S**ometimes a knife is more than you expect it to be, and sometimes it's not even a knife at all. Confused yet? Let me explain. SNAG knives are the brainchild of martial arts expert Louis Krudo, a master of the Filipino fighting discipline Arnis, derived from the Spanish term arnis de mano (rough translation: harnessing of the hand). In practice Louis calls it "pain management" because his system can inflict other forms of physical pain which are less deadly, yet still impose a high level of grief.

Krudo's SNAG folding knives—designed on the popular Southeast Asian Karambit platform—are available in SNAG Live Blade and SNAG Controller models. The Live Blade model has a wicked Hawk-bill blade, something akin to a velociraptor claw. The Controller version has no blade at all. Rather, the claw is a notched hook that can be used to inflict pain as it grabs anything from arms to elbows to neck bones. The knives can also be used to hit, which can be equally excruciating. Krudo's knives are not the first folding Karambits, but his are more versatile, thanks to a folding thumb



*Krudo's folding SNAG Controller (top) and Live Blade (bottom) offer versatility and options in the use of controlled vs. deadly force.*

### SNAG LIVE BLADE AND CONTROLLER

MAKER: KRUDO KNIVES  
8140 PICTON WAY  
TRINITY, FL 34655  
(727) 753-8455

[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/KRUDO-KNIVES](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/KRUDO-KNIVES)

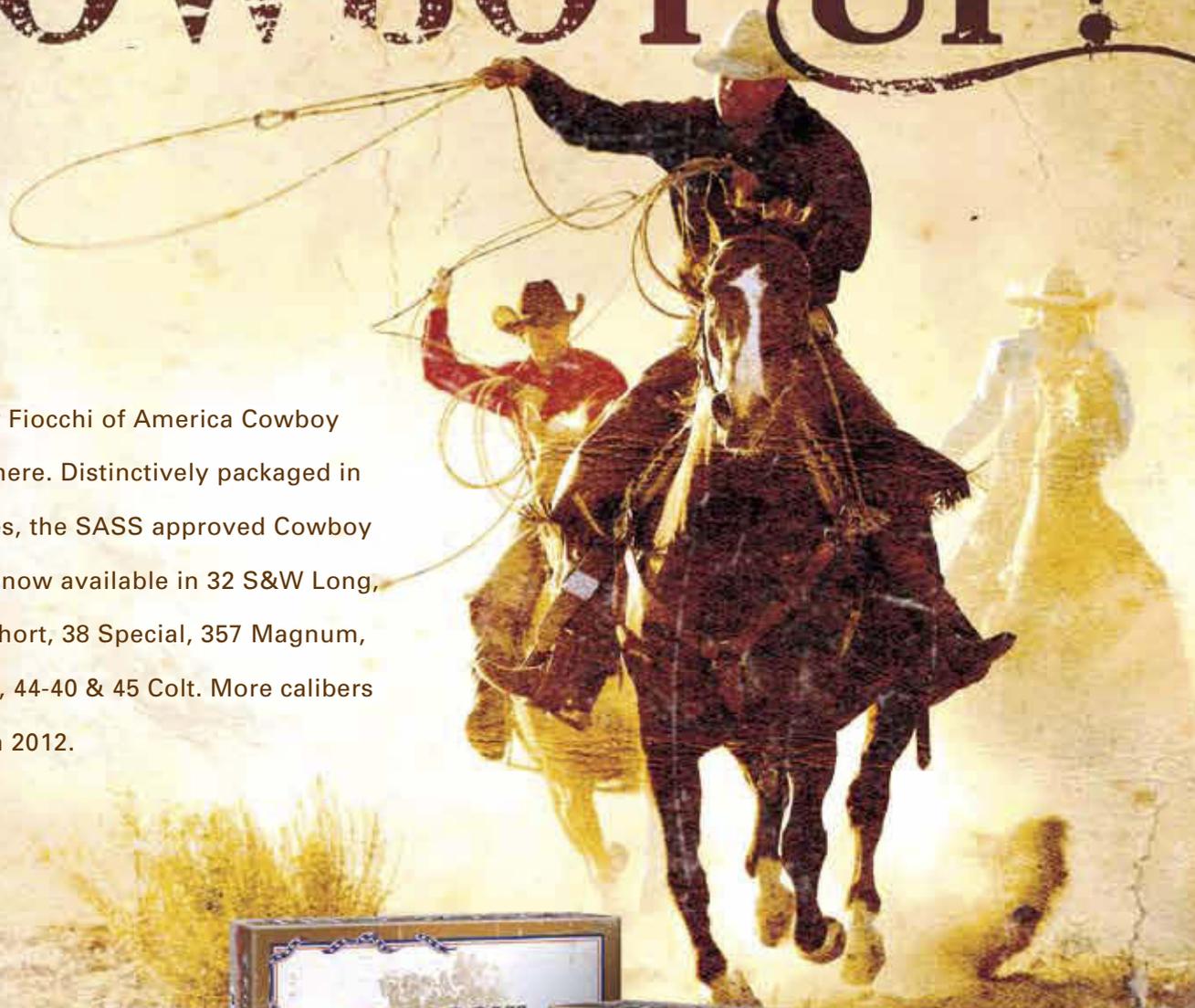
**BLADE STEEL:** 9CrCo13MoV, **BLADE LENGTH:** 2.5", **OVERALL LENGTH:** 6.8", **WEIGHT:** Live Blade 4.4 ounces, Controller 5 ounces, **HANDLE:** Machined aluminum, **CARRY:** Indexed pocket clip, **PRICE:** \$169.99 (Live Blade), \$129.99 (Controller)

ramp that allows more functions.

If you think a knife without a blade can't be effective, think again. I have had a demo "applied" to me using the SNAG Controller and, believe me, it can leave you flopping around like a fish on dry land. The various grips, holds, and hitting positions this knife can apply are especially useful to law enforcement officers who need options to forcefully control an offender without deadly force. These are serious, well built knives with aluminum handles, liner-locks, and pocket clips spooned for indexing. May the Force be with you, especially if you end up on the wrong end of a SNAG! 

# COWBOY UP!

The New Fiochi of America Cowboy Ammo is here. Distinctively packaged in aged boxes, the SASS approved Cowboy Loads are now available in 32 S&W Long, 38 S&W Short, 38 Special, 357 Magnum, 44 Special, 44-40 & 45 Colt. More calibers to come in 2012.



Cowboy Loads

SINCE 1876



# FIOCCHI

A M M U N I T I O N

For the Fiochi dealer near you, CALL 417.449.1043 / visit [www.fiochiusa.com](http://www.fiochiusa.com)

**KWIK-SITE**  
*has taken Weaver®*  
*style rings to new heights*  
*and new lengths*  
**Our Caps Will NOT**  
**Scratch Your Scope Or Rust**

Special aircraft alloy metals won't scratch your scope, and they are *kwik-detachable* for easy remounting.

A satin smooth finish available in brite black, silver, and black matte. They set the standard for looks in the industry.

If you can't find our rings at your favorite dealer or distributor, contact KWIK-SITE and we'll make SURE you get them.

We can fit any scope in a 1" tube, long or short, low or high, with our new extension rings. Adjustable extension rings are the same quality as our top mount rings.



Up to 64 mm objective lens  
**KS-305**

**4 HOLE CAP**



Up to 52 mm objective lens  
**KS-304**

**AIRCRAFT ALLOY**



Up to 44 mm objective lens  
**KS-303**

**GREAT PACKAGING**



Up to 32 mm objective lens  
**KS-302**

**AND THE BEST PRICE!**



Up to 64 mm objective lens  
 Extended offset base



Up to 64 mm objective lens  
 2 position, extended offset adjustable base

Patent Pending

**KWIK-SITE** CO.

**Leading U.S. Manufacturer of Scope Mounts Since 1967**

5555 Treadwell, Wayne, MI 48184  
 (734) 326-1500 Fax# (734) 326-4120  
 www.kwiksitecorp.com

*Weaver® is a trademark of the ATK Co.*

**GUNS**  
**VNR**  
 VIEWS • NEWS • REVIEWS  
**RIGHTS WATCH**  
 DAVID CODREA

**Supreme Court Ducks**

“The US Supreme Court declined [on Nov. 28, 2011] to take up a potentially important gun rights case examining whether a federal regulation banning loaded firearms from vehicles in a government park violated the constitutional right to keep and bear arms,” *The Christian Science Monitor* reported.

The case was *Sean Masciandaro v. United States of America*, and it centered on a Virginia man with an expired concealed carry permit convicted and fined \$150 for having a loaded handgun in his car while parked in a national park.

The case presented two fundamental questions:

“I. Does the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution protect a right to possess and carry a firearm for self-defense outside the home?”

“II. If there is a Second Amendment right to possess and carry a firearm for self-defense outside the home, is it constitutional to prohibit law-abiding citizens’ possession and carrying of loaded weapons in motor vehicles while on National Park Service land?”

They are important questions to have answered, as earlier SCOTUS decisions in the *Heller* and *McDonald* cases respectively ruled a right to possess a firearm in the home, and that this right extended beyond federal enclaves and included the states. The Second Amendment Foundation filed an amicus brief on behalf of Masciandaro written by Alan Gura, the attorney behind those landmark decisions.

But the questions and the legal and Constitutional reasons behind them were dismissed without comment as the High Court declined to hear the case. Importantly, this follows by less than 2

months a similar denial to hear the case of *Williams v. Maryland*, which also sought a ruling that the Second Amendment applies to carrying weapons in public for personal self-defense.

What type of legal trickery is this, or is it perhaps just judicial cowardice? How can the Constitution refer to the right of the people to keep and bear arms, and yet prohibitions against carrying are allowed to stand without comment, while citizens are in danger of being prosecuted and convicted without hope of recourse?

And if the Supreme Court refuses to hear such straightforward appeals, what chance do gun owners have at obtaining relief from so-called “assault weapons” bans, prohibitions on private sales, and requirements to register firearms?

It defies common sense, or at least a basic understanding of the definition of words like “shall not be infringed.” But it also points to the danger of relying on the courts to be the final arbiter of our rights. All they need do is refuse to hear an appeal, and just about any gun case out there will be dead in the water.

Back in 2005, I wrote the following on my WarOnGuns blog, predicting what the likely outcome of a Second Amendment case would be:

“I believe the court will not dare say there is no individual rkb. But if they find there is one, it will be so heavily burdened with ‘reasonable restrictions’ as to ensure the status quo. They’ll never admit the truth unless someone, that would be us, has enough power to compel them.”

**GUNS**

Visit David Codrea's online journal "The War on Guns" at [waronguns.com](http://waronguns.com), visit [DavidCodrea.com](http://DavidCodrea.com) to read his Examiner column.

Due to the importance of this column, GUNS will begin posting "Rights Watch" at [www.gunsmagazine.com](http://www.gunsmagazine.com) on the 1st of the month—long before it appears here.—Editor



How do you make a Savage rifle even more accurate? Well, as the adage goes, you can't kill what you can't see, so you include a Nikon 3-9x40 BDC reticle scope, mounted and bore sighted. This unique reticle can be ballistically matched to your exact cartridge using Nikon "Spot On" Software. Coincidentally, the price of the New package is "Spot On" too. See your favorite Savage dealer for details.

[SAVAGEARMS.COM](http://SAVAGEARMS.COM)

**SPOT-ON™**  
BALLISTIC MATCH | TECHNOLOGY



# PERFORMANCE ENHANCEMENT



**Savage Arms**  
The Definition of Accuracy

# OPEN RANGE

FMG introduces OPEN RANGE, an exciting venue offering valuable information on companies and their products and services. Take advantage of the links below for up-to-date information by visiting [www.gunsmagazine.com](http://www.gunsmagazine.com)

## Armscor New Product

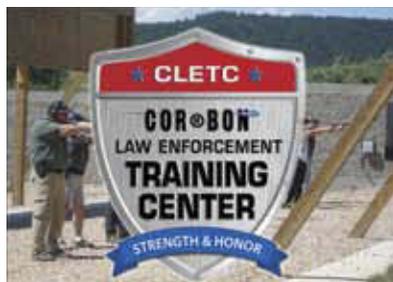
Our new 9mm/.22

TCM gives you blazing performance delivering a 40-grain, .22-caliber bullet at over 2,000 fps. It combines an original Armscor cartridge with excellent muzzle energy and light recoil to create a unique high-capacity pistol. The Micro Mag also comes with a 9mm barrel for practice. It's like two guns in one with flexibility and value all in one package. Visit us at [www.armscorusa.com](http://www.armscorusa.com), [www.facebook.com/ArmscorPrecision](http://www.facebook.com/ArmscorPrecision), [www.youtube.com/ArmscorPrecision](http://www.youtube.com/ArmscorPrecision)



## LWRC International New Product

For 2012, LWRC International is introducing the Individual Carbine (IC) architecture developed in response to the US Army's IC Program. The fully ambidextrous lower is matched to the new Monoforging upper receiver for greater strength with less weight. The IC architecture supports a full family of weapons from the ultra-short IC-PSD to the IC-SPR with extended length handguards. Go to [www.LWRCI.com](http://www.LWRCI.com) for more information.



## CORBON Training Center

The CorBon Law Enforcement Training Center is a convenient and secure place for all types of firearms training. CLETC provides training for beginners as well as advanced tactical training. Training can be done in a private session with instructors or in a formal course with other students. The range is also open to the public for shooting practice. Visit us at [www.cletc.us](http://www.cletc.us), [www.corbon.com](http://www.corbon.com), or [www.facebook.com/cletc](http://www.facebook.com/cletc).



## DeSantis Gunhide Catalog

DeSantis Gunhide® is a leading manufacturer of high quality, USA made leather, nylon, Kydex®, and injection-molded polymer HOLSTERS and ACCESSORIES. DeSantis carries a complete line of concealment, plain clothes, hunting gear, duty and tactical holsters. Orders for in stock items ship in less than 48 hours! DeSantis Gunhide® has served the law enforcement, military, and sportsman communities for almost 40 years. DeSantis didn't invent concealment, we just perfected it! Visit us at [www.desantisholster.com](http://www.desantisholster.com)



## Pro Ears New Product

Finally a Custom Digitally Amplified Ear Plug with Compression good enough to be called Pro Ears!

The Pro Fit™ by Pro Ears was designed with the same focus on Performance, Comfort and Reliability you have learned to expect from the leader in professional quality electronic hearing protection and amplification. The best noise attenuation and most natural digitally amplified sound available. Hear the Difference - with our 30-day No Risk Money Back guarantee. If you are not satisfied just return for a full refund. No hype - just confidence. Contact us for your free fitting kit at [www.proears.com/profit](http://www.proears.com/profit) or call 1.800.891.3660



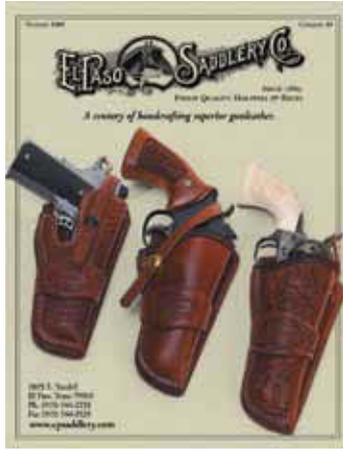
## Black Hills Ammunition New Product

Black Hills 5.56mm 69-grain OTM now available for 2012. This 5.56mm round provides a flat shooting, wind bucking 2875 fps from a 20" barrel, plus sub MOA accuracy. It's loaded with a powder selected for extreme temperature stability and is flash suppressed for use in low-light conditions. Military match toughness and precision for your sporting rifle! Visit us at [www.black-hills.com](http://www.black-hills.com)



## El Paso Saddlery Catalog

Since 1889 El Paso Saddlery has been making the finest holsters, belts and accessories in the world. Our products include antique and modern styles. So why buy a reproduction when you can have the REAL THING. \$5.00  
www.epsaddlery.com



## Gallery of Guns Catalog

GalleryofGuns.com is the ultimate online catalog that features a state-of-the-art consumer firearm purchasing tool called Gun Genie. Gun Genie allows you to conveniently purchase new firearms from one of the world's largest inventories, with the convenience of shopping at home. GalleryofGuns.com puts the power in your hands! Visit us at www.GalleryofGuns.com



## Hogue New Holsters

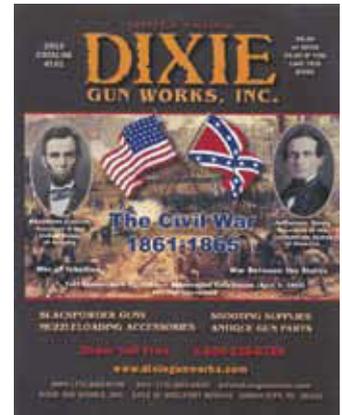
Hogue retention holsters are designed for concealed carry and Law Enforcement uses. Constructed with injection molded and formed Kydex, Hogue holsters utilize a patented automatic retention mechanism with unique features that provide secure handgun retention with a quick intuitive draw. Models are now available for most popular handguns.



## Dixie Gun Works Inc. Catalog

The greatest black-powder/muzzle loading catalog! Over 600 pages of replica guns, antique gun parts, accoutrements and supplies for the shooter, hunter and historical enthusiast. The Dixie Gun Works catalog also features a section of "General Information" of facts and figures designed to improve one's knowledge in the fascinating field. In the U.S. \$5.; outside US, \$20.

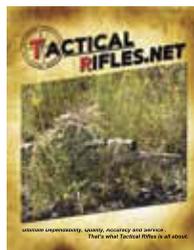
Visit us at www.dixiegunworks.com



## Tactical Rifles New Product

Builders of the world's finest custom-built precision rifles are now taking orders for the M40 .338 Lapua - The Tactical M40 steps up to the plate with the chambering that holds the longest ever recorded sniper shot, for those wishing to make statements at a mile!

The Classic Sporter - a World Class XXX grade English walnut stock beautifully compliments a quarter minute sporting rifle to give the discerning rifleman a gracefully elegant sporter with a level of accuracy that has never been seen before. Call us toll free and we'll be happy to discuss your custom requirements - (877)811-GUNS(4867) or visit us on the web www.tacticalrifles.net



## Troy Industries New Product

Made from Troy® proprietary military-grade, chemical, biological and impact resistant polymer, the Troy® magazine is as sleek as it is strong. Featuring a bolstered floor plate that is set flush and feed lips and anti-tilt follower are reinforced for strength. Aggressive scale pattern provides the ultimate grip in dirty or wet conditions. Troy® BattleMag sets a new standard, and succeeds where other magazines fail. Engineered to function flawlessly with all M4, M16/AR-15, HK416® and FN SCAR® rifles and carbines. Patent Pending. Made in the USA. Available in black, Flat Dark Earth, OD green and Coyote tan.

Visit us at www.troyind.com

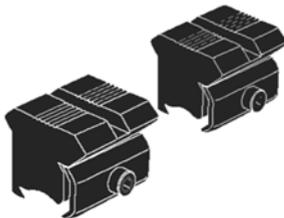


**KWIK-SITE**  CO.

**DOES IT  
AGAIN!**

With The **NEW** One And Only  
Don't Be Fooled By Imitations

**KWIK-MOUNT**®/  
**22 ADAPTER FOR RIFLES  
with GROOVED RECEIVERS**



**New Long Adapter Works  
For Air Rifles**

Universal mounts enabling scopes  
to be interchanged easily onto a  
variety of receivers.

Satin smooth finish available  
in brite black, silver, and black  
matte, all at the same price.

Sets the standard for looks in the  
industry.

If you can't find our bases at your  
favorite distributor or dealer,  
contact KWIK-SITE and we'll  
make SURE you get them.

**KWIK-SITE**  CO.

Leading U.S. Manufacturer  
of Scope Mounts Since 1967

5555 Treadwell, Wayne, MI 48184  
(734) 326-1500 Fax (734) 326-4120  
[www.kwiksitecorp.com](http://www.kwiksitecorp.com)

## NEWS

### Missiles Refurbished

As equipment is transitioned out of Iraq, perhaps none is more critical than the HELLFIRE missile system. Since the drawdown began, more than 750 HELLFIRE missiles have been shipped to the 402nd Army Field Support Battalion at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar, where they are serviced, tested and repaired by the HELLFIRE Forward Test and Repair Facility.

The HELLFIRE team returned nearly half of those missiles back into theater combat stocks, said Lt. Col. Michael Brown, director of Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, for the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade.



**David Phillips, performs checks and services on a HELLFIRE missile turned in to the Forward Test and Repair Facility in Qatar as part of the drawdown in Iraq.**

"Because of this facility, turnaround times for HELLFIRE missiles are now less than 90 days. That's a cost avoidance of more than \$39,000 per missile. Plus, this is reducing the workload at stateside depots by about 58 percent," Brown said.

The HELLFIRE missile is the primary precision air-to-ground weapon used by joint and coalition services to protect ground forces and non-combatants. More than 11,000 have been fired in combat operations since 2001.

Acquisition officials estimate the HELLFIRE facility in Qatar will save the Army more than \$55 million during the next three years.

"To date, assets returned have gone back into the hands of the warfighter and been used against insurgents and other hostile elements, saving US and coalition lives in the process. To be able to turn them around in 3 to 4 months vice 2 to 3 years saves the Army money, increases our readiness and gets the best systems to the fight," said Susan Carlson, deputy chief of staff, Army Logistics (G-4).—*Pamela Proper*

### USS Benfold Assists Stranded Mariners

Guided-missile destroyer USS Benfold (DDG 65) assisted four

stranded mariners in the waters off San Clemente Island, Calif., last Nov. 28 while conducting routine training operations in the Pacific Ocean.

"The United States Navy always stands ready to provide assistance," said Cmdr. David Oden, Benfold's commanding officer. "It was our privilege to help these seamen."



**Sailors assigned to the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Benfold (DDG 65) use a rigid hull inflatable boat to provide engineering and medical assistance to four stranded mariners off San Clemente Island, Calif. Benfold first detected the small fishing craft with the help of their state-of-the-art optical sight system. USN photo: Intelligence Specialist 1st Class Sean Dentrone**

Benfold initially detected the small fishing craft using the ship's state-of-the-art optical sight system. The ship deployed a rigid-hull inflatable boat with engineers and medical personnel aboard to assess the condition of the vessel and crew, as well as render assistance. A helicopter assigned to the "Wildcards" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 23 provided aerial support during the assistance operation.

After determining that the small boat was no longer seaworthy, the US Coast Guard Cutter Sea Otter quickly responded in order to take the mariners aboard and their vessel in tow.

"I couldn't be more proud of my crew for going above and beyond," said Oden. "Particular credit was given to Fire Controlman 3rd Class Lisa Stamp for first sighting the craft. It's exceptional Sailors like FC3 Stamp that make this the best ship in the Navy and the best Navy in the world."

Benfold is an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer homeported in San Diego. The ship has a crew of approximately 300 sailors and serves as one of the Navy's premier ballistic missile defense ships.— *USS Benfold Public Affairs*

### Insurgent Drug Plans Foiled

Afghan National Security Forces supported by Australia's Special Operations Task Group have seized

and destroyed approximately 4,000 kg (8,818 pounds) of poppy seed during an operation in the Kajaki region of Helmand province, Afghanistan.

The seed was believed to have been cached in preparation for next year's growing season.

The operation earlier this week (31 October) also uncovered 30 kg (66 pounds) of processed opium.

Chief of Joint Operations, Lieutenant General Ash Power, said destroying the poppy seed would significantly affect the insurgent-aligned syndicate's ability to harvest a crop in the 2012 growing season.

"This high-grade seed is crucial to sustaining production and is highly valued and protected," Lieutenant General Power said.

Afghan and Australian forces came under fire as they entered the targeted area and elements remained in contact for the duration of the mission.

"The ferocity of the insurgent response to the mission is a clear indicator of just how important this cache was to their plans."

No members of the Special Operations Task Group or the Afghan National Interdiction Unit were killed or wounded during the mission.

Australian Special Forces are supporting the National Interdiction Unit in a concerted effort to disrupt insurgent command, control and finance networks in southern Afghanistan.—*Courtesy AMOD*

## Russian Ambassador Thanks RAF

The Russian Ambassador has thanked the crew of the RAF Search and Rescue Flight, which included Prince William, for their attempts to rescue the crew of a sinking Russian cargo vessel this weekend.

Two Russian sailors were airlifted to safety by an RAF helicopter, based at RAF Valley in Anglesey, after their cargo vessel was hit by a 50' wave in the Irish Sea on Saturday.

A third man was pulled from the water, but was later pronounced dead, while the search for five missing Russian crew members from the Russian MV Swanland was continued.

The RAF Search and Rescue Sea King helicopter crew were Flight Lieutenant Bunn (captain), Flight Lieutenant Wales (co-pilot), Sergeant "Livvy" Livingstone (radar/winch operator) and Master Aircrewman Rich Taylor (winchman/paramedic).

The Russian Ambassador, Alexander Yakovenko, thanked Prince

**MEC-GAR®**  
World's Finest Magazines

### "OPTIMUM"... THE WORLD'S BEST MAGAZINES

MEC-GAR is proud to offer "Optimum" - our new and unique series of high capacity flush-fit pistol magazines.

The new design of the magazine housing and interlinked magazine components, together with a special Anti-Friction Coating offer far superior performance even in difficult operational environments.

The increased firepower of MEC-GAR "Optimum" magazines can be further raised by an optional "Plus Two" adapter. "Plus Two" is a new set of hollow butt-plate and inner base to raise the capacity of the MEC-GAR "Optimum" magazine by 2-rounds and stick out only 5/8" from the butt of the pistol!

Available For:

- Beretta 92FS 9mm 18rd / 20rd
- Beretta 96FS .40S&W 13rd / 15rd
- Para-Ordnance P14 .45ACP 14rd
- SIG P226 9mm 18rd / 20rd
- SIG P226 .40S&W 13rd / 15rd
- Springfield XD 9mm 18rd
- Springfield XD .40S&W 13rd
- Taurus PT92 9mm 18rd / 20rd
- Taurus PT100 .40S&W 13rd / 15rd



Mec-Gar USA, Inc., 905 Middle Street, Middletown, CT 06457  
Tel: (800) 632-4271 Fax: (860) 635-1712 www.mec-gar.com

### CATALOG #34 — THE WORLD'S LARGEST SUPPLIER OF GUN PARTS®

**The only source you'll ever need...**  
for current, obsolete and military gun parts, gunsmith supplies, military surplus and shooting accessories.

ITEM#TP-34  
ONLY \$24.95!  
(for the  
3-volume set)



Our new three-volume set for Catalog #34 features our:

- 1,088 page **Commercial Firearms Reference Guide** with over 600 schematics,
- 336 page **Firearms Accessory Catalog**, and
- 220 page **Military Firearms Reference Guide**, with over 124 schematics

**Order your set NOW!**

Our latest editions feature more than 180,000 individual items, over 700 schematic drawings and parts lists, and a store brand name to original manufacturer cross-reference.

**We carry products for hundreds of manufacturers including:**

- Heckler & Koch • Colt • High Standard • Ruger • Marlin
- Mauser • Mossberg • Remington
- Savage • SigArms • Glock
- Uberti • AMT • Benelli

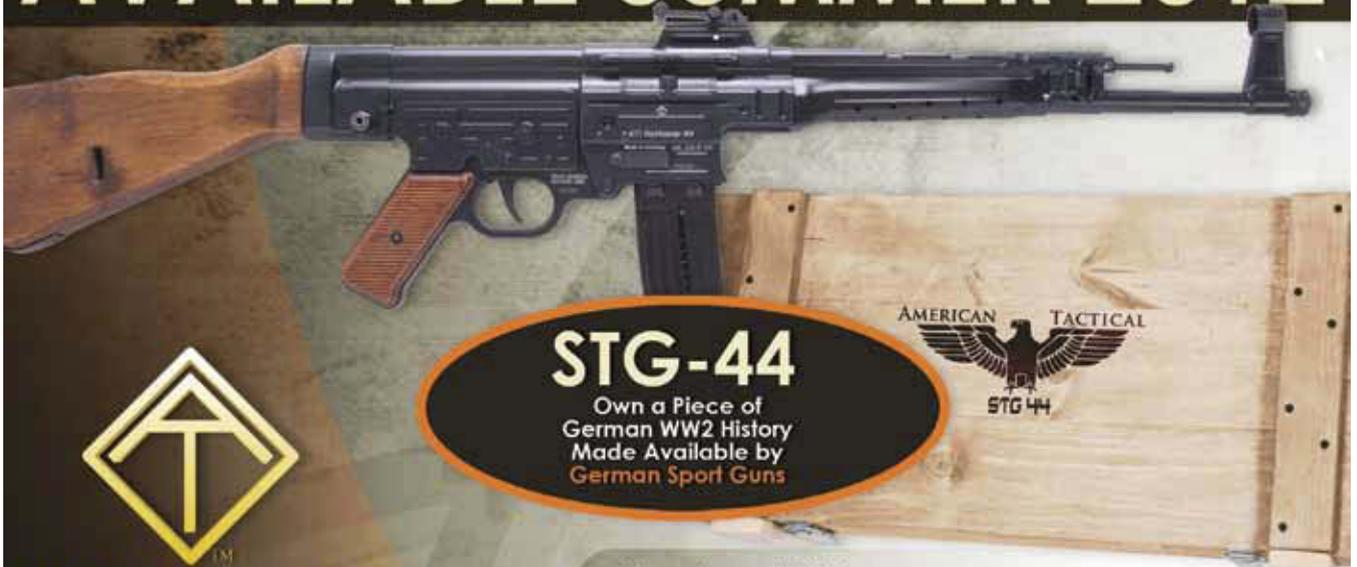


U.S. Orders: Shipped bulk mail. Shipping charges included. Foreign Orders: Shipped air mail (30 day delivery) or surface (90 day delivery). Shipping charges additional.

Mail: PO Box 299 West Hurley Ny 12491 — or — 226 Williams Lane, Kingston Ny 12401  
Order Toll-Free: 866-686-7424 • Toll-Free Fax: 877-GUNPART • Web: GunPartsCorp.com

**GUNS MAGAZINE ONLINE!**  
[www.gunsmagazine.com](http://www.gunsmagazine.com)

# AVAILABLE SUMMER 2012



AMERICAN TACTICAL

800-290-0065

www.AmericanTactical.us



VIEW OUR FULL  
PRODUCT CATALOG  
AND PURCHASE  
MERCHANDISE  
ONLINE

## STG-44

Own a Piece of  
German WW2 History  
Made Available by  
German Sport Guns



- Chambered 22LR
- Comes in WW2 Period Style Box
- Never Before Available in the US
- Manufactured as Close to Original Specs as Possible
- Real Wooden Furnishings
- Available in 10 and 25 Round

\*Product packaging subject to change



GERMAN SPORT GUNS

### “Clintism” No. 3:

“The gun that’s with you is better than the one that’s home in the safe.”

You’ve decided to carry a concealed handgun. **Now what?**

Clint Smith of Thunder Ranch can help you adjust to this change in your lifestyle through the Concealed Carry Options two-disc DVD set.

Clint will help you choose which gun to carry, how to carry it, what to look for in clothing and how to draw the gun correctly.

He also discusses the assets and liabilities of a concealed handgun and how they affect you.

The Thunder Ranch Concealed Carry Options DVD set will help you discover logical solutions that fit your lifestyle. Order your copy today!



CONCEALED  
CARRY OPTIONS



### Logical Solutions for Concealed Carry

From Firearms Training Expert  
**Clint Smith**

- DVD Two-Disk Set Includes:
- Mental Preparation Lecture
  - Gun Choice
  - Carry and Clothing
  - Drawing Technique



TRAINING SERIES



Two-disc set only

**\$49.95**

Includes over two hours of video!  
**(800) 628-9818** (M-F 8am-3pm PST)

www.americanhandgunner.com/TRvidst

Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery

William and his colleagues in a letter posted on his embassy's website. He wrote:

"All day long we were anxiously following the rescue operation searching for Russian seamen from the sunk Swanland vessel.

"We know that you took an active part in the rescue and the two seamen were saved thanks to your selfless effort under the bad weather conditions.

"Let me express to you and your colleagues my deepest gratitude for saving the lives of the Russian citizens."

The Swanland sank about 10 miles west of the Lleyn peninsula in North Wales. The RAF Search and



**An RAF Search and Rescue Sea King helicopter banks over Snowdonia, North Wales. Stock image: Crown Copyright/MOD 2009**

Rescue team was called into action when the cargo ship issued a mayday call at around 0200 hours when its

hull cracked.

The two surviving members of the crew of the Cook-Islands-registered vessel were pulled from an inflatable life raft soon after the alarm was raised.

Both men were taken to hospital in nearby Bangor as a precaution and later discharged.

The search operation also involved helicopters from the RAF base at Chivenor, 771 Naval Air Squadron and the Irish Coast Guard, three coast guard rescue teams, lifeboat crews from Pwlllehi, Porthdinllaen, Abersoch and Trearddur Bay and a fixed-wing aircraft from Ireland.—

*Courtesy MOD*

**GUNS**



**LIGHT GUARD™**  
**ANYTHING LESS**  
**IS JUST A SHOT**  
**IN THE DARK**

**Crimson  Trace®**

Visit [www.ctclightguard.com](http://www.ctclightguard.com)  
or scan here for a complete  
overview of the Lightguard™  
product platform.



[WWW.CTCLIGHTGUARD.COM](http://WWW.CTCLIGHTGUARD.COM) • 1-800-442-2406

# QUARTERMASTER

FEATURING: JOHN CONNOR

## SELF-DEFENSE

### Stealth, strength & economy.

**I**t could be four gangbangers rushing your open garage door, shooting as they come. You could be the lone armed customer caught between the aisles when two bandits begin blasting the convenience store clerk, and you have to act—or die. Or two masked scumbags suddenly appear in your living room because somebody left a sliding glass door unlocked. Maybe it will come as you're using a well-lit ATM, when thugs attack out of the dark.



**Nordic Components makes high quality extended magazine systems to fit many 12- and 20-gauge shotguns.**

there are tons of new and used 12- and 20-gauge “sporting” Remington 870s, Mossberg 500-series, and other makes ready for retrofitting with high quality, smooth feeding extended magazine tube assemblies by Nordic Components. Lightweight and strong, they're precision machined of 6061 aircraft aluminum to boost your capacity from +1 to +8 rounds. Nordic's low-drag followers and barrel-and-tube clamps round out an “enhanced fire-power package.” For a shorter, lighter, more maneuverable setup, check out Tapco's TGA-12, which replaces your standard shotgun buttstock with a



**An interesting and effective home-defense alternative: a dedicated 9mm Parabellum carbine from Lone Wolf R&D.**



**The award-winning Ruger LC9 pistol is now offered with a LaserMax CenterFire frame-mounted laser.**

Those were the scenes in four surveillance-camera videos I recently reviewed. In cases one and two, the citizens had guns close at hand, and they acted immediately and decisively. The resident in his garage, in fact, sent all four predators running, seriously wounding one. In the third, the homeowner had a gun, but couldn't retrieve it fast enough to save his life. In the fourth, the victim had no weapon, and no chance.

Assaults tend to be fast, close and violent, and the more prepared you are in head, heart and hardware, the greater your chance of survival. We can only cover a fraction of the latest self-defense products, but here are some selections for your consideration:

### Fine Guns, Fresh Ammo

A friend of mine was looking for a rugged, accurate, handgun-caliber “truck carbine” which would pack a punch, but be economical to shoot. When he found it, he also found it

made a great home defense weapon too; high-capacity, very controllable, operable with gross motor skills under stress, and while it's very maneuverable, it's also stout enough for employment as an impact weapon. That's the G9 carbine from Lone Wolf Distributors, shown nearby, a dedicated—not cobbled-up and modified—9mm semi-auto carbine, which feeds with standard Glock 17-round or 33-round magazines.

All the usual controls are AR-consistent, just like your favorite 5.56mm carbine. Having shot and reviewed one recently, I'm happy to report it is very well made and it functioned flawlessly. Just slap on iron sights or an optic and you've got an excellent multi-function weapon. The lower must be shipped to your FFL holder, and the complete upper can be shipped direct to you. Together they cost a bit more than a high-end 9mm pistol, and do a whole lot more.

There's not much new besides Bells & Whistles in defensive shotguns, but

solid pistol grip and single-point sling loop, priced at \$24.99.

Pint-sized pocket pistols are still selling strong, and now Ruger's .380 LCP and 9mm LC9 are available with the new LaserMax CenterFire frame-mounted lasers. Weighing only a 1/2 ounce and set close to the boreline, they are slick, smooth and ambidextrous, activated by a simple push producing a 5mW red laser with a battery life of 5 hours constant-on. If you already own an LCP or LC9, you can buy a CenterFire laser directly from LaserMax and install it yourself in minutes. For easy, ergonomic controls and a seamless fit to the contours of the pistols, this is one of the best laser designs I've seen.

For several full-size Glock, Smith & Wesson M&P and Springfield XD model pistols, Crimson Trace's Light-guard 100-lumen, frame-mounted

# XD<sup>M</sup> - 3.8 COMPACT .45ACP



## AVAILABLE NOW!

9 + 1 ROUND FLUSH FITTING MAGAZINE  
13 + 1 ROUND MEGAZINE™ WITH XD(M) GEAR® MAG X-TENSION™  
(USPAT.7191556)  
THREE INTERCHANGEABLE BACKSTRAPS  
THREE MAG X-TENSION™  
XD(M) GEAR™ DOUBLE MAGAZINE POUCH  
XD(M) GEAR™ PADDLE HOLSTER  
MAGAZINE LOADER

1.800.680.6866 | [WWW.THE-M-FACTOR.COM](http://WWW.THE-M-FACTOR.COM)

light is a real winner—in fact, it won the 2011 Self-Defense Product of the Year award from the *Shooting Industry Academy of Excellence*. Ambidextrous and instinctively grip-activated, it's virtually snag-free and teams neatly with Crimson Trace LaserGrips.

Effective defensive ammo abounds,



**The Fast Draw Gun Magnet will hold 10 pounds securely and conceal a gun virtually anywhere.**

but Federal Premium offers a different take with their new Guard Dog Home Defense rounds. Hollowpoint rounds penetrating clothing or dry wall can fill with debris, which retards expansion and promotes over-penetration. Guard Dog lightweight, low recoil, high velocity non-hollowpoint slugs are a full metal jacket design filled with expanding polymer, so they feed smoothly and expand reliably, dissipating energy rapidly. They are available now in 9mm, .40 S&W and .45 ACP, and you can bet more calibers are coming. They're also a great carry-gun choice where hollowpoints are prohibited.

A tough, non-marring casing holds a powerful Neodymium magnet that will hold 10 pounds, and not lose power over time. The mounting and dimensions were carefully designed to accommodate a wide range of handguns and long guns, so they can be concealed in some very unconventional places. Now, a full-size pistol and a 12-gauge 870 are hidden, secure and instantly available under that divider, with another pistol tucked under my desktop. They're not kid proof, but concealment and speed has a security value of its own. Guaranteed for life and shipped free, they list for \$28.99.

The Ultra Pepper Spray system marketed by Ruger is a screamer—literally! Plucking the canister out of its belt mount initiates a piercing 125-decibel alarm housed in the mount. Your grip on the canister activates a disorienting strobe light, which is aligned with the nasty pepperspray, so you're sure to ID your target, and spray exactly what you see. There is



**Guard Dog Home Defense ammo by Federal Premium is designed for maximum performance and in-home safety too.**

but Federal Premium offers a different take with their new Guard Dog Home Defense rounds. Hollowpoint rounds penetrating clothing or dry wall can fill with debris, which retards expansion and promotes over-penetration. Guard Dog lightweight, low recoil, high velocity non-hollowpoint slugs are a full metal jacket design filled with expanding polymer, so they feed smoothly and expand reliably, dissipating energy rapidly. They are available now in 9mm, .40 S&W and .45 ACP, and you can bet more calibers are coming. They're also a great carry-gun choice where hollowpoints are prohibited.

### Stealth & Security

I have a big gunsafe and two small-er mini-vaults. The latter are “fast-ac-



**PROTECT YOURSELF. DEFEND YOUR HOME.**

All Black or Black with Stainless Slide.  
Comfortable grip design - Double Action Only.  
Prices to Carry.  
Built to Protect.  
Subcompact.  
Solid Steel.

**MPA PROTECTOR**  
Protector 380S

**MPA DEFENDER**  
Defender 530SST

22LR, 9mm, .45ACP, .450 Rowland,  
10, 20, 30 & 35 Round Capacities.  
Internal -No Jam- Technology.  
Updated Mac Technology.  
Pistols & Cartridges.  
Extreme Reliability.

**380ACP**

**PROUDLY MADE IN OUR U.S.A.**

**MasterPiece Arms**  
1-866-803-0000  
105A Kingsbridge Dr. • Carrollton, GA 30117 • [www.masterpiecearms.com](http://www.masterpiecearms.com)

**LIFETIME WARRANTY.**

**#440 Lightning \$76<sup>00</sup>**

### THE GOVERNOR IS IN

*Don't impregnate the housekeeper... keep it holstered!*

The 440 Lightning Holster offers a high ride or forward cant with a unique belt loop that allows for a vertical or correct cross draw carry. This holster is available for the new S&W™ Governor in addition to most medium & large frame revolvers as well as a wide variety of autoloaders. Available in black or walnut oil, plain or basket weave finish.

Premium quality at affordable prices.

See your local dealer or visit us on the web to see our full line of quality products.



619-232-2066 • [www.triplek.com](http://www.triplek.com)

**GUNS MAGAZINE ONLINE!**  
[www.gunsmagazine.com](http://www.gunsmagazine.com)



Ruger's Ultra Pepper Spray Defense system comes in two colors, black and pink, and one flavor: Hot & Nasty!



even a grip-aligning projection on the canister to assure you don't accidentally target yourself. Now that's a self-defense *system*: get attention, blind your attacker, and hose 'em down!

The Ultra lists for \$29.95 and comes with a belt clip. Options include a vehicle mount which plugs into your auxiliary power outlet, and another mount which attaches to virtually any surface in your home.

The problem with most "concealed carry clothing" is that it *looks* like just that, and some of it shouts "I'm packin', so shoot me first!" Woolrich took several of their best-selling "civilian" garments, invisibly re-engineered them for concealed-carry utility and produced fine and fashionable choices like the Elite Discreet Carry Twill Jacket. Rugged and toasty, it is hip-length, insulated and fully lined. Two large interior pockets have elasticized holster loops, and the hand-warmer pockets have similar loops for magazines,

lights and other accessories.

Elite Concealed Carry Chino trousers look like casual wear but also hide heavy-duty, non-printing gun pockets, and there's a short sleeve shirt with false magnetic lower buttons for fast access to waist-mounted guns and gear. They're all carried in the Woolrich Elite Tactical line, made to Woolrich's high standards.

That's all we have room for here, folks, and I hope you find something that helps protect you, your family and home. Be safe, and make sure that sliding door is *locked!* Connor **OUT.**

**GUNS**

CRIMSON TRACE  
9780 S.W. FREEMAN DR.  
WILSONVILLE, OR 97070  
(800) 442-2406

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/CRIMSON-TRACE

FEDERAL CARTRIDGE COMPANY  
900 EHLEN DR., ANOKA  
MN 55303-7503  
(800) 831-0850

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/  
FEDERAL-CARTRIDGE-CO

LASERMAX  
3495 WINTON PLACE, BLDG. B  
ROCHESTER, NY 14623  
(800) 527-3703

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/LASERMAX

LONE WOLF DISTRIBUTORS INC.  
57 SHEPARD RD., P.O. BOX 3549  
OLDTOWN, ID 83822  
(208) 437-0612

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/  
LONE-WOLF-DISTRIBUTORS

NORDIC COMPONENTS, INC.  
1158 B HWY 7 EAST, P.O. BOX 338  
HUTCHINSON, MN 55350  
(877) 549-9893

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/NORDIC-COMP

STURM, RUGER & CO., INC.  
411 SUNAPEE ST., NEWPORT, NH 03773  
(603) 865-2442

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/RUGER

TACTICAL CONCEALMENT PRODUCTS LLC  
P.O. BOX 350315, PALM COAST, FL 32135  
(678) 948-6624

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/  
TACTICAL-CONCEAL-PRODUCTS

TAPCO  
P.O. BOX 2408, KENNESAW, GA 30156-9138  
(800) 554-1445

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/TAPCO

WOOLRICH ELITE TACTICAL  
1 MILL ST., WOOLRICH, PA 17779  
(570) 769-6464

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/  
WOOLRICH-ELITE-TACTICAL

**KIRKPATRICK**  
LEATHER COMPANY

Model TSS

Features:

- 100% Leather
- Made in the USA
- Reinforced for re-holstering
- Narrow profile
- Rides close to the body
- Sight channel

Only  
**\$78.00**  
Plus S&H



Proudly made in TEXAS since 1950

www.kirkpatrickleather.com

**(956) 723-6893**

1910 San Bernardo Laredo, TX 78041

**GET YOUR  
GUNS  
GEAR!**



**Team GUNS Collector Pin**

It's colorful, it looks expensive, but any cheapskate can afford it and someday it might be worth what you paid for it.

(Actual size: 3/4" x 5/8")

**\$3.50 each**

(Price includes shipping)

**ORDER TODAY!**

**Call Toll-Free**

**800-628-9818**

**Order at**

**www.gunsmagazine.com**

# GUNS CLASSIFIED

Classified ads \$2.00 per-word insertion. (\$1.50 per-word insertion for 3 or more) including name, address and phone number (20 word minimum). Minimum charge \$40.00. **BOLD WORDS add \$1.00 per word.** Copy and rerun orders must be accompanied by **PAYMENT IN ADVANCE. NO AGENCY OR CASH DISCOUNTS ON LISTING OR DISPLAY CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING.** All ads must be received with advance payment BY NO LATER THAN THE 1st OF each month. **EXAMPLE:** Closing for DEC. 2008 issue (on sale NOV. 5th) is SEPT 1st, 2008. Ads received after closing will appear in the following issue. Please type or print clearly. **NO PROOFS WILL BE FURNISHED.** Include name, address, post office, city, state and zip code as counted words. Abbreviations count as one word each. Mail to GUNS MAGAZINE CLASSIFIEDS, 12345 World Trade Drive, San Diego, California 92128. **NOTE: WE NOW HAVE DISPLAY CLASSIFIEDS IN BOTH GUNS MAGAZINE AND AMERICAN HANDGUNNER. ASK FOR OUR NEW RATE CARD. (858) 605-0235.**

## ACCESSORIES

When conceal matters!

PS30 6 round belt slide  
PS31 Speed Loader  
PSS Series Systems Include... Belt, Mag Pouch, Holster  
PSSA Holster  
PS6DA Holster  
PS6 System 1

**Mernickle Custom Holsters**  
1875 View Court, Fremley, Nevada USA 89408 Phone: 775-579-1166  
Fax: 775-575-3188 Email: sales@mernickleholsters.com  
Internet: www.mernickleholsters.com Phone: 1800-497-3166

www.conetrol.com

# CONETROL

SCOPE MOUNTS

Hwy. 123 South 800-CONETROL Seguin, Texas 78155

FREE CATALOG! Make your own kydex gun holster or knife sheath. Over 1200 items. Visit [www.knifekits.com](http://www.knifekits.com) or call 1-877-255-6433 today.

## AMMUNITION

**Quinetics Corporation!** Reloading supplies. **Made in USA.**  
[www.quineticscorp.com](http://www.quineticscorp.com)

## APPAREL

[www.ABETTERBELTUSA.com](http://www.ABETTERBELTUSA.com)  
Top Quality ~ Better Prices  
Dress Belts, Casual Belts  
Concealed Carry, Competition  
Handcrafted in Texas 281-703-7533 /  
281-414-1110

**THE BELTMAN** makes sturdy, top quality, **DUAL LAYER** bull hide belts (not cow), for dress wear, concealed carry or competition from \$69.95. **HAND-MADE** in the **USA** in three widths and five colors. Any length! Options include: Horse, Elephant, Velcro, tapering, stiffeners, etc. **919-387-1997**  
[www.thebeltman.net](http://www.thebeltman.net)

## BOOKS

New Book-The Reality of Armed Self-Defense (Surviving The Attack And The Aftermath) Easy reading, 115 pages, \$20 Postpaid [www.bobirwinbooks.com](http://www.bobirwinbooks.com)

## FOR SALE

Maxarmory.com movie revolvers, autos, machine guns, stunguns, blank ammo, ID's, bodyarmor, CWP badges, spy cameras. Catalog \$3 PO 970057 Coconut Creek, FL 33073 1-877-332-2343

## GUNS FOR SALE

**HIGHER CAPACITY MAGAZINES - MADE IN THE USA.** 5.56 AR-15 variants 55-75 rnd capacity. 7.62 DPMS / Stoner / M1A 32 rnd capacity. 38 Super Caspian 28 & 29 rnd capacity. Box fed magazine conversions 5-10-20 rnd. [www.highercapacity.us](http://www.highercapacity.us) (509)979-9575

## GUNSMITHING

**GUNSMITHING AT PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE.** Two-year, hands-on program; financial aid available; approved for GI Bill benefits; P.O. Box 1197, Roxboro, NC 27573; (336)599-1181; [www.piedmontcc.edu](http://www.piedmontcc.edu)

## KNIVES & SWORDS

**FREE POCKET KNIVES.** Collectibles, Bowies, Swords, Tacticals, And Much More. For More Information Visit Our Web Site And Click On The Featured Product For The Week. [www.dovadistributors.com](http://www.dovadistributors.com)

# GUNS CUSTOM CORNER

[WWW.DLSPORTS.COM](http://WWW.DLSPORTS.COM)



Custom AR15's, 1911's, Precision Rifles, Accessories, Training, ITRC Competition

Extreme Duty AR15 Magazines Now Available!

928.636.1726

DL Sports, Inc.  
P.O. Box 4843

Chino Valley, AZ 86323



Dedicated to the metallic art of the spiral tube.

## TEN-RING PRECISION, INC.

Fine custom revolvers and semiautomatic handguns.

210.494.3063 • FAX 210.494.3066  
1449 Blue Crest Lane, San Antonio, TX 78232

[tenring.com](http://tenring.com) • email: [tenring@texas.net](mailto:tenring@texas.net)



D.O Reichard S&W Armorer  
Trained Exclusively by S&W with 30 years skilled experience in the art of the S&W Revolver. Actions Tuned. Cylinder work, sight systems & much more.

We back our work!

Reasonable Prices and Turn around time.

Priority Service Available

Call or Drop a line to Sand Burr Gun Ranch

[sandburrgunranch@gmail.com](mailto:sandburrgunranch@gmail.com)

Or

574-223-3316

2111 E 350 N Rochester IN 46975

[www.sandburrgunranch.com](http://www.sandburrgunranch.com)

"For Revolvers that Work!"

# P224™

CLASSIC SIG.  
**WITH ONE  
SMALL CHANGE.**

**CUT DOWN ON SIZE WITHOUT LOSING AN OUNCE OF PERFORMANCE.** The P224™ takes all the qualities of a Classic SIG and puts them in a subcompact package ideal for backup, off duty or concealed carry. Lightweight all-metal frame. Hammer fire design. High capacity 11-round 9mm, or 10-round .357SIG or .40S&W. It's everything you expect from a SIG...with one small change.

Find out more at [SIGSAUER.com/P224](http://SIGSAUER.com/P224).

**SIGSAUER**  
when it counts™

P224 Shown Actual Size

## MTAC SERIES RIFlescOPES

**BURRIS COMPANY**

Recognizing the explosive growth in 3-Gun competition shooting, Burris has developed a new line of riflescopes built to deliver precision, performance, versatility and shooter confidence. The new MTAC line offers five new scopes that are designed for the tactical shooters and 3-Gun competitors, but are versatile enough for use in the field. The new MTAC series consists of 1-4x24mm, 1.5-6x40mm, 3.5-10x42mm, 4.5-14x42mm and 6.5-20x50mm scopes. The five new riflescopes in the Burris MTAC line offer a generous 4" of eye relief, rubber-coated eyepiece and are made with rugged 30mm tubes. All lenses are precision-ground optics that are index matched, multi-coated with the Burris proprietary HiLume coating for unsurpassed clear, sharp, high-resolution images. Burris Company, (970) 356-1570, [www.gunsmagazine.com/burris](http://www.gunsmagazine.com/burris)



## 2012 HODGDON ANNUAL MANUAL

**HODGDON**

Hodgdon proudly announces its 9th Annual Manual. *The 2012 Hodgdon Annual Manual* features so much more than any typical manual: 100-plus pages of rifle and pistol data with well over 5,000 shown loads; information on 30 Hodgdon, 19 IMR and 10 Winchester brand powders; new .300 AAC Blackout data; lead-free bullet recipes for 21 rifle cartridges; and seven highly-anticipated articles on topics such as economical handloading with lead-free "green" bullets by some of the industry's top outdoor writers. Hodgdon, (913) 362-9455, [www.gunsmagazine.com/hodgdon](http://www.gunsmagazine.com/hodgdon)



## DECAL CAMO GRIP

**DECAL GRIP**

The new Decal Grip Camo is aimed at giving a positive grip enhancement and tactical appearance to the MAGPUL MIAD/MOE grip. It's a cutting edge product that will be of tremendous value, especially to law enforcement professionals. Decal Grip panels are pre-cut to fit and offer either a soft rubber cobblestone grip or a grittier, more tactile sand grip. These panels, looking OEM, easily attach to the frame and slide for a superior grip without increasing bulk for everyday, everywhere, on- and off-duty carry, and are excellent in all kinds of weather. They are resistant to solvents and oils, and are easily replaced or removed. Decal Grip, (800) 860-5385 or [www.gunsmagazine.com/decal-grip](http://www.gunsmagazine.com/decal-grip)



## VITAL SHOT GUN SHOT REST

**OAKSTURDY PRODUCTS, LLC**

OakSturdy is known for quality-made, sturdy hunting gear, and the new Vital Shot Gun Rest is certainly no exception. The Vital Shot is an adjustable, highly maneuverable, sturdy metal extension that allows the user to rest the arm, handgun, rifle, shotgun, muzzle loader or crossbow in a secure—but movable—rest for the steadiest of shots. OakSturdy Products, LLC, (608) 445-7949, [www.gunsmagazine.com/oaksturdy-products](http://www.gunsmagazine.com/oaksturdy-products)



## PU MOSIN-NAGANT SCOPE

**FIREFIELD**

One of the most recognizable scopes from World War II history is reborn! The Firefield PU Mosin-Nagant scope is a replication of the Russian PU Scope, originally noted for its precision and distinguished as one of the most consistently-used rifle pieces throughout the Soviet Union during WWII. In capable hands, a Mosin-Nagant sniper rifle fitted with the PU Scope was a formidable weapon, and now Firefield users can achieve that same intensity. Firefield, (817) 225-1625, [www.gunsmagazine.com/fire-field](http://www.gunsmagazine.com/fire-field)



## TACTICAL SHOTGUN FORE-END LIGHT

**EOTECH**

No more worrying about where your light source is going to come from or buying additional accessories that will increase the weight of your shotgun. The TSFL fore-end light affords the user an incredible tactical advantage through the use of ambidextrous on/off pressure pads at your fingertips. Settings include constant

on, momentary, strobe and off. In high-pressure situations you simply tap the pressure pads for activation, never adjusting your grip to do it. Your hand is always on the fore-end at the ready, making this new integrated fore-end light ideal for law enforcement or home defense. EOTech, (888) 368-4656, [www.gunsmagazine.com/eotech](http://www.gunsmagazine.com/eotech)



If you would like your product featured in GUNS Magazine's New Products, Contact: Jason Moreau (866) 903-1199.

For more New Products visit us online at [www.gunsmagazine.com](http://www.gunsmagazine.com)



## ULTRASONIC CLEANER SR4235

**SMARTRELOADER**

The Ultrasonic Cleaner SR4235 is excellent for cleaning brass cases or small gun parts. It cleans better and faster than any tumbler in the market! You will have the outside and inside of the brass, including the primer pocket, perfectly cleaned—and fast. The SmartReloader Ultrasonic Cleaners use cavitations, which occurs when tiny bubbles form and collapse violently in a cleaning solution. The constantly forming and popping bubbles serve as a scrubbing agent that cleans all parts, both exterior and hidden, of the article submerged in the solution. The SmartReloader Ultrasonic Cleaners get in every little crevice, crack and space to clean your gear properly. SmartReloader, (800) 954-2689, [www.gunsmagazine.com/smart-reloader-mfg](http://www.gunsmagazine.com/smart-reloader-mfg)

## VESPER TACTICAL LAPTOP MESSENGER BAG

**MAXPEDITION**

The Vesper Tactical Laptop Messenger Bag measures 6"x13"x16.5" and comes with a removable padded 18" digital computer sleeve, perfect for a 17" laptop. The large main compartment has enough room to accommodate your laptop and much more, while the front of the compartment has two slip sleeves and an organizer. The Vesper also comes with a removable shoulder strap and shoulder pad. The main flap contains a zippered slip pocket as well as a zipper opening that allows you to access your bag's contents without completely opening the flap. Available in black, olive drab green, khaki, foliage green, khaki-foliage, dark blue and orange-foliage. Maxpedition, (310) 768-5950, [www.gunsmagazine.com/maxpedition](http://www.gunsmagazine.com/maxpedition)



## DEFENSIVE TACTICS DVDS

**OPSGEAR INC**

Decades in the making, the Defensive Tactics DVDs by OpsGear are based on the best practices from military special operations, competitive martial arts and street fighting. This new DVD series simplifies self-defense in a way that has not been available in the past. All ages, sizes and sexes will benefit from this easy-to-apply, life-saving system. The only things that work effectively under the pressure of an assault are the timeless principles of defense that are based on what you will do instinctively. This Defensive Tactics system aligns itself with your natural responses to stress and fear. OpsGear Inc., (801) 294-5302, [www.gunsmagazine.com/opsgear](http://www.gunsmagazine.com/opsgear)



## THE LEGACY DISPLAY PANEL

**HERITAGE GAME MOUNTS**

Heritage Game Mounts is a Texas-based company inspired by the owner's family hunting heirlooms. "The Legacy" is an elaborate display panel for domestic and exotic game, that offers an immediate alternative to the lead-time, expense and space requirements of a shoulder-mounted trophy. For the hunt room, boardroom or family room, it accommodates antlers, horns and sheds. Made in the USA. Retail for \$225. Heritage Game Mounts, (210) 822-7224, [www.gunsmagazine.com/heritage-game-mounts](http://www.gunsmagazine.com/heritage-game-mounts)



## EPIC 1080 HD ADVENTURE VIDEO CAMERA

**EPIC ACTION CAMERA**

Stealth Cam expands its line of wearable adventure cameras with their new EPIC 1080. Can record in stunning 1920x1080 high-def, and captures all the action of the hunt with sharp, high resolution video and crisp, clear audio. Weighing only 2.5 ounces and measuring under 3", now you can broadcast you EPIC adventures for your friends and family! Operates on just three AAA batteries, the EPIC 1080 has a retail of \$199.99. EPIC Action Camera, (877) 269-8490 or [www.americanhandgunner.com/stealth-cam](http://www.americanhandgunner.com/stealth-cam)



## MASTER KIT 5575

**CHAPMAN MANUFACTURING**

Introducing the new Master Kit #5575 by Chapman Manufacturing. This all-American made, top-quality ratchet and screwdriver kit features 53 very useful bits packed in eight removable bit racks. The slotted bits have straight—not tapered—sides to reduce cam-out or marring the gun. The famous 20-tooth Midget Ratchet has an incredibly tight 18-degree working radius. Also includes torx, phillips, standard-hex, metric-hex, bristols and square-head drivers. Chapman Manufacturing, (860) 349-9228, [www.gunsmagazine.com/chapman](http://www.gunsmagazine.com/chapman)



# ENTER TO WIN!

GUNS MAGAZINE'S GUN OF THE MONTH GIVEAWAY



## PPS50/22

While its full-auto ancestor was made famous in the Battle of Berlin in 1945, the new PPS50/22 Rimfire Rifle is styled like the PPSH-41. It is drum or clip fed, .22 LR caliber, solid wood stock and the barrel has a full-length, perforated heat shield. The PPS50/22 looks like the Soviet PPSH-41, especially when equipped with the quick-release drum magazine. With its adjustable rear sight and sharp-blade front sight, it rivals far more expensive rifles in accuracy. The PPS50/22 has a secure, semi-auto action, a smooth trigger, and a high quality, nicely fitted stock; it's also equipped with studs to accept swivels and a sling.

Keep your new rifle in tiptop shape with the Three-Step Gun Care Kit from Mil-Comm. The NRA licensed gun care system is a 3-pack (MSRP \$14.99), which includes gun grease, gun oil and gun cleaner.

When out shooting all day long with your new PPS50/22, you can make sure to shield your ears with Just Plugs Hearing protection. The lightweight, reusable and highly visible protectors go for only \$19.99, and have earned a noise reduction rating of 30 decibels, making them as functional as they are fun! Just Plugs are easy to use, and can be rolled down to fit into anyone's ears.

The Grayman Knives Titanium RAV 3 is another great addition to your prize package; it's a good choice when you work in a corrosive environment or require something lightweight. They add a layer of carbide to the edge of the Titanium for optimal edge retention. The carbides provide a micro-serrated edge that is impregnated into the blade. You can't win if you don't enter, so send those postcards in pronto or take the survey and enter online at [www.gunsmagazine.com](http://www.gunsmagazine.com). 

### JUST PLUGS



### MIL-COMM



FOR WEB LINKS, GO TO [WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/PRODUCT-INDEX](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/PRODUCT-INDEX)

PHOTOS: JOSEPH R. NOVELOZO



### KNIFE: TITANIUM RAV 3

MAKER: GRAYMAN KNIVES  
P.O. BOX 50, PMB 132, LAKE ARROWHEAD, CA 92352  
INFO@GRAYMANKNIVES.COM  
[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/GRAYMAN-KNIVES](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/GRAYMAN-KNIVES)

**BLADE MATERIAL:** Titanium w/ carbide edge,  
**HANDLE:** 610, **SHEATH:** , Codura, **PRICE:** \$220

This contest is open to individuals who are residents of the United States and its territories only. Agents and employees of Publishers Development Corporation and their families are excluded from entering. Contest void where prohibited or restricted by law. Winners must meet all local laws and regulations. Taxes and compliance with firearms regulations will be the responsibility of the winners. Winners will be notified by CERTIFIED MAIL on official letterhead. ATTENTION DEPLOYED MILITARY: USE STATESIDE ADDRESS! No purchase necessary to enter. Firearms may have been used in a gun test. All firearms have full factory warranties.

## TO ENTER CONTEST

### TO ENTER CONTEST: PLEASE USE YOUR OWN POSTCARD (NO ENVELOPES, PLEASE)

Follow sample card below. Mail postcard to:  
GUNS Magazine, **GOM APRIL**  
P.O. BOX 502795, San Diego, CA 92150-2795.  
Entries must be received before **MAY 1, 2012**.  
Limit one entry per household.

**QUESTION OF THE MONTH:** Which type of firearm do you plan on purchasing in the next 12 months?

- (A) Shotgun/hunting rifle
- (B) Handgun
- (C) Muzzle loader

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**CIRCLE ANSWER(S) TO QUESTION OF THE MONTH APRIL 2012:**

(A) (B) (C)

**IF I WIN, SHIP MY PRIZE THROUGH:**

FFL Dealer \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Store Hours: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. thru \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.

**Attention Deployed Military: USE STATESIDE ADDRESS!**

SAMPLE ONLY



### RIFLE: PPS50/22

MAKER: MITCHELL'S MAUSERS  
P.O. BOX 9295  
FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CA 92728  
(800) 274-4124  
[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/MITCHELLS-MAUSERS](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/MITCHELLS-MAUSERS)

**ACTION TYPE:** Semi-auto, **CALIBER:** .22 LR, **CAPACITY:** 10/30/50 round magazines (drum and banana), **BARREL LENGTH:** 16.1", **OVERALL LENGTH:** 33.5", **WEIGHT:** 4.4 - 5.1 pounds, **REAR SIGHT:** Drift-adjustable Leaf, **STOCK:** Walnut-colored hardwood with metal buttplate, **PRICE:** \$634.90

## INSTANT ACCESS!

SCAN OUR QUICK RESPONSE CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE.



# ODD ANGRY SHOT

STORY: John Connor

## YOU REBEL, YOU MISFIT, YOU RADICAL!

Go ahead – read a book!

**B**orders is gone, and Barnes & Noble is teetering. Publishers perish weekly. Even more troubling, the percentage of people in society who read books at all is falling dramatically. Readers today are throwbacks, relics of a lost age. I guess you know where I stand on that. *Relics UNITE!* Here's some fuel for your fire, my fellow pariahs!

### **Gates Of Fire, By Steven Pressfield.**

During the 1st Marine Division's march up to Baghdad in 2003, it seemed every platoon had a dog-eared, beaten up, jealously-guarded copy of this book. While it's perfectly natural that modern Marines would find inspiration in a novel about the epic battle of Thermopylae, at which 300 selected Spartans and their allies stood against a million-man Persian army, the effect went far beyond being a simple "moto-booster."

Lance corporals discussed the Lacedaemonian martial culture with lieutenant colonels; grunt sergeants hashed over Spartan tactics and physical training; staff officers studied the logistics of the 300 chosen to stand and die between the Gates of Fire. And there were the questions which so puzzled the Persian emperor Xerxes: What was the source of the Spartans' iron discipline? Why, faced with certain death and offered their lives if they would only lay down their arms, would they respond "Molon labe!" – *Come and take them!* In this book you'll find the answer.

Bolstered by exhaustive research, Pressfield tells the story of the Spartans and their definitive stand through the fictional character of Xeones, a helot "support troop" who is, miraculously, the lone Greek survivor of the battle. Though the battle scenes are detailed and horrific, they're only part of this brilliantly written book. The accuracy of Pressfield's research

is such that *Gates of Fire* is a teaching resource at Annapolis, West Point, Quantico and the Virginia Military Institute.

### **The Story Of The Malakand Field Force, By Winston Churchill.**

Reading the first 50 pages of this book you will gain a better understanding of life, warfare and society in the Afghan-Pakistani frontier area than you might from studying any 10 textbooks on those subjects printed in the past decade. That may seem like a rash statement, but I'll stand by it, and you can be the judges. Though it was written over a century ago, you'll find the core dynamics—now called "socio-political factors"—are virtually unchanged in that region. And if you've never read the earliest works of Britain's 2-time Prime Minister, you're in for a rare treat.

Just remember as you read *Malakand*, that it was penned by Churchill as a 23-year-old cavalry subaltern of the 4th Hussars, and not after decades of analysis and reflection. He wrote it literally while fighting in a mountain campaign against raiding rebellious Pathan tribes in the form of letters to the *London Daily Telegraph*, quickly editing them into book form at the cavalry barracks in Bangalore before dashing off to fight as a lancer *leftenant* in the Sudan.

Beyond his accounts of battles and skirmishes, I think you'll delight in Churchill's sharp, analytical observations of the flora and fauna, folkways,

geology and topography, reflecting his classical education and extraordinary literary skills. Who? That portly old cigar smokin' dude in the funny round hat? Yeah, *that* Winston Churchill; the lion of the Battle of Britain.

### **The World Without Us, By Alan Weisman**

This might be the strangest—and most interesting—non-fiction book you've ever read. If you've ever wondered how hardy little weeds can shatter slabs of concrete, you'll be quoting passages to your pals and looking at your entire industrialized world in a completely different light.

After reading Weisman's study on the amazing and almost inexplicable resurgence of nature in the depopulated, contaminated area of the Chernobyl nuclear plant disaster, an editor called him and asked, "What would happen if humans disappeared everywhere?"

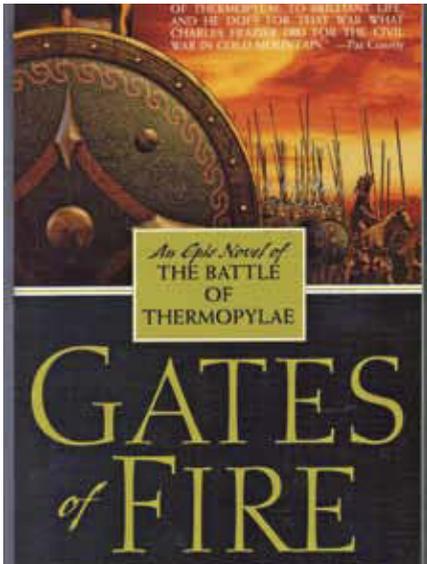
Weisman explains in detail what you can expect when man takes his hand off the throttle of civilization. Seen from a multi-disciplinary scientific viewpoint, well written in layman's language, it's fascinating stuff.

How long would our skyscrapers, subway systems, plastic bags and swimming pools last, and how would they disintegrate? In many ways, man's presence keeps animals from interacting normally with plant life, and forms of plant life from competing with each other. Without us, who wins and who loses, and how?

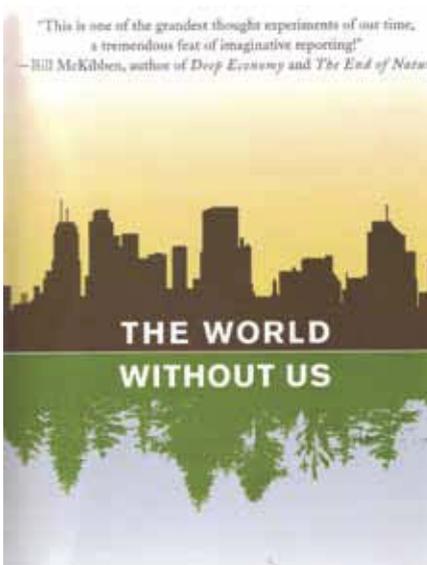
Some people can't imagine a world without Starbucks. Weisman knows what happens in a world without *us*.

### **Seabiscuit: An American Legend, By Lauren Hillenbrand.**

Why review a book about a horse? Because it's not about a horse; it's about Americans; about fighting on when the ref has counted you out; being beaten up but unbeaten. In 1938, as Americans were pulling their muddied boots out of the Great Depression and war clouds gathered over Europe, three names dominated US newspapers. Adolf Hitler came in third in total mentions. Franklin Delano Roosevelt came in second.



Four Aces – A winning hand!

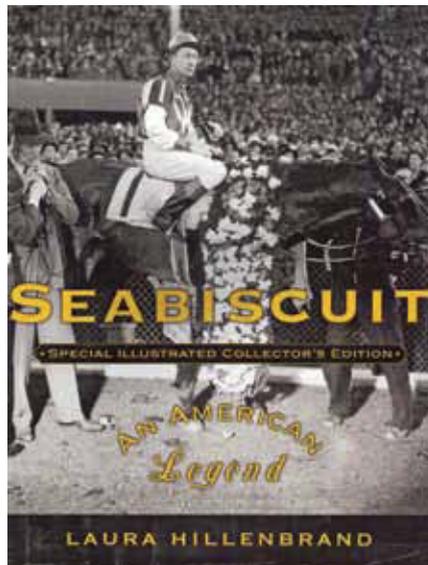
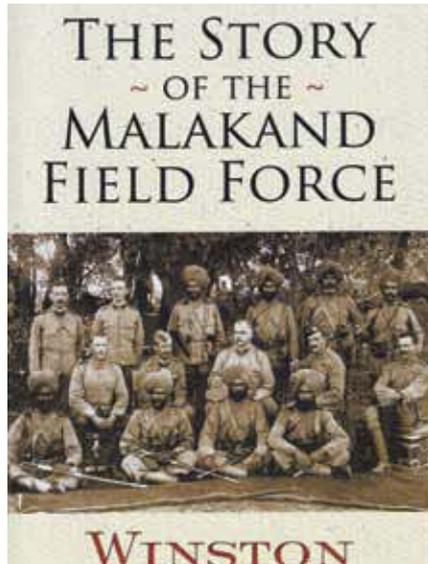


A runty, wheezing, written-off horse named Seabiscuit was number one.

The Biscuit came from good stock, but experts concluded his genetic line had obviously bled out. His gait was so bad it was described “like he’s swatting flies as he gallops.” He was sold cheap. The Biscuit developed a bad temper to go with his low-class looks.

Seabiscuit was rescued from death by a ragged old cowboy-turned-trainer whose world had been destroyed by barbed wire. He convinced a Depression-busted businessman to take a chance, and hired a losing jockey who had been abandoned at a racetrack at 15. After a miserable time-trial, the cowboy decided “They got him so screwed up running around in a circle that he’s forgot what he was born to do.” He was taken off the track, given his head—and the runt remembered.

Always coming from behind,



Seabiscuit blew those “better horses” into the weeds, and America’s working-class discovered their hero. The “penniless” pooled their pennies and came to watch Seabiscuit run. Poor folks crowded the tracks, lined the fences and climbed trees. When a quarter of Americans lived in their vehicles and in migrant camps, thousands came to see—*hope*.

On Nov. 1, 1938, half the businesses in America closed for a half day. Over 40 million people—one-third of all Americans—huddled around radios. Seabiscuit and War Admiral, “the world’s finest racehorse,” faced off at Pimlico.

The Biscuit just didn’t have the legs to run against War Admiral—so instead, he ran with his heart. He won by four lengths. The nation recovered.

Read the book and see the movie. It’s available for rent. And remember what you were born for. Connor **OUT**.

**Insist on the Original Magnaport® Process**

For a tactical advantage applicable on hunting or defense arms, contact the recoil reducing experts...

**Mag-na-port®**  
International, Inc.

41302 Executive Drive  
Harrison Twp., MI 48045-1306

**Phone: 586-469-6727**  
**Fax: 586-469-0425**

www.magnaport.com  
email@magnaport.com

MasterCard  
VISA

**REST ASSURED**

Guns	Coin
Heirlooms	Card
Cameras	Collections
Photos	Sentimentals
Inventory	Investments
Legal Paper	Safe from
Records	Fire and
Jewelry	Theft

**Call Us Today For Your Free Brochure**  
**1-800-821-5216**  
993 North Industrial Park Road  
Orem, Utah 84057

**FORT KNOX**  
SECURITY PRODUCTS  
“THE MOST TRUSTED NAME IN SECURITY”

www.FtKnox.com

# GUNS

MAGAZINE

APRIL 2012

## ADVERTISER'S INDEX

The companies listed have featured advertisements in this issue. Look to them first when you are ready to make a purchase.

ADVERTISER	PAGE	ADVERTISER	PAGE
Al Mar Knives	21	MasterPiece Arms	70
American Handgunner T-Shirts	80	Maxpedition Hard-Use Gear	19
American Tactical Imports	66	Mec-Gar USA Inc.	65
American Watch Co.	23	Meprolight	9
Arntzen Corporation	81	Mitchell's Mausers	57
Barnes Bullets Inc.	12	O.F. Mossberg & Sons	10
Benchmade Knife Company	18	MTM Case-Gard	11
Bond Arms	17	Numrich Gun Parts	65
Burger Knives	81	Rio Grande Custom Grips	27
Colt Defense	13	Rock River Arms	27
Colt Mfg.	3	Sand Burr Gun Ranch	72
Crimson Trace Corp.	67	Savage Arms	61
		Sierra Bullets	37
		SIG SAUER	73
		Spartan Blades	37
		Springfield Inc.	25, 69
		Sturm, Ruger & Co. Inc.	7
		Ten Ring Precision	72
		Thunder Ranch Training DVDs	66
		Triple K Mfg.	70
		Zerust Products	27
CrossBreed Holsters LLC	17		
CZ USA	39		
D & L Sports	72		
Daniel Defense	C3		
DeSantis Holster	36		
Elite Sports Express	36		
Fiocchi Ammunition	59		
Fort Knox Security	79		
Hodgdon Powder Company	C2		
ITT Corporation	15		
Jantz Supply	49		
Kahr Arms	31		
Kimber Manufacturing Inc.	C4		
Kirkpatrick Leather Company	71		
Kwik-Site Co.	58, 60, 64		
Lancer Systems	29		
Laser Devices Inc.	35		
LaserMax	24		
Lyman Products	21		
Mag-na-port International Inc.	79		

**New HANDGUNNER Gear!**

# GET SOME!

**Only \$21.99 each!**  
with Free shipping  
(within the continental U.S.)

American Handgunner USA  
Style #HGUS

Tactical Division  
Style #HGTD

Keeping The Peace  
Style #HGPC

Shoot To Live  
Style #HGSH

**New American Handgunner T-shirts. Only \$21.99 with FREE shipping.**  
[www.AMERICANHANDGUNNER.com](http://www.AMERICANHANDGUNNER.com) or call (800) 628-9818

bullet design at 173 grains put me in business. I was not real smart in those days and loaded all of my .38s to the hilt with the Keith load. This resulted in .38s which were hotter than much .357 Magnum factory ammunition offered today. My progress would probably have been faster if at least some of those were standard .38 Special loads.

Act III found me with .44 Specials and .45 Colts. By now I was reloading enough I could afford to shoot my .45, however I made the same mistake with the .44 Specials I'd made with those first .38 Special loads; everything was loaded "Keith-style" with a 260-grain bullet at 1,150 to 1,200 fps which hampered my learning even more than the hot .38 Specials. Even the .45s received heavy treatment with 260s over 10.0 grains of Unique or 18.5 grains of 2400. I had a great time with those heavy loads in the .44 and .45, however I missed an awful lot of fun shooting and slowed down my learning time.

### Magnum Era

Act IV found me in my Magnum Era. By now, I had not only discovered the excellent Lyman/Thompson 358156GC bullet it also had become increasingly easier to locate .357 Magnum brass. That gas-checked bullet minimized leading allowing hard cast bullets to be driven over 1,500 fps. The nice thing about the .357 Magnum is its relative lack of recoil in full-size sixguns. Unfortunately, the same can't be said for the .44 Magnum.

My first .44 Magnum was an original 6-1/2" Ruger Blackhawk followed in the early 1960s with a Smith & Wesson Model 29 of the same barrel length. I still have both sixguns, however they languished unused for many a year since I wasn't smart enough to back off from full house loads. Some folks just take longer to learn than others and I missed the main positive attribute of reloading which is to custom tailor loads. There is nothing written anywhere in stone or otherwise which says we have to load everything to the max.

Act V basically covers my Really Big Bore years stretching from about mid 1980s until the turn of the century. First came the .454 Casull, followed by the .500 Linebaugh in short order. Over the years I added the .475 Linebaugh, .500 Wyoming Express, some really tough time with the .475 and .500 Linebaugh Long/Maximums and then came the arrival of the .500 and .460 Smith & Wesson Magnums. With the arrival of these really Big Bores, I learned very quickly to tailor my loads. None of these cartridges can be considered fun to shoot in their full-house



Going all the way back to 1949, the original Ruger .22 is still a good starter or finisher.

loadings, however the arrival of Hodgdon's Trail Boss powder made pleasant shooting loads a real possibility and actually makes these guns pleasurable.

By the time I arrived at Act VI, I realized Magnums do not have to always be maximized. A .44 Magnum with a 260- or 300-grain cast bullet over 10.0 grains of Unique or Universal will do right at 1,150 fps; this is a powerful but relatively pleasant shooting load plus the extra added bonus is you can get twice as many rounds from a can of powder. Act VII, where I spend most of my time these years is back to the .44 Special and .45 Colt. However, by now I've learned. The .44 Special is mostly loaded with a 260-grain bullet over 7.5 grains of Unique or Universal, or 8.0 grains of Power Pistol. With the .45 Colt it is a 260- or 270-grain bullet mostly over 8.0 grains of either Unique or Universal. All of these loads are in the 900 to 1,000 fps range and adequately powerful while remaining relatively low in felt recoil.

It's been a long stage play, however I have learned much along the way. Shakespeare puts his actor back at the beginning. While I am not in as bad a shape as his main character (yet), I do find myself spending much more time with the basics—the basic .22 that is. Actually my shooting life these days is pretty much a mixture of several of the Sixgunning Acts. Early this month I spent four days shooting 1,000 rounds of .45 Auto Rim, and later this week I will start the same process with some .44 Specials.

However, the basic .22 is once again King. I spent much of last winter looking for older 3-Screw Ruger Single-Sixes and Super Single-Sixes. I not only wanted to make sure I have enough on hand for everyone in the family to have their own, I simply wanted to enjoy the pure pleasure of shooting them myself. Ten days were spent doing nothing but shooting .22s and although it is a very trite phrase, it really doesn't get any better than this. I have come home.



**BURGER KNIVES**  
distinguished craftsmanship  
Est. 1987



Renowned world wide for our quality range of sword canes, custom canes and knives.

Tel. 301-3935423

[www.swordcane.com](http://www.swordcane.com)



## Alloy Steel Targets Built to Last

Police, Military, IPSC, Cowboy  
For Shapes & Prices See:  
[www.ArntzenTargets.com](http://www.ArntzenTargets.com)  
800-821-3475



T-ad1H

**AMERICAN  
COP AND  
AMERICAN  
HANDGUNNER  
ONLINE!**

[AMERICANCOP.COM](http://AMERICANCOP.COM)  
[AMERICANHANDGUNNER.COM](http://AMERICANHANDGUNNER.COM)

# CAMPFIRE TALES

BY JOHN TAFFIN

## BACK TO BASICS

### From start to finish.

**“All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women  
merely players: They have their exits and their  
entrances; and one man in his time plays many parts, his  
acts being seven ages, at first the infant, mewling and  
puking in the nurses arms. And then the whining school-  
boy, with his satchel and shining morning face, creeping like  
snail unwillingly to school. And then the lover, sighing like  
furnace, with a woeful ballad made to his mistress’ eyebrow.  
Then a soldier, full of strange oaths and  
bearded like the pard, jealous in honor,  
sudden and quick in quarrel, seeking the  
bubble reputation even in the cannon’s  
mouth. And then the justice, in fair round  
belly with good capon lined, with eyes  
severe and beard of formal cut, full of  
wise saws and modern instances; and  
so he plays his part. The sixth age shifts  
into the lean and slipper’d pantaloons,  
with spectacles on nose and pouch on  
side, his youthful hose, well saved, a world too wide for his  
shrunk shank; and his big manly voice, turning again toward  
childish treble, pipes and whistles in his sound. Last scene  
of all, that ends this strange eventful history is second  
childishness and mere oblivion, sans teeth, sans eyes, sans  
taste, sans everything.”**

So spoke William Shakespeare in *As You Like It*, written in the 16th century. I don’t know if any students still read Shakespeare, however I was in stage two, the “whining schoolboy” when I encountered Shakespeare in the 8th and 9th grade. As I recall I didn’t understand much of it but this passage hit me from the very beginning, and even though it was way back in 1952, I still recall, it vividly, and thought at the time Shakespeare is a pretty wise old

fellow. Seven ages most of us follow: baby, youth, young lover, invincibility, wisdom, old age, and then right back to the helplessness stage we endured as a young baby. It wasn’t hard for me to look around at my extended family and see someone in every act, and I don’t like to even contemplate the act I am now in.

Shooters also spend their time on a stage as it were following through many acts. In fact, in many cases, certainly

mine I have gone through acts/stages/ages of sixgunning with some overlapping. Usually, the best place to begin a journey is at the beginning, and the beginning of shooting, the place to learn all the basics, is a .22. It was 1956 and Act I was about to begin. My first choice was a Marlin 39A, the Mountie which was then followed very quickly by a Ruger Single-Six which is now known to collectors as the Flat-Gate.

I’ve received a lot of pleasure from a lot of guns over the years but nothing has ever superseded these two .22s. I wouldn’t even try to count the number of rounds down the barrels of these two. Not only did I learn to shoot with it, so did Diamond Dot, the three kids, the grandkids, two of their spouses, and even girlfriends and boyfriends along the way. The .22 is simply the best place to start and we can learn everything about shooting without having to consider recoil. With a .22 shooting is as much fun

as it should be and the cost is minimal. My infancy, unlike Shakespeare’s baby was not spent in a nurse’s arms, but rather lovingly clutching a .22 Lever-gun and sixgun.

Act II found me discovering big-bore sixguns. First came a 1900-ish 4-3/4" Colt Single Action .38-40 which was soon followed by a very early Second Generation Colt .45 with a 7-1/2" barrel. I could not afford to shoot either one of them very much, so the next scene in this act found me with a Ruger .357 Blackhawk and a S&W .357 Highway Patrolman. It was very difficult to find .357 brass in those days, however .38 Special cases were not only easy to find they were quite inexpensive. The purchase of a Lyman mold which dropped Elmer Keith’s 358429 classic



*Ruger .22 sixguns are good choices whether we are in our shooting infancy or old age.*

*continued on page 81*

**LIGHTER, STRONGER, BETTER.™  
WHEN YOU MOST NEED IT.**

**There's a bump in the night, be prepared to bump back »»**

Whether on the range, in the back of a police cruiser, or protecting your family in the middle of the night, a DDM4 is ready for duty. We not only offer the highest-quality AR-15 style rifles in the configurations you want most, but we back them all with lifetime warranties and responsive customer service. Check out our website, or call for more information.

**DANIEL  
DEFENSE**



# THE KIMBER SUPER CARRY. WELL-ROUNDED PERFORMANCE.

The new Super Carry Ultra+™ (left) and Super Carry Custom HD™ establish a new standard of personal defense. Seven Super Carry models are offered, all chambered in .45 ACP.



Super Carry pistols have specialized features like night sights with cocking shoulder, round heel frame and unidirectional serrations.



The Super Carry Pro™ .45 ACP is one of four models with a light weight aluminum frame for easy carry.



The Super Carry Pro HD™ .45 ACP is one of three new models with a stainless steel frame for hard use.

Super Carry .45 ACP pistols raise the bar for 1911 features and performance. Made in the Kimber® Custom Shop,™ they have a round heel frame for unequalled concealability and comfortable carry, plus unidirectional serrations for fast and positive operation. A Carry Melt™ treatment rounds and blends edges. An ambidextrous thumb safety and match grade barrel are standard. A Kimber first, the new Super Carry Ultra+™ combines a 3-inch barrel with a full-length grip. Super Carry pistols deliver performance to the extreme.



©2011 Kimber Mfg., Inc. All rights reserved. Kimber names, logos and other trademarks may not be used without permission. Names of other companies, products and services may be the property of their respective owners. Kimber firearms are shipped with an instruction manual and California-approved cable lock. Copy of instruction manual available by request.

Kimber, One Lawton Street, Yonkers, NY 10705 (800) 880-2418

THE CHOICE OF AMERICA'S BEST  
[kimberamerica.com](http://kimberamerica.com)