



You Can WIN!

ISSC MK22 .22 LR, MPA .380 ACP

AND MORE!

GUNS
MAGAZINE

GUNS

®

\$4.95
OUTSIDE U.S.
\$7.95

**JULY
2011**

AR EXCELLENCE
DANIEL DEFENSE®
M4 v5
5.56x45MM

**SWITCH BARREL
MASTERPIECE**
CZ 455 **.22 LR**
& **.17 HMR** Pg 20

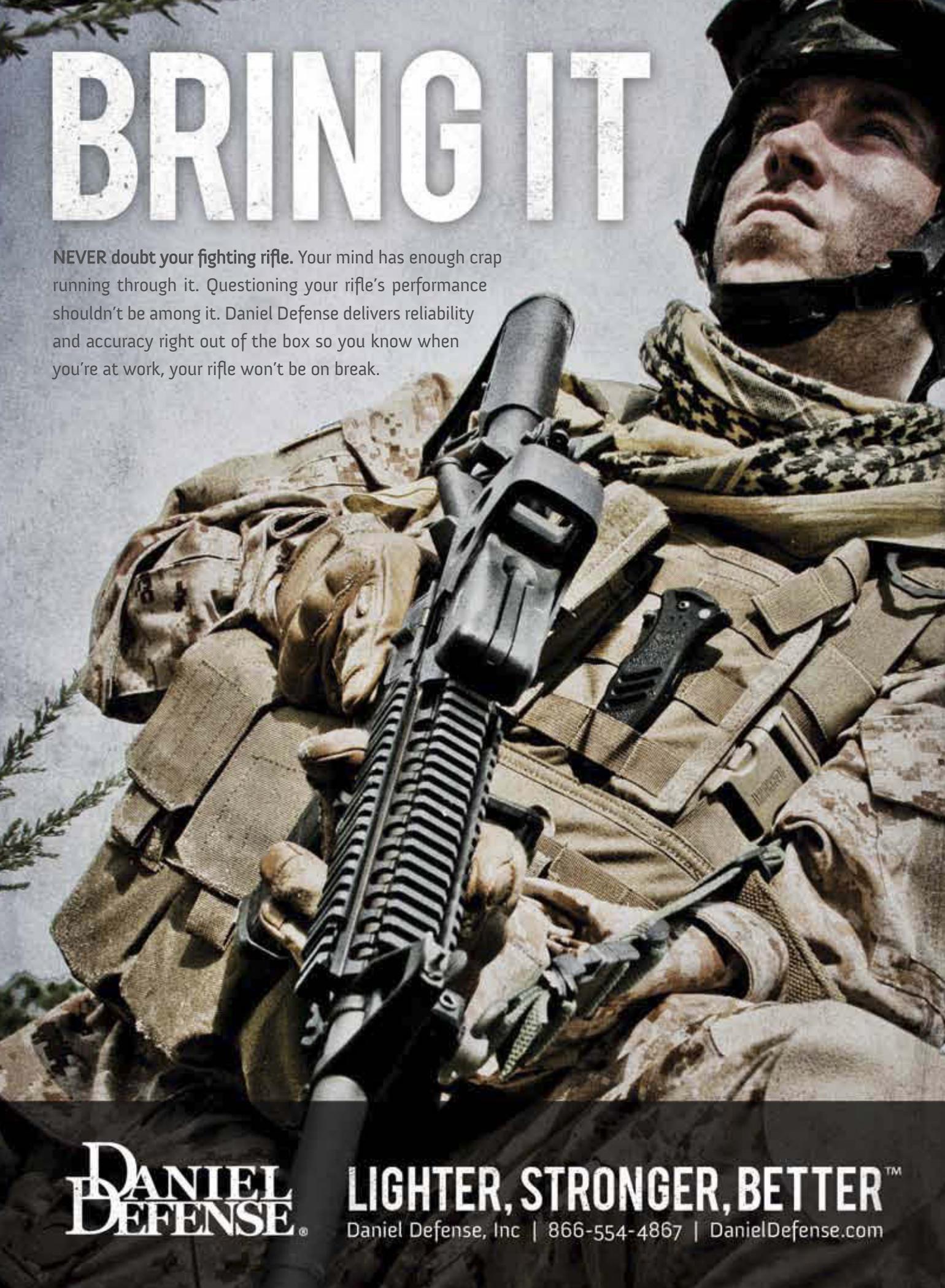
CLASSY CUSTOM
.327 FEDERAL SIXGUNS

SELF-DEFENSE
• RUGER SR40
.40 S&W
• NIGHTHAWK **.45 ACP**
1911 & AAC Ti-RANT Pg 16

LIGHTEN UP
RELOADING SOFTER
12-GAUGE AMMO Pg 26



BRING IT

A soldier in full combat gear, including a helmet, goggles, and a tactical vest, is shown from the chest up. He is holding a Daniel Defense rifle, which is the central focus of the advertisement. The soldier is looking upwards and to the right. The background is a bright, overcast sky.

NEVER doubt your fighting rifle. Your mind has enough crap running through it. Questioning your rifle's performance shouldn't be among it. Daniel Defense delivers reliability and accuracy right out of the box so you know when you're at work, your rifle won't be on break.

**DANIEL
DEFENSE**®

LIGHTER, STRONGER, BETTER™

Daniel Defense, Inc | 866-554-4867 | DanielDefense.com

THE MOST ADVANCED GUN CARE SYSTEMS IN THE WORLD!

OTIS[®]



OTIS TECHNOLOGY



CLEANS PISTOLS, RIFLES,
SHOTGUNS, & IN-LINE
MUZZLELOADERS!



NEW COMPONENT HOLDER!

- Provides more secure storage and protection of Otis components & brushes
- Made of highly durable, flexible material (thermoplastic elastomer)
- Patent pending



TACTICAL CLEANING SYSTEM UPGRADE!

The world famous Tactical Cleaning System just received a key upgrade. Based on feedback from our customers the system will now include a new component holder made of a highly durable and flexible material designed to hold components and brushes in place in even the most challenging conditions. The Tactical Cleaning System is equipped to clean all rifles, pistols, shotguns, and in-line muzzleloaders. It has the essential tools to clean rifles .17 to .50 caliber, handguns .17 to .50 caliber, shotguns .410 to 12/10 gauge, and all in-line muzzleloaders. The system includes three Memory-

Flex[®] cleaning rods with over 750 lb tensile strength, three slotted brass tips, two obstruction removers to knock out obstructions such as mud, snow, or even a stuck bullet or case, a T-handle bar for added comfort, .5 oz. tube of Otis O85[®] Ultra Bore[®] cleaner, lubricant and preservative, all-caliber cotton cleaning patches for .223 caliber and larger, small caliber patches for .17 to .223 caliber, shotgun brush adapter and rubber Patch Savers[®] to get 360 degree coverage in your shotgun barrels, six high quality bore brushes, and a bore reflector/flag safety. Protect your investments; use Otis.

OTIS TECHNOLOGY 6987 LAURA ST. LYONS FALLS, NY 13368 (800) OTIS-GUN WWW.OTISTEC.COM

© 2011 PYRAMONT GMC

GUNS

MAGAZINE

JULY 2011

Vol. 57, Number 7, 668th Issue



COLUMNS

- 6** CROSSFIRE
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
- 8** HANDGUNS
MASSAD AYOOB
- 10** RANGING SHOTS™
CLINT SMITH
- 12** UP ON ARs
GLEN ZEDIKER
- 16** RIFLEMAN
DAVE ANDERSON
- 20** RIMFIRES
HOLT BODINSON
- 22** MONTANA MUSINGS
MIKE "DUKE" VENTURINO
- 26** HANDLOADING
JOHN BARSNESS
- 64** KNIVES
PAT COVERT
- 66** VIEWS, NEWS & REVIEWS
RIGHTS WATCH: DAVID CODREA
- 86** ODD ANGRY SHOT
JOHN CONNOR
- 90** CAMPFIRE TALES
JOHN TAFFIN

ENTER TO WIN! 84!
GUN AND ACCESSORY
PACKAGE WORTH \$1,851.84!

10



16



26



DEPARTMENTS

- 36** SURPLUS LOCKER™
1811 SWISS VETTERLI
HOLT BODINSON
- OUT OF THE BOX™**
Pg 30 RUGER SR40 .40 S&W
Pg 34 KWC BB MINI-UZI
- 39** QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
JEFF JOHN
- 74** QUARTERMASTER
FEATURING GUNS ALLSTARS!
THIS MONTH:
• **JOHN CONNOR**

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 © 2011 by Publishers' Development Corporation.

- 80 GUNS CLASSIFIEDS
- 80 CUSTOM CORNER
- 82 NEW PRODUCTS
ANDREW ORAM
- 84 GUN OF THE MONTH
- 88 ADVERTISER INDEX

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM • JULY 2011

44



On The Cover

**DANIEL
DEFENSE
M4 v5 CARBINE**



52

FEATURES

40 PURTY POPGUNS
Bowen Classic Arms .327 Federal
Magnum Custom Sixguns.

JOHN TAFFIN

44 AR EXCELLENCE
The superbly built M4 v5 Carbine by
Daniel Defense is reliable and accurate.

HOLT BODINSON

**52 MODERN
DEER SCOPES**
The right glass improves your
chances afield.

JOHN BARSNESS

**58 30 YEARS OF
SHARPS RIFLES**
It's been quite a journey.

MIKE "DUKE" VENTURINO



40



**NEW ONLINE EXTRAS ONLY AT
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM**

**SEE WHAT YOU'RE MISSING
IN THE 2012 GUNS ANNUAL!**

Smith Enterprise's M14SA

Crazy Horse

Jacob Gottfredson

Go to:
www.gunsmagazine.com/productindex for complete product info and manufacturer's links for products featured in FMG magazines!

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!

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

Editorial Assistant Mckenzie Whitmer

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

April Fun

First, "Duke" Venturino's article about Yvonne in the April issue is a real gem. I think he really found a soulmate in Yvonne. Secondly Taffin's "Campfire Tales" is priceless! I'm 70, and I am very lucky to be able to fire my full-power .44 Mag loads with impunity. The .454 with heavy full-power loads is getting to be much more "loveable" with reduced-power loads. John really did nail this article! Hey! Barsness is on a roll! As I said before, he's a good writer, and once he progressed from puberty to 50-something (all within the last couple of years or so), he is very entertaining. His article on "breaking in a gun barrel" reminds me what I've told many, many shooters. Barsness nailed this one.

Robert Johnson
via e-mail

No 1911 4U

Clint forgot to mention an obvious alternative to the 1911. For the price of just one tricked out, fully loaded, made in USA factory custom Mod. 1911, I can buy two made in USA Ruger P345 pistols, simple Kydex belt gear for both, 100 rounds of the defensive ammunition I intend to carry and 100 rounds of the cheap discount ammunition I will use for practice and club practical competition, plus ear plugs and enough range time for sighting in.

No 500-round break-in required. They are ready to go as soon as the excellent adjustable sights are set, and I verify all magazines feed the ammo I will use. And they have the endorsement of Massad Ayoob and the Concord, New Hampshire police. What's not to like? Save bucks, save lives. Follow Clint's advice to have a spare.

I. I. Butler
via e-mail

Tears

First it was Conner, then Taffin, but I never thought Duke would do it to me. All of these great writers at one time or another have brought tears to my eyes.

The stories such as Connor's "Little Lizzie," Taffin on heroes unknown, and now Duke on Brennan. Thank you Mike for bringing back memories of dogs loved and lost.

Another thing that may bring tears to someone else's eyes: Our Veterans. I am the son and son-in-law of American Vets. Our local Veterans hospital has a lack of reading materials, both magazines and books. I would like to encourage all of your readers to donate any unused books and magazines to their local VA hospital. Also, whenever you receive a gift subscription form for a magazine, fill it out in the name of your local VA hospital. The men and women who have served our country deserve to at least have something to read while they are waiting to see the doctors they need. Thank you for your time, a great magazine, and a wonderful cast of writers.

Dale Chevront
via e-mail

Purifiers

I read Connor's article "No, The Sky Ain't Falling" and was wondering where I can get a good water purifier/filtration system. Hopefully, I will never need one, but I would like to have one to keep on the shelf in case the "Sky Does Fall."

Jerry Goodwin
via e-mail

Glad to help. Try the extremely compact and lightweight SteriPEN battery-operated UV purifiers (www.steripen.com). Be sure to get the optional pre-filter. The UV unit will purify/sterilize even raw sewage, but a pre-filter filters out solids and makes it more palatable. For larger, but easily packable units, the best at any price: First Need XL purifier (www.generalecology.com). Lots of outdoor stores carry First Need, and it may be worthwhile to shop around for sales.

Larger, still portable but in ascending sizes for high-volume large group use: Berkey stainless steel purifiers (www.berkeyfilters.com). Note the name says "filters," but they are also purifiers—a big difference.—John Connor

GUNS

Check out 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!



FMG PUBLICATIONS

shootingindustry.com

SHOOTING
INDUSTRY

Publisher & Editor: Russ Thurman

Advertising: Delano Amaguin, 888.732.6461

email: delano@shootingindustry.com



americancopmagazine.com

Editor: Suzi Huntington

Advertising: Denny Fallon, 800.426.4470

email: denny@americancopmagazine.com

HANDGUNNER

americanhandgunner.com

Publisher & Editor: Roy Huntington

Advertising: Steve Evatt, 800.533.7988

email: steve@americanhandgunner.com



GUNS

gunsmagazine.com

Editor: Jeff John

Advertising: Andrew Oram, 866.903.1199

email: andrew@gunsmagazine.com



Special
Editions

fmgpublications.com

Editor: Sammy Reese

Advertising: Scott McGregor, 800.553.7780

email: scott@gunsmagazine.com

ONLINE ADVERTISING MANAGER: Tracy Moore,

TEL: 888.651.7566, FAX 858.605.0205

tracy@fmgpublications.com

NATIONAL ADVERTISING: 12345 World Trade Dr.,

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

anita@shootingindustry.com

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING: Lori Robbins,

TEL: 800.633.8001, FAX 858.605.0247,

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

CUSTOMER SERVICE

www.gunsmagazine.com

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES 858.605.0252

Express Service www.gunsmagazine.com and click "contacts"

EDITORIAL 858.605.0243

Email: ed@gunsmagazine.com

PRODUCTION 858.605.0216

Email: production@gunsmagazine.com

BOOKS/MERCHANDISE 888.732.2299

Email: rachel@fmgpublications.com

General Counsel/Legal Affairs: Steele N. Gillaspay

Email: sng@g-glaw.com



PRODUCED IN THE U.S.A.



THE KIMBER CDP. CARRY WITHOUT COMPROMISE.

The new Ultra+ CDP II™ (left) with full-length grip and Ultra CDP II™ with short grip are chambered in .45 ACP. Both have 3-inch barrels that make them easy to conceal.



CDP pistols feature night sights and a Carry Melt™ treatment for rounded and blended edges.



The Pro CDP II™ .45 ACP has a 4-inch barrel and full-length grip. It weighs just 28 ounces.



The Custom CDP II™ .45 ACP is a full-size 1911. Even with a 5-inch barrel, it weighs only 31 ounces.

Absolute dependability combined with power and accuracy is everything in a carry pistol. Kimber® CDP (Custom Defense Package) models take that to the extreme, blending all the important carry features into a light weight, high-performance package. Built in the Kimber Custom Shop,™ each has front strap checkering, match grade barrel, chamber and trigger, stainless steel slide and ambidextrous thumb safety. Seven models are offered, each an unequalled value. Chamberings include .45 ACP and 9mm. A carry pistol is the last place to compromise. Carry a Kimber CDP.



©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

HANDGUNS

• MASSAD AYOUB •

PLYING POLYMER PATHWAYS

As blue steel and checkered walnut seem to be museum pieces, Gun Geezers struggle to adapt to modern ways....

The first handgun I ever fired was a Colt New Police .32 double-action revolver, at the age of 9 (yes, it had a history behind it). My first 1911 was a circa 1918 production military surplus Colt, its walnut diamond grips worn flat where the checkering used to be, that I got for my 12th Christmas.

At about that time, I was a newbie at Rundlett Junior High School in Concord, N.H. The school's Latin motto (which I'm not sure I remember

correctly) translated to "What you are to be, you are now becoming."

Principal Samuel Richmond and Assistant Principal Carl Bartlett, and

the school motto itself, had me nailed coming into the entry gate. What I was to be, I was indeed becoming, and that was a gun guy who had bonded with the concept of conventional pistols and revolvers from a little before the turn of the 20th century to, oh, the early 1960s.

(Mr. Richmond and Mr. Bartlett had me on the carpet a few times, and rightfully so. I learned lessons, one of which is that it's better to engage in fistfights where the teachers can't see it happening. But they also taught that when you live up to responsibility, you earn privilege, and that was a lasting lesson. Mr. Richmond allowed me to bring my Pre-War S&W K-22 Outdoorsman revolver to school for a science class show and tell, an action which today would have gotten the kid expelled and earned the principal a career change.)

The "old values": blue steel, checkered walnut, all of that. So why am I sitting here, an anachronistic geezer who should be carrying a 1911 in the Centennial year of that classic design, with a polymer-framed Glock 31 on my hip in a Kydex holster?

There's this little thing called "practicality," and that was one of the "old-time virtues," too. Lightweight for all-day carry, to make sure the thing is actually with you when you need it for that rare life-or-death emergency. More efficient grip configuration, which allows more cartridges on board for those even rarer, but definitely real, occasions when it's not going to be a brief life-or-death encounter. Shootability, because polymer frames absorb recoil well, and they tend to be part of newer designs that are more ergonomic. Reliability, because these new guns have simply raised the bar for that, and we "gun geezers" have to face it.

Picking Polymer

I got talking about carry guns with some friends today, and that actually led me to this column, 'cause I realized that after a 2010 spent carrying Smith & Wesson revolvers and 1911 pistols for a disproportionate amount of the time, I'd been pretty much polymer for the last three months. December I carried S&W M&P autos most of



A "shooter-friendly" polymer pistol, a S&W M&P Pro shows its controllability at an IDPA match (above). Arrow points to spent casing airborne, but muzzle is still on target. Accuracy and reliability defines the Glock 17, this one (below) fitted with Advantage Tactical sights in action at a GSSF match.





Compactness with "shootability" and firepower define Springfield Armory XD(m) at Backup Gun Match (BUG), mounting a compact light/laser unit.

the month: Compact .357 SIG with optional thumb safety mostly, a longer-barreled Performance Center 9mm for part of it, using the latter in a couple of IDPA matches along the way (first Master & Second Master finishes, no complaints). Around Christmas I got sentimental and carried a 3" .357 Combat Magnum for a few days, then went back to plastic.

January and February I carried mostly Glocks; G31 on home turf, with 1,400+ fps Speer Gold Dots that expand even when they go through winter clothing, and delicious long-range accuracy. In "frozen wasteland" country during deep winter I carried the Glock 30 in .45 ACP with big, fat bullets that stay big and fat even if they clog in heavy clothing and fail to expand. In places where 10-round magazines were required, the 10+1 capacity G30 .45 let me keep my self-respect without going to "Clinton magazines," and still feel good about myself. I did OK at matches I shot with Glocks during that period (G17, won Stock Service Pistol division, First Coast IDPA 2/11; G30SF, took second in MajorSub category, Orlando GSSF 2/11). In "glove weather," the NY-1 trigger-pull option on the Glock is just right for self-defense when the finger can't perfectly feel the trigger. Springfield XD series got in there too, came in third overall with the XD(m) Subcompact at a state BUG (Back Up Gun) championship, and a XD .45 ACP with SureFire light spent a lot of time at bedside.

HKs? Great accuracy. Walthers? Slim, shoot sweet. Kahrs? Wonderful triggers for street needs. Glock, XD and M&P are the dominant sellers. The XD gives me the best trigger reach, the Glock "points" the best for me and the M&P is—subjectively, for me—somewhere in between. Try 'em all. One or the other will pull your trigger.

And in the end, my brother geezers, remember: Efficiency is one of the "old values."

GUNS

IMPROVED FOR 2011
CRYOGENICALLY-TREATED, AIR GAUGED, HEAVY MATCH STAINLESS STEEL BARREL
REALIGNS MOLECULES AND REMOVES BARREL STRESS FOR ENHANCED STRENGTH AND ACCURACY
PRECISION CRAFTSMANSHIP
RRA TWO-STAGE, CHROME NM TRIGGER
MATCH FRONT AND REAR SIGHTS
CHROME BOLT CARRIER GROUP
RRA NM RIFLES

NM A4 / 20 INCH BARREL

NM A2 / 20 INCH BARREL

LE HOME HUNT TARGET

GET YOURS NOW AT WWW.ROCKRIVERARMS.COM

Recoil Can Get Nasty!
Reduce Recoil, Reduce Muzzle Jump. For accuracy, dependability, and quality.

Magna-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

VISA MasterCard

RANGING SHOTS™

• CLINT SMITH • PHOTOS: HEIDI SMITH •

NIGHTHAWK 1911 & THE TI-RANT Shooting quietly and for a good reason.

Nighthawk 1911 pistols need no introduction from me, as the Nighthawk are considered by many to be an industry standard and they are known for being well built, stout and functional handguns.

The Nighthawk/Advanced Armament Company fusion of products combining the AAC Ti-Rant suppressor and Nighthawk 1911 pistol typifies both companies high-quality products. This quiet system is built on a full 5" pistol, as it should be for a pistol designed for such a serious application. The 1911 wears fixed Heinie Slant-Pro sights, which are "taller" than normal to allow for the sights to be acquired and used effectively over the top of the can when it is in place on the pistol. Without the suppressor in place, the only visual oddity of the pistol is the slightly extended threaded barrel that projects a nominal 3/4" beyond the barrel bushing. This slight addition to the barrel allows for the AAC suppressor to be screwed onto the barrel. If the suppressor is not in place, a knurled thread protector is provided for standard firing applications.

For best results across the board the pistol uses slightly different recoil springs, although it will fire and function with either spring weight for emergency uses. Best-case scenario the pistol uses a 15-pound spring with

the suppressor and a 17-pound spring without the can in place. Subtle but effective details for the 1911, for both operation and esthetics, are a thinned frame and mainspring area with milled ball cuts on the slide that replace the bland serrations often seen on the top half of these types of pistols.

The Ti-Rant

This can is very cool and nifty and very quiet; with its sound signature a nominal 133 decibels with 230-grain ball ammunition. The AAC Ti-Rant specs consist of a suppressor made of titanium grade-9 materials making for a weigh-in of 11.5 ounces, a size just short of 9" in length and a diameter of less than 1-1/2". The finish is a moly-anodized trademarked under the name of SCARmor. The can mounts on the threads of the barrel as mentioned before and the twisting of the can when mounted in place allows for a clutch or ratchet-like action that allows for adjustment of the bullet strikes on target.

The lightweight suppressor is stunningly repeatable and in all the range testing, I shot groups that were



Both targets were fired with the suppressor installed (right) and without (left). It's important to note the can was removed and then replaced for each string of fire at each of the four ranges. Accuracy and repeatability is not an issue.

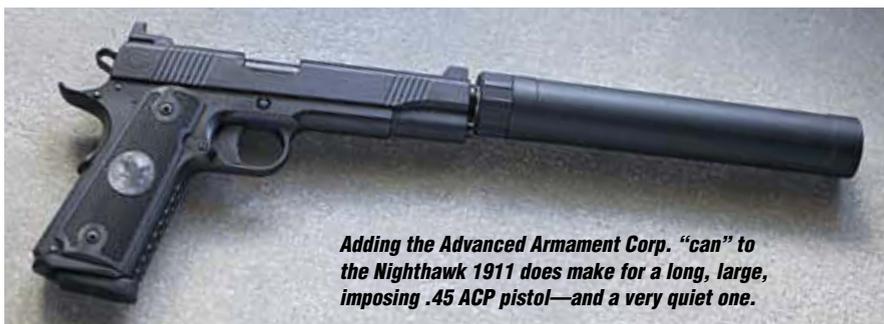
fired with the can off and on. In all firing—the can off or on—the pistol was consistent and repeated the previous projectile placement down range.

Frankly, if you get one of these pistols, it's not a big deal but the addition of the suppressor does require an ATF tax stamp, so if you're interested after reading this you'll need to make sure where you live allows ownership of suppressors. This again is not a big issue, but you do need to be aware of these paperwork details.

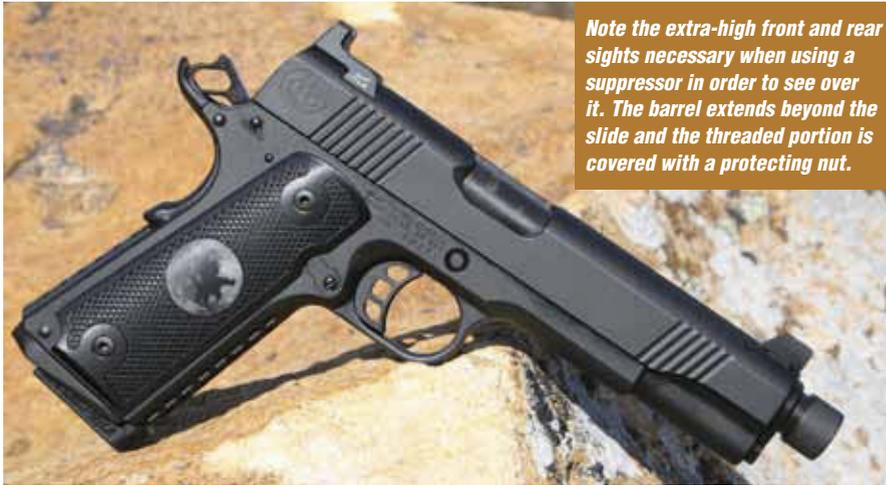
I think if you needed, wanted or choose a handgun for defense this is probably from a technical sense a great concept. I could pick up the handgun and deploy it inside the home with minimum concern over sound interference in a conflict. The reduced signature in flash and sound would be a good thing for the shooter and make for a pretty effective way to defend yourself.

The .45 ACP is as effective as any handgun cartridge can or would be. I mention later on a light may also be an asset to this concept. Bluntly, if you shoot in defense mode in built-up areas the noise is greatly reduced, if you shoot at the range for practice the handgun is actually pleasant as there is little noise per se. Without ear protection, sound generated by firing the pistol is not an issue.

I used 230-grain ball for test firing at ranges of 5 to 50 yards. The pistol



Adding the Advanced Armament Corp. "can" to the Nighthawk 1911 does make for a long, large, imposing .45 ACP pistol—and a very quiet one.



Note the extra-high front and rear sights necessary when using a suppressor in order to see over it. The barrel extends beyond the slide and the threaded portion is covered with a protecting nut.

was shot on paper at 5, 10, 15 and 25 yards and was then fired on 12x12" steel plates for the remaining accuracy testing at 50 yards. I challenged the pistol and suppressor to test and confirm a high level of repeatability by firing the strings of fire with and without the suppressor for each range and each string of fire. The pistol, with and without the suppressor, performed without a hitch and delivered a more than acceptable degree of accuracy for true world applications. I used the same 15-pound recoil spring for all firing and it worked across the board.

Another point of interest is if this system is truly to be used for fighting, a light rail version may be a real asset. The addition of the rail and a SureFire X300, for example, would allow illumination of a fight, with the light's presence allowing you to see and confirm the target. Remember, you turn a light ON to fight. Seeing is a residual benefit. My Nighthawk/AAC personal pistol has all the enlarged safety lever and operating controls replaced with standard size equipment and the flared magazine well is not needed—nor do I have one.

A fighting handgun doesn't actually need that stuff on it and Craig Gholson at Nighthawk, at my request, made mine plain and simple.

The issue Nighthawk/AAC 1911 has many "issued" assets like the enlarged stuff mentioned above that many people need or want in theory, although most of it is just marketing. I think it's probably debatable whether or not these add-on parts are really needed, especially since the pistol works well without them. **GUNS**

SOURCES:

NIGHTHAWK CUSTOM
1306 W. TRIMBLE, BERRYVILLE, AR 72616
(877) 268-4867

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/NIGHTHAWK-CUSTOM

ADVANCED ARMAMENT CORP.
2408 TECH CENTER PKWY., SUITE 150
LAWRENCEVILLE, GA 30043
(770) 925-9988

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/ADVANCED-ARMAMENT-CORP

SUREFIRE
18300 MT. BALDY CIR.
FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CA 92708
(800) 828-8809
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/SUREFIRE

iScale



iScale Digital Touch Screen Powder Scale New Generation of Powder Scales

Capacity: 1,000 grains - Accuracy: .1 grain - MSRP \$54.95

SmartReloader
Reloading & Shooting Products

www.SmartReloader-USA.com

All of the SmartReloader® products are covered by a 2 Years Warranty

Contact Us
Learn Where To Buy
Request a Free Catalogue

Display: LCD Touch Screen



UPON ARs

• GLEN ZEDIKER •

CHAMBER HEADSPACE

Check it.

Certainly, if you do your own barrel installations, safety of the end result is of crucial importance. Of course it is. I really don't think turning your head, closing your eyes and firing a new installation from the hip into the dirt constitutes a certifiable safety check. Well, OK, laugh (it was supposed to be funny), but I've had people tell me that's what they do....

It's true tolerances among parts are generally tight enough that swapping bolts and bolt-carrier assemblies normally won't result in parts pairings, resulting in a headspace concern. Question is how you value the difference between supposing and knowing. We get pretty complacent after enough builds because it is very unusual to encounter a problem using mil-spec and commercially-produced bolts and barrels.

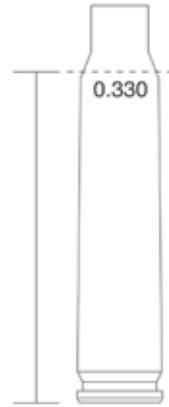
Get The Tools

Since headspace checks are easy enough and a pair of gages is an easy enough investment, I surely recommend this routine to anyone who works at all with barrels and bolts. You will need to know what you're looking for before you invest in a gage set. By that I mean the chambering specifications you are out

to confirm. There are huge differences in NATO and SAAMI-spec .223 Remington chambers.

Headspace, in essence, is the distance from the bolt face (when the bolt is in battery or fully forward, rifle ready to fire) to the location of the "datum line" along the case shoulder. On .223 Remington, this line is a .330" diameter. Height to this line will be in the vicinity of plus 1.4636" (SAAMI headspace spec). When the chamber reamer is run, the builder or manufacturer stops forward progress of the cutting tool with respect to this. Headspace can vary a little from maker to maker depending, among other things, on their beliefs as to what "playing it safe" means.

If the reamer were run too far, then the datum line measure would be farther into the chamber. That would allow too much room ahead of



Here is what we're working with, and for. The case datum line on a .223 Remington is .330". From the point of that diameter (dotted line) back to the bolt is headspace in the chamber. Likewise, from that line to the base of the cartridge case is our concern in sizing cartridge cases for reuse in a rifle. Get resized case headspace to read .003" under the actual chamber height to this line and we're good to go for handloads, by the way.

the cartridge case shoulder, and that defines excessive headspace. If the reamer wasn't run far enough, then the height to the datum line would be shorter, and that is insufficient headspace. Both are bad. Excessive headspace opens up the potential for a case failure, what we can call "blowed-up." Insufficient headspace means the bolt might not close fully on a chambered round, and that opens up the potential for an out-of-battery discharge, what we can also call "blowed-up."

Don't Blow It

We want nothing to blow up! Headspace gages work just as intoned by gauging whether there is, one, enough, and, two, not too much, space. You will need two (you can't run with just one). A "NO-GO" gage is too long in order to replicate excessive headspace. If the bolt closes on this one, then don't fire the rifle. A "GO" gage replicates correct headspace. The bolt is supposed to close on this one. If the bolt does not close on a "GO" gage, then the chamber is too short. Don't fire the rifle. My gages range 0.003" difference. Not much.



Maybe you can borrow, but you sorely need to have a gage set available. These are from Forster. For a new barrel installation, you'll need a "GO" and a "NO-GO." Make sure the chamber and the gages are clean. It doesn't take much at all to impede and corrupt gage operation. There are SAAMI-spec .223 Remington gages and NATO-spec 5.56mmx45mm gages. Know which you need, and certainly which you are using. A "Field" gage is a specialty tool to check suspected well-worn rifles for excessive headspace. Some take a field gage along to gun shows, but it's an unnecessary purchase if we're concerned with new parts.

MTM SPECIAL OPS



BLACK VULTURE

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.

 FOR MILITARY, FEDERAL AGENCY, GOVERNMENT AND GSA PURCHASES, PLEASE CONTACT US DIRECTLY.

M1A[®] PRECISION

CARBON FIBER FILLED POLYMER
PRECISION DROP IN STOCK FOR
SPRINGFIELD M1A[®]
& VARIANTS

MSRP
\$299.00



LIGHT WEIGHT
& EXTREMELY DURABLE
CLICK/ADJUSTABLE LENGTH
OF PULL & CHEEK RISER

INCLUDES:
2 SLING STUDS
4 QD SLING POINTS
GRIP STORAGE
COMPARTMENT
HAND GUARD
PICATINNY RAIL
EXTENDED
RAIL COVER



ARCHANGEL[™]

562.861.9554 • ARCHANGELMANUFACTURING.COM

*Rifle not included. Springfield & M1A are registered trademarks of Springfield Armory Inc.



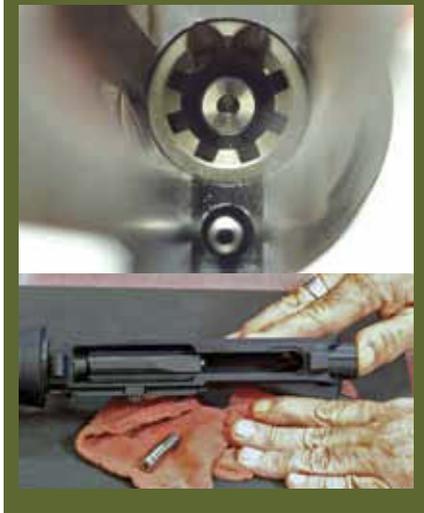
UP ON ARs

Process

Get your GO and NO-GO gages ready. (1) Insert one fully into the chamber and, by hand, (2) move the fully assembled bolt carrier forward toward battery as far as you can. If the back of the bolt carrier comes to flush with the receiver, that's "closed." Do this with both gages. The bolt has to close on a GO. (Forster gage is 1.4636"). The bolt can't close on a NO-GO (Forster gage is 1.4666").

Important!

If it's a 5.56 ("mil-spec") chamber, use a NATO gage! 5.56 MIN is 1.4636" (same as .223 Rem GO). 5.56 MAX is 1.4736". Big difference! That's 0.007" longer than .223 Remington NO-GO.

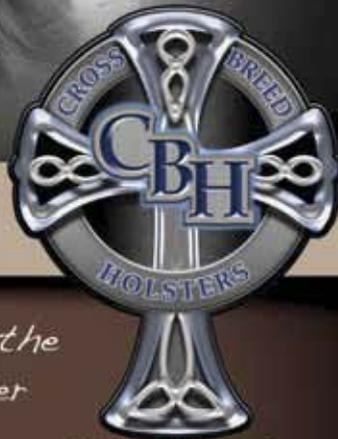


WILL YOU BE READY?

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!

If excessive headspace is indicated, try another bolt. If that fails, there's really nothing that can be done save for a new barrel. If insufficient headspace is indicated, that can be remedied by a gunsmith, who can cut the chamber to the correct depth.

Before you do your checks, remove the charging handle and make sure the rifle chamber is clean and dry.

The preceding is a specially-adapted excerpt from the book The Competitive AR15: Builders Guide by Glen Zediker and Zediker Publishing. For more information visit www.zediker.com or call (662) 473-6107.

GUNS

SOURCES
BROWNELLS
200 S. FRONT ST.
MONTEZUMA, IA 50171
(641) 623-4000

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/BROWNELLS

FORSTER PRODUCTS
310 E. LANARK AVE.
LANARK IL 61046
(815) 493-6360

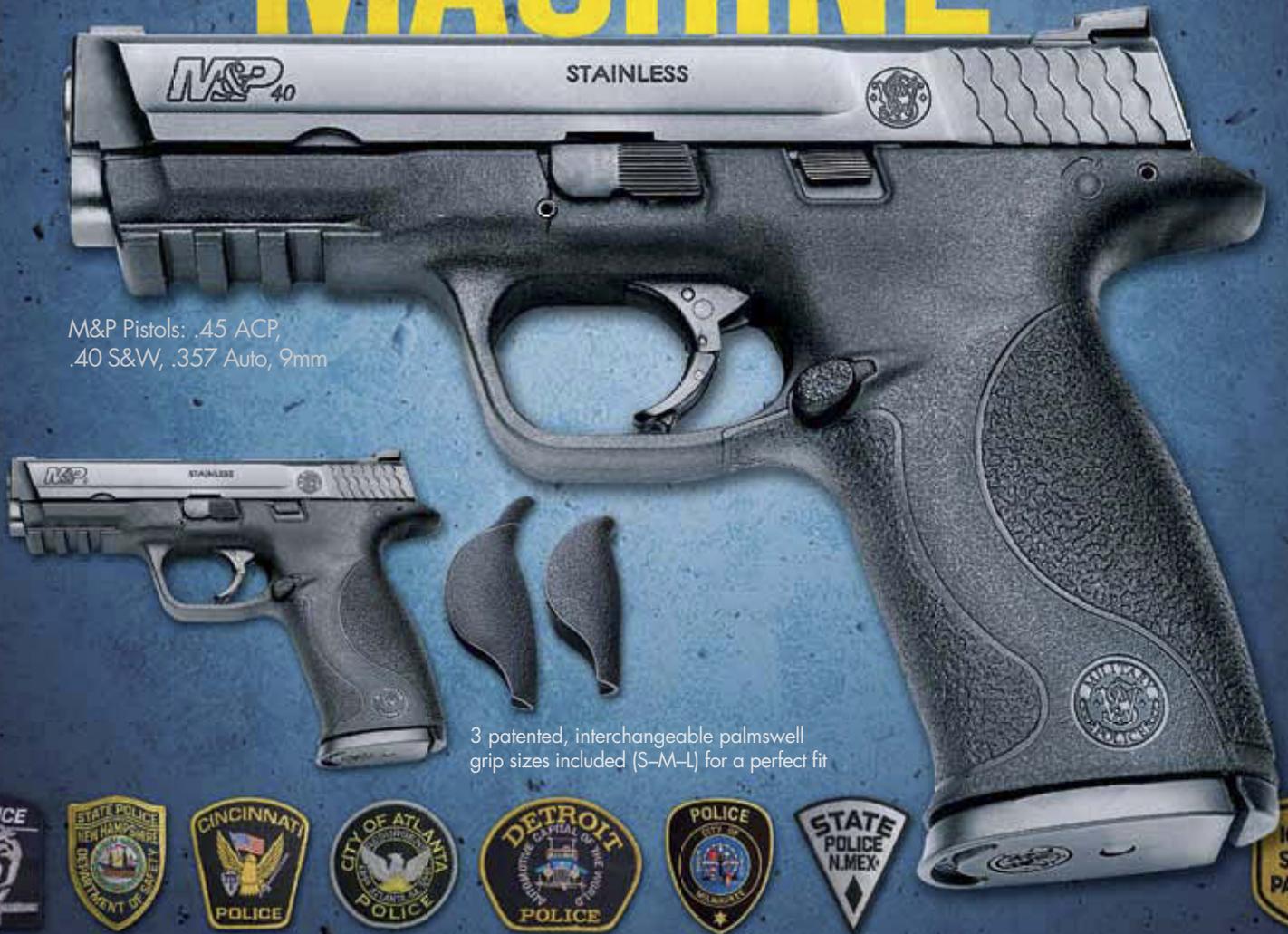
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/FORSTER

CrossBreed Holsters LLC.
www.crossbreedholsters.com • 888.732.5011



Smith & Wesson®

FINE-TUNED MACHINE™



M&P Pistols: .45 ACP,
.40 S&W, .357 Auto, 9mm

3 patented, interchangeable palmwell
grip sizes included (S-M-L) for a perfect fit

TESTED. PROVEN. SELECTED BY PROFESSIONALS.

smith-wesson.com
NASDAQ: SWHC



MADE IN THE USA

Smith & Wesson®
M&P
MILITARY & POLICE

RIFLEMAN

• DAVE ANDERSON •

LONG-RANGE HUNTING

Where do you say no?

In a recent column I suggested a rifleman should have the skill to make running shots on game. I also said once you have such skill it shouldn't be used except to stop wounded game from escaping.

I feel much the same about long-range shooting at game. We can debate what "long range" means. Certainly your definition is as good as mine. For long-range enthusiasts and target shooters, long range starts at around 500 yards. The best modern equipment has the accuracy and power to kill big game at 2,000 yards and further.

I enjoy the challenge of long-range shooting. I think every rifle shooter should be capable of making long-range hits, as well as running shots. But just as I don't encourage taking shots at unwounded running game, I'm not very enthused about long-range shots at unwounded game.

Discussing ethical issues is a risky business in this era of moral relativism, where expressing values is decried as being "judgmental." I'm aware of the argument "as long as it is legal" we mustn't criticize what others do.

I'm not so sure. In some states there are no caliber restrictions on big-game rifles, other than "no

rimfire cartridges." In such states, I could hunt elk with a .17 Rem or .22 Hornet, shoot them (or at least at them) at 1,200 yards, and be completely legal. And no, I don't want more restrictions, my point is we need to set higher standards for ourselves than just "is it legal?"

It may not be written in hunting regulations, but I believe we hunters have a moral obligation to kill the animals we hunt as quickly and painlessly as possible. I realize not everyone agrees. It astonishes me how callous and indifferent some are.

Thirty-plus years ago at an office party, a group of us were talking hunting. I told how a hunting partner and I had about killed ourselves getting a moose out, kind of a "moose's revenge" story. Another fellow recounting his own story:

He had wounded a moose, he said, and it had struggled across a creek to escape. He followed it across, had a clear shot, but realized it would be a job getting a pickup to where it was. Instead he got ahead of it, frightened



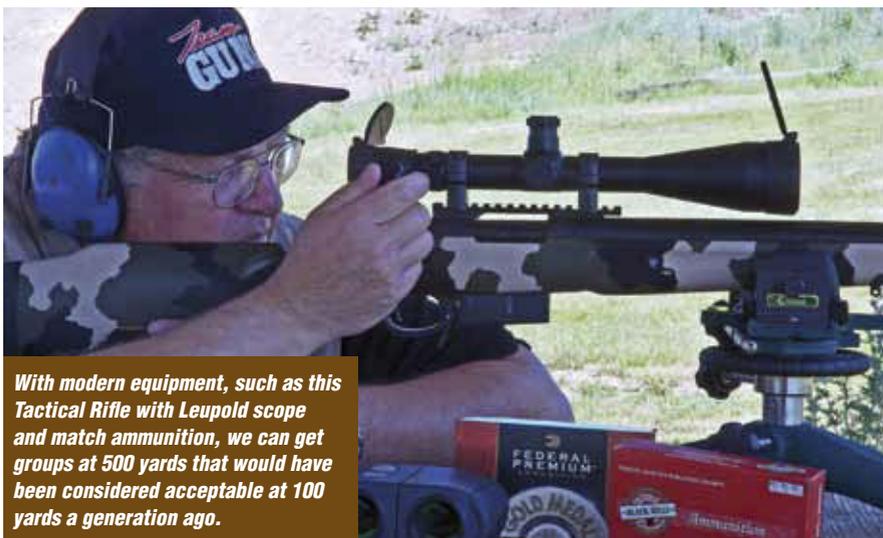
This impala was shot from a bit over 300 yards using a .257 Weatherby. Even from this hot cartridge the bullet took around 1/3 of a second to reach the target.

it into crossing back, and herded it another couple of hundred yards, dragging itself along, to an old logging trail. Only then did he fire a finishing shot. He seemed genuinely surprised we didn't applaud his ingenuity.

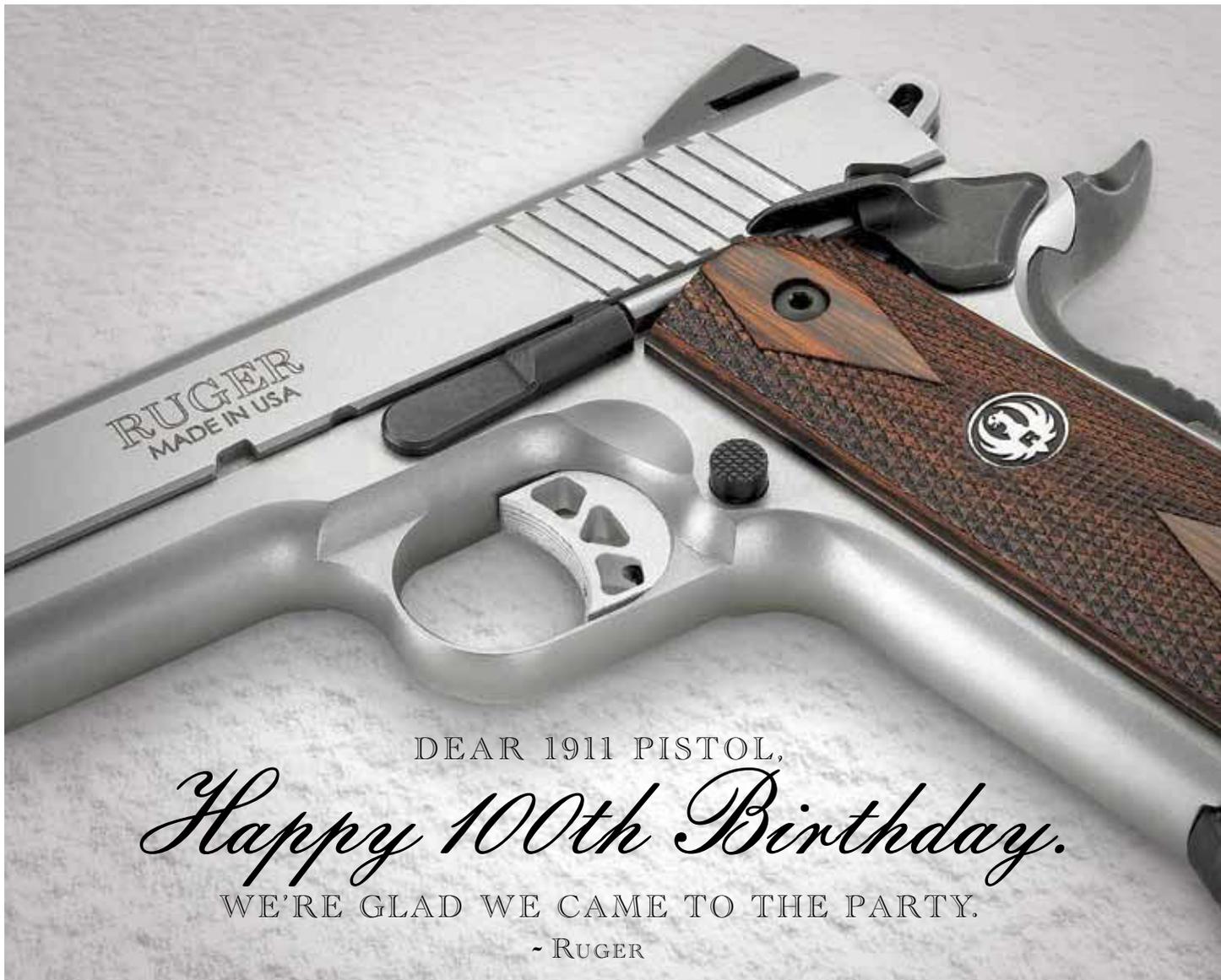
My concern with long-range hunting has nothing to do with the issue of long-range accuracy. With current equipment, game-shooting accuracy at 500 to 700 yards isn't very difficult. I have video of my wife making consistent hits on an 8" target at 600 yards. If someone who shoots rifles maybe five times a year can do it, how hard can it be?

Back in the '70s it was news when Mary Louise DeVito fired a 10-shot, 1,000-yard group measuring a bit over 7". With modern equipment such groups have become routine. Similar size groups are being achieved at 1,500 and even 2,000 yards. I am not questioning the accuracy or power of the equipment, or anyone's shooting ability.

Even if we can solve all the variables (range, wind, angle to target and so on) there remains an insurmountable problem: the bullet's time of flight. It takes time for the bullet to reach the target and, unlike paper and steel, animals move. I read somewhere a claim about a "record" kill on an elk at around 2,000 yards. Even with a cartridge like the .338 Lapua, time of flight to 2,000 yards is nearly four seconds. In the interval between firing the shot and bullet strike the animal



With modern equipment, such as this Tactical Rifle with Leupold scope and match ammunition, we can get groups at 500 yards that would have been considered acceptable at 100 yards a generation ago.



DEAR 1911 PISTOL,
Happy 100th Birthday.
 WE'RE GLAD WE CAME TO THE PARTY.
 ~ RUGER

Introducing the **RUGER® SR1911™**, a classically-styled pistol packed with all of the modern manufacturing advances that you have come to expect from Ruger. Accurate, rugged and reliable, the SR1911 is 100% American-made in American factories with American workers. On the 100-year celebration of the 1911 pistol, we could think of no better birthday present. **Enthusiasts enjoy. Competition beware.**



THE RUGER® SR1911™ / .45 AUTO



Precision CNC-controlled machining process results in a superior slide-to-frame fit and smooth slide travel.



The match grade barrel and bushing are produced from the same bar stock, on the same machine, for improved accuracy.



Oversized beaver tail grip safety provides reliable, positive function.



WWW.RUGER.COM/SR1911



©2011 Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc. 040411



RUGER

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RUGER SR1911, SCAN THE QR CODE TO THE LEFT WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE.



A History of Innovation



The ArmaLite AR-10[®] 7.62mm Rifle

The ONLY AR-10[®]

AR stands for ArmaLite... accept no substitutes

P.O. BOX 299

Geneseo, IL 61254

Phone: 309-944-6939

Fax: 309-944-6949

Web: www.armalite.com

E-mail: info@armalite.com

Sales@armalite.com

Made in the
USA

can move. It's a variable over which we have absolutely no control.

Even if the bullet flies exactly to point of aim, the target may not be there when it arrives. All the elk has to do is take half a step, or reach out to nibble on some browse, and a chest shot turns into a gut shot. When people say, "That probably won't happen," what I hear is, "I don't care if that happens."

Incidentally there's no need for long-range hunters to write and say they never wound and lose game, or (in the event of an apparent miss) they always go to where the animal was

standing and check to see if it was hit. I've already read it a hundred times. I read it in every article on long-range hunting. I hope it's true.

Generally the claims are accompanied by disclaimers such as "long-range hunting isn't for everyone, just special people like me." It's almost as much a constant as "I'm not affected by recoil, though I realize there are weaklings who are."

People have a happy facility of forgetting failures. I recall a shooter modestly explaining to the group back at the lodge, his prairie dog hit at around 1,000 yards. It happened



It wasn't very hard to get within 200 yards or so of this buck, even in big open country.

I'd been there when the shot was made. He didn't mention the 15 or 20 previous shots which missed. First shot hits impress me. Lobbing bullets at a target until one finally connects is, well, less impressive.

Most humans have a reaction time of around 1/4 of a second, plus or minus. I assume most of the mammals we hunt are wired much the same. If the game animal decides to move just as the shot breaks it will be about 1/3 to 1/2 of a second before a killing shot turns into a wounding shot. How far can a bullet fired from a typical hunting cartridge, say a .300 Win Mag, travel in 1/3 of a second? About 300 yards. To reach 400 yards takes about 1/2 a second.

GUNS



There were a few chucks in the rocks on the right. Range was maybe 250 to 300 yards but the chucks don't sit still long. Pronghorn country in Wyoming, where shots can be taken at pretty much whatever range you choose. Though it looks flat at first glance, there is actually plenty of cover for those who prefer to stalk closer.



Precision Starts With Case-Gard™



O-Ring Seal

TRB-40



***KSR-40**

NEW



50 BMG



An American Company
Manufacturing & Assembling
In The USA,
Since 1968

Check out our all new website for MTM equipped dealers near you!

MTM Molded Products Company - (937) 890-7461 - www.mtmcase-gard.com

RIMFIRES

• HOLT BODINSON •

VERSATILE VARMINTER CZ's neat switch barrel .22 LR and .17 HMR.

Switch-barrel rifles can be a lot of fun and an economical solution to having optional calibers available in these days of tight budgets. The switch barrel concept, like the detachable scope mount, is very European in its origins. The European market has given us the Blaser, the Mauser 66 and more recently the SAKO Quad, which offered owners four, interchangeable, rimfire barrels. The Quad, because of its cost, was not an overnight success, and that's why it's nice to see CZ enter the rimfire switch-barrel market this year with a modestly priced rifle of impeccable pedigree. Meet the CZ 455 American.

The new CZ 455 models are the latest steps along the evolutionary path of the earlier CZ 452/453 series. The new CZ 455 line is built with tighter manufacturing tolerances, and, without dispute, the CZ 455 line offers improved accuracy. The CZ 455 models are available in a variety of stocks, sights, barrel lengths, finishes and rimfire calibers, specifically the .17 HMR, .22 LR and .22 WMR.

The CZ 455 American switch-barrel set is chambered for the .22 LR and the .17 HMR. That's a pretty astute combination. The .22 LR cartridge comes in more flavors than Campbell's soup and as we all know, it's ever so cheap to shoot. The .17 HMR, while not cheap to shoot, is a sizzling, rimfire performer, and in my experience, it's the most consistently accurate rimfire cartridge ever designed.

The .17 HMR is not a plinking cartridge. It's a hunting cartridge and while the .22 LR with good bullet placement is an effective small-game load out to 75 yards, the .17 HMR with a 17-grain polymer-tipped bullet at a velocity of 2,550 fps will double that

effective range to 150 yards or so with explosive results. While not packing the heavy duty punch of the .22 WMR, the .17 HMR is the more accurate of the two. Accuracy just seems to be in the blood of the .17s. Whether it's a .177 airgun, a .17 Remington or a .17 Remington Fireball, the .17 just performs magnificently.

Designing a basic platform like the CZ 455 American to feed, fire, extract and eject a .22 LR and a .17 HMR, takes a bit of doing. If you take a caliper and a handful of .22 LR and .17 HMR, you will discover some interesting facts. The rim diameter of a .22 LR measures +/- .275", but the rim of the .17 HMR measures +/- .290". The rim thickness of the .22 LR measures +/- .044" while

that of the .17 HMR measures +/- .049".

Even the case body diameters are different, with the .22 LR running +/- .225" while the .17 HMR measures +/- .240". And, of course, there is a considerable difference in the overall length between the two case families, with the .22 LR measuring +/- .966" and the .17 HMR running +/- 1.345".

In short, to make the CZ 455 American a successful switch-barrel rifle, you have to accommodate two distinctly different cartridges with different rim, headspace and overall length requirements.

CZ's answers were clever indeed. They used a bolt with a rimfire magnum dimensioned bolt face, since the magnum bolt face will accommodate both rim diameters. They also used a magnum-size magazine well and blocked it with a removable polymer spacer to accommodate the smaller .22

LR magazine. Headspace was adjusted by the length of the barrel shank. I must say in passing that headspace was set very tight at the factory, and you could feel the difference in rim thicknesses from brand-to-brand as you closed the bolt.

When unpacking the CZ 455 American switch barrel, what you see is an extra barrel, an extra magazine of the proper caliber, two Allen wrenches, a factory 50m, 5-shot test target for both barrels, an instruction manual, a 2-year warranty on the stock and surface finishes and a 3-year warranty on all other parts.

I'm always impressed when a company includes a signed test target with their firearm. That test target really puts your reputation as a manufacturer on the line. In this case, the .22 LR group measured 5/8" and the .17 HMR, 3/8". On a second rifle I had the opportunity to inspect, the .22 LR test target measured 7/8" and the .17 HMR, 5/8". Excellent performance on both counts.

There's quality built into the CZ 455 American. The 20-1/2" barrel is hammer forged, the action is machined from a billet of steel and the stock is walnut. The trigger is adjustable by turning a single nut, and I was able to bring the



To accommodate the head sizes of both the .22 LR and the .17 HMR (above), a magnum bolt is used. The two cases (below) require separate magazines and the .22 LR magazine has a block to fit the magnum magazine well.



With a practical, affordable switch-barrel in .22 LR and .17 HMR, today's hunter has the very best of small-game cartridges in one gun.

pull-weight down to 3 pounds, 11 ounces. The two magazines are constructed of a polymer, which I don't care for, but it seems to be the trend.

With an overall weight of 6 pounds, the CZ is a trim, well balanced rimfire.

Switching barrels on the 455 American is straightforward and, in fact, on CZ USA's website, there is a short video that demonstrates the whole process. Briefly, you remove the stock. Add or remove the .22 LR spacer in the magazine well. Loosen the rear bolt of the magazine housing.

Remove two set screws that secure the barrel shank to the receiver. Slide out and replace the barrel. Cinch up the barrel-retaining screws and the magazine housing screw. Replace the stock and you're back in business.

With the CZ came a pair of 30mm CZ rings that clamped directly to the 11mm dovetail atop the receiver. The integral rings are accessories, but if you want a pair of precision machined, steel rings that fit the receiver like a glove, the CZ rings are the way to go. They do add a bit of weight, as does a 30mm scope, but frankly, that added weight between your hands is an advantage with a light rifle. A lighter alternative would be a 1"



Winchester's new polymer-tipped, Varmint LF (engineering sample above) delivered outstanding 3/8" and 1/2" 5-shot groups. CZ deserves great credit for enclosing factory test targets with each rifle produced (below). Holt discovered the targets were indicative of the rifle's accuracy.



scope mounted in Warne 7.3/.22 rings.

One of the peculiarities of the CZ for an American is the counter-intuitive safety. The wing safety on the bolt sleeve is pushed forward to place the rifle on safe and pulled back to fire.

The Czech's have been doing this for decades. Gunsmiths used to make a good penny reversing the safeties on the BRNO 602 big-bore rifles.

I did find the oiled bolt a bit grabby. The solution was simple. I just rubbed the bolt body with a

little Tetra Gun grease, and it became smooth as butter.

On the 50-yard range, and as I expected, the .17 HMR was the more accurate of the two calibers. Outstanding were the 3/8" to 1/2" 5-shot groups turned in by CCI TNT 17-grain HP and Winchester's new 15.5-grain polymer-tipped Varmint LF (lead free) load, which we were fortunate enough to be able to test as an engineering sample. In the .22 LR category, both CCI Mini-Mag and CCI Select tied with 3/4" groups.

One word about cleaning a .17. I fussed with the tiny bores for years before discovering German-made, 4.5mm felt cleaning pellets and 4mm cleaning rods available from International Shooters Service. The pellets come in two forms: one is for applying solvent or preservatives; the other pellet is imbedded with fine brass bristles and a mild polishing medium. They simply make cleaning the wee .17 bore a pleasure.

The CZ American switch-barrel model is handsome and accurate. Its .22 LR barrel turns it into an inexpensive plinker while the .17 HMR tube converts it into a sensational small game and varmint rifle. What more could you ask for in a rimfire! **GUNS**

INTERNATIONAL SHOOTERS SERVICE
2319 E. LOOP 820 N., FORT WORTH, TX 76118
(817) 595-2090

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/INTERNATIONAL-SHOOTERS-SERVICE

WARNE MFG
9500 S.W. TUALATIN RD., TUALATIN, OR 97062
(800) 683-5590

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/
WARNE-SCOPE-MOUNTS

455 AMERICAN SWITCH BARREL

IMPORTER: CZ-USA

P.O. BOX 171073

KANSAS CITY, KS 66117

(800) 955-4486

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/CZ-USA

ACTION TYPE:

Bolt-action repeater

CALIBERS:

.22 Long Rifle, .17 HMR

CAPACITY:

5

SAFETY:

2-position wing safety

BARREL LENGTH:

20.5"

OVERALL LENGTH:

38.5"

WEIGHT:

6.1 pounds

FINISH:

Blue

SIGHTS:

Grooved for scope mount

STOCK:

Walnut

PRICE:

\$531

USA
PROUD



©2011 BENCHMADE KNIFE CO. OREGON CITY, OR, USA. BENCHMADE.COM

172BK TOMAHAWK

BENCHMADE®

STING LIKE A BUTTERFLY

1095 CARBON BLADE STEEL
FULL-TANG HANDLE WITH G10 SCALE

MONTANA MUSINGS

• MIKE "DUKE" VENTURINO • PHOTOS: YVONNE VENTURINO •

GOOD GUN BOOKS

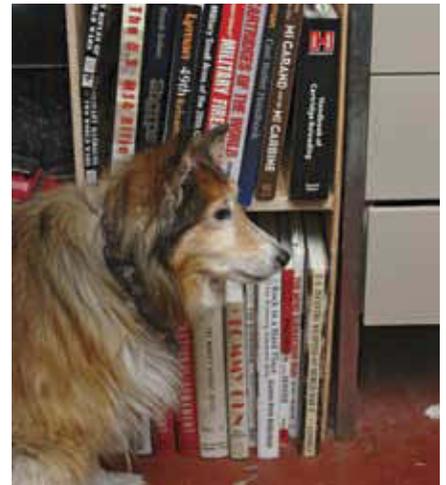
Are for more than just good reading.

Personally, one of the great joys of being a firearms enthusiast is the existence of a vast quantity of fine books concerning every facet of the subject. They range from reloading manuals to firearms disassembly and maintenance guides to full-fledged collectors' reference books. My office is jammed with books, all shelves are full and every flat surface supports books to one degree or the other. I have stacks of books so tall Yvonne fears one of the cats or dogs will knock them over and get killed in the process. She isn't joking either.

Back at the turn of 2009/2010 I was confined to a hospital for 10 days. Although my condition was very serious, my mind was clear. So several people offered me the loan of their laptop computers. They all said, "Then you can continue writing while you're there." Although grateful for their concern, I had to turn them down. To one and all I replied, "You don't understand what I do. I'm not writing fiction that just springs from my mind. I need my books. Articles about historical firearms can't be

written without reference books."

In these pages in recent years I've stressed I'm putting together a shooting collection of World War II firearms. That has given me perfect rationale for adding dozens more books to my assortment of Old West gun books. At the same gun show at which I bought a Luger, I purchased a book about them. It was *Standard Catalog Of Luger* by Aaron Davis. Probably like many of you, I was surprised to learn that some Lugers had been made in England of all places.



Knowing how much Duke treasures his books, his Shelly named Teddy is guarding those kept closely by his desk.

Gun books can be small. *The Inglis-Browning Hi-Power Pistol* by R. Blacke Stevens is a mere 28 pages. Yet it has been invaluable to me in discerning exactly what the story was on these Canadian-made Inglis-Brownings. I learned one of my Inglis-Brownings had been made for China and the other for Great Britain. Other books are medium sized; *The M1 Garand: Owner's Manual* by Scott A. Duff is 126 pages. But those pages are stuffed with details on assembly, disassembly, and information on general welfare of M1 Garands. From it I learned that the Garand's action should be lightly greased instead of oiled.

Sometimes a firearm requires multiple volumes by a single author to be covered to their satisfaction. For instance Larry L. Ruth wrote *War Baby! The US Caliber .30 Carbine*. It was 495 pages. Then *War Baby Comes Home: Volume II* starts at page 496 and runs to page 846. From it I learned such things as M1 .30 Carbines were being cloned for civilian sales as early as 1962.

Some fine and helpful books are compiled of tidbits of useful information. One that has helped me lately is *Standard Catalog Of Military Firearms, 3rd Edition* by Ned Schwing. It contains brief descriptions of hundreds or perhaps thousands of

One of Duke's favorite books is *Packing Iron* about Old West gun leather.



BALD EAGLE™

HEAVY-DUTY RANGE BAGS



Designed to safely organize and transport shooting gear to and from the range, these top grade ballistic nylon covered Range Bags also provide excellent protection for all cameras, lenses, handguns, ammo and other gear. Padded protection throughout, adjustable padded dividers, double stitching, YKK zippers, adjustable shoulder strap and reinforced top handle provides all the security you need. Each features a top loading 15" or 20" long main compartment, two side compartments and a front compartment as well as a back zippered pocket. The bottom is reinforced so the bag does not sag when weighted.

COLOR & SIZE CHOICES

The 15" Range Bag is offered in 6 color choices. The 20" Range Bag is available in 4 colors. Overall dimensions of the 15" size measure 19½"L x 9½"W x 8"H. The dimensions of the 20" size measure 24½"L x 10½"W x 8"H.



Camo	Red	Black	Green	Pink	Blue
BE1018 15"	BE1014 15"	BE1013 15"	BE1011 15"	BE1010 15"	BE1012 15"
BE1019 20"	BE1017 20"	BE1016 20"	BE1015 20"	(20" Bag not available in Pink or Blue.)	

Bald Eagle™ is a trademark of Woodstock International, Inc.

Contact sales@woodstockint.com for more information and confidential dealer pricing.

WOODSTOCK INTERNATIONAL, INC.

P.O. BOX 2309 • BELLINGHAM, WA 98227 • U.S.A.

PHONE: (800) 840-8420 • FAX: (800) 647-8801

Email: sales@woodstockint.com • Website: www.shopfox.biz

13839

INDEPENDENT RETAILERS ARE OUR SPECIALTY!





This book on US Marine Corps scout/snipers showed Duke's gunsmith how to mount the Leatherwood scope on an '03 Springfield to make a facsimile of ones the USMC used early in World War II.

military weapons. A few months before this writing I bought an Italian Model 1891 6.5mm rifle off of an Internet auction site. But when it arrived it didn't conform to the configuration listed for that firearm. That reference book showed me that what I had received was actually an Italian Model 1941, a slightly revamped Model 1891. That was even better.

Some reference books are so lavishly illustrated as to be works of art in themselves. One such is *Packing Iron: Gunleather Of The American West* by Richard C. Rattenbury. It contains hundreds of full-color photos of vintage (and modern reproduction) holsters, cartridge belts

and rifle scabbards. Did you know that there is a form of holster known as the "Mexican Loop with Texas Jockstrap?"

On the negative side, not many firearms books are captivating to the point where I will read them cover to cover. Mostly they consist of dry facts. Two exceptions that come instantly to mind are Elmer Keith's *Sixguns* and *Hell I Was There!* They were fun to read. Other authors may not exhibit Elmer's flamboyance but still I've tried to buy every firearms book available. Good examples are books by Frank Iannamico. He writes about military full-autos with such titles to his credit as *American Thunder*, *Blitzkreig* and

The Last Steel Warrior. Those books in the same order are about American Thompson submachine guns, German MP38 and MP40 submachine guns and the US M14 rifle. They are a wealth of historical and collecting information.

Some books have been mighty helpful in a down to earth way. Early in WWII the US Marine Corps mounted 40 '03 Springfield rifles with Lyman 5A telescopes for sniper use. When Leatherwood/Hi-Lux Optics introduced their Wm. Malcolm replica scope, I thought it was a close enough facsimile of the Lyman 5A to mount on one of my '03 Springfield rifles. When I approached a gunsmith about doing the project he was a little dubious until I laid out Peter R. Senich's book *US Marine Corps Scout-Sniper: World War II And Korea*. Therein was clearly shown how USMC armorers altered '03s to take Lyman 5A scopes. Then the gunsmith gladly accepted the job and the resulting scope-sighted '03 is now one of my most treasured possessions.

The above examples are just a smattering of the information I've learned from gun books. Just as I could not do my job without this word processor, I could not do it without a vast array of good gun books. **GUNS**

M6X-G. The *best* just got *better*.

High visibility Green laser

AT A TIME WHEN UNITED STATES MILITARY FORCES ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED AROUND THE WORLD, THESE SYSTEMS SERVE AS A TRUE FORCE MULTIPLIER, ENHANCING THE SAFETY, SECURITY, AND COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR WAR FIGHTERS.



The extremely popular M6X Tactical Laser Illuminator, is now offered in a high visibility Green Laser model. Adaptable to either pistols or long guns, the M6X-G is built for battle. www.insighttechnology.com

Built for battle.

INSIGHT
TECHNOLOGY

L3

Warrior Systems

FROM THE FOREMOST SUPPLIER OF TACTICAL LASERS AND ILLUMINATORS FOR THE U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES AND SWAT TEAMS AROUND THE WORLD...OUR PROUD MILITARY HERITAGE AND TECHNOLOGY HAS BEEN INFUSED INTO EVERY PRODUCT WE OFFER. BATTLE PROVEN IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN. 100% REVOLUTIONARY.

FN SCAR



EXPAND YOUR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.



The FN SCAR™ 16S carbine is an excellent choice for 3-gun shooting and other applications that require reliability, incredible accuracy and durability. Awarded the 2010 NRA American Rifleman Golden Bullseye Award.



The 5.56 X 45 MM semi-auto rifle version of the FN SCAR Weapons System developed and approved by U.S. special operators is light, fast-handling, fully adjustable and quick shooting. Available in Flat Dark Earth (FDE) or Black.

FN SCAR



FNH USA

**DISTINCT
ADVANTAGE**



@FNH_USA_LLC



FACEBOOK.COM/FNHUSA



FNHUSA.COM

HANDLOADING

• JOHN BARSNESS •

LIGHTER 12-GAUGE LOADS Sometimes less power is just as useful.

Right now American shotgunning is caught between two opposing trends, the aging of the shooting population, and hyper-velocity in shotshells.

Older shooters tend to prefer lighter shotguns, especially for hunting, a marketing trend that's gathered momentum over the past decade. Lighter shotguns kick more.

At the same time many modern shotshells also kick more, due to the great velocity race. This trend started with the outlawing of "toxic" lead shot for waterfowling. The cheapest non-toxic shot material proved to be iron, usually called steel. The problem

with steel shot is it's a lot lighter than lead, so slows down much more rapidly than lead shot. The solution turned out to be larger shot, driven at much faster velocity.

Eventually the speed race spilled over into lead-shot ammunition as well. This was at least partly due to the insistence of many gun writers that ammunition companies drop the absurd "drams equivalent" method of expressing shotshell velocity. This

had its origins over a century ago, in the transition between black and smokeless powder.

What's A Dram?

Turn of the 20th-century shotgunners used to black powder had a good idea of the zip of a 12-gauge shell loaded with 1-1/4 ounces of shot and 3-3/4 drams of black powder. (A dram, by the way, is 1/16th of an avoirdupois ounce, or 27.344 grains.) To avoid confusing these shooters, ammo makers rated the velocity of smokeless shotshells in drams-equivalent.

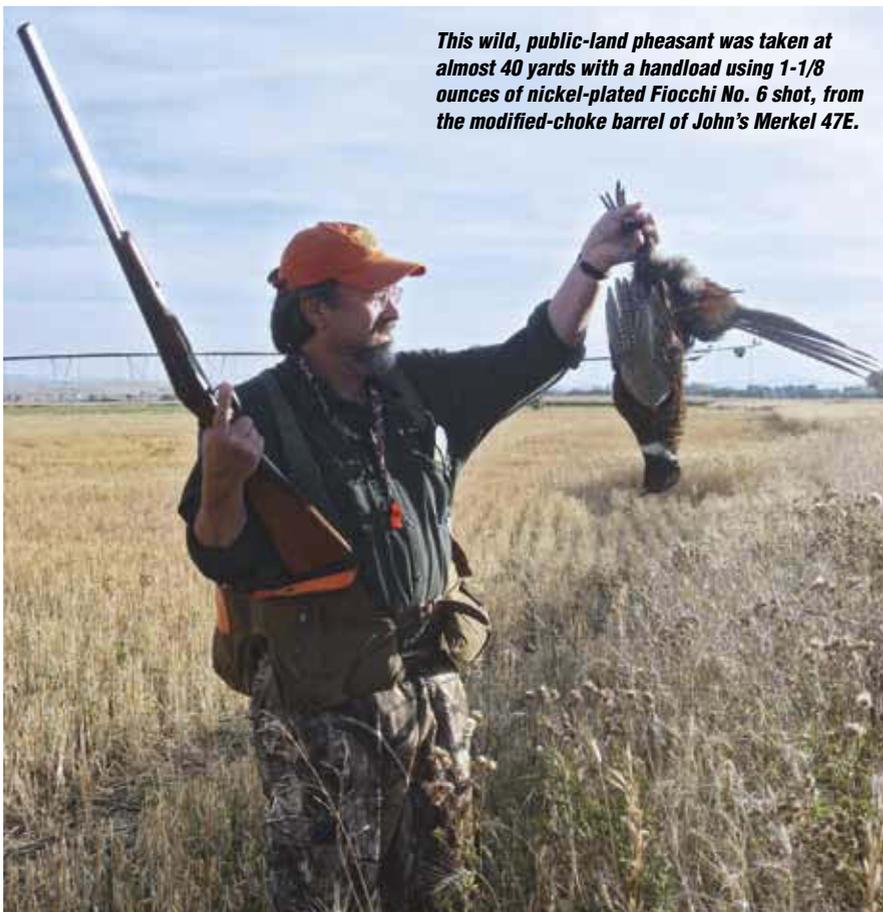
This practice continued long after the last hunter who bought black-powder shotshells went to the big duck marsh in the sky. Unless a modern shotgunner was really serious about finding out exactly what 3-3/4 drams-equivalent meant, he remained ignorant of exactly how fast the shot charge left his 12 gauge—and didn't really care, as long as the ammo went bang and killed birds.

But the outcry among a minority of gun writers (including, in a small way, me) eventually convinced ammunition manufacturers to start listing muzzle velocity. Unfortunately, this had the side effect of average shotgunners buying shotshells based on extra muzzle velocity, due to the American attitude that more is always better.

Faster, Faster

The fastest lead-shot 12-gauge loads of the drams-equivalent days—the 1-1/4 ounces, 3-3/4 dram "duck load"—got about 1,300 fps at the muzzle. Today there are 1-1/4 ounce lead-shot loads that get 1,500 fps at the muzzle. I was sent a couple of boxes to test a couple of years ago, the ammo advertised as specifically designed for pheasant hunting. I patterned two of them in a 7-pound over-under with a new miracle-fiber recoil pad. That was enough punishment, and the 48 other rounds are still resting on a shelf somewhere.

According to the recoil calculator in Sierra's *Infinity Ballistics Program*, a 1-1/4 ounce load of shot at 1,300 fps from a 7-pound gun generates 29.3 foot-pounds of energy. This isn't too bad for pheasant hunting, where only



This wild, public-land pheasant was taken at almost 40 yards with a handload using 1-1/8 ounces of nickel-plated Focchi No. 6 shot, from the modified-choke barrel of John's Merkel 47E.

a few shots are normally taken in a day. But the 1,500 fps load generates 39 ft-lbs—33 percent more recoil. No wonder I didn't like it.

Concussions

Aside from momentary misery, lots of recoil can have serious side effects, especially on older shooters. Ever get a headache after shooting a few rounds from a hard-kicking shotgun? Recoil headache is a symptom of concussion. He-men used to laugh about getting their bell rung in football, or a headache after shooting a few rounds of trap, but these days we know how much long-term damage is done to the human brain by repeated concussions.

Shooters wear glasses to protect their eyesight, but repeated heavy recoil can cause detached retinas. I've known several competition shotgunners who suffered a detached retina, or even two. Often a detached retina can be fixed by surgery, but sometimes it can't.

The really sad part of all this is



Ruffed grouse don't require much shot, but do require a wide pattern. This Montana bird was taken with 1 ounce of 7-1/2 shot from the improved-cylinder barrel of the Merkel.

that aside from a few specialized uses, high-velocity shotshells don't really make much difference, whether for breaking clays or killing birds. It takes more oomph to penetrate a pheasant than break a clay bird, but not as much as many hunters think.

Also, adding a lot of muzzle velocity to shot pellets doesn't do all

that much for downrange velocity, because tiny-round shot sheds velocity so rapidly. Larger shot retains more velocity, but not much. The smallest shot commonly used on pheasants is No. 7-1/2, retaining about 46 percent of its muzzle velocity at 50 yards, while No. 4 shot retains about 48 percent.

Shedding Velocity

What all this means is that shot started at 1,300 fps is down to about 610 fps at 50 yards, while shot started at 1,500 fps is down to 705 fps. It's been proven empirically that 600 fps is plenty for penetrating pheasants,

MODERATE-VELOCITY 12-GAUGE HANDLOADS:

HULL (BRAND)	SHOT (OUNCES, LEAD)	PRIMER (TYPE)	POWDER (BRAND)	CHARGE (GRAINS WEIGHT)	WAD (TYPE)	VELOCITY (FPS)
Rem Premier	1	R209P	Competition	18.0	F12S0	1,210
Fed Hi-Power	1-1/8	F209A	Green Dot	23.0	F12S4	1,240
Win AA	1-1/4	W209	WSF	26.5	F12S4	1,250

BECAUSE BAD GUYS DON'T GLOW IN THE DARK.

TACTICAL FLASHLIGHTS



And until they do, you need Streamlight. Incredibly strong in an incredibly small package, our PolyTac® LED puts out 120 lumens of C4® Power LED technology, making it 2-3 times brighter than previous generation LEDs. Its high-impact nylon polymer casing makes the PolyTac® LED virtually indestructible and at just 3.9 ounces, virtually weightless. Heroes trust Streamlight because the best need the best.

FEATURING a wider, brighter, peripheral light.



PolyTac® LED
Lightweight nylon polymer body



STREAMLIGHT®
Heroes Trust Streamlight®

30 Eagleville Road, Eagleville, PA 19403 • 800.523.7488 • www.streamlight.com

©2011 Streamlight, Inc.

**“WE DIDN'T INVENT CONCEALMENT,
WE JUST PERFECTED IT.”**



**DeSantis
Clip-Grip®**

MSRP **\$29⁹⁵** Style T07

- Accommodates J Frame, round butt revolvers
- Constructed of high strength, glass reinforced engineering polymers.
- Available in black right hand only



- A) Tuk Tab™... allows holster-less carry but still works with most holsters
- B) Deep checkering for steady grip
- C) Finger grooves... No increased bulk
- D) Clearance for speedloaders



631-841-6300
Dept #GM71
www.desantisholster.com
 431 Bayview Avenue, Amityville, NY 11701

HANDLOADING



Eileen Clarke really likes her 6-pound British Gallyon for hunting ruffed grouse. This bird was taken with a moderate-velocity handload using 1 ounce of 7-1/2 shot to minimize recoil in the light gun.

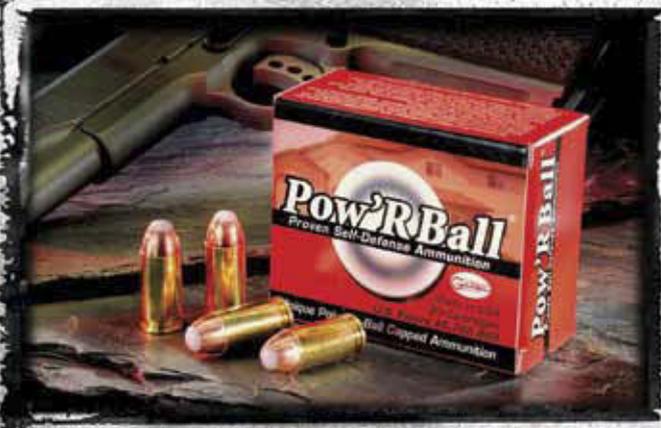
so all we're really gained is 33 percent more recoil. (That's also the reason 50 yards is about the limit for sure kills on pheasants, despite the all the bragging Cousin Fred does about 75-yard shots.)

Some shotgunners argue the necessary lead is a lot less with faster ammo. Well, this is partly true. If we run the math for 1,300 and 1,500 fps loads, we find the lead for a crossing target at 50 yards is about 7' for a 1,300 fps load, but only 6' for a 1,500 fps load. At 50 yards, however, even a tight full-choke pattern is at least 3' wide—and a slight difference in the bird's speed, angle or the exact range will change the lead. Nope, there's a reason they're called scatterguns. The pattern is designed to cover an area, making up for the inherent imprecision of wingshooting.

Many pheasant hunters believe that No. 4 shot is required to kill a rooster. This is because they're too cheap to buy hard, plated shot. Premium shot has much the same effect for bird shooting that premium bullets have for hunting really big game: It penetrates deeper, because unlike soft shot it doesn't flatten out on impact. Pheasants can be taken cleanly with hard No. 5 or even No. 6 shot out to 50 yards. This is why so many hardcore pheasant hunters use extra-hard nickel-plated shot from Fiocchi.

No, we don't gain much from hyper-velocity lead-shot loads. I hardly ever hunt pheasants with more than 1-1/8 ounce of shot anymore, and never shoot clay birds with more than an ounce. Modest amounts of lead shot at moderate velocities get the job done neatly, without creating any health problems.

GUNS



**MORE EXPANSION.
LESS CLOGGING.**

Pow'RBall® is made for control freaks – those who want control over finicky feeding pistols, not to mention added performance and controlled expansion. Combine that with less recoil for quicker recovery and you've got the power of control.



605.347.4544 | corbon.com | 800.626.7266

NOW WE'RE GETTIN' DIRTY

BUT OUR GUNS SHOOT CLEAN AND ACCURATE.



The SAR ARMS Pump Action Special Purpose Shotgun (SARPASP) is one of the best guns for home defense available today. Everyone knows the sound of racking the slide on a pump shotgun means business.

Now put that sound in a reliable and easy to handle firearm. Build in features like machined solid steel bolt and locking block, drilled and honed solid steel barrel, soft polymer pistol grip, ghost ring sights and a Picatinny accessory rail and you have an unbeatable and very attractive defense package. You have the SAR Pump Action Special Purpose Shotgun.

SARPASP
Barrel-18.5"
OAL-39"
Weight-5.75 lb
12 GA - 3" Chamber
Capacity 5
\$327 MSRP



SEE IT ALL



If your dealer cannot get you a SAR, have them call us at 321-639-4842 or write us at: P.O. Box 560746, Rockledge, FL 32956

www.eaacorp.com

EUROPEAN **EAA** CORP
AMERICAN ARMORY CORPORATION

Imported by USSG

OUTTM of the BOX

JOHN TAFFIN

RUGER SR40 .40 S&W

The triad of glass-filled-nylon framed pistols is now complete.

I've always had a special affinity for Ruger firearms for two reasons. First and foremost, Ruger has always offered exceptional value for dollars expended and, more important to me personally, is the fact I've felt like I've grown up with Ruger handguns. When I was born, Colt was already more than 100 years old and Smith & Wesson had been in business for more than 80 years, however Ruger was 10 years into the future. I had just started shooting when Ruger introduced their first .22 semi-automatic pistol and I was in my first year of high school when the Single-Six arrived. I purchased my first handgun, a Ruger .22 Single-Six, in 1956 and I have been shooting them ever since.



The Ruger SR40 .40 S&W (right, bottom) completes the Ruger trio of self-defense semi-autos which includes the .45 ACP (left) and 9mm (top, right).



Accuracy of the Ruger SR40 leaves nothing to be desired. Who could ask for anything more?



In the 1970s, Ruger entered the double-action centerfire field and then followed with their first centerfire semi-automatic in the mid-1980s. I still have one of the first of the Ruger 9mm P-85s and, although there were those who complained about its accuracy, I have found mine to be not only adequately accurate for the purpose for which it was intended, but also totally reliable. After the success of the 9mm Ruger, there followed subsequent models in both .45 ACP and .40 S&W. All of these pistols had several attributes in common, such as the mentioned total reliability, exceptional ruggedness and something some find objectionable still: a quite bulky feeling.

Smaller—And Just As Good

In the early 1990s, I sat in Bill Ruger's office and one of the things he shared with me was the effort to make their semi-automatic pistols more compact. Several different versions were offered over the next 10 years and then in 2004 Ruger offered the first of their modern versions with a stainless steel slide, glass-filled-nylon grip frame and a totally new styling. That first of the new century was the K345. As with all the previous Ruger semi-automatics, I found it totally reliable, while being much more compact. Gone was the width and girth of the



John found the Ruger SR40 was a completely reliable and accurate pistol.

“P” pistols with the result being a very comfortable to carry and shoot .45. Mine is equipped with a combination flashlight/laser using the mounting rail and has been my bedside gun of choice for the past seven years.

Following on the heels of the Ruger 345, the semi-automatic lineup was revamped to the SR Series with the first example being the 9mm SR9, which was soon followed by a SR9c compact version. Now Ruger offers the same basic pistol as the .40 S&W chambered SR40, and I hope they also follow this one with an SR40c compact version.

Magazine capacity of the SR40 is 15 rounds. The magazine release is ambidextrous, easily accessed and

released, and the magazine ejects positively. Ruger supplies an extra magazine with the SR40, as well as a magazine loader. The frame of the SR40 is flat black, glass-filled nylon with checkering and a slight thumbrest molded into both panels and, to further enhance a secure hold, molded-in stippling is found on the frontstrap. The backstrap is also stippled (actually instead of the backstrap, it is a backstrap insert which can be easily reversed to change the contour to please the individual shooter).

Lights And Lasers

For use of a flashlight or laser there is a mounting rail in front of the triggerguard with one slot. The frame also contains an ambidextrous thumb safety which is easily accessed and operated. We find a cocking indicator at the back of the slide, there is a loaded chamber indicator on top of the slide and a trigger safety in the center of the trigger which prevents firing unless it is pressed. The SR40 also has a magazine disconnect which prevents the pistol from firing without the magazine inserted. We can argue the positive/negative aspect of this feature for days on end.

SR40

MAKER: STURM, RUGER & CO
 200 RUGER RD.
 PRESCOTT, AZ 86301
 (928) 541-8892
 WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/RUGER

ACTION TYPE:

Locked breech, semi-automatic

CALIBER:

.40 S&W

CAPACITY:

15+1

BARREL LENGTH:

4.14"

OVERALL LENGTH:

7.55"

WEIGHT:

27.25 ounces

FINISH:

Stainless steel slide

SIGHTS:

3-dot adjustable

GRIPS:

Glass-filled nylon frame

PRICE:

\$525

The stainless steel slide features slanted grooves on both sides in front of the rear sight and behind the front sight to aid in working of the slide and it does take some little effort to retract the slide. When the slide is retracted, you find the barrel angled

ONLY \$24.95

OLD GUNS AND WHISPERING GHOSTS
 Tales and Twists Of The Old West
 by Jesse L. Hardin

This book brings to life the history, spirit, character and contradictions of the Old West, while recounting the dramatic history of its legendary firearms. The spectacular photographs, frontier, tintypes and inspiring text powerfully describe the period of rapid arms development and culture change occurring between 1866-1916 and the undying Western dream. Hardback 200 color photos and drawing. 267 pages.

Regular price \$46.95 **ON SALE \$24.95**
 \$39.95 (outside U.S.)

Shipping included. Allow 2 to 4 weeks for delivery
 To order call or visit us online at:
www.gunsmagazine.com
800-628-9818

HIVIZ SHOOTING SYSTEMS
 www.HIVIZSIGHTS.com
 800-589-4315
 1941 West Parkway, Suite 1, Fort Collins, CO 80524
 See What You've Been Missing!

The Sight of a Lifetime

Our sights are used by top shooters the world over.

Why? Because they have proven to be **reliable and long-lasting** in the field or at the shooting range. The **durable** LitePipes withstand the punishment of everyday use. Housed in a **high quality steel** base, they can be changed quickly and easily allowing you to choose the color that best fits your needs. Or if you prefer an overmolded sight, we've made them equally durable and holster-friendly by eliminating all sharp corners. Nothing to stand in the way of you hitting the target!

The chemical-resistant material used in our LitePipes makes them unaffected by common cleaning products so your HiViz sight will always provide the **bright sight picture** you've come to expect from HiViz and will last for **years and years**. And naturally they're 100% guaranteed.

BUILT TO LAST USING ONLY THE HIGHEST QUALITY MATERIALS

GUNNY APPROVED

The SOG FastHawk is faster, lighter, more agile, and easier to carry than its sibling the Tactical Tomahawk. It is a tool that will be used for much more than you might anticipate. Chopping, breaking, cutting, hammering, piercing, digging, prying, pounding, shaving, notching, opening and throwing are all capabilities well within the FastHawk's reach.

SOG
Specialty Knives & Tools
www.sogknives.com

888-SOG-BEST

OUT OF THE BOX

.40 S&W FACTORY AMMO PERFORMANCE

LOAD (BRAND, BULLET WEIGHT, TYPE)	VELOCITY (FPS)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)
Black Hills 180 JHP	912	3/4
Black Hills 165 JHP	1,015	3/4
Hornady 180 JFP	923	7/8
Hornady 155 XTP-JHP	1,077	3/4
Remington 180 JHP	918	5/8
Winchester 180 FMJ	934	7/8

Notes: Groups the product of best five of six shots at 7 yards.
Chronograph screens set at 10' from muzzle.

slightly upwards with a built-in collar around the barrel which assists in a positive lock up in the firing position. As with the SR9, the SR40 is a striker-fired type that utilizes a tilting barrel design in which the barrel and slide are locked together at the moment of firing.

The internal striker is partially cocked by the closing action of the slide. Pulling the trigger fully to the rear completes the cocking of the striker, releases the internal striker block and disengages the internal trigger safety. The last bit of trigger pull fires the pistol. After firing, the barrel and slide recoil to the rear a short distance while still locked together. After this initial movement, the barrel is cammed downward from its locked position, permitting full recoil of the slide and extraction and ejection of the spent cartridge case. Upon return of the slide to its forward position by the recoil spring, the barrel is cammed back upward into its locked position in the slide. It all works perfectly and I experienced no malfunctions whatsoever.

Sights on the SR40 are excellent and of the 3-dot style with both the front and rear sight set in a dovetail allowing windage correction, while the rear sight is screw adjustable for elevation. The front sight is a forward tapered post with a white dot, while the rear sight has a white dot on each side of a square notch, all resulting in a very easy-to-see sight picture. The rear sight assembly itself is tapered and rounded on both sides to the center eliminating all sharp edges; this feature makes it much easier to retract the slide without fear of injury to the hands. The trigger pull on my test gun measures right at 8 pounds and the safety in the center of the trigger must be pressed before the gun will fire.

The Ruger SR40 was test-fired with six different versions of factory .40 S&W ammunition in both jacketed hollowpoint and full metal jacket versions and weights from 155 grains to 180 grains. Everything tried fed absolutely flawlessly with no stoppages of any kind. Test-firing was done indoors at an across-the-room distance of 7 yards and, of the six



The Ruger SR40 (above) has an under-frame rail for accepting a tactical light, such as this one from SureFire. The Ruger SR40 comes with excellent 3-dot sights (below). Both the front and rear are in dovetails and the rear is adjustable for elevation.

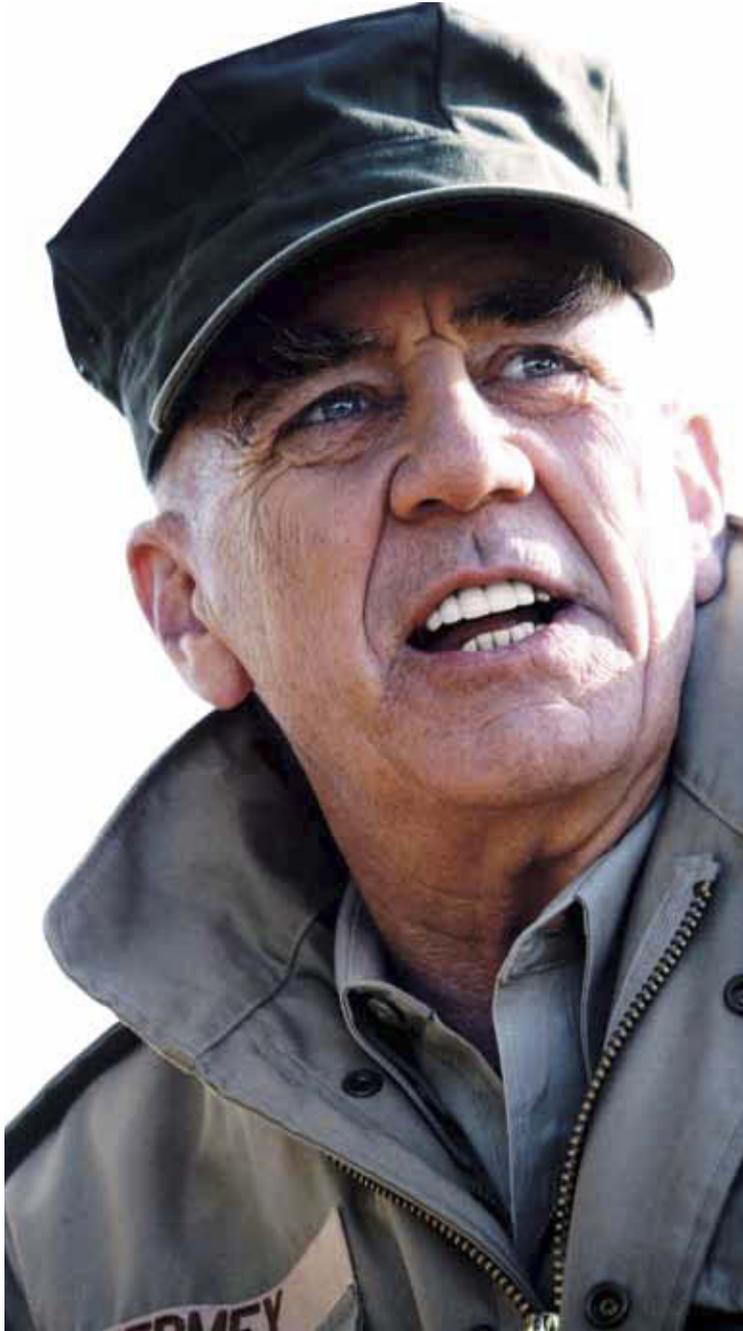


loads tested with 5-shot groups, the average group size was 3/4"—excellent accuracy for a self-defense pistol and especially for a .40 S&W.

The .40 S&W was introduced more than 20 years ago and over the ensuing years I have tested many versions from several different manufacturers. Knowing full well the selection of a pistol is quite subjective, I have to say this Ruger is my favorite of all the .40s I have tried. I also like the fact it is the same size and has the same feel as the SR9 Ruger so I can switch back and forth easily. I would not hesitate to carry it as a CCW/self-defense choice. **GUNS**

SUREFIRE
18300 MT. BALDY CIR.
FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CA 92708
(800) 828-8809
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/SUREFIRE

R. LEE "GUNNY" ERMEY



GLOCK™



AMAZING STORIES

ON MY LAST TRIP TO AFRICA, I NOTICED MY GUIDE HAD AN OLD GLOCK SIDEARM, SO I OFFERED TO GET HIM A NEW ONE. HE SAID "NO THANKS. I'VE CARRIED THIS IN THE BUSH EVERY DAY FOR 20 YEARS. IT HAS SAVED MY LIFE FIVE TIMES. IT'S THE ONLY PISTOL I'LL EVER CARRY." DON'T YOU WISH YOU HAD A GUN YOU COULD TRUST LIKE THAT?



SEEMS LIKE EVERYWHERE I GO, I HEAR AMAZING STORIES ABOUT GLOCK HAND-GUNS - HOW DEPENDABLE THEY ARE, AND HOW FOLKS RELY ON 'EM.

SHARE YOUR STORY AT: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GLOCKINC
OR EMAIL US AT: GLOCK@LEADERENTERPRISES.COM



OUTTM of the BOX

J. I. GALAN

THE KWC BB MINI-UZI

This faithful replica of the Israeli classic is a hoot to shoot.

There is no doubt today's BB guns are a far cry from the traditional lever-action repeaters most of us grew up with decades ago. That good ol' Daisy Red Ryder, while still an undisputed classic, can't even come close to the newest BB spitters duplicating the looks and—in some cases—even the operation of modern pistols and subguns.

The fact is that CO₂-powered, BB-firing guns are all the rage these days and there is a steadily growing market for these BB spitters.

One of the latest in this category is a stunningly faithful look-alike of the world-famous Israeli Mini-Uzi subgun. This new model is made in Taiwan by long-time airsoft gun manufacturer KWC and available in the US through Palco Sports of Maple Grove, Minn.

The CO₂-powered Mini-Uzi employs an incredibly realistic blowback action powered by one standard, disposable, 12-gram CO₂ cartridge. The latter fits in the drop-down magazine, which can also load up to 25 of .177" (4.5mm) steel BBs.

Also mimicking its redoubtable 9mm counterpart, the CO₂ Mini-Uzi fires from an open bolt. However, unlike the powder-burning original, this Mini-Uzi lacks the fully-



The distaff side took an immediate liking to the BB Mini-Uzi. Suitable eye protection is essential because steel BBs bounce back strongly upon striking solid surfaces.



This BB subgun fires from an open bolt, like the original. The heavy bolt requires a bit of muscle in order to bring it back to the open/ready position.

automatic feature of the real deal. That's just fine with me, as the semi-auto capability of this beauty is a ton of fun, sure to please any backyard commando intent on wiping out row after row of empty cans and other suitable plinking targets. Besides, just about everything found on the 9mm Mini-Uzi will also appear on the BB-firing copy.

Construction of the BB Mini-Uzi mates lots of metal with molded ABS. The upper and lower receiver are molded ABS imitating metal most convincingly, while the outer barrel, top receiver cover and folding stock are metal. Ditto for the magazine, massive bolt and a few other components. The grooved fore-end and grip panels are also molded ABS. In fact, all physical dimensions are also extremely close to those of the real McCoy. With its single-strut, side-folding stock extended, this BB-firing beauty measures 23-1/2" overall. Fold the stock and it turns into a highly compact mini-blasters measuring only 14" overall. Tipping the balance at 4.85 pounds, the BB Mini-Uzi is only about 1-pound lighter than the 9mm original. The 8-1/16" barrel is smoothbore, something to be expected in a BB gun. However, even the twin compensator cutouts just behind the muzzle are also present in the CO₂ version.

All operating controls work pretty



The KWC Mini-Uzi is a stunningly accurate look-alike of the real 9mm Mini-Uzi. Top cover, outer barrel and folding stock and magazine are made of metal. Upper and lower receivers are molded ABS. At nearly 5 pounds of weight, the KWC BB Mini-Uzi is a real handful.



One standard 12-gram disposable CO₂ cartridge goes in the heavy metal magazine, which also has a capacity for up to 25 BBs.



The selector/safety catch and position markings (above) on the CO₂ Mini-Uzi are identical to those of the real deal, except it is semi-auto only. Like the original 9mm Mini-Uzi, this CO₂-powered copy also incorporates a working squeeze-type grip safety (below).



much the same as in the real deal, with the exception of the missing position for full-auto fire of the selector/safety catch, even though the receiver is still marked for it. The sights are identical

MINI-UZI BLOWBACK

MANUFACTURER: KWC
NO. 5 LN 209, SEC 2
ZIH YOU RD, TAINAN, TAIWAN
WWW.KWCGUN.COM
IMPORTER: PALCO SPORTS
8575 MONTICELLO LN. N.
MAPLE GROVE, MN 55369
(800) 882-4656
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/
PALCO-SPORTS

CALIBER:

.177" (4.5mm) Steel BBs

POWER PLANT:

12-gram CO₂ cartridge

CAPACITY:

25

LENGTH OVERALL:

14" (folded), 23-1/2" (extended)

BARREL:

8-1/16", smoothbore

WEIGHT:

4.85 pounds

OPERATION:

Blowback, open bolt, semi-auto

TRIGGER:

2-stage

SIGHTS:

Twin rear peep adjustable for windage, front post adjustable for elevation

SAFETIES:

Grip squeeze, sliding catch on grip

RETAIL:

\$199.99



As in the original, the front sight post (above) is adjustable for elevation with the provided tool, the bolt knob is notched so you can see through it, and the gun has dual pivoting peep rear-sight elements, adjustable for windage (below). Note also the sturdy hinge of the folding stock.



to those of the real Mini-Uzi. The rear unit consists of twin pivoting peeps adjustable for windage only, while up front there is a tapered post adjustable for elevation via the supplied tool.

The 2-stage trigger was a bit creepy in the test sample and consistent with the triggers of most subguns. Both the sliding safety catch and the grip squeeze-type safety worked satisfactorily.

One single 12-gram CO₂ cartridge gave enough power to generate muzzle velocities hovering around 340 fps. Each cartridge gave enough juice for about 30 to 35 shots before needing replacement. That's not bad at all considering the single CO₂ cartridge has to propel the BB and push that heavy bolt back with every shot. The blowback action is almost as realistic as that of the 9mm Mini-Uzi, letting the shooter feel a most satisfying kick from the heavy reciprocating bolt.

With its stock extended I was able to make groups averaging just under 3" across at 10 yards, which is decent enough for plinking and even dispatching small terrorist rodents invading the backyard.

Retailing just shy of \$200, the KWC BB Mini-Uzi is a real handful of fun. Incidentally, extra magazines retailing for about \$60 are also available for this superb BB blaster. My old Red Ryder sure was fun in its time, but it could never match a hail of BBs from the KWC Mini-Uzi.



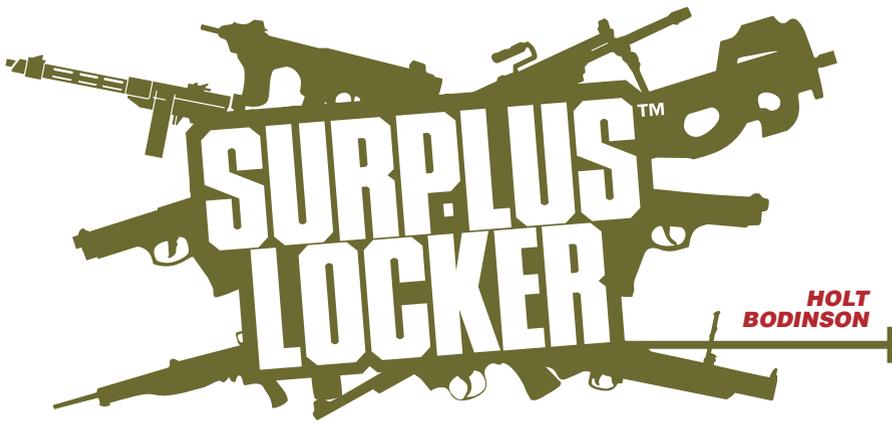
FENIX
Fenix Flashlight
Illuminate Your Adventure

TK15
Max 337 Lumens

- Utilizes Cree XP-G RS LED
- Throws lighting beam over 215 meters
- Side dimmer button offers 4 levels of brightness
- Strobe mode, momentary-on switch

Fenix TK15 features a powerful, tough, durable, and fully waterproof design intended for harsh outdoor conditions. Operating on two CR123A Lithium batteries or one 18650 Li-ion battery, the multi-level dimmer function makes a perfect combination of extreme brightness and ultra long runtime. The innovative side dimmer operation is very simple and rapid. Therefore TK15 will be the reliable partner when hunting, searching and rescuing, etc.

FENIXLIGHT LIMITED
Tel: +86-755-29631163/83/93
US customer service: 1 (888) 775-9996
E-mail: info@fenixlight.com
www.fenixlight.com



THE SWISS VETTERLI

This bolt-action repeater was full of “firsts” in military small arms.

If you've enjoyed your Swiss M1911 and M1931 Schmidt-Rubin, wait until you handle a Swiss Vetterli in 10.4x38R, otherwise known as the .41 Swiss. Designed by Professor Friedrich Vetterli at the SIG factory in Neuhausen and adopted by the Swiss army in 1869, the Vetterli was the first self-cocking, small-bore, bolt-action repeating rifle ever adopted for general issue by any country. Beautifully machined and finished. The Vetterli incorporated, in concept, the side loading port, tubular magazine and cartridge lifter of the Winchester Model 1866: the turning bolt of the Dreyse needle gun with the locking lugs of the Greene/Chassepot. The Vetterli soldiered on until 1890 when it was officially replaced by the Model 1889 Schmidt-Rubin.

Imported into the United States by the thousands in the early 1900s and sold to the public by mass retailers like Sears-Roebuck and surplus dealers like Francis Bannerman; the Swiss Vetterli was popular enough as a sporting arm that UMC/Remington/Peters loaded the .41 Swiss rimfire cartridge right up until WWII.

I became acquainted with the .41 Swiss rimfire cartridge long before I ever laid eyes on a Vetterli. The first incident occurred in the 1950s when my grandfather closed out a hardware store in Nebraska. In the box of loot I received from the deal were several

loose .41 Swiss cartridges. The heads were stamped with the Swiss cross and the lead bullets were paper patched. The second incident occurred a year or two later in Wyoming, when I was walking across a corral and glimpsed an old, corroded case in the dirt. Picking it up, I knew immediately what it was. It was a fired .41 Swiss case. At one time in this country, there were more than a few surplus Vetterlis being carried afield.

The 10.4x38R rimfire cartridge preceded the Vetterli. In 1867, the Swiss converted their 10.4mm muzzleloading Model 1851 and



Like a lever-action Winchester, the Vetterli tubular magazine is loaded through a port in the receiver.



The Vetterli bolt features two massive locking lugs at the rear of the bolt.



The rear leaf of the M1881 sight can be pulled out to increase the sighting range to a whopping—if overly optimistic—1,600m.

1863 Federal rifles into a rimfire trapdoor, calling it the Model 1867 Milbank-Amsler. The cartridge, the 10.4x38R, designed for the Milbank-Amsler conversion maintained the 10.4mm bore size of the Federal rifle. The roundnose, lead bullet of the original load weighed 313 grains and was .425" in diameter. The black powder charge was 56 grains and the velocity was approximately 1,427 fps. In 1888, black powder was replaced by smokeless, and the hardened lead bullet was paper patched.

When the Vetterli was adopted in 1869, it just made good sense to



When introduced, the Swiss rifleman had a rifle with a capacity of 12+1 rounds of 10.4mm ammo. The round featured a 313-grain lead bullet at 1,427 fps, which was good power for 1869 and not bad today.

1881 SWISS VETTERLI INFANTRY RIFLE

MAKER: EIDGENOSSISCHE WAFFENFABRIK
BERN, SWITZERLAND

ACTION TYPE:

Bolt, two rear-locking lugs

CALIBER:

10.4x38R Rimfire

CAPACITY:

12+1

SAFETY:

None (only between-your-ears)

BARREL LENGTH:

33.2"

OVERALL LENGTH:

52"

WEIGHT:

10 pounds, 10 ounces

FINISH:

Blue

SIGHTS:

225m-1,600m tangent rear, fixed front

STOCK:

Walnut

PRICE:

\$250-\$550 (Internet survey)

chamber it for the existing 10.4x38R rimfire. Ammunition was abundant, and 12 of the 2-3/16" long cartridges could be stuffed in the tubular magazine plus one in the chamber. That was quite a bit of firepower in 1869 for a state-of-the-art bolt-action repeater. Just think, we Americans were stuck with our single-shot trapdoors while the Swiss infantryman was able to crank out 13 rounds as fast as he could manipulate the bolt.

Over its lifetime, there were 16 models of the Vetterli grouped into the five model years of 1869, 1869/71, 1871, 1878 and 1881. The models consisted of infantry and cadet rifles, police, pioneer, engineer, mounted



Original ammunition (above) included blanks, paper patched and lubricated lead bullets. Factory ammunition hasn't been available since before WWII. For assured ignition, the Vetterli firing pin strikes the rim of the case (below) at two points.



COMPETITIONS
MIKE VOIGT:
 2009 & 2010 SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN MYSTERY 3 GUN
 2009 USPSA MULTI-GUN NATIONALS
 2010 MGM IRON MAN 3 GUNS
 2010 SUREFIRE INTERNATIONAL TACTICAL RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIP
MAGGIE REESE:
 2009 & 2010 USPSA MULTI-GUN NATIONAL CHAMPION
JOHN PRIDE:
 4-TIME BIANCHI COP CHAMPION

SPOT. RANGE. FIRE. FASTER.

SINCE 2004, THE PATENTED RAPID RETICLE BALLISTIC RETICLE SYSTEM BY PFI HAS HELPED RIFLEMEN SHOOT MULTIPLE DISTANCES WITHOUT MANUAL ADJUSTMENTS. COMBAT TESTED AND APPROVED BY MILITARY, LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND COMPETITION SHOOTERS ACROSS THE GLOBE, THE RAPID RETICLE FAMILY OF OPTICS MAKES SHOOTING LONG DISTANCES EASIER THAN EVER. ALTHOUGH MANY IMITATORS TRY, NOTHING COMES CLOSE TO THE ORIGINAL RAPID RETICLE. PLEASE SEE OUR FULL LINE OF OPTICS AT WWW.RAPIDRETICLE.COM

US MILITARY CONTRACTS:
 W91CR8-09-D-0074
 M20133-07-M-3125
 N00244-06-P-1971

NO ARTIFICIAL INGREDIENTS, ACTORS OR MODELS. 100% ALL-NATURAL AMERICANS.

SOPS-33MM SOPS-COMPACT RR-CCLR-1 RR-800-1 RR-900-4

877-817-6019 WWW.RAPIDRETICLE.COM SALES@RAPIDRETICLE.COM

WIN GUNS MAGAZINE ALL NEW!

Enter to win our monthly gun package giveaway

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM

SNAKE PROBLEMS?

Not since I carry my **Bond Arms Snake Slayer** in .45 Colt & .410 shotshell!

And with a quick turn of an allen wrench, I can change it to one of 14 other barrels from .22 long rifle to .45 Colt!

MADE IN TEXAS BY TEXANS.

BOND ARMS INC.

*Not available in California or Massachusetts.
www.bondarms.com • 817-573-4445 • Granbury, Texas

and frontier-guard carbines, and short rifles (Stutzer) with double-set triggers, presumably issued to designated marksmen. There were also commercial target rifles and sporters manufactured for civilian shooters.

Standard Models

The models still seen most commonly at shows and over Internet auction sites are the 1871, 1878 and 1881 infantry rifles. The variations among the various model years are very slight. The most defining characteristic of the early 1869 and 1871 infantry rifles are three stock bands and checkered forearms. In the 1878 and 1881 models, there are only two stock bands plus a stock key and no checkering. The checkered stocks are a dead giveaway. The actual model years and place of manufacture for the 1878 and 1881 rifles are stamped on the left receiver wall.

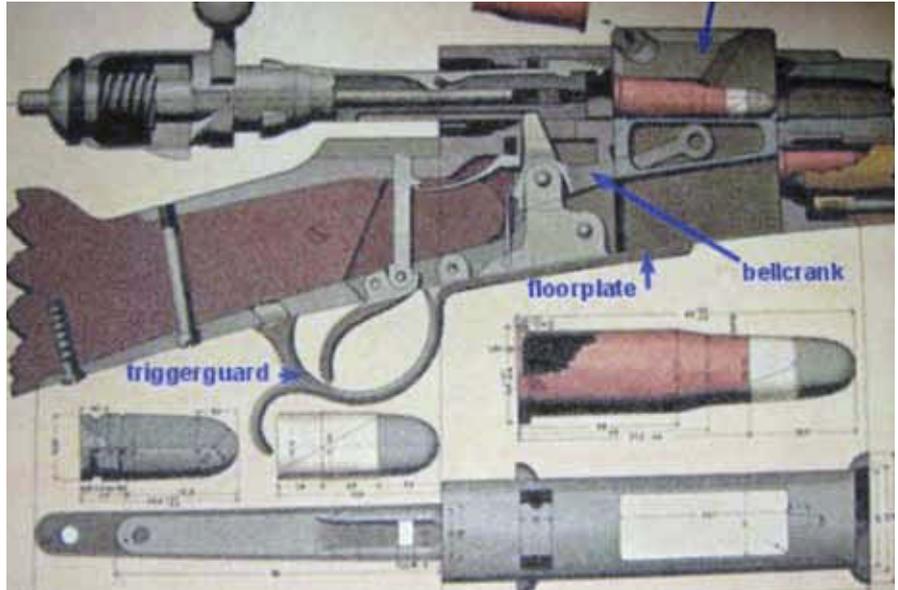
PETERS TO THE RESCUE!

Ignoring my own good advice, I just stumbled onto what appeared to be a well preserved box of Peters .41 Swiss rimfire loaded with smokeless powder, "Rustless" priming and a +300-grain lubricated lead bullet. It was costly. It was a gamble, but when the first, second, third and fourth cartridges went bang! with an average velocity of 1,274 fps and produced little bug-eyed groups at 50 yards, it was worth every penny.



Holt's cherished box of vintage Peters smokeless pre-WWII .41 Swiss RF ammo proved pretty accurate at 50 yards and delivered decent power.

We now know a lot more about the historical performance of the Vetterli firing commercial American ammunition. Those first groups were impressive. Had it not been for two weeks of high winds, I would have had a chance to test the Vetterli at 200 yards since its minimum sight setting is 225 meters. When I do, I'll let you know. Heck, I still have 16 cartridges to go!



This cutaway of a Vetterli action shows the bellcrank activating the cartridge lifter.

Earlier models were stamped only with the name and address of the manufacturer. One interesting characteristic of the 1869 model is its sliding dust cover that pivots up-and-down to protect the oval loading port; however, the dust covers were often removed during the many Vetterli re-building programs. The subtle variations among all the Vetterli models are best described by author, Joe Poyer, in his book, *Swiss Magazine Loading Rifles 1869 to 1958*.

One of the endearing qualities of the surplus Swiss Vetterli is their condition. The Swiss do take care of their weapons. More often than not, a Swiss Vetterli will exhibit most of its original, rust-blued finish, minimal stock dings and an excellent bore. From a craftsmanship point-of-view, they are a stunning firearm done up in the grand Swiss tradition.

Ah, if we could only once again buy some shootable .41 Swiss rimfire ammunition. I've tried. Every round from every box I've spent a small fortune on has been a dud, even though the Vetterli firing pin strikes the rim at two points 180 degrees apart. I keep hoping, but unless you're willing to follow the .41 rimfire muse up her many blind alleys with an open checkbook, forget it.

If you want to shoot a Swiss Vetterli, convert it to centerfire. I haven't, but the web is full of very clear instructions on how to do so. It's simple. Drill a hole centered in the face of the bolt and braze a small extension onto the striker or simply file up a new single-point firing pin and leave the striker untouched. See www.swissrifles.com and then click on "Vetterli" and then on "Vetterli links." See *A Collector's Guide to Military*

Rifle Disassembly and Reassembly by Mowbray and Puleo for stripping a Vetterli.

Excellent cases can be made from .348 Winchester or Graf's 8mm Lebel brass, and because Vetterli bores normally run +/- .430", heavy weight, .44-caliber cast handgun bullets are suitable. In fact, Bob Healy of Seymour, Texas can supply both formed centerfire cases and proper Vetterli bullets.

The Swiss Vetterli is one of the great stories in surplus arms. It's too bad we don't have some firsthand accounts of its performance in the hunting fields after landing on our shores 100 years ago. Made like a Swiss watch, the Vetterli can still be found in sensational condition at modest cost. Don't ever pass one by!



FURTHER INFORMATION:

A COLLECTOR'S GUIDE TO MILITARY RIFLE DISASSEMBLY AND REASSEMBLY BY STUART MOWBRAY AND JOE PULEO, SOFTCOVER, 304 PAGES. PROFUSELY ILLUSTRATED, ©2007,

\$39.99 FROM:

MOWBRAY PUBLISHING

54 E. SCHOOL ST., WOONSOCKET, RI 02895

(800) 999-4697

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/

MOWBRAY-PUBLISHING

SWISS MAGAZINE LOADING RIFLES 1869-1958

BY JOE POYER, SOFTCOVER,

235 PAGES, ©2003, \$19.95, FROM:

NORTH CAPE PUBLICATIONS

P.O. BOX 1027, TUSTIN, CA 92781

(800) 745-9714

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/

NORTH-CAPE-PUBLICATIONS

OBSOLETE CASES AND BULLETS

BOB HALEY

P.O. BOX 889, SEYMOUR, TX 76380

(940) 888-3352

Q&A

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

• JEFF JOHN •

Suspender Holsters

Q: In the March issue, page 20, upper right small photo, Clint is wearing a set of suspenders that have holsters made into them as part of them? As the ends of them? Never had occasion to see such a thing... don't know how to describe it...).

Would he object to revealing his source for those? I'd wear a pair of them myself.

Elton Wylie
Temple, Texas



Clint's Colt SAA suspender holsters will be replicated by 5 Shot Leather, since the original maker is no longer in business. Photo: Heidi Smith

A: Clint has had those suspender holsters for more than a decade and the gent who built them has gone out of business. Clint contacted John Ralston at 5 Shot Leather and he will

be replicating those particular holsters on a custom basis. Contact John for pricing and build time.

5 SHOT LEATHER, LLC
18018 N. LIDGERWOOD CT.
COLBERT, WA 99005
(509) 844-3969

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/5-SHOT-LEATHER

.30-40 Krag From .303 British?

Q: I'm a great fan of the .30-40 Krag and love the two I have, however, it seems to be difficult to find ammunition or brass to reload. At our recent gun show I talked to a gentleman who said you could fire-form .303 brass to make .30-40 cases. He said the neck would be a little shorter, but that you could just load the bullet to the correct overall length.

I compared the two cases, and they look the same, except the .303 is indeed shorter. I'm wondering if you actually can do this, and if so, is it safe?

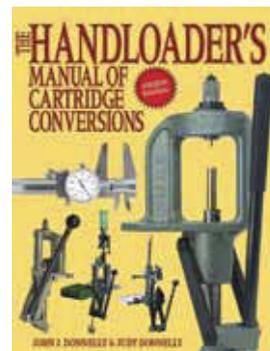
Michael May
Helena, Mont.



While cases could be made from .303 British (right) for the .30-40 Krag, the necks will be a little short. Since .30-40 Krag is a seasonal item from Winchester and Remington (only put into production for hunting season), a little patience will cure the need for reforming.

A: According to the *Handloader's Manual of Cartridge Conversions, 3rd Edition* by John Donnelly and Bryce Towsley, you can indeed make .30-40 from .303 British and the neck will be shorter, so you'll need to seat the bullets out to maintain the correct overall length. If you go that route, I would suggest cleaning the chamber thoroughly before shooting Krag brass again to clean out the soot sure to build up in the neck area. Because the Krag operates at such modest pressure, I doubt you'll have any trouble with erosion.

However, before you go to the trouble, supplies of .30-40 Krag ammo and brass are seasonal runs for both Winchester and Remington, so there are often long stock outs. I believe you'll find both brands in good supply near hunting season. Since you reload,



buy a couple of hundred rounds of brass when it becomes available and be happy.

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 WEST 36TH STREET, 11TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10018, (212) 643-6816, WWW.SKYHORSEUBLISHING.COM.

Due to the volume of mail received, GUNS cannot offer a personal reply. Please e-mail your question to ed@gunsmagazine.com or snail mail to: GUNS Q&A, 12345 World Trade Dr., San Diego, CA 92128

Installation a Problem?

Not Any More!



6
Piece
Modular
Design

Five Sizes

Capacities from 8-52 Guns

Zanotti Armor Safes

123 W. Lone Tree Rd., Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 232-9650 • www.zanottiarmor.com

Need Reloading Supplies?
RELOADING.COM

PURTY POPGUNS

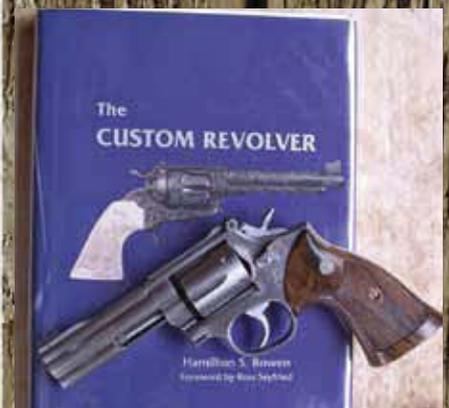
Bowen Classic Arms .327 Federal Magnum Custom Sixguns.

John Taffin

Looking back over my 50-plus years of shooting sixguns, I saw a long list of heavy-duty cartridges introduced: the .44 Magnum, .41 Magnum, .454 Casull, .475 Linebaugh, .500 Linebaugh, .480 Ruger, .500 S&W Magnum, .460 S&W Magnum, .500 Wyoming Express and various other wildcat cartridges of the same type. All of these have been designed basically with the handgun hunter in mind and virtually any animal can be taken cleanly with these cartridges properly loaded in the proper sixgun. But how often do we really need the power these cartridges provide?

When I first started reloading for the .44 Magnum in the late 1950s, I thought it would be some kind of blasphemy if I used anything except the Keith Load consisting of a hardcast 250- or 260-grain Keith bullet over the Keith recommended charge of 22 grains of 2400. I did the same thing when the .454 arrived; everything had

to be loaded full-bore. As I grew older, and perhaps wiser, I finally realized I was missing a lot of sixgunning pleasure by loading everything pedal to the metal. I still have boxes of full-house ammunition on hand for every one of these cartridges, however I have much more loaded to more pleasant duty. A 260-grain cast bullet

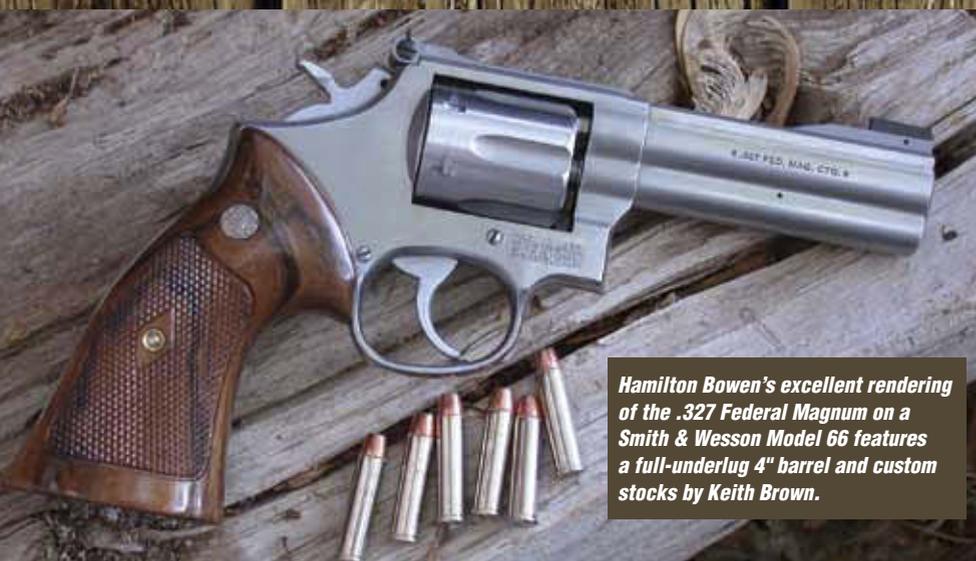


Hamilton Bowen literally wrote the book on The Custom Revolver.

at 850 to 1,000 fps loaded in an easy-to-carry .44 Special, .44 Magnum, .45 Colt or .454 is likely to do anything I really need done for the rest of my life.

Just recently we had one of the most truly useful cartridges arrive when Federal Ammunition teamed up with Ruger to introduce a superb smallbore cartridge in the .327 Federal Magnum. No, it is not for big-game hunting, however a very small, actually less than 1 percent of my shooting is ever used in this manner. Every year I fire thousands upon thousands of rounds, but at the most take two to three big-game animals. Most of us shoot a lot of paper, roll a lot of tin cans, bust many rocks and, if we live in the right area, take many varmints with our sixguns. For these duties the new .327 is about as good as a cartridge can be.

Originally introduced as a self-defense cartridge chambered in the Ruger SP101, the .327, at least in my



Hamilton Bowen's excellent rendering of the .327 Federal Magnum on a Smith & Wesson Model 66 features a full-underlug 4" barrel and custom stocks by Keith Brown.



Taffin used Hornady and Speer 100-grain JHPs in assembling .327 Federal Magnum reloads in Starline brass.

mind, takes the place of the .32-20, .30 Carbine and .32 H&R Magnum. The .32-20 was first chambered in sixguns in the last quarter of the 19th century, the .30 Carbine became a standard offering from Ruger in the last quarter of the 20th century, and the .32 H&R Magnum arrived in the 1980s. The .327 Federal Magnum is what the .32 H&R Magnum should've been originally. The latter is still an excellent cartridge, however the .327 is simply better. It combines the power of the .32-20 and .30 Carbine with the straight-walled, rimmed case of the .32 Magnum. It is in fact nothing more than a longer .32 Magnum with slightly thicker brass at the base of the inner walls.

The .327 may have been introduced as a self-defense cartridge, however it is certainly useful, perhaps more so, as a varmint and small-game cartridge or even chambered in a relatively light, adjustable-sighted sixgun for use as a trail gun. In the right sixguns it will drive a 100- or 115-grain bullet at 1,500 to 1,600 fps. Hamilton Bowen also says it will do so while shooting as flat as a banjo string. As most of you know, Hamilton Bowen is one of the premier sixgunsmiths of this or any other time. He has built some of the biggest and baddest sixguns imaginable. However, his heart belongs to the more pleasant shooting sixguns and cartridges with the .32-20 being one of his favorites. With the coming of the .327 the .32-20 has been pushed into second place. In fact Hamilton says the .327 is the best thing to come along since the .44 Magnum.

Hamilton is now building custom sixguns chambered in .327 Federal Magnum and I have had the good



Hamilton Bowen's artistic creations on the Ruger Single-Six are chambered in .327 Federal Magnum.



Starting with an ordinary Ruger Single-Six .32 Magnum (left), Hamilton Bowen creates a magnificent .327 sixgun complete with Bisley hammer and Turnbull case coloring. Note the lanyard ring on the butt of the custom Single-Six.

fortune of testing and evaluating four of his sixgunning works of art. All four were made for customers of Bowen Classic Arms and they allowed me the pure pleasure of shooting them first. Normally when testing a newly manufactured sixgun I push it with both factory and reloaded cartridges, but since these sixguns actually belong to other shooters I did not see how much I could get from the .327 Federal Magnum by reloading, but rather just going with loads slightly under the Federal factory ammunition level. Even so, these handloads are definitely in the useful category.

Years ago Hamilton did a beautiful .32-20 on a Ruger Old Model .357 Blackhawk. In this case he removed the adjustable sights, welded and re-contoured the topstrap to come up with an easy handling sixgun, which

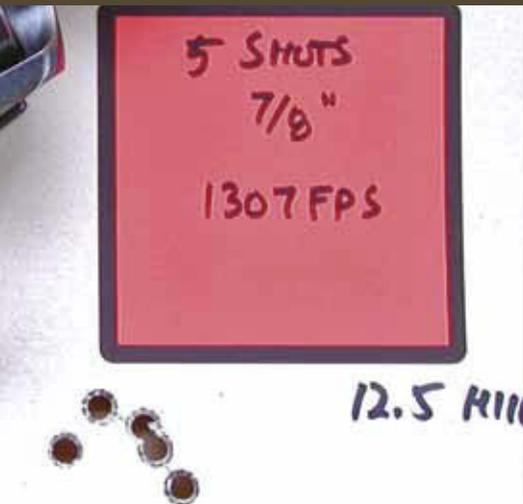
basically looked and felt like a Colt Single Action. Now Hamilton has the Ruger 50th Anniversary New Model .357 Blackhawk to use as a platform for custom sixguns. The first gun up is one of these with two cylinders, one in the always useful and desired .32-20 and the other in perhaps the even better .327 Federal Magnum.

The Ruger Blackhawk

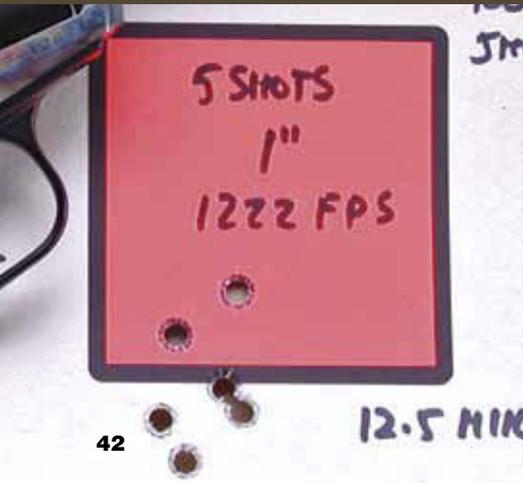
The 50th Anniversary Ruger .357 is the same size as the original Ruger .357 Blackhawk, has the same Colt Single Action-sized XR3 grip frame, and, unlike the original, is all steel. It is the perfect platform for building a .44 Special or .45 Colt, or even a 5-shot .44 Magnum all of which Hamilton has done, however this time he has gone smallbore. To easily distinguish between the two chamberings the .32-



Results of firing .327 Federal factory loads in two bullet weights were just as pleasing.



Bowen's short-barreled 4-5/8" Single-Six .327 Federal Magnum (above) shot quite well. Typical .327 Federal Magnum group (below) with the 5-1/2" Bowen custom 50th Anniversary Blackhawk.



20 is fluted while the .327 cylinder is not, and both are expertly fitted to the frame which has a 5-1/2" Douglas barrel.

The front sight is a tapered post on a ramp and is matched up with one of Hamilton's heavy-duty field rear sights. The hammer and frame are case colored by Turnbull, a large knurled-head locking base pin is fitted, the action is tightened and tuned, and the trigger pull set at 2-1/2 pounds. At 46 ounces this is a relatively heavy sixgun, which makes it even more pleasant when shooting either cartridge. Since this is basically a .327 project, I mainly concentrated my shooting with the .327



Hamilton Bowen does superb .327 conversions on the Smith & Wesson Model 66 for those preferring a double-action sixgun.

Federal. I did run two factory .32-20 loads, both in the 800+ fps range from, Black Hills and Winchester and they shot as easily and accurately as a .22.

S&W Model 66

Hamilton's double-action .327 Federal Magnum is built on a medium-framed Smith & Wesson with the result being a most aesthetically pleasing, and superbly shooting double-action sixgun. This conversion starts with a stainless steel .357 Magnum Model 66. For the barrel Hamilton uses a stainless steel 4" Model 617 .22 barrel which is re-bored and marked ".327 FED. MAG. CTG." on the right side of the barrel. The full underlug is maintained on this barrel and it is fitted to a Model 66 frame which then receives a Model 617 cylinder chambered to .327 Federal Magnum.

The action is tightened and tuned, the single-action trigger pull set at 3 pounds and an undercut front post of the proper height is fitted to the ramp on the Model 617 barrel.

The Model 66 is the stainless steel version of the .357 Combat Magnum which became the Model 19 in 1958. The Combat Magnum came with K-framed diamond-checked stocks, which are extremely difficult to find today and command very high prices. To finish off this package Hamilton used a pair of exquisite "diamond" Smith & Wesson Target stocks; which are in fact perfect recreations of original S&W .357 Combat Magnum

stocks carried out in fancy walnut by stock maker Keith Brown, who not only duplicates early Smith & Wesson Target and Magna stocks, but classic Roper and Kearsarge pre-war stocks as well. This certainly must be one of the most exquisite double-action smallbore sixguns in existence.

The final two in this .327 quartet is a pair of custom Single-Sixes. Hamilton starts with the New Model Ruger Single-Six chambered in .32 Magnum. Hamilton considers this the natural home for the .327 in a single-action, as the original cylinder diameter is adequate for 6-shots and only has to be replaced by one, which is longer to accept the .327 cartridge. The new cylinder fills out the cylinder window without any modification to the frame.

The two .327 Single-Sixes are basically the same except for the

.327 FEDERAL MAGNUM FACTORY AMMO PERFORMANCE

GUNS: LOAD (BRAND, BULLET WEIGHT, TYPE)	RUGER SINGLE SIX 7-1/2"		RUGER SINGLE SIX 4-5/8"	
	VELOCITY (FPS)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)	VELOCITY (FPS)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)
Federal Low Recoil 85 JHP	1,617	1-3/8	1,514	1-3/4
Federal 115 Gold Dot HP	1,508	1-3/8	1,437	1
American Eagle 100 JFP	1,681	1-3/8	1,584	1

Notes: Groups the product of 5 of 6 shots at 20 yards. Chronograph screens set at 10' from muzzle.

.327 FEDERAL MAGNUM FACTORY AMMO PERFORMANCE

GUNS: LOAD	RUGER BLACKHAWK 5-1/2"		S&W MODEL 66 4"	
	VELOCITY	GROUP SIZE	VELOCITY	GROUP SIZE
Federal Low Recoil 85 JHP	1,591	1-3/8	1,474	1-1/4
Federal 115 Gold Dot HP	1,412	1"	1,391	3/4
American Eagle 100 JFP	1,669	1-3/8	1,485	1-3/4

Notes: Groups the product of 5 of 6 shots at 20 yards. Chronograph screens set at 10' from muzzle.



Bowen's 7-1/2" .327 Single-Six shoots very well with reloaded .327 Federal Magnum.

.327 FEDERAL MAGNUM HANDLOADED AMMO PERFORMANCE

GUNS:		CHARGE (BRAND)	POWDER (GRAINS WEIGHT)	RUGER SINGLE SIX 7-1/2"		RUGER SINGLE SIX 4-5/8"	
BULLET (BRAND, BULLET WEIGHT, TYPE)	VELOCITY (FPS)			GROUP (INCHES)	VELOCITY (FPS)	GROUP (INCHES)	
Hornady 100 XTP	12.5	L'il Gun	1,401	1-1/8	1,351	1	
Hornady 100 XTP	12.5	H110	1,363	1	1,257	1-1/2	
Speer 100 JHP	12.5	L'il Gun	1,382	7/8	1,312	1-5/8	
Speer 100 JHP	12.5	H110	1,342	7/8	1,222	1	

Notes: Groups the product of 5 of 6 Shots at 20 yards.
Chronograph screens set at 10' from muzzle. CCI 500 primers used in Starline brass.

.327 FEDERAL MAGNUM HANDLOADED AMMO PERFORMANCE

GUNS:		CHARGE (BRAND)	POWDER (GRAINS WEIGHT)	RUGER BLACKHAWK 5-1/2"		S&W MODEL 66 4"	
BULLET (BRAND, BULLET WEIGHT, TYPE)	VELOCITY (FPS)			GROUP (INCHES)	VELOCITY (FPS)	GROUP (INCHES)	
Hornady 100 XTP	12.5	L'il Gun	1,410	1-1/4	1,352	1-3/8	
Hornady 100 XTP	12.5	H110	1,352	1-1/2	1,160	1-1/4	
Speer 100 JHP	12.5	L'il Gun	1,412	1-5/8	1,326	1-5/8	
Speer 100 JHP	12.5	H110	1,307	7/8	1,161	1-3/8	

Notes: Groups the product of 5 of 6 shots at 20 yards.
Chronograph screens set at 10' from muzzle. CCI 500 primers used in Starline brass.

barrels. First comes the long-barreled version at 7-1/2"; for me single actions balance the best and are the easiest to shoot with this barrel length. A new cylinder chambered in .327 is line-bored, fluted and black powder chamfered. The action is totally tuned, trigger pull set at just a hair over 3 pounds, Bisley hammer and frame color cased by Turnbull, steel ejector-rod housing installed, oversized locking base pin fitted and a BCA heavy-duty rear field sight matched up with a serrated front ramp sight.

The second .327 Single-Six has a barrel which started life as Smith & Wesson ribbed K22 barrel. Hamilton machined off the underlug, re-bored it to .327, cut it to proper length of 4-5/8" and installed it along with a steel ejector-rod housing. The ribbed barrel matches up beautifully with the Single-Six frame. A Bisley hammer is installed, the front sight is an undercut post, and the frame and hammer are also case colored by Turnbull. Hamilton not only likes smallbore cartridges, he also is a promoter of lanyard rings, one of which has been installed on this little sixgun. A lanyard ring properly used can prevent the damage or even the loss of a beautiful sixgun while traveling by

horseback, boat, or simply hiking in rough country.

Hamilton is at the top of the list when it comes to premiere sixgunsmiths and the .327 Federal is at the top of the list of truly useful cartridges; combining the two only seems natural. Contact Hamilton directly for custom sixgun work or for a copy of his book *The Custom Revolver*. It, too, is a masterpiece. **GUNS**

BOWEN CLASSIC ARMS
P.O. BOX 67
LOUISVILLE, TN 37777
(865) 984-3583
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/
BOWEN-CLASSIC-ARMS

FEDERAL CARTRIDGE
900 EHLEN DR.
ANOKA, MN 55303
(763) 323-2300
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/
FEDERAL-CARTRIDGE-CO

KEITH BROWN GRIPS
3586 CRAB ORCHARD AVE.
BEAVERCREEK, OH 45430
(937) 426-4147
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/
KEITH-BROWN-GRIPS

TOPS KNIVES FOR GUYS THAT ... GO OUTSIDE THE WIRE

... 101%
AMERICAN
BEEF ...



"TALIBAN TAKE DOWN"

THIS KNIFE IS DEDICATED
TO RESPECT AND HONOR THOSE
BRAVE INDIVIDUALS, WHO BATTLE
DAILY IN THE MOUNTAINS
AND VALLEYS...

...WHICH HAVE BECOME
THE STRIKING PLACES
FOR THOSE KNOWN
AS THE "TALIBAN."
by O. J. Bailey,
USASF (RETD)

** Call Today **
For A
Free Color
Brochure



"STRYKER DEFENDER TOOL"

DEFEND
THE DEFENSELESS,
BRING ORDER
TO CHAOS,
REPLACE TYRANNY
WITH FREEDOM...
IT TAKES A
SPECIAL BREED
OF WARRIOR
TO CARRY OUT
THIS MISSION...
THEY CALL
THESE
WARRIORS

DESIGN:
SCM PETE
MOTTASFC
O. J. BAILEY
SF RTD

STRYKERS

Support
Our
Troops

One Life...
One Knife

TOPS ...THE OPERATOR'S EDGE

★ TOPS KNIVES...

...PERSONAL CARRY CHOICE...
OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS
P. O. Box 2544 Idaho Falls, ID 83403
PH: (208) 542-0113 FAX: (208) 552-2945
TOPS ...BORN IN THE USA... www.topsknives.com

AR

THE SUPERBLY BUILT

M4 v5 CARBINE

BY DANIEL DEFENSE IS

RELIABLE AND ACCURATE.

Excellence

Holt Bodinson Photos: Robbie Barrkman

Looking down a whole rack of similar looking black ARs must be a bewildering experience to many shooters. It's not as if they were all stamped out of the same cookie cutter, but the differences in quality and features among them are subtle. The AR is the most modular firearm in history. Done well, the AR can be a fine, custom rifle if created by knowledgeable, thoughtful makers who have brought together quality parts. Such is the Daniel Defense M4 v5 Carbine and, when mated with Leupold's new Mark 8 CQBSS 1.1-8x24mm Mil-Spec scope, it becomes quite a package; one guaranteed 100 percent by both makers.

Daniel Defense of Black Creek, Ga., didn't start off making complete ARs. Founded in the year 2000 by Marty Daniel, the company was focused on the manufacture of premium quality firearm parts and

accessories like barrels, gas blocks, optic mounts, QD swivels and, above all, some of the finest "Picatinny" rail systems ever developed. So good, in fact, that the Daniel M4 Rail was adopted by the United States



The Daniel Defense enhanced magazine well is deeply flared for easy insertion of the supplied Magpul magazines.

Army Marksmanship Unit for use in the Designated Marksman Rifle Program.

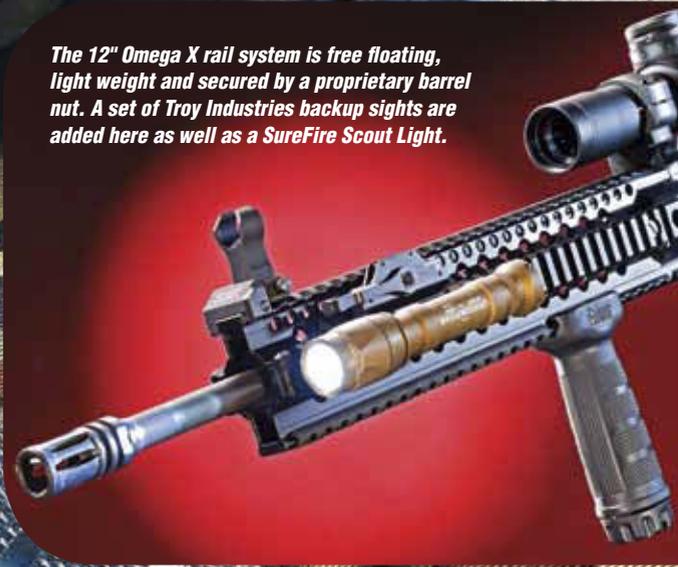
More recently, Daniel Defense was awarded a contract by the US



No sights are present, the M4 v5 is meant to be used with an optic. Any of the quality accessory sights sets meant for Picatinny rail mounting can be added.



The 12" Omega X rail system is free floating, light weight and secured by a proprietary barrel nut. A set of Troy Industries backup sights are added here as well as a SureFire Scout Light.

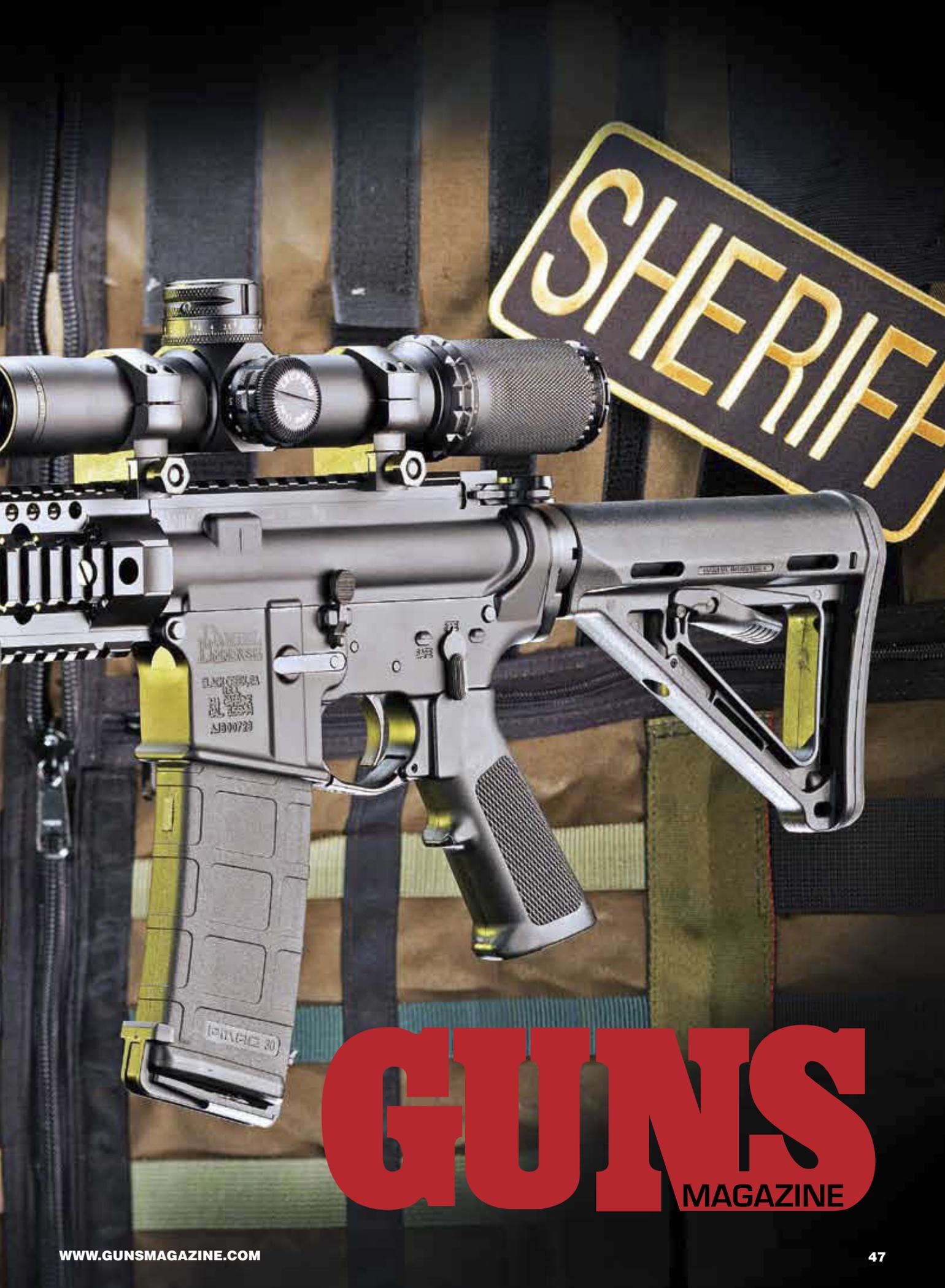


AR

Excellence

M4 v5 CARBINE BY DANIEL DEFENSE





SHERIFF

GUNS

MAGAZINE



Holt found the carbine reliable and accurate with loads ranging from 55-grain FMJs through heavy 77-grain Match hollowpoints.



The rail offers plenty of accessory options without being too harsh to hold with ungloved hands.

Special Operations Commands to supply rail systems for the M4 Special Operations Peculiar Modification (SOPMOD) kits. The M4 SOPMOD kits are composed of an assortment of M4 accessories like suppressors, reflex and scope sights, lasers, IR illuminators, rail interface systems and grenade launchers. The kits are supplied to special operations soldiers enabling them to customize their M4s for a specific mission and to insure our ground pounders have the latest off-the-shelf technology. It's a great concept that eliminates many of the complex and drawn-out military procurement programs of the past.

It wasn't a giant step for Daniel Defense to go from parts and components to making complete M4s. The quality of their resulting carbines has gained them an enviable reputation in the civilian AR field. Not only is their engineering development and production quality control first rate, but they stand behind their products, guaranteeing their carbines 100 percent against defects in original

The Magpul rear stock is of the 6-position collapsible style, here at its shortest position, giving the v5 an overall length of 32-1/2".



M4 V5 LIGHTWEIGHT

MAKER: DANIEL DEFENSE, INC.
 101 WARFIGHTER WAY
 BLACK CREEK, GA 31308
 (866) 554-4867
 WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/
 DANIEL-DEFENSE

ACTION TYPE:
 Gas operated, semi-automatic
CALIBER:
 5.56 NATO
MAGAZINE CAPACITY:
 30
SAFETY:
 Toggle
BARREL LENGTH:
 16"
OVERALL LENGTH:
 32-1/2" (folded), 35-3/4" (extended)
WEIGHT:
 6 pounds, 3 ounces
SIGHTS:
 None (4 Picatinny rails)
STOCKS:
 6-position Magpul, 12" Omega X Rail
PRICE:
 \$1,469

materials and workmanship.

Daniel Defense offers their M4s in a variety of configurations and in 5.56 NATO, as well as 6.8 SPC. The model we tested was their M4 Carbine v5 Lightweight with their 12" Omega X Rail, A2-styled vertical grip and no sights in 5.56 NATO.

Weighing only 6 pounds, 3 ounces on my Sunbeam scale, the v5 Lightweight is in the weight range I think a practical AR should be. There are way too many ARs out there being sold that top 9 pounds after a reasonable scope and mount are added. For civilian use, an AR should be light, fast into action and a joy to carry afield or to share with other family members.

A number of features attracted me to this particular model and to the Daniel Defense line

in general. Their 12" Omega X rail is a lightweight, tough, 4-sided, free-floating, 2-piece rail secured firmly to the AR by a proprietary barrel nut. It is designed to offer a seamless transition from the integral top rail of the receiver, forward toward the muzzle. The four Picatinny tracks of the 12" rail afford unlimited space for optics, lights, lasers, QD swivel points and other accessories plus, with or without rail covers, their quad-rail was, surprisingly, comfortable to grasp.

On the Mil-Spec lower, Daniel Defense deeply flared the lips of the magazine well to better guide magazine changes, enlarged the triggerguard for glove use and added a QD swivel point at the rear of the receiver.

Premium Barrel

The 16" barrel has a 1:7" NATO twist and A2 birdcage flash hider, is hammer forged and chrome lined, which helps to reduce fouling, extend barrel life and resist corrosion.

Midway down the barrel, Daniel Defense has used their own, low-profile gas block. It is taper reamed to the barrel contour, press fit and then cross-pinned to the barrel. This is a much sounder design than the clamped-on gas blocks commonly offered.

5.56MM FACTORY AMMO PERFORMANCE

LOAD (BRAND, BULLET WEIGHT, TYPE)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)
Black Hills 77 Match HP	3/4
CorBon 55 FMJ	1-1/2
DoubleTap 69 Match HP	1-1/4
DoubleTap 77 Match HP	1-3/8
Hornady 75 TAP	3/4
PMC 62 NATO	1

Notes: Groups are the product of 3 shots at 100 yards.

ADVANCED LEUPOLD SCOPE

Joining up with the little M4 was Leupold's latest Mil-Spec scope, the CQBSS 1.1-8x24mm. This is a large, rugged scope with an illuminated reticle in the front focal plane, built on a 34mm tube, providing 150 MOA elevation and windage adjustments and an interchangeable bullet-drop compensating dial. The turrets are calibrated in mils, with each click equal

to .10 mil and full rotation of the dial equal to 10 mil.

The turrets are unlocked and adjusted by pinching and turning them. This auto-lock, pinch-and-turn system makes turning the dials a snap with gloves on and insures the dials will stay locked until they're firmly pinched again.

The power adjustment ring is actually the whole barrel of the ocular. Adjusted

MK 8 CQBSS 1.1-8X24MM

MAKER: LEUPOLD
14400 NW GREENBRIER PKWY
BEAVERTON, OR 97006
(800) 538-7653
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/LEUPOLD

POWER:

1.1X to 8X

ADJUSTMENTS:

.10 mil

ADJ. RANGE:

150 MOA

TUBE DIAMETER:

34mm

OVERALL LENGTH:

11.75"

EYE RELIEF:

3.7" (1.1X), 3.3" (8X)

WEIGHT:

23.2 ounces

PRICE:

\$3,999.99



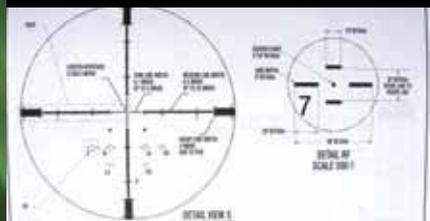
The auto-lock, pinch-and-turn dial design is fast and secure. Each click on the CQBSS dial is equal to .10 mil.



The whole ocular barrel is grasped to change the power settings of the CQBSS. The barrel is knurled to make this easier.



The strong, heavily built CQBSS 1.1-8X scope is offered with a USMC-designed reticle designed to give machine gunners an optic useful at very close quarters as well as out to the farthest effective range of the gun. A different reticle might be in order for the civilian marksman, but the power range is perfect.



The Marine machine-gun reticle was interesting, but less than desirable for precision rifle fire.

to 1.1X, the reticle tends to disappear in the first focal plane, and you become more dependent on an illuminated dot centered in the scope. Under close-quarter situations shooting with both eyes open on 1.1X, the M4/Leupold combination was extremely fast on target. Powering up to 8X, the reticle is large and clear, giving the M4/CQBSS combination some serious reach and range finding capability.

The reticle in the scope, which was loaned to us, was designed by the Marine Corps for machine-gun applications and features an open center where the crosshairs would normally cross. This reticle proved less than ideal for precision rifle use. However, at the time of our tests, the Mark 8 CQBSS scope was so new, there were only three in existence outside of military circles.

GUNS



With the stock fully extended, the M4 v5 is still only 35-3/4" long. Note the M4 triggerguard has been enlarged to accommodate a gloved trigger finger.

The 6-position stock and 30-round magazine of the model are straight mil-spec items by Magpul, while the vertical grip supplied with all their A4s is their own design and manufacture.

Ammo

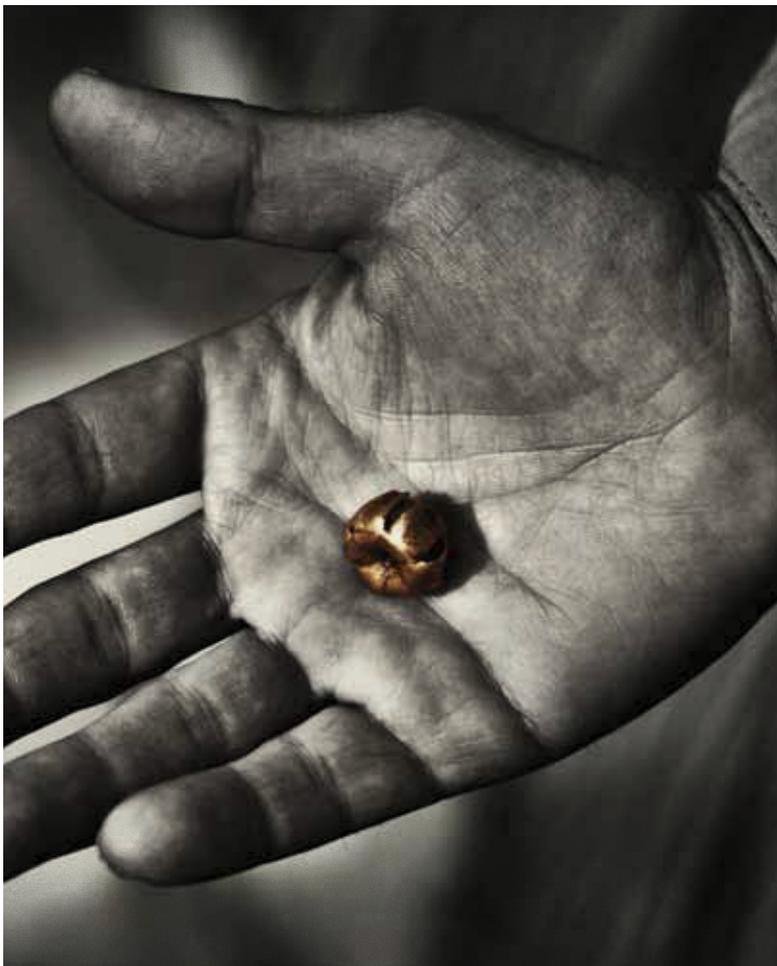
Since the Daniel Defense M4 sports a NATO 1:7" twist barrel, we selected ammunition with bullet weights from 55 to 77 grains. Our selection included Black Hills

remanufactured 77-grain Match HP; DoubleTap Ammunition's 69- and 77-grain Match HP; Hornady's 75-grain TAP; PMC's 62-grain NATO Green Tip and an out-of-curiosity lightweight load—CorBon's 55-grain FMJ.

I'm sure if we had had a scope with a precision rifle reticle in it, these groups would have been tighter. On the other hand, when I can slap three rounds on average into 3/4" at 100

yards with a delightfully light M4 carbine, mounted with a machine gun-calibrated scope; I'm more than satisfied with the performance of the Daniel Defense M4.

The real moral of the story is that we, as shooters, are blessed beyond belief with utterly outstanding firearms, optics and ammunition today. This is the greatest shooting era and the AR-15 is a truly modern sporting rifle.



THE BULLET HAS THE FINAL SAY™

After a bullet leaves the barrel, everything rides with the flight of that one bullet and its performance at the target. Whether a Barnes XPB bullet leaves the muzzle of your handgun, lever action or single shot rifle, you can depend on Barnes' proven X Bullet technology for superior expansion and weight retention, unsurpassed energy transfer and exceptional accuracy.

Barnes. OPTIMIZED for your target.™

BARNESBULLETS.COM

800.574.9200



VOR-TX™ HANDGUN



IT TAKES MINUTES FOR
A THREAT'S EYES TO
RECOVER AFTER BEING
BLINDED BY THE NEW
Z2-S WITH TACTICAL
STROBE. IT'LL ONLY TAKE
YOU TWO SECONDS TO
DRAW YOUR WEAPON.



Blinding a threat gives you a huge tactical advantage. The new Z2-S CombatLight® delivers a massive 160 lumens of output with two hours of runtime, a disorienting tactical strobe option, and the ability to discern friend or foe at greater distances. With a high-efficiency LED and Mil-Spec anodized aluminum body, it's virtually unbreakable. The CombatGrip is ideal for flashlight/handgun techniques even with gloved or wet hands. The beam shaped by its micro-textured reflector enhances peripheral vision. And the tailcap switch gives you instant, intuitive access to the strobe option—just press rapidly three times in a row to switch from manual momentary-on operation to automatic strobe—because having to remember a secret handshake when your life is on the line, sucks. Dominate, prevail.

SUREFIRE®

Modern DEER SCOPES

THE RIGHT GLASS IMPROVES YOUR CHANCES AFIELD.

John Barsness

Almost 30 years ago, a deer hunter sat on a folding stool next to a barbed-wire fence on the edge of a meadow in central Montana. On the far side of the meadow, about 250 yards away, was a low bluff.

The hunter knew on top of the bluff was an alfalfa field. Deer fed at night on the alfalfa, then near dawn moved down the bluff and across the meadow to bed in the willows and alders along the creek on the other side of the meadow. Now, in mid-November, at least one of the deer should be a buck.

It was 25 minutes before sunrise, five minutes into legal shooting light. He'd been watching the bluff carefully, but seven deer somehow simply appeared in the meadow. He glassed them through his 10X Bausch & Lomb's, five does and fawns with two bucks following, one of the bucks with antlers as large as he'd ever seen along the creek.

The hunter carefully raised his rifle, resting the fore-end on one of the strands of barbed wire. He could see all seven deer through the scope, but he couldn't see any antlers. He lifted the Bausch & Lomb's again with his left hand.

Yes, there was the big buck, right behind the does, the smaller buck behind the big one. The hunter looked through the rifle's scope again, but by then the two deer in the rear had moved close together. He raised the binoculars quickly, and found the bigger buck now standing behind the herd. The hunter aimed very quickly, before the buck could move again.

The rifle boomed dully and the hunter lost the view through the scope. He cycled the bolt quickly, looking toward the deer. All he could see was

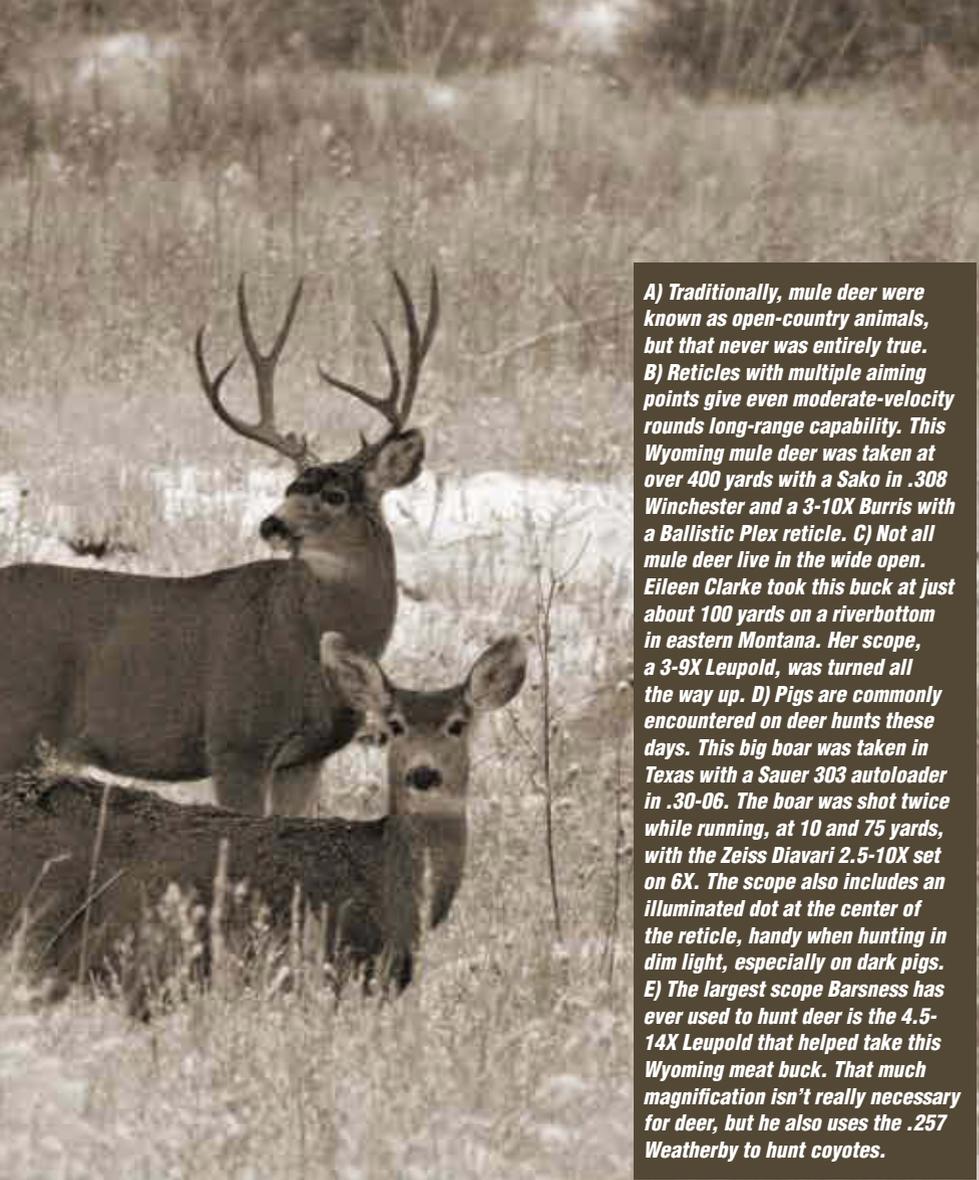


white tails bobbing in gray light as the herd ran into the willows. He sat still for half a minute, not seeing any more movement, then stepped over the fence and started walking across the meadow, the rifle ready in his hands. A buck lay in the grass—and it was the bigger buck.

The hunter let out a long breath, knowing just how lucky he'd been.

After all the scouting and hunting he'd done along this creek for the past several years, his scope had almost let him down at the last crucial moment.

The hunter was me, and the scope was an old K3 Weaver. It had served well for many years, and had even helped me take several whitetail does along that very creek. But on that particular morning two previously



A) Traditionally, mule deer were known as open-country animals, but that never was entirely true. B) Reticles with multiple aiming points give even moderate-velocity rounds long-range capability. This Wyoming mule deer was taken at over 400 yards with a Sako in .308 Winchester and a 3-10X Burris with a Ballistic Plex reticle. C) Not all mule deer live in the wide open. Eileen Clarke took this buck at just about 100 yards on a riverbottom in eastern Montana. Her scope, a 3-9X Leupold, was turned all the way up. D) Pigs are commonly encountered on deer hunts these days. This big boar was taken in Texas with a Sauer 303 autoloader in .30-06. The boar was shot twice while running, at 10 and 75 yards, with the Zeiss Diavari 2.5-10X set on 6X. The scope also includes an illuminated dot at the center of the reticle, handy when hunting in dim light, especially on dark pigs. E) The largest scope Barsness has ever used to hunt deer is the 4.5-14X Leupold that helped take this Wyoming meat buck. That much magnification isn't really necessary for deer, but he also uses the .257 Weatherby to hunt coyotes.

range. Many hunters eased through the woods, hoping to get close enough to a deer for a quick shot. Others cooperated on drives, some hunters standing still while others walked through woods, hoping to push deer by the standers. A few hunters sat on a stump or at the base of a tree—but often only for the first day or two of the season, when there were a lot more hunters walking around the woods, inadvertently pushing deer from place to place. For that sort of hunting a K3 Weaver, or any other low-magnification scope, worked fine.

Today, however, the majority of deer hunting is done from an elevated stand, often along the edge between woods and open country. The reason for the change is simple: Fewer whitetails existed 50 years ago. Back then it made more sense to go looking for a deer than to sit someplace and wait for a buck to come walking by.

Today there are so many whitetails that hunting regulations have been loosened in order to “harvest” more deer. Seasons run longer, in some states half the year, for both bow and firearm hunting. Areas that used to allow only shotguns or muzzleloaders are allowing at least some rifles. Legal hunting hours are sometimes extended beyond the traditional 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. South Carolina, for instance, allows deer hunting a full hour before sunrise and after sunset.

Differences

There also isn't as much difference between mule deer and whitetail hunting as there used to be. When I started hunting in the 1960s, the standard advice was for lower-magnification scopes on whitetail rifles, and higher-power scopes on mule deer rifles. Supposedly this was because whitetails always lived in thick woods and mule deer in the wide open. That wasn't really true even then—but isn't true at all today; with more timber in the West due to fire suppression and more open space in the East due to large-scale farming and powerline cuts.

In recent years, yet another animal has been thrown into the mix. Feral pigs are becoming a real problem in at least a third of the US and keep moving further north. Many states allow pig hunting at any time of day or night, and a deer hunter who stays a little later in an evening stand has a good chance of seeing a pig. Wild hogs are even more nocturnal than deer, the reason many European countries allow all-night pig hunting—even where they're truly wild, not just feral—and considered a top game animal.



unknown faults appeared: The uncoated lenses were too dim and the magnification too low to see antlers at 250 yards in dim light.

Neither fault had been noticed before because until then my hunting had mostly taken place in better light or at shorter ranges. Even when hunting elk in “black timber” the K3 had done fine, because 50 yards was an

average shot, and the does taken along the creek had all been within 100 yards or so.

Changes

Deer hunting has changed considerably in the half a century since that Weaver was made in El Paso, Texas. Back then most whitetail hunting happened at relatively short



This Montana mule deer outfitter has a fixed 6X scope on his .270 Winchester, plenty of glass for both near and far shooting.

All of this explains why most hunters now consider optical brightness to be the No. 1 quality in a hunting scope, when 50 years ago the priority was on a rugged scope that wouldn't fog inside. Back then many scopes were relatively fragile and weren't sealed against moisture.

The optics were also primitive. Lens coatings weren't developed until the late 1930s, and even after WWII the lenses of many new scopes

remained totally uncoated until the 1960s. This is the reason many mid-20th century hunting writers suggested the real virtue of a scope was putting the aiming point (a reticle) in the same focal plane as the target. This was certainly true with early hunting scopes. For a while I owned a Weaver 330, the 1930s-era model that was the first "affordable" hunting scope. It had a 3/4" tube and uncoated lenses, and the view was

dimmer than with iron sights!

Most early scopes also had relatively small fields of view, due to small eyepieces. Originally this was because many (like the 330) had small tubes, with eyepieces only slightly larger than the scope itself. But the tradition was carried over even on early 1" scopes, in large part because many rifles weren't designed with scopes in mind. A smaller eyepiece meant there was less chance



This is where higher-power scopes really shine. Montana's Missouri Breaks hold both mule deer and the occasional whitetail.



A bright scope helps when hunting gray mule deer in gray timber.

of the scope interfering with the bolt handle, but it also meant a smaller field of view.

Magnification Myths

Lower magnification increased field of view, but in early scopes the field was still much narrower than today. One of the old scopes in my collection is a Lyman Alaskan 2.5X, mounted on a custom Pachmayr 1903 Springfield sporter. Its field of view is just slightly wider than that of a modern 4x33 Leupold. Another older scope is an early K4 Weaver, made just after WWII. Its field barely beats that of a modern 6x42 Leupold. (Leupolds, by the way, don't have exceptionally wide fields of view, due to longer eye relief than most other scopes.)

Yet many deer hunters still firmly believe nothing more than 2.5X is useful for "woods" hunting and 4X is too much—advice they heard from their father or grandfather. My experience is that any modern 4X scope is plenty for shooting deer at 10 to 15 yards, and I've even shot a running wild boar at 10 yards with a modern 6X.

Of course, we can turn a 3-9X down all the way for woods hunting, and all the way up for shooting across a clearing. Modern variables do provide an enormous amount of versatility. Or do they? The big advantage of a scope in woods hunting is being able to see a deer clearly, even inside a conifer forest in the dim light of pre-dawn, and magnification is a key factor in apparent brightness. In effect, it allows us to see a deer more clearly by placing us closer, just like walking closer in dim light.

More magnification also allows us to see any small branches that might

be in the way of a shot. This isn't the place for a long dissertation on the myth of brush-bucking bullets, but I have seen a 250-grain .338 bullet turned sideways by a branch no thicker than my little finger—and the branch was only a few inches in front of the animal, an African eland. The bullet hit the eland just behind the shoulder, but since Nosler Partitions, like most bullets, aren't designed to work sideways, it only penetrated the near lung. (Yes, I could see the branch in my scope, but didn't think there was the slightest chance the bullet would hit the branch! Luckily, the eland only went 100 yards or so before stopping and I finished the job).

Consequently, I tend to use at



Probably the most common modern deer scope is something like the 3.5-10x40 Leupold VX-3, with Leupold's B&C reticle, that helped take this nice whitetail at 200 yards. Such a scope will work at any range.

least 4X and often 6X when hunting thick woods, even when hunting with a variable. Most scopes reach their maximum brightness for moderate-range shooting when turned to 6X because the exit pupil is around 6mm or 7mm in diameter, the entire normal human eye can use.

My wife Eileen uses even more magnification, even at short range. Every human on earth has slightly different eyesight, and she much prefers 8X or 10X when hunting any sort of big game, again because she can see the animal so much better. She habitually turns variables all the way up when sighting-in, then leaves them there to hunt. Once upon a time, in fact, she borrowed my rifle on a mule deer hunt, because the scope on her rifle went bonkers. My rifle was a .257 Weatherby with a 4.5-14X, because I used it both for big game and large varmints. When Eileen got a chance at a mule deer buck at about 150 yards, she cranked the scope all the way up, and zapped him precisely where she wanted to. One instant he was standing there, and in the next instant there were four hooves above the sagebrush. So far her affection for magnification hasn't caused the slightest problem, even on deer taken at less than 50 yards.

Reticle Shift

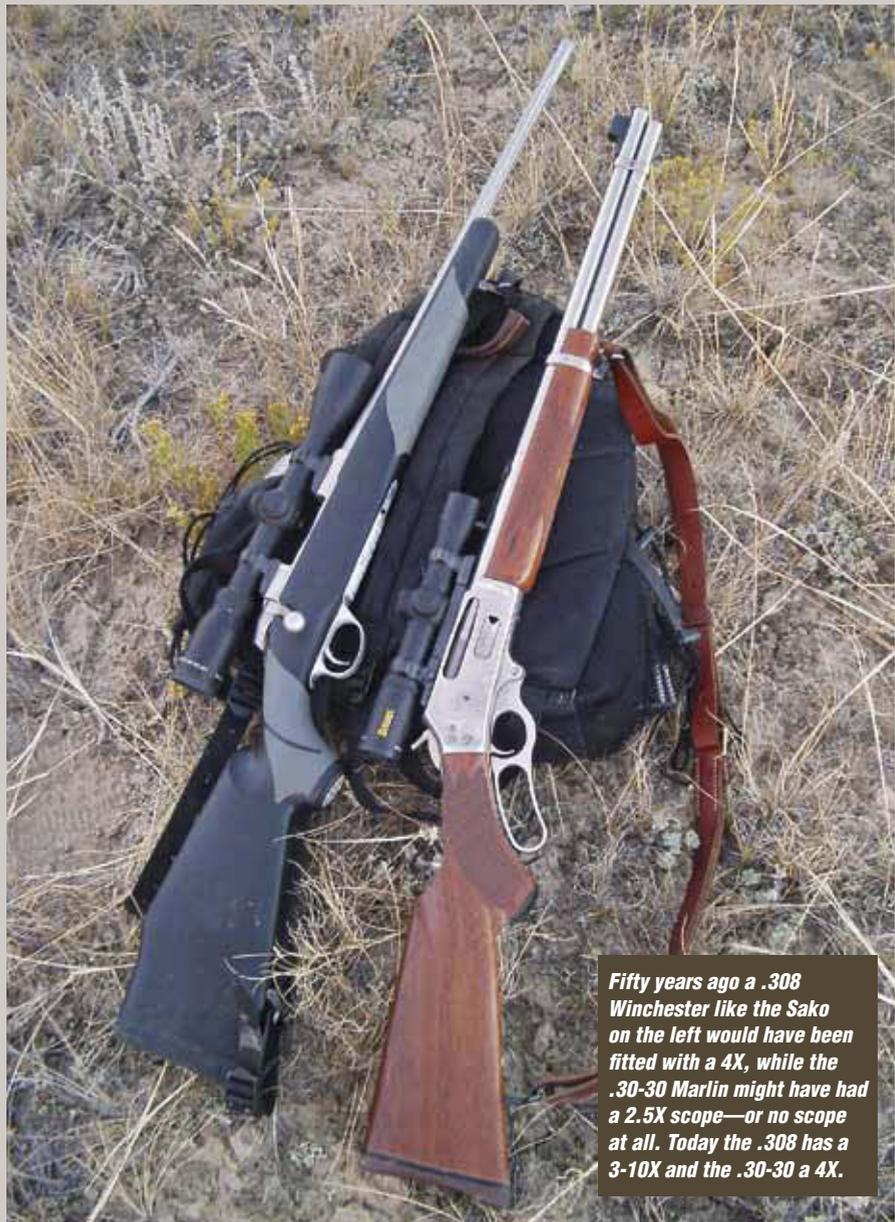
Turning a variable up and down, however, can have bad side effects. While uncommon these days, in the past few years I've tested several variables in the sub-\$300 price range that showed a noticeable shift in point of impact at various magnifications. Also, multi-point reticles, popular for shooting at longer ranges, are only "on" at one magnification in a typical

scope with the reticle in the second focal plane. Many deer hunters don't seem to grasp that the magic reticle in their 4-12X only works correctly at 12X, and if their scope isn't cranked all the way up they'll probably miss or wound a distant deer.

There isn't any downside to optical brightness, especially when combined with a reticle that's easy to see in dim light. This can be as simple as a heavier plex or one of the German reticles offered by many companies these days. But, an illuminated reticle makes aiming even easier, especially when aiming at a dark pig that shows up while you're in a deer stand. I really like the Trijicon AccuPoint reticle, a combination of fiber optic and tritium that doesn't require batteries, but have also used conventional electronic illuminated reticles quite a bit. They use far less battery power than the scopes of even a few years ago, and allow a precise aiming point as long as you can see a deer or pig through your scope.

Luckily, even modestly priced scopes are much brighter today. I test scopes for brightness on a black-and-white chart at night, with a scale ranging from one to 10. So far all scopes tested have rated between five and eight, with five being uncoated scopes from the WWII era. The very brightest scopes in the \$1,000+ range (such as Leupold VX-7s, Schmidt & Benders, Swarovski Z6s and Zeiss Victory Diavaris) test eight, but some scopes priced at \$500 or even less test around 7. So, yes, we can buy really bright deer scopes without breaking the piggy bank and be able to tell one buck from another, even in pre-dawn light.

GUNS



Fifty years ago a .308 Winchester like the Sako on the left would have been fitted with a 4X, while the .30-30 Marlin might have had a 2.5X scope—or no scope at all. Today the .308 has a 3-10X and the .30-30 a 4X.

BUYER'S GUIDE

AIMPOINT INC.
14103 MARIAH CT.
CHANTILLY, VA 20151
(877) 246-7646

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/AIMPOINT

BURRIS

920 5TH ST., GREELEY, CO 80634
(970) 356-1670

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/BURRIS

BUSHNELL

9200 CODY AVE.
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66214
(800) 423-3537

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/BUSHNELL

CABELA'S

ONE CABELA DR.
SIDNEY, NE 69160
(800) 237-4444

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/CABELAS

KAHLES AND BSA OPTICS
(DISTRIBUTED BY GAMO OUTDOORS)

3911 S.W. 47TH AVE., SUITE 914
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33314
(954) 581-2144

WWW.BSAOPTICS.COM
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/GAMO-OUTDOOR-USA

LEUPOLD

1440 N.W. GREENBRIAR PKWY.
BEAVERTON, OR 97006
(503) 646-9171

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/LEUPOLD

MILLETT SIGHTS

9200 CODY AVE., OVERLAND PARK, KS 66214
(888) 276-5945

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/MILLETTSSIGHTS

MINOX USA

P.O. BOX 123, MERIDEN, NH 03770
(866) 469-3080

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/MINOX

PRIDE-FOWLER IND., INC.

P.O. BOX 4301
SAN DIMAS, CA 91773
(909) 599-0928

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/PRIDE-FOWLER-INDUSTRIES-INC

SCHMIDT & BENDER

741 MAIN ST., CLAREMONT, NH 03743
(800) 468-3450

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/SCHMIDT-BENDER-SCOPES

SWAROVSKI

2 SLATER RD., CRANSTON, RI 02920
(800) 426-3089

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/SWAROVSKI-OPTIK

CARL ZEISS OPTICAL

13017 KINGSTON AVE.
CHESTER, VA 23836
(800) 441-3005

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/ZEISS

XD **SUB-COMPACT** **POINT & SHOOT ERGONOMICS™**



**THE 9MM SUB-COMPACT COMES WITH A
13 ROUND FLUSH FITTING MAGAZINE™
AND A 16 ROUND MAGAZINE WITH
XD GEAR® MAG X-TENSION™ (USPAT.7191556)**

**1.800.680.6866
WWW.SPRINGFIELDARMORY.COM**

30 Years Of SHARPS RIFLES

It's been quite a journey.

Mike "Duke" Venturino

Photos: Yvonne Venturino

Just this past weekend while attending our yearly winter gun show a light bulb popped on in my brain. I bought my very first Sharps rifle at this same gun show exactly 30 years ago. Never before then had I so much as handled one. And to show how varied my interests were then, the other rifle purchased at that same gun show was a pre-64 Model 70 .220 Swift. Most of my pre-64 Model 70s are long gone but I still have seven Sharps rifles in the racks. That's of 46 different ones bought since 1981, counting originals and various reproductions. Collectively these have included Models 1863, 1868 (factory conversion), but most have been Model 1874s—the most famous Sharps of all.

As with everything that triggers a passion in me, I jumped into Sharps shooting with both feet. And just as with the passion for my wife, Yvonne, now a full three decades later that Sharps rifle passion is still with me. Some might say it has cooled somewhat but actually the best way to describe it is that it has matured. No more do I feel compelled to try

every chambering for which Sharps rifles were offered in the 1870s. Nor do I need to experience every barrel length and/or weight, stock design, or sighting option. I know for sure what my preferences are from extensive

Duke's three current Sharps Model 1874 competition rifles include a Shiloh-brand wearing a 6X Montana Vintage Arms scope (top), a Shiloh for iron-sight silhouette competition (middle) and (bottom) a C. Sharps Arms for NRA Long Range Paper Target competition. All are .45-70s.



Nothing brings joy to Duke's heart like being at and shooting in BPCR Silhouette matches.

hands-on experience.

Let me give a brief synopsis of that experience. By my count Sharps rifles of the 1870s were chambered for 15 cartridges. I've handloaded for 13 of them. The two that have escaped me are small and meant for short-range target shooting. They are .40-50 Sharps Straight and .44-60 Sharps Bottleneck. I've owned Sharps rifles





Duke started his hunting career back in 1982 with Sharps rifles and has taken dozens of heads of big game with them since. This Montana mule deer was taken with his first Sharps Model 1874 in .50-90.

with barrel lengths as short as 22" (carbines) and as long as 34" (Long Range target rifles). They have been as light as 7 pounds (carbines again) and as heavy as 14 pounds (replica buffalo hunters' rifles).

They have worn open-rear sights, tang-mounted peep sights and scopes. Triggers have been standard single type or double set arrangements. I've taken game from small whitetails to 1-ton bison bulls, plus several heads of Africa plains game. My Sharps shooting has occurred in weather so cold my gloved hand became numb from contact with the barrel and in weather so hot that my hand literally blistered after touching it.

My handloading efforts with

all those Sharps cartridges have encompassed black powder of every variety I could lay hands on, a wide range of smokeless powders and several black powder substitutes. Regarding bullet types through one or another Sharps rifle I've fired jacketed softpoints, gas-checked cast bullets, plain-base cast bullets, swaged lead bullets and paper-patched bullets. I've even pulled full-metal-jacketed spitzer bullets from .50-caliber Browning Machine Gun cartridges and fired them from a .50-70 Sharps rifle. I have formed thousands of one sort or another of available brass cases into cartridges for which ready-to-load cases had not existed for over a century. I've even made paper cartridges for an

original Civil War vintage Model 1863 percussion carbine.

In target competitions I've fired Sharps rifles as close as 100 yards and as distant as 1,000 yards. The game of NRA Black Powder Cartridge Rifle Silhouette hooked me so hard that since its very first experimental match back in September of 1985, I have fired several hundred more. In fact, of the 24 national championships held for the sport, so far only one other fellow and I have had perfect attendance. I won the very first of those now-famous Quigley Matches, which have been held near Forsythe, Mont., every June since 1991. Perhaps that is appropriate because in 1989 I was privileged to spend a few hours



The Shiloh rifle at bottom was one of Duke's early .45-70 hunting rifles, but he replaced it with the military-style Shiloh at top, primarily because it came with sling swivels.

with Tom Selleck in helping him prepare for his coming role in the 1990 movie *Quigley Down Under*.

Whether or not you believe in fate, destiny or karma consider this: Within months of buying my first Sharps rifle, one of the foremost names in modern Sharps shooting, C. Sharps Arms

Company moved to Montana. Within two more years the foremost maker of American reproductions of Sharps Rifles, Shiloh Rifle Manufacturing, also moved there. For 25 years I've lived an easy 30-minute drive from both firms.

That first Sharps rifle was a

standard Shiloh Model 1874 .50-70. In my youthful zest and inexperience I had its chamber run out from 1-3/4" to 2-1/2", making it a .50-90. That was a mistake. At only 9 pounds and with a steel, crescent-shaped buttplate, its recoil was punishing. When Yvonne saw the deep purple bruise it caused on my right shoulder, she made me quit shooting rifles until it healed. Regardless, I shot several elk and mule deer with that .50-90 before trading it off on something unremembered now.

Also, as with so many of the inexperienced, unknowing and uninitiated, in those early years I insisted on shooting my Sharps rifles of any caliber with smokeless powders. That too was a mistake. All original Sharps rifle cartridges were developed before smokeless powder was a gleam in some chemist's eye. Obviously both buffalo hunters and target shooters got black powder to perform very well but like so many before me and many even now, I considered black powder to be dirty, smelly, corrosive and hard to clean. Dirty and smelly are subjective terms for everyone to define for themselves. However, I can assure you that black powder fouling is very easy to clean from a Sharps rifle, which removes the corrosive charge from the equation. Back in those early days I also considered black powder "inaccurate." That was simply idiotic. Such prejudice stemmed solely from ignorance on my part.

And here is one last admission of my ignorance. Because I thought iron sights, whether open or aperture types, to be "rudimentary" much of my initial Sharps shooting was done at 50 yards. That, too, was idiotic!

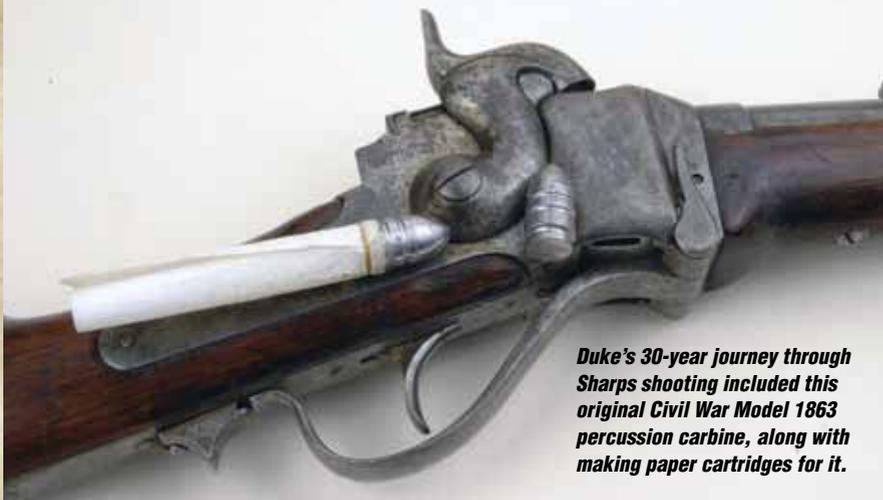
And More Learning

Now, keep reading this and you will get some idea as to what I've learned in three decades. First, straight black powder when properly handloaded in any Sharps cartridge for any Sharps rifle wearing a good condition barrel is going to give the best results of any propellant. In fact, it works so well that the idea of doing test shooting at 50 yards is silly. I now *only* test Sharps target rifles for their accuracy potential at a minimum of 200 yards and mostly at 300 yards. The *only* time I shoot Sharps rifles as close as 100 yards is *if* it is only intended for hunting. Furthermore, from Sharps target rifles *only* 10-shot groups are fired, and sometimes as many as 12 or 15 rounds are used per group.

Another area in which hunting and target shooting cause Sharps rifles to diverge is in their basic configurations. After toting a Sharps rifle uncoun-



For his C. Sharps Model 1874 used in paper target matches fired at ranges as far as 1,000 yards, Duke prefers this Montana Vintage Arms 112 windgauge front sight because it offers more latitude in zeroing for windage. For his BPCR Silhouette competition Sharps, Duke is satisfied with the Montana Vintage Arms 113 front sight. It has a spirit level but no provision for windage adjustment.



Duke's 30-year journey through Sharps shooting included this original Civil War Model 1863 percussion carbine, along with making paper cartridges for it.



Duke likes to have his favorite Sharps rifles wear fancy wood, such as this one made by Shiloh. Note his initials on the receiver.



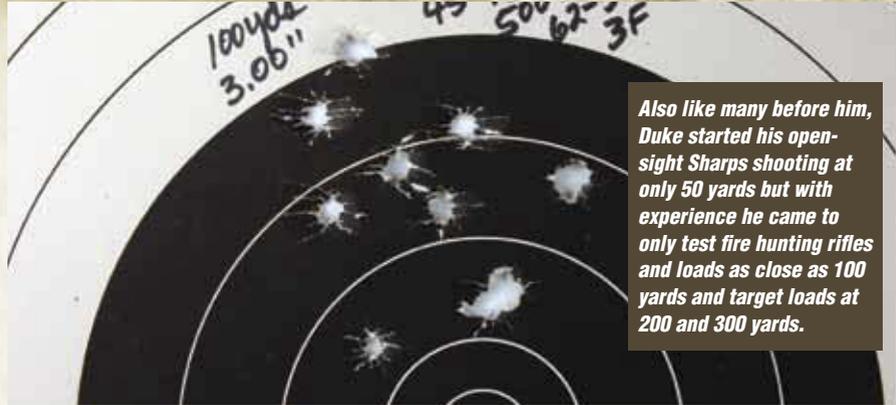
For BPCR Silhouette Sharps Duke relies on Montana Vintage Arms Soule rear peep sights.

miles up hill and dale here in Montana, I feel that my right arm has been permanently stretched longer than the left. That's because most Sharps rifles have no sling swivels and they're heavy. Also many people—just like me—at first get them with the crescent steel buttplate because that looks “traditional.” It does—for people who don't know better.

Configurations

However, in perusing old photographs one fact became apparent. Many old-timers hunters bought the Sharps military rifles because they were lighter and because they came equipped with sling swivels. Also, it's a little known fact that after the Sharps Rifle Company moved from Hartford to Bridgeport (both in Connecticut), standard sporting rifles were given wide shotgun-style buttstocks. Even though still capped in steel, that helped considerably with the recoil problem. So, my last Sharps hunting rifle combined the two. It was one of Shiloh's Model 1874 Military Rifles that I had fit with a shotgun-style buttstock.

Back in the original 1870s era of long-range target shooting, NRA rules called for target rifles to have single triggers and they could weigh no more than 10 pounds. I've fired them; they kick like mules! Nowadays NRA BPCR Silhouette rules allow rifles as heavy as 12 pounds, 2 ounces with iron sights and up to 15 pounds in scoped matches. NRA Long Range Target allows 15-pound rifles. Double set triggers are allowed in both disciplines.

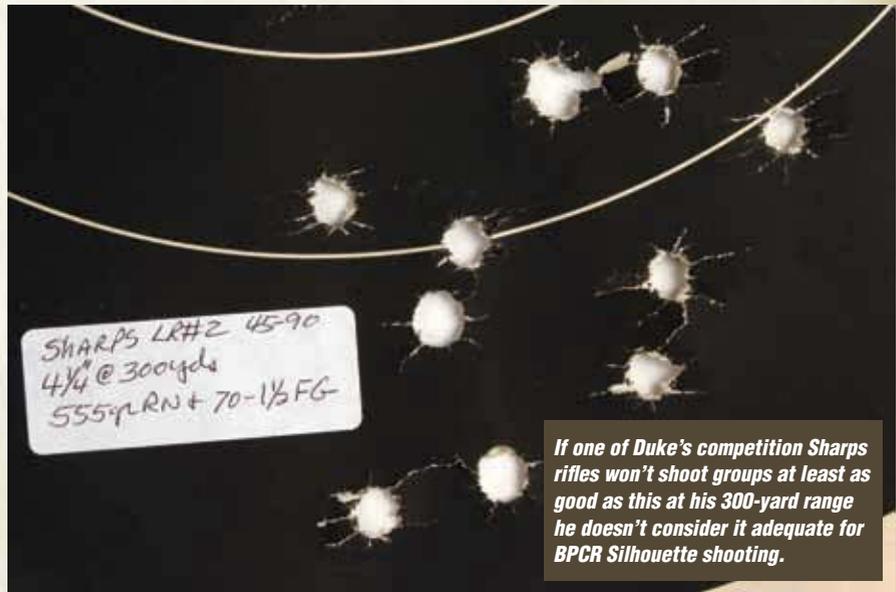


Also like many before him, Duke started his open-sight Sharps shooting at only 50 yards but with experience he came to only test fire hunting rifles and loads as close as 100 yards and target loads at 200 and 300 yards.

CAST BULLET LOADS FOR SHARPS MODEL 1874 .45-70 HANDLOADED AMMO PERFORMANCE

BULLET (BRAND, BULLET WEIGHT, TYPE)	POWDER (BRAND)	CHARGE (GRAINS WEIGHT)	VELOCITY (FPS)	BARREL LENGTH (INCHES)
Brooks Custom 500 RN	Swiss FFFg	62.0	1,205	30
RCBS 45-530RN 530 RN	Swiss 1-1/2 Fg	67.0	1,175	30
Brooks Custom 560 RN	Swiss 1-1/2 Fg	64.0	1,125	30
Brooks Custom 544 RN	Swiss FFFg	68.0	1,245	32

Notes: Velocities taken with PACT Professional Model Chronograph with start screen at approximately 6'. All bullets cast of 1:20 tin-to-lead alloy, sized .458", and lubed with SPG. Load 1 used Starline brass and Federal 215 Large Rifle Magnum Primers. All others used Winchester brass and CCI Large Rifle Benchrest primers. Load 1 is for hunting. Loads 2 and 3 are for NRA BPCR Silhouette competition. Load 4 is for NRA Long Range Black Powder Target competition.



If one of Duke's competition Sharps rifles won't shoot groups at least as good as this at his 300-yard range he doesn't consider it adequate for BPCR Silhouette shooting.

The following are my Sharps competition rifles. For BPCR Silhouette there are two. Both are Shiloh Rifle Manufacturing's Model 1874s—one a Montana Roughrider and the other a No. 1 Sporter. Both have pistol-grip buttstocks, but the latter also has a cheekrest while the former does not. Barrel lengths are 30" and both are full octagon, 1" in diameter at the muzzle. The No. 1 Sporter is dedicated to the iron-sight segment of BPCR Silhouette and has a Montana Vintage Arms mid-range Soule-style

rear sight (101) coupled with one of the firm's spirit level front ones (113) taking interchangeable inserts. Wearing these sights that rifle weighs right at 12 pounds. The Montana Roughrider is dedicated to the scoped segment of BPCR Silhouette and wears a Montana Vintage Arms 6X telescope and a leather cheekrest to lift my eye in better alignment with the scope. Set up thusly that rifle weighs about 14 pounds.

There is one more dedicated Sharps rifle in my rack of target

rifles. I also compete occasionally in the NRA Black Powder Target Rifle game. It consists of paper targets fired from 800, 900 and 1,000 yards. For it I wanted a slightly longer barrel, figuring the extra sight radius would be helpful at such ranges. However, a 32" full-octagon barrel won't make weight for BPCR Silhouette and I wanted the rifle to be capable of double duty. Therefore, I bought a C. Sharps Arms Model 1874 with 32" barrel of half-round/half-octagon configuration. It likewise has Montana Vintage Arms sights front and rear but this time they are a Long Range 100 at back and a 112 front. A 112 front sight is windage adjustable and gives a little more leeway in zeroing at such long ranges.

The Final Round

Up to this point I've avoided saying what caliber I choose for my Sharps rifles. In the first paragraph, I stated seven are still in my racks of 46 owned and later on wrote I've tried 13 of the original 15 Sharps rifle cartridges. So this next sentence ought to say something: Of my current seven Sharps Model 1874 rifles, five are chambered for .45-70. (The other two are a .45-90 and a .44-77.) After trying all those others I came full



Some of Duke's favorite cast bullets for .45-70 Sharps shooting (above) include a 500-grain roundnose from Brooks custom mould (near left), a 530-grain roundnose from RCBS mould 45-530RN (middle) and a 560-grain roundnose also from Brooks Custom (near right). The loaded round at right has the 560-grain bullet and the loaded round at far left is an original .45-70 load with 500-grain bullet. Duke also occasionally has made handloads for his .45-70s and .45-90s using paper-patch bullets (below). The device at right is an extruding tool for making lubricant wads to go under the paper-patch bullets.



circle to the good, old .45-70 as most useful. With hunting loads it will sail a bullet clean through a bison bull from most any angle. My BPCR Silhouette target loads are capable of at least 1-1/2 MOA, 10-shot groups at 300 yards. That's my personal criteria for target loads. (Others report even better precision than that, but I'm not capable of it.) Although I shoot Black Powder Target Rifle events much more rarely than silhouette, my load for that event placed me in master class after my very first match.

Space won't allow great detailing of those loads so I've included a small chart with their particulars. I (and several others) have written many books concerning techniques and specific components for reloading BPCR ammunition. I'd suggest "Googling" them.

Of late, at guns shows, SHOT Show 2011 and just walking down the street I've had this said to me: "Duke (or Mike) I see you have given up the old buffalo rifles in favor of World War II guns." To all I reply emphatically, "No. I have not. When the Sharps bug bites it is forever. I don't hunt much anymore, but every season's worth of BPCR matches brings me great joy. My Sharps shooting will never end." **GUNS**

SEE HOW THE
Ambush
FIREARMS

6.8
STACKS UP

The pigs didn't have a chance. The Ambush 6.8 bypassed the straw and stick houses and went right for the one made of brick. We doubt they'll rewrite nursery rhymes for us, but get inspired anyway at AmbushFirearms.com/HogHunt

Ambush Firearms | www.AmbushFirearms.com | 1-855-AMBUSH2

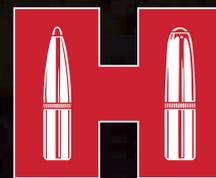


WIN THE MATCH. KEEP THE CHANGE.

Hornady® Steel Match™ ammunition is precision loaded with Hornady® Match™ rifle bullets or HAP® (Hornady® Action Pistol) handgun bullets, with optimized propellants that deliver the highest levels of accuracy each and every time. Polymer-coated steel cartridge cases and non-corrosive berdan primers provide affordability that allows match shooters to focus on scores, and not on the cost of what's left on the ground.



- All Steel Match™ 40 S&W, 45 Auto and 308 Win loads meet IPSC, USPSA, and IDPA "Major" power factor criteria, with moderate velocities that reduce recoil and muzzle jump for fast target recovery.
- Both Steel Match™ 9mm and 223 Rem meet "Minor" power factor requirements.



Hornady®

To see how Steel Match ammo can give you the competitive edge, go to hornady.com or scan the QR code. Search your phone's app store for a QR reader.

STEEL MATCH™

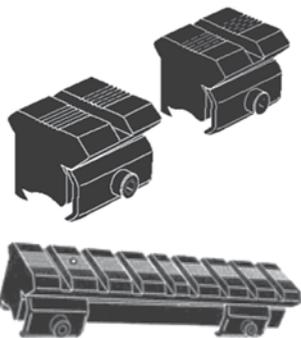
9 MM | 40 S&W | 45 AUTO | 223 REM | 30 CARBINE | 308 WIN

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

KNIVES

• PAT COVERT •

BIRD OF PREY! Sean O'Hare's Kestrel soars in quality and versatility.



Custom knifemaker Sean O'Hare's Kestrel is a lightweight hunter designed and built to perform a wide variety of chores on myriad game animals.

Because we all have different parameters there is no perfect size for a hunting knife, but Canadian knifemaker Sean O'Hare's Kestrel—named after a member of the falcon family—will go a long way towards pleasing a lot of outdoors aficionados.

O'Hare's Kestrel is 8" in overall length and weighs just 4 ounces, so don't expect to fell trees with it. This is, however, a lightweight hunter that will serve you well around camp and field. The knife's 3.75" flat-ground blade can perform a wide range of light to medium field chores including cutting rope, stripping bark and

food preparation. The drop-point blade style is the hunters' choice for processing game and it's versatile enough to serve bird and trout duty as well. The Kestrel's 4" handle features sleek styling and can be had in a variety of trappings, from durable G10 synthetic to upscale materials such as exotic woods and stag.

The feel of the Kestrel can best be described as agile, almost surgical in its ability to perform fine work. O'Hare offers his customers a variety of top-shelf stainless steels including S30V, RWL34 and CPM154—or those on a budget can opt for affordable 01 carbon steel. The knifemaker provides a heat-formed Concealex as his standard tote, with a handsome handmade leather sheath as an option.

Sean's pricing for the Kestrel is very much in line with custom knives of this quality—and affordable compared to some. The basic version in 01 carbon steel is priced at \$295, while the upscale version pictured here in Walnut Burl and premium CPM154 stainless steel runs \$350. Once you get your talons on the Kestrel you will be impressed with its quality and versatility. The trick may be keeping it out of your hunting buddies' hands!

KESTREL

MAKER: SEAN O'HARE

1831 RTE. 776

GRAND MANAN, NB, CANADA

E5G 2H9

(506) 662-8524

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/

OHARE-KNIVES

BLADE MATERIAL:

S30V, RLW34, CPM54 stainless,
or 01 carbon steel

BLADE LENGTH:

3.75"

OVERALL LENGTH:

8"

WEIGHT:

4 ounces

SCALES:

G10 standard, other options available

SHEATH:

Concealex standard, leather optional

PRICE:

\$295 (base model), \$350 as shown

GUNS

SIGSAUER
when it counts™



CARRY MORE WEIGHT.

INTRODUCING THE NEW 9MM P290 SUBCOMPACT. Get 9mm firepower in a palm-sized, easy-to-carry polymer package. Backed by the weight of the most reliable name in handguns.

Find out more at SIGSAUER.com/P290.

Clint on Vehicle Defense:



“Either Drive Or Draw ... not BOTH!”

Learn how to defend yourself from inside the car with help from Clint Smith's Thunder Ranch DVD course.



Three Course

BONUS

Includes:

- ✓ Concealed Carry Options
- ✓ Home Defense
- ✓ Vehicle Defense

Two-disc set only \$49.95 — Order Today:

(800) 628-9818 (M-F 8am-3pm PST)

www.americanhandgunner.com/TRvids

GUNS VNR

VIEWS • NEWS • REVIEWS

RIGHTS WATCH

DAVID CODREA

Outing “FOIDers”

“Release the names of gun cardholders,” a *Chicago Sun-Times* editorial demands. “In recent days, a new debate has been sparked by an Associated Press’ Freedom of Information request for the names of gun permit holders,” we are informed.

For those unfamiliar with Illinois’ “gun control” laws, obtaining a Firearms Owner Identification Card (FOID) from the Illinois State Police is a requirement for residents to legally possess firearms or ammunition.

Note the word “legally.” The AP demands to make public the names of everyone who has shown a willingness to jump through hoops and comply with the law. That will do nothing to identify criminals—the ones creating all the problems—who just ignore it. So naturally, the anti-gun lobby, the “mainstream” media and opportunistic government officials are all for it, including Attorney General Lisa Madigan, who issued a ruling saying the list must be disclosed.

“To their credit,” Kurt Hofmann writes in his *St. Louis Gun Rights Examiner* column, “the state police have resisted the AP’s demand for this information, and are apparently poised to resist Madigan’s ruling, as well.”

“There is no legitimate reason for anyone to have access to the information,” Illinois State Rifle Association Director Richard Pearson declared. “The safety of real people is at stake here. Once this information is released, it will be distributed to street gangs and gun-control groups who will

use the data to target gun owners for crime and harassment.”

“We can’t see how releasing just the names of the state’s 1.3 million FOID holders poses much of a privacy risk, except perhaps for folks with truly unusual names,” the *Sun-Times* counters. “In a state as big as Illinois, a lot of people share the same name.”

This is echoed by assistant public access counselor Matthew Rogina, who claims “ISP has offered no details to support its argument that disclosure of this information to the AP would result in a safety threat to any individual.”

Thing is, it took me under 30 seconds, literally, to use commonly available Internet resources and find four matches for Rogina’s exact name. I found not only birthdates, street addresses and telephone numbers for them, but could spend a few seconds more and get aerial shots and even street views. Were he a FOID card holder, I’d know where I could find a gun when the house is unoccupied. Had he since moved, the new residents at those addresses would be at risk. And if it’s simply someone with the same “unusual” name, perhaps a relative, they’d be subject to similar prying scrutiny.

Does anyone really think rabid anti-gunners wouldn’t exploit this mapping technology, claiming a First Amendment right to correlate and post-public records?

What will happen now?

State Sen. David Reis is co-sponsoring a bill to “protect the privacy rights of FOID Card holders by prohibiting state or local law enforcement agencies from disclosing lists of information pertaining to FOID Card holders or applicants,” *The Carmi Times* reports. Unfortunately, at this writing, that bill is stalled following a 5-5 vote in the House Judiciary Committee.

Due to the importance of this column, GUNS will begin posting “Rights Watch” at www.gunsmagazine.com on the 1st of the month—long before it appears here.—Editor

Visit David Codrea’s online journal “The War on Guns” at waronguns.blogspot.com or visit DavidCodrea.com to read his *Examiner* column.



ONESHOTONEKILL

They say having a rabbit's foot brings good luck. Explain that to the unlucky bunny that has four of them on the wrong end of a Savage rimfire.



MARK II FV-SR
"Suppressor-Ready" threaded barrel



Savage Arms

SAVAGEARMS.COM SAVAGEACCURACY.COM

PROTECT YOUR NUTS

With America's Top Pre-Charged Airgun.

- Most Powerful!
- Most Flexible!
- Most Accurate!
- Most Fun!

Call us today at 877-247-4867 and start protecting your nuts right away.

Our powerful Condor model works for pest control, hunting or just plinking. Also available in colors. Please see our website for details.

Visit us at www.airforceairguns.com

for more information or to find a dealer near you.



AIRFORCE

airguns



NEWS NEWS & REVIEWS

NEWS

GUNS Website



We have redesigned www.gunsmagazine.com to make it faster and easier than ever to use. When you visit your favorite features and columns, you can now leave feedback in the comments section. Take the survey, and enter the Gun of the Month drawing, download an issue from 50 years ago as a PDF file and look through the current and archived digital editions. Click on the website links in the digital edition and go directly to the advertiser's website or use the product index feature to find gun, holster, ammo or any product advertised in all our of our magazines.

Haqqani Insurgent Leader Killed

Afghan and coalition forces killed four armed insurgents, including a Haqqani terrorist network leader, in Afghanistan's Khost province last March 3, military officials reported.



A Special Forces Soldier assigned to Special Operations Task Force - South sets up his security position during a patrol last Feb. 25, 2011, in Panjwai district, Kandahar province, Afghanistan. The SOTF - South Special Forces team in the area conducts regular patrols in order to bolster security as well as to meet with area villagers to assess development projects. Photo: Sgt. Ben Watson

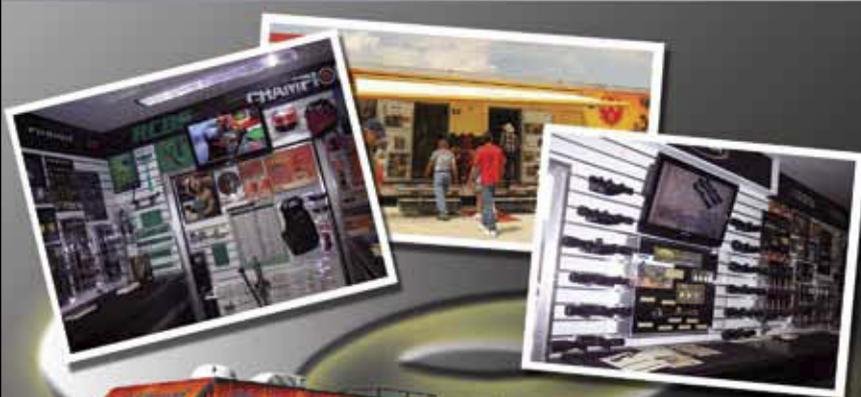
The terrorist leader was linked to several recent bombing attacks on local security forces. He was shot and killed in Khost's Nadir Shah Kot district after he brandished an assault rifle at the troops.

Forces engaged and killed three other insurgents in self-defense, too, after the insurgents acted in a threatening manner toward the troops. Forces also detained 10 suspected insurgents in the operation.

In other news from Afghanistan,

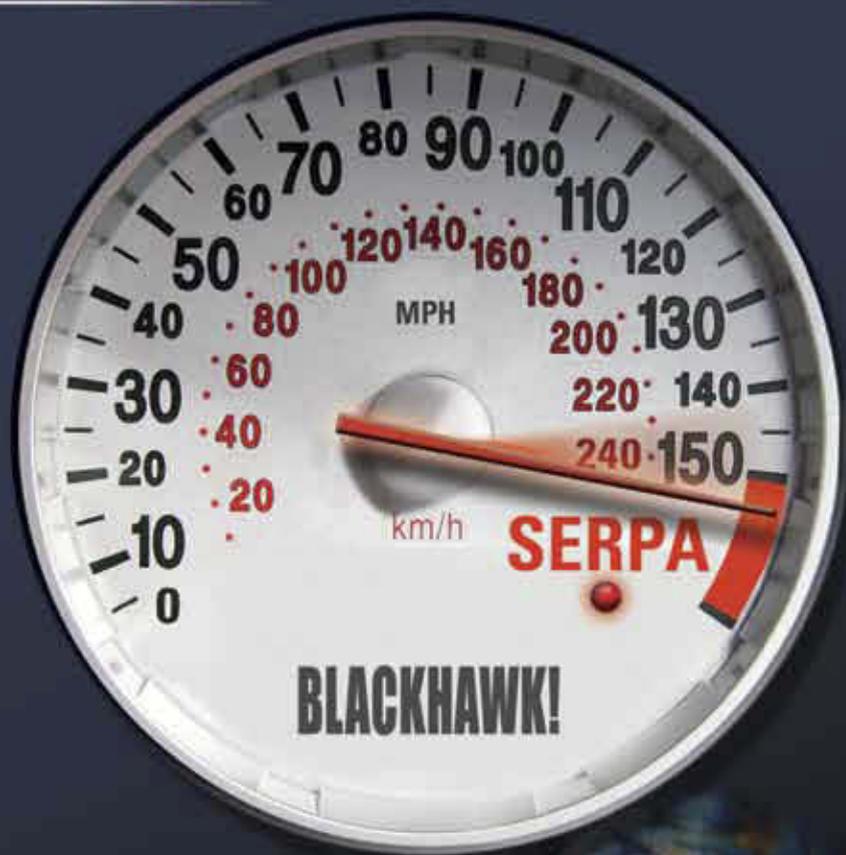
ELITE SPORTS EXPRESS

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 2011 show dates online at www.elitesportsexpress.com
To book the ESE or get your products on board, call Don at 702-528-6771

BLACKHAWK! HONOR. As a Way of Life.®



WHERE **SPEED** MEETS **NEED**

The BLACKHAWK! LEVEL 3 holster with SERPA® technology. The fastest most intuitive retention holster system that you will ever use. To experience the SERPA first hand see your local retailer or visit us online at BLACKHAWK.com

BLACKHAWK!®

800.694.5263 | BLACKHAWK.com

Afghan and coalition forces killed numerous armed insurgents in a gun battle in Kunar province's Dangam district. Troops were conducting a routine foot patrol when insurgents opened fire. Troops returned fire and fought off the attack for several hours before requesting close-air support. Aviation assets arrived on the scene, killing the enemy fighters.

Elsewhere, forces found several weapons and drug stockpiles in operations throughout Afghanistan. They seized 4,500 assault rifle rounds, 200 automatic machine guns, 12 various rockets and mortars, 11 pounds of metal shrapnel, nine assault rifles, three unexploded ordnance, three hand grenades and one automatic machine gun.— *International Security Assistance Force Joint Command*

USS Bulkeley 1, Pirates 0

A request for assistance from a Japanese-owned merchant vessel in the Somali Basin led to Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) warship USS Bulkeley (DDG 84) securing the release of the vessel and its 24 crew members from four suspected pirates, last March 6.



A rigid-hull inflatable boat from the guided-missile destroyer USS Bulkeley (DDG 84) approaches the Japanese-owned commercial oil tanker M/V Guanabara. The Turkish navy frigate TCG Giresun (F 491), assigned to NATO counter-piracy Task Force 508, is in the background. Bulkeley responded to the reported pirating of Guanabara and detained four suspected pirates. USN photo: Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Anna Wade

At approximately 3 p.m. (Bahrain), on March 5, oil tanker MV Guanabara reported it was under attack 328 nautical miles south east of Duqm, Oman.

Bulkeley, assigned to CMF's counter-piracy mission Combined Task Force (CTF) 151 was directed to intercept Guanabara, supported by the Turkish warship TCG Giresun of NATO's counter-piracy Task Force 508.

Following confirmation from Guanabara's master that the suspected pirates were aboard and his crew had

taken refuge in the ship's "citadel," Bulkeley's specialist boarding team, supported overhead by its embarked SH-60 helicopter, secured the Bahamian-flagged vessel and detained four men.

There was no exchange of fire at any time during the operation to release the MV Guanabara.

CMF is a multi-national naval partnership, which exists to promote security, stability and prosperity across 2.5 million square miles of international waters in the Middle East, which encompass some of the world's most important shipping lanes. — *Combined Maritime Forces Public Affairs*

Hoppe's Donates Cleaning Kits to US Marines

Hoppe's, The Gun Care People, has partnered with America 4R Marines to supply more than 5,000 BoreSnake gun cleaning kits to Marines currently serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. Founded in 2006, America 4R Marines is a nonprofit organization that supplies much needed items for battalions or units in the most remote and hostile areas of operation.

"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!



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

CONCEALED CARRY OPTIONS



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

858-407

Cheaper Than Dirt!

America's Ultimate Shooting Sports Discounter

FREE CATALOG!

When You Call or Go Online!



Federal 9mm
JHP, 115 Grain,
50 Rounds
AMM-4061 ... \$16.79



TulAmmo 9mm
FMJ, 115 Grain,
50 Rounds
AMM-4700 ... \$8.29



BVAC .45 ACP
JHP, 230 Grain,
50 Rounds
AMM-5002 ... \$19.79



FN Herstal 5.7x28
Hornady VMax,
40 Grain, 50 Rounds
AMM-254 ... \$19.65



BVAC 5.56 NATO .223
PSP, 62 Grain,
20 Rounds
AMM-277 ... \$9.69



DRT .223
JHP, 79 Grain,
20 Rounds
AMM-268 ... \$22.29



Arm Scor .22LR
HP, 36 Grain,
500 Rounds
AMM-0551 ... \$22.19



American Eagle .38 SPC
FMJ, 130 Grain,
50 Rounds
AMM-364 ... \$17.79



American Eagle .40 S&W
FMJ, 155 Grain,
50 Rounds
AMM-534 ... \$17.59



Aguila .380 ACP
FMJ, 95 Grain,
50 Rounds
AMM-3180 ... \$21.19



BVAC .38 SPC
RN, 158 Grain,
50 Rounds
AMM-3323 ... \$14.66



American Eagle .40 S&W
FMJ, 165 Grain,
50 Rounds
AMM-539 ... \$18.79



TulAmmo 5.45x39
HP, 60 Grain,
20 Rounds
AMM-1001 ... \$3.99



BVAC .30 Carbine
FMJ, 110 Grain,
50 Rounds
AMM-601 ... \$22.19



Remington Golden Saber .380 ACP
JHP, 102 Grain,
25 Rounds
AMM-326 ... \$14.79



BVAC 9mm
FMJ, 115 Grain,
50 Rounds
AMM-4210 ... \$10.89



BVAC .45 ACP
FMJ, 230 Grain,
50 Rounds
AMM-5001 ... \$19.19



TulAmmo .223
JHP, 55 Grain,
20 Rounds
AMM-2901 ... \$3.89



Ulyanovsk 7.62x39
FMJ, 122 Grain,
20 Rounds
AMM-6407 ... \$3.59



American Eagle .380 ACP
FMJ, 95 Grain,
50 Rounds
AMM-3173 ... \$16.79



American Eagle 9mm
FMJ, 124 Grain,
50 Rounds
AMM-436 ... \$12.19



BVAC .45 ACP
FMJ, 230 Grain, Once
Fired, 50 Rounds
AMM-504 ... \$17.93



TulAmmo .223
FMJ, 55 Grain,
20 Rounds
AMM-2900 ... \$3.79



Ulyanovsk 7.62x54R
FMJ, 148 Grain,
20 Rounds
AMM-6601 ... \$7.69

Magazines

AK-47 7.62x39
40 Rounds, Polymer
MAG-0203 ... \$17.97

AR-15 .223
Bushmaster
30 Rounds,
New, Aluminum
MAG-066 ... \$19.97

Beretta 96 .40S&W
13 Rounds, MecGar
MAG-128 ... \$19.97

Eagle 10/22 .22LR
30 Rounds, Smoke
MAG-416 ... \$8.97

H&K 91/G3 .308
20 Rounds, Factory,
Used Grade II Condition
MAG-303 ... \$1.97

LR .308
19 Rounds,
Black Oxide
MAG-523 ... \$21.97

Mini-14 .223
20 Rounds, Factory,
Blued Steel
MAG-390 ... \$34.97

M1 .30 Carbine
15 Rounds, New,
Korean Manufacture
MAG-343 ... \$5.97

M14/M1A .308
20 Rounds, New,
Parkerized
MAG-3572 ... \$9.97

S&W 5900 9mm
15 Rounds, MecGar,
Blued Steel
MAG-641 ... \$16.97

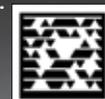
TAPCO SKS 7.62x39
20 Rounds, Black Polymer
MAG-634 ... \$16.97

Taurus PT92/99 9mm
15 Rounds, MecGar
Blue with Bumper pad
MAG-700 ... \$17.97



The Largest Selection of Firearms in the World with \$100 Million in Stock of most Manufacturers and Models!

Quick Link!



Get the free smartphone app at:
<http://gettag.mobi>



**We Sell
Guns
Online!**

Simply Click to Buy at
Cheaper Than Dirt Prices!

www.CheaperThanDirt.com

858-407

Visit our website for the largest selection of firearms, ammunition, magazines, and shooting gear.

800-421-8047

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

IEWS NEWS & REVIEWS

The mission of America 4R Marines is to not only support the troops with basic human needs and comfort items, but to also provide tactical products that can help military personnel better maintain their equipment and remain safe in combat zones.

The Hoppe's Elite BoreSnake Kit allows soldiers to quickly clean the bore of their weapon and get it back in to service. The BoreSnake's 1-pass design loosens large particles, scrubs out the remaining residue with a bronze brush and then swabs it spotless with a cleaning area 160 times larger than a standard patch. The patented product is also small and lightweight for easy transportation in the field.



Hoppe's has donated more than 5,000 BoreSnakes to the nonprofit organization America 4R Marines for distribution to our deployed Marines.

"We're honored to partner with America 4R Marines and provide much needed supplies to the troops serving our country," said Phil Gyori, vice president of marketing for Bushnell Outdoor Products, the parent company of Hoppe's. "It's a privilege to have an opportunity to support the units and battalions who protect our freedom each and every day," added Gyori.

For more information about Hoppe's and its complete line of cleaning products and accessories, visit www.hoppes.com or call (800) 423-3537.—*Courtesy of Howard Communications*

RMEF Supports Fort Hood Victim

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) opened its convention Thursday in Reno by presenting Staff Sgt. Patrick Zeigler with the elk hunt of his dreams. Zeigler, a survivor of the 2009 shooting at Fort Hood, later told an Army chaplain of his dream to go elk hunting. Word of the 29-year-old soldier's dream eventually reached members of RMEF, and one member, Paul O'Connell, who has an annual spot reserved to hunt elk on the White Mountain Apache Reservation in Northern Arizona, decided to give this year's spot to Zeigler.—*Courtesy NSSF*



VEHICLE HANDGUN MOUNT

Quick and accessible, our universal steering wheel column mount is ideal for carrying a handgun in your vehicle for convenience or self-defense. No more unsecured or unaccessible firearm in your vehicle. Now you can always be ready and comfortable while driving.



- No Tools Required
- No Modification To Vehicle
- Attach Any Holster w/ Belt Loop Or Clip
- Quick Install/Release
- Doesn't Interfere w/ Driving
- Works w/ Small To Large Handguns
- One Size Fits All
- Limited Lifetime Warranty

Gum Creek Customs
888-381-7872
www.gumcreek.com

Need Reloading Supplies?

RELOADING.COM

GUNS MAGAZINE
ONLINE!
www.gunsmagazine.com

PROBLEM



ACR™ ORC



ACR™ ENHANCED CONFIGURATION



ACR™ BASIC FOLDER

SOLUTIONS

Chosen by law enforcement special response teams the world over. The Bushmaster® Adaptive Combat Rifle™. Go to bushmaster.com to see how the ACR™ can be adapted for you.

RESPECT IS EARNED

QUARTER MASTER

JOHN CONNOR

HOME & SELF-DEFENSE

It's not *all* about the hardware, but....

John Connor

Back in my cop days I met a guy who kept a small, quick-open handgun safe within arm's reach of his bed. On top of it was a bright orange screamin'-shrill lifeboat whistle. The instant a suspicious "bump in the night" woke him, he would first grab that whistle—and then the gun. His family knew that one blast meant get into your "safe position" and stay there. Two meant evacuate the house according to our plan. And they all knew he was deadly serious.

He had awakened one night to the sound of his back door being smashed in. By the time he found his gun and flashlight and stepped into the hall, his teenage daughter and younger son were standing befuddled *between* him and an armed intruder. They survived the nightmare, and learned some hard lessons from it.

His plan might not have been the best, but the point is that home defense begins with a plan, not a gun. Step one of that plan should be "hardening the target"; increasing home security designed to keep intruders out. Then, your hardware must be both secure—and quickly accessible.

Fast-access, secure setups include Mossberg's Loc-Box for shotguns, and clamshell-style Life Jackets by MSE Worldwide were designed for transport, but can be bolted to virtually any surface. A recent development which bridges the gap in both weight and price between huge gun vaults and flimsy cabinets are the locking RAD2 and RAD4 systems by Caron Forensics. Constructed of heavy sheet steel, they open quickly on silent gas-charged springs and stay open whether mounted horizontally or vertically. Both sizes—for handguns-plus and long guns-plus—come with an assortment of weapon and gear holders which snap into

the rails and can be added to for customization. A nice touch: the RAD's locks are designed to tighten up in response to prying!



The RAD (Rapid Access Defense) Systems by Caron Forensics are fast, quiet, secure and wall-mountable.

For many reasons a solid 12- or 20-gauge shotgun is the premier home-defense gun. Powerful, simple in use, operable with gross motor skills and psychologically daunting, Remington 870 and Mossberg 500-series models are top choices. But don't rule out the classic double barrel, especially when it's been updated specifically for personal protection like Stoeger's Double Defense. Equipped with 1913 rails top and bottom for accessories and a fiber optic front sight, it is security simplified. Available in 12 and 20 gauge, it's also very reasonably priced.

Like the double-barrel scattergun, revolvers are often overlooked among all the high-capacity pistols. But they shouldn't be, for the same reasons of simplicity and ease of use, plus no worries about springs taking a "set" or operating external safeties. They are the original "point-and-click interface" between you and danger. Large-frame, quality revolvers like the Ruger GP-100 fit big hands, and Smith & Wesson's J-Frame Model 60 or M&P360 with 3" barrels and high-visibility sights, are suited for small hands and multiple roles.

The .357 Magnum Rhino by Chiappa Firearms, is a revolutionary design which fires from the bottom chamber, mitigating recoil and muzzle flip, and has a flat-sided hexagonal cylinder for a thinner concealed-carry profile. Now offered in 2", 4", 5" and 6" barrel models, the latter three



The heart of a good home-defense system: Stoeger's Double Defense shotgun, purpose-built for personal protection.



1-800-351-8900

JANTZ SUPPLY

BLADE SHOW SPECIAL PRICES GOOD THROUGH JULY 31ST.

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.....11.95
- SS167K Renaissance Kit.....13.95

Cobra

- 7 3/8" overall, blade 3 3/4", 1/8" thick.
- SS166 Blade Only.....12.95
- SS166K Cobra Kit.....14.95

Sportsman

- 7 3/8" overall, blade 3 1/2", 1/8" thick.
- SS164 Blade Only.....12.95
- SS164K Sportsman Kit.....14.95

Ringtail

- 7" overall, blade 2 5/8", 3/32" thick.
- SS873 Blade Only.....12.95
- SS873K Ringtail Kit.....14.95

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.....34.95
- 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

JEWELED 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 Sibl California Buckeye.....14.95
- VG570 Sibl Desert Ironwood.....11.95

VG10 LITTLE BIGHORN

- VG-10 33 layer Damascus, super sharp high cobalt steel blade. Length 5 1/8", 3" closed, cutting edge is 2".
- SS723 VG10 Little Bighorn.....39.95

JANTZ USA BLADES

Introducing our exclusive line of the finest blades available anywhere. Made with pride in Jantz's Davis OK manufacturing facility, using Crucible steels. Each blade is double tempered and cryogenically treated for maximum wear resistance and edge holding capability. Brass bolsters available.

Pattern 21

- 7 7/8" overall, 3 1/8" blade, 5/32" thickness
- J210 440C Steel.....24.95
- J212 D2 Steel.....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
- J220 440C Steel.....24.95
- J222 D2 Steel.....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
- J230 440C Steel.....24.95
- J232 D2 Steel.....29.95
- K214 Stainless Bolster.....6.95
- KT111 Leather Sheath.....14.50

Pattern 25

- 9" overall, 4 3/16" blade, 5/32" thickness
- J250 440C Steel.....24.95
- J252 D2 Steel.....29.95
- K214 Stainless Bolster.....6.95
- KT111 Leather Sheath.....14.50

Pattern 31

- 7 5/8" overall, 3" blade, 5/32" thickness
- J312 D2 Steel.....24.95
- J314 154CM.....29.95
- K314 Stainless Bolster.....6.95
- KT104 Leather Sheath.....14.50

Pattern 36

- 7 5/8" overall, 3" blade, 1/8" thickness
- J362 D2 Steel.....24.95
- J363 CPMS 30V.....32.95
- K364 Stainless Bolster.....6.95
- KT103 Leather Sheath.....14.50

Pattern 37

- 6 5/8" overall, 2 5/8" blade, 1/8" thickness
- J372 D2 Steel.....22.95
- J373 CPMS 30V.....29.95
- K374 Stainless Bolster.....6.95
- KT116 Leather Sheath.....14.50

Pattern 38

- 7" overall, 2 1/2" blade, 5/32" thickness
- J382 D2 Steel.....22.95
- J383 CPMS 30V.....32.95
- K384 Stainless Bolster.....6.95
- KT104 Leather Sheath.....14.50

Pattern 39

- 6 1/2" overall, 2 1/2" blade, 1/8" thickness
- J390 440C Steel.....19.95
- J392 D2 Steel.....24.95
- KT103 Leather Sheath.....14.50

Pattern 40

- 7 3/16" overall, 3 1/4" blade, 1/8" thickness
- J400 440C Steel.....19.95
- J402 D2 Steel.....24.95
- 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.....7.95
- SS201K Letter Opener Kit.....9.95

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.....14.95

Cook's Blade

- 10-1/2" overall, 6" blade, .078 thickness
- SS106 Cook's Blade.....11.95

Steak Blade

- 7-1/2" overall, 3-1/2" blade, .058 thickness
- SS108 Steak Blade.....7.95

Santoku Blade

- 10-3/4" overall, 6" blade, .070 thickness
- SS110 Santoku Blade.....14.95

knifemaking.com

Download our on-line catalog free.

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

JC45 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



PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

are available with 1913 rails under their barrels. It's new, but so far the reviews I've seen say it's well-made, comfortable to carry, reliable and accurate.



Kimber's micro-compact 9mm Solo Carry isn't much bigger than all those pocket .380s, and delivers plenty of power.

Nearly a dozen companies have tossed .380 ACP subcompact models into that burgeoning pocket-pistol ring, with very few mechanical differences between many of them. Fortunately, due to their simplicity of design, as long as you shoot them with a firm grip, virtually all have proven reliable. Lucky for us too, their popularity has resulted in development of new, more potent defensive ammunition for a caliber long considered anemic.

Beyond "logo loyalty" to major players like Ruger and Kel-Tec, now you can shop to suit your individual needs. For example, thick-fingered folks and glove-wearers might find the forward-angled triggerguard of the Taurus TCP738 attractive, and the all-American made 9.4 ounce Hellcat .380 by I.O. Inc. lists for just \$249, and is frequently sold for \$200! Think "His & Hers" in different frame colors....

Kimber's Solo, which debuted a few months ago, leads a whole new genre of 9mm micro-compact pistols. Featuring 1911 ergonomics, ambidextrous thumb safeties and magazine-release buttons, a checkered slide release and surprisingly effective 3-dot sights. The fit and finish of this 17-ounce pocket rocket is superb. Galco has already fitted five holsters for the Solo, ranging from a pocket protector to their popular Tuck-N-Go.

Your choices in 5.56mm/.223 defensive carbines are plentiful, but if you're looking for out-of-the-box readiness with decent sights and a magazine or two, check out this pair: Smith & Wesson's M&P15 MOE is the least expensive of the M&P15 models,

but gives you a light, rugged, reliable AR with a collapsible buttstock, forged front sight and MagPul folding rear sight.



The SIG556 Classic Patrol makes an ideal home defense and "truck carbine" right out of the box.

SIG SAUER's SIG556 Classic Patrol, shown here, is the shortest, lightest and least expensive of the SIG556 lineup. Derived from the famed Swiss Army-issue SG 510, its piston-driven action is rock solid and cool-running. The Swiss-style stock both telescopes and folds to the side, making it extremely compact and maneuverable. The only function you can't carry out with the stock folded is operating the magazine release—not a big problem with 30 rounds on board.



Streamlight's rail-mounted TLR-3 (above) and SureFire's Z2-S LED (below) lights can handle your defensive illumination needs.



At home or "out and about" in the dark, illumination is absolutely critical. First, because you *must* positively identify your potential target, and *know*, not guess, that it's not an insomniac family member or a friend or neighbor with a stupid sense of humor. Also, light—especially blinding bright or strobe—is a force multiplier of incalculable value.

A weapon-mounted light on a long gun has obvious advantages, and Streamlight's new TLR-3 was designed specifically for affordable

home defense use. Pumping out 90 lumens from its compact polymer case, it offers momentary or steady-on light from an ambidextrous paddle switch.

The Z2-S CombatLight is SureFire's first tactical light with an on-demand disorienting strobe function. Designed with the familiar "syringe" grip shape for use with a handgun and multi-function tailcap switch; it's built with SureFire's well known ruggedness and reliability.



Green lasers are up to 25 times more visible than conventional red lasers, and two of the best are the Genesis from LaserMax (above), and the Viridian Green Laser's X5L light and laser combo (below).



Laser sights have proven their worth in fast, high-stress shooting situations, and green lasers simply sharpen that edge. The Genesis by LaserMax is the first compact, rechargeable green pulsating laser, and it mounts to almost any railed firearm. Dual tap-on activation switches are ambidextrous, and an auto-off switch powers it down after 10 minutes of use to conserve the charge. For use on long guns, LaserMax also offers a corded remote momentary-on pressure switch.

The X5L from Viridian Green Laser is amazingly compact, yet it houses both a powerful green laser and a 154-lumen tactical light in its tough aluminum case. In selectable strobe mode, the light ramps up to 187 lumens. Activation is ambidextrous, and both strobe and laser pulse rate can be custom-programmed by the user.

12 ISSUES + ONE CD

**GUNS MAGAZINE YEAR SUBSCRIPTION
AND FREE DIGITAL EDITION**

ONLY \$24.95

FREE AMERICAN SPIRIT ARMS AR-15 .223
ENTER TO WIN

GUNS
MAGAZINE

GUNS

MAGAZINE

\$4.95
OUTSIDE U.S.
\$7.95
SEPTEMBER
2010

SOLID DEFENSE!
NIGHTHAWK-CUSTOM
1911 45 ACP
& 870 12-GAUGE

**CLASSIC
REBORN**
S&W MODEL 58
41 MAGNUM
ELK RIFLES
WHAT YOU NEED

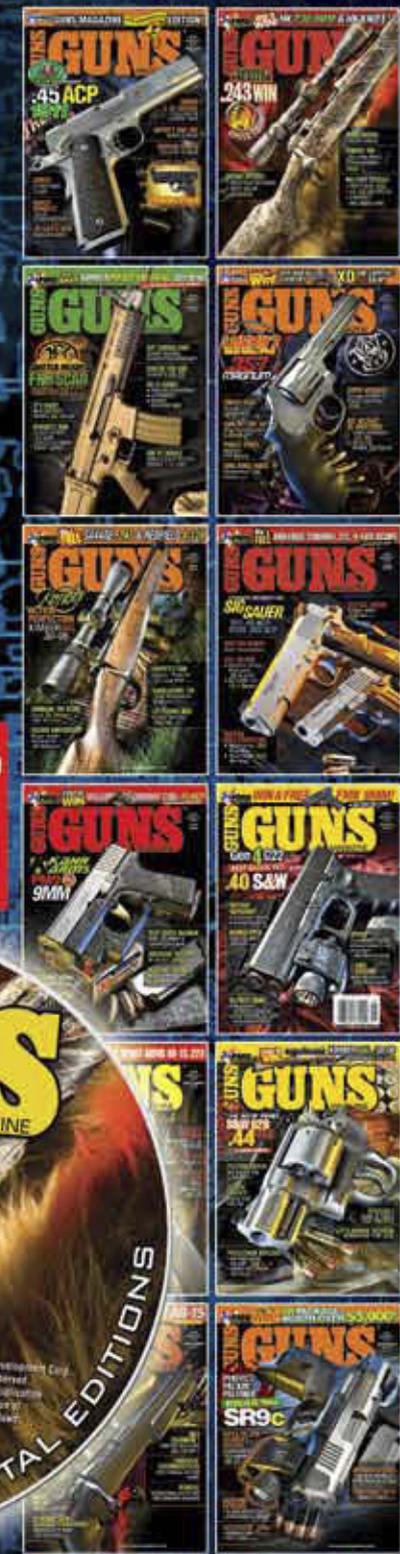
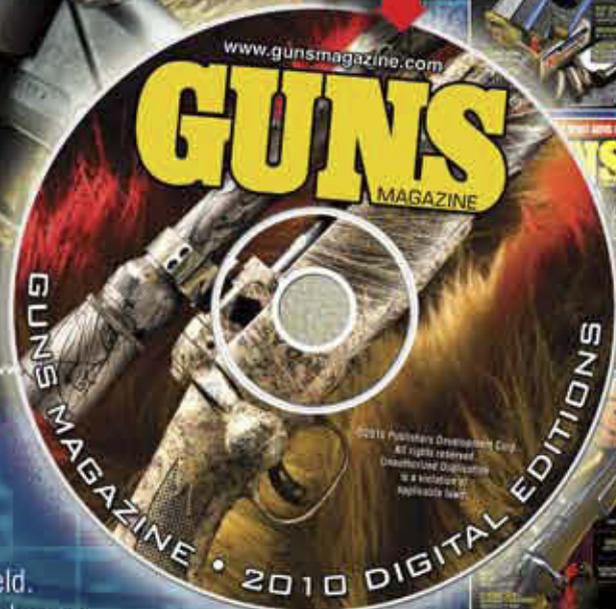
**RIMFIRE
FUN**
S&W
M&P15-22
.22 LR

**LEVERGUN
PERFECTION**
MARLIN 1895 SBL
45-70

MIGHTY MICE
RUGER'S .327 FEDERAL
7-SHOT GP-100 &
8-SHOT BLACKHAWK

ALL USA-MADE AK
C.I.A.'s CENTURION AK-47
7.62x39

Plus
FREE 2010
Digital
Edition
CD with
your paid
order



Every issue of GUNS Magazine can help you identify the next worthy candidate to take to the range or into the field.

A team of writers that includes Dave Anderson, Clint Smith, John Taffin and Mike Venturino can help make the decision easier. Their insightful reviews and countless hours of research have refined the selection process. They've spent a lifetime moving from grip to trigger, one gun at a time.

Now it's your turn.

Use GUNS Magazine Today to Stay Informed for Tomorrow.

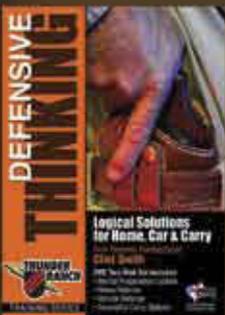
Subscribe for **ONLY \$24.95**
Call toll-free (888) 732-2299
M-F 8am-3pm PST (\$44.95 outside U.S.)
www.gunsmagazine.com
P.O. Box 509094, San Diego, CA 92150

Clint on Concealed Carry:



“It’s a BIG gun when I put it on and it’s a BIG gun when I pull it out.”

Learn how to choose a gun, carry concealed and draw carefully. Get Clint Smith’s Thunder Ranch DVD course.



Three Course

BONUS

Includes:

- ✓ Concealed Carry Options
- ✓ Home Defense
- ✓ Vehicle Defense

Two-disc set only \$49.95 — Order Today:
(800) 628-9818 (M-F 8am-3pm PST)
www.americanhandgunner.com/TRvids

QUARTERMASTER

Aerosol sprays can leak and often lose potency quickly. That doesn't apply to the PepperBlaster II, distributed by Kimber Firearms. It has the familiar grip and pointing characteristics of a small handgun, and packs two sealed charges of clinging, viscous pepper solution in its chambers. Firing is pyrotechnic, sending blobs of pepper-goop out, clocking 90 mph at 13', making it extremely easy to use and effective on the most vicious and agile goblins.



The Swiss-made PepperBlaster II (above) gives you two shots of nasty pepper-goop, and U.S. Palm's Defender vest (below) organizes your gear—and defeats up to 240-grain .44 Magnum SJHP rounds.



Smart cops don't face armed thugs without body armor, and neither should you. U.S. Palm, manufacturer of military and law enforcement gear, has developed the Defender just for you, the "home guardian." It holds a pistol, spare mag, your cell phone, pepper spray and other gear in a comfortable vest design you can don in a couple of seconds. The DF1 has a Threat Level IIIA soft armor insert in the front panel, and the DF2 has 'em front and back. It's life insurance with handy pouches....

Hey! Don't forget that lifeboat whistle! Connor OUT

GUNS

CARON FORENSICS
 P.O. BOX 715
 MARIETTA, OH 45750
 (800) 648-3042
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/CARONFORENSICS

CHIAPPA FIREARMS
 6785 W. 3RD ST.
 DAYTON, OH 45417
 (937) 835-5000
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/CHIAPPA-FIREARMS

I.O. INC.
 P.O. BOX 847
 MONROE, NC 28111
 (866) 882-1479
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/IO-INC

LASERMAX
 3495 WINTON PL., BLDG. B
 ROCHESTER, NY 14623
 (800) 527-3703
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/LASERMAX

LASER AIMING SYSTEMS
 5929 BAKER RD., SUITE 440
 MINNETONKA, MN 55345
 (800) 990-9390
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/VIRIDIAN

KIMBER MANUFACTURING, INC.
 555 TAXTER RD., SUITE 235
 ELMSFORD, NY 10523
 (914) 964-0771
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/KIMBER

SIG SAUER
 18 INDUSTRIAL DR.
 EXETER, NH 03833
 (603) 772-2302
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/SIG-SAUER

SMITH & WESSON
 2100 ROOSEVELT AVE.
 SPRINGFIELD, MA 01104
 (800) 331-0852
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/SMITH-WESSON

STREAMLIGHT
 30 EAGLEVILLE RD.
 EAGLEVILLE, PA 19403
 (800) 523-7488
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/STREAMLIGHT

STOEGER INDUSTRIES
 901 EIGHTH ST.
 POCOMOKE, MD 21851
 (800) 264-4962
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/STOEGER

SUREFIRE
 18300 MOUNT BALDY CIR.
 FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CA 92708
 (800) 828-8809
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/SUREFIRE

U.S. PALM
 16641 N. 91ST ST.
 SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85260
 (480) 398-3395
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/USPALM

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 side
PS31 Speed Loader
PS6 Series Systems include... Belt, Mag Pouch, Holster
PSBSA Holster
PS6DA Holster
PS6 System 1

Mernickle Custom Holsters
1875 View Court, Fernley, Nevada USA 89408 Phone: 775-572-3166
Fax: 775-575-3188 Email: sales@mernickleholsters.com
Internet: www.mernickleholsters.com Phone: 1800-497-3166

Getting a stomach-full of Conetrol mount imitators? How about the real thing!
Call: 800-CONETROL for Free Brochure
www.conetrol.com

FREE CATALOG! Make your own kydex gun holster or knife sheath. Over 1200 items. Visit www.knifekits.com or call 1-877-255-6433 today.

AMMUNITION

Quinetics Corporation! Reloading supplies for the reloader. *Made in USA.* www.quineticscorp.com

APPAREL

THE BELTMAN makes sturdy, top quality, **DUAL LAYER** bull hide belts (not cow), for dress wear, concealed carry or competition from

\$69.95. **HANDMADE** 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

AUCTIONS/SHOWS

BOOKS

New book, *The Reality of Armed Self Defense, Surviving the Attack and the Aftermath.* Easy Reading, 115 pages, \$20 Postpaid. Bob Irwin, POBox 97413, Las Vegas, NV 89193

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

COLLECTORS

EMBLEMS & INSIGNIA

FIREWORKS

FOR SALE

GUNSMITHING

GUNSMITHING INSTRUCTION AT PCC. Two-year hands-on program; excellent facilities; financial aid available; VA approved. Piedmont Community College, P.O. Box 1197, Roxboro, NC 27573 (336) 599-1181; www.piedmontcc.edu

INSTRUCTION

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

LEATHERCRAFT

MILITARIA

MILITARY SURPLUS

Custom Corner

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

S&K SCOUT-MOUNT

No Drilling or Tapping!
The absolute best scope mount made for the Chilean 1895. Easy installation without modifications to your gun. Machined from solid bar stock & made in the USA. See www.scopemounts.com for a list of our other mounts & scopes.

Chilean 1895 Scope Mount

S&K Scope Mounts
70 Swede Hollow Rd
Sugar Grove, PA 16350
800-578-9862
www.scopemounts.com

When you can't be there to protect her ...

At the shopping center, in the parking lot, at work, in her car or at home – there is a solution.

Make sure she can protect herself

The Concealed Carry for Ladies training course from Thunder Ranch offers a comprehensive look at concealed carry from a woman's perspective.

Instructor Heidi Smith presents her concepts on gun selection and carry options in an easy-to-follow, relaxed format.

What's the best way to carry a gun in a purse? How do you draw a gun from an ankle holster? What happens when a gun is fired at point blank range?

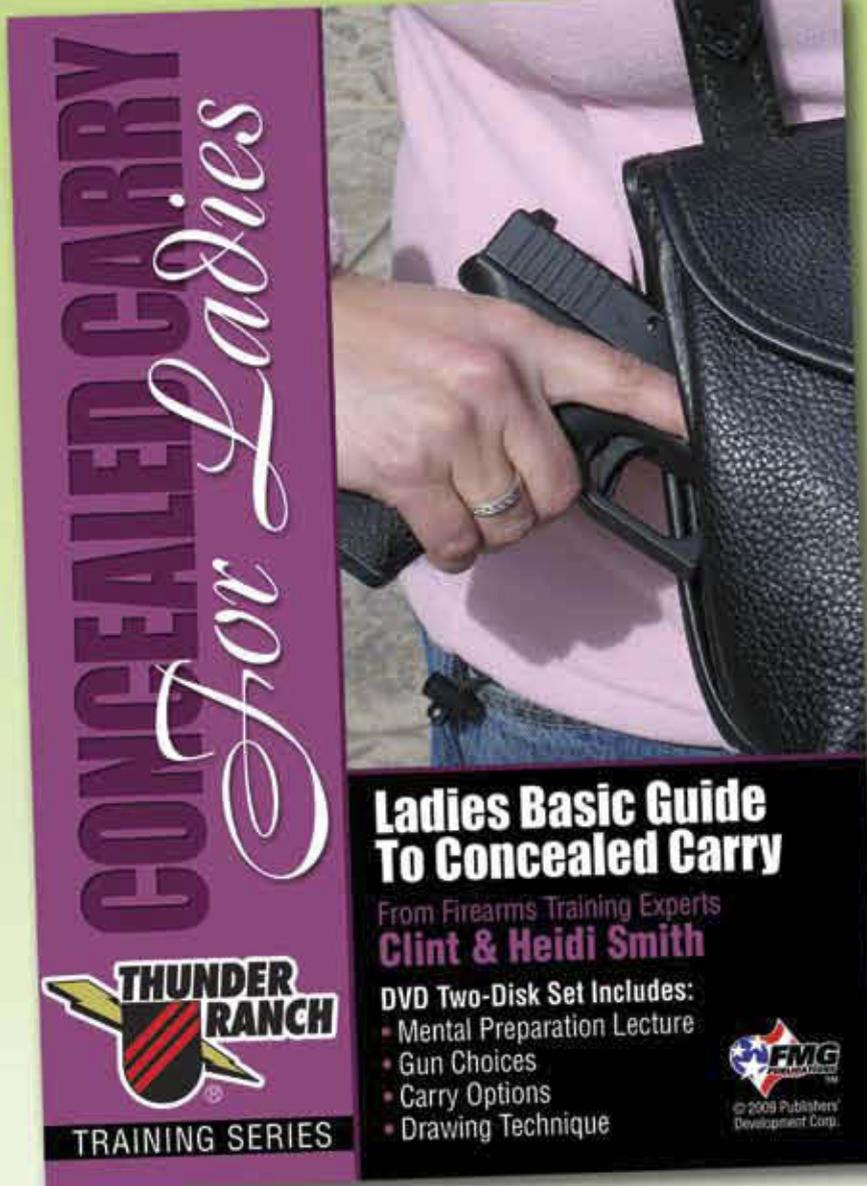
Heidi's range demonstrations, guided by husband Clint Smith, provide a complete picture on how to safely carry a concealed handgun, and draw and fire from several effective platforms.

Give that "special lady" in your life the tools she needs to protect herself when you're not around.

**BONUS
Special
Offer!**

Two-disc set only
\$29.95

Includes nearly two hours of video!



"Although this may seem like a good concept, it isn't logical. I'll show you concealed carry options that make sense and will fit your lifestyle."

~Heidi Smith

Order Today! (800) 628-9818 (M-F 8am-3pm PST) • www.americanhandgunner.com/TRvids

NEW PRODUCTS

RACE MASTER COMPETITION HOLSTER DOUBLE-ALPHA ACADEMY

The DAA Race Master Competition Holster is CNC machined from aircraft-grade aluminum and stainless steel and hard anodized for a long-lasting surface finish in a selection of black, blue, red or titanium grey. The locking system offers a clean release of the pistol and a solid grip when holstered, achieved by a unique sliding block, formed around the front end of the triggerguard. The Race Master enables you to switch from one gun to another by changing the locking-block assembly, available separately. Double-Alpha Academy, (888) 628-3233, www.gunsmagazine.com/competitive-edge-dynamics



.380P PROTECTOR MODEL MASTERPIECE ARMS

The MPA .380P conceal-carry pistol is built on a machined 4140 stainless steel lower receiver and upper slide. The .380 "Premium" subcompact, semi-auto pistol features aluminum grips with a bead-blasted finish protected by a clear anodize coat, and is DAO with a 5+1 capacity, plus an extended magazine pad for added shooting comfort. It comes in a lockable case with one magazine, owner's manual and a lifetime warranty. MasterPiece Arms, (866) 803-0000, www.gunsmagazine.com/masterpiece-arms



TITANIUM 4X32 COMBAT OPTIC BROWE, INC

The titanium 4x32 BROWE Combat Optic (BCO) is a state-of-the-art optic that delivers high-quality optical glass, high precision machining, and a rugged military design. The Target Light Sensor Technology measures the target light passing through the optic and automatically adjusts the reticle illumination to the ideal intensity. The Single Intuitive Control gives the user a simple button, designed to simulate muscle memory and expedite manual operation. Featuring a field programmable microcontroller that allows users to customize the BCO program and power accessories. Browe, Inc., (800) 407-3150, www.gunsmagazine.com/browe



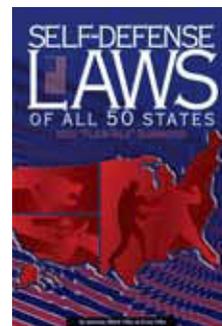
VARIABLE SCOUT SCOPE LEUPOLD

The VX-II variable Scout Scope has 8.75" of optimum eye relief on low power (7.75" on high power). The VX-II variable Scout Scope also includes the Multicoat 4 lens system for a bright, clear image and 1/4-MOA field click adjustments for windage and elevation. Featuring a 1" maintube, it measures nearly 11" in length and weighs 8.8 ounces. Field of view at 100 yards on the lowest magnification is 41.7' (16.5' on the highest magnification). The VX-II 1.5-4x28mm Scout Scope is waterproof and fog proof. Leupold, (800) 538-7653, www.gunsmagazine.com/leupold



SELF-DEFENSE LAWS OF ALL 50 STATES GUNS WEST PUBLISHING, INC.

Self-Defense Laws of All 50 States by Attorney Mitch Vilos and Evan Vilos, is a must have for anyone who MIGHT ever use a weapon for self-defense or defense of another. This book contains a 50 state reference guide and 20 chapters with riveting case examples. Learn or your rights and responsibilities or risk prison, bankruptcy or both. Co-written by the criminal defense lawyer who many consider to be one of the nation's leading authorities on the law of self-defense. Guns West Publishing, (800) 530-0222, www.gunsmagazine.com/firearms-law



PTR RIFLE AND PISTOL LINE PTR-91 INC

Based on the HK/G3 platform, the PTR line of rifles and pistols are variants chambered in .308 and 7.62x39. They are offered with improvements on the original design such as match-grade target barrels, tactical handguards

ready to accept accessory rails, optional welded Picatinny scope mounts and four options for stocks. These upgrades unleash the true accuracy and potential of the HK/G3 platform. PTR-91 Inc., (860) 676-1776, www.gunsmagazine.com/ptr-9



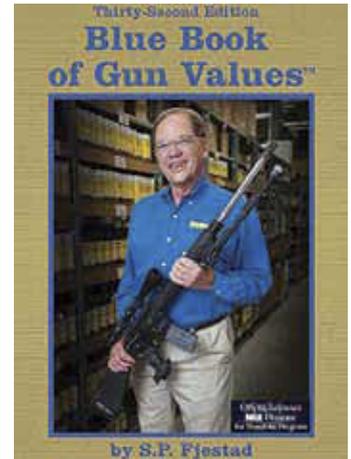
QUICK DETACH SLING MOUNT
GG&G

The GG&G AR-15/M16 Receiver End Plate Quick Detach Sling Mount provides fast Quick Detach Sling Swivel capability allowing the operator to incorporate either the custom Sling Swivel for 1-1/4" sling webbing, or the custom Angular Sling Swivel accommodating HK style snap hooks and mash hooks. Both new sling swivels are designed with an Enhanced Tactile QD Push Button that prevents your thumb or finger from slipping. Mounted directly behind the receiver, both Sling Attachments can be used in a 2-point sling setup or as a single-point sling attachment. GG&G, (800) 380-2540, www.gunsmagazine.com/ggg-tactical-products



BLUE BOOK OF GUN VALUES
BLUE BOOK PUBLICATIONS, INC

The 32nd Edition Blue Book of Gun Values by S.P. Fjestad has been expanded to nearly 2,400 pages, all gun values have been thoroughly updated for both modern and antique firearms, including the recent paramilitary style guns, and it also includes new domestic and imported 2011 makes and models. Other features include the 80-page color Photo Percentage Grading System to help accurately determine the condition of firearms, and serialization and proofmark sections to help in identifying firearms. Blue Book Publications, Inc., (800) 877-4867, www.gunsmagazine.com/blue-book-publications-inc



SOG PREDATOR
SOG ARMORY

The SOG Predator features a 20" Lothar Walther, fully-fluted, bead-blasted, 1:8" twist barrel with a SOG 4-prong flashhider. The Magpul PRS stock, enhanced triggerguard and ergo grip help the shooter achieve better accuracy and usability. The SOG/Troy

TRX Extreme Free Float Handguard, paired with the low-profile gas block, give the rifle a better look without adding considerable weight. With the SOG Diamondhead folding-sight system and SOG Tactical Latch, it is the perfect lightweight precision shooter. SOG Armory, (281) 568-5685, www.gunsmagazine.com/sog-armory



PROTECTOR POLYMER REVOLVER
TAURUS

The Taurus Protector Polymer Series is offered with either a checkered grip (with the look of wood but the grip and durability of polymer), or a Taurus rubber grip. The polymer-hybrid frame makes the revolver lightweight and easy to carry. This 5-shot revolver is available in .38 Special +P or .357 Magnum, with blue or matte stainless finish. Also features single-action/double-action trigger, fiber-optic front sight and ambidextrous thumbrest. The Protector Polymer comes standard with the Taurus Security System that allows users to securely lock the gun using an inconspicuous key-lock. Taurus USA, (305) 624-1115, www.gunsmagazine.com/taurus



REVOLUTION COMBO PAK
BLADE-TECH INDUSTRIES

The Revolution Combo Pak features the injection molded Revolution Holster, the Double Magazine Pouch and Training Barrel. The Revolution Holster holds your firearm securely with the positive-lock triggerguard. Two retention screws allow users to fine tune their draw to their specific needs. The Double Magazine Pouch firmly holds additional magazines and is ambidextrous. The Training Barrel allows for safe training with the actual firearm. It allows manipulation of the slide and trigger, while holding safety as an utmost priority. Blade-Tech Industries, (877) 331-5793, www.gunsmagazine.com/blade-tech



Revolution Holster including Picatinny attachment



Training Barrel



Revolution Double Mag Pouch



Adjustable Sling Rivet Belt Loop

M26 COMBAT SHOTGUN
C-MORE COMPETITION

The M26 can be attached under the barrel of a soldier's M4 rifle to breach doors and quickly enter buildings to neutralize insurgents. It can also be detached from the M4, mated with a butt stock and used independently to shoot from confined spaces. Weighing 3.7 pounds with a 7" snub barrel, the M26 is 100 percent more reliable than the Army's current pump-action shotguns. Featuring detachable 5-round magazines for quick reloading, adjustable sights for accurate shot placement, ambidextrous controls for easier use and a hydraulic butt stock for better recoil mitigation. C-MORE Competition, (540) 341-3006



ENTER



MK22

MAKER: ISSC HANDELS GMBH, HANNESGRUB 3, A-4910 RIED IM INNKREIS, AUSTRIA
WWW.ISSC-HANDELS-GMBH.AT
IMPORTER: ISSC-AUSTRIA, 91 W. MAIN ST., WARE, MA 01082, (413) 967-3767, **WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/ISSC-AUSTRIA**

Action type: Blowback, semi-auto, Caliber: .22 LR, Capacity: 22, Barrel length: 16-1/2", Overall length: 36", Weight: 6-1/2 pounds, Finish: Matte black, Sights: Folding front and rear, Picatinny rail, Stock: Polymer, Value: \$509, Value of Package: \$1,851.84



RAPID RETICLE .22LR HV

MAKER: PRIDE-FOWLER INC., P.O. BOX 4301, SAN DIMAS, CA 91773, (909) 599-0928, **WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/PRIDE-FOWLER-INDUSTRIES-INC**

Magnification: 3X-9X, Objective Diameter: 32mm, Click Value: 1/4", Tube Diameter: 1", Weight: 13 ounces, Overall Length: 11", Reticles: Rapid Reticle, Price: \$379.99



MPA 380

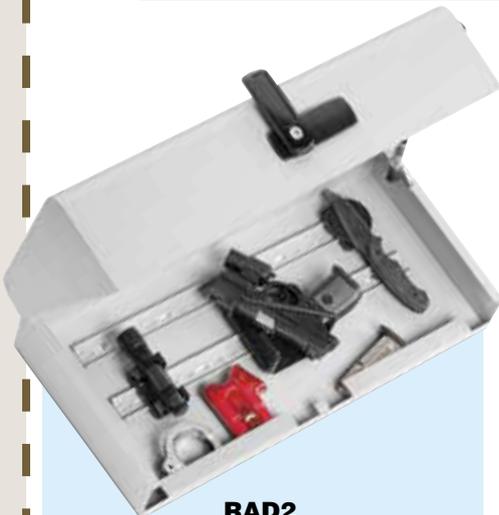
MAKER: MASTERPIECE ARMS, INC., 105-A KINGSBRIDGE DRIVE, CARROLLTON, GA 30117, (770) 832-9430, **WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/MASTERPIECE-ARMS**

Action type: Blowback semi-auto, Caliber: .380 ACP, Capacity: 5+1, Barrel length: 2-1/4", Overall length: 4.37", Weight: 11.3 ounces, Finish: Matte black, Sights: None, Value: \$322

FSL-3

MAKER: LASERLYTE, 101 AIRPARK RD., COTTONWOOD, AZ 86326, (928) 649-3201, **WWW.LASERLYTE.COM**

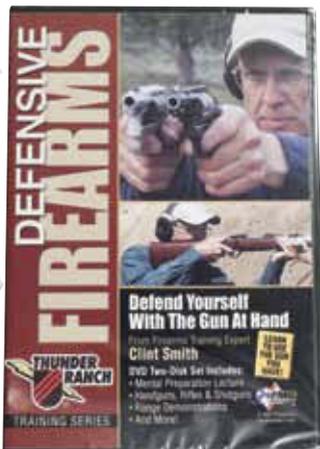
Weight: 1/2 ounce, Overall length: .92", Laser Module: 650 nm, Battery type: 4 No. 37, Battery life: 5 hours, Value: 99.95



RAD2

MAKER: CARON FORENSICS, P.O. BOX 715, MARIETTA, OH 45750, (740) 373-6809, **WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/CARONFORENSICS**

Dimensions: 24-1/2"x11-1/2"x5-1/2", Weight: 20 pounds, Material: 18-gauge cold rolled steel, Finish: Powder coated paint, Accessories: Pistol holder, flashlight/pepper spray holder and universal magnetic clip, Value: \$399



THUNDER RANCH DEFENSIVE FIREARMS TECHNIQUES DVD FEATURING CLINT SMITH

Value: \$49.95



C79PSBBK

MAKER: SPYDERCO, P.O. BOX 800, GOLDEN CO 80402, (800) 525-7770, **WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/SPYDERCO**

Blade material: VG-10 Stainless steel, Blade length: 3-11/16", partially serrated, Overall length (closed): 4-7/8", Weight: 4 ounces, Scales: Textured black FRN, Sheath: None, pocket clip, Value: \$91.95

TO WIN!



GUNS MAGAZINE JULY 2011

GUN GIVEAWAY!

FOR WEB LINKS, GO TO WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/PRODUCT-INDEX

WIN THIS FREE GUN AND ACCESSORY PACKAGE WORTH \$1,851.84!

This giveaway is a little different than most because it includes a fun gun along with a serious defensive pistol. The fun is in a military-looking MK22 from ISSC in .22 LR along with a Pride-Fowler 3-9X Rapid Reticle scope. On the defensive front, is a MasterPiece Arms MPA 380 in .380 ACP, an all-steel pocket pistol. To add to the fun of the MK22 is a Laserlyte FSL-3

compact laser (which will work on any pistol with minimum rail space, too). The Spyderco C79 series is a straight blade rescue style knife and the Caron Forensics RAD2 is a heavy-duty handgun storage locker meant to be mounted to the wall. 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.

GUNS MAGAZINE GUN GIVEAWAY!

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.

TO ENTER CONTEST:

Use **YOUR OWN postcard (no envelopes, please)**

Follow sample card to right. Mail postcard to:

GUNS Magazine, **GOM JULY**

P.O. BOX 502795, San Diego, CA 92150-2795.

Entries must be received before **AUGUST 1, 2011**.

Limit one entry per household.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH: Do you carry a concealed firearm?

(A) Yes

(B) No

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Email Address _____

CIRCLE ANSWER(S) TO QUESTION OF THE MONTH JULY 2011:

(A) (B)

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

ODD ANGRY SHOT

• JOHN CONNOR •

THE OTHER GUYS

Besides Hancock, Franklin and the Adams cousins, who were they?

So who was Benjamin Rush? How did he commit treason against the British Crown by signing one document, and then try to betray George Washington with one he wouldn't sign? Who was the one man among 56 who pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor—and then broke that oath? It was Richard Stockton of New Jersey....

Don't feel bad New Jerseyans—you had five signers of the Declaration of Independence, and the other four did you proud. They included Abraham Clark, a devoted patriot. When two of his sons serving in the Continental Army were captured and tortured, he refused to seek any special intercession or even mention their plight in Congress. Only after he learned that one of them was being methodically starved, only fed with what could literally be stuffed through a keyhole, did he seek help. Congress petitioned the British to obey their own rules of war, and the young captain's imprisonment, though still harsh, was improved.

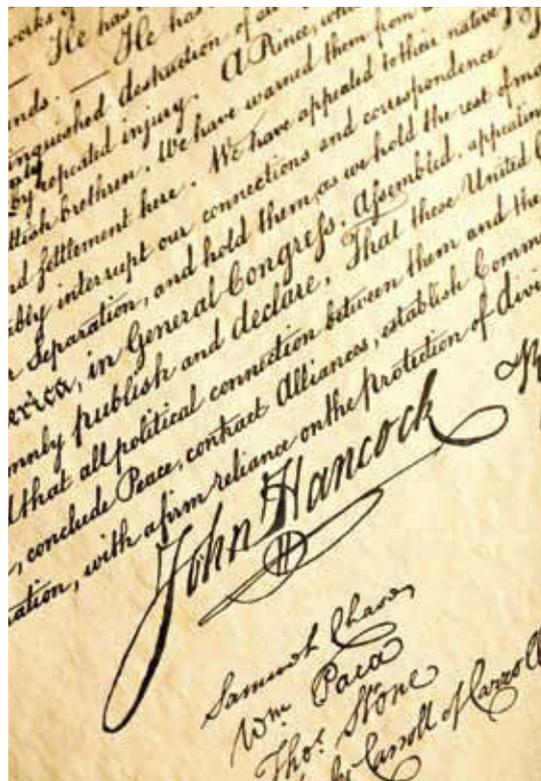
It's sad but true that few people today have any real knowledge of the Declaration of Independence and, that much of what they know is, unfortunately, mythical. Even the popular notion that it was the Declaration which set off the Revolutionary War is flawed. The battles of Concord, Lexington and Bunker Hill; the captures of Fort Ticonderoga and Crown Point by Ethan Allen's "Green Mountain Boys" had already taken place.

That a state of war existed in fact, if not technically, is true. But early on, in many colonists' minds, it was not a foregone conclusion that the 13 colonies would formally secede from British rule. All they had petitioned for were the same rights and representation enjoyed by their cousins in Britain. The first battles were fought in simple defense against an increasingly

onerous and heavy-handed Crown. It was no single action which sparked the Revolution, but crushing new taxes and a steady and continuing erosion of rights and liberties previously honored.

Busting Myths

It's sad, too, that so many myths about the signers themselves prevail when the truth is praiseworthy enough. In their later years, John Adams and James Madison realized



Beneath Hancock's bold flourish are 55 other names....

the true stories of the men and momentous acts were being twisted and exaggerated by the "penny press," and protested it with little success. Then and now, it seems reality can't compete with dramatic forgeries. A blurb titled "The Price They Paid" is one of the most widely circulated examples of this on the Internet. Let's bust some of its myths, OK?

"Five signers were captured by the British as traitors and tortured before they died." In fact, five signers were imprisoned, but four were taken as POWs simply because they were soldiers. George Walton, a militia commander, was wounded and captured at the Battle of Savannah in December 1778. Thomas Heyward, Jr., Arthur Middleton and Edward Rutledge were captured at the Siege of Charleston in May 1780. They suffered the same terrible conditions as other POWs; conditions which today would be considered horrific, but there is no record of them being tortured, and all were ultimately released. Rutledge, by the way, was the youngest signer, at age 26.

Only one, Richard Stockton, mentioned above, was grabbed by a mob of Tories specifically because he signed the Declaration. Thrown into the infamous Provost Jail in New York City, Stockton gained a pardon and release by recanting his signature and swearing allegiance to King George.

"Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War." Actually, nine signers died during the war, but only one, Button Gwinnett, died from wounds—and those he suffered fighting a duel with a fellow officer. Virtually all the signers suffered hardships and losses, including many evicted from their homes by occupying troops.

"Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army, another had two sons captured." This is partially true. Abraham Clark's sons were captured. The eldest son of John Witherspoon, another New Jersey signer, was killed in battle at Germantown, Penn. in

ROY ALERT!! BEWARE! SUBSCRIPTION SCAM!

Nefarious scoundrels have been trying to **SCAM** Handgunner readers by offering **UNAUTHORIZED** subscriptions for a ridiculously **HIGH** price. Don't be a victim of this dastardly behavior! It's easy to protect yourself; simply remember: **NEVER** pay more than **\$36** for a two year subscription to Handgunner! If it says **\$71**, toss it! I've received a bunch of calls from you guys reporting suspicious offers to renew your subs to Handgunner. You have reported getting offers on mailing pieces looking **SUSPICIOUSLY** similar to ours. They direct you to write a check or submit a credit card number for the **OUTRAGEOUS** price of **\$71** (that's almost twice the published price!!!). They **APPEAR** to be from us — but they are most certainly **NOT!** While it's still rare, it has occurred, so keep a **SHARP** eye and don't be shy about questioning something like this.

It's **EASY** to make sure it's legit. Confirm the Handgunner **ID NUMBER** on the top line of the renewal label matches your ID on the magazine you get. The price is never higher than **\$19.75** for one year, or **\$36.75** for two. Our offers say "Make check payable to American Handgunner (**NOT SOME SLEAZY THIRD PARTY!**). The return address will be either 12345 World Trade Dr. San Diego, or PO Box 509093 in San Diego — **ANYTHING ELSE SPELLS TROUBLE!**

Keep in mind, we're a phone call away. Pick up the phone and dial **(858) 605-0253** to chat with one of our ace subscription ladies or go to www.americanhandgunner.com and click on "Contacts" to reach us. We're all actual human beings and will be happy to help **YOU** out anytime. You can always drop me a note at editor@americanhandgunner.com if you think I can help out, want to report a scam or have a question.

-- Roy Huntington, Editor



ODD ANGRY SHOT

October 1777. No other signer lost a son in combat.

"John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died of exhaustion and a broken heart." One of the most heart-rending stories, it is also one of the most exaggerated.

John Hart was a farmer and the elected Speaker of the New Jersey Assembly. He was an older man suffering from kidney ailments when the British Army rolled over his farmlands in late November of 1776. They consumed, confiscated and looted—as was the custom of the time—"foraging for supplies." Hart's wife had died in early October, and most of their children were grown and gone already. He hid out for a time in the Sourland Mountains. After Washington's brilliant capture of Trenton, Hart returned home and resumed farming. In June 1778, just before the battle of Monmouth, he invited General Washington to dinner—and the 12,000-man Continental Army to camp in his fields. Perhaps only a farmer would understand the sacrifice of quartering 12,000 men on his fields at the height of the growing season. John Hart did, and gave what he could.

Hart was twice re-elected to Congress and died of his kidney disorders in May 1779.

Just Men, Not Saints

There are 46 other stories, and far more detail about the 10 mentioned here. One became gravely ill during the war and in 1779, took his wife and sailed for the West Indies. Their ship disappeared, presumed lost in a storm. One was later poisoned by an angry family member who learned he had willed part of his estate to his slaves. One was sentenced to a debtor's prison—while serving on his state's Supreme Court!

Many were jurists and farmers. One was an ironmaster, another, a country school teacher. One's epitaph reads "Merchant & Soldier." But they were just men, not plaster saints; men with fears, passions, ambitions, flaws and dreams. Guys who put one leg in their pants at a time, just like you and me, and in my opinion, that makes their stories more glorious—because their dreams, their passions, forged a nation. They signed. They pledged. They risked. That doesn't need embellishment; just recognition—and imitation. *Connor OUT*

GUNS

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 re-mounting.

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.

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
AirForce Airguns	68
Ambush Firearms	62
American Handgunner Subscription	79
American Handgunner T-Shirts	88
American Watch Co.	13
Archangel Mfg./ ProMag Industries	14
ArmaLite	18
ATK/BLACKHAWK! Products .	69
Barnes Bullets Inc.	51
Benchmade Knife Company .	21
Bond Arms	37

ADVERTISER	PAGE	ADVERTISER	PAGE
Bushmaster Firearms International	73	Kwik-Site Co.	64, 72, 87
Cheaper Than Dirt	71	Mag-na-port International Inc.	9
CorBon/Glaser	28	MTM Case-Gard	19
CrossBreed Holsters LLC . . .	14	Otis Technology Inc.	3
Daniel Defense	C2	Pride-Fowler Inc.	37
DeSantis Holster	28	Rock River Arms	9
Elite Sports Express	68	Savage Arms	67
European American Armory .	29	SIG SAUER	65
FenixLight Limited	35	Sinclair International	39, 72
FNH USA	25	S & K ScopeMounts	80
Fort Knox Security	89	Smith & Wesson	15
Glock Inc.	33	SOG Specialty Knives	32
Gum Creek Custom	72	Springfield Inc.	57, C3
GUNS Magazine Subscription	77	Streamlight Inc.	27
Helvetica Trading USA LLC . .	11	Sturm, Ruger & Co. Inc. . . .	17
HiViz Shooting Systems	31	SureFire LLC	51
Hornady Manufacturing Inc. . .	63	Taurus International	C4
Insight Technology Inc.	24	Thunder Ranch Training DVDs	70, 81
Jantz Supply	75	TOPS KNIVES	43
Kimber Manufacturing Inc. . . .	7	Woodstock International . . .	23
Kirkpatrick Leather Company	89	Zanotti Armor Safes	39
		Zerust Products	80

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 #HGS

New American Handgunner T-shirts. Only \$21.99 with FREE shipping.
www.AMERICANHANDGUNNER.com or call (800) 628-9818

continued from page 90

cards, letters and phone calls began. These were not only encouraging but also helped to pass a great deal of time and I thank all readers who helped with my recovery. On the opposite face of the coin we find one major danger such as that faced by Theodore Roosevelt more than 100 years ago. There is no way I could ever come close to being as active as he was, in fact he basically wore out his body by the age of 60, however we both faced the problem of inactivity leading to eating too much. He bulked up and fortunately I did not.

I do not believe in coincidence, so it was meant to be when I went with my wife to make a delivery to the daughter of an old friend of ours at a Christmas party in 2009. The dad was there and I took one look at him and said: "Where is the rest of you?" Both of us face the perpetual problem of easy weight gain and he had lost 67 pounds. He was on a special plan and I did not hesitate getting with the program. By the time my emergency operation arrived I weighed more than 80 pounds less than I had the previous year. My doctor thanked me for doing this as it made his job much easier and I'm sure it has also helped with my recuperating. The program I have been following requires me to eat small amounts six times a day and this habit prevented my eating three large meals every day during my healing period. The result is in spite of all this inactivity; I weigh the same amount this morning as I did the day of my surgery. I didn't gain, but I also did not lose the 25 pounds I still want to take off, so it is now time to adhere more closely to my weight program.

Sixgun Shopping

Once I was able to drive and get out a bit another positive emerged, which was having time to do as much sixgun shopping as I wanted to without having to feel I had to hurry home and get back to work. Stopping at Cabela's and browsing through the gun library I spotted a 5-1/2" Ruger Super Single-Six .22/.22 Magnum at a most reasonable \$299 price tag. Now I already have two of these, but then I have three grandsons so this would complete the necessary trio. That price was only the beginning; pushing a few buttons on the calculator by my friend Ray at the library brought the price down to an even more reasonable \$245. I also had a discount card from Cabela's mailer for \$50 bringing it down to \$195. Add in my earned Cabela's points and this early 1960s .22 went

out the door for \$160. My thought was maybe this inactivity is not so bad after all!

3's A Charm

That was on a Friday. The following Monday my friend Cactus called me from Boise Gun Company; "Sixgunner there's a .22 Ruger Single-Six just meant for you here." I welcomed the chance to get out again and down over the hill I went to find an almost un-fired 1959-ish .22 WMR-only Single-Six. These particular Magnum Rugers were only made from 1959 to 1962. Needless to say I bought this great little .22 also. Now most of us realize good things come in threes and number three was not far behind. Two days later I stopped at Buckhorn and there was another 3-Screw .22 Single-Six. This one had a 6-1/2" barrel and I have long wanted a 4-5/8" version, so it was quickly purchased and placed in the hands of my gunsmith Tom Cripe at Buckhorn to be turned into a Perfect Packin' Pistol .22-style. Of course, this upped the number of Super Single-Sixes on hand, three sixguns, three grandsons, but not to fear this one will eventually go to my son.

The lack of physical activity also allowed much time for thinking. For the past two years I have been trying to figure out how to parcel out my gun collection to family members. With three kids plus their spouses, eight grandkids plus two of their spouses thus far, the list has 16 names on it. I have really been stressed out trying to figure out who gets what.

There are quite a few that are already promised to various members, such as the Red and Wolf .38 Super Colt in the December 2010 issue of this magazine which goes to my youngest grandson who named those dogs, as well as several matching trios for the three grandsons... but what about the rest? I started making a list of 16 names but then realized this is more figuring than I wanted to do. So while sitting and thinking, I decided there will be three family "piles" of guns and each family headed by my three kids can figure it out on their own. Problem solved; stress removed.

With the finishing of this edition of Campfire Tales the drought is over and I'm back to work. I'll soon be shooting again starting with these little .22s. I have several test guns waiting for my entrance back into the gainfully employed, and my photographer friend Joe is ready to take some man-shooting-gun pictures again. Yes, I feel totally blessed. **GUNS**

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

REST ASSURED



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
ONLINE!
www.gunsmagazine.com

CAMPFIRE TALES

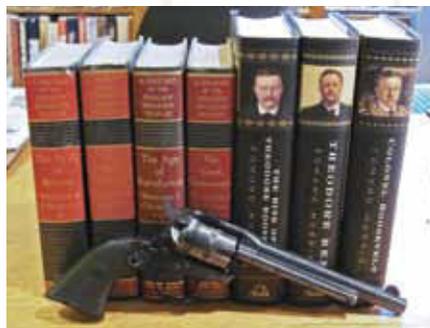
BY JOHN TAFFIN

DO THE MATH Inactivity + Idleness = Lethal Laziness

“Secretly, he plotted a post-election hunting trip to Mississippi.... It was not blood he craved, so much as exercise. His left leg had now healed, but he was lame from the wheelchair, and his girth was increasing. He felt he might turn fat to muscle with a few days violent activity. The alternative method of losing weight did not seem to occur to him: he continued to eat hardily three times a day. A guest at lunch noticed that waiters were all always moving towards the President.” So writes Edmund Morris, author of *Theodore Rex*, of Theodore Roosevelt in 1902.

Theodore Roosevelt was the most active president we ever had, however, when forced into inactivity he fell into a dangerous trap. I now know not only how he felt, but also easily understand the terrible consequences of the web of welfare. We have all heard of families, two, three and four generations whose entire lives have been spent on government handouts. Once one goes down that road—especially under a government that strongly encourages it—it is easy to see how one falls into the trap of inactivity and idleness, which leads to lethal laziness destroying all initiative. I have now personally experienced, in a small measure, the tangled web of inactivity. Because of this I can see how easily one can adapt to doing absolutely nothing as long as someone else takes care of them.

Most of you know of my emergency operation in September 2010. I didn't realize how serious this operation actually was until I found out much later that the survival rate is somewhere from 10 percent to 20 percent, which means for every 10 people who wind up on the operating table only one, at the most two, make it into intensive care and subsequent recovery. So needless to say I feel



Battling Boredom: Reading and shopping for sixguns.

truly blessed and fortunate. In fact, if I believed there really was such a thing as luck, I would be buying lottery tickets. But I don't, so I don't.

For my recuperation period, which would be a minimum of 3 months, my orders were basically no physical activity. I especially was warned about putting any stress on either of my arms and gradually working up to no more than 5 pounds. Now at first three months of having to do nothing sounds attractive. However, this precluded participation in two of my three favorite wintertime indoor activities—namely casting bullets and loading ammunition. Whether tapping open bullet molds or

operating a loading press handle, the results would be the same, too much stress on my arms which could affect the healing of my sternum which had been cut totally open.

At least I could read! Well, within limits as the old eyes do not appreciate staring at a printed page all day like they used to. Since this was forced activity for a long period of time, I felt I needed to read something more than just the time-killing Western paperback that always accompanied me in the days when I was still flying. So for the past several months I have been reading from Winston Churchill's 4-volume set *History of the English Speaking Peoples* and the Edmund Morris Theodore Roosevelt trilogy. If I couldn't do anything productive, I could at least spend my time learning something.

A great change has come over me during this time of forced idleness; I have found myself becoming exceptionally lazy. All of my life I have been very active in many ways, however it did not take long for inactivity to change this. This is written on Dec. 15, one week short of my 3-month recuperating. It has taken me nearly 3 weeks to actually call upon enough energy to sit down at the computer and actually do something. Yes, I can definitely now understand how easily people are trapped and destroyed by the nanny state. Fortunately for me, I always like to stay ahead so there will be no holes showing up in my writing assignments for both this magazine and *American Handgunner*.

Productive Inactivity

Now everything concerned with my inactivity has definitely not been negative. I have spent more time visiting with friends and family. After both magazines posted what had happened to me, the flood of e-mails,

continued on page 89

ARE YOU READY?™

WHEN YOU'RE READY TO START COMPETING, THIS IS THE 1911 TO START WITH. DESIGNED TO BE AN AFFORDABLE 1911 FOR COMPETITION, THE NEW RO™ (RANGE OFFICER™) PISTOL IS BUILT WITH THE SAME QUALITY AS OUR TRP™ AND TROPHY MATCH™ MODELS.



THE NEW RANGE OFFICER™



1.800.680.6866 | WWW.SPRINGFIELDARMORY.COM

— OTHER GUN COMPANIES START — WITH PARTS. — WE START WITH — MOLECULES.



As the last integrated firearms plant in the world, we start with the building blocks. Literally. We forge the key metal components that make up our firearms, and the power of forging is in the strength of the molecular alignment. After each part undergoes stringent metallurgy tests, they are measured and re-measured to maintain the tightest tolerances before becoming one of our prized firearms. After all, if it isn't built from scratch, it isn't a Taurus.

ENGINEERING THE ADVANTAGE.



FREE one-year NRA membership with the purchase of any new Taurus firearm.



The all-new Taurus Tracker 992 revolver offers nine shots of either .22 LR or .22 Magnum with its versatile removable cylinders.

TAURUSUSA.COM

 **TAURUS**
WORLD'S FOREMOST PISTOL MAKER™