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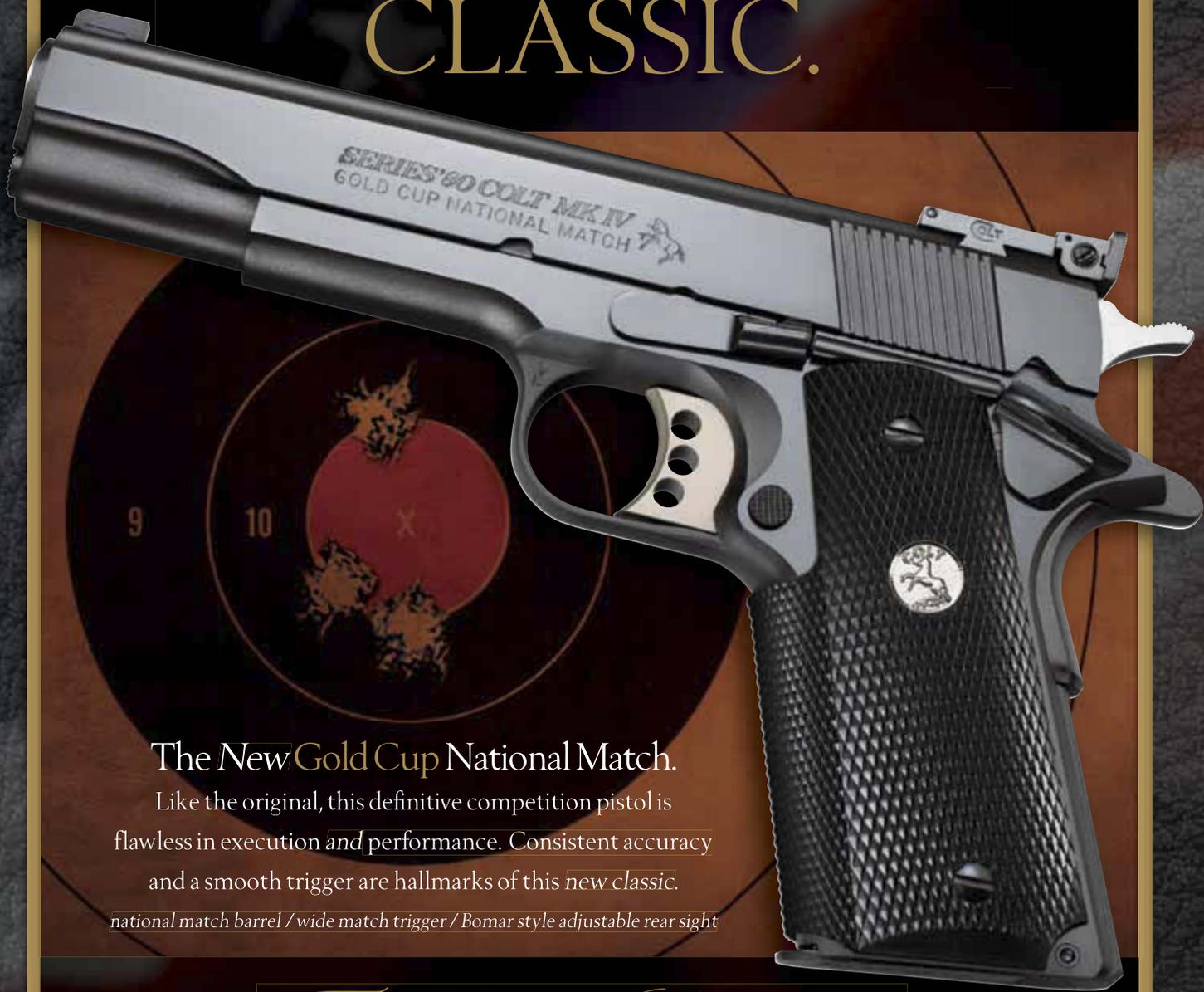
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52 ACCURIZING FACTORY RIFLES

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CROSSFIRE

LETTERS TO GUNS

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5th Cooperism?

The great Jeff Cooper's four cardinal principals of firearm safety are well known and embraced by every shooter. I propose a 5th rule, which is already generally accepted, be formally incorporated into that codicil: "The first action you take whenever you pick up a firearm, unless you are actually shooting, is to perform a careful safety check. If you are unfamiliar with the weapon, ask its owner to demonstrate how to do so."

It's all too easy to become absorbed in discussing a gun's features with colleagues before clearing it.

*Daniel Temianka MD
Pasadena, Calif.*

Scope Installation

The "Installing a Rifle Scope" by Hamilton Bowen in the June issue was the best article on this subject I have ever seen and includes almost all of the lessons I have learned over 40 years of scope mounting. There are two things I might add to save your readers some problems.

First, depending on your eyesight and the individual scope, focus can have a material effect on eye relief. I always get a scope in focus, for the primary intended rifle user, before I set eye relief. Secondly, although the article doesn't refer to acetone, a can of acetone is pictured, giving the reader the impression acetone may be the best solution for degreasing the base screws and holes. I try not to get acetone anywhere near my rifles as it can have a bad effect on certain stock and gun part materials. I find that a pipe cleaner dipped in alcohol will do the degreasing just fine with no risk.

GUNS may be the best of the many gun/hunting magazines I get. Keep up the good work!

*Frank Chase
via e-mail*

Lady Bond Arms

Nice article on pink derringers. Guns for defense are good no matter their color. The accuracy issue may be

problem of not getting to know the gun well enough. I've had an old Hi-Standard .22 LR derringer for over 40 years. Back then, I needed a true pocket gun for deep hidden carry and there were not the options we have today. With a lot of practice I got to know the different point of aim with both barrels. I could hit the kill zone of a standard silhouette target at 25 yards with either barrel. This is the best designed derringer of all time. It's too bad it's not made anymore. Double-action-only, no hard-to-cock hammer, large enough grip and no triggerguard so the gun can be fired with gloves on and fired from inside a jacket pocket. No other pocket gun or even larger conceal carry guns I know of can be fired with gloves. I know the popular opinion is the .22 LR is not a good self-defense round. If you read about real-world defensive shootings with the little .22, it seems to work pretty well. I think it's still a great defensive gun. Big-bore derringers are not small guns, just short, bulky and too heavy for a pocket gun.

*Phil Witte
Phoenix, Ariz.*

Got A Grip

I've only been shooting handguns for 9 months. Thanks for Mas Ayoob's "Back To Basics" articles about grip in the July issue. Anyone wondering about the effect of proper grip might be interested in my experience. After one session shooting my S&W M&P9, moving my left thumb forward as shown in Mas' second photo reduced my groups of 10 rounds from 3" to 1.25" at 5 yards. Now I'm moving out to 10 and 25 yards and having great fun at it (and not wasting ammunition).

*Patrick Nixon
Canton, Mich.*

Wrong Address

Sadly, the wrong website address for Brownells was printed in the August "Shooter's Edge" column. The correct website is: www.brownells.com, (641) 623-4000. I apologize.—Jeff John 

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

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Managing Editorial Assistant Stephanie Jarrell

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Joseph R. Novelozo

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CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

John Taffin, Holt Bodinson, Dave Anderson,

Clint Smith, Massad Ayoob,

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FIELD EDITORS

Sam Fadala, David Codrea, John Morrison,

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FMG PUBLICATIONS

SHOOTING INDUSTRY

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Publisher & Editor: Russ Thurman

Advertising: Delano Amaguin, 888.732.6461

email: delano@shootingindustry.com



americancopmagazine.com

Editor: Suzi Huntington

Advertising: Phil Mendelson, 800.426.4470

email: phil@americancopmagazine.com

HANDGUNNER

americanhandgunner.com

Publisher & Editor: Roy Huntington

Advertising: Steve Evatt, 800.533.7988

email: steve@americanhandgunner.com

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gunsmagazine.com

Editor: Jeff John

Advertising: Jason Moreau, 866.903.1199

email: jason@gunsmagazine.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@fmgpublishings.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@fmgpublishings.com

FMG EAST COAST SALES: Sig Buchmayr, Buchmayr &

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

TEL: 203.662.9740, sigbuch@optonline.net

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Email: lori@fmgpublishings.com

General Counsel/Legal Affairs: Steele N. Gillaspay

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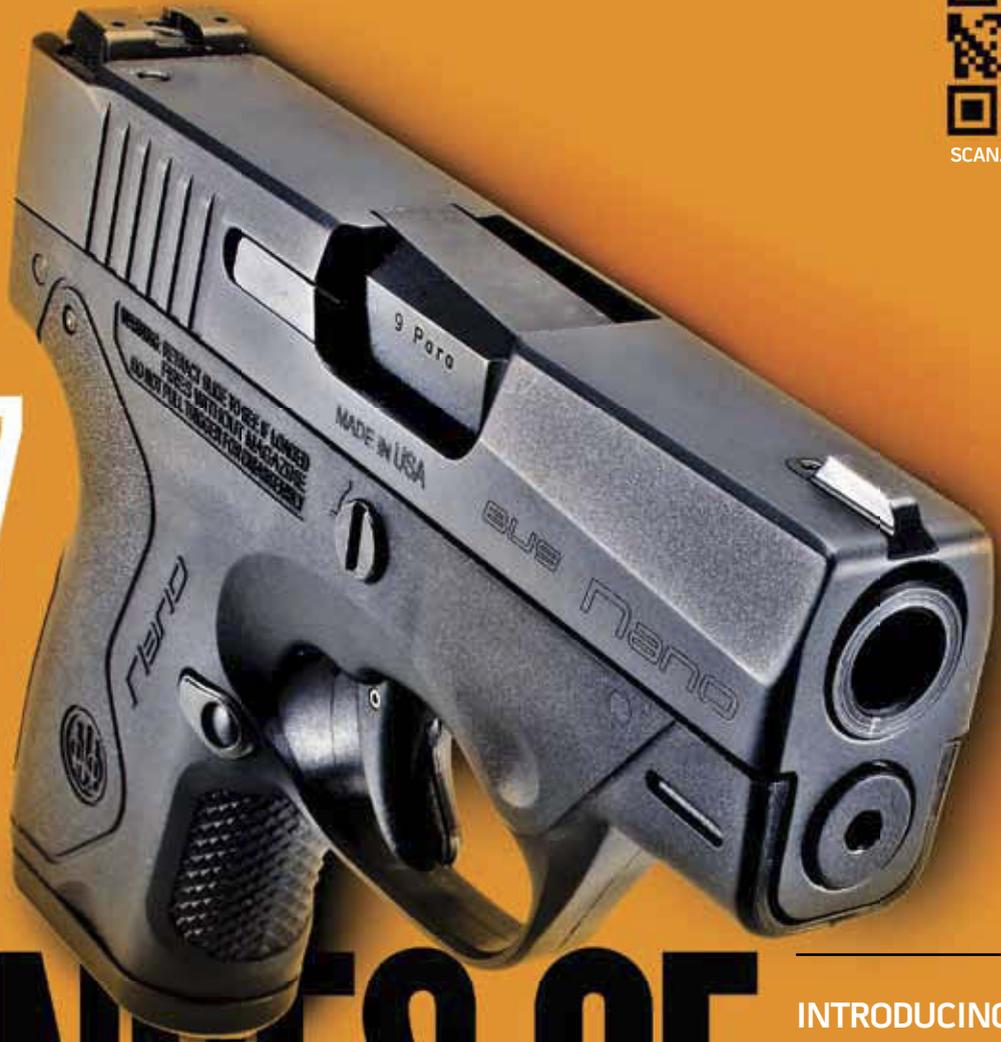
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RIMFIRES

STORY: Holt Bodinson

RIMFIRE MAGNUM TACK DRIVER Magnum Research's Barracuda .22 WMR.

Magnum Research stunned everyone with the introduction of their remarkably innovative, gas-operated Desert Eagle handgun and went on to stun the rimfire world with a carbon-wrapped barrel and the meanest looking stock in the business. I like mean machines like the SR-71 Blackbird and the Lamborghini Aventador. Magnum Research's "Barracuda" rimfire magnum, part of their Magnum Lite rifle series, fits into the same visual class as those classics. It is high style, high tech and high performance from muzzle-to-butt.

Carrying the Model designation "MLR 1722M," the Barracuda was available in both .22 WMR and .17 HMR. In fact, Magnum Research was responsible for carrying out some groundbreaking studies to see how the hot .17 HMR could be managed in a blowback, semi-automatic action.

While the .17 HMR functions well within SAAMI pressure standards, the cartridge generates its peak pressure almost as soon as the bullet leaves the case plus the timing of those peaks is not consistent from one shot to the next. This peak pressure inconsistency proved a challenge in solving the

mechanical timing and inertia issues inherent in the design of a blowback, semi-automatic action.

Magnum Research solved the problem by drilling a small orifice in the barrel just in front of the chamber to bleed off a bit of the expanding gas. The effect was to equalize the peak pressure from shot-to-shot which solved the timing and inertia design problems. Over the orifice, Magnum Research installed a multi-holed gas block to diffuse the vented gas under the forearm.

Unfortunately, Magnum Research, which is now part of Kahr Arms, no



A stainless end cap (above) protects the muzzle and locks in the carbon fiber cover. The forged and machined receiver (below) sports an integral and racy-looking optic's rib.



longer lists a .17 HMR chambering in their catalog, but this same gas metering system is used in the current .22 WMR to enable the rifle to function with all bullet weights.

The Barracuda is a rakish looking rimfire. Its effect is achieved by blending together some rather unique components.



Magnum Research's Barracuda is one of the great original rimfire designs. The highly sculptured, thumbhole buttstock both saves weight and looks smashing.

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ACTION TYPE: Blowback, semi-automatic,
CALIBER: .22 WMR, **CAPACITY:** 9, **BARREL TYPE:**
Carbon/steel composite, **BARREL LENGTH:** 19",
OVERALL LENGTH: 35.5", **WEIGHT:** 4.6 pounds,
FINISH: Anodized black, stainless, carbon gray,
SIGHTS: Picatinny-type Weaver rib, **STOCK:** Colored
laminate, **PRICE:** \$935

fiber exterior is durable, Magnum Research observes if you wanted to remove that inevitable scratch, all you have to do is to give it a lick or two with 320- or 400-grit sandpaper.

The Barracuda is also offered with a conventional stainless steel barrel, but the weight of the rifle increases from 4.6 pounds to 7.45 pounds while the price saving is only \$30 or so. My feeling is the carbon/steel composite barrel is worth every penny.

The most striking aspect of the Barracuda is Magnum Research's original, thumbhole, stock design, which has now been copied by other makers. Available in Forest Camo (seen here), Nutmeg (brown) and Pepper (black/gray) laminate colors, it's racy and spacey, and it's also one of the most comfortable, offhand and benchrest stocks I have ever handled. Because of the high degree of sculpturing in the stock design, the Barracuda is also the lightest, laminate-stocked rimfire rifle I have ever held, and it is mounted with a comfortable and skid resistant rubber recoil pad. Unfortunately, it's only available as a right-handed model; however, this year, Magnum Research did debut a new ambidextrous thumbhole stock in their .22 LR semi-automatic line, so there's hope.

The only accessory missing in the current Barracuda stock is a set of sling swivel bases. A set of recessed bases, similar to the existing Pachmayr design, would certainly complement the lines of the stock and add to the utility of the rifle.

How does it shoot? Like all rimfires, it has its likes and dislikes when it comes to ammunition. Mounted with a Kahles 2-7x36 rimfire scope, the Barracuda at 50 yards really performed with Federal Premium. The three best loads are detailed in the chart.

The Barracuda certainly lives up to its namesake as a deadly, accurate varmint rifle, and it's available in .22 LR as well as .22 WMR. Priced competitively, it's one of the great, original rimfire designs. **GUNS**



The Barracuda is an inherently accurate design and a great varmint rig.

The Barracuda action is similar to what we are accustomed to in the Ruger 10/22. In fact, Magnum Research uses the same fire control system with a 5- to 6-pound trigger and a 9-shot magnum rimfire magazine as the Ruger, but there the similarity ends.

The Barracuda action body is machined from a 6061-T6 aircraft aluminum forging. Integral to the action is a racy, visually appealing, ventilated Picatinny-type rib that actually extends forward over the barrel shank for about an inch. This extension gives the shooter a greater option for moving a mounted scope more forward or for adjusting the spacing of the scope rings. The integral rib accepts any Weaver-style mount and, because of its height, will accommodate scopes with an objective lens diameter up to 50mm in low-style rings.

One of the valuable points in the Barracuda instructional manual, which is germane to mounting scopes on any semi-automatic with a prominent bolt handle, is—if needed—position scope ring knobs on the left hand side of the action to avoid interference between ejected cases and the reciprocating bolt handle.

The Barracuda bolt is machined by Magnum Research from 4140 steel, heat treated and fit to minimum headspace dimensions. Empty

are plucked from the chamber by a single extractor and kicked out by a mechanical ejector riding through the left side of the bolt face. As in the Ruger 10/22, there is a hand-activated-bolt, hold-open latch in front of the trigger guard and a cross-button safety positioned in the forward, upper edge of the guard.

Don't Dry Fire

When you unpack a Barracuda, the first thing that catches your eye is a large warning label reading "Do Not Dry Fire" stuck to the top of the Picatinny rail. That's good advice for any rimfire firearm, but try as I might, with a 9-round magazine and no automatic bolt hold open feature, I could not avoid dry firing the tenth shot on an empty chamber. It just happens, as it does with a Ruger 10/22, and I don't think it's going to ruin a Barracuda.

Magnum Research is famous for its patented, carbon/graphite barrel, featuring a steel barrel liner wound with graphite fiber with its grain parallel to the bore axis. Based on Magnum Research's tests, their composite barrel is lighter, six times stiffer and dissipates heat 43 percent faster than a conventional all-steel barrel. Essentially, what you have is a very accurate "bull barrel" without the weight plus the composite barrel really looks cool. While the carbon

.22 WINCHESTER MAGNUM RIMFIRE FACTORY AMMO PERFORMANCE

LOAD (BRAND, BULLET WEIGHT, TYPE)	VELOCITY (FPS)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)
FEDERAL PREMIUM 40 JHP	2,107	1/2
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HANDGUNS

STORY: Massad Ayoob

DO "CIVILIANS" NEED SPARE AMMO?

Some think spare ammo is paranoid. This writer thinks it's just good sense.

Readers Mike Wilson writes, "There are undoubtedly extraordinary situations like camping in the wilderness where someone might be attacked by bad guys and need an arsenal and special skills for defensive purposes.

"This letter is about civilians, not military combat or law enforcement personnel, using a handgun for defensive purposes in their home or outside in an urban setting.

"I understand attacks are quick and will be concluded with few, if any, shots fired by either side.

"Accordingly, carrying speed loaders or extra magazines serves no practical purpose. What say you?"

"Is it really necessary to know how to reload a handgun quickly?"

Editor Jeff John assigned me to answer. Let me start by saying I know how Mike thinks, 'cause in my younger days, that's how I thought. If I was on my own time instead of working for the police department, what were the chances I'd need more than the five .38 rounds in my S&W Chief Special, the six in my Colt Detective Special, or the eight—count-them-eight!—big ol' .45 rounds in my Government Model?

As life went on, and my career found me researching gunfights, I started seeing the need for spare ammo.

During that period soft body armor came on the market, seized upon by the bad guys almost as soon as it was by the cops. Soon more criminals were wearing "bulletproof vests" than in the time of John Dillinger. Armor is popular today among armed robbers,

cocaine cowboys, gang-bangers, and committed stalkers. By the time you realize your shots to the chest are having no effect, a goodly amount of your ammo supply may be gone.

Certain recreational drugs, today more than ever, give their users



Former national IDPA champ Tom Yost (above) tac-loads his S&W M&P 9mm at Carolina Cup in 2010. Even this CZ75 9mm with its double-stack mag (below) will quickly run dry when firing at five shots per second.



adrenaline-fueled super strength or imperviousness to pain that turns them into bullet sponges who can soak up a lot of lead before they go down. Today's bad guys know

more about gunfight tactics such as movement and cover than ever before, making them harder to hit and thus demanding more shots to stop. And of course, predators have always run in packs. All these situations can leave a defender with an empty gun and an unresolved problem—and that's assuming every bullet we fire goes where it's aimed, which history teaches us is an optimistic assumption.

Malfunction Junction

The best of guns can jam. With auto pistols, the problem is often in the magazine, and even if it isn't, a "double feed" can still compromise the magazine in the pistol. In either case, stripping out the bad magazine and reloading with a fresh one is usually the best way to clear the stoppage and get back in the fight. Revolvers are not exempt from malfunction, either. A common cause of a locked-up revolver is a cartridge with a too-high primer which prevents the cylinder from rotating and therefore, the gun from firing. The quickest fix? Open the cylinder, eject the rounds, inject a speedloader, and go back to work.

Let's say you've been attacked in the woods by man or beast, and it has taken several rounds for you to neutralize the dangerous creature. You don't know how many others of its kind are out there, but you still want to get home in one piece... and the ammunition supply in your gun is depleted, or perhaps even completely spent. I load my gun all the way up when I carry it or set it in place for self-defense, and I suspect you do, too. To be able to do that now, in case there's another animal/rabid human/rabid whatever out there, you'll need spare ammunition immediately at hand.

While I've taken my share of

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Speedloader (arrow) is falling as Mas, eyes on target, closes reloaded cylinder of a S&W .38 en route to taking 1st Master at East Coast US IDPA Nationals, 2010.

suspects at gunpoint and come close to shooting a few, I haven't had to actually drop the hammer on one yet. I have, however, had to shoot the occasional dangerous animal. Most were 1-shot events, but not all. I recall a particularly durable, rabid raccoon that took four 185-grain .45 ACP slugs through the chest and was still expressing unhappiness when I put the fifth in his neck and killed him instantly. I remember a fast-moving cottonmouth in the dark one night that took six shots—some clipping chunks off him, some missing entirely—before the sixth found his venomous little head and ended things. On both occasions, I was very glad to be able to simply pull a fresh magazine from its belt pouch, tac-load, and return a fully loaded pistol to my holster.

Spare ammo is a lot more convenient to carry than the gun itself. Spare magazines are flat and ride comfortably in belt pouches. A J-frame revolver's speedloader fits nicely in the business card pocket inside the right front pocket of a sport coat, and the watch pocket in most jeans is just the right size for a Bianchi Speed Strip or a Tuff Strip.

As my friends at the Calibre Press Street Survival Seminars used to remind cops, it's about "preparation, not paranoia." I figured out a long time ago that a gun without spare ammunition is a very temporary gun.

So, brother Mike, to answer your very logical question: I strongly recommend spare ammo.

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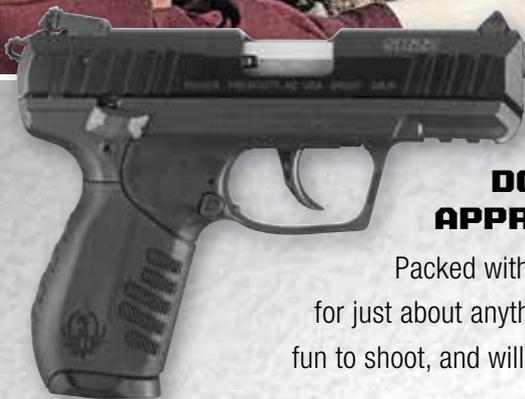
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MONTANA MUSINGS

STORY: Mike "Duke" Venturino
PHOTOS: Yvonne Venturino

DUKE'S LUCK PART II Sometimes, it's about the unexpected.

Back in the February issue, I detailed my almost phenomenal luck in finding a proper World War II vintage German scope complete with proper low turret-type mounts. It was needed to complete an original German K98k rifle with low turret bases, which I had found in a pawnshop here in Montana.

A few months later, a friend was visiting and I handed him an original K98k sniper rifle to look at. He said, "Oh, this must be the one you wrote up that you got in a pawn shop?" I had to say, "Nope, this is another one. That one had turret mounts and

a Zeiss scope. This one has the short side rail mount with a Kahles scope." My friend looked dumbfounded and said almost in awe, "You got another original German WWII sniper rifle! How did you manage that?"

"Luck, just plain luck," was my

truthful answer. I had known about this rifle for over a decade but the owner wouldn't consider selling it. Then he had a stroke of bad luck and needed to raise cash. Not gleeful about someone's bad luck, still I did have the cash to help him out so it was good luck for me.

When it comes to games of chance, I am famous among my friends for my bad luck. Once in Las Vegas, I decided I'd set aside \$50 to use in slot machines. Not once, never, was I a single cent ahead. My 50 bucks slid into a variety of slot machines spitting nary a coin back at me. A friend with me put a few dimes into a slot machine and hit a \$100 jackpot.

Conversely, I'm also known among my friends for my good luck when it comes to finding good guns and accessories. Actually, I've even had good luck in getting rid of guns which foolishly I had bought. An example was my first Japanese Type 38 6.5mm rifle. Not careful when I spied it at a gun show, upon firing it I discovered that headspace was so excessive it was dangerous to shoot. With the first shot, smoke actually came out around the bolt. The reason was the cartridge's primer had fallen out. Now that's excessive headspace!

I figured I was out the rifle's price. Not so. Luck brought me a fellow who wanted everything off of a Japanese Type 38 *except* its action. I stripped it down for him, got a few bucks more than I paid for it, and then tossed the useless action into the corner where it still resides.

Gun luck can sometimes be involved with timing rather than finding. A few years back, I was hot for a Japanese Type 97 6.5mm sniper rifle for my growing WWII collection. I found one on a firearms auction website. Type 97s are rare and expensive so in my mind I set a price above which I would not bid. Then as the auction's time was ending bidding got fast and furious. I bid \$500 more than my preset limit and I still didn't get the Type 97.

That was good luck because the very next morning a friend called and said, "I found you a Type 97." Its



Duke thought his money was wasted when this Japanese Type 38 rifle proved to have dangerously excessive headspace. His "luck" saved him.



Duke had coveted this German K98k sniper rifle with Kahles scope in short side rail mounts for a decade. Luck finally brought it to him.



Duke tried to win an auction for a rare Japanese Type 97 sniper rifle but lost. The very next day he was able to buy this one for \$600 less than he had bid for the other one.



What Duke had actually purchased wasn't an Italian Model 1891 but a much rarer Model 1941. Luck again!

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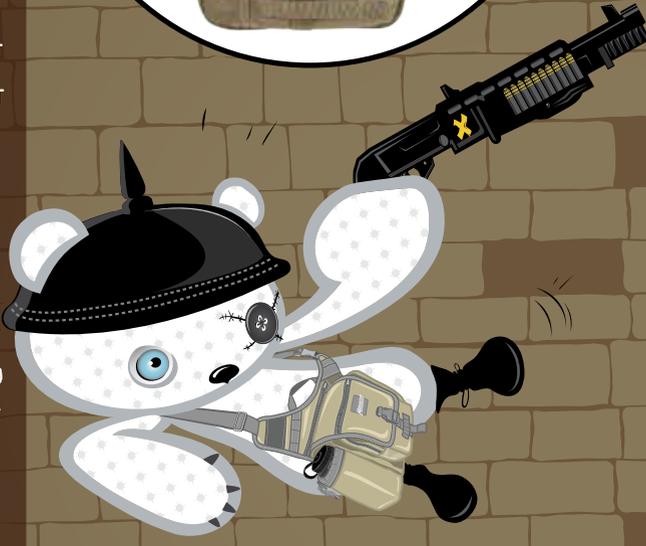


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When Duke bought what he thought was a Model 1891 Italian "Carcano," this odd rear sight confused him.

price was \$600 less than what I had bid for one the night before! Duke's luck strikes again.

This past winter I needed a 7x57mm military Mauser for a writing assignment. No big deal, I've bought guns specifically to write about before. However, my heart was set on a 7x57mm based on the stronger Mauser '98 action instead of the earlier Model 1893 or 1895 types. I learned of this assignment about a week before our yearly winter gun show. A mere 10 minutes after walking into that show, I found a Brazilian Model 1908 (Mauser '98) made by DWM of Berlin. It's a great shooter too.

Quirky Carcano

My gun luck even prevailed when I bought a rifle of a type that heretofore I had despised. Working on building my collection of WWII firearms I avoided buying an Italian Model 1891 6.5x52mm rifle commonly called "Carcano." They just seemed so homely or perhaps they seemed so unprestigious. Finally, I gave in and bid on one at a firearms auction website and won it. When it arrived it was in perfect condition and not in the least poorly crafted as I had expected.

Still, there just seemed something odd about it. The rear sight was some sort of rotary-type that I had never seen before and the rifle appeared shorter than expected. That's because it was: barrel length was a tad over 27" instead of the almost 31" of Italian Model 1891s. After a bit of research I discovered that my "Carcano" was a Model 1941 of which, according to *Military Rifles Of Two World Wars* by John Walter, only a few hundred were made. Duke's luck again, but even better it shoots precisely to its battle zero of 300 meters with handloads approximating its original military load.

Games of chance be darned! I'll take being lucky in love and in finding good gun deals anytime!

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STORY: Clint Smith PHOTOS: Heidi Smith

THOUGHTS ON DEFENSE

**A good start is
to choose your gun wisely.**

While teaching on an almost daily basis clients often ask me what practice can they do to get better? This is a good question generally asked by people with the best of intentions. It could be a somewhat loaded question based on the fact much of the end result rests on how much effort is put forward on their part to get to that end result.

Shooting, I believe, is a perishable skill and no matter how hard you work at it ultimately in the end eyesight changes, age or injuries will alter skill levels even for the best of the best. All this said, a very good level of defensive skills could be acquired and maintained with some effort on the part of the willing shooter ready to work at it. So, like most things in life you gain mental and physical skills appropriate to what effort you are willing to put into it.

It might help to get competent instruction if that instruction is relevant to what your purpose for having and maintaining a firearm skill was from the beginning. *Thinking*

and training beyond the firearm, the acquisition and practice of personal awareness and personal tactical skills in reality are probably as important as the gun itself at the end of the day.

What Gun?

Getting the correct weapon for you might be the first step. Be guarded and don't buy something purely on the basis of comfort or size. These are of course considerations, but they are by no means the only considerations you need to think of. Be careful not to buy a certain type of gun because someone else has it. Possession on their part doesn't mean they are necessarily competent with their choice anymore



Choose things that work for you and practice to polish those skills, remembering gunfights often do not come out the way we think they will nor always the way we practiced at the range. Ground fighting is a skill that needs to be practiced including the drawing stroke (below), loading and malfunction clearance.



You may not fight with your gun, so broaden your exposure to weapons systems other than yours to be prepared in case it happens.

than you acquiring their choice will make it the correct gun for you. Also I think it is important to remember your weapon choice only needs to work for you and to help you save your life or the lives of your family.

I recently had a young person tell me my choice of the 1911 was a bad thing because "it is an old gun." That of course could be true, then again, I have grown up and old with the 1911 and for me it has served very well in the past and continues to do so today. Are 1911s for everyone? I doubt it. Then again, I don't think a basket of polymer pistols would serve me personally any better. One additional point of many in this area, most of us buy guns with the concept of personal defense on the street, but in reality, the likelihood of us using a defensive tool at home is just as likely... maybe even

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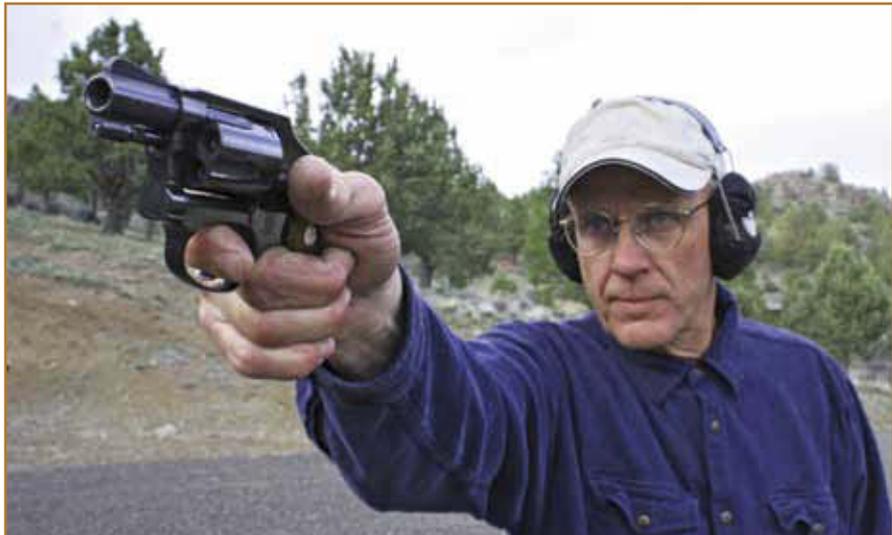
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Practice other techniques rather than the perfect range environment. Gunfights do not often occur on the range with paper targets shooting back at you.

more so than on the street.

Probably which or what technique you use to shoot with will be based on many changing factors with a few being your age, personal physical fitness, personal shooting experience, the environment you are forced to work in, whether or not your eye glasses got knocked off when the fight started, whether or not you are injured and so on. Some things will always be important like fundamentals, but they may too also be affected simply by the fact of where they are being applied environmentally.

Fighting Fundamentals

Grip, get a good grip on the handgun and two hands are better than one. Remember to choke up on the recoil shoulder and work to hold the handgun so the barrel or slide is aligned with or an extension of your forearm.

Stance is important as it provides the stable platform for the act of firing. The shot fired is usually good or bad and whether or not it is good or bad is often effected by the platform the shot comes from.

Sights, are always an arguable point for some people, they are not for me. I always look for or at the sights as best as I can in the environment I am in and applying the gun to. If the range is just beyond arms length, I doubt time will allow me to see, nor will I need to see, a perfect 50-yard sight picture. As the range increases the attention to the sights becomes more critical. This is a simple area for me to address. Most people address the threat as "it's so close I can't miss," I address the issue as the threat is so close "I better not miss." More shots have been fired and missed at close range—like the length of a car or across a room—than have

ever hit the intended target.

The trigger and trigger control or manipulation is probably the only part of shooting we can truly control and maintain over the years. This is a good thing as the contact with the trigger is our last physical contact or control over the projectile before it leaves the handgun. Always practice to manipulate the trigger correctly.

Food For?

Then, to be truly good is to have the ability and willingness to try every shooting technique and to shoot and use every weapons system you can get access to. After trying techniques other than your personal ones or your personal favorites, ones you should then select are the ones that work best for you. Your selection will then be based on actually trying other things not just shoving your nose skyward if it is not what you normally do.

It goes almost without saying people might select what they do based on past personal life experiences, but in the same breath we would need to recognize not everyone's past life experiences are the same. The fact is, most people on the planet do not have any life experience using a firearm for personal protection.

So you should choose wisely.

I HAVE ONE CAVEAT FOR THE ABOVE COLUMN, SOONER OR LATER YOU NEED TO PICK A HANDGUN AND A TECHNIQUE AND PRACTICE IT TO GAIN PROFICIENCY. YOU MUST PICK SOMETHING AND STICK WITH IT AND PRACTICE!

EDITOR'S NOTE:

THIS COLUMN ORIGINALLY RAN IN THE OCTOBER 2008 ISSUE. CLINT IS RECOVERING FROM SURGERY AND WILL RESUME HIS COLUMN IN THE NOVEMBER 2012 ISSUE.



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RIFLEMAN

STORY: Dave Anderson

THE HIGH-TECH RIFLEMAN

These few items can prove indispensable in the field and on the range as you learn about your rifle.

The current interest in long-range shooting isn't just because of the fine rifles, ammunition, and optics available. Accurate, reliable measuring and calculating devices are equally important.

The Leica Rangemaster CRF1600 laser rangefinder is compact and lightweight. Just 4-1/2" long by 3" high, and weighing under 8 ounces it can be tucked away in a shirt pocket.

The 7X optics are very good, as would be expected from Leica. The rangefinder uses a roof-prism design with phase correction coating on the prisms. External lens surfaces have a water-resistant hard coating.

The eyepiece has a folding eyecup for use with or without glasses, and can be adjusted to suit individual eyesight. Pressing the main button illuminates a bright, sharp, red square used for aiming, a second press gives the reading.

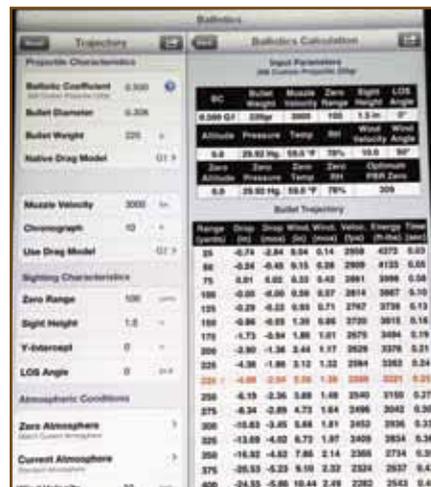
I set the Leica to read in yards (it can also read in meters). In testing I only counted a reading as valid if five consecutive readings were in close agreement. I was pleased to get readings of 1,660 yards (+/- a couple

of yards) off a steep, grass-covered hill. This was around 2 p.m. on a day of heavy overcast. Very impressive.

Press the main button to illuminate the square, then press the secondary button and the display shows three numbers in succession: target declination in degrees up or down, temperature and barometric pressure.

Temperature readings in Fahrenheit appeared to be accurate, within .2 or .5 degrees F of my Kestrel 4000 pocket weather tracker.

When US units are chosen, barometric pressure reads in psi. Generally in the US, barometric pressure is reported in inches of mercury (in Hg) for weather reports, while scientists prefer to use millibars. I set my Kestrel to read in psi and with elevation set at zero, pressure readings of the Leica and the Kestrel were very close.



This is the ballistic calculation page of the outstanding JBM Ballistics for iPad app. More data is available by scrolling up the page. Despite its high-tech features the program is straightforward and simple to use.

The 1600 also has a ballistic function. Program in one of 12 possible trajectory curves and the unit calculates trajectory based on distance, temperature, barometric pressure, and target declination. The display shows first distance, then the number of inches to correct at either a 100- or 200-yard zero.

I tried the system with a .300 Win Mag (180-grain TSX at 2,950 fps). The "US 4" trajectory wasn't an exact match but very close. At 505 yards the 1600 said I should be 10.1" high at 100 yards, while the JBM ballistic program indicated 9.87". At 480 yards the corresponding numbers were 9.2" and 9.05", and at 543 yards, 11.4" and 11.17".

Recently Leica announced a 1600B version which should be available by the time you read this. Its ballistic program works at longer distances (880 yards vs. 500m) and can be programmed to show corrections in MOA (and fractions of MOA) and mils. Current retail is around \$800.

JBM Ballistics For iPad

The JBM "Ballistics for iPad" app costs \$19.99 and is a bargain, even though there are other programs available free. The JBM is the best, most useful ballistic program I've encountered.



The JBM Ballistics for iPad is the best ballistic program Dave has used, being sophisticated yet simple to operate. The Kestrel 4000 pocket weather tracker provides complete weather data including wind speed, temperature, relative humidity and barometric pressure. Leica's Rangemaster 1600 gave consistent readings past 1,600 yards and is light and compact.



Two useful, pocket-size devices for the long-range hunter and shooter include (left) the Kestrel 4000 pocket weather tracker, and the Leica Rangemaster CRF 1600 laser rangefinder (right). The Kestrel 4000 provides complete weather data including temperature, barometric pressure, humidity, wind speed, dew point and other data, and can record data to show weather trends. The Leica 1600 provides data on temperature, barometric pressure, target declination and a useful ballistic function to assist in sight adjustment.

I can't cover every function, but just to give a taste, it includes data on literally thousands of bullets (plus .22 rimfire data). The program supports G1 to G8 ballistic drag models. Weather information can be entered, or if the iPad is online the program can get current data from the nearest weather station.

Data is displayed in tables showing drop and wind drift in the units of

your choice, including milliradians and MOA clicks from 1/8 to 1. There's a page for charts to show bullet drop, velocity, energy, and wind drift, and compare up to eight projectiles on the same page. A range log page is available to record data on shooting with your rifles and loads.

If the target is above or below, aim the iPad at it and the "LOS Angle" cell shows the angle in degrees. Press the

cell and the angle is entered into the ballistic calculations. If you desire, the program can compensate for spindrift and Coriolis acceleration.

Yet, for all its sophistication the program is simple and straightforward. Outstanding, can't say enough good things about it. I got it off the iTunes app store.

The Kestrel 4000 pocket weather tracker first appeared in 2000 and is a proven workhorse, used all over the world. For shooters the wind speed function is most useful, though I also like the information on temperature, barometric pressure, and humidity. I've used this one for around seven years, found it to be completely dependable, and have a high regard for Kestrel products.

The 4000 is currently priced around \$250. If all you need is wind speed, the Kestrel 1000 wind meter is available for around \$75.

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HANDLOADING

STORY: John Barsness

POWDER REDUCTION AND STORAGE

The handloader's cornucopia of choices generates some unique problems.

Thirty years ago, I used four powders for all my handloading—H4831, IMR4350, IMR4895 and Unique—and could have gotten by with three, *since the only reason for the H4831 was finding a few dusty cans of the last mil-surp powder in a hardware store in Culbertson, Mont., for about half the going price of “new” H4831.*

Back then I only handloaded for five cartridges, the .30-06, .270 Winchester, .257 Roberts, .38 Special and 12 gauge. Nowadays, my loading room contains several dozen powders (including some no longer made) and the list definitely needs thinning. According to Internet chat rooms and correspondence from readers, this seems to be a common problem, even though most handloaders don't complicate things by writing about it professionally.

In the early 1950s, when the great handloading boom in America started taking off, there were far fewer smokeless powders available. How did we get to be such powder addicts, when a dozen powders will do nicely for a wide selection of rifle, shotgun and handgun rounds?

It's True

Well, for starters the powder companies keep introducing “new and improved” products. Unlike some advertising claims, this is actually true. In general, today's powders produce higher velocities, burn cleaner, meter more precisely and resist temperature extremes better than the powders of 50 years ago.

The powder companies let us know about each and every one, and the Internet spreads the word, especially when some new powder supposedly



Exactly how many powders do we need?

turns the .30-06 into a .300 magnum. Despite ample historical evidence showing the “traditional” velocities of the .30-06 to be quite adequate for 99 percent of big-game hunting, almost every avid handloader is a closet speed demon, convinced another 100 fps will slay deer and elk more expeditiously. Cheap chronographs help scratch this itch, especially when they show, “All those zeros!” (as my friend Stu Carty calls the 3,000 fps level). As a result our loading rooms overflow with perfect powders for every tiny niche in handloading.

The only way to cut back is get rational. No, we don't have to turn into one of those grumps who claims 70-year-old IMR4350 works just as well in the .30-06 as any newer wonder powder, but we can analyze our needs

by listing all the cartridges we load for and the powders actually used. (Please don't e-mail the editor calling me a powder elitist by suggesting IMR4350 might not be perfect. A couple of pounds sit in my loading room right now.)

My wife Eileen and I load for 50-some rifle cartridges, half-a-dozen handgun rounds and every common shotshell from .410 bore to 10 gauge. I recently listed the powder used for the primary load in each rifle, along with two loads for each handgun and shotgun round—a lighter practice load and a full-power load.

Since we live in Montana, where hunting temperatures can vary from well below zero to 100-plus degrees, we tend to choose temperature-resistant rifle powders, one reason Hodgdon's H4350 far outstrips IMR4350 in our handloads these days. (The other reason, of course, is H4350's “short cut” granules run through a powder measure far more easily.)

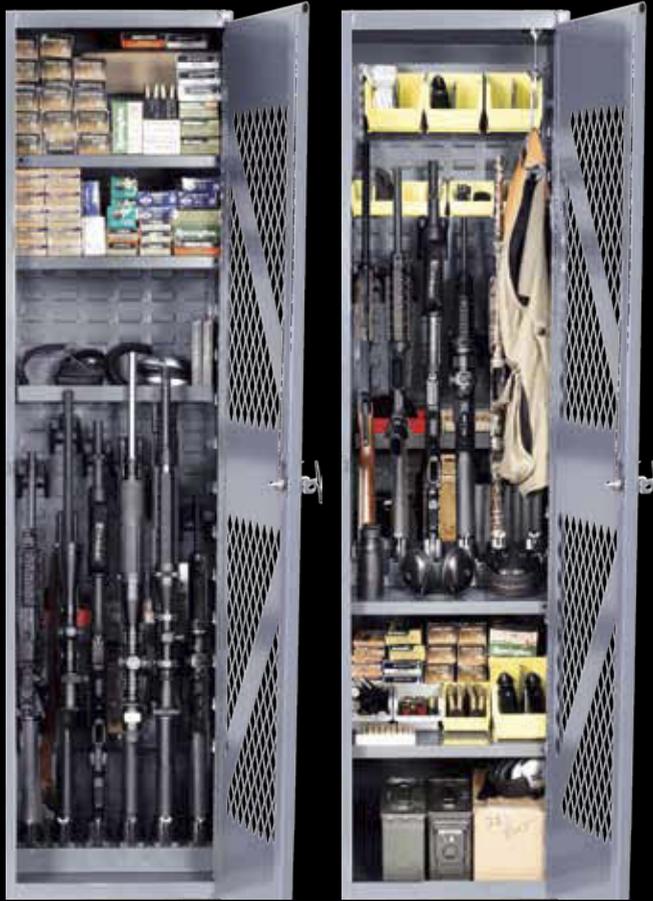
In fact, we use H4350 in 11 rifle cartridges, far more than any other powder, though all are big-game rounds. We use larger quantities of three powders—Benchmark, Varget and TAC—because they're our most commonly used varmint-rifle powders.

It turns out we could load all our ammo with 15 powders and not suffer much at all. The rifle powders, from slowest to fastest burning, include Magnum, H4831SC, Hunter, H4350, Big Game, Reloder 15, Varget, TAC, IMR4895, Benchmark and Li'l Gun.

Li'l Gun is also the primary powder in the .410 and 28-gauge shotshells, and the slowest-burning powder on the handgun/shotshell list. The others, slowest to fastest, are Hodgdon Longshot, H110, Alliant 2400 and Unique.

Some of the powders such as Unique and IMR4895 definitely aren't ultra-modern, but they're incredibly versatile. For certain cartridges Varget, RL-15 or TAC might work slightly better than IMR4895, but none work quite as consistently as IMR4895 in reduced loads. Today's cleaner-burning version of Unique (a powder introduced well

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over a century ago) still works great in a bunch of handgun rounds, plus the three most versatile shotgun gauges: 20, 16 and 12.

Please note that I'm not suggesting this list of 15 powders is the best of all time. For your handloading, a slow-burning rifle powder such as Retumbo or Reloder 25 may work slightly better than Ramshot Magnum. They do in some of my rifles! But our list was derived from the loads we use most, and makes me wish our powder collection could be pared to only 15, because storage would be a lot easier—which brings up the next subject.

Safe Storage

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is an American trade association that establishes standards and codes for adoption by local governments. It has zillions of copyrighted standards and codes for everything that might possibly cause a fire, and of course some cover gun powder. The portion covering smokeless powder can be found on the Alliant Powder website.

If you want to read the whole thing, click on "Getting Started," then "Safety Issues," then "Storage and Handling." Their codes may not be adopted exactly by local governments, but suggest up



One of John's friends keeps his powder in a cooler with a friction-fit lid. While not exactly the wooden cabinet the National Fire Protection Association suggests, it functions much the same, and provides more insulation against summer heat.

to 20 pounds of powder can be safely stored in private homes in their original containers, while 20 to 50 pounds of powder should be stored in a wooden container with at least 1" walls, again in their original containers.

The primary requirement is *not* to store powder in a tight, strong container, such as a safe. Unless contained, smokeless powder burns far more slowly than other stuff commonly found in homes and garages. (Gasoline immediately comes to mind, but some paints and solvents can literally explode.) Powder bottles are designed to split easily during a fire, and a storage

cabinet should also be constructed to split open easily.

Powder lasts a lot longer if stored in a cool, dry place. Many of us have our loading bench in a detached garage, and garages can get pretty hot during summer even in cooler regions of North America. A friend of mine here in Montana stores his powder in a cheap plastic cooler with a friction-fit lid. This isn't strictly NFPA code, but the idea is the same, and the cooler provides more insulation than 1" wood, helping powder remain cool during hot summer days.



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UPON ARS

STORY: Glen Zediker

TWISTS & LEADES The right barrel.

My UPS man flagged me down recently. He told me that (such-and-such) was having a big sale on AR-15 uppers... "Should I get a 9 or a 7...?" He was, of course, referring to the barrel twist rate. My first question back was "What do you want to shoot in it..." I was, of course, referring to ammunition.

The twist rate question is fairly easy to answer, although it has more than one part or qualification. It's the other question that demands a little more attention. That is, "Is it a .223 or NATO chamber?"

First, twist rate. A barrel twist rate is expressed as the distance for one complete revolution or "turn" of the rifling. It's a 360-degree spiral. A 1:9" is read as "1-turn-in-9-inches." The twist rate must apply enough revs to a bullet to stabilize it. Although it's really the length of the bullet, not its weight, that determines the necessary twist, it's usually referenced in bullet weight. The reason I mention this is because there are some bullet designs that create a longer bullet compared to others at the same grain weight. A 70-grain "VLD" (Very Low Drag) design is a good example. These bullets are considerably longer than say, a 69-grain Sierra MatchKing. The



These are Sierra 80-grain MatchKings seated to engage the lands for a NATO chamber (left) and a SAAMI minimum .223 Remington chamber (right). Whoa. Big difference: more than .150".

1:9" will stabilize the Sierra but not always the VLD. VLD bullets are for competitive shooters who handload, pretty much, so will not likely be encountered by others.

So, the twist rate answers: A 1:9" will stabilize virtually all commercially-loaded bullets up to 70 grains. Anything heavier than that needs the 1:7" (1:8" is fine too, just not as common in factory-built uppers). The most common need for a 1:7" is for those who want to use commercially-loaded ammo with a 75- or 77-grain bullet. A 1:9" will not stabilize those loadings.

Practical advice? When unsure, go with the faster twist. A 1:7" twist provides enough flexibility to launch anything up to and including an 82-grain bullet. Accuracy differences with lighter bullets will not be noticeable. By that I mean shooting lighter bullets through a faster twist. The only question might come if someone wants to shoot very light bullets, such as specialty varminting bullets, through a 7" twist. There can be bullet jacket damage, which can lead to "blown up" bullets if we're shooting something like a 40 grain at max velocity. Again, this is more likely encountered by the handloader and not the loaded ammo purchaser.

Now. The chamber question. Overview first. A rifle chamber is a hole cut in the breech-end of a barrel so a round of ammunition will fit into it. It's a lathe operation. A chamber "reamer" is the tool that cuts this hole and is shaped the same as a cartridge case with at least a little part of a bullet stuck down into it. The reamer



If you want to shoot 5.56 NATO ammo, make sure you have a NATO chamber. The little "cross" stamp (above, at 12 o'clock) identifies NATO rounds. This is a NATO-spec round (below) fired in a .223 Remington (SAAMI) chamber. Ouch!



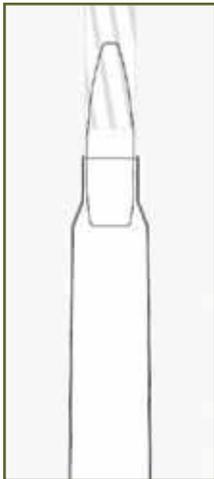
is going to cut out the case body and shoulder silhouette, the case neck, and then extend into the bore to form a bullet profile silhouette. It's here, the bullet profile area, where the main tooling differences exist. There a number of .223 Remington reamers available and in use by custom builders. The two most commonly used in factory-made guns are at opposite ends of this little universe. One is the shortest—.223 Remington and one is the longest—5.56x45mm NATO. The .223 Remington is sometimes called a "SAAMI" or "SAAMI Minimum."

What I called the "bullet profile area" is technically called a "leade." We also can call it the barrel "throat." Inside the chamber, the distance between the end of the case neck and the first point cut into the rifled portion of the barrel that coincides with barrel land (rifling) diameter is the preeminent variable determined by the reamer. Land diameter will be the smallest dimension inside a bore. If the first point of full land diameter (usually .219" in a .224-caliber bore) is farther from the end of the case neck (farther ahead into the bore), then the

chamber has a longer leade or throat. The bullet won't contact the lands until, of course, it reaches the point on the bullet that coincides with land diameter. I call this the first point of "major diameter" on a bullet. The effect or influence of this conical space ahead of the case neck is simple: the more space the less pressure, and the more space the farther the bullet must "jump" until the bullet contacts the lands.

Chambering specifications, which means the reamer used (and somewhat how it was used), are therefore compromises. Many similar things are.

SAAMI (Small Arms and Ammunition Manufacturer's Institute) set its standards for .223 Remington long ago based on bolt-action rifles chambered for this round. These bolt rifles were configured for varminting. There was, of course, originally a military chamber and round, the 5.56x45mm NATO cartridge, which was renamed as the .223 Remington for the commercial market. The SAAMI chamber has a



Here's the leade or throat in a chamber. This is the distance, essentially, from the cartridge case mouth to the first point inside the bore where the bullet will contact the lands or rifling. Different chambering reamers make for different specifications.

good deal shorter leade or throat than a military NATO-spec chamber. That means big (*big*) differences in pressures.

Off-the-shelf AR-15s may have "either" chamber. Even worse, some barrels are not marked and some are improperly marked. If you see a configuration advertised as "match" barrel, it may very likely have the SAAMI chamber. If you want to have a care-free life with your AR-15, get a NATO chamber. You can shoot any commercially available ammo in that one. If you need to know—and you do need to know—you have to ask.

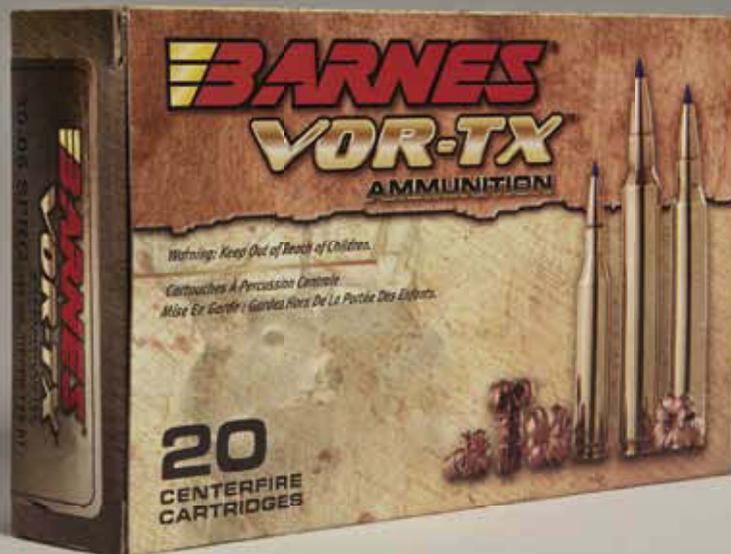
Competitive NRA High Power shooters talk about chamber "lengths" based on an overall cartridge length that will have a Sierra 80-grain MatchKing bullet just touching the lands or rifling when the round is chambered. I mention this only to provide a way to quantify the differences in these

two chambers. A SAAMI-minimum chamber is normally about 2.395" with the Sierra 80 grain; a NATO chamber is normally about 2.550". Those are huge differences. These differences are not to be ignored! If you ever want to shoot mil-spec ammo in your rifle, you *must* have a NATO chamber!

The shorter leade in a SAAMI .223 Remington raises pressures. Compounding this, NATO-spec ammunition is nearly always loaded to higher pressures than commercial .223. Shooting 5.56 mil-spec ammo in a SAAMI "minimum" .223 Remington chamber can increase chamber pressure 15,000 psi, or more. You have to know your chamber. If you don't know, then shoot ".223 Remington" ammunition. Know also before selecting loading data. If loads were worked up in rifle with a NATO chamber (Colt HBAR, for instance), they will be over-pressure if used in a SAAMI chamber. **GUNS**

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MIKE CUMPSTON

THE KAHR CM9 A top-quality, deep concealment 9mm in affordable trim.

Going into the second decade of the third millennium, the demand for powerful, concealable handguns has created a seller's market for the companies with the smallest 9x19mm pistols. Kahr's original pocket-sized PM9 has been riding the top of Kahr Arms' sale charts and also occupies the alpha position on a number of lists of the smallest 9mm pistols.

The original version, the PM9, is even marginally smaller in most or all aspects than one pistol claiming the title. Adding the suffix "... est" is a precarious leap, particularly when we are bandying the smallest fractions of an inch. Nevertheless, the PM9093 is small, popular and relatively expensive.



True Graves (above) is a new shooter but made excellent progress at the Centex R&P women's practicum. She had no problem with 9mm +P recoil from the CM9. Cassandra Hall (below) was able to chamber rounds without difficulty and found the Kahr easy to shoot.



In recent years, Kahr has been bolstering its product line with economy versions of their mainline pistols and now has extended the process to the 9093. The alterations described below have lopped a solid \$200 off the price without doing even the slightest degree of mischief to the product.

The CM9093 has a pinned plastic front sight instead of the steel dovetailed unit of the original. The rear sight is drift adjustable for windage and the CM sights have the same Patridge profile with the same white dot front/white bar rear accents. It does not stick up above the pistol like a sore thumb and plastication is not likely to put it in the way of getting sheared off. The polygonal-rifled barrel gives way to conventional rifling—a step unlikely to produce any noticeable change in accuracy.

There are fewer machining operations on the slide. The engraving and finish are simplified though remain as attractive as need be and the pistol is sold with a single flatbased, 6-round magazine (obliging the savvy buyer to order a spare). The 7-round thumb extension unit would certainly make sense for a backup. The slide stop is a product of metal injection molding rather than machining, a process deplored by purists. It is a cost saving expedient with proponents as well as detractors.



The Kahr CM 9 is a high quality, American-made product that combines power, reliability and shooter comfort with maximum concealability.

Kahr representatives report the polymer-framed models currently outsell their all-steel models by a significant margin. The CM9 has a machined stainless slide and polymer grip frame with steel elements molded into the frame at all points in contact with the slide. The trigger system is cam-assisted, full-time double action with the striker partially loaded to accommodate the passive striker safety block. It is a widely used principle, making the pistols totally drop safe. Some shooters dislike it because there is no "double-strike" capability. If a round fails to fire, it is necessary to work the slide to reactivate the trigger. The trigger on our sample pulls through at a stack-free 7 pounds—in exact accord with factory specifications.

Small pistols such as this give rise to the temptation to report groups fired at rock-throwing distances. The Kahr tech guy who presented the CM at a media event at Gander Mountain, St. Mary, Fla., had bragged about the accuracy of the pistols so, I benched it from 25 yards. It turned out to be the right thing to do. The sharp sight picture and the long but smooth trigger came through with a 3.5" average for seven single-effort, 5-round groups with as many premium 9mm loads. Two of the groups pretty much tied at 2.7" and 2.8". I walked the Kahr through the Texas Concealed Handgun Proficiency course and had no problem keeping all shots centered through the various

CM9

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CALIBER: 9mm, **CAPACITY:** 6+1, **OPERATION:** Locked breech DAO, **BARREL:** 3.0", **SAFETY:** Passive striker block, **OVERALL LENGTH:** 5.42", **HEIGHT:** 4.0", **SLIDE WIDTH:** .90", **WEIGHT:** Pistol 15.9 ounces, **GRIPS:** Textured polymer, **SIGHTS:** Drift adjustable, white-bar-dot combat, **FINISH:** Black polymer frame, matte stainless steel slide, **PRICE:** \$565

9MM FACTORY AMMO PERFORMANCE

LOAD (BRAND, BULLET WEIGHT, TYPE)	VELOCITY (FPS)	ENERGY (FT-LBS)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)
BUFFALO BORE 124 JHP +P	1,084	323	2.7
BUFFALO BORE 115 +P	1,116	318	4.0
BUFFALO BORE 124 PENETRATOR +P+	1,149	364	5.0
BLACK HILLS 124 JHP	1,039	297	2.8
BLACK HILLS 115 +P	1,138	331	3.2
HORNADY 135 CRITICAL DUTY	965	279	3.8
HORNADY 135 CRITICAL DUTY +P	1,023	314	3.2

Notes: Groups the product of five shots at 25 yards from a rest.

drills at 3, 7 and 15 yards.

The common wisdom says today's gun buyers want the most compact pistol available right up until they fire their first shot with pain and neural overload being the inevitable side effect of adequate power and concealability. During my range sessions, I found the CM9 quite comfortable to shoot. Kahr credits geometric features of the pistol and particularly the offset barrel lugs and resulting low barrel axis for the reduction in perceived recoil.

The recoil system is a 2-spring arrangement partially captured on a steel guide rod. It takes considerable effort to retract the slide. I wondered if this would be problematic for other shooters and if the noted gentle shooting properties would extend to the population at large. Centex Rifle and Pistol Club located north of Waco, Texas, regularly hosts familiarization events for area women. These have been going on for a couple of years now and continue to draw considerable numbers, mostly comprised of beginning shooters. Several participants tried out the CM9 reporting little difficulty working the slide.

They shot the Kahr with some very mild lead bullet reloads and some Black Hills +P jacketed hollowpoints. None reported any discomfort from the recoil though a couple noticed the high-end factory loads were more vociferous than those of standard pressure. Range Safety Officer Brian Harnden, said that it recoiled less than his full-sized carry pistols and Range Officer Jerry Smith rapid fired a magazine full into a well centered 1.5" group in the head of a B-27 target at 7 yards pronouncing the CM9 suitably accurate. The pistol functioned perfectly with one minor exception that would not be deemed a malfunction. After cycling a full magazine, it failed to lock open on empty—almost certainly because the shooter didn't have a rigid stance or firm grip. It did not jam, it merely obeyed the laws of physics.

Kahr pistols are all based on the design of CEO Justin Moon. His innovation resulted from a personal desire for a high quality CCW firearm and his dissatisfaction with the pistols



The Kahr CM9 breezed through the Texas Concealed Handgun Proficiency demonstration (above). Black Hills and Buffalo Bore 124-grain JHP loads produced 25-yard groups (below) of less than 3".



on the market in the 1980s. In other words, he made the guns first to shoot and secondarily to sell—both of which venues they serve quite well. Kahr pistols are all made in America using the CNC equipment developed and distributed by the parent company. Kahr owners tell me they have gotten prompt and professional assistance with Kahr customer service. The firm offers a comprehensive line of parts and accessories. **GUNS**

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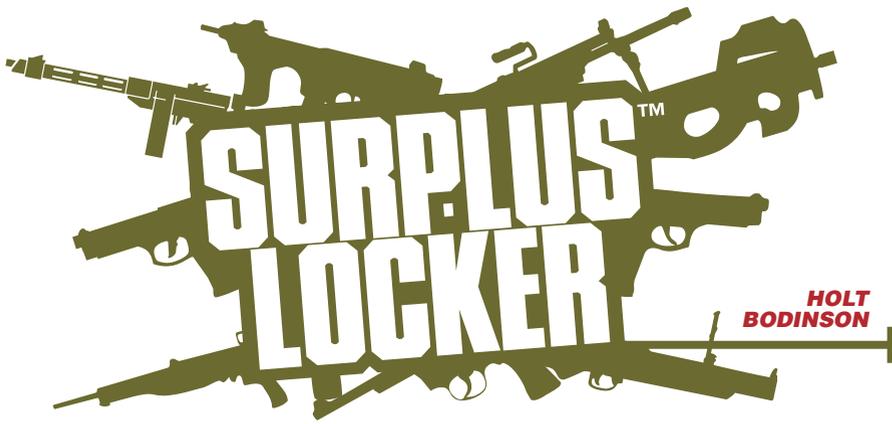
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WHAT A RACQUET!

Britain's grenade launching SMLE is the perfect launcher for long-range tennis balls.

If there's a milsurp to make you smile, it has to be a wire-wound SMLE with an attached discharger cup. A wire-wound SMLE is striking looking in itself. Add a surplus discharger cup, and our SMLE becomes the best tennis ball pitcher in town. This is one fun combination.

Wire-wound SMLEs are not uncommon. They've been floating around milsurp circles for years. I remember coming across them in my teens, and for the life of me, I couldn't figure out why those SMLEs were wire-wound and in many cases, carried painted stripes.

The grenade-launching SMLE made its debut in WWI with the development and manufacture of the No. 1 Discharger Cup in November 1917. The discharger, clamped onto the muzzle of an SMLE, was designed to fire a Mills-pattern hand grenade using a special .303 blank cartridge.



The business end with a, um, tennis ball grenade.

The Mills grenade was fitted with a 7-second delay fuse.

In his book, *The Lee-Enfield Story*, Ian Skennerton writes, "... early in the war, the proportion of hand to rifle grenades was about 10-to-1 in favor of the hand-thrown model, but by the end of the war, more of the rifle grenades were in use than their hand-thrown counterparts."

The design of the cup discharger for the SMLE is very clever. Measuring about 6-1/2" overall with a 2-1/2" bore, the discharger cup sports two clamps that engage the lightning cuts on either side of the SMLE nosecap. As the knurled body of the discharger is turned in a clockwise direction, the clamps are tightened into place by the inclined plane of the discharger base. The cup indexes on the bayonet stud so the bore of the rifle barrel and the bore of the discharger are perfectly aligned.

Gas Adjustment

At the bottom of the cup is an adjustable gas port that slides back-and-forth like a shutter. By either decreasing or increasing the amount of gas directed at the disk base of the grenade, the soldier could vary the velocity and range of the grenade. In 1925, a 2" discharger was introduced in which the gas shutter was actually calibrated from 100 to 325 yards for high explosive grenades and from 100 to 250 yards for smoke grenades. In 1933, the 2-1/2" discharger was

SMLE NO. 1 MK. 3 GRENADE RIFLE

MAKER: Ishapore Rifle Factory, **MECHANISM:** Bolt action, **CALIBER:** .303, **CAPACITY:** 10, **BARREL LENGTH:** 25.2", **OVERALL LENGTH:** 44.5", **SIGHTS:** Original issue—not used for grenade firing, **WEIGHT EMPTY W/DISCHARGER:** 12 pounds, 5 ounces, **FINISH:** Black paint, **VALUE:** +/- \$400



Up, up and away! The firing angle was always "guesstimated" by the firer at 45 degrees.

reinstated for the SMLE along with an auxiliary rear sight for shooting the No. 68, anti-tank grenade.

In use, a soldier would slip a grenade partially into the cup to safely secure the striker lever, pull out the safety pin at the top of the grenade and then seat the grenade firmly in the bottom of the cup. Chambering a special blank cartridge, the soldier would rest the rifle butt on the ground, incline his SMLE at approximately a 45-degree angle and let fly. With the discharger gas port closed, a range of 200 yards was considered the minimal acceptable distance for the special grenade launching ammunition.



The sliding adjustable gas port of the discharger controls the velocity and range of the grenade.



When first introduced in standard-stocked SMLEs, the pressure and recoil of the discharger system broke stocks. Ordnance's initial solution was to wrap the forestock with heavy twine and then later with copper, steel or brass wire soldered in place. In addition, a reinforcing cross bolt was installed just ahead of the receiver. Because the SMLE absorbed much of the recoil shock in its nosecap and fore-end, it proved more robust than the later No. 4 rifle which sported a grenade launcher locked onto the bayonet lugs on the barrel.

The rifles selected for conversion into dedicated grenade throwing models were usually downgraded weapons. For example, the SMLE illustrated here carries a "W" under an "*" on the Knox form, indicating that the bore is cord worn from cleaning. Other specimens you may encounter might be marked "EY" to indicate a second tier rifle to be used only in emergencies or "GF" signifying "Grenade Firing" only.

In Britain, the discharger cup was declared obsolete in 1947 to be replaced by a spigot discharger using finned rifle grenades, but not so in India.

Always short of artillery and crew served weapons, the Indians stuck with the cup discharger and their reinforced SMLEs. At India's rifle factory of Ishapore, established in 1905 and modeled after the Royal Small Arms Factory at Sparkbrook in Birmingham, approximately 150,000 grenade dedicated SMLEs were produced between 1944 and 1971.

The Indians used two methods to reinforce their stocks: copper-wire wound and sheet metal cuffs that surround the stock and are bolted together. Many of the converted Ishapores are still on issue from Indian State Police inventories. The fact is, as a collector, you will be hard pressed to locate a grenade dedicated SMLE that wasn't made at Ishapore.

Fun Part

A tennis ball fits perfectly down the 2-1/2" bore of a No. 1 cup discharger. All you need is a suitable blank cartridge to send that ball singing down range. My solution is 10.0 grains of Unique in a .303 case with a quarter sheet of toilet paper tamped on top of the powder by the eraser end of a lead pencil.

After closing the gas port so all the gas is directed at the base of the tennis ball, you would be advised to place a small piece of thick leather between the ball and the bottom of the discharger to protect the tennis ball from the hot gas.



A Mills pattern grenade was the most commonly launched little bomb of WWI and WWII (above). Ammonal, Alumalot, Amatol or Gilferite explosives were loaded through a screw-sealed hole (below).



Chambering your homemade blank, all that's left to do is to assume the proper kneeling position, gauge the distance to your target and send your fuzzy, day-glo, green ball whooshing on its way. Run a dry patch through your barrel after each shot to remove bits of the wad and unburned powder. The distance of my average shot with an elevation of 45 degrees is 80 yards. By the way, it helps if you have a trained retriever or cooperative youngster to shag your tennis grenades.

Yes, boys and their toys! But I still cut a grin every time I pull that trigger.

GUNS

FURTHER READING

THE LEE-ENFIELD: A CENTURY OF LEE-METFORD AND LEE-ENFIELD RIFLE AND CARBINES, IAN D. SKENNERTON, HARDCOVER, 608 PAGES, ©2007, \$79.50, ARMS & MILITARIA PRESS, P.O. BOX 5014, GRANTS PASS, OR 97527, (541) 659-0373.

Q&A

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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

7.35mm Carcano

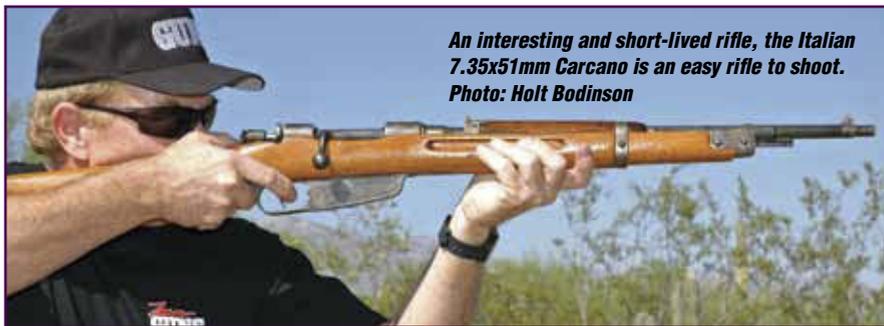
Q: I inherited a Carcano; I thought it was in 6.5mm and purchased a box of ammo at a gun show. I cycled the ammo through it, just to see if it cycled and it worked fine. Before shooting it I went to a

gunsmith to have it checked out and the gunsmith surprised me by telling me it was 7.35mm Carcano. The rifle is dated 1898 and the serial number on the receiver and stock match, but not on the bolt. I've never seen any ammo other than the 6.5. What have I got? Can I shoot it or is it just a collector's item?

Harold Weinbaum Jr.
Fort Mitchell, Ala.

A: Holt Bodinson wrote about the 7.35x51mm Carcano in the December 2008 issue, which is available reprinted for \$4 from www.gunsmagazine.com/archives. In a nutshell (and I cheerfully poach from his article), when the 6.5x52mm Carcano proved ineffective as a machinegun round, the Italians

An interesting and short-lived rifle, the Italian 7.35x51mm Carcano is an easy rifle to shoot.
Photo: Holt Bodinson



WWII 7.35mm ammo still works but is becoming a collectible. Try handloading with Hornady's .300" SP (far right). Cases can be purchased from Graf or are easily made from 6.5x52mm cases by sizing and trimming. Photo: Holt Bodinson

decided to neck up the cartridge to 7.35mm (.300"—not .308"!) to give it a little more range and hitting power.

The new round still fit the older Mannlicher-style clips and the rifles only needed rebarreling to 7.35 to complete the change. Alas, the changes



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began in 1938 and WWII occurred long before the modernization could be completed, leaving the Italian army with the same logistics nightmare as the Japanese: having to keep track and provide soldiers with the correct of two different rounds.

So you do have an interesting rifle which likely saw service in WWII. Even better, you can shoot it, too. Hornady has made a run of brass and the correct 128-grain .300" bullets for Graf & Sons. Dies are available from Lee and if you should just want to shoot it, Graf had loaded ammo from Precision Cartridge at presstime.

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Left-Hand Ithaca Model 37

Q: I have an Ithaca Model 37 I bought at a local gun show. I realized after I got home that it was a left-handed model. At first I thought this was kind of funny since the shells eject out the bottom, and it really didn't matter until I realized the safety had to be reversed for left-hand operation. Now, being I am a righty, I would like to know how hard it is to put in a right-handed safety? Some info about this gun would be great. The serial number is 37117XXXX and would changing it to a righty decrease its value?

*Thomas Creighton
Semmes, Ala.*

A: Your Ithaca was made in 1971, according the Ithaca Gun Co. The firm offers both right- and left-hand safeties, so a gunsmith should be able to swap it out for you without problem. Ithaca can install the parts, too, if that is more convenient for you. It won't change the value of your fine shotgun to convert it back to right-hand use, and keeping the left-hand parts will make the gun more salable should you choose to put it up for sale.



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A 21ST CENTURY KITGUN

Ruger's SR22 .22 Long Rifle pistol.

John Taffin

In the waning years of the last century I would not have even taken a second look at Ruger's latest .22 semi-automatic pistol, the SR22. However, the fact I not only have looked at it but also embraced it heartily is proof positive a dinosaur can not only change his spots he can learn new tricks. (There is a limit to my modernization; I haven't succumbed, nor do I intend to, to Facebook.) It took me a while to warm up to polymer-framed pistols but once I tried them I found I actually like them.

Not to worry. My sixgunn' heart still contains the same large section for blue steel sixguns but my waist isn't the only thing growing larger in my old age. My heart has also expanded to provide a chamber for black polymer pistols.

This new Ruger looks nothing like the original Ruger Red Eagle .22 from 1949. It is instead a thoroughly up-to-date, lightweight, flawlessly functioning, easy-to-carry 21st-century Kit Gun. For those not familiar with the term "Kit Gun" it harkens back to WWI and a soldier's kit bag which

carried all his necessities. Generations earlier it would have been called a "possibles" bag. In between the wars Smith & Wesson brought out the first .22 Kit Gun a small-framed revolver which would fit easily in a pack or tackle box.

Now nearly a century later, Ruger has thoroughly modernized the Kit Gun concept with this polymer-framed semi-automatic .22. It fits easily in a pack, the top of a tackle box, under the seat of the truck, or even in a holster such as that custom crafted for me by



John found shooting the Ruger SR22 to be pure pleasure. The little self-loader redefines "kit gun."

Zack Davis. As far as I know Zack's shop, Davis Leather, is the first to offer holsters for the Ruger SR22. Holster making is a 3-pronged stool requiring design, material, and craftsmanship. If any one of these is lacking or deficient the holster is worthless. Zack uses only top-quality leather, combined with his own innovative designs and excellent craftsmanship.

I've never been one to carry a pistol in a pack and I don't fish but thanks to Zack my SR22 is easily carried on my pants belt and concealed if I wish it so. I certainly don't recommend the .22 as a self-defense round *but* for some folks for whom recoil is a real problem it may be the best solution. Ten rounds of hollowpoint .22s can be much more comforting and adequate than the alternative of carrying nothing but hope.

Let's take a closer look at the Ruger SR22. My FFL holder is Buckhorn Gun and when my SR22 arrived three of the fellows there who saw it immediately ordered their own. My local indoor range is Impact Arms. They received two last week and they were gone the same day. This is going to be a very popular .22 and huge seller for Ruger. There is no denying we are in a semi-automatic age and especially so when it comes to black, polymer-framed pistols. The newer generation of shooters was not raised on Single

Targets shot with the Ruger SR22 show the little gun capable of fine accuracy. The holster is by Zack Davis, probably the first leather maker to offer a holster for the Ruger SR22.





Nearly 65 years separate this original Red Eagle of 1949, which was the first arm offered by Ruger, and the new polymer-framed SR22. The Ruger SR22 has a magazine capacity of 10 Rounds, however the original Red Eagle only held nine rounds in the magazine.

Actions as I was but on Glocks and ARs; for them the SR22 has a most familiar look.

The Ruger SR22 is a smallish pistol weighing in at 17.5 ounces with a barrel length of 3.5" and an overall length of just over 6". As mentioned earlier it is designed to fit in small spaces. The frame is black polymer, the slide is black-finished aluminum, while the barrel is stainless steel. When viewed from the front end the slide is somewhat trapezoidal in shape with a flat taper on each side of the sights. The right-side taper is nicely marked "SR22 PISTOL" while the left side of the slide above the trigger has the Ruger logo and "RUGER."

Magazine capacity is 10 rounds and Ruger not only supplies two magazines with each pistol, should the shooter so desire to use them, finger extension butt pads are supplied for each magazine. The ambidextrous magazine release is found at the junction of the rear of the triggerguard and the frontstrap and is easily operated. The magazine falls free with the push of the button.

The grip is quite different in that it is not integral with the frame—that is to say it is not molded as part of the frame, but rather is a grip sleeve that fits over a stud on the frame and held



The Ruger SR22 comes with two interchangeable grip sleeves, two magazines, and two magazine finger extension butt pads. Taffin preferred the larger grip sleeve for his use.

in place by two detents. Ruger supplies two of these grip sleeves one of which is slightly larger by having a more rounded backstrap. I went for this one as it fits my hand the best. To change these grip sleeves, and it does require some effort to override the detents, one grip sleeve is simply pulled off the frame and

the other one is pushed in place. For a secure feeling the grip sleeves have serrations across the back and on both sides towards the front. They provide a most comfortable feeling grip and are plenty large enough for my large hands. The triggerguard is squared off in the front and serrated should someone, for

whatever the reason, wish to place the finger of the offhand on front of this when firing 2-handed. In front of the triggerguard below the frame there is a molded in 3-slot accessory rail.

Sights

Sights are of the 3-dot variety with both front and rear being set in a dovetail and the rear sight is fully adjustable for windage and elevation. All in all they are excellent sights. The aluminum slide has grooves on both sides below the front and rear sight for ease of operation of the slide. The stainless steel barrel does not move but instead is stationary and fixed to the frame. Takedown is quite easy with the takedown latch found in front of the trigger. When this is opened 90-degrees downwards the slide can then be retracted and lifted off the frame.

This is a double-action pistol for the first shot and then single action for every shot thereafter. The ambidextrous safety is easily reached with the thumb and when pressed downward the hammer is de-cocked and released forward. During this operation the firing pin is blocked and can't reach the primer of a cartridge. To fire it is then necessary to push up on the thumb safety and the pistol is ready to fire. In this mode the first shot is double action, followed by repeat shots in single action.

In front of the left-side thumb safety we find a slide lock which automatically engages after the last shot is fired. A further safety feature is the loaded chamber indicator. Instead of the usual lever which pops up slightly when a cartridge is present in the chamber the SR22 features a visual inspection port at the top of the barrel and slide at the back of the barrel. This allows a user to look in and see if there is a cartridge in the chamber. (Rule 1: All guns are always loaded!) Another "safety" feature is the magazine disconnect, meaning the SR22 will not fire with the magazine removed even if there is a cartridge in the chamber.

Firing the SR22 was absolutely pure



The Ruger SR22 was tested with the variety of CCI .22 Ammunition.

pleasure! This is a fun pistol. As stated earlier, functioning was absolutely flawless and this is just one of those pistols you immediately take to heart. No, there is absolutely nothing pretty about it and yet it is attractive in a 21st century way. The lack of aesthetic features are overridden by the fact it feels so good in the hand, points so naturally, and shoots so well.

As too often happens, when I receive test guns it is right after the SHOT Show in January which means they arrive in the middle of winter here in the Northwest. We have been blessed with an exceptionally mild winter, however mild it may be for many activities, it has still been too cold and windy for sitting at an outdoor bench shooting seriously and taking notes. So the modus operandi consisted of chronographing loads outside and then moving indoors to shoot groups. Absolutely nothing takes the place of natural light, at least for my eyes, and I expect the SR22 will do even better in the spring.

Complete shooting results are in the accompanying table and I was especially pleased to see the 9-shot

SR22

MAKER: STURM, RUGER & CO.
200 RUGER RD., PRESCOTT, AZ 86301
(928) 778-6555
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/RUGER

ACTION TYPE: Blowback, semi-auto, **CALIBER:** .22 LR, **CAPACITY:** 10, **BARREL LENGTH:** 3.5", **OVERALL LENGTH:** 6.25", **WEIGHT:** 17.5 ounces, **FINISH:** Matte black, **SIGHTS:** Fully adjustable 3-dot, **GRIPS:** Synthetic Grip Sleeves, **PRICE:** \$399

group with CCI Blazers come in under an inch at 15 yards. Blazers are very easy to find locally and are probably my most used .22 rounds for general shooting. Fingers can get quite tired when loading magazines, especially .22 magazines over and over during a long day's shooting session. Some .22 magazines have a very small button which can be pressed with a thumbnail which also results in a sore spot before the shooting session is over. Ruger takes care of all this with a nicely shaped lever on the left side of the magazine which is easily pressed with the thumb, or even easier still the thumb and index finger can be worked together as there is a smaller lever on the right side also. Working both in conjunction on both sides to retract the magazine spring makes loading magazines a much more pleasant duty.

At a retail price of \$399 the SR22, as we would expect from Ruger, delivers more than we pay for. My test gun won't be going back. **GUNS**

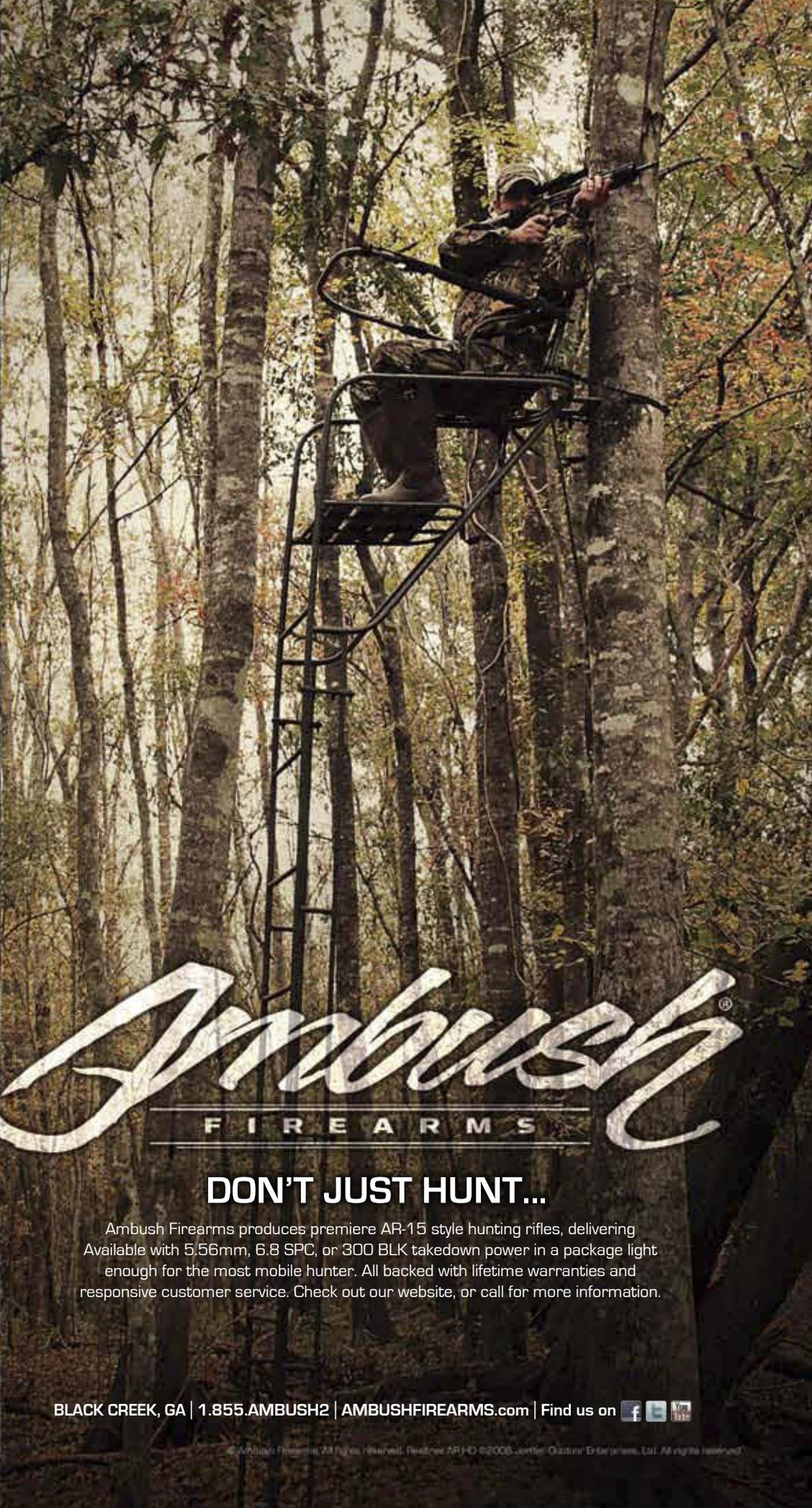
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.22 LONG RIFLE FACTORY AMMO PERFORMANCE

LOAD (BRAND, BULLET WEIGHT, TYPE)	VELOCITY (FPS)	GROUP SIZE* (INCHES)
CCI BLAZER	954	7/8
CCI PISTOL MATCH	789	1-1/8
CCI GREEN TAG	867	1-5/8
CCI MINI-MAG HP	933	1-3/4
CCI MINI-MAG +V	1,013	1-1/2
CCI STINGER	1,115	2-3/8
REMINGTON GOLDEN BULLET	825	1-5/8
WINCHESTER SUPER-X	843	1-3/4
WINCHESTER T22	919	1-7/8

Notes: Chronograph set at 10' from muzzle. *Groups are the product of nine shots at 15 yards.



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BIG B



MORE GEN4

THE GLOCK G21 .45 ACP.

Dave Anderson

Photos: Robbie Barrkman

My how time flies. Glock pistols still seem like the new kid on the block to me, yet they are already in the 4th generation. Actually, Glocks haven't changed much since they were first introduced, at least not in terms of operating features and function. For the most part, newer versions have incorporated relatively minor handling features. I like this approach. One reason I like guns is they have remained relatively unchanged over the years. I hate buying something and a few months later having it become obsolete when a "new improved" model appears. I get enough of that from cameras and computers.

The only feature which might have caused me to trade in an older Glock for a new model was the addition of accessory frame rails. On a concealed carry gun I can do without the rail but on a home-defense pistol it's nice to have the option of adding a light or laser.

The Generation 4 Glocks add the capability to change grip size to suit hand size. Two additional backstraps marked M (medium) and L (large) can be fitted over the standard backstrap.

Compared to the RTF (rough texture finish) previously used, the Gen4 grip surface is a bit less aggressive, with the "dots" on the sides and in the finger grooves being larger and flat-topped. Personally, I liked the RTF finish, but there were complaints the texture could be hard on hands over long training sessions. The newer design is still secure but easier on the hand than the RTF.

The Glock 21 SF is a full-size pistol chambered in .45 Automatic Colt Pistol. "Full size" is a relative term. Compared to other high-capacity .45 ACP pistols, the G21 is lightweight and average in size, but it is full-size compared to other Glocks. For concealed carry I'd rather have a 9mm or .40 S&W such as the Models 19/23 and 26/27. I could tuck away a G21 in a waistband holster from the Leather Arsenal, and in fact wore it as my CCW for a few days. Realistically, for most shooters the G21 works better as an



Gen4 technology allows for either of two backstraps to be easily applied to bulk out the grip for medium or larger hands. The underframe accessory rail has one locking point just ahead of the serial number insert.



open-carry duty sidearm or for home defense.

The grip frame of the 21 is as small as it can be made to house a high-capacity .45 ACP magazine, but 13 .45 ACP cartridges in a double-stack column do take up space. My hands are only a bit larger than average. I still haven't decided whether the grip feels better as is or with the medium backstrap added. I could shoot either one with

BIG-BORE GEN4

THE GLOCK G21 .45 ACP.





GUNS

MAGAZINE

no problems. I felt I had a stronger grip with the frame as is, but the medium insert resulted in better placement of my trigger finger squarely across the trigger. The large backstrap is a bit too big for me.

Compared side-by-side with a Glock 22 in .40 S&W, there doesn't appear to be much difference in size. Viewed from the top the difference in slide width is apparent. The slide of the .45 is 1.28" wide, compared to 1.18" for the .40 S&W slide.

Trigger pull weight on the test Glock averaged 6.75 pounds (average of 20 measurements). From at-rest to fired position, trigger movement is about 1/4" of take-up, and another 1/4" to sear release. Trigger reset is very quick and takes just over 1/4" of movement. Top shooters I've observed have trained their trigger finger to move forward just enough to reset, for fast followup shots.

Sights are fixed, with tritium inserts in a 3-dot pattern. Actually, I should say "semi-fixed" as the rear sight can be drifted in its dovetail cut to adjust for windage. The sights are quite good, snag-resistant, free of sharp edges, and provide a decent sight picture. The rear sight notch measures .125" and the front sight is .135" thick. Sight radius is 6.69". Personally, I like a fairly narrow front sight allowing lots of light in the sight picture, but this setup worked quite well.

Magazine capacity of the G21 is 13 cartridges, with 10-round magazines available. A loading tool is provided and does make those last two or three rounds easier to load. The magazine release is on the left at the base of the triggerguard, and can be reversed should the shooter desire.

I ran a bit more than 300 rounds through the Glock 21, with ammunition ranging from standard loads to rip-snortin' +P, with no malfunctions. The Generation 4 pistols use a double recoil spring assembly. Some shooters feel these help smooth the operating cycle and reduce recoil. Maybe, although I'm not sensitive enough to notice such subtle differences. If you can't stand the recoil of .45 +P with a standard spring I doubt this will make the difference.

.45 ACP FACTORY AMMO VELOCITY COMPARISON

LOAD (BRAND, BULLET WEIGHT, TYPE)	FACTORY VELOCITY (FPS)	ACTUAL VELOCITY (FPS)
BLACK HILLS 230 JHP	850	846
BUFFALO BORE 185 +P JHP	1,150	1,134
BUFFALO BORE 200 +P JHP	1,000	1,029
BUFFALO BORE 230 +P JHP	950	955
FEDERAL 165 HYRDA-SHOK	1,060	1,035
FEDERAL 185 JHP	950	910
HORNADY 230 FMJ	850	796

Notes: Millennium CED chronograph, screen center 10' from muzzle, Glock 21 pistol, temperature 50 degrees F.

I don't find .45 recoil particularly bothersome, even with +P loads. Glock pistols have the bore line close above the hand, which helps keep muzzle jump minimal. The Glock 21 is as pleasant to shoot as any .45 I've ever fired.

When the double-spring system first appeared on Glock pistols there were reports of failures to eject with light loads. Apparently, the spring rates were better suited to full power and +P loads. At any rate, Glock changed the system on recent production. For Gen4 Glocks (except the Models 26 and 27) made prior to July 22, 2011 Glock will replace the older system.

The test pistol functioned perfectly with all loads tested. I had on hand both standard and +P loads in various weights from Black Hills, Buffalo Bore, Federal and Hornady. I tried them over a chronograph with results as shown in the accompanying table.

Buffalo Bore is a new company and their ammunition appears to be good stuff. Chronographed velocities are right in line with factory ratings, and as the chart shows these are pretty hot numbers. Velocities were also very consistent, as was accuracy.

Accuracy of the G21 was exceptionally good, in fact this



Like most of today's firearms, the G21 Gen4 has a frame-mounted integral accessory rail, shown here with the powerful SureFire X400 Weaponlight. The Gen4 G21 is still basic Glock with a Tenifer-finished slide over a polymer frame. The grip texturing has been changed from the RTF (rough texture finish) to a more hand-friendly style still ensuring a sure grip. Like most of today's firearms, the G21 Gen4 has a frame-mounted integral accessory rail, shown here with the powerful SureFire X400 Weaponlight (overleaf).

G21 GEN4

MAKER: GLOCK
600 HIGHLANDS PKWY.
SMYRNA, GA 30082
(770) 432-1202
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/GLOCK

CALIBER: .45 ACP, CAPACITY: 13, OVERALL LENGTH:
8.23", HEIGHT: 5.47", WIDTH: 1.28", WEIGHT: 26.46
ounces (empty), 38.45 ounces (loaded), TRIGGER
PULL: 6.75 pounds, BARREL LENGTH: 4.61", BARREL
RIFLING: 1:15.75" RH twist, PRICE: \$684



The flattop slide carries Glock fixed 3-dot night sights with tritium inserts. Dave found the sights well regulated straight out of the box.

was one of the most accurate Glock I've ever fired. Groups ran consistently around 2" to 2-1/2" at 25 yards with all the loads tested. The fixed sights shot almost exactly to point of aim at 25 yards with Black Hills 230-grain JHP standard velocity loads, an inch or so high with the Buffalo Bore 230-grain +P JHPs.

It took me a while to warm up to Glocks. I had no objection to the polymer frame, or the operating design, but when the Glock appeared I was shooting 1911s in competition and really had no time for or interest in other designs. It was interesting to follow trends as Glock came to dominate the police market, and to a large extent the personal-defense market.

For most of the 20th century the police sidearm was a medium-frame, double-action revolver. It wasn't because there were no semiauto pistol alternatives, though nothing like the choices we have today. In the 1960s and '70s, a few departments switched to autopistols; some stayed with them, some soon switched back.

In the early '80s, interest in high-capacity autopistols really began to grow. In part I think it was influenced by the US military's search for a new service pistol. Around 1985, I first started hearing about the Glock. In an amazingly short time the Glock went from being a curiosity to dominating the police market.

Glock seemed to understand what others didn't. Cops didn't hate their revolvers, they liked them. They liked the simplicity of operation: point gun, pull trigger. They liked the reliability of revolvers, the ease of maintenance (especially if the revolver was a modern stainless steel version). They liked the moderate weight, especially as more and more gear got packed on the duty belt.

Police wanted to keep all the good features of revolvers. They just wanted a few more rounds in the gun, and faster reloading. Glock gave them what they wanted.

There's no one single feature of the Glock which stands out. Glocks operate on the classic tilting-barrel lock designed by John Browning about the time airplanes were invented. Polymers were being used in firearms manufacture back in the 1950s with the Remington "Nylon" .22 rifles.

Glocks appealed to those paying the bills as well. The tooling to make polymer frames is expensive, but the cost of each frame is modest. The design is simple and straightforward, with relatively few parts, none requiring extensive hand fitting.

Ever see a S&W-trained armorer tune a Model 10 service revolver? It's a marvelous thing to watch. It takes considerable skill and training. It costs a lot to train an armorer, and once trained he's a valuable asset who needs to be paid accordingly.

Glock pistols don't need a lot of maintenance. Polymer doesn't rust, and the Tenifer metal finish on Glock slides proved to be tough and rust-resistant. What little maintenance needed is mainly a matter of changing parts. For a police department, always conscious of a budget, money saved on firearm maintenance can be used to put more officers on the street. For private citizens it means we can shoot more with less maintenance cost.

The polymer frame also provided a huge weight savings. Remember those overburdened duty belts mentioned earlier? A loaded Glock 21 weighs a bit over 38 ounces, or about the same as an empty, steel-framed 1911. Let's see, for the same weight I can carry either a pistol and 14 cartridges, or an empty gun. Gee, tough choice.

No one loves a good revolver more than I do, whether a small frame in a pocket, medium frame as a primary carry gun, or a large frame in the outdoors. But when the revolver gets sluggish on “carrying up” properly, or develops cylinder end shake, I take it to an expert. Change a recoil spring assembly on a Glock? Yeah, I can manage the job.

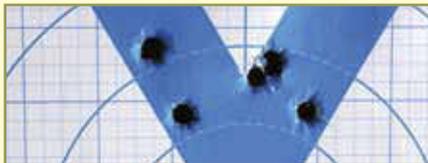
Glocks are easy to shoot. I’m a 1911 fan first and foremost, always will be. Moreover I’m obsessive about trigger pulls. The crisp, short, clean trigger-break of a 1911 is a joy. When Glocks started showing up in practical shooting matches I didn’t see how they could possibly be competitive in either speed or accuracy.

But when cold fact doesn’t agree with my assumptions, I know enough to go with fact. Two observations changed my mind about Glocks. One was the success of Glock shooters in big-league competition. The shooters I’ve seen most are Dave Sevigny, Robert Vogel, Randi Rogers, and (before they joined other teams) Jessie Duff and Julie Golob. Watching these outstanding shooters compete and win at the highest levels of competition was a lesson.

The other observation was closer to home. My wife Simone doesn’t shoot



Black Hills Ammunition, 230-grain JHP, delivered this 5-round group (above) at 25 yards with Glock 21 handheld over a sandbag—excellent accuracy for a service pistol with the standard trigger. Dave shot this well-centered group (below) with Buffalo Bore 230-grain +P JHP from the Glock 21 at 25 yards with the pistol handheld over a sandbag.



handguns much, though she’s a good rifle shot and we often hunt together. In handguns, she has always preferred compact revolvers. She likes their simplicity and the ease of loading and unloading.

On one of our recent range visits she wanted to do some handgun shooting (this was not long after a woman in a nearby town, out for a morning jog, was kidnapped and murdered). After a few cylinders-full through a couple

of small revolvers, she said her hand hurt. She shot accurately enough, just not very fast.

I happened to have a Glock 19 and a good supply of 9mm +P ammunition in a gun bag and suggested she give it a try. She shot faster. She shot more accurately. She commented on how pleasant and easy it was to shoot the Glock. And after firing five rounds, instead of holding an empty, slow-to-reload revolver, she still had 11 more rounds on tap.

The point is this: I’ve seen champion shooters win at the highest level with Glocks, and I’ve seen a relative novice shoot a Glock better than any other handgun she’s tried. I’m not about to abandon my favorite 1911s or my revolvers, but today there are seven Glocks in the gun safe along with them.

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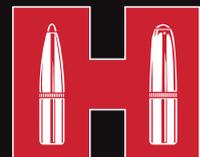
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Mike "Duke" Venturino

Photos: Yvonne Venturino

Surely readers of this magazine are well aware of how prices of both factory ammunition and reloading components have skyrocketed these past few years. It's not uncommon even for run-of-the-mill factory ammo to cost a buck a round. I can't even guess what some of the more exotic calibers are priced now per shot.

Then there's reloading components. Most jacketed bullets—again for run-of-the-mill calibers—cost about \$20 to \$30 per 100. Competition grade bullets are more. Premium hunting bullets cost that much or more per box but with only 50 bullets inside. Don't forget powders: most I've priced on store shelves now require about a \$20 bill.

That said, folk can still do a considerable amount of rifle shooting by spending effort instead of money. I'm talking about casting their own bullets. By making lead alloy rifle bullets the price per projectile can be reduced from perhaps \$.30 each to maybe \$.03 each. Then consider powder price. A full load in a .30-06 will run about 50 of powder.

That's 140 loads per \$20 can, or about \$.14 per shot. My favorite cast bullet .30-06 powder charge is 25, so there's 50 percent savings on powder. The price of primers is a given. We have to live with that, but at least our brass cases have very long life spans when used for reduced pressure cast-bullet shooting.

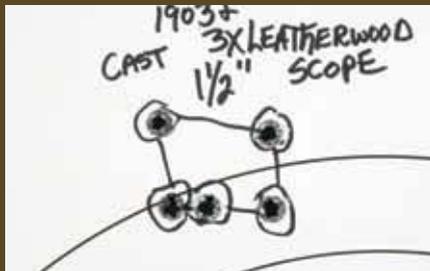
The above is the positive. There are negatives. An area of your home must be set aside for the casting endeavor and there will be some mess and aroma. Also it does cost to get set up for bullet casting. A basic outlay includes a lead pot, a lube/sizing machine, a mold with handles, appropriate sizing dies and top punches, and a few other odds and ends. Everyone must handle those purchases

by their own budget and enthusiasm.

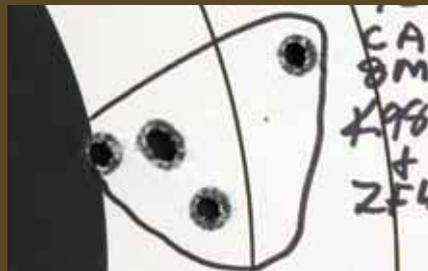
Some people might think it a negative to spend time casting bullets. I don't. In fact my life is generally so hectic that when I can steal some hours for bullet casting they are treasured as pure relaxation. Here's why. I'm addicted to books recorded on CDs or cassette tapes, the full-length readings, not abridged ones. I can go for lightweight novels that last a half-dozen hours or serious historical research running scores of hours. When I get hooked on one of those big books Yvonne can tell because I tend to disappear for longish periods. When that happens the piles of bullets I have to shoot are considerable.

While writing this, I just took a break to do a personal survey. At this time in my life I am set up to reload for 51 different cartridges—23 are for handguns and 28 for rifles. Some of these calibers are reloaded fairly often such as .45-90 for my two current favorite BPCR Silhouette competition rifles. Others not so often: it's been perhaps 5 years since I've put together rounds for my Ruger .41 Magnum Blackhawk. On the shelves above my casting setup are bullet molds suitable for all 23 handgun cartridges and 23 of the 28 rifle cartridges.

Two of the five rifle calibers for which I *do not* cast bullets are .223 Remington and .222 Remington Magnum. Actually, I have done so for them in the past with good success but sold my .22 molds many years ago. My main reason for stopping was the difficulty my big, blunt fingers had in attaching gas checks on tiny .22 bullets. Nor do I have a bullet mold for my .348 Winchester Model 71. It would be a



Duke's Model 1903 .30-06 with 3X Leatherwood scope shot this group at 100 yards.



Duke's German K98k 8mm with 1.5X Zf41 scope shot this cast bullet group at 100 yards.



Two of Duke's favorite cast bullet shooting military rifles are this Model 1903 Springfield .30-06 (top) with 3X Leatherwood scope and a German 8mm K98k with Zf41 1.5X scope (bottom).



Duke had never fired a single cast bullet through this Remington Model 700 .308 Winchester (above) wearing a Weaver 3-15X tactical scope. So he did for a demonstration of how easy loading them is. The very first 5-shot cast bullet group (below) Duke fired with his Remington Model 700 .308 with 3-15X Weaver scope was a mere 7/8" at 100 yards.



natural for cast bullets and someday I'll give it a go with them.

Another caliber that should work fine with lead alloy projectiles is the Italian 6.5x52mm Carcano. I have a fine Model 1941 rifle with slick bore for that cartridge but don't have a suitable mold—yet. Yes, I do have some 6.5mm molds and they work fine for 6.5x50mm Japanese and 6.5x55mm Swedish when sized .266" for nominal .264" barrel groove dimensions. But the Italians decided .268" was better for their 6.5mm barrels and I don't have a mold for a bullet that size—yet. And last, I don't cast for my full-auto German MP44 7.92x33mm Kurz. That round was designed for 125-grain .323" bullets and my only mold for that diameter drops bullets weighing 190.

There is considerable versatility in

bullet molds. You don't have to buy a specific mold for every cartridge or rifle. For instance, I favor one mold for .308 Winchester, .30-40 Krag, and .30-06. It's Lyman 311299 for a 200-grain semi-pointed bullet. Sized to .310" it will shoot every bit as good in my bolt-action rifles chambered for those rounds as they do with jacketed bullets. Then there's a brother mold to it numbered 314299, meant for the slightly larger .31 calibers such as .303 British, 7.7x58 Japanese, and 7.62x54mmR Russian. (Some rifles for that latter round actually wear .308" barrels, so the shooter must know what he has.)

My approach to cast bullet rifle shooting isn't overly scientific. My rifles are not benchrest types capable of say 1/2-MOA groups. They're ordinary

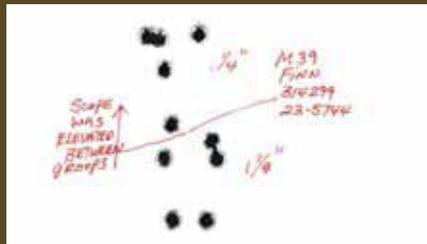
off-the-shelf sporting rifles and more frequently of late, vintage military rifles. I do seriously compete in NRA Black Powder Cartridge Rifle Silhouette and for those some extra effort goes into bullet preparation and loading. In fact I detailed that in our May 2012 issue.

Therefore, for this article I'll give a brief synopsis of how I load cast bullets for smokeless powder, bottleneck rifle cartridges to be fired in one sort or another bolt action. Remember, this isn't *the only way*. It is *my way*. Here goes.

First the bullets are cast of straight linotype, which has a Brinell Hardness Number (BHN) of 22, according to



This first cast bullet group from Duke's Soviet Model 91/30 sniper rifle with 3.5X PU scope at 100 yards was not especially noteworthy. Neither was it poor.



The same cast bullet handloads fired in the Soviet Model 91/30 sniper rifle shot these two fine groups from Duke's Finnish Model 1939 on which he has had fitted a replica of the Soviet PE 4X scope.



Duke's most recent cast bullet shooting with military rifles was with the Soviet Model 91/30 with 3.5X PU scope (top) and Finnish Model 1939 with replica 4X PE scope (bottom). Both are chambered in 7.62x54mmR.

Lyman's various reloading handbooks. Linotype may be unnecessarily hard but a friend has over a ton of it and I have various reloading tools and components he covets. We trade.

I use double-cavity molds for the most part factory made by RCBS, Lyman, and Redding/SAECO. As a general rule I prefer bullet designs fairly heavy for the caliber to be loaded. The Lyman 200-grain .30 and .31 caliber molds mentioned above are examples. For my 8x57mm Mauser rifles Redding/SAECO's No. 81 works great. Its bullets weigh 190 . Molten alloy is dropped into them by means of a bottom dump RCBS electric furnace.

Once the molds are hot and I see bullets falling with no obvious defects all are kept. They are not inspected or weighed. Then they are sized and lubed in Lyman 4500 machines using dies that will finish them to about .002" to .003" over the rifles' nominal groove diameters. Also they are fitted with gas checks during the lube/sizing operation, *always* using Lyman's nifty little gas check seating gadget to get them on straight. For lube, I use SPG which is labeled a black powder lubricant but is a fine one for smokeless propellants too.

That finishes the bullet making part. Now on to case prepping. Since most of the calibers for which I load cast bullets are fired in more than one rifle so chambered (I have 13 .30-06s, seven 8x57mms, etc.) all brass is full-length sized. After repriming, a dedicated case neck expanding and case mouth belling die is used. These are sold by the same companies mentioned above that sell bullet molds. They open case necks more than needed for jacketed bullets otherwise the softer cast bullets will be deformed in seating. Also they flare case mouths slightly so that bullet's bases set into them for starting. Examples again: expanding plug for .30 calibers is .308", for .31 calibers it's .309", for 8x57mm it's .321", and so forth.

When preparing cast bullet handloads for my array of military rifles the bullets are seated so all grease grooves are covered and a crimp applied in the proper groove. That way rounds function perfectly throughout the trip from magazines into chambers. For sporting rifles just to be fired from a benchrest a single shot at a time, bullet seating can be varied in order to find what overall length the rifle shoots best with and then of course no crimp is necessary.

Powder

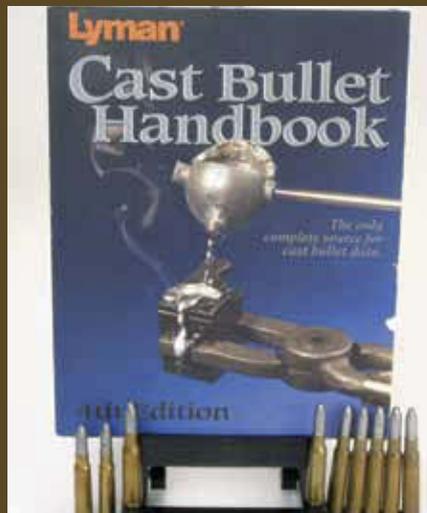
I skipped over the powder dispensing part on purpose. At this point in my life I've stopped fiddling about. Only one suits me and that's Western Powder's



The two Lyman molds among Duke's all-time favorites are (top) Lyman 311299, which works well for .30 calibers such as (left) the .30-06 and .30-40 Krag. The other is Lyman 314299 for .31 calibers (bottom) such as the (at right, left to right) .303 British, 7.7mm Japanese and 7.62x54R Russian.



The basic components Duke uses when loading cast bullets for smokeless powder rifles include CCI primers, XMR 5744, Lyman gas checks and SPG lube.



For comprehensive details on casting, loading, and shooting cast bullets in rifles Duke recommends Lyman's newest Cast Bullet Handbook 4th Edition which he helped with.



Cast bullets require special case neck expanding and case mouth belling plugs used to prepare cases for bullet seating. Note one at left is .30 caliber and one at right is .31 caliber.

5744. It's the best overall cast bullet propellant I've ever used. *It does not burn perfectly clean* but it does give excellent accuracy and superb shot-to-shot consistency. No fillers or other shenanigans are required to get 5744's excellent performance. I just powder measure it into the cases and seat bullets. One friend said this to me, "But Duke, when I looked down the bore there were unburned powder kernels." Being a friend I could respond with feeling, "Wake up dummy! The bullet holes are close to one another and your chronograph said velocity variation was only about 10 fps for five shots. Who cares about unburned powder kernels?"

It's easy to describe how I go about assembling my money-saving cast bullet handloads but its far better to give some examples. A while back I acquired a Remington Model 700 .308 with heavy barrel. It's built and finished to duplicate the M40s used by the US Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. On it I put a Weaver 3-15X tactical scope. I had never fired a cast bullet in this rifle so I ordered RCBS mold 308-200SIL, also never used previously by me. Bullets were cast and loaded as above except no crimp was applied. Initial powder charge was just a guess: 20 of 5744. To foul a clean barrel first a couple rounds were put through the Remington. Then a 5-shot group was fired at 100 yards. It was 7/8". Another was fired. It was also 7/8". It was that easy.

Two of my favorite military rifles are a Springfield Model 1903 .30-06 on which I had mounted a 3X Leatherwood scope and a German K98k 8x57mm fitted with a 1.5X Zf41 scope. With no preliminary work up those rifles were fired with the following loads: Lyman bullet 311299/195 over 25 of 5744 and Redding/SAECO bullet 81/190 over 27 of the same powder. Both rifles shot 1-1/2" groups for five shots at 100 yards. Again it was that easy.

Here's another example: About a year ago, I loaded up a batch of 7.62x54mmR with Lyman's 314299, sized to .313" over 23 of 5744 but never got around to shooting them. Just last month, I happened to be in my shooting house with a Soviet-era Mosin-Nagant Model 91/30 sniper rifle with original 3.5X PU scope. Also with me was a Finnish Model 1939 on which I had mounted a replica of the Soviet PE 4X scope. Neither had I ever fired with cast bullets. After firing them a bit with jacketed bullet handloads, I spotted the box of cast bullet reloads and thought, "This is as good a time as ever." No cleaning of jacketed bullet fouling was done. The Soviet rifle did OK with them grouping into about

2-1/2". Not bad, but definitely room for improvement.

But brothers did that Finnish Model 1939 shine! Three 5-shot groups were fired. In the order they were shot, they measured 1-1/8", 1-1/4", and the last went up to 1-3/4" solely because the 15th shot was a flyer. The other four were in 1-1/8". No load work up and no experimentation. It's getting repetitive saying, "It was that easy."

I know some readers are thinking, "Duke, you are leaving out details." I am. I can't fit everything in a 2,000 word article. If you would like to investigate cast bullet shooting for rifles and handguns I direct you to Lyman's *Cast Bullet Handbook 4th Edition*. Of the 18 informational chapters in it, I can proudly say I wrote 15 of them. Lyman supplied all the data sections from their own laboratory. It's a wealth of information on how to spend some effort to save lots of money for more shooting.

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ACCURIZING

FACTORY RIFLES

**Groups not quite up to snuff?
You can likely fix it yourself.**

John Barsness

Factory rifles come off assembly lines, and mass manufacturing doesn't allow the tight tolerances possible in a custom-made rifle. Optimists hope to buy exceptional factory rifles, with tolerances as small as a custom rifle's, but even those exceptions often need some help. We call this help "accurizing," a rather odd word that means removing minor flaws of mass manufacturing.

If we don't shoot our new rifle before accurizing, we might waste time by attempting to improve an already accurate rifle. A common mistake is testing-shooting with a new scope. I've encountered dozens of defective scopes over the decades, and most were bad from the factory, or went bad within 50 rounds.

Shoot First, Ask Questions Later

That's not just my experience, either. A year ago a reader e-mailed, asking for advice on a new .30-06. It wouldn't group very well, no matter what handloads he tried. I immediately

asked if the scope was also new, and he said he'd already changed out the new scope he'd bought with the rifle. A month later he e-mailed again, saying both the first and second scopes he'd tried were brand-new. After thinking about my response he mounted a proven scope from another rifle. His new .30-06 started shooting really well!

So we start by mounting a proven scope. Contrary to popular belief, correct scope mounting isn't all that easy. By far the most common mistake is over-tightening ring screws. When we crank on ring screws like they're lug nuts, the rings can easily crush

the tube enough to interfere with the scope's innards. The usual symptom is an occasional flier in any direction. Most ring manufacturers suggest no more than 20 inch-pounds of torque. If you don't have a torque driver, holding the screwdriver's handle with only your thumb and first two fingers is close enough. This doesn't feel like much, but holds a scope firmly even on a big-bore African rifle.

Tighten

All the stock screws should be really tight except on bolt-actions where one screw only serves to hold one end of the triggerguard. It should be just tight enough to stay put.

Tightening sometimes reveals slightly over-long screws. A long tang screw can prevent a bolt from opening, while a long front screw can push against a bolt's locking lug, since in many actions the screw-hole goes into the lug recess.

Also check the buttstock screws or through-bolt on rifles with 2-piece stocks, since a loose buttstock makes shots string up and down. Tightening a through-bolt requires removal of the buttplate or recoil pad.

The test ammo is also important. Fortunately, a lot of today's bullets are really accurate, even hunting bullets. Sometimes I test-fire new rifles with target bullets, but Berger Hunting VLDs, Hornady Interlocks or SSTs, Nosler Ballistic Tips, and Sierra GameKings and ProHunters also shoot great, and are available in a number of factory loads. If shooting handloads, some powder

This new Model 70 Winchester .270 WSM shot well with no modifications. The scope is a well-used Leupold VX-III 3.5-10X, and the ammo a Federal 150-grain load already proven accurate in other rifles.



charges tend to be accurate in a lot of rifles (see chart).

Whether factory ammo or handloads, I run each round over an RCBS Casemaster concentricity gauge to make sure each bullet is seated reasonably straight. When bullets start down the bore crooked, they shoot crooked. The same check can be reasonably accomplished by rolling each round over a smooth, flat surface such as a mirror. Any round showing visible wobble at the bullet's tip is too crooked for testing.

Eventually we end up at the range behind a sturdy benchrest, with the rifle resting on sandbags or other relatively soft objects. (Don't laugh. On a pre-season visit to the Broadwater County Rod & Gun Club range, two old-timers were sighting-in their deer rifles by resting the barrels—not the fore-ends—on a stack of 2x4s. The "groups" they shot at 25 yards—not 100—resembled buckshot patterns.) If your rifle weighs less than 7 pounds with scope, you might place a folded towel over the front sandbag. Light rifles tend to "bounce" a little when shot off compacted sandbags.

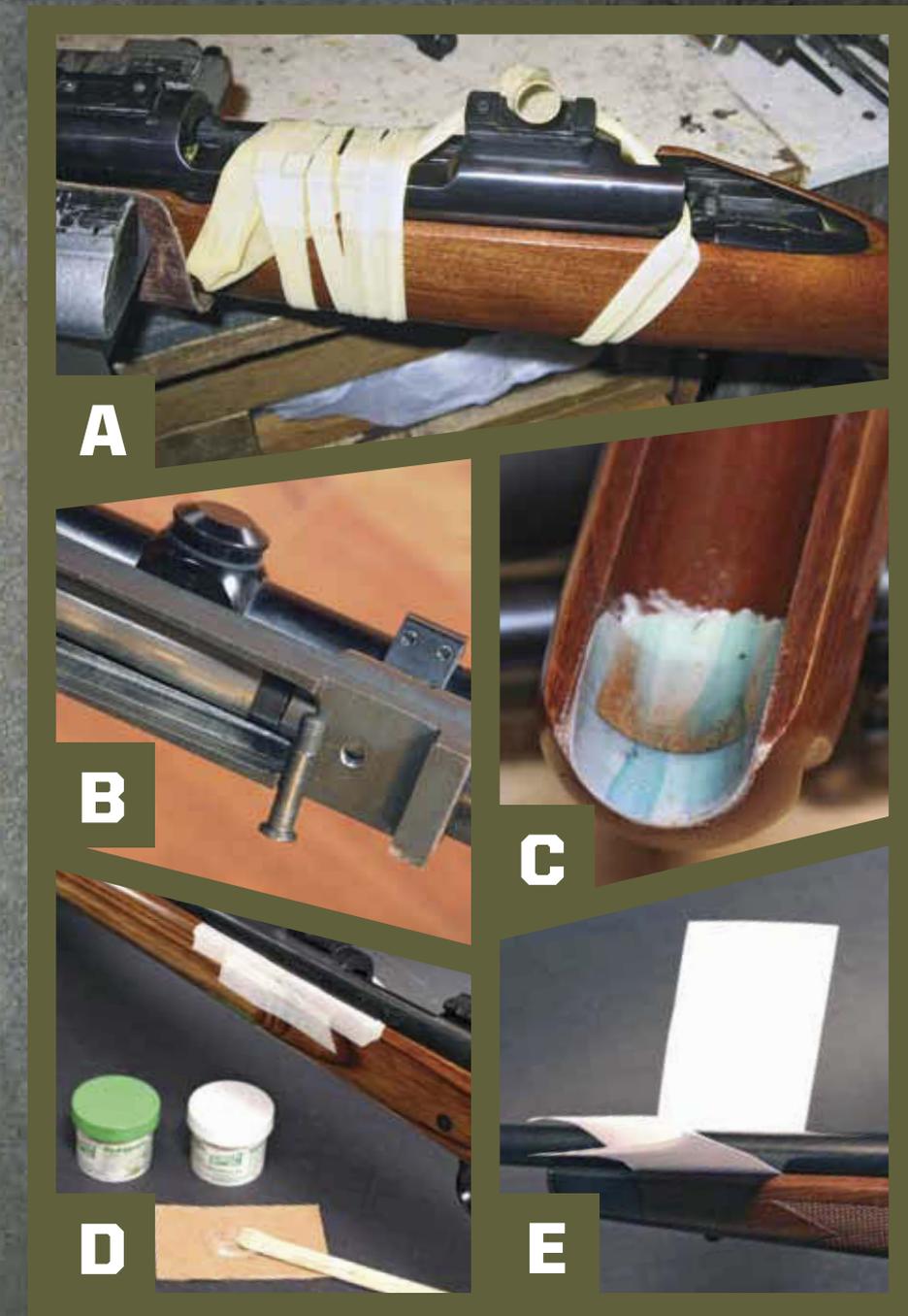
Some hunters allow the barrel to cool completely between shots, supposedly because a hot barrel will "walk" its shots. Personally, if one of my big-game rifles won't group three shots cranked off as fast as accurately possible, I figure there's something wrong with the rifle. One of the surest symptoms of a barrel-bedding problem is a third-shot flier.

With varmint rifles for high-volume shooting I usually shoot 10 rounds as fast as possible. If shots start to wander during a 10-round string the rifle's useless for serious rodent shooting. One heavy-barreled .22-250 went down the road because shots started climbing high and to the left after four or five rounds.

Tip Bedding

Most problems with factory rifles occur because the fore-end shifts around on the barrel. If you've purchased one of today's numerous factory rifles with free-floated barrels, this usually won't happen, but some major firearms manufacturers still "tip-bed" barrels, with a discernible hump in the barrel channel at the tip of the fore-end.

Theoretically this tames barrel vibrations—and does. Unfortunately, on many factory rifles the barrel can hop around slightly inside the fore-end, causing random fliers, usually but not always to one side of the main group. Or the tip puts too much pressure on the barrel, and shots start to climb up the target as the barrel



A) An easy way to keep the action in the stock while epoxy-bedding is wrapping it securely in rubber tubing. **B)** In many bolt-action rifles the front-action screw hole goes all the way in to the bottom locking lug recess. If the screw contacts the lug the rifle won't shoot very well. **C)** Epoxy-bedding the end of the barrel channel stabilizes tip-bedded barrels. **D)** When epoxy-bedding an action by screwing it back into the stock, make sure to apply release compound not just to the action but the action screws. **E)** Free-floating should be tested by passing a doubled sheet of paper between barrel and stock, plus grabbing the tip of the forearm and barrel in one hand to see if they can be forced together.

warms. This isn't uncommon with Ruger No. 1s, but happens with other rifles as well.

Random fliers can often be eliminated by epoxy-bedding the tip of the barrel channel, so the barrel can't hop around inside the fore-end. Apply some release agent (car wax works fine) to the barrel where it touches the tip-hump, then protect the outside of the fore-end with masking

tape. Daub the tip-hump with mixed epoxy, then put the stock back on the rifle and let the epoxy cure. Five-minute epoxy can be used for this job, and the cure is particularly effective on lightweight barrels.

Barrels at least .600" at the muzzle, however, often shoots best when free-floated. The barrels of most bolt-action rifles can be temporarily floated by placing a thin shim or two between

the action and stock, right behind the recoil lug. I use cartridge box cardboard or one of those flat plastic bread-bag clasps. Shimming slightly “lifts” the front of the action and the barrel.

For free-floating to work, the barrel shouldn’t contact any part of the fore-end during a shot. One 7mm Remington Magnum drove me nuts with random fliers even after free-floating—until I figured out the too-long screw of the front sling-swivel stud occasionally tapped the barrel during a shot. I test any float job by sliding a doubled piece of typing paper between barrel and fore-end, and by grabbing the fore-end tip and barrel in one hand and squeezing. If the barrel contacts the fore-end during either test, the contact point needs to be removed.

If the rifle shoots more accurately with temporary floating, it can be made permanent by epoxy-bedding the front end of the action, or sanding

and rasping the barrel channel, or both. Bedding the action requires structurally tough epoxy. I usually use Brownells Acra-Glas Gel, but on hard kickers from the .338 magnums up use Brownells Steel-Bed, a really tough compound. When epoxy-bedding the action be very generous with release compound.

Bedding Tips

Two methods can be used to keep the action in the stock while the epoxy cures: screwing it in like normal, or wrapping rubber tubing firmly around the action. With the first technique, release compound must also be applied to the front action screw. With the second the front screw-hole is temporarily filled with Plasticine modeling clay.

After the epoxy cures, the action and stock can usually be pulled apart by holding the barrel in one hand and the fore-end in the other. Sometimes, however, it’s necessary to put the fore-

end in a padded bench-vise, with the buttstock resting on the bench, and use your arm as a lever under the barrel to lift the barreled action loose.

Sometimes it’s easiest to float a barrel with sandpaper and a round rasp. A few years ago, I learned a handy technique for sanding the channel from well-known gunsmith Charlie Sisk. Cover the barrel in a layer or two of duct tape, then reassemble the rifle with the action screws just loose enough to allow a strip of emery cloth to fit between the barrel and fore-end channel. Hold the ends of the cloth directly above the barrel and pull the cloth back and forth. When the emery paper can be easily pulled, tighten the action screws a little more, and sand some more. Eventually this results in just enough gap in the fore-end to float the barrel.

As mentioned earlier, the buttstock of a 2-piece stock should be tight, without the slightest wobble. The fore-end, however, shouldn’t press hard against the barrel or action.

In some rifles the fore-end is attached to a hanger coming off the front of the action; good examples are the Ruger No. 1 and modern Browning/Winchester single shots. These fore-ends can be free-floated or tip-bedded like a bolt action, but free-floating is really easy: Place a soft washer between the fore-end screw and the fore-end.

On Remington 760 pump-action rifles the fore-end slides along a hanger like a tube magazine. The original 760 had a brace on the front of the tube, pressing upward against the barrel. Filing away some of the brace pressure often results in better accuracy. Later, 760s didn’t have the brace, and the fore-end can be free-floated by sanding and rasping the barrel channel.

Fore-ends on many other rifles, such as Savage 99s, are attached by a screw on the barrel, with the rear of the fore-end inletted into an action mortise. The fore-end shouldn’t press hard against the front of the action. Pressure points show as darker wood where the grain’s been crushed, and removing the dark areas with a fine file relieves the tension.

If a tube-magazine lever action has a fore-end held on by a barrel band or cap, then neither fore-end or band should bind on the barrel. A couple of years ago, I swapped for a Browning Model 71 .348 Winchester, their reproduction of the Winchester 71. It grouped into 5" or more at 100 yards before I took apart the fore-end, locating and relieving a couple places where the wood and cap pressed hard on the barrel. Now it shoots into 2" with a receiver sight and the factory front bead, not bad for an iron-sighted lever action.

Over 90 percent of factory rifle



A



B

A) With no modifications, this heavy-barreled Remington 700 .223 shot most factory loads into 3/4" at 100 yards. Not bad—but after free-floating the barrel and touching up the factory crown the rifle shot a lot better. B) John’s test-shooting this brand-new Ruger No. 1B .30-06 with a proven 6x36 Leupold scope and Hunting Shack ammo featuring the 168-grain Berger VLD.

ACCURATE HANDLOADS

The following handloads have shot at least reasonably well in several rifles, and very accurately in some rifles. Most of these aren't maximum powder charges, but as always, work up from a little below:

SUGGESTED TEST LOADS

CALIBER	POWDER	CHARGE (GRAINS)	BULLET (GRAINS)
.22 HORNET	Hodgdon Li'l Gun	13.0	40
.223 REM	Hodgdon Benchmark or Ramshot TAC	26.0	50
.22-250 REM	IMR4895	34.0	50
.243 WIN	H4350	40.0	100
.25-06 REM	H4350	52.0	100
.270 WIN	H4831SC	57.0	150
7MM REM MAG	RL-22	62.0	160
.308 WINCHESTER	Varget	46.0	150
.30-06	H4350	58.0	165
.300 WIN MAG	H4831SC or RL-22	73.0	180
.338 WIN MAG	RL-15	65.0	200
.375 H&H	H4350	75.0	300

accurizing involves barrel bedding, but the muzzle crown also causes problems. These days the crown on new rifles is usually in good shape, and often more precise than the old-fashioned rounded crown. But on used rifles the crown can often use some help. I've owned a Brownells muzzle-chamfering tool for over a quarter of a century, using it on dozens of rifles to touch up the muzzle, or cut a new crown on shortened barrels. In the No. 64 catalog this tool costs more than twice what mine did in the '80s (duh!), but at around \$100 with a 45- or 90-degree cutter and one bore-pilot it's still a deal for the home accurizer. (There's also a 79-degree cutter available for the popular 11-degree "target" crown.)

There are some flaws a home accurizer can't cure. Occasionally, a bolt rifle leaves the factory with one locking lug not contacting its seat; I've encountered at least four over the decades. Sometimes these rifles shoot OK, especially if the lug's "free-floating," but usually the cure involves lapping the other lug so both seat. This increases headspace, requiring the services of a real gunsmith, or sending a brand-new rifle back to the factory.

Rough bores can usually be fixed by a few NECO fire-lapping bullets, followed by installing Dyna Bore-Coat, but some barrels have major flaws that can't be seen without a bore-scope. Occasionally the chamber throat is slightly off-center, due to a slightly over-sized bore not fitting the chamber reamer's pilot precisely. Sometime these barrels shoot OK, and sometimes they don't. Sometimes the threads of the barrel are somewhat loose in the



This horizontal scatter of bullet holes is actually one 5-round group, shot from a light-barreled factory rifle in .260 Remington. The tip of the fore-end is just wide enough to allow the barrel to hop around inside.

receiver. The rifle's still safe to fire, but the barrel flops around during each shot. Firm tip-bedding can help, but the real solution is a gunsmith.

Thankfully, those sorts of problems are pretty rare these days. Modern factory rifles normally shoot very well, especially if we provide a little help. **GUNS**

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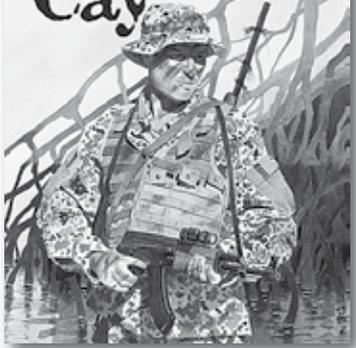


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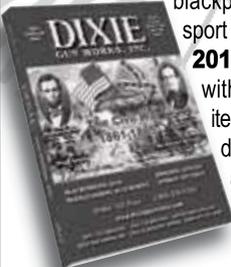
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KNIVES

STORY: Pat Covert

SWEETENING THE POT DPx Gear's HEST/F 2.0 ups the ante with tools for on the go.

Most knife users agree the modern frame-lock popularized by knifemaker/manufacturer Chris Reeve is one of the sturdiest locking mechanisms available on a folding knife today. DPx Gear has taken the design a bit further by designing a tactical/survival folder with a few interesting add-ons to sweeten the pot.

First, the basics. The DPx HEST/F 2.0 is a mid-size frame-lock with an overall length of 7.63"; 3.67" of the total in a deep V-ground, drop-point blade. The name of the knife is an acronym for Hostile Environment Survival Tool/Folding, Version 2, as this is the second generation of the knife. The blade steel is a work-horse thick .197" and sports a tough PVD (mil-spec phosphate) black coating. The handle, a tad under 4" in length, has contoured G10 scales on the front, and the aforementioned frame-lock resides on the back. The rear frame is thick Titanium and features a patented LionSTEEL RotoBlock system, which is essentially a Rick Hinderer-style blade stop, also allowing the blade to be locked into



The DPx HEST/F 2.0 is a mid-size frame-lock with functions going beyond the call of duty for a tactical/survival folder.

place once engaged. Also on back is an ample pocket clip.

Then there's the goodies. On the base you'll find a glassbreaker tip (replaceable) and convenient lanyard hole for alternative carry. On the backside of the blade is a cutout for a 1/4" hex head that will also open a bottle of beer or soda, and notching that serves not only as a thumb gripping aid, but wire stripper to boot. But—as they say on TV—there's more! DPx Gear includes a nifty "Mr. DP" skull tool which can be used to adjust the pivot tension of the blade and remove or replace the glass breaker. The extremely well done design and build of the HEST/F 2.0 makes it well worth its \$175 price, the extra functions are the icing on the knife. Highly recommended.

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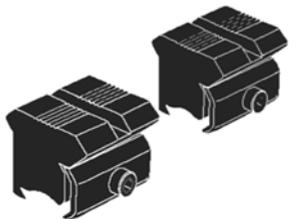


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DAVID CODREA

The End Game

For some time now, particularly after changing their name from Handgun Control, Inc., the Brady Campaign has been assuring Americans they don't want to ban guns. The idea of a "slippery slope" is something they ridicule as "gun lobby" paranoia. They acknowledge since the Heller decision this will be an unlikely goal (for now), claiming, "Now that the Court has struck down the District's ban on handguns, while making it clear that the Constitution allows for reasonable restrictions on access to dangerous weapons, this 'slippery slope' argument is gone."

It's true that a narrow 5-to-4 decision by the high court makes what once was an openly stated goal of the gungrabbers unlikely at present. But the composition of the court can change, and prior decisions can be overturned.

That's why those making the most outrageous demands, while infuriating, are in an unintended way doing gun owners a favor. Take Dan Simpson—please.

We're not talking about some random anti-gun zealot here, someone who can be just dismissed as an inconsequential kook who doesn't speak for doctrinaire anti-gunners. He is, according to his newspaper bio, "a retired diplomat [and] a member of the editorial boards of *The Blade* and *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*."

And by "diplomat," they mean a former United States Ambassador to the Central African Republic, Special Envoy to Somalia, and the Ambassador to the Congo-Kinshasa, as well as Deputy Commandant of the United States Army War College. The guy has political and journalistic "gravitas."

Pre-Heller Dan Simpson had a laundry list of demands sure to ignite a civil war, including total civilian disarmament. Following a "3-month amnesty... Special squads of police would be formed... Then, on a random basis to permit no advance warning, city blocks and stretches of suburban and rural areas would be cordoned off and searches carried out in every business, dwelling, and empty building. All firearms would be seized. The owners of weapons found in the searches would be prosecuted: \$1,000 and 1 year in prison for each firearm... On the streets it would be a question of stop-and-search of anyone, even grandma with her walker, with the same penalties for 'carrying.'"

Post-Heller Dan is kinder and gentler—a man who knows his limitations, at least until that pesky 5-4 SCOTUS ruling reverses polarity. His latest missive is endearingly titled "It's time to end the gun nuttury."

Fortunately, Dan "see[s] no problem with the hunters." As long as they know their place and obey him, they "can easily be accommodated," he says. "They can deposit their weapons in an armory, to be reissued each season."

As for non-hunters, well, you can have a gun too, in the home and with this caveat: "Each household can possess firearms, but they must be registered with the local police. The registration would be valid for one year and renewable on an annual basis." And don't worry if you're a collector—Dan will let you have as many as you like—provided "they would have to be rendered unfireable."

And we're the slippery slope-hallucinating, paranoid nutjobs.

Visit David Codrea's online journal "The War on Guns" at waronguns.com, visit DavidCodrea.com to read his *Examiner* column.

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

Screaming Eagle Awarded DFC

A humble 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Soldier received the nation's second-highest military honor in a ceremony last April 12 at McAuliffe Hall, Fort Campbell, Ky.

Sgt. Felipe Pereira is the first "Screaming Eagle" to be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross since Vietnam. The A Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, squad leader earned the recognition for what the official citation calls "distinguished service and heroism" during

a firefight in Kandahar, Afghanistan, Nov. 1, 2010.

The 28-year-old Brazilian immigrant was joined by his wife, mother and father, as well as other family members during the presentation from Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Ray Odierno at division headquarters.

Odierno recognized Pereira for his "extraordinary actions in the face of adversity," saying, "We are all here because your actions distinguish you as a hero," Odierno said to Pereira. "The reality is, there are people alive today because of those actions."

During a dismounted patrol that November, an improvised explosive device detonated, killing two Soldiers in Pereira's squad. According to the

citation, Pereira sustained shrapnel wounds and his lung began to collapse. With an ambush from the enemy underway, "... with little regard for his own safety or care..." Pereira drove an all-terrain vehicle into enemy fire to help evacuate wounded Soldiers.

After moving the first set of casualties, Pereira went back into the line of fire once more to help others.

Pereira, a specialist at the time, "is credited with saving the lives of two of his fellow Soldiers, while risking his own [on] multiple occasions. Only after all of the wounded Soldiers had been evacuated and were receiving medical care, did he accept treatment himself," according to the citation.

"Everything kind of started like



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just a regular patrol until pretty much the very end of it when everything just went haywire," Pereira remembered.

"To be honest with you, it just felt like a normal day, doing my job," he said. "Obviously, yes, it was a hectic situation, it was extreme situation and everything, but it doesn't feel any different than something we should have done. I keep saying had I not done it, somebody else probably would have, and the job would have gotten done the same way."



Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno presents 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Soldier Sgt. Felipe Pereira with a Distinguished Service Cross for his actions in Afghanistan. During the presentation, Pereira was accompanied by his father, Paolo, his mother, Denise, his wife, Candi and his sister, Stephanie. Photo: Megan Locke Simpson, Fort Campbell Courier



Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno presents 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Soldier Sgt. Felipe Pereira the Distinguished Service Cross last April 12, 2012, at McAuliffe Hall, Fort Campbell, Ky., for his actions Nov. 1, 2010, in Afghanistan. Pereira is the 165th Screaming Eagle Soldier to receive the award, second highest only to the Medal of Honor. Photo: Sam Shore, Fort Campbell MVIS

If anybody was a hero that day, the awardee feels the true honor goes to the two Soldiers, Pfc. Andrew N. Meari and Spc. Jonathan M. Curtis, who lost their lives.

"Every time I have the opportunity, I always say remember those that gave the ultimate sacrifice," he said. "I still get to come back and enjoy barbecues with my family and their love and everything. Those guys, they really gave it all. Those are truly the heroes. Just remember those guys. I think even on a happy occasion like this, I think we need to celebrate their life and their sacrifice."

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is awarded to a person in the service of the Army who exhibits extraordinary heroism while engaged in action against a US enemy. The person must be engaged in military operations of some type and the act(s) of heroism must have been so notable and involving extraordinary risk of life as to set the person apart from others. Pereira joins 164 other Screaming Eagle Soldiers to receive the Distinguished Service Cross.—*Megan Locke Simpson, Fort Campbell Courier, US Army*

HMS Westminster's Huge Drugs Haul

Drugs worth £14m were seized by the Royal Navy Frigate HMS Westminster in the Indian Ocean last April. The Portsmouth-based warship intercepted a suspicious dhow in the Indian Ocean. After launching her Merlin helicopter, a combined Royal Marines and Royal Navy team boarded and searched the suspicious vessel, seizing over 70 bales of pure heroin containing more than 180 kilograms (387 pounds) with a street value of US \$22 million.



The Royal Navy Frigate HMS Westminster's Merlin helicopter hovers over the dhow found to have over 70 bales of pure heroin on board in the Indian Ocean. Photo: Crown Copyright/MOD 2012



The 70 bales of heroin seized from the dhow lined up on the deck of HMS Westminster. The heroin had a street value of US \$22 million. Photo: Crown Copyright/MOD 2012

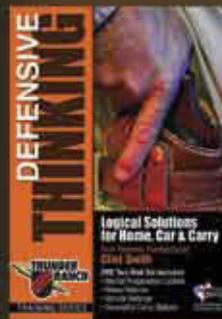
HMS Westminster is operating under the banner of Combined Task Force 150, one of three task forces coordinated by the International Combined Maritime Forces, with the aim of defeating terrorism, preventing piracy, stopping the illegal trafficking of people and drugs, and promoting the maritime

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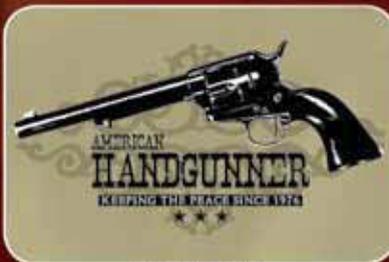
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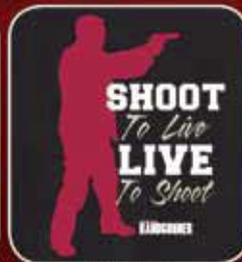
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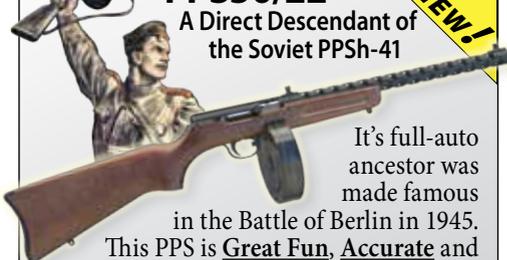
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environment as a safe place for mariners with legitimate business.

Captain Nick Hine, Westminster's Commanding Officer, said, "These smugglers have failed in their quest to make money by bringing misery to those addicted to this harmful substance in the cities around the world."

His ship was directed to seek out the suspicious dhow by the Royal Australian Navy's Commodore Jonathan Mead, who is in charge of Combined Task Force 150 (CTF 150).

Commodore Mead hailed Westminster's success as "a dark day for terrorists." About the second major bust by the force in the past few weeks he added, "We are talking about a street value of approximately \$22m and I am quite proud of the fact that CTF 150 has now effected the disposal of these substances and further legitimized the lawful and stable maritime environment we are here to champion. This is the second disruption in two months, bringing our tally of narcotics seized and destroyed to a total of 422 kilograms [930 pounds]. The subsequent destruction of these drugs reduces the funding lines of known terror groups by \$49 million."—*Courtesy MoD*

WWII German Mine Blown Up

Royal Navy divers destroyed a World War II German mine in the Thames Estuary off the Kent coast last April 8. The German GC mines contained some 1,500 pounds of high explosive and were usually dropped by parachute during the war. This particular mine was caught in the nets of a fishing vessel last week and then placed on the sea bed off Sheerness to be dealt with by the Royal Navy's bomb disposal experts.

In an operation coordinated with Kent police, Coastguard and Medway Port Control officers, the divers brought the mine to the surface using a mine-lifting airbag on April 7 and towed it, using a rigid inflatable boat, to a location some 6 miles east of Sheerness and 2 miles off Warden Point, Isle of Sheppey. A 1-mile safety zone was established around the operation for other boat traffic.

A first attempt to destroy the mine was thwarted when the countermining charge misfired, but the team succeeded at the second attempt. The mine exploded with a "high order" detonation, meaning the original high

explosive content itself blew up when the countermining charge was initiated.

The 4-man Navy team, part of Southern Diving Unit 2 (SDU2), was led by Petty Officer Diver John O'Brien. The Unit's work regularly involves clearance of wartime ordnance from the beaches and waters around the southern and eastern part of England.



A WWII German mine is destroyed in the Thames Estuary off the Kent coast on April 8, 2012 by Royal Navy divers. Photo: Crown Copyright/MOD 2012

Last week, divers from the same unit recovered part of a German V2 rocket at Harwich, Essex. On April 9, the team examined another piece of ordnance thought to be a WWII German bomb some 3 miles off Margate.

Lieutenant Dan Herridge, the Officer Commanding SDU2, said after the successful operation, "Due to the amount of high explosive in the mine,

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which posed a significant risk to public safety, it was necessary for the mine to be lifted and taken to a safe location to be dealt with."—*Courtesy MoD*

EPA Denies Petition

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) last April denied yet another frivolous petition by the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD)—an established anti-hunting group—calling for a ban on the traditional ammunition (containing lead-core components) for hunting and shooting.—*Courtesy NSSF*

Firearms And Ammunition Data

NSSF reports overall US imports (in units) in six sporting arms and ammunition categories increased 36.5 percent in February 2012 compared to February 2011. February 2012 imported units in tracked categories totaled 122.2 million, up from 89.5 million reported in February 2011. Overall US exports (in units) in six sporting arms and ammunition categories decreased 57.2 percent in February 2012 compared to February 2011. February 2012 exported units in

tracked categories totaled 43.2 million, down from 100.9 million reported in February 2011. All figures sourced from US International Trade Commission (USITC).—*Courtesy NSSF*

Canadian's Scrap Long-Gun Registry

"Good riddance to the long-gun registry—possibly the most unfair and useless legislation ever to have been passed by Parliament of Canada," reads a press release sent Thursday by the Canadian Shooting Sports Association. California could learn from Canada's mistake. Despite Canada's example of such legislation being not only ineffective and costly, but also an erosion of personal freedom, California passed its own long-gun registration law in the fall of 2011.—*Courtesy NSSF*

Firearms Industry Jobs

Visit www.nssf.org/jobs for current employment opportunities in the shooting, hunting and outdoor industry. Employers: Log in to post a job opening.—*Courtesy NSSF*

Economic Recovery

NSSF released a newly commissioned report last April detailing double-digit gains in jobs and other data showing the industry has been a leader in the nation's economic recovery. The report can be viewed at www.nssf.org/impact. Firearms industry members on Capitol Hill were briefed on such remarkable statistics as the 30.6-percent increase in jobs between 2008 and 2011, a 66.5 percent increase in economic impact and a 66.5-percent increase in federal taxes paid by industry companies.—*Courtesy NSSF*

Bushnell To Acquire Primos

Bushnell Outdoor Products, manufacturer of sports optics, eyewear and outdoor accessories, and MidOcean Partners, a middle-market private-equity fund, have announced an agreement to purchase Primos Hunting of Flora, Miss. Primos began more than 35 years ago and has established itself as an industry leader in game calls and a variety of other hunting gear.—*Courtesy NSSF*

QUARTERMASTER

FEATURING: JOHN CONNOR

SAFETY GEAR & BUG-OUT BAGS

They're both about protecting your assets.

There's no reason your everyday sunglasses can't double for shooting glasses, offering mil-spec protection with casual style. I wear Rydon Tactical glasses from Rudy Project USA equipped with their Photochromic light-adjusting lenses everyday, and now they offer that featherweight, comfy frame with five different sets of easily-swapped lenses in the Rydon Shooting Kit for \$274.99. And if you need prescription lenses, Rudy Project makes it easy; just order, and pick them up from your eye doctor.

If you engage in action sports and need eye protection to bridge the gap between glasses and goggles, check out Wiley X's Brick. They come with a pop-in Facial Cavity Seal to block out dust and debris particles while ventilating from the top down to prevent fogging, and the "T-Peg" detachable elastic leash is fast and secure. I recommend the LA (light adjusting) Grey Lens/ Metallic Black Frame Kit at \$144. Of course you can leave the seal and leash off, and you have some handsome, comfy, cool multi-mission glasses with great clarity and zero distortion.

Want a super-quick fix that slips right over your prescription glasses? One with ANSI Z80.1-rated protection? Check out distortion-free polarized Cocoons eyewear. Available in



Wiley X "Brick" ballistic glasses bridge the gap between shooting glasses and goggles.



Cocoons by Live Eyewear are made to wear right over your prescription glasses.

grey, copper, amber and yellow tints, you could have lenses to fit any lighting condition at the cost of a single pair of prescription spectacles, made so that at first glance, no one knows you're actually wearing two pair of glasses—a neat trick, huh? Doff both sets, put the Cocoons back on and you've got stylish polarized sunglasses. Cost is about \$50 per pair.

Easy On Ears—And Hands

I've used Howard Leight Impact Sport electronic range muffs for years and highly recommend them. The low-profile earcups work well shouldering long guns, they amplify ambient sounds up to 4X, and suppress gunshots above 82dB with a noise reduction rating (NRR) of 22. If you shoot handguns in an indoor range you might want even



New Impact PRO rangemuffs amplify ambient sound and suppress gunshots.



SoundGear in-the-ear electronic hearing protection devices are tiny but effective.

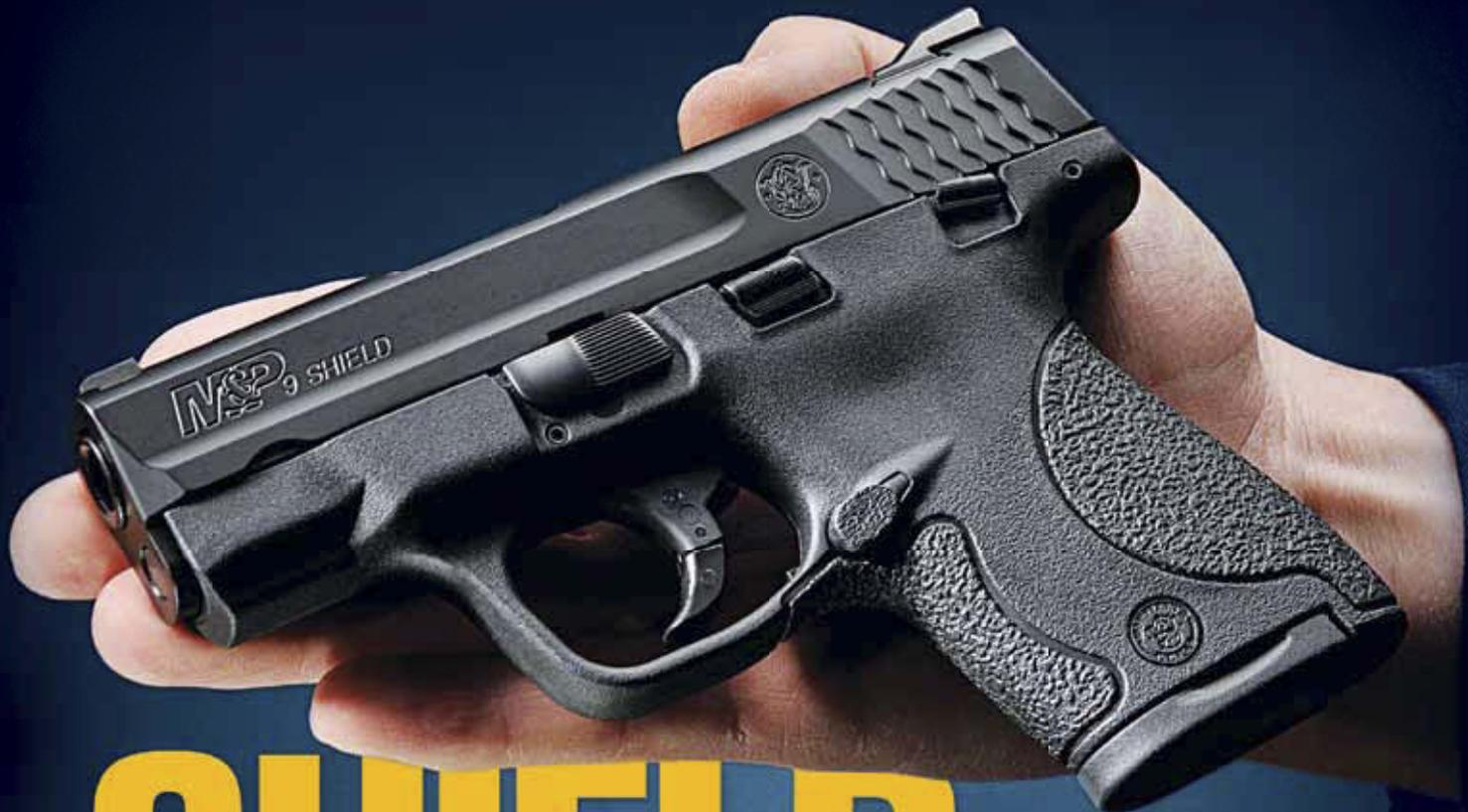


Shooting gloves by GripSwell protect nerves and tendons from recoil damage.

more protection, and Leight's new Impact PRO muffs deliver an amazing 30 NRR with just a bit more size and all the other features of the Sport model. By the way, that NRR scale isn't linear; it's logarithmic like the Richter scale for earthquakes, so the increased protection is really impressive. The Pro's list for \$74.99.

SureFire's EarPro soft, pliable in-the-ear hearing protectors have been significantly updated and improved

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over the past few years. They're now more comfortable, secure, and even more effective. Without electronics, the EP3 Sonic Defenders and EP4 Defenders Plus use the miniature Hocks Noise Braker filter and a stopper system to suppress 85dB-plus gunshots to a 24dB NRR level, and allow most ambient sounds to come through when you choose. EP5 Sonic Defenders Max use a full-block system to achieve an impressive 26dB NRR. All three models are offered in small, medium and large sizes, and cost under \$15 per pair.

For the tiniest and most capable ambient sound-amplifying and gunshot-suppressing in-the-ear devices available, check out SoundGear's digital electronic plugs by LaPierre/Starkey Laboratories. Hardly bigger than the hearing-aid battery that powers them, they offer a 25dB NRR rating. The set, priced at \$599, includes two sizes of plug sleeves, a cleaning brush, two packs of batteries and a battery removal tool in a compact case. You get a secure fit, excellent performance and all-day comfort in the lowest profile protection possible.

Shooting powerful handgun rounds can be soul-satisfying—great “ballistic therapy”—but it can also do some serious damage, both soft-tissue bruising and nerve and tendon damage. GripSwell Ergonomic Shooting Gloves aren't just gloves with pads added. The scientifically designed memory foam inserts in their GS-33s are strategically placed to protect vital nerves and fill anatomical voids. The fine leather? Well, that's just to provide comfort with class. GS-33's list for \$54.95, and GripSwell also makes specialized gloves for rifle and side-by-side shooters.

It's In The Bag

An OTD (Out The Door) or “Oscar Mike” (On the Move) Bag is the bag you never leave home without; the one which carries your essentials like a backup handgun, extra ammo, tactical light, compact first aid/trauma kit, bottled drink and other odds and ends of your choice. An OTD or OM bag presumes a short trip, most or all of your time will be on foot, and never far from other resources. It's light, comfortable to carry, and snugs up tight if you have to run, fight or maneuver at speed.

The Disse Gear Celo 2ed and Receptrix are both fine examples of the genre, constructed of tough 1000 denier nylon, with high-strength stitching, heavy-duty YKK zippers and reliable UTX buckles. With two distinctively different looks, they share comfortable shoulder straps and an



Two good OTD bags by Disse Gear: the Celo 2ed (above) and the Receptrix (below).



array of inner compartments adaptable to fit just about any gear you please. Priced at \$59.99 and \$69.99, they're well worth a hard look.

A Go-Bag is a bigger and more serious proposition; a bag that'll take you further afield under uncertain circumstances, deal with greater challenges, and pack enough supplies to get you through a couple of nights—or a couple of fights—and back again. For the past 3 years I've counted on a Wingman Patrol Bag from 5.11 Tactical for that role. Check the photo: Made for police patrol duties, the Wingman unfolds like a military field desk and holds an amazing amount of gear. Closed up it looks like an airline overnight bag, carried by its stout handle or shoulder strap, and open, it's your own “quartermaster's bunker.” If you do a lot of driving you'll appreciate the ability to cinch the top strap over a headrest and have everything you need next to you on the passenger's seat. Retail is \$99.99

A Bug-Out Bag is the one you grab when the curtain falls, the balloon goes up and the fat lady sings... In other words, it's time to get outta Dodge, and you don't know if you'll

be back. The Bug-Out Bag holds all-the-above plus more ammo, water, freeze-dried chow or MREs, change-out and foul weather gear, "sundries & novelties" of a survival nature, yet still be eminently maneuverable should you have to make tracks. The Doppelduffel from Maxpedition Hard-Use Gear can be hand-carried like luggage, slung by its shoulder strap in two different orientations or packed by its hidden integral backpack straps. The Doppelduffel's cavernous 3,200 cubic inches organizes all your



The Wingman by 5.11 Tactical: designed for cops but great for your go-bag.



Maxpedition's tough, cavernous Doppelduffel is a premier bug-out bag.

gear in discreet compartments and a main area split by two padded dividers. Built to Maxpedition's usual virtually bomb-proof standards, it's about as tough as a firehose and a lot less conspicuous to carry down the street. Hey, everybody laughs at the moron packin' a coiled-up fire hose, but what's the reaction when they see you slidin' by with your Doppelduffel? "Martha, somethin's goin' on—grab the bug-out bags!" Connor **OUT**

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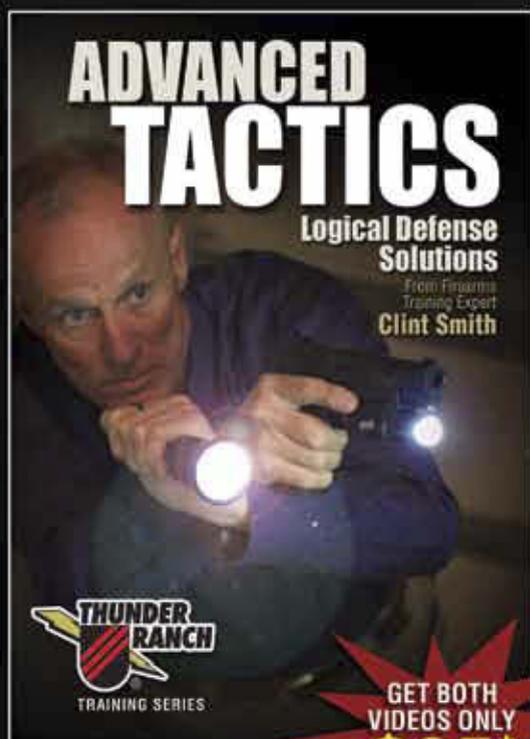
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~Clint Smith



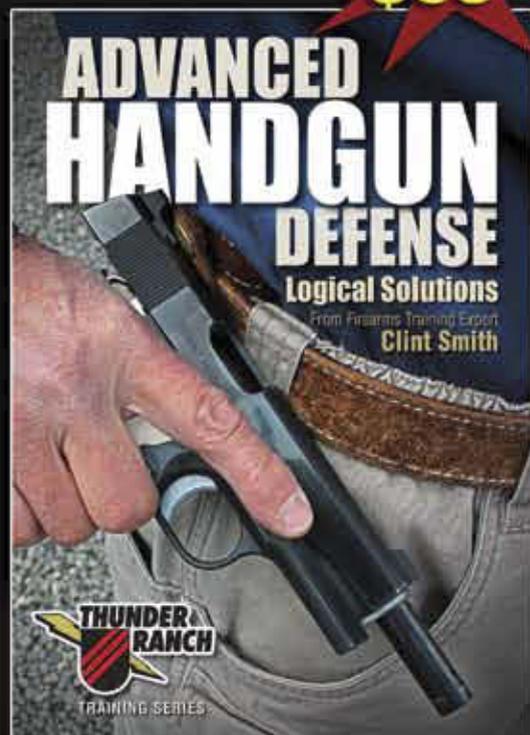
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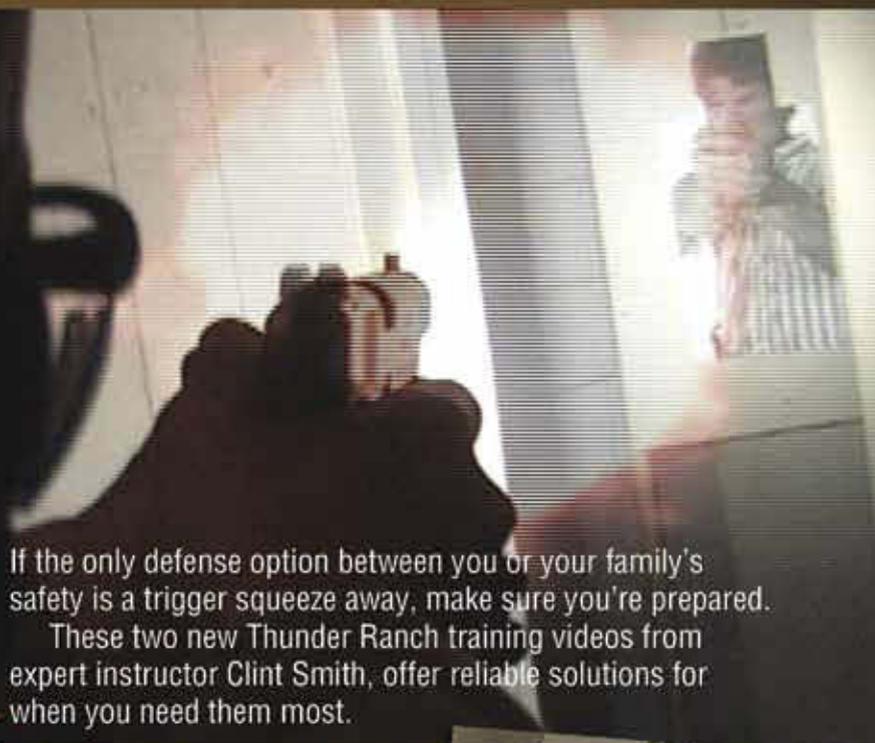
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Armory Racks are a high-density, space-saving solution for handguns. The racks are designed to allow in-place pistol removal and replacement in tight storage spaces like safes, where space is precious and expensive. The 2-, 4- and 8-gun models are equipped with sturdy carrying handles, allowing easy portability from location to location. Armory Racks also can optionally be configured with a storage tray, so spare magazines and small accessories can be stored below the pistols, providing easy access. RJK Ventures, LLC, orders@armoryracks.com, www.gunsmagazine.com/rjk-ventures



REVO HEARING PROTECTION

PRO EARS

Pro Ears introduces their ReVO line of earmuffs, specifically designed for smaller heads and smaller ears. The ReVO line of passive hearing protection muffs are made to fit smaller heads comfortably, offer protection and have knockout graphics every kid will want to wear. They're a major advancement for all children exposed to dangerous noise levels, such as the shooting sports, rock concerts, auto racing and many other circumstances where high noise levels can cause progressive hearing damage. Pro Ears, (800) 891-3660, www.gunsmagazine.com/pro-ears



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Gum Creek's Vehicle Handgun Mount is ideal for carrying a handgun in your vehicle for convenience or self-defense, and eliminates an unsecured or inaccessible firearm in your vehicle. Gum Creek now carries a line of ambidextrous holsters which compliment the vehicle holster mount, should a holster be dedicated to a vehicle. These black nylon holsters feature ambidextrous belt loops designed for left- or right-handed use, a fully-adjustable snap thumb break and a spare magazine pouch with Velcro retaining strap. Gum Creek Customs, (888) 381-7872, www.gunsmagazine.com/gumcreekcustoms



RAZOR RED DOT

VORTEX OPTICS

The new Vortex Razor Red Dot is a reflex-style sight for shooters who demand the absolute best in construction, performance, durability and versatility. The daylight bright red dot is easy to find and paint targets with, no matter the lighting conditions or background. Truly at home on an AR, pistol, shotgun or offset-mounted alongside your primary magnified optic, the compact Razor ensures rapid, accurate, target acquisition every time. Vortex Optics, (800) 426-0048, www.gunsmagazine.com/vortex-optics



SCOPE RING ALIGNMENT TOOL

POSSUM HOLLOW PRODUCTS

Possum Hollow Products' Scope Alignment Tool is designed to use with twist-in scope rings. Each rod has a tapered, pointed end. To use, insert each rod into the scope rings and twist the rods so the points are aligned. Possum Hollow Products, (260) 782-0735, www.gunsmagazine.com/possum-hollow



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The OMEN represents a paradigm shift from traditional bolt action, towards precision ARs. NEMO Arms, Inc., (406) 752-6366, www.gunsmagazine.com/nemo-arms

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The JKL Mobile Gun Vise is designed to make cleaning, building or maintaining your AR-15 easier. This all-American-made gun vise can adapt to any configuration you might need for holding and securing the parts of your AR-15 as you work on it. The 6061 aluminum and HDPE plastic makes for a solid construction that will last. The Mobile Gun Vise can be purchased as a complete assembly package, or as individual fixtures. Complete assembly retails for \$365. JKL, LLC, (269) 795-4077, www.gunsmagazine.com/jkl



WAR DOG SAFE

PAN-OSTON

The War Dog Safe is the high-quality American manufactured, low profile gun safe that's designed and manufactured to the highest quality standards and conceived to fit under a bed or any other discrete location. Its revolutionary sleek shape also fits into most standard closets, where it's easily stackable, as well in the back of most vehicles. Not only does it provide the security found in high-end upright safes, thanks to the unique size and biometric entry system of the War Dog Safe, shooters have access to guns, valuables and keepsakes in a moment's notice. Pan-Oston, (866) 659-0713, www.gunsmagazine.com/pan-oston



TAC-50 A1-R2

MCMILLAN

McMillan

McMillan introduces a new hydraulic recoil mitigation system for the TAC-50 A1-R2. The new rifle system reduces the peak recoil from the .50 BMG cartridge by approximately 90 percent. The heart of the rifle's recoil mitigation system is a proprietary hydraulic piston in the buttstock. The sensation for the shooter is that of a long push, rather than a violent punch. McMillan, (623) 582-9635, www.gunsmagazine.com/mcmillan-group-international



LESOCOM

COLT

Colt Defense is offering a rifle to law enforcement and civilian shooters as close as possible in configuration to the M4A1 military carbine. The rifle is ideal for any law enforcement officer, marksman or hunter looking for a firearm that is most similar to what is used by the military. What differentiates the LESOCOM from the M4A1 platform currently used by the US Armed Forces is the LESOCOM's longer barrel length and semi-automatic fire controls. The barrel is 16.1" long, and has a rifling twist of 1:7". With the stock extended, this M4 carbine has an overall length of 35". The LESOCOM is chambered for .223 Rem (5.56x45mm NATO) and comes with two 30-round Colt magazines. Colt, (800) 241-2485, www.gunsmagazine.com/colt



REDI-BORE GUN TOOL SYSTEMS

Cleaning handguns can get messy once the bore brush exits the chamber, but now Redi-Bore protects the rifling, crown and all the precision surfaces of semi-automatic handgun barrels. This new, patented cleaning system provides shooters with confidence, maintained accuracy and safety. Redi-Bore prevents damage by completely eliminating the possibility of the cleaning rod touching your weapon. The design completely controls and collects contaminated fluids and debris. Feel great about your cleaning method. Protect your skin, your clothing, your surroundings and your investment. Gun Tool Systems, (619) 804-1460, www.gunsmagazine.com/gun-tool-systems



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Rossi Levergun Combo

The Rossi Model R92 Carbine is a handy little rifle in .44-40 Win perfect for brush hunting, wilderness packing or Cowboy Action shooting, offering 10+1 rounds in the full-length magazine under its 20" barrel. A modern touch is the R92 is made of easy-to-maintain stainless steel.

Rossi's Model 92 hybrid—the Ranch Hand—mimics the “Mare’s Leg” carried by Steve McQueen in the old popular TV *Western Dead Or Alive*. Since it is transferred as a handgun, the Ranch Hand's 12" barrel complies with federal regulations, and features a gold-bead front sight with an adjustable buckhorn rear sight and an oversized loop lever.

Custom made to your rifle and pistol is the Saddle Scabbard and Ranch Hand Rig, made by Frontier Leather. The Scabbard comes complete with leather mounting straps ideal for horseback or off-road vehicles. The Ranch Hand Rig, true to form, is a top quality gun rig

to accommodate the Mare’s Leg-style Rossi. It’s styled after the outfit worn by Steve McQueen and features full-leather lining, skip-loop cartridge loops and custom made hardware. The gun mounts on a special, soft metal, hook through the saddle ring on the left side of the gun. The forearm is held in place by a specially formed leather covered clamp.

The Big Bowie Fixed Blade Knife with Crown Stag handle features a 9-3/4" 1095 high carbon tool steel Bowie blade, and North American deer or elk crown stag handle with a brass guard.

Lastly, to top it all off, are Predator Gold Series earmuffs from Pro Ears. The Gold Series advantage is the balance achieved between comfort, noise attenuation and purity of sound. No compromises. No excuses.

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MODEL R92

MAKER: ROSSI
16175 N.W. 49TH AVE., MIAMI, FL 33014
(305) 474-0401
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/ROSSI

ACTION: Lever, **CALIBER:** .44-40, **CAPACITY:**
10+1, **BARREL LENGTH:** 20", **WEIGHT:** 5 pounds,
FINISH: Stainless steel, **PRICE:** \$577



MODEL 92RH (RANCH HAND)

MAKER: ROSSI
16175 N.W. 49TH AVE., MIAMI, FL 33014
(305) 474-0401, WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/ROSSI

ACTION: Lever-action repeating, **CALIBER:** .38 SPL/.357 MAG,
.44 MAG, .45 COLT **CAPACITY:** 6, **BARREL LENGTH:** 12",
WEIGHT: 4 pounds, **FINISH:** Matte blue, **PRICE:** \$579

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ODD ANGRY SHOT

STORY: John Connor

ROSCOE THE REJECT AR

Maybe he just needs to be adopted and loved?

It's only the first of May, and AR-15 variants—the most sought-after firearms in America—are in short supply and flying off gunshop racks like flushed birds. Two major AR makers estimate that operating at full throttle, “black rifle” orders placed today can't be filled before March or April 2013—by which time their manufacture may be prohibited. Industry insiders say the anticipated “election surge” hasn't even begun yet! Meantime, ARs needing just a touch of TLC languish in the shadows, begging for adoption.

The causes of the boom in demand are many, varied, highly politicized, speculative, and fodder for another forum. Maybe you're looking for a second AR; one for your spouse or a kid? Anxious consumers are making offers way over retail yet going away empty-handed. You can't buy what's not available. Here and now, let's just examine an overlooked source of black rifles: the ranks of the rejects.

ARs and other guns labeled “shot out” or “defective” have been a long-running source of both mirth and great deals for me and for the rest of the GunBums clan for many years. Rarely are those rejects really defective, most just needing the TLC they didn't get from original owners or minor parts replaced, and truly “shot-out” barrels in 5.56mm are probably about 1 percent of those besmirched with that label. You'll run across bolt rifles in hotter calibers with truly shot out barrels, but not in ARs.

Orphans

These black rifle orphans are usually found in local supermarket “Penny Saver” and “Thrifty Nickel” type tabloids or ignored on the back racks of gunshops, where they've been taken in trades more or less as a sop to

buyers of new guns. Prices are often ridiculously low, and they're bluntly described as losers. So why don't gunshops clean 'em up, make small repairs and sell them?

They may do more of that soon, but for now, profit margins are low, while



A warning—or an opportunity?

time and labor is costly; ARs showing wear, even if it's only cosmetic, lack visual appeal and they're very poor sellers. This makes for good hunting!

I asked two of the GunBums to check for new and orphaned ARs for sale in their town of 24,000 souls. They found only four new ARs in stock, all marked “sold,” and eight “rejects.” Six rejects needed only deep cleaning and

maintenance. Two needed new extractor springs and rubber doughnuts, and one of those required a new extractor and rear sight. All were worn, unattractive and potentially good, reliable shooters. Prices asked for these “junk ARs” ranged from \$350 to \$450.

Note: I'm not a gunsmith, armorer or “expert”; just a roadworn IWO—Itinerant Weapons Operator—and my comments are offered for my fellow IWOs.

Shot Out—Or Just Fouled?

It's been my experience, and that of a retired gunsmith friend, that about 99 percent of “shot out” AR barrels are simply heavily copper-fouled. This is due to poor cleaning, cleaning with oil or a CLP only, and completely reversible. If you have a bore light and magnifying glass, you can often see this clearly. A copper solvent-soaked patch can provide proof.

Certainly, look for real rust, scoring and corrosion, but you're unlikely to find it. Remember too, there's a huge difference between a worn barrel and a shot out barrel. In the end, if the tightest an adopted orphan AR can shoot is 4 MOA, just measure the diameter of your noggin and think about it....

If the complaint is like, “Can't shoot groups inside a trash can lid at 100 yards” and the groups are inconsistent, check the muzzle for burrs and damage! Recently I've seen two “defective” ARs with easily-fixed muzzle damage which would have been obvious if the users had looked.

I love seeing “defective trigger” and “glitchy trigger!” tags. Peek inside and you'll likely find the whole trigger group looks like it's mired in a wad of greasy, tacky lint and burnt carbon particles. That's what spray action flushers are made for! Just be sure to either use an action blaster which dries leaving a light lube/preservative,

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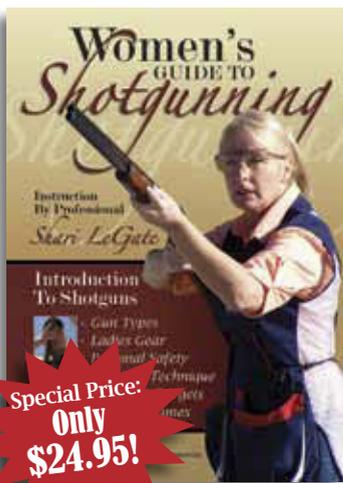
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or lubricate it properly afterward. Also check the hammer and trigger pins for looseness—slightly oversized pins are cheap cures.

Trigger

If the trigger's still incurably nasty or too heavy, consider a quality drop-in replacement trigger group. I got three for a feature project—an American Trigger Corp “Gold,” a Wilson Combat TTU, and a Chip McCormick unit—all from Brownells, and they're all great improvements over the factory triggers they replaced. Frequently just going to a better, crisper trigger can cut your groups in half, and these do.

Double-feeds and failures to extract or eject are often due to worn out extractor springs and doughnuts, less often to chipped or broken extractors. If you can wiggle the extractor like a loose tooth, there's the problem—and it's an easy fix. This is one of those beautiful opportunities to save \$250 to \$300 with a \$15 extractor upgrade kit! Bear in mind, too, feeding problems blamed on the carbine are sometimes caused by bad magazines, a point unnoticed by many users.

With direct gas impingement systems, sluggish, erratic performance can result from carbon fouling in the gas tube, sometimes in the gas port. It's a sad fact, most AR owners never clean the gas tube, and with the increasing use of dirty-burning imported ammo, badly restricted gas tubes are showing up. If cleaning doesn't cut it, Brownells offers Melonite-coated gas tubes by Spike's Tactical—another easy fix. If the AR short-strokes, check the integrity of the gas rings, and check the gas key to assure the staking hasn't busted loose.

Go Ahead—Rescue A Reject!

Even if you have a bright, shiny, high-quality AR and you're not particularly driven to find a second, the old saying that “the best spare part is a spare *gun*” is undeniably wise. Get the Armorer's Series AR-15 DVD from American Gunsmithing Institute—\$39.95—and broaden your black rifle horizon.

Just one day of snooping can net you a serviceable, reliable if ugly AR at a bargain price. Team up with a black rifle freak—a knowledgeable amateur—and make the rounds. Compensate your buddy with a burger and a beer, and by all means, *have fun!* So, you wind up with an AR that runs right but looks like it's been around the block. Well, that describes you and me too, right? Connor *OUT*

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SEPTEMBER 2012

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The banquet was held on Friday and I was set to fly back out on Monday and Jimmy Clark saved me from a terrible fate by taking me home for the weekend thus avoiding a boring several days stuck in a hotel. It stands out as one of the most memorable times in my life. I met all of Jimmy's family including his wife, son Jim Jr., daughter Kay, as well as the gunsmiths in his shop.

On Saturday morning, I met a young fellow who was just starting to make a name for himself as a humble sixgunner, one Jerry Miculek. Bill Jordan also showed up that morning. I shot with Jerry early in the morning, he beat me of course, with both of us using his 8-3/8" Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum. We quit shooting at 9 a.m. when the temperature and humidity both hovered at 100 degrees F. In spite of the weather, it was a wonderful time with Jimmy, Jerry and Bill Jordan, who soon became a cherished friend as we worked together through the OAHAF. Jerry, of course, not only went on to become the fastest double-action shooter the world has ever known, he also married Jimmy's daughter Kay.

Former Marine

Jimmy was born in Texas in 1923 and served in the Pacific as a Marine during WWII. He was called back for Korea and spent most of his time working on pistols for the military. He was one of the early pioneers of accurizing the .45 ACP and also one of the first to chamber the 1911 for the .38 Special. In fact Jimmy started his custom pistolsmithing business in the early 1950s by purchasing 20 Colt .38 Supers and converting them to .38 Special. He was also an early pioneer in the use of long-barrel/long-slide 1911s. All the time he was pistolsmithing he was also competing being the fifth man to break 2600 in the NRA course in 1950 and 10 years later was the fourth man to achieve 2650 out of a possible 2700.

He was an early advocate of then relatively new Ruger Mark I .22 Target Pistol winning the .22 Aggregate at Camp Perry in 1953 with a factory Ruger. At first he taped a lead weight under the barrel to add weight and then 2 years later he installed a custom Douglas bull barrel with an integral muzzlebrake. Jimmy was featured in

Ruger's advertising of the time which proclaimed "ultimate proof of Ruger performance." Until his passing Ruger custom .22s were one of Jimmy's biggest sellers.

I have three Clark guns, one is a Ruger 10/22 fitted with a match barrel and a Clark trigger, a second .22 is a 10" MK II tuned and also fitted with a Clark trigger, and one of my most prized possessions is a .45 ACP Clark Custom Colt Combat Commander. Jimmy had built this for a customer who for some reason was not satisfied. From a machine rest this magnificent



The S&W 1950 Target .45 ACP (top) compared to the Clark-inspired 1955 Target (bottom). Note the heavier barrel on the 1955 Target.

little .45 will do 1" at 50 yards and when Jimmy told me I could have it for cost I did not hesitate. He even allowed me to take the gun and make payments as I was able. Thank you, Jimmy!

In 1949, Jimmy did a short-action job on a Model 1917 S&W .45 ACP revolver. He had found he could shoot the revolver better than the 1911s available at the time. Unfortunately, as he was reloading, a double charge of powder snuck in and took the gun apart. In 1951, Jimmy bought two S&W 1950 Target .45 ACP revolvers, tuned the actions and found he had a revolver which would shoot jacketed bullets pretty well but as he says: "... they were a disaster with our hand-load using the Hensley & Gibbs No. 130 cast bullet and 3.5 grains of Bulls-eye powder. I returned both revolvers to the factory explaining the problem. After several months, I received them back with very small groups the boys at the factory claimed to be fired at 50 yards. I again tried various loads with the same terrible results. The guns were retired and never fired again."

In 1954, Jimmy was complaining to someone at the S&W booth not knowing he was talking to then President Carl Hellstrom about those 1950s. The discussion became quite heated and the president did not at first appreciate

what Jimmy had to say and Jimmy thought that would be the end of it. But the more Hellstrom thought about it the more he felt Jimmy knew what he was talking about.

The following year, 1955, Jimmie won the Mid-Winter Matches and he was awarded a brand-new S&W 1955 Target. When Hellstrom presented the award he said: "You of all people winning one of these guns." Jimmy, once again, told him he had purchased the 1950 Targets to shoot, and they would not. If this one would he would use it. Jimmy found it shot every bit as good as the 1911 autos.

Jimmy would later say: "I often take my old Model 1955 out of the safe and fire hardball ammo at long ranges. It is an excellent plinker at 100 yards or so at anything that floats along the banks of the Red River. Needless to say, it is one of my most prized possessions."

The 1955 Target which Jimmy Clark "inspired" S&W to offer was basically an upgrade of the original 1950 Target .45. The barrel was changed to heavyweight bull-barrel-style and target trigger, target hammer and target stocks were added. I also believe they changed the

rifling to better accept cast bullets. I've had considerable experience using cast bullets in three 1950 Targets, a 1955 Target, and the later Model 25.

They all shoot cast bullets exceptionally well, however I am very careful to choose my bullets, normally going heavier than the old 200-grain H&G 130, and also to size them according to the chamber's throats on each one of these revolvers which are .454" or larger. Jimmy probably stayed with the 200-grain bullet because of lighter recoil. If he had followed my path the 1950 Target might have shot well for him but then we would never have seen the 1955 Target. Sometimes things work out just the way they're supposed to.

Not only is the 1955 Target an excellent gun in its own right, it is easy to see the blending of the 1955 Target .45 ACP with the 1950 Target .44 Special resulted in the original .44 Magnum. Elmer Keith may have inspired the cartridge but it certainly looks like Jimmy had a hand in bringing about the sixgun. **GUNS**

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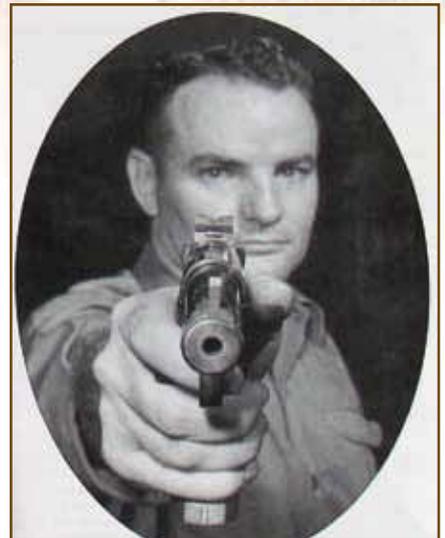
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Once in a great while, a very great while, I actually say something which bears repeating. One such statement is the fact the best thing about the firearms industry is not the firearms themselves but rather the quality of the people involved in our field. Never in my proverbial wildest dreams would I ever believe I would meet and get to know many of the men who taught me via the printed page as a young sixgunner. It has been my good pleasure over the past 45-plus years to meet some of the finest gentlemen in our industry. One such fellow was Jimmy Clark.

In 1990, I aided Chairman Hal Swiggett in presenting the Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation bronze to Jimmy Clark. I was one of the nominees and Hal was grooming me to take over the organization. Normally the OAHAF banquet was held in conjunction with the NRA Show, however in this

particular year the NRA Show was being held in California. Since California had just passed some particularly onerous anti-gun laws, Hal said no way were we going to spend any money in California. So he changed the location of the awards presentation to Jimmy Clark's home area of Shreveport, La. The actual recipient



Jimmy Clark in 1953 shooting the Ruger MK I .22 as shown in Ruger advertising of the era.

of the award is kept secret until the banquet but this was a different situation. We let Jimmy know ahead of time so tickets could be purchased for his friends and family.

There were 10 nominees that year and I was the only one to accompany Hal to Shreveport. Later, Jimmy would work with me in coming up with custom handguns for future winners of the bronze and one memorable revolver was the Clark Custom Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum presented to Walter Walsh. That was 1997 and Walter, who is still active by the way, was 90 at the time and had to wait 30 days to receive his revolver as he was living in Virginia which had the one gun a month plan. The silliness of this can see by the fact Walter was a former FBI agent, combat Marine, a longtime shooting coach for the Olympics but he just wasn't qualified to have more than one gun a month!

September in Shreveport is not a pleasant experience for someone from the Northwest. The weather was absolutely stifling in its heat and humidity.

continued on page 81



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